

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Noble collection at auction

SEVERAL rare items from the private collection of the late Johnny Noble of Ardkinglas Estate will go under the hammer at Bonhams today (Thursday). John Henry Brunel, first Baronet of Ardkinglas, was considered an art connoisseur and had a sought after silver collection, which was passed on to his sons and eventually to Simon John 'Johnny' Noble, who continued to add to it. Among the items to go up for auction in Edinburgh are a George III silver medal for the Edinburgh Amphitheatre and a rare George III silver Argyll, made by David Kerr circa 1765 and estimated at £2,000-3,000. The most valuable piece from the collection is the rare 18th-century mother-of-pearl and ebony vase shape snuff mull estimated at £3,000-£4,000.

Good news for Barra school

SCHOOL inspectors have given Castlebay High School a clean bill of health four years after ordering it to make several improvements. Follow up reports in each of the past three years showed there had been progress in addressing inspectors' concerns. Inspectors now say the school can demonstrate continued improvement and will not be subject to follow up reports. Comhairle nan Eilean Siar's chair of education and children's services, councillor Catriona Stewart, said: 'I would like to pass on my best wishes to all the staff and pupils who have worked hard to bring these improvements about. I would also like to commend the department for their input. This is good news for Castlebay School, for Barra and for the Western Isles.'



Monsieur Atiseau (Dougie McKenzie) makes his advances towards Bette Bouffant (George Hamilton) during the laughter filled panto at Oban Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Christmas panto brings peals of laughter - Oh yes it did!

GALES of laughter came from Oban's Corran Halls at the weekend as Bend-erloch and North Connell Drama Club staged its annual pantomime. The show, held over three nights, had crowds packing in to see Alan McHugh's Beauty and the Beast. Dougie McKenzie (left) kept the audi-ence shouting 'bless you' as he reached for his hankie as the insatiable sneezer Monsieur Atiseau. While George Hamilton (right) took on the unenviable task of keeping the audi-ence in uproar as the Panto Dame, Bette Bouffant - he even had hair to match. See Page 14 for review of the show.

'Yellow' water and foul smell still causing problems in Oban

SCOTTISH Water says it is working hard to make repairs after complaints about two of its Oban sites led to disgust in the town this week. Residents of the Oban and Lorn area have inundated the operator with phone calls after foul tasting, yellow water started running through the taps last week following a failure at the Tullich Water Treatment Works (WTW) at the south end of the town. Meanwhile, motorists and people visiting Pennyfuir Cemetery at the north end have had to endure a repulsive stench emanating from the Oban Waste Water Treatment Works, causing some to feel nauseous even when driving by. Complaining about the tap water, which was still yellow as *The Oban Times* went to press, one Oban resident said: 'At first it wasn't noticeable until you filled a basin, but it is leaving residue on pots and kettles. 'Scottish Water said it was safe to drink, but it is disgusting and leaves a horrible taste.' A spokesman for the water operator said: 'Scottish Water is making progress with its work to resolve an issue at Tullich WTW, which has affected the water supply to some customers in the area. 'The normal taste of the water has been restored but the water is still slightly discoloured. 'This is an aesthetic issue and the water is safe to drink, but we are working to restore the normal colour as soon as possible. Ozone generators at the WTW malfunctioned and this meant we were unable to remove all the colour from the water that we normally would. 'One generator has been repaired and this has enabled us to restore the normal taste and smell. We expect the slight discoloration to go when we have repaired the other generator. 'Normal supplies will be restored to some properties before others depending on their location on the network.' Work has started to eliminate the smell from the Pennyfuir site, he added. 'This work will include an upgrade to the odour control systems. We apologise to affected customers for any inconvenience and thank them for the patience and understanding.'

Massive fish farm plan for Loch Etive

Objectors launch website against firm's 'well timed' planning application

CAMPAIGNERS objecting to the establishment of £2.5million, 2,500 tonne fish farm on Loch Etive say the proposal would damage one of Scotland's most spectacular landscapes. Dawnfresh has lodged a planning application to build a 14-pen rainbow trout farm complete with feeding barge at Sailean Ruadh. 14 football pitches It would stretch south-east from Airds Point to parallel with the jetty opposite Muckairn Castle. Equivalent in size to three and a half football pitches on the surface, the mooring grid below the water line will occupy an area measuring more than 21 hectares - approximately 14 football pitches. Each pen would extend 2.51metres above the surface. It would operate in addition to the company's five existing Etive farms. Representations on the application must be with Argyll and Bute Council by December 27, but objectors have described the application as 'well timed' to coincide with the busy Christmas period. Locals misrepresented Local fishing tours operator, Ronnie Campbell, claims the company is misrepresenting him by quoting him as in favour of the project when he is not, adding: 'It's in the wrong place. Loch Etive is famous for its scenery and they want to put it right where most people would see it.' There are further concerns the company misled the community by claiming the farm would create up to six new jobs, however in its own application the com-pany say the farm would make six part-time posts full time. Dawnfresh has said it is 'surprised' to hear of the objections, saying none were raised during consultation exercises with the communities of Ardcattan, Connell and Taynuilt. Community councils meet Meanwhile, the area's three community councils are to meet in the coming weeks to determine their stance. Solicitor Guy Linley-Adams, appointed by Keith Macmillan of Muckairn Castle to fight the proposals, this week launched a new website highlighting objectors' concerns. Among those raised are that the farm will harm indigenous fish species, wildlife activity via proposed use of sonic scarers, the local habitat and will make areas of the loch impossible to navigate for 'all but the most confident or professional of sailors'. Mr Linley-Adams added: 'It is absolutely critical those who do have concerns make them known, rather than stay silent. The nature of fish-farming applications is such that planning permission, once granted, is now permanent.' Gideon Pringle, fish farm manager for Dawnfresh, said: 'I'm surprised because we have given thorough, full and wide community consultation, including two open days. 'None of these concerns have come to us.' Mistakes by SEPA and a computer error at Argyll and Bute Council caused delays to the planning process, which is why the application is being considered now, he said.



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Annual carol concert set to hit the high notes

OBAN Rotary Club will host its annual Christmas Carol Concert at the Corran Halls this weekend, with 12 groups from around the community set to perform. The Bach Choir and Orchestra will be joined by the likes of Sequence, Oban String and Oban Gaelic Choir in performing at the concert, joined by school choirs from across Oban and Lorn. Musical director Norman Nicholson will once again take the helm for the festive treat, which starts at 3pm on Sunday. Tickets for the concert are free, although proceeds from donations will go towards the Erskine Hospital and Children First charities.

Artist boosts charity fundraiser



Moira Barbour presents a print of her McCaig's Tower painting to Ian MacInnes, left, and crew commander Colin Campbell.

A FORMER teacher, turned artist, has donated one of only six prints of her painting of McCaig's Tower in Winter to raise money for Oban 365 at its Hogmanay party. The Oban charity is again hosting its Family Hogmanay Party in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls but is running a silent auction for the painting in the run up to the event. The much-sought-after local painting, by Moira Barbour, is number three of six limited edition prints. Oban 365 raised £4,500 last year for good causes and this year will split proceeds between Yorkhill Children's Hospital, Macmillan Cancer Support and Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease. A maximum of 300 tickets are available for the Hogmanay dance, which will be led by the Neil Sinclair Sound ceilidh band, and tickets are available from Orsay, Dolce Vita and D and A Munn. To bid for the print or obtain tickets for the party event, email oban365@live.co.uk or phone Ian MacInnes on 07778 373 759.

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New Oban road surface comes under fire before hot tar is dry

A ROADS authority has been forced to defend the quality of resurfacing work in Oban town centre after criticism from the town's community council and a councillor.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre claims he has been advised by an engineer that the work is not up to standard.

And a damning letter to Transport Scotland and Transerv

from Oban Community Council secretary Duncan Martin brands the work 'unacceptably poor'.

Scotland Transerv has conceded the road surface was not the most aesthetically pleasing but insisted the materials used would potentially make the road surface twice as durable.

In its letter, Oban Community Council questions why the

work was not carried out from the Bealach an Rìgh, through the whole of George Street and claims the work is of a poorer standard, compared with other recently resurfaced sections of road.

The community council letter says: 'We were concerned to hear that there was as yet no definite date for the work to be completed on the approach

to Oban by resurfacing from Pennyfuir Cemetery to Stafford Street including the Bealach an Rìgh, Dunollie Road and the north part of George Street - sections of road which we would consider to be in even poorer condition than the sections now being resurfaced.'

The letter continues: 'We would also like to comment that the standard of the new road

surface, particularly southbound on George Street, is unacceptably poor.'

The community council also states the reduced programme of works has done nothing to improve street lighting, pavements and the overgrown scrub on the Bealach an Rìgh.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv explained the road surface looks different 'because

the materials used were different'.

He added: 'The material laid in Oban is high stone content, hot-rolled asphalt. It is fully compliant with current standards. The material has been specifically chosen for its superior durability and the ability to reduce traffic noise levels.'

'The surface may look

unusual but recent studies show low texture surfaces are advantageous in low speed areas as more of the tyre is in contact with the road, so it improves skid resistance.'

He said resurfacing using the previous type of material would have given the surface a life expectancy of eight to 12 years. Hot rolled asphalt should last 20 years.

Council encourages groups to claim grants

COMMUNITY groups throughout Argyll are being urged to apply for grants to bolster their funds for next year.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently accepting applications to its Third Sector Grants scheme, which is aimed at supporting communities and vulnerable people.

Last year, a total of 130 community groups and organisations across Argyll and Bute benefited from £140,000 available from the programme.

The £35,000 funding made available to Oban, Lorn and the Isles supported more than 30 groups and organisations including Oban Friendship Club, Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled Group and Isle of Mull Mòd Club.

Elizabeth Little, an Oban Friendship Club volunteer, said: 'Our committee would like to express our very sincere thanks to the council for the grant towards the cost of running our new Oban Friendship Club, which is dependent on an enthusiastic band of volunteer helpers and drivers.'

'Our members kindly help with the costs by weekly donations but we are dependent on grant funding for the rest of our budget.'

'It is encouraging that our local council has recognised our efforts in this generous way. The application process was very straightforward from our point of view and we would encourage other groups to apply.'

Applications forms are available from local area community learning offices or can be accessed using the link www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants.

The closing date to return completed application forms for a decision at the April area committee meeting is Friday February 1 2013.



Fred Morrison, centre, and guitarist Mathew Watson helped select musicians for Oban High School's new music programme. 16_1509red01

Fred lends an ear at auditions

WORLD-renowned piper Fred Morrison lent his ear to help young musicians at Oban High School before entertaining a large audience at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Mr Morrison, whose family hails from South Uist, helped to choose pipers for the school's Celtic Charity Fund music programme at auditions last Wednesday afternoon.

And that evening he was joined by guitarist Mathew Watson for a Celtic concert that demonstrated his expertise on pipes and whistles.

The concert was the first time Fred had brought his unique style of playing to Oban, having only previously performed at competitions, such as the Argyllshire Gathering.



Fred Morrison and Mathew Watson played to a packed Argyllshire Gathering Halls. 16_1509red03

Former pupils use old school to train

Below and right: full-time and retained firefighters from Oban put the former Rockfield Primary School building to good use when they carried out breathing apparatus training. The crews split up into three teams and were given different instructions on where dummy casualties were placed before entering the building, which was filled with artificial smoke. Station commander Martin Hill explained the change of training venue was because the firefighters had become familiar with their training base at Oban Fire Station. However, he added a number of them were already familiar with the 'new' training base, as they had been to the school as pupils! 16_1509red1/02



Royal mail reviews parcel structure

ROYAL Mail is consulting on changing how it charges for parcels as it aims to reduce the 15 different weight bands that currently exist.

Plans are afoot to reduce the number of bands to seven from April 2013.

Royal Mail say the changes will make it easier for consumers to 'understand and improve choice', while introducing first time the option to send parcels between one kilo and 20kgs by second class, with the added option to receive a signature on delivery.

The publicly owned company also wants to introduce two broad parcel band categories, small parcels and medium parcels, bringing it in line with other postal operators in countries such as Germany, Italy and France.

Further proposals include changes to compensations arrangements, which would see compensation for loss of damage of items sent untracked reduced from £46 to £20.

Compensation limits for signed for items would increase by £4 to £50.

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Lorn Lines

PHOENIX Cinema in Oban has issued a Bauble Appeal to help it decorate the huge Christmas tree that stands in its lobby.

Oban Phoenix Cinema was gifted the tree by West Coast Tool and Plant Hire after being unable to find funds to buy one.

Fee Shaw, cinema manager, said: 'I asked the guys if they had any small ones that no-one wanted but they said they would give us as big a tree as could fit in our roof space.'

'Now we have a huge tree and no decorations. We are asking people to donate a bauble to help decorate the tree - it might look a bit odd when it is finished but at least it will be unique.'

Anyone who wishes to donate a bauble should hand it in to Oban Phoenix Cinema at 140 George Street.

AN OBAN store is looking for a worthwhile local charity to support throughout next year as part of its community campaign.

The Original Factory Shop has been running its Make a Difference campaign, which sees it team up with local good causes, since 2009.

The Oban shop is now on the lookout for a 2013 charity partner. The lucky organisation will receive at least £500 through the store's fundraising efforts.

Gwen Cameron, store manager, said: 'We've been raising funds for Oban Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre this year and with the partnership due to end on December 31, we're now searching for a local charity to team up with in 2013. We're dedicated to making a difference to our local community and are all really looking forward to next year's campaign.'

Any organisation wishing to apply to receive support from the store must fill in the form available on The Original Factory Shop's Facebook page before Friday January 11 2013.

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor will attend the Lorn Lunch Club's festive lunch tomorrow (Friday).

The lunch, taking place at the Regent Hotel from 12.30pm, is open to anyone and tickets can be obtained by phoning 01631 564230.

IDEAS for what will be going on in the new Atlantic Islands Centre on the Isle of Luing were put forward at a recent information night on the island.

The Isle of Luing Community Trust hosted a St Andrew's Night information session in Cullipool Hall last Friday.

The evening was attended by about 40 islanders as well as Shauna Cameron, the centre's architect, and Annie Tunnicliffe, Big Lottery adviser.

Organisers said that through an informal exchange of information, many interesting, positive suggestions for activities in the centre, which is due to open in 18 months, were made.

There was a sense of celebration in the hall as the trust had received the last bit of funding from the European Regional Development Fund so that work on the centre could begin. This grant of up to £360,000 has been added



Alasdair Flemming, trust director, left, and Shauna Cameron, architect, right, with Emma MacLachlan and Fergus Ritchie.

to the Big Lottery Fund award of £754,910 along with other pieces of money awarded.

Isle of Luing Community Trust was also selling roof slates at the Seal Island Hall Craft Fair on Sunday December 2, so that everyone can own a piece of the new building.



Staff and students from Oban High School dressed to impress as they visited Oban Phoenix Cinema to see the new James Bond movie. Clan Diarmid were celebrating a victory - and supporting the town's cinema - as they went to see Skyfall in their best Bond attire. 16_1509red01

PUPILS from Lochneil Primary School have been getting creative in Tesco by decorating the windows for Christmas.

The children painted winter scenes, including Santa and Rudolf, on the large windows in the store after being invited by Tesco's better service manager Debbie Jamieson.

Staff from the school said the children loved the experience - one that is designed to make the store more a part of the community.

The opportunity was offered to all schools in the area and Debbie said: 'We hope this is something the children can do that is arty and people can get brightened up by - no-one else in any other Tesco store will have this.'



Children from Lochneil Primary School decorate Tesco's windows. 16_1509tesco 02

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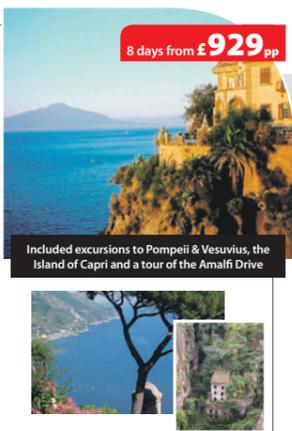
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Community cinema gains funding for new digital projectors

OBAN'S community-owned cinema is set to enter the digital age after securing all the funding it requires to buy new projectors.

As revealed in last week's *Oban Times*, the Phoenix Cinema was granted nearly £50,000 by Creative Scotland to go towards buying two digital

projectors and the renovation of the second, smaller screen.

Orders for the projectors will be placed as soon as possible, with a view to having them in operation early next year. Fundraising will continue to help renovate the second, screen. The total project is anticipated to cost just under £100,000.

Digital projectors are deemed essential to the long-term viability of the cinema, with most studios no longer distributing movies via old-fashioned film reels.

Manager of the cinema, Fee Shaw, is excited for the future, but said work was still required. She said: 'We need to put in so

much money ourselves to show the project is sustainable so we need to put in £20,000 from our own money.'

'The more money we get in though, the better the renovations can be.'

'For example, we can put in more expensive seats to the second screen.'

'But we have the money we need for the projectors now. Normally, once we say yes it takes six weeks to order and get the projectors in place and we're meeting this week to see if we can get the ball rolling. It may take a bit longer though due to the Christmas period.'

Having a second screen means

the cinema can show more films on the day of release, with studios insisting a film is shown for a full week if the cinema takes it at the earliest opportunity.

Other organisations have contributed towards the cost of the refurbishment, including Crerar Hotel Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Fundraising for the ongoing refurbishment will continue next month when the Oban Phoenix Cinema Committee holds its post-Christmas Bring and Buy sale at the Corran Halls. An opportunity to de-clutter or sell on unwanted Christmas presents, it will take place on January 19.

MSP's office expense report was misleading

LAST week's report on expenses claimed by Argyll and Bute based MSPs erroneously stated Michael Russell's total claim included claims for the party's office in Oban.

Mr Russell did claim £1,564.27 in office cost provision for furnishings and decorations. This included £527.60 for carpets, £187 for blinds, £480 for internal office decoration and £234 for external office decoration.

However, none of the above related directly to the Oban office.

We apologise for the error.

Photographers enjoy meeting

OBAN Camera Club members enjoyed one of the most entertaining and enjoyable evenings last Monday in the company of guest speaker Neil Scott from Edinburgh.

Neil, a retired pharmacology lecturer, is a self taught amateur photographer. From simple experiments he progressed to achieve distinction at home and abroad with his unique style of graphic photography.

His Oban presentation included many of his international award winning images and he divulged what was in his mind's eye when he took the photos. Humour featured largely in his talk. The enthusiastic applause endorsed the delight of the audience. New members are always welcome on Monday nights at 7.30pm in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

Changes to child benefits due

CHANGES to child benefits for people who earn over £50,000 per year will come into play in the next month.

High-earning child benefit recipients in Argyll have until January 7 to decide whether to stop receiving the benefit or to pay a charge on it.

For those with income of more than £60,000, the tax charge is 100 per cent of the amount of child benefit. If income is between £50,000 and £60,000, the charge is gradually increased to 100 per cent of the child benefit.

Holiday win

AN OBAN couple are off to Budapest after winning the top prize in Oban Sailing Club's dinner dance raffle.

Jim and Joan Tolmie won two nights in the luxury Park Suite in the Four Seasons Gresham Palace Budapest Hotel. The prize was donated by Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts and would retail at just under £3,000.

Joan said: 'We're over the moon at winning this fantastic prize and can't wait to go. However, we will probably leave our trip until the springtime when the weather is warmer in Budapest.'

'We will certainly enjoy our stay at what looks like a most wonderful hotel.'

More cuts hit school cleaning

Pupil health could be under threat by 20 per cent cut say staff

CLEANING hours at Argyll and Bute schools are to be cut by 20 per cent, prompting warnings from staff that pupil health could be affected as a result.

The local authority has notified cleaning, catering and janitorial staff of the intended changes, with meetings to be held across the county next month to discuss with employees how the changes will affect them.

£42million over seven years

It is understood the proposals are part of a long-term plan to cut millions of pounds from the education budget over the next five years, with the council looking to reduce its overall spend by £42million over the next seven years.

It is thought school support staff, vehicle costs and extra-curricular activities likely to suffer the brunt of the education cuts, with the authority keen to maintain teacher numbers.

Plans to reduce cleaning hours

could come into effect ahead of the new financial year. They come after several voluntary redundancies last year and the introduction of measures only clean schools during term time.

A staff member who contacted *The Oban Times* in the wake of the latest proposal said taking such decisions would mean cleaners would not be able to take as much care when cleaning.

He said: 'People don't realise cleaning in schools has been cut and cut and cut. Now they're planning on cutting again. The last thing our schools need is an outbreak of norovirus.'

'Now they're taking about a 20 per cent cut of the hours we've already had cut.'

'We're supposed to have a meeting at the Corran Halls in Oban on January 18. I'll be telling them it's a cut too far.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Like all local

authorities, we are faced with making savings and reducing costs across all service areas.'

'The proposed changes to the catering, cleaning and janitorial service have been reviewed in close and extensive consultation with staff and trade unions, as well as benchmarking with other Scottish councils.'

'The process for making decisions about changes to services is based on an extensive range of factors and the impact on valued council employees is always taken into consideration. Throughout this process, every effort has been made to mitigate the impact on staff as far as possible.'

With regards possible further cuts to education, the spokeswoman said: 'Currently all areas of the council budget, including education, are under review. No detail is available at this stage prior to the council budget meeting in February.'



Santa bought presents and smiles to faces during his visit to the Dad's Group at Atlantis Leisure on Monday. 16_150dadsanta1

Santa drops in at leisure centre with special presents

SANTA dropped in on the Dad's Group which meets at Atlantis Leisure on Monday - with special presents for the children attending.

Now on a break for the Christmas holidays, the group normally meets from 9.30am-

11am every Monday. It gives dads a chance to take part in any activity such as swimming, squash or the gym - or even just have a coffee in the café - while their kids are looked after in the crèche.

Each session costs £2.50 and

is open to any dad or granddad with a pre-school age child.

Meeting back on January 14, the group is a partnership between several Argyll and Bute Council departments and Atlantis Leisure. It is funded by grants from the Substance

Misuse Group, Ladbroke's, Public Health Network and West Highland Housing Association.

For further information, contact Julie MacQueen at Health Visitors on 01631 570565 or email maureen.evans@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

More doubts over Isle of Tiree off-shore wind turbine plan

FRESH doubt has been cast over the future of the proposed Argyll Array after energy giant, ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), delayed the project for a further year.

In March, *The Oban Times* revealed the company owned by Spanish company Iberdrola was to delay submitting a planning application to establish an 180-300 turbine farm off the coast of Tiree by 18 months, until late 2014, over concerns about protected species in the waters.

At the time, it rejected speculation financial and political pressures played a part in the decision, but the latest delay comes shortly after owner Iberdrola had its credit rating downgraded.

At the soonest, an application now won't be submitted until at least 2015.

SPR insisted this week the latest delay was purely down to a need to find technical solutions for the site's challenges, but campaign group No Tiree Array

say it raises questions over the company's ability and willing to deliver the project.

Monitoring technology

On the delay, a spokesman for SPR told *The Oban Times*: 'During this period the company, acting as a responsible developer, will work alongside other agencies to study the results of initial detailed environmental studies of the project area.'

'The pause will also enable the company to monitor the industry's progress in relation to improvements in turbine, foundation and vessel technology with a view to developing a technical solution that is fit for purpose in dealing with the physical characteristics of this site.'

'This project is still very much part of our project pipeline.'

Tiree's Robert Trythall, who has co-ordinated the No Tiree Array campaign, said: 'When the Array was adopted in 2010 it was the 'jewel in the crown' of the Scottish Government's

offshore windfarm plans.

'Now it would appear technical difficulties and the financing of the project are putting it in jeopardy.'

'If the wind farm is built, it won't be fully operational until 2023 at the earliest.'

'That means the so-called 'Argyll Array' is irrelevant and redundant to the Scottish Government's 2020 renewables target,' he added.

Argyll and Bute SNP MSP Michael Russell said SPR's wish to look at new technical solutions was 'understandable'.

On the delay, he added: 'I don't think it is particularly problematic in terms of their plans or national targets.'

'There will obviously be a comprehensive public decision making process and I am sure all those with views will want to be heard at that stage, and will of course be fully entitled to make representations based on fact and planning law. I will be, as ever, listening to both sides.'

BID4Oban manager named

FORMER hotelier, Nicolas Jones, has been appointed as the man to manage BID4Oban's drive to revive the town.

Nic, a former head teacher in the private sector, first moved to Oban in 2004 to take over the Barriemore Hotel and has retained an interest in the town's trading environment despite selling the business in 2010. He now lives on Lismore with his wife, Sarah.

The appointment of Nic to the part-time BID manager role has been welcomed by the group's chairman, John Forteith. He said: 'We're delighted to be welcoming Nic to join our team of directors in the work to make the BID's vision a reality. Nic comes to us with a wealth of experience and skills which we believe will serve the business community here in Oban well.'

Nic said: 'I realise that BID4 Oban is a major opportunity for the entire town. I am, therefore, greatly looking forward to starting in my position as manager with its many and varied roles.'

BID4Oban hope to appoint an events manager this month.

Seil teenager put on sex register

A YOUNG man from the Isle of Seil is to be placed on the sex offenders register and supervised for two years after sending sexually explicit material to a schoolgirl.

Ian Adam, 19, whose address is given on court papers as Tigh na Sith, Isle of Seil previously admitted the offences and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday for sentencing.

The court heard the girl, who was 15 at the time, had been so upset by what she was receiving she confided in a teacher at her school, who contacted police.

Defending, Heather Wilson said Adam was particularly 'immature'.

She added: 'He is very sorry for upsetting the young girl.'

Multi-million pound pier at Fishnish gets underway

WORK on building a new multi million pound pier on Mull is set to start before Christmas.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) is to invest £3 million in the new pier, to be built at Fishnish, which will help transport greater quantities of timber off the island while cutting costs.

The project will also save at least 800,000 lorry miles each year. Use of the pier will be open to other timber suppliers, including island-based North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWCWC).

Colin Morrison, chairman of the NWCWC, said: 'Over the coming years we will transport many tens of thousands of tonnes of timber from the north west of Mull and the pier should

help our business and others move timber more economically as well as enabling significant savings in road miles.'

Moray Finch, general manager of the Mull and Iona Community Trust, added: 'The FCS pier will be a massive boost to the economy of Mull, not just through the jobs involved in construction but also through the increased sustainability of forestry and any other operations which might make use of the pier in years to come.'

The pier should be operational by late summer next year. Mull based TSL Contractors will carry out most of the work. It is expected around 50,000 tonnes of timber will be transported from the pier annually.

Wullie succeeds single-handed

HE MAY have broken his hand half way through his 100 fight challenge, but Oban black belt Wullie Rodger finished his Kumite challenge expertly on Saturday.

At 41, Wullie decided to end his competitive martial arts career with the 100 fight challenge at Oban Martial Arts Centre, facing a new opponent every minute.

He has raised more than £1,200 for Help for Heroes in the process. Talking of the break, he said: 'I felt it go, I must have hit an awkward point like an elbow or a hip. I just strapped it and carried on.'

You can still sponsor Wullie online at bmy-charity.com/100kumite.



Oban black belt Wullie Rodger, left, on Saturday. Picture - Kevin McClynn

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Morvern Lines



A Morvern fox after winter's first major snows.

A POPULAR fireside story, which used to be told in Morvern many years ago, was of an old woman called Jenny Cameron who lived alone in Glen Immairean - a lonely spot now enveloped by a woodland grant scheme above Killindine on the Sound of Mull. About 1810 a prolonged snowstorm swept across the West Highlands leaving the ground covered in deep snow for weeks. There were fears for Jenny's life and as soon as it was possible a party of men set off for Glen Immairean.

Reaching a corner in the glen from where the old lady's house should have been visible, they saw nothing except huge snow-wreaths.

On they went expecting the worst, until they saw smoke rising. When they reached the old cottage nothing was visible except the hole in the thatched roof which acted as a chimney and even it was lower than the snow drift.

They shouted down but before there was any response, a large fox jumped out of the hole and ran off. Soon the men were inside and found the old lady very much alive and well.

They heard that the day the storm began a dog fox came down the chimney and curled up on the rafters enjoying the warmth and shelter along with the hens, which he never once touched.

When dawn came he would go off hunting and return with a hare, a blackcock or a grouse almost every day and what he left Jenny washed, cooked and ate maintaining she had never dined so well in years!

This is a remarkable story which one might be inclined to disbelieve before hearing that it was recorded by the grandson of the Rev Norman Macleod (1745-1824) the Morvern minister, who accompanied the search party and whose name is written large across the annals of the parish.

Foxes have been found all over Argyll, including Morvern, from time immemorial. The earliest references are to be found in the minutes of the local authority of the time when, in 1759, a committee instructed the heritors - largely the principal landowners - to consider how best they could destroy both foxes and eagles because of the number of sheep they were taking.

Little seems to have happened as nine years later they were told to appoint fox-hunters in every district. Foxes appear in a list of 'beasts of prey' compiled in Morvern in 1794 and again in 1843 when the Rev John Macleod, parish minister and grandson of the Rev Norman Macleod, already mentioned recorded that about 30 were killed annually and went on to say 'The fox, however, is not worse than he is called and is no doubt guiltless of many crimes laid to his charge: for just as in the household, every missing tea-cup is charged against that mysterious personage 'Nobody', every missing lamb is charged against the fox, while there is no mention of the carelessness of the shepherd.'

There used to be two types of foxes in Morvern and elsewhere in the Highlands. The 'Dhubhchach' (black-legged) and the 'Madadh Ruadh' (red dog).

The Dhubhchach is undoubtedly today's common fox while the Madadh Ruadh was the older. It had red hair down to its paws and was much larger in body and in leg.

Its ears were distinctly different being smaller and much more rounded at the tips. They were also covered at the back with a mixture of red and greyish hair almost to the tips which were of a black border.

The Madadh Ruadh were common in Black Mount in the middle of the 1860s.

Mr Roy Newton of Loch Uisge, Kingairloch, huntsman extraordinaire for the Lochaber Fox Hounds who knows more than anyone about foxes in the Highlands today, tells me that in all the years he has been hunting in the area he has never seen any of the Madadh Ruadh, which suggests they are now extinct. *Iain Thornber.*

BMA council chairman joins Killin pharmacy debate

The situation is 'very surprising'

THE chairman of the British Medical Association's (BMA) Scottish Council has warned of 'perverse' circumstances if an application to open a pharmacy in Killin is approved.



Dr Brian Keighley, chairman of the British Medical Association's Scottish Council.

Davidson's Chemist has lodged an application with Forth Valley NHS to establish a pharmacy in the village after seeing statistics that show Killin Medical Practice has a busy GP prescription dispensary service.

The practice has warned it will be forced to close its dispensary if the application is approved - a move that would mean the loss of one of the practice's three GPs as one of the posts is supported by income from the dispensary.

One of the most rural practices in the NHS Forth Valley area, it serves not just Killin but the wider Strathfillan and Balquhidder areas.

The BMA's Dr Brian Keighley, who is also on the BMA's general medical council working party, has described the situation as 'very surprising'.

but at the likely cost of losing a doctor to the area with consequent diminution in the level of medical services the practice can offer.

'In the vast majority of Scotland doctors and pharmacists co-exist in a spirit of mutual respect and co-operation. Davidson's is a large company with many branches and it seems unfortunate that this application could lead to the perverse effect of actually reducing the level of medical provision in the area.'

A public meeting in Killin earlier this month attracted 300 people and a petition opposing Davidson's application has already gathered more than 800 signatures.

Dr Keighley added: 'Since the regulations were changed about three years ago, the health board has to take into consideration the views of the local population. I understand that at a public meeting on November 28, chaired by Mr Bruce Crawford MSP, much opposition was voiced.'

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Oban sex offender has appeal rejected

A FORMER gym boss who was convicted of indecently assaulting two young women has had his appeal against his conviction refused.

Robin Morton, of 23 Balvicar, near Oban, was placed on probation for a year and listed on the sex offender's register following a trial at Oban Sheriff Court

earlier this year. The 50-year-old offered his victims massages after they enquired about a job. During the massages he asked the girls to remove their bra and rubbed their breasts. They described the experience as 'perky'.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told Morton during the trial:

'These witnesses had to enter a punishing cross-examination by your solicitor, which was lengthy, emotionally bruising and rigorous, yet their positions remained unchanged.'

Morton claimed during his trial that the witnesses were lying and called their evidence 'poisonous' and 'vindictive'.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson said at the time Morton had 'overstepped the mark' but was a 'low risk of reoffending'. The Justiciary Office in Edinburgh confirmed to *The Oban Times* that Morton's appeal had been rejected, as had an appeal for extra time to consider the case.



Shauna MacKenzie with some of the children from the nursery.

Oban nursery wins Eat Safe award

AN OBAN nursery has been handed a 'coveted' food safety award thanks to the dedication of its workers.

Staff at 1st Steps Day Nursery, including cook Shauna MacKenzie, were delighted to receive the Eat Safe award which recognises excellence in food

hygiene standards. Ann Burke, managing director, said: 'We are really pleased to have achieved this certificate and proud of our service and the level of support that we offer to families and the assured confidence in our facility. 'The Eat Safe award is a

coveted status for anyone who is providing food to achieve as it is nationally recognised and supported by the Food Standards Agency.'

The nursery was assessed by environmental health services as part of an ongoing inspection programme.

Kilchrenan calls for gritter rethink

COMMUTERS near Kilchrenan have urged Argyll and Bute Council to look again at its winter weather arrangements after a school bus took to treacherous rural roads before the gritters.

A number of motorists have come into difficulty on the B845 between Taynuilt, Kilchrenan and Dalavaich recently, with several vehicles going into a spin at low speed.

Residents and commuters have also complained that grit dumps have not been made available on the route as they were last year. Anita Goldie, of Taynuilt,

works at the Ardanaisg Hotel, said ice caused several problems on the route, particularly last Monday. I was driving down that road and I pulled in near the quarry because it was so bad. Just after the quarry, my brother did a 180 degree spin. The bus got through, but the gritter came afterwards.'

The council's head of roads, Jim Smith, said: 'The B845 is a priority two route, which means it is treated between 6am and 6pm, seven days a week when deemed necessary. On Monday December 3 and Tuesday December 4, bad weather meant the gritter was focused on maintaining access on the main bus route section of B845/C29 to Dalavich which is on a higher priority treatment route. These other sections of the route have been treated as normal since then.'

He added that pre-treatment routes do not usually have salt bins on their full length, but local steep sections and blind bends will be replenished.



Chris Adams is to be presented with a Weisse Hugel guitar.

Fort William musician to receive custom-made guitar

AN ACCLAIMED Fort William musician will be presented with a custom-made guitar in the town next Wednesday night.

Chris Adams will take delivery of the prized Weisse Hugel instrument in the Ben Nevis Bar before playing a set featuring his own compositions, and covers of Jimmi Hendrix and Gary Moore classics.

The presentation comes after Chris' record label DyNaMik landed an endorsement deal for him to use the guitar on his next album and at live gigs.

Representatives from Barcelona-based Weisse Hugel will be flying to Scotland to meet Chris and hand over the guitar.

Play Chris, from Upper Achintore, will play with fellow Fort musicians, drummer Richard Balazs Szabo, who is originally from Hungary, and bass guitarist Davy Duncan, who was bassist with the John & Geoff Whitbread line up.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The event marks the endorsement, which is a business agreement between the record label and the guitar makers.

'They made the guitar specially for me.'

The 48-year-old told, married to local girl Claire and with two young children, put down roots in Lochaber after arriving from England eight years ago.

Together with Davy and Richard, he is planning gigs in Aberdeen, Peterhead and Oban next year before a possible tour of the US and Canada, where Chris has a big fan base.

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National Mòd champion makes New York debut

A ROYAL National Mòd champion singer from the Outer Hebrides will make his New York City debut this weekend.

South Uist man Paul McCallum will join the company of the 14th annual 'Pipes of Christmas' for two concerts at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church in the city's Upper East Side on Saturday.

Another afternoon performance across the Hudson River will follow at the Central Presbyterian Church in Summit, New Jersey, on Sunday. McCallum came to the attention of concert producer and Clan Currie president Robert Currie at a ceilidh in Benbecula as part of the clan's recent gathering and annual academic symposium.

Mr Currie said: 'Our clan enjoys a rich history in the Uists and it was a

natural destination to hold our clan weekend.

'It was an incredible delight to hear Paul sing at our ceilidh.

'The minute we heard his lovely tenor voice, we knew he would be perfect for our concert.'

Designed to bring a bit of home to thousands of Scots and Scottish-Americans living in the New York metropolitan area, 'Pipes of Christmas' is regularly named one of the city's top ten Christmas events.

Impressive McCallum will share the stage with an impressive company of performers including Mòd clarsach champion Jennifer Port, originally from Golspie, guitarist Steve Gibb originally from Inverness, Evan Cattanach from Kingussie and James Robinson, better known as

young William Wallace in 'Braveheart'.

The concerts, which are produced by the Clan Currie Society, present the music of Christmas accompanied by readings taken from the Celtic literature of Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

Bodies benefiting from proceeds include the National Piping Centre and the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow and the Gaelic College of Nova Scotia.

One famous naming backing the event is stage and screen star Alan Cumming.

He said: 'I am delighted that proceeds from the Pipes of Christmas will result in these important gifts which ensure that the future of Scottish culture is safer with these generous scholarships.'



Paul McCallum from South Uist will be singing in New York.

Caravan broken into near Lochalsh

A CARAVAN parked in Ardelev, Lochalsh, was broken into and a CD player stolen.

Police said the motor home was parked outside Shepherds Cottage on Sallachy Road when the incident occurred sometime between Monday November 5 and Friday December 7.

Anyone with information can contact police on 01599 534222 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Warning over west coast business scam

BUSINESSES throughout the west coast are being warned about a company directory scam which tries to extract money using misleading marketing tactics.

Argyll and Bute Council's trading standards team has confirmed that businesses are being approached in a way that makes it appear as if they already advertise with the directory. They are asked to correct paperwork but by doing this they

are inadvertently placing an order. After the business has responded, the directory will send an invoice, often for hundreds of pounds. If the invoice isn't paid, an intimidating letter asking for payment and threatening debt collection will usually follow.

Chairman of the Protective Planning Services and Licensing (PPSL) Committee, Councillor Sandy Taylor said: 'If your business

gets one of these calls you should treat it with extreme caution and do not assume entry into any directory or website is free.

'I would ask as many local businesses as possible to look at more advice in the leaflet created by our trading standards team. It is available online at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/trading-standards/scams or you can get a copy by phoning 01546 605519.'

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South Uist makes last gasp bid to prove Mallaig-Lochboisdale link

TWO SOUTH Uist campaign groups are making a last gasp bid to prove a Mallaig to Lochboisdale ferry link could be a commercial success.

research company Scotinform Ltd to establish potential demand for the service. Both groups are hoping for a strong positive response from the local community to the survey, which closed to submissions on Monday.

They say the findings will establish a true picture of local demand and give Scottish Ministers the evidence they need to trial commercial sailings on the route. The questionnaire is the islanders' final attempt to make

the case for the link and follows a series of public meetings and petitions.

Draft plan

Results will be fed into the Government's draft plan for Scottish ferry services, which has been out to public

consultation since November last year. Publication of the final plan, which will guide ferry service provision through to 2022, is expected within weeks.

Missing Link spokesperson and Stòras Uibhist director Sarah MacEachan told *The*

Oban Times: 'We are just trying to get listened to. We have been trying to get the route included in the ferries review for the last two years.'

'We can't just sit back - this is our last opportunity and we have to take it. This is all about

proving there is a demand for the service.' In 2010, HRTF campaigned successfully to save jobs at rocket ranges on Benbecula and South Uist. Missing Link was set up in February to campaign for the Mallaig-Lochboisdale crossing.

Oban woman breached probation order

AN OBAN woman pled guilty to breaching her probation order when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Susannah McCuish, 35, of 5 Combie Court, admitted failing to attend probation supervision on September 5 and October 3. Defending, Laura McManus told the court McCuish had been suffering 'ill health' but she could have attended the appointments.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence until January 8.

He said McCuish had a 'chequered history'. This is the second time the order has been breached.

Bike stolen from Broadford

A BICYCLE was stolen from the road leading to Broadford Hospital sometime between 4pm on Monday December 3 and 6.30pm the following day.

The bike had been left next to trees.

Mull man charged over messages

A 50-YEAR-OLD man from Mull was arrested last week in connection with allegations of sending abusive messages.

He has been released and a report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Fort William man fined after struggling with police

A LOCHYSIDE teenager who was accidentally hit on the face while struggling with police has been told it was his own fault by a sheriff.

Three officers were attempting to arrest Cameron MacInnes in a car park on June 3.

MacInnes suffered a small cut but did not require medical treatment. Fined 18-year-old MacInnes £315, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'You sustained what sounds like a fairly minor injury, but you really brought it upon yourself by struggling.'

MacInnes, of 51 Castle Drive, pled guilty to restricting, obstructing, molesting and hindering the officers by struggling violently with them.

Leader acts on windfarm bribe rumour

'Allegations were found to be completely unfounded'

ALLEGATIONS of bribery over a proposed windfarm development have been running rife through Argyll villages.

A resident near Clachan Seil, the site proposed for a wind farm by developer Rory Young, is believed to have reported the matter to councillors.

Strenuously denied

The rumours alleged that Mr Young had been making donations to SNP councillors prior to his planning hearing in the hope of gaining permission. This is strenuously denied by both councillors and Mr Young. Permission was refused at the hearing.

An investigation was carried out in which the leader of Argyll and Bute Council, Roddy McCuish, interviewed his SNP

colleagues along with the chairman of the planning committee Sandy Taylor.

Mary-Jean Devon, vice chairwoman of the planning committee, said: 'We got word through a third party that allegations had been made that Rory Young had approached SNP councillors and made an offer.'

'All SNP councillors - not just those on the planning committee - were interviewed by the leader of the council and the business manager of the committee.'

'The allegations were found to be completely unfounded and this was reported back to the third party who was more than happy.'

Mr Young said: 'I wasn't even aware an investigation had taken place - the rumours are certainly

not true. I've never bribed anyone in my life and have never made any donation to a political party - and I'm not about to start.'

Asked whether he might appeal the refusal of planning permission for his proposed windfarm, Mr Young added: 'I'm still undecided over the appeal, I haven't even looked at it. I'll deal with it in new year and take it from there.'

No complaint

A council spokeswoman confirmed 'there have been no complaints to council officers in respect of such allegations'.

And staff at the Public Standards Commissioner for Scotland, the body that deals with complaints regarding councillors, also said no complaint had been received.



The image of Tobermory lifeboat as it appeared on the London skyline.

Mull lifeboat image on London's National Theatre

A PHOTOGRAPH taken by a member of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) from the Isle of Mull has been projected onto the National Theatre in London.

The stunning image, captured by Sam Jones, Tobermory's volunteer lifeboat press officer, was selected for the Royal Photographic Society's International Projected Image Exhibition. It was one of nearly 500 chosen pictures from 47

countries. It is a picture of full time mechanic Jock Anderson being winched down onto the Severn class lifeboat, flanked by volunteer crew Ian Purfitt and Paul Gunn. The photo was taken in 2011 when the Tobermory lifeboat was on exercise with the Royal Navy.

Sam, who organises landscape photography workshops, says the photograph was taken just after she had been winched into Rescue 177 helicopter and

then returned to the lifeboat. She added: 'Needless to say the adrenaline was pumping. I am first and foremost a member of the volunteer crew. Nevertheless being a photographer helps with my lifeboat press officer duties as well as recording the work of Tobermory RNLI. The guys are quite used to me taking photos and are certainly no longer camera shy.'

Sam's photograph was recently commended by the judges in

the Take A View landscape photographer of the year 2012 awards and appears in a book with other eye-catching photographs. There is an exhibition currently showing at the National Theatre and Sam's picture was beamed onto the building during a private viewing. The free exhibition runs until January 12 and the book from AA Publishing is Landscape Photographer of the Year: Collection 6.

Bridge of Orchy crash driver remains critical

A 68-YEAR-OLD man remained in critical condition as *The Oban Times* went to press after a two-vehicle collision at Bridge of Orchy on Friday.

The man, understood to be from Fort William, was driving his silver Citroen C3 south on the

A82 Ballachulish to Tyndrum road when he was involved in a head-on crash with a grey Audi Q3 heading north at around 1.45pm.

The man was airlifted to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital for treatment after sustaining

serious injuries as a result of the collision.

He was driving alone at the time of the incident. The driver of the Audi and his male passenger sustained minor injuries.

Police closed the road for several hours to allow the

vehicles to be recovered and for crash investigators to assess the scene. Witnesses to the incident are being sought by Strathclyde Police, who are particularly keen to hear from anyone who saw either vehicle in the lead up to the crash.

Oban man denies council van theft

A MAN accused of stealing a transit van belonging to Argyll and Bute Council is standing trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

William Smith, 47, currently resident in Longdale Crescent, Oban, denies taking the vehicle from the council yard in Mill

Park. The van was discovered missing on June 6 but found in Glenclutten the next day.

Police recovered a 'positive DNA sample' from the vehicle, which matched Smith.

One officer told the court he asked Smith during an inter-

view why his DNA was on the vehicle.

He said: 'He couldn't explain but said he had been sleeping rough within the premises at the time.'

The trial will continue on January 8.

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MALLAIG

MALLAIG and Morar Community Centre will play host to a special festive afternoon on Sunday afternoon from 3pm.

The day will see singing of Christmas carols, with some poems also read out on the day. Refreshments will be available and a raffle will also be held.

LISMORE

LISMORE celebrated St Andrew's night in style with a Scottish themed beautifully decorated café and an abundance of delicious Scottish food.

Beth Campbell's ability to entertain large numbers with seemingly very little effort is already well known, as is the coolness and efficiency of her able assistant Carol MacLean.

Along with the menu came a handout of interesting facts about St Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter and one of the original 12 apostles, and the origins of his role as the Patron Saint of Scotland, thought to date back to 733 when some of his relics were brought to St Andrews in Fife.

The great thing about Beth's dinners is that they feed your brain as well. In all there were six courses: leek and potato soup, salmon salad, a choice of roast highland Salen beef/chicken or roast Portobello mushrooms all served with Haggis (meat or veg) clapsnot, mashed potato and whisky gravy. There was then a choice of cloutie dumpling or crannachan followed by tea and coffee with homemade tablet.

After dinner, the Rev Roderick Campbell thanked Beth for an excellent evening and spoke a few words about Scotland's patron saint.

ON THE WEEKEND OF December 1, two films were shown in the hall by the hard working dedicated film buffs of Lismore Lumiere.

On Saturday evening Ken Loach's 'The Angels' Share', although a comedy, was at times darkly comedic with plenty of Glasgow grit and wit as the disadvantaged struggled to find a way out of their hopeless lives.

Being Ken Loach, he was making a refreshingly positive case for the disadvantaged.

'The Fairy', a Belgian film in French, was also a comedy but of the madly far fetched variety at the opposite end of the comedic scale. Here the talented cast made magic realism plausible with their prodigious acrobatic skills.

Lismore Lumiere is to be congratulated on managing to find films suitable for a wide range of ages and tastes.

On December 29 the films are 'Brave' and 'New Year's Eve'.

ARISAIG

ARISAIG and District Community Council's (ADCC) November meeting had representatives from Transport Scotland, Transerv, TEC Services of the Highland Council and Dave Thompson



Lochside 'posties' get ready to deliver

The youngsters responsible for delivering Christmas cards between classrooms at Lochside RC Primary School learned how the professionals do it during a visit to Fort William Post Office's sorting office last Thursday. The children were shown how parcels, cards and letters were arranged into different piles before being delivered to houses across Lochaber and even got to try on some of the postmen's equipment.

MSP, chairman in attendance.

Various improvements to the A830 have been agreed, including fixed signs to replace the mobile vehicle message boards; resurfacing of the three accident cluster sites with high friction surfacing; replacement of tubular rails by the sides of the road with heavier weight structures and on the bridges, which will take about five years.

Other issues discussed were: Churchyard footpath - Alistair Stewart at Core Paths said they could not get permission from the landowner to enter the land with machines to upgrade the path. The plan has been put on the reserve list until the permission form has been signed.

While the work done by TEC Services to improve Arisaig War Memorial was approved, it was felt a walkway would make the approach easier. This suggestion will be passed on. The next community council meeting will be in Astley Hall on January 21.

Recurring problems with the 30mph flashing signs and street lights have been referred to Transerv

The secretary is still exploring getting a duplicate key for the Highbridge Path gate to allow access for prams and buggies when the Post Office is shut

The community council noted the current Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places, but considered that no change in position was necessary

An award of £500 had been received from the Highland

seek estimates for a lockable replacement

Duncan Macleod reported that it was hoped to start the construction of the play park in about eight weeks.

The next meeting will be at Spean Bridge School on Tuesday January 8.

HOPES are high for South Uist in the coming New Year that will put the south end on course for a more positive economic future with the recent news being very promising in the

minute helped us with a space to work in. P6/7 have been studying the place names and peaks of the Cuillin as part of the project.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the pupils were very inspired by the

nature, Cailean and Gillesbuig and being amongst the Cuillins.

Sconser climber and mountain guide and internationally renowned climber Norman Collie made daring ascents of the Cuillin in the late 19th century.

The whole point of the group is trying to get enthusiastic amateur singers involved - just giving people that like to sing the opportunity to be part of a group that is not singing Gaelic music.

'This is very much for the fun of it, by no means a polished choir but we hope to get a choir that can entertain round the island a bit in the long run.'

The group is now looking for a leader with the right skills. Allison added: 'We are hoping someone with experience of leading choirs will provide us with a bit of leadership and direction.'

For anyone interested in joining, the first meeting will be in Tobermory Parish Church Hall on January 15 at 7.30pm.

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request on a proposed seaweed processing factory to be established in Lochboisdale.

It would be near the proposed £10 million harbour infrastructure development, which is also hoped will be started next spring, including a road and caysway with good up to date facilities and a berthing harbour.

Further to this, hopes are also being expressed in many circles lately that CalMac, with Government support, will introduce a trial ferry run between Lochboisdale and Mallaig around Easter of 2013 and up to October, for its initial year of service.

The prospect of a local factory and work for young people living in the area, along with having a choice of travelling on an alternative route to the mainland, is very encouraging news. All concerned are praying that by this time next year local folk will be in a position where they all feel their youth may be more inclined to stay locally longterm employed and along with Mallaig service an economic boost would certainly be in the offing for future of South Uist and its people.

'A more promising and happier New Year shall we say!' - Angus Campbell.

ARDGOUR

A LOCHABER eatery has been shortlisted for the Scottish 2012 Countryside Alliance Awards in Edinburgh next February.

The Boathouse Restaurant at Kingairloch, Ardgour, is nominated for the 'local food' category. All finalists are being invited to Holyrood on February 5 2013 for the awards ceremony and to speak to MSPs about rural business. Each category winner will go through to the UK and Ireland finals.

PLOCKTON

A COFFEE morning in Plockton Hotel in aid of the local drama club raised more than £400.

Meanwhile, seven inches of rain fell in the village in November. The warmest day was 13.5°C and the coldest was -1.9°C.

SOUTH UIST

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Sue Porter, teacher with The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Lorn (Argyll) Branch guided the young dancers through the steps, having already visited the schools to give the pupils vital preparation.

DUROR Primary School P4-7 pupils shared their WW2 topic work with parents last Wednesday evening.

Afterwards they were presented with awards by Wing Commander Philip Rankin. Each child gave a talk on their chosen subject, sang WW1 songs and danced 'The Reel of the 51st'.

The dance was composed by the Highland division's officers when they were prisoners of war. The 51st made a heroic stand around Dunkirk in June 1940 to safeguard the evacuation of 330,000 men from the beaches.

Mull Lines

A COMMUNITY trust on the Isle of Mull is to spend more than £10,000 establishing the training needs of residents on the island.

An Roth Trading, the trading subsidiary company of Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), is looking to appoint a consultant to carry out an island-wide 'training needs analysis'.

The organisation is concerned that 'access to good quality training opportunities on Mull and Iona are very restricted' and - as a result - many islanders are unable to improve their 'skill base'.

The invitation to tender for the work states: 'Research completed by MICT suggests there is a gap in the provision of island-based training opportunities particularly in practical, land based skills, business and IT and for those most disadvantaged groups.'

The work aims to identify training opportunities for 'younger people, school leavers wishing to join the job market and the unemployed, particularly long-term'.

The project is expected to cost no more than £11,500, with work beginning in late January next year and completed by the end of April 2013.

The report produced at the end of this period will make recommendations on potential training options for islanders, including courses and accreditation and funding.



The children enjoyed their visit to the mart.

CHILDREN from Bunessan Primary School took a trip to the mart in Oban to finish off their recent topic on crofting.

The primary five, six and seven pupils were given a tour of Oban Livestock Mart by auctioneer Raymond Kennedy who taught them about the different breeds of sheep.

The youngsters were then given the opportunity to take turns being the auctioneer and buyers. They said 'the most exciting part was watching the auction and trying to spot who was bidding'.

RESIDENTS in Tobermory will be forgiven for thinking they are seeing things when the town fills up with Santas soon.

The Santa Dash, to be held on December 23, will see people of all ages donning their Santa suits and running around the town.

There will be routes suitable for both adults and children and organisers hope the day will be a social occasion as well as encouraging people to be active.

Organiser Babs Whyte said: 'We are trying to make it a fun community event with Christmas spirit where everyone is getting together being active but also socialising. It should all be a bit of fun.'

Babs is encouraging anyone who wants to take part in the event to let organisers know in advance to guarantee a Santa suit.

There will be drinks and mince pies available after the race with juice for youngsters. Entrants will also receive a medal and the event will be supporting the Marie Curie Cancer Care group recently set up on Mull.

Registration is available from 11.30am outside the Lifeboat Station on the pier. The races start at 12.30pm. Pre-register to secure a Santa suit: santa@isle-of-mull.net.

SPECIAL services and carol singing events are being held all over Mull in the run up to Christmas.

There will be an evening carol service at 7.30pm on December 16 in Salen and Ulva Parish Church and a service of lessons and carols in Kilmore Church, Dervaig, at 7pm on Christmas Eve.

Bunessan Hall will host coffee and carols on December 15 at 7.30pm and there will be a Christmas carol service in Pennyghael Community Centre on December 20 at 7pm.

LADIES on the Isle of Mull that love to sing are being invited to join a new group starting up soon in Tobermory.

The Tobermory Singers will hold their first meeting in January and hope a number of 'enthusiastic amateur singers' will join.

Allison Robb, from Tobermory, is one of the ladies organising the new group. She said: 'We are trying to set something up based on a four part harmony a capella style. The style of singing will include contemporary, gospel and ballads - just a range really.'

'The whole point of the group is trying to get enthusiastic amateur singers involved - just giving people that like to sing the opportunity to be part of a group that is not singing Gaelic music.'

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and Friday 28th December (for issue dated 3rd January)

OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED
on Tuesday 25th December & Wednesday 26th December
and Tuesday 1st January & Wednesday 2nd January

ISLAY

GAELIC journalist and broadcaster Ruairidh MacIathain (Roddy MacLean) gave a talk at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile, Bowmore, on December 5.

As well as writing An Litir Bheag for BBC Alba/Radio nan Gaidheal as an exercise for Gàidhlig learners, Mr MacIathain is an engaging speaker on the benefits of Gaelic in education and the jobs available and being developed where a good working knowledge of and ability to speak and write Gaelic is required were discussed. Currently, there is a shortfall in numbers of Gaelic teachers needed in schools and those who are native speakers are particularly welcomed. One of Mr MacIathain's current projects is concerned with the relationship between Gàidhlig, the landscape of the Highlands and Islands, and the people, both historically and in the present.

A course on this topic is in preparation, to be held at Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Skye.

The talk encouraged interesting comments and questions from the audience, with a plea from an Islay Gaelic teacher for native speakers to speak with and encourage learners to speak as often as possible, not only in formal situations such as classes but when going about their daily occupations.

THE ISLAND has entered the festive season with an array of plays, pantomimes and services in the run up to Christmas.

The annual Christmas service at St Kieran's Church, Port Charlotte, was celebrated on December 3. Islay High School's version of 'Sleeping Beauty' was performed on December 10 and 11. On December 11, Cinderella and Rockerfella was presented at Keills Primary School. December 12 brought 'Snow White' to Bowmore Primary School then the following night, Port Charlotte Primary presented 'Oink!'. It was good to get a bit of fresh air with Islay Baptist Church's Christmas Walk With Christmas Carols at the Lochside which took place on December 12.

Kilmory Church Christmas Carol evening will take place this Sunday, December 16, followed by Islay High School Christmas Concert on Tuesday December 18 at 7.30pm in Islay High School's Main Hall.

Port Ellen Primary School's annual 'Carols by Candlelight' will be held on Wednesday December 19.

Pupils enjoy Scottish Country dancing

Pupils from Lismore Primary School wore tartan for the St Andrew's Day dance. 15_149dancing1

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Dunbeg pupils fill shoeboxes with Christmas cheer

Children at Dunbeg Primary School have been busy filling up shoeboxes to be sent off around the world as Christmas gifts. The youngsters have been filling boxes with essential items as well as toys for the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal. The school takes part in the appeal every year with children of all ages, including nursery, taking part. A total of 52 boxes have been filled this year – the most the school has ever collected and these will now be distributed to countries in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. 16_150dunbeg01



ISLANDERS visiting the pub recently have been pleasantly surprised to be served their drinks by their neighbours, workmates and friends. Locals have been stepping forward to pull the pints on a voluntary basis.

Hotel owner Alex Howard had been considering closing the island's only watering-hole over the winter, until Local Development Officer Donald 'Pedie' MacNeill suggested a temporary community takeover.

A deal was struck and bar training was organised and delivered by Grace McPhee and her partner Keir Johnston.

Grace recalls: 'Our opening

STORNOWAY

A GROUP of senior pupils from the Nicolson Institute visited Stornoway Police Station to see behind the scenes of law enforcement.

Whilst at the station the pupils submitted a police report to the Procurator Fiscal, which led to them giving evidence for the case in court.

As well as this exercise, they also got an insight into firearms, community safety and road safety. One pupil said: 'I would like to join the police when I leave school. This week has helped my confidence.'

night on December 1 was a roaring success, with an evening of whisky-tasting hosted by Colonsay-connected Rachel MacNeill who runs 'Wild and Magic Islay'. Since then, Cholasachs have been able to enjoy the pub on Saturday and Sunday afternoons and evenings.

Grace continued: 'Since our first night, the community bar has continued to prove very popular with locals.'

Grace expressed her gratitude to local volunteers, local businesses, to Jane and Alex Howard, Colonsay Brewery and the distilleries of Laphroaig, Bruichladdich and Bunnahabhain for their support.

She concluded: 'Many more exciting events are planned over the coming weeks, including a Children In Need Christmas party and a Christmas Craft Fair, so I'd like to encourage islanders to come and support their local pub!'

MORNA Piper, one of the island's Local Development Officers (LDOs), has announced its efforts to improve broadband speeds on the island have borne fruit.

Morna explained: 'Colonsay has recently been made one of only six pioneer communities by the newly formed govern-

ment initiative Community Broadband Scotland. This is a project which is aiming to improve our broadband connectivity and to futureproof our service when superfast broadband is introduced. We will be allocated a case worker in the New Year and will be one of the first to have the opportunity to apply for a £5 million seed fund.'

In the short term, she and fellow LDO Donald MacNeill will be surveying islanders' current broadband experiences and exploring the possibilities the improved service will open up.

MIKE McNichol, secretary of Colonsay Community Council, told a recent meeting that a timetable had been set for a community ballot on whether Marine Harvest should be allowed to establish its proposed fish farm in Colonsay waters.

Mike said: 'The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report should be available soon. The report will be distributed to every household on the island by means of a USB memory stick, or as a hard copy. There will be a five to six week period for us to review the report, followed by an open day, organised by Marine Harvest, to allow people to clarify any questions that may have arisen

from reading the EIA. There will then be a ballot, arranged by the Electoral Reform Society. The ballot will be open to everyone on Colonsay's register of electors and will include 16 and 17-year-olds.'

So, after many months of debate and many arguments being made both for and against the proposal, the people of Colonsay will shortly make one of the most important decisions in its recent history.

MANY months ago, Colonsay and Oransay Heritage Trust identified a suitable site for the construction of an island heritage centre.

The trust has recently taken another major step towards its goal. David Binnie, trust committee member, explained: 'We are pleased to announce the appointment of Rob Robinson, heritage consultant, to carry out the feasibility study for the trust over the next four months. This will involve consulting the community, key stakeholders and visitors. The study has been funded by a grant from Awards for All Big Lottery Fund. Rob is an experienced heritage professional who has worked as a strategic planning consultant since 1999. We look forward to his help in taking the project forward.'

COLONSAY

DILLY Emslie, one of the main organisers of Colonsay's 2013 Book Festival, has announced it will feature Ian Rankin, the UK's best-selling crime writer.

Ian has received The Edinburgh Award, along with an OBE and several honorary degrees. He is best known for his series of 19 novels about the adventures of maverick detective Rebus.

Other guests will include the acclaimed children's writer Mairi Hedderley, author of the Katie Morag stories. She will be presenting a family event on the Saturday morning. Sara Sheridan will run a writing workshop and Ron Butlin, the Edinburgh Makar, will recite from his latest collection of poems, 'The Magicians of Edinburgh', accompanied by Dick Lee on bass clarinet and Anne Evans on flute. Finally, Candia McWilliam, winner of the Betty Trask Award for Fiction and the Guardian First Book Award, will read from her work, including her most recent book, 'What To Look For In Winter: A Memoir Of Blandness'.

This book includes fond descriptions of her close relationship with her adoptive family the Howards and with the island.

Down Your Way: Lochaline

THE PENSIONERS' Christmas party in Lochaline, organised by Morvern Community Council, was a great success. Food, drink and entertainment was provided in the village hall but the best thing was the

opportunity for so many of Lochaline's older residents to get together, have a good blether and enjoy themselves. A huge thank you to George King for organising it and to all those who helped in any way.

PLANS to demolish a dilapidated former Scout hut in Lochaline have received a boost after Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) received a £6,080 grant from the Big Lottery Fund's Investing in Ideas programme.

The cash means MCDC can now commission a feasibility study into a new building or buildings on the site.

Tarmac UK, the former owners of the Lochaline sand mine, gifted the hut and the land it stands on to the community after the mine was sold.

MCDC development officer Lilia Dobrokhodova told *The Oban Times*: 'Tarmac said they would pay for the demolition. We are now working on figuring out the best way to get ahead with the building.'

Ideas include a bunkhouse, a visitor/heritage centre and a gift shop, Ms Dobrokhodova said.

Local MSP Dave Thompson said the grant would be 'a huge boost' and wished the project 'every success'.

He added: 'Our remote communities, particularly one as isolated as Lochaline, face



Earmarked for demolition: the Scout hut in Lochaline.

huge challenges in ensuring their residents can access services. I am delighted that Morvern Community Development Company will be supported in carrying out this feasibility study, and I hope that the community is able to use this to gain the maximum benefit from the land. I congratulate Mrs Lilia Dobrokhodova on securing the award.'

ARDTORNISH Estate is in the process of commissioning a second hydroelectric scheme.

It is hoped the Rannoch 2 plant, which has a generation capacity of 1.5MW, will be fully commissioned and accredited before Christmas. Last year, the estate commissioned the Ternat

scheme, which has a maximum output of 700 kW. Estate spokesperson Alan Kennedy said: 'We've had problems to do with cavitation but these have now been resolved.'

Elsewhere on Ardtornish, work has started on the first two affordable houses at Achabeag.

DESPITE the difficult economic situation nationwide, 2012 has been a good year for Lochaline.

Visitors by sea have enjoyed the first full season for the pontoons, lots of locals have benefited from the community allotments and the opening of the new community primary school and fire station has been warmly welcomed.

Eclipsing all these has been the re-opening of Lochaline Sand Mine, restoring 11 well paid

jobs for local people and providing a huge fillip for Morvern. Many local people and community bodies worked behind the scenes to try and get the mine working again and regular shipments of high-grade silica sand are now being shipped to northwest England for use in Pilkington's glass factories.

However, it seems locals are gearing up for a new battle. Much of this month's Morvern Community Council meeting was taken up with the news that CMal is pursuing its application to become the harbour authority in Lochaline.

Chairperson Teresa Bolton told *The Oban Times*: 'The meeting heard exactly why this has potentially enormous and far reaching consequences for the port, not least in greatly restricting the movement of goods and services within the harbour area, thus making any business survival difficult at best.'

'However, not only businesses will suffer but also all residents who have enjoyed unimpeded access to the pier and loch for years.'

There has been no negotiation or consultation with the community for several years on this and it was unanimously agreed to push for a public enquiry.'



Loch Aline pontoons: big success in first full season. 20_50pontoons01

Next week Down Your Way visits Laggan



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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

LOVE them or hate them, fish farms are here to stay. There is no doubt that, from an economic point of view, they offer significant benefits to the country in terms of domestic sales and exports.

However, the location of such farms should be considered carefully, particularly on the west coast where tourism is vital to so many jobs and the prosperity of the area.

Loch Etive, between the banks of Bonawe and Taynuilt, is the latest area to be subject to a planning application for a large fish farm, by Scottish company Dawnfresh. With the amount of equipment visible above the surface of the water exceeding three football pitches in size, there can be no doubt it will have a drastic visual impact.

Loch Etive is, however, one of Scotland's greatest natural assets. It is recognised as offering some of the finest views not just in the UK, but Europe and even further afield. The area is bound to receive increased interest thanks to Glen Etive being featured extensively in recent James Bond film, Skyfall.

Common sense must prevail on an issue so important for the Argyll and Bute economy.

GLASGOW LETTER

Fred Morrison/ Matheu Watson

NEARING completion of their Scottish tour, the College of Piping proved to be an excellent and intimate venue for Fred and Matheu's Glasgow concert.

On an evening of sub zero temperatures in the city the music generated warmth although Fred, unlike the capacity audience, seemed to have a problem with his internal thermostat! This, however, was a vintage Fred Morrison concert and he was ably supported by Matheu no matter how fast - and as you might imagine that was often very fast - the pipes were played. Fred declared his attachment over the years to the college and it was therefore probably appropriate he played the Highland bagpipes more often than in some previous concerts.

That said, his expertise on the reel pipes, the low whistle and the uilleann pipes were also showcased in what was a memorable exhibition of traditional Highland music albeit with a visit to Kansas City thrown in.

Glasgow Skye Association

JUST three years short of its 150th anniversary, Glasgow Skye Association held its annual gathering in the Gaelic School when the guest of honour was Arthur Cormack, no stranger to the association.

Despite reasonable weather, the attendance was somewhat disappointing. Singers for the evening were Mary Ann Kennedy, Iseabail MacTaggart, Darren MacLean and Alasdair Whyte while accordion selections were provided by Stewart Cameron, of Deoch 'n Dorus, joined by accompanist Alan Kitchen.

The association is unique in that it can call on Glasgow Skye Pipe Band which, with Pipe Major Kenneth MacLeod, showed why it was so successful at last year's competitions.

Brogan Elder, granddaughter of president Margaret Elder and her husband Brian, presented Arthur with a memento of the occasion.

At the dance in Glasgow University Union, which followed the concert, music was provided by Deoch 'n Dorus, which are to be congratulated on winning 'Best Scottish Dance Band' at the MG Alba Traditional Music Awards in Fort William the following evening.

A successful Annual Dinner was held in Glasgow University Union with a main speech from Arthur Cormack followed by a toast to the Glasgow Skye Association delivered by Rosemary Ward, Director of the Gaelic Books Council, with the reply from Iain MacLeod. Finlay MacDonald and Seumas Campbell sustained the informal ceilidh which concluded an enjoyable evening.

Royal National Mòd 2013 Choral Concert

PAISLEY Abbey was the venue of a choral evening prior to which a special Mòd flag, which will be forwarded to each future Mòd venue, was presented to An Comunn by the local council.

In the sub zero temperatures the flag, experiencing a technical hitch, showed some

resistance to being raised or perhaps it wanted the choral singing of 'Suas leis a Ghaidhlig' to be extended! Certainly that was not the wish of the choristers who were happy to return to the relative warmth of the Abbey for the main event of the evening which was chaired by radio and television announcer John Carmichael. John was in good form introducing the adult choirs from the immediate area - Largs Gaelic Choir, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and Govan Gaelic Choir, and the recently formed Renfrewshire Junior Gaelic Choral Association.

The format of the evening was that each of the adult choirs sang two pieces with an additional item from the choir members and this resulted in a successful variety for the audience. In addition there was massed choir singing both at the start and the end of the evening.

Piper Meg Buchanan and Craig MacFarlane, accordionist and graduate of the Traditional Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and who also won the competition earlier this year to compose a new tune for Mod Phaislig, also contributed to a thoroughly enjoyable concert.

A Gaelic Christmas in Paisley

HOLY Trinity and St Barnabas Church, Paisley, will be the place to be on Sunday December 16 at 2.30pm when Alison Buchanan will be singing traditional carols and there will also be a glass of something festive. Tickets, £5, are available from www.modphaislig2013@yahoo.co.uk. Entrance for children is free.

Christmas Storybook

AFTER the success of their first pre-Christmas night in Glasgow Phil and his friends - Eddi Reader, Karen Matheson and John McCusker - return this year to flick through his Christmas Storybook at 7.30pm on Wednesday December 19 in the Old Fruitmarket.

They will be joined by Kris Drever, Ian Carr and a group of jazz musicians.

Diary dates

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

Saturday December 15: Glasgow Skye Association Children's Party, Renfield Centre, 2.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Donnie and Diane's Band.

Sunday December 16: A Gaelic Christmas in Paisley - see above.

Wednesday December 19: Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm.

Thursday December 20: Phil Cunningham's Christmas Songbook - see above.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Scott Harvey on Friday, Eriskey Lilt on Saturday and Willie Cameron/ Martin Pottinger on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Black Velvet on Friday and Ragaels on Saturday.

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



Feochan United shinty team - 1932

Neil Clark of Fort William submitted this week's flashback photograph which is of the 1932 Feochan United shinty team. Back row, left to right: W Campbell; N MacAskill; S MacAskill; H Ross; A MacNaughton; J Maclean and M MacNicoll. Front: M MacInnes; J Clark; N Clark; A Buchanan and A Clark. 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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Windfarm report based on flawed research

Sir, Your story in the November 29 edition with reference to the report of the Scottish Government's Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee that 'Windfarms will not damage tourism' is misleading.

Most of Scottish media was equally misleading, such that a cynic could conclude that the Scottish Government had been very skillful in its news management!

The media generally omitted reporting the committee's full remit which required it to address: targets/planning/grid and other infrastructure /finance/skills and technology/communities/renewal heat/tourism/renewable energy for transport.

Twelve of the committee's 20 sessions addressed these issues. The official reports of these 12 sessions combined to run to over 400 pages. Less than two pages of an 80 page final report referred to tourism.

With regards to tourism, the evidence the committee reviewed was based on selective, outdated and flawed research. The main body of Scottish research is based on a 2007 sample when only 11 wind farms and 217 turbines were operational.

This is in stark contrast to the current Scottish landscape of 1,752 operational turbines, 634 under construction, a further 759 consented and a further 1,649 awaiting consent.

The committee ignored the Scottish Government's own research where it stated with regard to Caithness (three wind farms/36 turbines) that windfarms could 'negatively affect tourists looking for scenery and tranquility'.

The same research reviewed by the committee revealed that a Danish off shore wind farm had

not gained approval by Danish Government on the grounds of its potential negative impact on tourism.

The area was Denmark's premier world class windsurfing area - echoes of Tiree.

Since the committee completed its evidence, VisitScotland has lodged its first objection to a proposed wind farm on the grounds of its potential negative tourist impact.

What stronger evidence does the Scottish Government require on the potential negative impact on tourism than its own research and its own national tourist agency objecting to a windfarm?

Robert Trythall, Secretary, No Tiree Army.

Missed appointments

Sir, Considering the cost of the NHS to all of us, we should be concerned that the Community Health Partnership (CHP) reports that ten per cent of Argyll and Bute patients failed to attend outpatient appointments last year. However, I do wonder whether the CHP has made any attempt to find out why people did not attend.

In the last three months I have missed two hospital appointments because I did not receive a letter notifying me. One was at Oban and the other at the Southern General, although I have some suspicion that the latter never sent a letter.

I phoned the number given on the subsequent appointment letter from Oban, headed 'missed appointment', and was given the details of when the appointment was and the date the letter was posted, but when I suggested that an e-mail might be more reliable the suggestion was dismissed as being impossible.

It might be a good idea for the CHP to investigate why patients do not attend, and also

consider the e-mail feasibility. Nowadays a large proportion of the population must have email access and I am sure that some not-over-clever software could automatically generate an email when the standard appointment letter is prepared. All the appropriate information must be in fields in the hospital computer.

Incidentally, in the last six months I have also failed to receive a bank statement and a credit-card bill, both items detailing information useful for identity theft!

C J Hughes, Ferry House, South Cuan, Oban.

Lochnell Primary School thanks

Sir, Please could you help us to thank everyone who so kindly contributed their memories and photographs to our display at our recent 20th birthday celebrations.

It was great to see so many former, present and future pupils enjoying this event together.

We learned a lot about our school in the past and we were really surprised to find out that in the old days children could go up Beinn Lora and down to the beach during break times!

A very big thank you must go to our parent council - we couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you again to everyone for giving us a great day to add to our memories of Lochnell Primary School.

Ben Fitton, Kate MacPherson and Katie Barlow on behalf of all pupils and staff of Lochnell Primary School.

Political correspondent

Sir, While at one time *The Oban Times* was seen as a radical and outspoken champion in Highland topics like crofting rights and land reform, for long it has been silent on local and national political issues.

I see we now have a regular political columnist. Now I do not for a moment suggest your readers should be doled out opinions that are always amenable but the views of your present correspondent suggest that a Tory from Dundee, while a rare enough breed in itself, is not the most suitable choice.

I understand the *Daily Telegraph* correspondent Alan Cochrane contributes to your sister publication, *Scottish Field*, where his politics may find some resonance but is there not room for some counterweight to be applied when his views appear in *The Oban Times* where his attitudes are so out of kilter with the electoral priorities of your readership across the West Highlands and Islands?

Check out the political representation around you if you doubt this.

Most of the problems facing Scotland at present are certainly not attributable to 14 years of

devolution and it is patently untrue to suggest that the SNP government - that enjoys a much higher level of public approval after six years of control in Scotland than the UK coalition has after two years - is focussed simply on the forthcoming referendum.

In spite of severely reduced finance from central government, when people are facing wage restraint and spiralling living costs and the official opposition suggest an abandonment of long held social care principles, the Scottish government is pledged to retain the council tax freeze, the abolition of prescription charges, support for higher education, apprenticeships and for elderly care and free bus travel.

Charging students tuition fees and back door privatisation of the NHS, both of which appear to be on Mr Cochrane's agenda, would do nothing to improve children's education or the general health of our people.

Mr Cochrane's main function in his day job is 'putting a kilt' on the Scottish edition of the *Daily Telegraph*. Such a role is surely not required for *The Oban Times*.

Kenneth MacColl.

Argyll shuns major tourism event

Sir, Many will already know that 2013 is The Year of Natural Scotland.

To kick this off Scottish Natural Heritage organised a conference in Perth which my wife and I attended. There were representatives from all council authorities across Scotland, hundreds of individuals in the tourism industry including Caledonian MacBrayne, National Trust for Scotland, Scottish Enterprise and the John Muir Trust, both National Parks and dozens of individual wildlife businesses like my own.

When the amazing natural environment of Argyll and its Islands is by far our most valuable asset and the one that puts more cash into the area's coffers than anything else, where were the representatives from Argyll and Bute Council?

Where was anyone from Mull Community Council, our community trust, our own tourism marketing group Holiday Mull. Where was our councillor? Where was our MSP?

The meeting was in a great venue, very well attended by all the right people and all had the chance to ask questions about The Year of Natural Scotland 2013.

The fact no one from this area could be bothered to attend showed a total disregard for the area's economy and its vital tourism industry.

In the words of Mike Cantley The Chairman of Visit Scotland: 'Tourism is a natural fit'. How come only the two of us and good old CalMac from this entire area think so?

David Woodhouse, Isle of Mull Wildlife Expeditions.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

THA DLEASTANAS oirnn uile spèis agus cùram a thoirt dha co-chreutairean agus tha sin a' ciallachadh spiorad na Nollaige a bhith ga chur an gnìomh fad na bliadhna.

Chan eil mi a' ciallachadh daoine a bhith gan chur fhèin ann am fiachan a' frasadh thiodhlacan, ach a bhith a' dèanamh nas urrainn gus càch a chèile a chuideachadh.

Tha Seansailear na dùthcha a' cumail a-mach gum bheil sinn a' fulang còmhla ri linn nan gearraidhean ann an ionmhas poblach, ach tha fios is cinnt nach eil lùghdachadh de leithid leth-cheud not san t-seachdain idir a' ciallachadh an aon rud dha neach le milleanan sa bhàna seach teachlach aig nach eil ach na chumas beò iad bho sheachdain gu seachdain.

Agus 's e faoinne tairreil a th' ann a bhith a' mairidheadh air daoine cosnadh a lorg gus iad fhèin a chuideachadh nuair nach eil obraichean ann ri 'm faotainn.

Tha e gu math follaiseach bho na bh' aig Seòras Osborne ri ràdh gum bheil suidheachadh eaconamach na dùthcha ann am fìor dhroch staid fhathast agus gum bheil co-dhùì còig bliadhna chun an tig faothachadh air cùisean. Ged a dh' fheuch an Seansailear ri sealltainn gur ann ri linn soirbheachadh na poileasaidh ionmhais aig an riaghaltas a bha e air chomas beagan airgid a chur ann am pròiseactan calpa ùr, 's e fìrinn na cùise gum bheil a h-uile coltas nach eil innleachdan eaconamach na Co-bhanntachd ag obrachadh agus gum bheil iad a-nise a' toiseachadh ri tuigsinn nach tig fàs a fàsaghadh!

'S neònach gun tig gu siorraidh latha far an aidich riaghaltas gun robh partaidhean dùbhlach ceart agus iad fhèin ceàrr agus chan urrainn dha na Làbarach àicheadh gur iadsan a bha a' riaghladh nuair a chaidh sinn anns na fiachan mòra.

Ach tha amharas agam gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid feadh na dùthcha a sior chall foighidinn le luchd-poilitics a' slaisceadh air a chèile mar chlann-sgoile.

'S e thathas ag iarraidh ach co-obrachadh a bheir leasachadh subsainteach air cor eaconamach na dùthcha. Bidh sin a' ciallachadh cosnadh ùra; calpa a cheadaicheas leasachaidhean air goireasan agus seirbheisean poblach agus aig obraichean dha daoine seach a bhith an urra ri sochaircan; agus innleachd a cheadaicheas le tionnsgalan agus malairt na roinne prìobhaich fàs aig aon àm.

Bhiodh sin cuideachd a' ciallachadh aithne a thoirt is a chumail air luchd-fastaich ionadail agus cosnadh leantainneach.

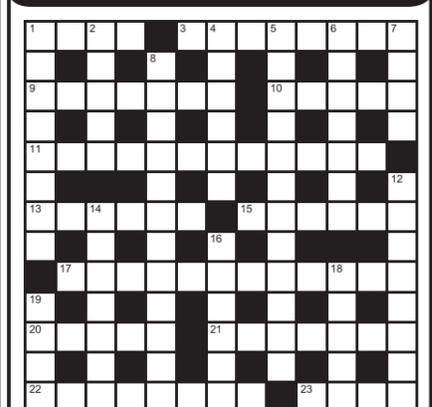
GEORGE Osborne's autumn statement gave a particularly gloomy forecast for the coming five years and, irrespective of how often he and David Cameron may tell us we are all in this together, the fact remains that further public sector cuts will hit the poorest first and hardest.

I believe that the public are becoming increasingly disenchanted with political mud-slinging and are looking to parliament for responsible co-operative action to drive Britain's economy into renewed growth.

The vast majority of the British people can't afford to wait until the next general election for a change in our economic and growth policies.

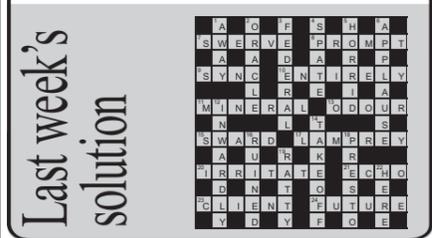
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- Down with something (4)
 - The absolute (8)
 - School (7)
 - Harder to find (5)
 - Frowning upon (12)
 - Split (6)
 - Higher than a bracelet (6)
 - Encompassed by kin? (6,6)
 - Bring up (5)
 - Carrion feeder (7)
 - Guiding (8)
 - An object here (4)

- Down**
- Looks out for (6,2)
 - Boorish (5)
 - Sheets or folds (6)
 - Unable to take it back (12)
 - Kind of gland (7)
 - Nobleman (4)
 - In order given (12)
 - Gradually goes up (8)
 - From Zanzibar (7)
 - From wand (6)
 - Pulverise (5)
 - "How ___!" (4)



Last week's solution

Follow us on facebook

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

COMING SOON

YOUR SAY

Spean group moves to cash in on hydro power plans

A LOCHABER community council plans to set up a new company to handle potential earnings from a raft of micro hydropower schemes.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry believe the move could unlock a dividend from projects proposed for the area.

A letter to the community council from Richard Sidgwick, chairman of local residents association Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes Group, prompted the bid.

Mr Sidgwick said he felt his group, who currently receive community benefit from the nearby Caig hydro scheme, should be the sole beneficiary of any new schemes in Loch Arkraig.

Community council chairman John Fotheringham told *The Oban Times*: 'After a lively debate it was agreed that we would not object to the current status of the ABC Group in relation to the Caig hydro scheme, but we could not agree to a similar relationship for other developments.

'There is a proliferation of proposals for micro hydro schemes across our area - there is likely to be four schemes in

Loch Arkraig seeking permission in the next four or five months.

'We've taken the decision to set up a community company for the benefit of the whole area.

'To avoid any divisiveness we plan to speak to the ward manager and Voluntary Action Lochaber with a view to setting up the company to handle any benefit we may get in the future.'

The community council recently discussed a number of planning applications for small-scale power schemes, which will be decided imminently.

Developer Coneloch Hydro has already had plans for a 90kW hydro plant at Upper Glenfintag approved.

Highland Council encourage companies developing new schemes to contribute to a community benefit fund, which is given to local residents affected by the development.

Local ward manager Dot Ferguson will be at the next community council meeting on January 8 to discuss setting up the new company. Mr Fotheringham said ABC Group will be invited to attend.



Gaelic Singer of the Year Riona Whyte: a popular winner at the MG Alba 2012 Scots Trad Music Awards. 20_150trad06

Town rolls out red carpet for Trad Music Awards

FORT William rolled out the red carpet for the MG Alba 2012 Scots Trad Music Awards on Saturday night - and Lochaber was among the honours as Lochaline's Riona Whyte was announced as Gaelic Singer of the Year.

To loud cheers from family and friends from Mull, Morvern, Barra and Ardnamurchan, Riona took to the Nevis Centre stage to receive her award from Gaelic singing star Arthur Cormack.

An audience of around 600 attended the gala event, which was broadcast live on BBC Alba.

A delighted Riona told *The Oban Times* backstage: 'It is absolutely fabulous. My whole body was shaking when I was walking up that hall.' The talented artist recently released her

debut album 'Bunachas' (Roots) on Ardrud studio Watercolour's Stòras imprint.

Watercolour's Mary Ann Kennedy, who co-hosted the awards said: 'We're really delighted that Riona is getting the recognition she deserves.

'Her album Bunachas was a joy to work and play on, and we hope it will give many more folk the chance to hear a special voice.'

Isle of Skye 'electrad' band Niteworks - Chris Nicolson and Allan MacDonald from Braes and Breakish boys Ruairidh Graham and Innes Strachan - won the Up and Coming Artist of the Year award.

See our exclusive Trad Awards photonews special, page 15.

Roy Bridge village shop shutdown on the cards

ROY BRIDGE could be set to lose its village shop after more than 50 years of trading due to a downturn in business from both tourists and locals.

The store, the last grocery outlet for 27 miles heading east on the A86 to Laggan, first opened in 1956 and was bought over by Lorna and Ray Weir in 2007, who told *The Oban Times* this year has proved tougher than ever.

Mrs Weir said locals choosing to shop online with supermarkets such as Asda which offer home delivery was having a negative effect on the shop.

She said: 'There's a number of factors, but I think the Asda deliveries are one of the main ones.

'People are going to use shops like Asda, that's human nature, but there is a distinct possibility of closing the shop, which is

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

rather a shame. The business is obviously struggling at the moment, the winter is normally quiet anyway but this year is worse than normal.

'There was a downturn in tourists over the summer in the whole area, and it affects all local businesses, not just us.

'In the winter we need local support.

'It's not just a shop - it's a focal point and it's a place for people to meet.

'It would be a real shame if it closed, the village would lose part of its community.'

The Weirs put Roy Bridge Stores on sale last year but have not yet received any offers.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council chairman John Fotheringham said: 'The shop is clearly suffering from the residents using delivery vans from Asda and Tesco. It feels like the supermarkets are spreading their tentacles further and further.'

An Asda spokesperson said: 'The reason we extended our home delivery was because the local community petitioned for it. They felt the local shop wasn't offering them the best value and desperately wanted access to Asda.'

The supermarket started delivering to some Lochaber locations - including Roy Bridge - for a small charge in 2011, with vans travelling to the west Highlands from a store in Elgin.

Duror Stores, at the other end of Lochaber, closed in November 2011 due to dwindling trade.

Pledge to help path clearing volunteers

HIGHLAND Council has pledged to help local people clear snow and ice from local footpaths.

Volunteers who have pre-registered through their community council will be provided with snow shovels and snow pushers, gloves and high-visibility vests.

Health and safety advice will be given and the council will provide both public liability and personal injury insurance. Discussions will also take place on best locations for salt

poles for use on footpaths. TEC services chairman Graham Phillips said: 'Whilst the Council operates a fleet of over 40 footpath gritting tractors, we just don't have the resources to clear every path that is covered in snow and ice.

'Communities have let us know that, with our support, they would be keen to take on this task.'

Any community council interested should return the application form or contact their local TEC Services office.

Couple get go-ahead to build beach home despite local opposition

A SURREY couple have been given the go-ahead for a house next to Morar's 'Local Hero' beach - despite local opposition.

Highland Council's south planning committee approved Jane and Mike Pardoe's bid for the three-bedroom dwelling at Camusdarach sands on Tuesday.

The Pardoes were previously granted permission in 2006 on condition they improved access and turning at a public car park.

But landowner Angusina MacDonald-Lewis refused to sell the required land, leading the Pardoes to contest the key

clause. Under legal challenge, council officials agreed the wording was not sufficiently 'robust' and ruled it could not be imposed.

Ms MacDonald-Lewis told *The Oban Times* the decision disappointed her.

She said: 'I'm horrified. I am determined not to give up. If they get permission all the traffic is going to be coming through my croft.'

The application attracted 20 letters of opposition from local people. The Pardoes could not be contacted.

Plockton Music School students launch new CD

PLOCKTON Music School students officially launched their latest CD 'Last Band Standing' at their Christmas concert on Saturday.

The album features a mix of the old and the new in Scottish traditional music, chosen and arranged by the students themselves.

The production of the centre's annual CD is the focal point of every school year, with the material selected from all live performance arrangements.

The CD is available from the school or at www.musicplockton.org.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES 20 years ago

Thursday, December 17, 1992

Last posting dates for Christmas



Four-year-old Christina Files from Oban issues a timely reminder that the last posting day for second class Christmas mail is tomorrow. For first class mail the last date is Monday December 21.

Work starts on new Lochaber factory unit

WORK on a £320,000 project to meet a demand for new factories in Lochaber started this week.

Taking the controls of a mechanical digger, Lochaber District Council chairman Drew Purdon, dug the first sod at the Annat Point Industrial Estate, Corpach, where four 1,500 square foot factory units will be constructed.

Construction work has been brought forward because Lochaber Limited, of which councillor Purdon is a director, identified a strong demand for the units while marketing start-up premises, which are to be completed by the end of the month at the Ben Nevis industrial estate, Claggan.

Fare rise threat to the isles

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne (CalMac) claims that fares to west coast islands could rise if the Skye Bridge goes ahead and the profitable Kyle to Kyleakin service is dismantled.

CalMac's managing director, Colin Paterson, said the Kyle to Kyleakin service is one of their major sources of revenue and that unless the government increases its annual grant to subsidise the rest of the ferry network, prices could rise.

He said the service contributes to many of the routes which do not make a surplus and keeps costs at a reasonable level.

Mr Paterson added that though a private operator could run a ferry from Kyle to Kyleakin, CalMac will not be allowed to.

This is because the Scottish Office is CalMac's major shareholder which prohibits CalMac from running a car ferry in competition with the bridge.

'Clearly we need something to make up the difference in some way, either in increased charges or increased grants,' said Mr Paterson.



This year's winner of the Newcomers Challengers Championship at the Esso Scottish Rally Championships, rallyist James MacGilivray from Pennygown on Mull, is seen receiving his award from Mrs Hazel Morrison, wife of Murdo Morrison, Esso Petroleum regional public relations manager.



Some of the children who are taking part in the Christmas play.

Christmas play at Waternish

HAVE you heard the one about the Mexican, the Chinese lady and the Norwegian?

They will all be playing a role in a Christmas play given by Knockbreak Primary School pupils at Waternish Village Hall.

The youngsters will be donning the everyday attire of people from different countries, in 'King Counts Ten', to spread the true meaning of Christmas.

The story centres on foreign visitors who bring gifts for the king's children. Including lanterns brought by Chinese lady Sarah MacLeod, oranges from Mexican, Donald MacLeod and Christmas trees from Norwegian, Tim Arnold and from six others.



Political harmony

STRATHCLYDE regional councillors of all political colours put aside their differences to get together to sing Christmas carols to raise money for Christian Aid. The all-day event took place on December 12 at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Great Western Road, Glasgow.

The regional council group comprised of (back row left to right) councillors Iain Drysdale, William Petrie, David Crossan, (front row) Christopher Mason, Helen McElhone and Iain Bell.

Euro regulations to axe Mull abattoir?

MULL'S slaughterhouse could go to the wall because of costly European Community regulations, a council meeting was told last week.

The committee which runs the slaughterhouse has written to Argyll and Bute District Council asking it to reinstate a 50 per cent subsidy for meat inspection charges, removed in 1992, and to empty its skips free of charge.

Council vice chairman John Wilson, the local member, warned that its closure would see a return to illegal 'back door' killing.

He said: 'This slaughterhouse will go to the wall if we don't try and help it.'

CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS



Struggling to find the perfect gift for that special someone? Don't panic, let the Oban Times inspire you with these fantastic last minute gift ideas, see adverts for details about how to purchase.



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Health secretary to visit Ardnamurchan

THE SCOTTISH Government's health secretary is to visit Ardnamurchan on January 28 to discuss the ongoing out-of-hours 999 cover in the area. Alex Neil MSP will meet with representatives from the three local community councils during his visit as well as NHS Highland officials. The visit was originally scheduled for September but was postponed after Nicola Sturgeon was moved from health to become infrastructure secretary.

Community carol service

KILMALLIE Community Centre will host a community carol service on Sunday December 16. The event, traditionally a big hit with locals, starts at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Plockton High School pupil off to Strasbourg

PLOCKTON High School sixth year pupil Catriona Galloway has been selected to take part in the Euroscola Project. Catriona will travel next month with 25 students from all over Scotland to Strasbourg. There the Scots will work with other students of the same age from EU countries in a five-day programme of research, planning and discussion, culminating in a debate in the European Parliament.



Jimmy Smith gets into the festive spirit with Maisie Dennison and Margaret Simpson at Saturday's Christmas Fair. 20_150kilmallie01

Big-hearted locals back Kilmallie Hall Christmas fair

BIG-HEARTED locals helped Kilmallie Community Centre Limited make £1,000 for hall funds at a Christmas Fair at the popular venue on Saturday. Chairman Jimmy Smith said on Monday: 'I'd like to thank everybody for coming along. We have spent over £200,000 on the hall and there's more to do such as doing up the toilets. We have no paid staff, just volunteers, and we depend on the local community's support. We have so many facilities here - I think we are the only hall in the Highland Council area that ticks all the boxes. The only thing is that a lot of local people don't know what we have here.'

Parents' relief as teachers recruited

Broadford Primary School crisis averted as Gaelic teaching post is covered

A POTENTIAL teaching crisis in the Gaelic medium unit at Broadford Primary School has been averted after two teachers were recruited on a jobshare basis to cover for maternity leave. The new staff, one from Skye and the other from Lewis, will bring their language skills to the classroom when pupils return after the New Year holidays. Fears had been expressed that tuition in Gaelic for 39 pupils would suffer after no applicants for the temporary post came forward. But now P1-P3 Gaelic medium pupils will continue to be taught through the language in all subjects. A second Gaelic teacher remains in post teaching P4-7 children. One parent with a child in the junior class, who asked not to be named, told *The Oban Times*: 'This has come as a bit of a relief to be honest. At least now we are not going to be worrying about who is going to be teaching the children. 'But it's been hard recruiting staff and is becoming more difficult. People with permanent contracts are not going to be giving those up to cover maternity leave.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chairman of the council's adult and children's services committee Councillor Alasdair Christie said: 'Following the closing date for the maternity cover, the council then actively worked with the head teacher to seek a solution to the fact that no applications had been received. We have been working together for some time to remedy the situation. All vacancies are advertised widely and in situations such as Gaelic medium where we appreciate that there is a shortage of personnel, we work closely with schools and potential candidates to make these posts as attractive as possible.' Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, contacted Highland Council after being alerted to the situation by a constituent at his recent surgery in Broadford. Praising the efforts of Broadford head teacher Gordon Wynnes, he said: 'It is thanks to him that the situation has been remedied. 'The uncertainty must have been upsetting for both the children and their parents. I am saddened that there were no applicants for the position and will be contacting Highland Council to see what can be done to resolve this in the future.'

'I look forward to working together with Highland Council to ensure that the uncertainties that occurred here do not happen again.' But Councillor Christie hit back: 'Highland Council staff have been working on this well before Dave Thompson MSP got involved.' Local councillor and Comunn na Gàidhlig chairman Hamish Fraser told *The Oban Times*: 'As far as I am aware there was not a major issue and if there was it has been covered.'

Hundreds flock to festival North Uist in a spin with new mill plan

THE FOURTH Christmas Leven Festival proved to be another success in Kinlochleven on Saturday as hundreds flocked to the Ice Factor for a day of festive fun. Attractions included the Caingorm Reindeer team, sales stalls and Santa in his North Pole-like ice cave. Speaking to *The Oban Times* on Monday, organisers Kay McDuff reported a profit of £509.29 for the community enterprise. She said: 'It was a brilliant day. We are now thinking of doing a Summer Leven Festival as well.'

She added: 'We could not raise the money without the boxing club, which give us a room for our wee charity shop.' Ms McDuff also thanked the Ice Factor, Kinlochleven Community Trust and the local Co-op for their support.



Clockwise from left: Nikki Glayrose, Kay McDuff, Gina Bruce-Low and Oban mum Emily Lawn with 15-month old daughter Amanda join Santa in his chilly ice cave 20_150leven01

Work starts on project to revive traditional craft industry

NORTH Uist is going 'back to the future' by reviving a traditional craft industry to create much-needed employment. The island's last spinning mill at Lochport ran for just a decade from the 1950s, but now community enterprise Uist Wool is on track to open a new mill at Scotvein on Grimsay. South Uist contractor JJ Macdonald and Sons started work at the site this week, heralding the building's completion by spring next year. The ambitious undertaking has been four years in the planning following the establishment of the Uist wool development group in 2008. Its successor Uist Wool took over last year and has secured £250,000 European Social Fund cash over 30 months for training and other activities. Leader Innes Gail also gave £90,000 towards the £150,000 building costs. The latest 10-week Uist Wool CALANAS training course, Intermediate Wool, covers all stages of modern-day small-scale woolwork production. The programme features practical work, theory and discussion sessions, craft visits and field trips. Trainees visited Lewis and Harris to see a working spinning mill and met weavers and organisations involved in the current Harris Tweed revival. The training ensures local people will take up long-term work placements at the new mill as the first machine-spun production on the Uists for almost 50 years gets underway. 'Heritage machinery' currently being reconditioned in Yorkshire includes a 1950s spinning machine and a carding machine of even older vintage. A new spinner/plyer is also being delivered from Belfast Mini Mills in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Project co-ordinator Dana MacPhee told *The Oban Times*: 'We are aiming for four full time equivalent jobs - which may not sound very much but in a small community like ours that is quite significant. We hope the mill will operate throughout the year. Evidence from the feasibility study suggests there will be a demand. Spinning, weaving and knitting have become quite trendy. But it's early days.' CALANAS is supported in part by the European Social Fund and Awards for All. Uist Wool is planning a special open day to mark the mill's opening.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Cash boost for groups

LOCHABER councillors recently made six cash awards from their discretionary budget: Glengarry Community Council - £400 towards senior citizens Christmas party; Wild Lochaber (sub-group of OCUK) - contribution to Wild Lochaber Festival - May 18 to 25 - £5,000 agreed in principle; Lochaber Disability Access Panel - contribution to running costs - £2,500; Nether Lochaber Old Folks Association - contribution to Christmas lunch and summer outing - £500; Plantation Community Association - contribution to Christmas meal for elderly residents and outing to pantio for children - £500 and Caol Regeneration Company - contribution to Lochaber Lunch Club Christmas Party - £300.

Music school's concert high notes

A ROY Bridge church will be alive with Christmas carols and festive music for Lochaber Music School's annual concert on Sunday. Stars of the show will be folk group Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar - Hannah MacRae, Helena Rose, Kirstin McAdam, Caitrin Edmond, Francesca Rose and Ruari Edmond - who won gold at this year's Mòd in Dunoon. The music school will perform seasonal orchestral, ensemble and solo pieces and will preview traditional music specially recorded for BBC Alba's Christmas Eve service. Choristers will sing new music specially written for the concert and the string orchestra and handbell ringers will accompany the audience carols. Refreshments The concert starts at 3pm in St Margaret's and will be followed with home-baked seasonal refreshments and a fundraising raffle in Roy Bridge Village Hall at 4.30pm.

Man must get mental health treatment

A TORLUNDY man who falsely told police he had killed a woman in Corpach has been ordered to undergo mental health treatment. Adrian Hammond Smith, of 3 North Steadings, called 999 from his house on September 21 and made the claim, sending police on a two-hour hunt to find the woman. She was traced safe and well and unaware of Smith's claim. Six days later Smith knocked on his neighbour's door while naked and told the man who answered he was a sex offender and needed to confess. On October 10 police were called to the A82 between Torlundy and Nevis Range and found the 46-year-old standing in the northbound carriageway. He told the officers he was going to jump in front of a passing lorry. Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Smith, who had no previous criminal convictions, pled guilty to all three charges.

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Mull fishermen claim fish farmers have changed plans

FISHERMEN on the Isle of Mull are furious this week after discovering agreements made with a salmon company have not been delivered.

Those who fish the waters surrounding the proposed fish farm site off Gometra were shocked to discover that plans agreed with The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) were not what was submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for planning permission.

One fisherman, who did not wish to be named, said there was a 'big difference' between what was agreed with the company and what they are now faced with.

Such was the outcry, SSC staff travelled to Mull for a meeting to resolve a 'number of problems'.

Fishermen are also understood to be unhappy at the appeal the company has lodged to overturn the rejection of their planning application for a fish farm in Loch Scridain.

Nick Turnbull, secretary of the Mull Aquaculture and Fisheries Association (MAFA) said they had discussed with SSC how to 'set up better communication between the salmon companies and the community at large'.

He added: 'Our association had a meeting with representatives of SSC to discuss issues surrounding the Gometra site and general discussion on other proposed sites within Mull.'

There is a piece of miscommunication regarding the exact siting of the salmon farm at Gometra. There are great hopes that this will be resolved in the near future and there is a willingness for this to happen from all sides.'

But there are fears from those in the fishing industry that SSC now 'hold all the cards' as they already have permission for this site.

One fisherman added: 'We are relying on their willingness to resolve this problem - if they decide not to budge we've had it.'

A statement issued by SSC and agreed with MAFA says the two organisations 'look forward to holding further joint discussions'.



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Trial postponed after witnesses fail to appear

THE TRIAL of a Kinlochleven man accused of assaulting a man during an incident in the village has been postponed after witnesses failed to appear.

Philip McDonagh, aged 37, had been due to stand trial for the alleged attacks, which occurred at a house on Foyers Road on August 31.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said a number of Crown witnesses, including one of the victims had not shown up at Fort William Sheriff Court for the trial last Wednesday.

She added: 'I will certainly be making enquires to ascertain the reasons for their non-attendance.'

Philip McDonagh, of 32 Foyers Road, denies stamping on the head and body of the man until he was unconscious and acting in a threatening and abusive manner by repeatedly striking a door, shouting aggressively and entering the property uninvited.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin agreed to postpone the trial until January 31.

Music school students take to club stage

STUDENTS at Plockton Music School - the Centre For Excellence In Traditional Scottish Music - will be guest artists at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's first gathering of the New Year.

Around 10 young musicians, including fiddlers and button-box players, will make the trip for the January 10 gig at the Royal Hotel in Portree, music school administrator Rhona Sharp said.



Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall and Camanachd Association shinty development officer Russell Jones with the Upper Achintore pupils after the presentation. 20_50schools01

All smiles as Upper Achintore pupils complete course

IT WAS all smiles at Upper Achintore Primary School last Thursday as around 90 P3-P7 pupils celebrated completing a six-week shinty training, food hygiene and healthy eating course.

Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall and Camanachd Association shinty development officer Russell Jones were on hand to present the children with certificates marking their achievement.

Mr Gall told the pupils: 'A lot of our players have come through here over

the years I'm sure, and one I know of is Adam Robertson.'

'I would be delighted if any of you came along to our under-14 shinty training with Victor Smith.'

Great sport

'One of our main jobs is to try to get a coach into schools regularly. Shinty is a great sport and we would love to see you taking it up. I'm sure you would enjoy it.'

Last month the Camanachd Association announced a three-year partnership with

the Food Standards Agency to deliver the hygiene, healthy eating and activity in primary schools (HHEAPS) programme to thousands of primary pupils across Scotland.

The first six-week block covered Ross-shire, Inverness, Strathpey, Badenoch, Lochaber, Skye, Mid Argyll, Dunoon, Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

Other Lochaber schools involved included Caol and Lochyside RC. Mr Jones said: 'The HHEAPS initiative

was extremely successful when piloted earlier this year and we see this as an exciting opportunity to introduce a large number of youngsters to shinty and an important lifestyle message around healthy eating and exercise.'

Coaches

Top club coaches involved include Stuart Macintosh, Glenurquhart; Willie Cowie, Skye; Michael Clark, Kingussie; Glen Tonkin, Newtonmore, and John-Al MacAulay, OJ Sports.

Chamber on target for 100 members

FORT William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) is on track to achieve its target of having 100 members by Christmas.

The group took its membership to 99 when it welcomed two new businesses, John and Heather Vernon of Morvich Guest House and James Couits of Fishing Scotland, at its latest meeting. FWCC chairman Don Hind congratulated Fishing Scotland for being the first fishing business to achieve a five-star award from VisitScotland.

The networking event in Ben Nevis Distillery also heard a presentation from Scott Donald of KD Partnerships, who gave the 30-plus members a fascinating insight into their architectural projects from small croft house conversions to large-scale

designs for businesses such as BSW at Corpach.

Mr Donald shared his thoughts on procurement procedures and reflected on how the current system can see perfectly competent local businesses lose out to competition from outwith the area - businesses which in turn do not re-invest in Lochaber.

Hospitality

Bringing the meeting to a close, Don Hind thanked Colin Ross and his team for their hospitality and reminded members of the opportunity to have a tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery.

The December meeting of the chamber will take the form of a Christmas lunch in The Moorings Hotel at Banavie on Thursday December 20.

Kishorn Port seals wave energy deal

KISHORN Port Ltd in Wester Ross has made a breakthrough in its bid to become a major centre of operations for the growing offshore renewables sector.

The company has announced a lease with Trident Energy (TE), an independent developer of attachable wave energy power devices for oil-rigs and wind turbines.

From spring 2013, TE will test its PowerPod technology at sea and gather operating data to inform commercial designs and performance modelling.

The power plants work by harnessing wave action to supply off-grid renewable electricity, reducing reliance on offshore diesel generation.

During the Kishorn tests, the PowerPod prototype will be attached to the side of a deep-water jetty.

Sea conditions at Kishorn, a former oil-rig fabrication yard, are less extreme than the open ocean. But waves are

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

sufficiently energetic for test purposes, meaning costs and risks associated with offshore deployments are lower.

TE will test different control systems during the trial period, subject to marine licence approval. The lease with Kishorn Port is for an initial period of one year.

Trident Energy chief operating officer Jonathan Armstrong said: 'Looking for a jetty on which to test our co-located wave technology posed two challenges.'

'First, jetties are largely in sheltered locations.'

'Second, most structurally sound jetties have other on-going operations.'

'Kishorn represents a great solution - the site is a legacy from oil and gas construction in the 1970s and offers a substantial,



Ali Ferguson: signed deal. 20_50kishorn01

unused deep-water jetty which is exposed to energetic waves from the southwest.'

'The management team at Kishorn Port have been extremely supportive and we look forward to working with

them as we install and test our PowerPod technology.'

Kishorn Port Ltd director Alasdair Ferguson said Kishorn - already in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan for Scotland - was 'ideally suited' for such projects.

He added: 'We see this agreement between KPL and Trident Energy as only the beginning. Potential projects and developments on site for the renewable energy sector for offshore wind, wave and tidal will be able to utilise the exceptionally deep water, berths, dry dock, quarry and expansive laydown land which Kishorn Port has to offer.'

Highlands and Islands Enterprise chief executive Alex Paterson said: 'This leasing agreement with Trident Energy is a real vote of confidence in the port's capabilities, the local skills and workforce and its prime location as a base for servicing the renewables market.'

Lochaber woman denies £36,000 benefit fraud

A LOCHABER woman has denied fraudulently claiming more than £36,000 in benefits over six years.

Anne Mustarde, of Tigh Linn, Kinlochell, pled not guilty to pretending to have no savings to claim income support from the Department of Work and Pensions between July 2004 and August 2010.

The 49-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 25, with a further hearing set for January 13.

Rotary Club carol singers hit the high notes

CARE home and supported housing residents across Lochaber will get a special Christmas treat next Wednesday - from Rotary Club of Lochaber carol singers.

The group, led by president Sheana Fraser, will give its opening performance at Victoria Court, Fort William, in late morning before singing at Mossbank at Caol, Invernevis House in Fort William and Abbeyfield in Ballachulish.

The singers will end its tour with carols at the Belford Hospital in the evening.

Broadford Primary School Christmas concert

BROADFORD Primary School will entertain the local community with a medley of song, music and rhyme at its Christmas concert in Broadford Village hall tonight (Thursday). The evening gets underway at 6.45pm.

Cash help for Highland fishing communities

HIGHLAND fishing communities are being encouraged to apply for assistance from the European Fisheries Fund.

The Highland Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), which administers the fund locally, has £549,392 available.

Communities where fishing is in decline can receive cash grants for schemes designed to help local people, groups and businesses develop new enterprises.

Any expressions of interest must be submitted by January 31 2013. For more information contact Highland Council on 01463 702250, visit the council website or email planning@highland.gov.uk.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig in national call for Gaelic teachers

BORD na Gàidhlig is making a national call for Gaelic teachers through a 12-day advertising campaign.

The move represents a major step-up in efforts to meet ambitious targets laid down in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2017.

A BnG spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'We know we have a huge job before us to increase the number of teachers in Scottish Gaelic medium education if we are to meet those targets.'

Mary MacMillan, head of education and learning at BnG, said: 'Scotland aims to double the number of children going through Gaelic-medium education by 2017 and this is only achievable by also increasing the number of Gaelic teachers.'

Gaelic medium primary schools at Glasgow and Inverness are close to full capacity. Others are planned at Bonnington in Edinburgh, Fort William and Portree.

Isle of Skye gardener cream of the crop

AN ISLE of Skye gardener has been voted cream of the crop at a prestigious London awards ceremony.

David MacLean, head gardener at Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, won the 'Beyond the Call of Duty' accolade at Hudson's Heritage Awards at Goldsmith's Hall in London.

Mr MacLean received his award from TV chef Lloyd Grossman and TV broadcaster and writer Lucinda Lambton.

The annual event recognises the UK's top heritage attractions and their contribution to the UK tourism industry across 11 categories.

Mr MacLean said: 'I am very

honoured to receive this award for our garden on the Isle of Skye. It was exciting and a bit overwhelming. I would like to thank Hugh MacLeod, Janet Clarke, my great team at Dunvegan and the many years of dedication from my wife Rosemary.'

Estate director Hugh MacLeod said: 'Janet Clarke, myself and the entire team at Dunvegan Castle and Gardens are thrilled that David's impressive career in horticulture spanning 53 years has been recognised in this way. David MacLean is a profoundly modest man of exceptional ability and this award is thoroughly deserved.'

MP welcomes Autumn Statement measures

ROSS, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has welcomed the Chancellor George Osborne's Autumn Statement - particularly the rise in the personal tax allowance and the cancellation of the fuel duty increase.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The cancellation of the fuel duty increase will be extremely welcome news for the hundreds

of people who wrote to me on this issue.'

'When you live in a rural community a car is a necessity, not a luxury and when you travel tens if not hundreds of miles a week, a 3p rise quickly adds up.'

Mr Kennedy also said raising the personal allowance to £9,440 means two million Scots will receive a tax cut in April.

Businesses on awards shortlist

TWO SKYE and Lochalsh businesses have been shortlisted for the Scottish 2012 Countryside Alliance Awards. The Skye Quilt Studio in Glendale on Skye is a finalist in the 'start-up' category while the Glenelg-based Skye Ferry Community Interest Company

has been nominated for the 'enterprise' prize. All finalists are invited to Holyrood on February 5 2013 to celebrate their success, speak to MSPs about rural business and find out who will take the title in each category, propelling them into the UK and Ireland finals.

Showstoppers plan special 20th anniversary return

A FORT William musical group is planning to be back with a bang for next year's festive season after calling off their popular annual panto this year - but first they have to find a new musical director.

And if someone comes forward, Christmas 2013 promises to be extra special for Lochaber Showstoppers as it celebrates its 20th anniversary.

The group cancelled this year's Christmas panto and the spring show planned for 2013 after musical director Susan Munro stepped down.

Efforts were made to find someone to take up the role, but without success.

Clare Brewer, who wrote and directed last year's performance

By RICHARD HADDOCK
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of 'A Christmas Carol', said Ms Munro needed a rest from the heavy workload. She told The Oban Times: 'Susan needed a bit of a break, doing two shows back to back every year is almost a full time job. She might come back in the future though.'

'We ideally need someone with a range of skills and the confidence to stand up in front of a group of people, but musical skills are definitely needed.'

Ms Brewer said cancelling the panto was 'a shame', but the lack of a director left the group with little option.

'People are definitely going to miss seeing the show,' she said.

'The performers and everyone involved are disappointed as well.'

'The younger members of the group were pretty devastated - it's their chance to get up on the stage and shine.'

'But having a bit of a break is quite a good thing. I think because of our size and location we maybe have a bit of a monopoly, so it gives others a chance and it means we'll get to go and see some other shows, which we don't normally get to do.'

She added: 'It's nice to be missed but hopefully we'll be back next year. We're hoping our next show will be our Christmas show and it would be nice to put on a real whizz-banger for our 20th year.'

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Centenary of Dewar Report

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Dr Iain MacNicol, Appin marks the centenary of a medical revolution within Scotland

It formed the basis of modern life in the Highlands and eventually spread to many parts of the world.

FOLLOWING the defeat of the Jacobite army at Culloden 1746, the old clan system was thoroughly disbanded leaving a vacuum in health and welfare provision in the Highlands and Islands.

In contrast the great cities were establishing centres of medical learning and excellence with the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh being established in 1728 and Glasgow Royal Infirmary in 1791.

The statistical accounts of Scotland starting in 1792 and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh survey of Highland Doctors (1850) highlighted the unsatisfactory state of welfare provision in the Highlands and Islands.

Bleak picture of poverty

In 1845 parish councils in the newly reformed church of Scotland were encouraged to appoint medical men to look after the paupers, imbecile lunatics and elderly. Although this provided some basis for medical personnel to be present in the Highlands, for most it was a meagre living.

Dr Livingstone, an Appin doctor in 1850, described a very bleak picture of poverty, unemployment, alcoholism, disease - TB, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria - difficulties of transportation and a wretched life as a rural doctor such that none would continue to struggle with this life if he had the means to leave.

Even more pressing was the desperate situation of tenants (crofters) and their rents and lack of security. Some Skye crofters spent the summer of 1881 fishing off the Irish coast where they learned of the success of the Irish Land League.

When Lord MacDonald raised their rents in the Braes district of Skye, the crofters refused to pay and were served with eviction notices from the Sheriff, supported by a significant police presence with the military in the background.

A fierce skirmish ensued which became known as the 'Battle of the Braes' (1882) causing great

alarm in Westminster that the Highlands may join forces with the Irish Land League to form a crofters revolt. So the Napier Commission was set to listen to crofting grievances and as a result proposed that the Crofting Commission be established.

At the beginning of the 20th century, a reforming Liberal Government under the Premiership of Hugh Campbell-Bannerman, grandfather of the late MP Baroness Ray Michie, appointed a young Welshman, David Lloyd George, as President of the Board of Trade in 1905 and then in 1908 Astor appointed him as Chancellor of the Exchequer. His first budget in 1909 was dubbed 'The People's Budget' proposing a National Insurance Scheme which was vetoed by the House of Lords, causing the Liberal Government to introduce and pass the Parliament Act of 1911 removing the Lords power of veto. Subsequently, the National Insurance Act was passed in 1911.

Sir John Alexander Dewar The Liberal MP for Inverness, Sir John Alexander Dewar, realised that this Act would not alleviate the Social Distress in the Highlands and Islands due to lack of employment - most people were self-employed or unemployed and so were not covered by the Act - sparse population and difficulties of geography.

In 1912 the Treasury, under Lloyd George, charged Sir John Dewar with setting up a commission to investigate and make recommendations on the medical and nursing attendance in the Highlands and Islands and

give a report to Parliament.

It was also deemed that at least one member of the Committee should be female - a very unusual situation in 1912.

Dewar gathered together a remarkable group of people who all had working knowledge of conditions in the Highlands and Islands and a deep rooted drive to change them. They were Kitty Webster, the Marchioness of Tullibardine, Andrew Lindsay, Charles Orroch, Dr Leslie MacKenzie, Murdoch Beaton, Dr J.L. McVail, J Cullen Grierson, Dr A.C. Miller and Dr (of Law) J.L. Robertson.

The scribes were led by Miss Tolmie, a civil servant.

They had an initial meeting on 15th August 1912 in Edinburgh and thereafter travelled about continuously, apart from a 'shooting break' in September - the doctors didn't want to give evidence in September when wealthy shooting parties were in the Highlands giving them a chance to boost their incomes - to Inverness, Thurso, Kirkwall, Fair Isle, Lerwick, Lairg, Bettyhill, Rhionnich, Stornoway, Garrynahine (Lewis), Tarbert (Harris), Lochmaddy, Dunvegan and Portree, Kyle of Lochalsh, Perth and Oban.

They listened to doctors, nurses, ministers and local dignitaries in public meetings before a final meeting in Glasgow.

A mammoth report with 173 recommendations all fully indexed with evidence and signed off by the committee on 24th December 1912 - just four months after they began their work.



The Highlands and Islands Medical Committee of 1912

identified included low numbers of doctors and nurses, a very high number of uncertified deaths, low salaries, sub standard housing, poor transportation and reduction in the Poor Law relief grant.

Another problem was the reluctance of doctors to take their young families to the Highlands because of poor midwifery and high infant mortality rates.

A significant number of doctors were alcoholics or running away from problems in their own lives.

Few doctors could afford to retire so worked until they died.

The recommendations addressed all the problems identified in a radical but not a clear cut way. These included an equitable distribution of medical and

nursing resources - including a qualified nurse on every island with over 100 inhabitants - a living salary, accommodation provided, a pension scheme, annual leave, assistance with transport, encouragement to use new technology and system of supervision of services.

Support framework A framework of support services was established - laboratories, x-rays and 'casualty doctors' to support difficult cases.

Some of the most significant evidence was taken in Oban 28-31 October 1912 when 24 people gave evidence from South Uist, Mull, Ardnamurchan, Lochaber and Argyll, including Dr Archie McKay from Appin.

Some of the key evidence came from Dr Roger MacNiven

from Colonsay who was Medical Officer of Health for Argyll and from Dr Lachlan Grant of Ballachulish who presents a clear vision of a universal and comprehensive health care system for the Highlands and Islands which was very influential in the committee's final recommendations.

The report was presented to Parliament in early 1913 and accepted in full.

The implementation was delayed by the Great War although many recommendations began to be implemented before the Highlands and Islands Medical Service was established in 1923 with a grant of £42,000 and the principle of an essential practice was established which lasted until 2004.

The improvement in provision was immediate and began to generate interest in other parts of Britain.

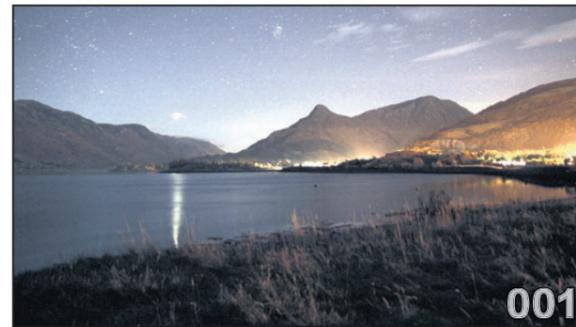
In 1933 the Cathcart Committee under Professor Edward Cathcart of Glasgow University was charged with looking at Scotland wide health reform. The Administrator of the Highlands and Islands Medical Services, Muriel Ritson, was an influential member of the committee which also gave evidence to the Wartime Beveridge Report which led in 1948 to the establishment of the National Health Service across Britain.

Enlightened listening and understanding transformed the Highlands and Islands from the dark ages to the birthplace of a landmark and successful comprehensive health care system.

WYVEX MEDIA Photo of the year
 sponsored by **TESCO** Every little helps
 Lochside, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4HP



Clare Bryden, Taynuilt: 'Our 7 month old daughter's introduction to the landscape in which she will grow up - Glen Lonan, Taynuilt.'



Alasdair MacDonald of West Laroeh: The Pap of Glencoe at night.



Ross McNab: Scottish Sea Farm's site at Charlotte's Bay.



Jane Knowles: Lochgilphead Sunrise.



Hazel Moran, Appin: Pine Martin in the wild Argyll, summer 2012.



Michael Tart, Gigha: Islay ferry Finlaggan rounding the North end Of Gigha Saturday.



Tom Campbell, Motherwell: Early morning overlooking Ailsa Craig Ayrshire/Galloway coast from Macharoch Shore.



Wullie Rodger, Soroba Road, Oban: Taken at the raft race on Gigha on the last Saturday of July this year, shows the best of community spirit that is still alive in this part of the country.

ENTRIES for Wyvex Media's Photo of the Year competition have been flooding in, with amateur snappers keen to get their hands on some photographic equipment for their efforts.

We're asking you to send us photographs that sum up why the West is the Best, with the focus crisply on your own ideas and concepts. It can be anything from your favourite activity or place, the wildlife or the area's people.

Entries are being accepted until the end of January and with the with frosty winter weather rolling in, there's plenty of opportunity to have your skills showcased.

This week, we present the first of the images to impress our judges. You can vote for your favourite by sending a text to 88010 using the keyword POY followed by the code below your favourite photograph.

For example, if the number below your photograph is 123, your message would read POY 123.

Alternatively, turn to page 14 and complete the voting form. Photocopies will not be accepted.

To submit your own photographs for the competition, log on to our website at www.obantimes.co.uk/poy.

Please note that photographs must be large enough to print.

Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final. Competition is for amateur photographers only. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photographs not of a high enough resolution to appear in print will be disqualified. By submitting to the competition, including but not limited to digital video and images, mobile text messages, blogging, message boards, emails and audio submissions, you automatically grant Wyvex Media the royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, exclusive right and license to use, reproduce, modify, edit, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such material (in whole or part) worldwide and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in such content. Prizes are as stated, no cash alternative. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

WYVEX MEDIA

Photo of the Year competition

AMATEUR photographers across the West Highlands and Islands are being urged to get snapping with the launch of Wyvex Media's Photo of the Year competition.

We are looking for photographs that sum up why this part of the world is your favourite.

Entries will be accepted until the end of January, so there is plenty of time to get out and about to grab that winning image.

The most popular photographs stand a chance of winning fantastic prizes in the Photo of the Year People's Vote and our judges' Grand Prize categories.

To enter, log on to www.obantimes.co.uk/poy or send a CD of your images to Wyvex Media, Photo of the Year, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, PA34 4HB.

Terms and conditions: Editor's decision is final. Competition is for amateur photographers only. The winner must be willing to take part in publicity. Photographs not of a high enough resolution to appear in print will be disqualified. By submitting to the competition, including but not limited to digital video and images, mobile text messages, blogging, message boards, emails and audio submissions, you automatically grant Wyvex Media the royalty-free, perpetual, irrevocable, exclusive right and license to use, reproduce, modify, edit, adapt, publish, translate, create derivative works from, distribute, perform and display such material (in whole or part) worldwide and/or to incorporate it in other works in any form, media, or technology now known or later developed for the full term of any rights that may exist in such content. Prizes are as stated, no cash alternative. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.



The Brandon McPhee Trio went down a storm in Portree

Brandon McPhee Trio delights at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

DESPITE inclement weather there was a good audience turnout to the Royal Hotel, Portree for the December meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club last Thursday night.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for local musicians who were lacking in number, but those who did come along to support the club gave some fine entertainment, starting with accordionist David Morton who had the audience singing along from the start with his waltz selections.

Other accordionists were John MacGilvary and John Cameron, who also played piano, and drumming was by Donald John Campbell.

Local fiddle tutor Caerina Campbell brought along two of her young students, Ellie MacPherson and Mairi MacKinnon, and as a trio played some great Christmas tunes which had the audience singing along in appreciation.

Ellie went on to play a fiddle solo as did Caerina in the second half of the evening when she delighted the audience with a great set of Shetland reels followed by the lovely slow air, 'Quendale Bay' composed by Phil Cunningham after the grounding of the oil tanker MV Braer almost 20 years ago.

However, highlight of the evening was the wonderful professional performance of the guest band, The Brandon McPhee Trio who took the place by storm.

Leader on his three-row button-box, Brandon from the start demonstrated his musical talent that makes him a true champion and along with backing from two very experienced players, Manson Grant on piano and Robert Cameron on drums, worked his way with confidence and style through an excellent programme

filled with variety.

Both Manson and Brandon introduced vocals to their programme and the trio had the audience singing along on several occasions.

It was a tremendous evening from this talented trio, which earned them a well-deserved standing ovation.

Next club night will be in The Royal Hotel on January 10 with guest artists being the students of the Centre For Excellence In Traditional Scottish Music at Plockton.

- John Grundy

Craig MacFadyen brings popular west coast sound to Oban box club night

WITH the usual MC, Michael Garvin, playing a gig in Russia, Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club's December night was ably carried out by committee member Freddy Mackenzie.

Guest artist at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Thursday was Oban's own Craig MacFadyen, who was joined by second accordion Matthew MacLennan and Kevin McGlynn on drums.

A busy hall was first entertained by one of the club's younger accordion players, Ruairidh Morrison from Kilmore, accompanied by Archie Cameron, on drums.

The other accordion players were Hector McFadyen, Claire Jordan and Sileas Sinclair, on melodeon James MacArthur and on drums Fraser MacInnes and David Cameron.

Freddy then introduced the Craig MacFadyen Trio, which played many popular west coast and pipe tunes to the enjoyment of the audience who showed their appreciation.

The MC for the second half was vice chairman Archie Cameron who went on to thank all the players for a very entertaining evening of Scottish music.

The night ended with a rousing stramash.

Next club night is the annual dance on January 11.

Bunessan Hall to ring to the 12 Days of Christmas

DANCING ladies, French hens and turtle doves will all be featuring in Bunessan Primary School's annual Christmas show.

The 12 Days of Christmas will be performed by pupils from the school on Tuesday, December 18 at 7pm in Bunessan Hall.

Kate Petrie, from the school, said: 'The children and staff have planned an interdisciplinary topic where the final outcome is the performance of the school show and we are all thoroughly enjoying the process and experience.'

The evening will also include tea, coffee and juice provided by the parent teacher association (PTA) along with mince pies and cakes. The PTA Christmas hamper will also be raffled and the 100 club numbers drawn.



The Craig MacFadyen Trio, from left: Matthew MacLennan, Kevin McGlynn and Craig MacFadyen.

Beauty and the Beast packs them in at Corran Halls, Oban

OBAN'S Corran Halls was full to capacity on December 6 and 7, as well as the afternoon and evening of Saturday December 8. But what could bring all these good people out of their houses on such cold nights, away from online Christmas shopping and the X Factor?

Of course, it was the Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club's Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, written by Alan McHugh. Oh - yes it was!

The fairy storybook of Beauty and the Beast (Tania Merand) expertly transported the audience into the village of Granderriere (Big Bottom).

There they met some wonderfully colourful characters. The most vivid of these being the fantastic Panto Dame, Bette Bouffant (George Hamilton) with hair to match, who with her bubbly daughter Bibi (Claire Smalley) and wayward son Bertie (Jenny Livingstone) run the Granderriere sweetshop or Bonbonerie.

Monsieur Atiseau (Dougie McKenzie) - 'bless you' shout the audience - is the sneezing owner of the shop. The recession has hit Granderriere so he and his daughter Belle Atiseau (Pauline Cameron) have no money to pay the rent.

Enter the very scary and angry Madame de Spicable (Emma Law), who terrorised and spat verbal abuse at the audience, who loved every minute of it, earning some very loud boos back.

Her family were the first owners of Neuchateau, a grand chateau, now home to the dashingy selfish and arrogant Marquis de Neuchateau (Finn Walton). He and his servant Monsieur Timide (Kevin Mills) visit the village to pick a bride and collect the rent - but he draws a blank on both accounts.

The evil Madame de Spicable has a cunning plan to gain the chateau from him, she offers herself in marriage, but even she falls short of his high standard.

Not a woman to be crossed, she tricks him into drinking a poison and curses him to life as a beast, unless the dull Belle Atiseau falls in love with him before the Spring Ball.

As the poison was ingested an amazing transformation from Marquis to Monster occurred - but Monsieur

Timide had a cunning plan to break the curse, make Belle come and live in the chateau, while her father is held captive there - to pay back the rent money owed.

The story told how Belle gets to know the real 'Beast' and falls in love. Bette and Bibi, who are determined to help their friend Belle, also arrive at the chateau and are given a job in the kitchen.

But just as Timide's plan is falling into place, Bertie Bouffant is captured by Madame de Spicable, and forced to pull out the key stone in the chateau, which will bring down the chateau on top of everyone inside.

A very dramatic scene of falling rocks, masonry and pillars then followed. Enter Allan 'Winkie' MacDougall from Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Oban Station in his guest role to put out the fire.

The Beast saves Belle and her father from the destruction, and is injured himself in the disaster. Belle then nurses him back to health, falling in love with him.

He sends her back to the village, but Bibi and Timide have another plan to get them together, so Belle and the Beast meet at the Spring Ball, the handsome Marquis is restored when Belle declares her love, and the wicked Madame de Spicable accidentally poisons herself in a fit of temper.

Bibi and Timide share their first kiss, and even Bette and Monsieur Atiseau get together with a fantastic rendition of a well-known French love song.

A wonderful show, with no Kings, Queens or principal boy, but fantastic characters full of colour, music, banter and laughs.

The pantomime was beautifully directed by Linda Robb, who brought dancers from the Atlantis Dance Troupe into the group, who can-can'd us breathless, and the Adele Askew School of Dance Dancers, who amazed the audience with their MacFunk - Lord of the Dance. Vicky Campbell skilfully crafted the costumes.

A full range of ages in the cast brought maturity and youthful enthusiasm together to form a dynamic and dazzling performance, bringing the message to the audience - not to judge a book by its cover, but to look for the beauty inside.

F.I.C.



Belle Atiseau (Pauline Cameron) falls in love with the beast (Finn Walton)

Oban Phoenix Cinema	Skyfall	Thurs 13th, 18:00
	The Angel's Share	Thurs 13th, 21:00
	End of Watch	Tues 18th, 20:30 • Wed 19th, 20:30 • Thurs 20th, 17:45
	Argo	Fri 14th, 18:00, 20:30 • Sat 15th, 20:30 Sun 16th, 20:30 • Mon 17th, 17:45
	Great Expectations	Sat 15th, 17:45 • Sun 16th, 15:15, 17:45 Mon 17th, 20:30 • Tues 18th, 17:45 Wed 19th, 17:45 • Thurs 20th, 14:00, 20:15
	Muppets Christmas Carol	Sat 15th, 13:30, 15:30 • Sun 16th, 13:30 • Mon 24th, 12:00

Be Sure to check out www.obanphoenix.com for all our December films and some special Christmas treats!

Tel: 01631 569905 www.obanphoenix.com 08719 025752

<p>Skyfall (12A) Daniel Craig is back as Ian Fleming's James Bond 007 in Skyfall, the 23rd adventure in the longest-running film franchise of all time. In Skyfall, Bond's loyalty to M (Oban Phoenix's very own patron, Dame Judi Dench) is tested as her past comes back to haunt her. This is one you do not want to miss! Last chance to see the film that just keeps selling out!</p> <p>The Angel's Share BACK AGAIN BY POPULAR DEMAND! This is definitely your last chance to catch this outstanding film on the big screen in Oban, well for this year at least as this film just seems to keep coming back and wowing audiences! This bitter sweet comedy follows new dad Robbie, who having narrowly avoided jail, vows to turn over a new leaf.</p> <p>End of Watch (15) Police officers Taylor (Jake Gyllenhaal, SOURCE CODE) and Zavala (Michael Pena, CRASH) are</p>	<p>partners and best friends. A night-school student in film production, Taylor affixes tiny cameras to his and Zavala's uniforms to record their daily routines, collecting material for a short video about the real lives of the LAPD. Life is good - until a seemingly routine vehicle check finds the pair stepping on the toes of powerful drug traffickers.</p> <p>Argo (15) In 1979, the American embassy in Iran was invaded by Iranian revolutionaries and several Americans are taken hostage. However, six manage to escape to the official residence of the Canadian Ambassador and the CIA is eventually ordered to get them out of the country. With few options, infiltration expert Tony Mendez devises a daring plan: to create a phony Canadian film project looking to shoot in Iran and smuggle the Americans out as its production crew.</p>	<p>Great Expectations (12A) Young orphan Pip is given a chance to rise from his humble beginnings thanks to a mysterious benefactor. Moving through London's class-ridden world for a short video about the real lives of a gentleman, Pip uses his new-found position to pursue the beautiful Estella, a spoilt heiress he's loved since childhood. Yet the shocking truth behind this great fortune will have devastating consequences for everything he holds dear.</p> <p>Great Expectations (12A) A retelling of the classic Dickens tale of Ebenezer Scrooge, miser extraordinaire. He is held accountable for his dastardly ways during night-time visitations by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and future. Starring all your favourite Muppets, a Christmas tale to warm even the coldest of hearts, Muppets Christmas Carol will have you singing along in no time at all. A time-less Christmas tale for all the family.</p>
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COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

<p>Oban High School CHRISTMAS CRACKER CONCERT Monday 17th December 2012 OHS Games Hall - 7pm £4/£2 Family £10</p>	<p>Oban Shop Mobility Station Car Park CHRISTMAS CHARITY SALE December 14, 2012 12-4pm Station Car Park, Oban SC030304</p>
<p>SOUP LUNCH in aid of Oban Pipe Band will be held in Oban Pipe Band Hall Shore Street Saturday 15th December From 12 noon - 2.00pm Admission £3.00</p>	<p>SCOTLAND V POVERTY A free exhibition of images and stories that celebrates Scotland's strong tradition of working for global justice FRIDAY 14th DECEMBER CalMac upstairs departure lounge DAY EXHIBITION 10.00am - 5.00pm EVENING RECEPTION 6.00 - 8.00PM on 'International Development' Celebrating Imani Development's 30th anniversary. Charity: SC040831</p>
<p>An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Cruachan Branch) CÉILIDH NA NOLLAIG (a Christmas Ceilidh) Saturday, 15 December in Tainuill Village Hall at 7.45pm Mary Catherine MacNeil, Christine Johnstone & Josie Campbell, Gordon McKeeve, No Strings Attached, Robert Robertson, The Wee Band, James MacPherson, The Isla Sinclair Dancers, Fear an Taigh: Eric Smith Admission including Members £4.00 • Children (5-16 yrs) £2 Including Stovies and home baking (Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music and Culture) Meur Chruachain (Cruachan Branch) An Comunn Gaidhealach Contacts - Secretary: Sheena McTighe, Tainuill. Tel: 01866 822 695 Programme: Moira Dunlop, Sealladh Elite Achaleven, Connel. Tel: 01631 710 565</p>	<p>Oban and Lorn Lions Club Santa's Grotto Royal Hotel, Oban 11am - 3pm Saturday 15 & Saturday 22 December</p>

Your Christmas messages

what's on guide

Friday 14th and Saturday 15th > Lindsay's 30th Birthday Party!!
Markie Dans Live music with Crooked Reel on both nights and 2am closing time

Sunday 16th December > Quiz
Markie Dans

Friday 21st December > End of the World Disco party
Markie Dans with DJ Darren - open till 2am

Saturday 22nd December > Brass Monkeys
Markie Dans 2am Closing time

Sunday 23rd December > Xmas Quiz
Markie Dans 2am closing time

WYVEX MEDIA

Photo of the Year competition

To cast your vote in Wyvex Media's Photo of the Year competition complete the form below or text 88010 using the keyword POY followed by the code below your favourite photograph.

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. For full details and terms and conditions please turn to page 13.

Photo.....
Name.....
Address.....
.....
Telephone.....
Email.....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB
Entries to be in by 12 noon Friday 8th February 2013.
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

<p>SEASONS GREETINGS We would like to wish everyone a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year. CAMPBELL AND MARGARET.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all family, friends and neighbours. From Donnie and Margaret McLennan</p>	<p>Catriona Campbell would like to wish all family and friends a Very Peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year. Sending a donation to a charity</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS Jean Black (formerly of Dunmar Court) would like to wish her friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>	<p>Merry Christmas Christmas Greetings To all our family and friends. Best Wishes James, Rona, Rachael, Kelly and Sarah.</p>	<p>Mrs MARY HURST would like to wish everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p>
<p>Merry Christmas A joyful Christmas and a good New Year to all my friends and relatives. Rena McLennan</p>	<p>May MacDougall from Dalmally now Lanark Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all my friends and neighbours.</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS Vera and Eric Shaw would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year</p>	<p>Merry Christmas A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends and relatives. From Jean Gillies, Tainuill Granny Jean</p>	<p>ARCHIE LAMONT Tainuill, wishes all friends and relatives throughout Argyll, Health and Happiness at Christmas and in 2013</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS Jenny Robertson, Tomintoul, would like to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year</p>
<p>SEASONS GREETINGS To all my dear friends and family wishing you Merry Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2013 Sheila McIntyre 'Roag'</p>	<p>Merry Christmas Sach and Anne wish all their friends a very Merry Christmas and happy New Year</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS Miss Helen MacBean wishes her friends and relatives a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. Kincaig.</p>	<p>Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year to all our relations, friends and neighbours. Geraldine and Sammy, Oban.</p>	<p>SEASONS GREETINGS Wishing friends in Lismore, Appin, Benderloch, Oban, Connel, Tainuill, Lochawe, Dalmally have a good one and a few drams. Good health. James MacArthur</p>	<p>Merry Christmas Josie and Michael wish all friends Nollaig Chreidheil Agus Bliadhna Mhath Ur The Summit.</p>

Trad music's top stars honoured



Ewan Robertson of Carrbridge, Megan Henderson from Fort William and James Mackenzie of Back, Lewis celebrate after Breabach were named Folk Band of the Year. 20_150trad01



Arthur Cormack of Gaelic label Macmeanmna presented Lochaline's Riona Whyte with the Gaelic Singer of the Year award. 20_150trad07



Feis Rois won the Community Project of the Year category. Chief executive Fiona Dalgety, left, and project manager Joan Beattie were thrilled with the award. 20_150trad11



All-round entertainer Norman MacLean, right, now of Grimsay, North Uist, was inducted into the Hall of Fame at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, on Friday night. Mike and Peigi Townsend travelled from Grimsay with Norman for the celebrations. Norman will be all smiles again on December 26 - his 76th birthday. 20_150trad19



Isle of Skye 'electrad' combo Niteworks won the Up and Coming Artist of the Year category. Chris Nicolson, from Braes, left, and Breakish boys Ruaridh Graham and Innes Strachan show just what it means. The fourth band member, Allan MacDonald from Braes, was unable to attend the gala night. 20_150trad05



Feis Lochabair members, from left, Doug and Ann-Marie MacRae, and Dougie and Deirdre Beck enjoyed their night at the Nevis Centre. 20_150trad09



Bogbain Farm, Inverness, claimed the Venue of the Year title. Marketing manager Yvonne Murray and founder Bruce MacGregor receive their award from Councillor Dave Fallows. 20_150trad17



Charlie McKerron, from Aviemore, is all smiles after Session A9 were announced as Live Band of the Year. 20_150trad02



Mike Whellans brought the house down with a sensational set. 20_150trad13



Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson welcomes the Trad Awards audience to Fort William. 20_150trad15



Folk singer Karine Polwart went down a storm. 20_150trad03



Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop opens the Trad Awards. 20_150trad16



Instrumentalist of the Year: acclaimed Inverness fiddler Duncan Chisholm. 20_150trad08

Fort rolls out red carpet for awards

IT WAS billed as the glittering annual showpiece for traditional music - and the MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards did not disappoint.

Broadcast live on BBC Alba from 9pm from the Nevis Centre in Fort William, the gala occasion had it all - cheers, tears of joy and breathtaking performances.

And the West Highlands had plenty to celebrate as Lochaline's Riona Whyte was named Gaelic Singer of the Year and Skye combo Niteworks as Up and Coming Artist of the Year.

Riona's supporters jumped to their feet and roared approval as Arthur Cormack of Macmeanmna announced the result before an enthusiastic audience of 600.

And the reaction was equally raucous when 'electrad' band Niteworks, comprising Chris Nicolson and Allan MacDonald from Braes, and Breakish boys Ruaridh Graham and Innes Strachan, scooped their honour.

Riona may a consummate performer, but she was still shaking with nerves backstage after the presentation. She told *The Oban Times*: 'It is absolutely fabulous. I had to take deep breaths when I was walking up to that stage. I could hardly talk - I thought I was going to cry! My whole family except for my son Alastair is

By STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

here. It is simply unbelievable - and for once I'm speechless.'

Niteworks were just as thrilled with their award. 'This is just amazing,' said Ruaridh Graham. 'It was great to get the nomination in the first place. But to win means everything to us. It's great people are recognising us.'

Other winners: Album of the Year - Cillebride (Kilbride) - Kathleen MacInnes; Club of the Year - Falkirk Folk Club; Composer of the Year - Mike Vass; Community Project of the Year - Feis Rois Ceilidh Trail 2012; Event of the Year - Scots Fiddle Festival; Instrumentalist of the Year - Duncan Chisholm; Live Act of the Year - Session A9; Scots Singer of the Year - Paul McKenna; Scottish Dance Band of the Year - Deoch 'n Dorus; Scottish Folk Band of the Year - Breabach; Pipe Band of the Year - George Watson's College Pipes and Drums; Trad Music in the Media - Julie Fowles for Brave; Music Tutor of the Year - Gillian Frame; Niteworks; Venue of the Year Award - Bogbain Farm; Services to Gaelic Music - Rory and Calum MacDonald of Runrig; Hamish Henderson Services to Traditional Music Award - Isabel Mieras.



Ardgour's Mary Ann Kennedy and Tony Kearney compered the night superbly in Gaelic and English. 20_150trad18

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Anna Massie and Mairead Green in full flow. 20_150trad14



Hall of Fame inductee Ann Lorne Gillies and husband Kevin Bree before Friday's night's gala dinner. Remarkably, it is 50 years since Ann won the Mod gold medal in Oban. 20_150trad21



Rona Wilkie entertained at the Hall of Fame Awards with guitarist Marit Felt. 20_150trad20



Gaelic choir Burach, which draws its members from Lochaline, Mull, Strontian, Barra and Kilchoan, were on their feet when Riona Whyte, in red, claimed the Gaelic Singer of the Year award. 20_150trad10



National Piping Centre principal Roddy MacLeod was a Hall of Fame inductee. Roddy, who attended the occasion with wife Margaret, was born in Cumbernauld but has Outer Hebrides parentage. His mother Mary Margaret (Buchanan) is from Benbecula and his father Calum, who sadly died last year, hailed from Balalain, Lewis. 20_150trad22



Inveraray Pipe Band, Grade 1 finalists at this year's World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow, were among the star performers on the night. 20_150trad12

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Heifers rise more than 10p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1020 store cattle and almost 6,000 sheep at Stirling last Wednesday when trade for cattle maintained recent high rates, with heifers rising more than 10p per kilo on the previous sale.

Bullocks averaged 194.48p (+0.98p) and sold to 253.70p per kg for a 272kg Charolais cross from Auchlin and £1,440 for a 652kg Charolais cross from Deepark.

Heifers averaged 193.50p (+10.45p) and sold to 236p per kg for a 500kg Limousin cross from Setonhill and £1220 for a 536kg Charolais cross from Eastside.

Cast cows averaged 122.43p to 174p for a Limousin cross from Charterhall and £1370 for a Limousin cross from Charterhall.

Forward cattle averaged 167.37p and sold to 204.30p per kg for a Charolais cross from Springwood Lodge and £1560 for a Simmental cross from Springwood Lodge.

Continental lambs from Ballochruin and Grantsbank sold to £70.

Mule ewe lambs from Drumnessie sold to £66 and £55 Strathgarry, and more could have sold to advantage.



Champion at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday came from Duncan Semple, Dippen, Carradale with a cross Charolais. Duncan's father Wim is pictured, centre, with judge Jean MacKay, right, of Harelaw Farm, Barrhead, who later bought the champion, and Karen Love, left, representing show sponsors Reid and Robertson and Novartis Animal Health. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Prime trade maintains level at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 64 prime cattle and 845 prime sheep at Dingwall on Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 208.3p (+0.9p) and sold to 220p per kg and £1,562.00 for a 710kg Limousin cross from Cullaird Farm, Scaniport. Prime heifers averaged 211.4p (+2.2p) and sold to 224p per kg for a 605kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,512.00 for a 700kg Limousin cross from Cullaird.

OTM heifers sold to 172p per kg and £1,143.80 for a 665kg Shorthorn cross from Kindeace, Alness.

Lambs averaged 142.2p (-5.5p) and sold to 177.8p per kg and £80.00 for 45kg Suffolk crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall.

Maka takes Texel title at Stirling 'ladies night'

UNITED Auctions Stirling held their 'strictly ladies' sale on Monday.

Judge Cameron Gauld placed the Texels, with the winning gimmer coming from Micheal Leggat, Maka, sired by Glenside Razzle Dazzle, second Courbrow, Hartside Farms, with a gimmer sired by Sheedoch Perfection and third Kerr Jarvie, Tapanui, sired by Knock Papoose.

Tullachan heifer is Dalmally Christmas sale champion

UNITED Auctions held their annual Christmas show and sale of all classes of cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart on Saturday when 437 cattle and 786 sheep were sold.

A good ringside of buyers ensured all classes of cattle sold at top rates.

Sheep sold in keeping with current levels.

The show of calves was judged by Mr Tony Miller, High Gameshill, Dalry and his awards are as follows: Bullock calves:

1 M/s Anderson, Tulloch, Killin
 2 Mr. A J Morrison, 10 Eoligarry, Barra,
 3 Mr. N Black, Strathlea, Appin.

Heifer Calf:
 1 M/s Anderson, Tulloch,
 2 Mr. G I MacLaggart, Carnoch 16, Glencoe,
 3 Mr. A J Morrison, 10 Eoligarry.

Champion calf M/s Anderson - Limousin heifer.
 Reserve champion M/s Anderson, Limousin bullock.



There was a good ringside of buyers at Dalmally on Saturday

The top priced bullock came from Mr. I R Morrison's consignment from 13 Eoligarry, Barra, when his Aberdeen Angus bullocks sold to £1240.

Leading the top prices per kilo was Mr Angus MacColl, No2 Keil Crofts when his Limousin

Caledonian meets rising trade at Stirling sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 263 store cattle, suckled calves and young bulls at Millhall Market, Stirling on Monday when cattle of all classes were again dearer to that of two weeks ago.

Bullock calves met the dearest trade at the centre this season with heifer calves looking a good buy in comparison with the bullocks.

280p per kilo

Bullock calves averaged 220.7p per kg and sold to 280p per kg for a 260kg Limousin from Messrs Harrower, Craigievern, Balfron Station and to £740 for two 285kg Charolais from James McLaren, Murrayshall, Stirling.

Heifer calves averaged 175p per kg sold to 273p per kg and to £670 for a 245kg Limousin from James McLaren, Murrayshall, Stirling.

Store bullocks averaged 191p per kg and sold to 229p per kg for a 255kg Limousin from Andrew Muirhead, Balcaster, Kilsyth and to £1000 for two 475kg Aberdeen Angus cross

Friesians, from Messrs Patterson & Sons, Stenhouse, Kirkcaldy.

Store heifers averaged 184p per kg and sold to 213p per kg (twice) for two 390kg Limousins from Marshall Farming Partners, Borlick, Aberfeldy and a 490kg Simmental from Messrs McFarlane, Addieswell, West Calder and to £1100 for four 535kg Limousins from A Taylor & Sons, Wester Carmuir, Larbert.

Bulls averaged 176p per kg and sold to 212p per kg for a 255kg Charolais from G McLaren, Blairnessnock, Port of Menteith and to £540 for the same animal.

Export lambs up

The firm also sold 1036 store lambs and feeding ewes at Stirling on Monday when smaller export lambs (26-34kgs) showed an increase of +£4 on the week and more could have been sold to sellers advantage.

Lambs sold to £63 for Texels from M McMillan, Balliemartin, Isle of Islay while feeding ewes sold to £56 for Mules from J McNicol, Pendreich.

Market reports

DALMALLY

United Auctions

Bullocks
 Aberdeen AngusX: £1240 and £1230 - 13 Eoligarry, Barra £1015, £985, £945(5) - Moleigh Grazings £875 - 16 Carnoch £845(3) - Moleigh Grazings, CharolaisX: £1215(2) - 10 Eoligarry, Barra £1080 - 13 Eoligarry, Barra £955 - Fearnoch £900 - 4 Achosrigan £845 - Fearnoch.
 LimousinX: £1175 - 13 Eoligarry, Barra £1135 - Lochuise and Finuary £1015, £985, £975(2), £945(3) and £935(3) - Moleigh Grazings £775(3) - Shenlarich £745 - Tullochcan £725 and £715 - 10 Eoligarry £710 - Tullochcan £700 - 13 Eoligarry.
 ShorthornX: £690(4) - Moleigh Grazings
 SimmentalX: £985(3), £975(4), £945, £825(3) and £790 - Moleigh Grazings £725 - Craigentaggart.
Heifers
 Aberdeen AngusX: £525(9) - Machrins Farm, Colonsay.
 CharolaisX: £915 - Fearnoch.
 LimousinX: £750 - Tullochcan £745 - 16 Carnoch £725(3) and £715(2) - Shenlarich £700 - 4 Achosrigan £695

- 16 Carnoch £675 - Shenlarich.
 Luing: £755 - Garvachy
 SimmentalX: £655 - Dericambus(2) and Shenlarich £645 - Dericambus.

Prices per kilo

Bullocks
 Aberdeen AngusX: 207p - 13 Eoligarry, Barra 206p - Machrins Farm, Colonsay 200p - 13 Eoligarry and Machrins Farm(3).
 BShorthornX: 201p(4) - Homefield Croft, Colonsay.
 CharolaisX: 235p - Blarghour Farm 217p - Tullochmbor and Myretonhill 204p and 203p - 10 Eoligarry 202p - Brough Farm 200p - 4 Achosrigan.
 LimousinX: 250p - 2 Keil Croft 233p - Tullochcan 223p - Kilvaree No5 222p - Tullochcan 220p(3) - Aird Farm 215p(6) and 213p - 10 Eoligarry, Barra 207p and 206p - Moleigh Grazings 205p - Sonachan Farm, 13 Eoligarry and 10 Eoligarry(2), Shenlarich(3), Kilvaree No5 and Tullochcan 204p and 203p(4) - 10 Eoligarry 202p - Aird Farm 201p - 13 Eoligarry.
 SimmentalX: 219p(7) - Blarghour Farm 207p - Tigh Na Cille 201p - Ashgrove.
Heifers
 LimousinX: 234p, 200p(4) - Tullochcan Farm 199p(2) - Shenlarich 198p - 10 Eoligarry(2) and Aird Farm(2).

SimmentalX: 197p(2) - Garvachy 193p - Dericambus.
Cows with calves
 £890 - 5 Dunganichy, South Uist £880 - 5 Dunganichy, South Uist.
In-calf cows
 £960 - 237 Bruernish, Barra £750 - Craigentaggart.
Cast cows
 £745 - Dalrannoch Farms, Taynuilt.

STIRLING - Caledonian Marts

Suckled calves
Bullocks:
 0-250kgs £490, 213p Standingfauld; 251-300kgs £740 Murrayshall, 280p Craigievern; 301-350kgs £690, 216p Greenwall.
Heifers:
 0-250kgs £670, 273p Murrayshall; 251-300kgs £580, £204p Murrayshall; 301-350kgs £650, 206p Maudsle Mains
 351-400kgs £570, 148p Wester Whitefield;
 401-450kgs £810, 193p Stenhouse; 451-500kgs £1000, 21p Stenhouse;

501-550kgs £930, 175p Stenhouse;
Store Heifers:
 0-250kgs £280, 152p Culdrain Lodge; 251-300kgs £470, 172p Wester Lochgreen;
 301-350kgs £540 Maudsle Mains, 177p Ardgate;
 351-400kgs £830, 213p Borlick;
 401-450kgs £825 Wester Carmuir, 203p Addieswell;
 451-500kgs £1030, 211p Addieswell;
 501-550kgs £1100, 206p Wester Carmuir

Lambs

Continental: £54 Craigton
 Mule: £54 Greenwalls
 Suffolk: £50 Craigton
 Texel: £49 Blairlinnans
 Blackface: £44 Greenwalls
 Swale: £44 Traprain
 Continental (Twin): £45 Traprain
 Cheviot (Twin): £45 Auchnafree

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks
 Up to 250kg Drygate £590, 247.90p; 251-300kgs Auchlin £690, 253.70p; 301-350kgs Rankinston £750, 215.50p; 351-400kgs Auchlin £870, 228.90p;

401-450kgs Sandilands £920, Glenpark Farms 214.50p;
 451-500kgs Balkissock £1050, 221.10p;
 501-550kgs Coathill £1170, 217.90p;
 551-600kgs Boydston £1260, 217.60p;
 601-650kgs Deepark Farmers £1340, 210.70p;
 651-700kgs Deepark Farmers £1440, 220.90p;
 Heifers
 Up to 250kg - Bowleys £500, 200p;
 251-300kgs Auchlin £650, 222.60p;
 301-350kgs Craigo £700, Auchlin 207.70;
 351-400kgs Glenpark Farms £830, 207.50p;
 401-450kgs Culroy £950, 231.70p;
 451-500kgs Setonhill £1180, 236p;
 501-550kgs Eastside £1120, 227.60p;
 551-600kgs East Banknock £1160, 207.90p;
 601-650kgs Deepark Farmers £1150, 187.60p;
 OTM cows
 Charterhall (Lim) £1370, 174p; Nether Dalkeith (Sal) £1250, 144p; Buskin (BA) £1230, 168.50p; Nairn Farms (AA) £1190, Roughlands 166.90p; Meikle Camoquhill (MO) £1150, £153.30; Clatequoy (Char) £1110, Torhousekie 151.40p; Clydehead (Sim) £1110, Blackcraig 156.70p;

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Business reporter:

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BSW seal timber deal with Egypt

Major export deal linked to Fort William

BSW TIMBER has revealed details of a major export deal with one of Egypt's largest timber distributors.

Around 6,500m3 of kiln-dried sawn timber has been shipped to Alexandria this month from BSW's Fort William mill.

The plant is adjacent to a specially adapted shipping freight facility along Loch Linnhe at Corpach, operated by Clydeboyd.

The deal is part of a continued UK export programme which has also included the loading of containers for Dubai from BSW's mill in Dalbeattie.

Simon Buttress, export manager for BSW said: 'Timber is currently supplied to Egypt from BSW's Latvian mill.

Following our investment

programme, the concept of export from the UK is something we have been considering for some time.

'Earlier this year, 300m3 of timber was successfully sent from the UK as a trial, and we now hope to be able to continue to export timber to key North African markets such as Egypt, in the future.'

He added: 'This is the first time such a significant quantity of timber has been sent as sea freight from the Fort William mill, and represents an exciting future business opportunity.'

BSW's on-going expansion at the Fort William mill has involved an investment of £37 million during the last three years. The mill is expected to be fully operational by June 2013.

Oban firm leads way with mobility aids

AN OBAN business is to expand to offer mobility aids, a move which is understood will make it the only retailer of the items operating between Inverness and Glasgow.

Furniture shop Matheson's of Oban last week launched Tower Mobility, aimed at providing a full range of devices and items to assist people with disabilities or mobility problems.

Offering items such as scooters, wheelchairs and walking sticks, the new part of the business will fill a significant gap in the marketplace.

Matheson's already offers a range of items for the home to assist people with mobility

problems, from specialist chairs, beds and tables, and owner, Neil Matheson, said demand helped make the decision.

He said: 'We already do lifting chairs and adjusting beds and a series of specialist tables - the list goes on. We find there is a bit of demand for these sorts of things. Tower Mobility will be relatively small to start with but we have an extensive range and can get stock in very quickly, within two or three days.'

'We can offer almost the full catalogue of items, from mobility aids to products for the home.'

Tower Mobility can be found alongside Matheson's of Oban on Soroba Road.



Al Reffin took the plunge into opening his own business after being made redundant during the collapse of Julian Graves. 07_t50alnuts1

Al's is just nuts about nuts

A 'LEAP of faith' spurred an Oban man into setting up his own retail business after being made redundant earlier this year.

Al Reffin had managed Julian Graves' shop in the town's Station Square for seven years. While the store itself was profitable, the health food company as a whole floundered and collapsed in August - forcing Al onto the dole.

Frustrated by the situation, Al decided to take the bull by the horns and quickly moved towards establishing his own

shop, Al's Nuts, using the expertise and contacts gained while at Julian Graves.

Opening the doors to his own shop last month, it marks his first foray into self employment and while he was initially daunted, he's delighted he has taken the step.

He said: 'It was a leap of faith. I've never been self employed - I went to school, went to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill, then the Whisky Shop and when the manager's job came up at Julian Graves, I got that.

'It was slightly scary, but I've got a good support structure behind me. My sister is an accountant and my former regional manager is giving me retail advice.'

'It's really not as daunting as I thought.'

To open his premises at 1 MacGregor Court - opposite Julian Graves' former Oban home - Al received good support from the Business Gateway and the Job Centre, who put him on to Glasgow company A4E.

Business Gateway gave Al a blank business plan to help him prepare his

own. A4E later discussed his plan with him, setting him on the road.

He was then able to buy the display stands used by Julian Graves from the administrator and used his contacts to secure suppliers for his goods.

Stocking nuts, cereals, baking products, confectionery and similar items, he's hoping to carve out a niche in the town and secure a loyal customer base.

For more information, drop into the shop at 1 MacGregor Court or see Al's website at facebook.com/AlsNuts.

Atlantis model attracts national interest

SOCIAL enterprises from across the UK have shown an interest in duplicating how Oban's Atlantis Leisure is run after enjoying national recognition.

The sports and recreation centre was named as Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network's (ABSEN) Social Enterprise of the Year Award, while chairman Neil Matheson was named social entrepreneur of the year.

Atlantis Leisure was also a runner up in the Scottish Social Enterprise Awards' Social Enterprise of the Year category.

Mr Matheson is delighted by the recognition.

He said: 'To get the ABSEN award as the best social enterprise throughout the whole of Argyll is pretty major and we're now getting folks coming in to see how we're going about things.'

'I'm also being asked to speak to national groups about how we operate, such is the view of our work.'

'Something like Atlantis is something that's very special and doing something the community appreciates and people want to try and duplicate what we're doing to make a difference to their communities.'

Arran company to brew up Blaand

ARRAN Brewery plc, the holding company of the Isle of Skye and Isle of Arran Brewery, has struck a deal to make a type of wine - from cheese.

In purchasing the rights to Fallachan the company has also bought equipment to make the drink, traditionally known in Scotland as Blaand.

Fallachan, Gaelic for hidden treasure, is made from whey, a by-product of the cheese making process. It is thought to have been introduced to the country by the Vikings long before whisky became the national drink.

It tastes more like sherry than a wine or spirit and is said to go well with cheese.

Gerald Michaluk of the Isle of Arran brewery said: 'I am particularly pleased to help a traditional, almost lost drink, find its way back into the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.'

Are you ready for winter?

THE SCOTTISH Government's national campaign 'Ready for Winter' aims to help Scotland get ready for severe weather.

This includes practical information available online at www.readyscotland.org to help businesses and individuals alike prepare.

Whether you are self-employed or run a large business being prepared for severe weather can save you a lot of trouble.

Think about how severe weather may affect you and your business and find ways to be ready that suit your circumstances and are cost effective.

Ensure you have appropriate insurance cover for all aspects of your business. Talk to staff about how severe weather may affect your business and how best to avoid disruption. Staff may be unable to get to work - make sure you know what to do to keep the business going in their absence and even consider remote or flexible working.

Be prepared for all kinds of severe weather - if you look after your customers and staff this will build you a reputation for reliability and help maintain your cash-flow.

Whilst planning ahead can't stop bad weather, it could make things easier to manage if the worst happens.



Ardanaisig Hotel assistant manager Anita Goldie shows off some of the scenery that inspired Disney Pixar's vision of Scotland featured in Brave. 15_150ard1

Loch Awe-side hotel ready for A Brave New World Manager aims to build on Argyll's 'fairytale for little ones'

A HOTEL on the shores of Loch Awe is hoping to attract more families thanks to a feature on the disc release of Disney-Pixar's latest blockbuster, Brave.

Starring Billy Connolly and Kelly MacDonald, the film tells the story of Merida's battle to save her mother from a terrible fate. Set in Scotland, the special feature on the disc, A Brave New World, reveals how Argyll provided inspiration for the film's look.

New-found exposure

Artists for the film stayed at the Ardanaisig Hotel when carrying out their research. So inspired were they that Loch Awe can be readily recognised in the film as can its most iconic building, Kilchurn Castle.

Set to be shipped across the world, the hotel is keen to capitalise on its new-found exposure and boost visitor numbers to one of Scotland's most spectacular locations.

The new manager of the hotel, Marcel Wassen, said: 'For Pixar

to single out Ardanaisig as one of the highlights of their research trip was special. For them to actually include our hotel in Brave was incredible.'

'Our efforts to capitalise on the exposure have led to calls for culinary creativity and plenty of planning with VisitScotland. And that's just the start.'

Opportunities

Traditionally, Ardanaisig has been a haven for couples but the hotel is keen to take full advantage of the opportunities the animated family film brings.

Marcel said: 'To make it a fairytale for little ones without compromising the romantic tranquillity that couples love, we've developed Kidsanaisig.'

'Kidsanaisig is an activities programme for everyone from tots to young teens. It includes treasure hunts, kids-only dining, a games room and a chance to visit Kilchurn Castle.'

'Children can design their own pizza too, which will be whipped-up by the hotel's Gary

Goldie, Scotland's 2011 Chef of the Year.

'Our aim is for parents to enjoy a stunning, relaxing break, with kids who are as animated as Pixar's best-loved characters.'

It is hoped the exposure the film offers will offer lasting benefits, but again the hotel isn't resting on its laurels.

'Brave throws the spotlight on Scottish heritage, not to mention the unmatched beauty of the natural landscape,' Marcel said. 'It has rekindled interest in Scotland as a tourist destination and it's important to exploit that.'

'Working with VisitScotland has already led to partnerships with major brands like LOVE-FILM, exposing Ardanaisig to huge audiences.'

'We want to continue strengthening our ties with VisitScotland to attract more visitors to this part of the world, not least to see first hand some of the sites featured in a magical film of global fame.'

Local businesses encouraged to look at 2014 Commonwealth Games contracts

LOCAL businesses are being urged to take advantage of the approaching 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games by tendering for public contracts.

A number of tenders are expected to be issued over the coming months, many of which will be at a level small to medium sized businesses will

be able to meet.

Stewart Farmer, development manager at the Federation of Small Businesses, said: 'The organisers are committed to ensuring that the contracts are of a size that will make them feasible for many businesses.'

'The intention, for instance, is the catering contract will not be

an overall one for the games but that each venue may have its own contract or contracts with the clear emphasis in Scottish food and drink.

Benefits

'Likewise the utility contracts such as cleaning and ground maintenance will be put into venue by venue packages.'

All this should mean that local firms have a chance to benefit from the Commonwealth Games.

Any company interested should ensure they are registered on the Games Portal so they're notified about contracts for their particular speciality when they become available.

The first of the Mobility range gets unwrapped at Matheson's

The new Tower Mobility range now available at Matheson's

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08 Renault Megane Dyn Auto, Estate, Black, 25,000 miles.....	£6,500
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55 Renault Laguna Dyn, 2.0, Red, 50,000 miles.....	£3,995

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11 Renault Kangoo, Silver, 6,000 miles.....	£8,500
08 Renault Master, SWB, white.....	£8,000
57 Renault Traffic SL27+, DCI 115, Silver.....	£7,000
05 Renault Master, White.....	£4,000

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new car index

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5-7 John Street Helensburgh helensburgh.toyota.co.uk
Argyll & Bute G84 8BA

Model shown is AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-13 door manual £8,775. Prices correct at time of going to press. *0% APR Representative only selected December 62 plate pre-registered AYGO Fire when ordered between 1 December 2012 and 31 March 2013 and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ before 30 June 2013 on a 3 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 13%-20% deposit. ^Payment shown is based on a 3 year AccessToyota contract with £1200 deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 50,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 3 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. AYGO Fire 1.0 VVT-13 door manual. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8), Combined 65.7 (4.3). CO2 Emissions 99g/km.

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Helensburgh Toyota have a limited number of Aygo Fire 1.0 5 Doors available, which include air-conditioning, with a choice of colours in a non-metallic white finish or a shiny metallic black finish. The main features that make the Aygo Fire stand out are 6 spoke 14" alloy wheels, rear privacy glass, LED daytime running lights and front fog lamps. MP3 connection is available on the Aygo with an Aux socket fitted as standard across the range.

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02 MITSUBISHI L200 ANIMAL, double cab pickup, manual, leather, sat nav, sports canopy, black, 90k.....	£3,950
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We are looking for a motivated person to join our team. As our technician your duties will include: maintaining a fleet of mountain bikes, scheduling hire of equipment, hiring out and giving instruction on the safe use of all equipment.

You must possess excellent communication skills and the ability to work unsupervised. You will have basic computer skills. A mechanical aptitude is desirable though not essential as you will receive training on bike maintenance leading to Cytech accreditation.

Initially your work will be seasonal starting February 2013. Applications to The Secretary, NCL, White Gables, Carradale, PA28 6QG by 4th January 2013.



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Oban Times RECRUITMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

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PLANNING

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02404/PP	Installation of two 150mm twinwall flue systems	Crofters Yard 46C Combie Street Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4HS	Oban Area Office
12/02420/PP	Erection of 22 dwellings (comprising 12 flats and 10 dwellinghouses) and associated infrastructure.	Land To East Of Morvern Drive Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Tobermory Area Office
12/02479/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and detached garage, installation of sewage treatment plant and formation of vehicular access	Land North Of East Kames Kilmelford Oban Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
12/02640/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse and holiday let chalet (renewal of planning permission reference 09/01564/PP)	Plot 1 Deerview Taynuilt Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02525/PP	Formation of timber handling and loading site including hard standing timber stacking area, rock causeway with floating pier marine system and formation of vehicular access (increase in stacking area to loading facility in relation to planning permission 11/01402/PP) - Retrospective	Land North East of Pennyross Cottage Pennyghael Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Bunnassan Isle of Mull

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardaraigh 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

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02260/PP	Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage with plant room and staff accommodation above and alterations and extensions to existing dwellinghouse	Jura House Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XY	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura
12/02261/LIB	Demolition of existing garage and erection of replacement garage with plant room and staff accommodation above and alterations and extensions to existing dwellinghouse	Jura House Craighouse Isle of Jura Argyll and Bute PA60 7XY	Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries. Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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. Such a request is referred to as a placing request. Information concerning the authority's schools and the procedures to be followed in making placing requests is available at every school and at the Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708560). This information is also available for inspection or reference at public libraries. Information in relation to any particular school is available at that school.

Placing requests for session beginning August 2013 should be sent to the Director of Community Services, Education Offices, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ (Tel: 01369 708560) by 15 March 2013 for primary and secondary schools.

Gaelic Medium Education

Gaelic Medium Education is available in the following schools:- Bowmore Primary School, Islay; Three Primary School, Tiree; Salen Primary School, Mull; Rockfield Primary School, Oban; Strath of Appin Primary School, By Oban and Sandbank Primary School, Dunoon. For further information on Gaelic Medium Education please contact Donald MacLeod, Education Officer, donald.macleod@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

Parents who are interested in such provision are advised to register at the Gaelic Medium School in their area in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 31 December 2012. Parents of children due to commence attendance at school in August 2013, whether or not they wish to make a placing request, should proceed in accordance with the advertisement on registration of children which will be published week commencing 31 December 2012.

CLELAND SNEEDON, Executive Director - Community Service

www.highland.gov.uk



TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL and online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/04370/FUL	East of Sylvestris Tulloch, Roy Bridge	Formation of new forestry access bellmouth on to A86

Time period for comments is 14 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/ Purpose, Case number
 Miss M M Watt
 12 & 13 Upper Inveroy, Kilmornaig
 0.020 ha - Amenity ground
 4.86.41563

Miss M M Watt
 12 & 13 Upper Inveroy, Kilmornaig
 0.091 ha - Amenity ground
 4.86.41572

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper. Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED

Name, Croft, Extent/ Reason, Conditions, Case number
 Mr R MacColl
 Portnacraoish, Lismore & Appin
 0.096 ha - Site for a dwelling house
 4.86.40933

- Conditions:
- (1) Purchase area within 5 years of the date of direction.
 - (2) To provide a site for a dwellinghouse.
 - (3) Complete enclosure of the land with a stock proof fence within 4 months of the proposed development completion.
 - (4) 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.

69% of the business community read the regional press

Source: Business Choice II, The Newspaper Society



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PROPOSED LET OF A CROFT

British Alcan Aluminium PLC is applying to the Crofting Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Railway Croft, Kilmallie to Mr D.A. Rodgers of 20 Lochy Road, Inverlochy, Fort William.

If you have an interest in this application, you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW (e-mail info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk) within 28 days from the date of publication of the advert. Please note that any comments you provide are part of an open process and will be made available to interested parties. Your comments would also be released under a Freedom of Information enquiry.

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LOCAL services

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

CHARLES II WINE GOBLETS a pair of Arthur Price silver plated goblets, 7cm diameter x 13cm high, perfect condition, a great Xmas gift, cat. price £89, £45 Telephone 01631 720512.

OAK PLANTER WITH STAND wonderful old oak planter with lovely brass detail, 100cms tall, 28cms diameter, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710889.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

SOUND SYSTEM acoustic amplifier combi unit suitable for band work, good working order and condition, cost £250, bargain at £49. Telephone 01631 562930.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BUGABOO BEE PUSHCHAIR footmuff and raincover, black and red, hardly used, cost £433, sell £200 Telephone 01631 720302.

COT BED white, Mothercare, Rhode Island, ygc with mattress and bag bedding, £70 Telephone 01631 710870.

DOUBLE BUGGY OUT'N'ABOUT with fleece cosy toes, waterproof cover, sun umbrella, £90 Telephone 01631 710870.

BUILDING / DIY

TORCH-ON FELT half roll under felt and an almost full roll of top felt. Both Torch-on, excellent condition. Left over after roofing porch, £30 Telephone 01631 710889.

CAR ACCESSORIES

BMW BOOT LINER genuine BMW part, full boot liner, keeps the boot as new, fits BMW 320 touring, £45 Telephone 01631 710737.

ROOF RACK & FITTINGS to fit Ford Escort, Granada, Scorpio, Orion; or Peugeot 405, 406, 120cm, Halfords #69, £10 Telephone 01631 720504.

S7 OBAN Cherished number on Retention Document V778. Great investment/Christmas present. No reasonable offer refused, £950 Telephone 07775 952100.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

ARAN JUMPER new hand knitted size 40" beige colour 75% wool 25% polyamide hand/machine wash can bring to Oban if required, £40 Telephone 01866 844247.

DRESSES three teenage girls dresses, size 12/14, as new, £5 - £7, Telephone 01583 431243.

HOODIES four boys, good brands, to fit 14-15 years, £5 - £10, Telephone 01583 431243.

HUNTER ARGYLL WELLIES brand new never worn pair of size 13 wellies. Still with tags and original bag. Ideal Xmas present, £40 Telephone 07988 763254.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

GUITAR HERO XBOX360 Guitar Hero Drums, one guitar and 3 games for Xbox 360. Can be delivered in the Oban area. Please phone after 6 pm, £45 Telephone 01852 314257.

X-ROCKER GAMING CHAIR excellent condition gaming chair, suitable for age 12+, cost new £90, £45 Telephone 07749 869275.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

FRIDGE - FREEZER under counter Argos fridge freezer, 47 cm wide, 83 cm high. Bought 2011, good condition, £45 Telephone 01852 300160.

DOMESTIC PETS

HUNGARIAN WIREHAIR Vizsla bitch, 3 years, good temperament, £450 Telephone 07951 817581.

JACKRUSSELL PUPPIES two bitches available, wormed, fully weaned and ready to go to good homes. Both parents owned, £150 cash. Telephone 01546 603770 or 07766 535569.

LABRADOR PUPPIES black, 10 weeks old, registered working parents. Telephone 01586 553192.

FIREARMS

AIR RIFLE BSA Lightening XL Tactical 22 rifle with x50 scope & case, very little use, as new cond.

Must be 18 yrs but no FAC required, £150 Telephone 01546 510261.

FIREWOOD

COMPRESSED SAWDUST FIREBLOX 10 of 12 block packs of the ultimate 100% recycled wood fuel, made in Scotland Hot and long burning ideal for stoves or ranges, £40 Telephone 07988 763254.

FURNITURE

2 BOOKCASES 6' X 31" wide, 6 shelves, light wood effect. Priced each, £15 Telephone 01546 602145.

BED BRAND NEW double divan complete with deluxe 10" orthopaedic mattress (still wrapped). Cost £399 accept £150 for quick sale. Can deliver. Telephone 07899 887232.

BOOK CASES 2 wooden book cases with glass sliding doors, adjustable shelf inside, size 36" wide 27" tall, by 13" deep, £40 Telephone 01436 842678.

GUEST BED single pull-down Guest Bed, ex-John Lewis, perfect condition, comfortable, sturdy. Easily stored, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710889.

IKEA PAX WARDROBE 2 available, 2 X 1 metre, 58cm deep, curtained front, light wood effect, £30 Telephone 01546 602145.

LEATHER RECLINER CHAIRS 2 x dark brown electric recliners, very good condition but too big for our room so forces sale. Please no time wasters, £200 Telephone 01397 703519.

SOFA BED - SINGLE Ikea chair that folds down to a single bed. Very comfortable, sturdy, cream/duckegg colour cover. Perfect condition, £35 Telephone 01631 710889.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

WEIDER BODY WORKS PRO exercise machine, £30 Telephone 01546 602145.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

VICTORIAN STYLE CAST IRON Electric Fire very heavy ornate electric fire with glass coals. Will add atmosphere to any period setting. Bargain, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710889.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

PEARLISED PAPER & CARD White, Blue & Pink colours in stock available in A3/A4/A5 sizes, from 13p per sheet. Contact Krisp Print. Telephone 01586 554975.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

TELEVISION 19" Beko Digital LCD flat screen television HD ready, £49.99 Telephone 01852 300568.

TV CORNER STAND chrome with black safety glass, 3 shelves, 20.5H x 41.25W at front and 30"W at back x 17.75D. (approx) Ex. Cond, £49.99 Telephone 01631 740281.

VIDEO RECORDER Hitachi - hardly used - with 24 Star Trek videos, Connel, £30 Telephone 07500 474630.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CURTAIN POLE 29mm Belgravia antique brass effect 360cm - 142" approx. new still in box, £20 Telephone 01631 720302.

HOME OFFICE

BLUE METAL A4 FILING CABINET 2 drawer, with locks, £20 Telephone 01546 602145.

JEWELLERY AND WATCHES

RENNIE MACINTOSH COLLECTION silver rose design filigree bracelet in box, velvet lined, new ideal gift, £450 Telephone 01631 720369.

RENNIE MACINTOSH COLLECTION pair of silver drop earrings Rose design in velvet lined box, new, deal gift, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

KITCHEN WORKTOP walnut effect laminate kitchen worktop, size 167 x 60 x 4cm brand new never used. Buyer collects from Lochgair, £49.99 Telephone 01546 886236.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

COMPETITOR WEIGHT BENCH press and set of weights. Brand new excellent condition, £49 Telephone 07881 671093.

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MISCELLANEOUS

LARGE WINKLES 1/2 bags large winkles, £49.99 Telephone 07445 368355.

MOUNTED DEER ANTLERS wall mounted red/Roe deer antlers, 9 sets to sell. Buyer to collect in Lochgair, £20 Telephone 01546 886236.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

BANJO 5-string Savannah make. Very good condition, hardly used, with solid carrying case, £250 Telephone 01852 314128.

CHILD'S ACOUSTIC GUITAR case and stand. Can be delivered in the Oban area. Please phone after 6 pm, £15 Telephone 01852 314257.

ELECTRIC GUITAR & AMPLIFIER Electric Guitar, Amplifier, case and stand. Good first guitar for budding rock artists. Hardly used. Please phone after 6 pm, £20 Telephone 01852 314257.

YAMAHA PSR-175 Yamaha PSR-175 keyboard 100 voices demo, play along drums, very good condition includes fold away stand. Great Xmas present, £30 Telephone 01546 510261.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

BOYS SKI HELMET by Wedge, colour red size 52cm - 55cm, only used a few times last winter skiing, excellent condition, £10 Telephone 07866 646482.

CHILD'S SKI BOOTS red Salomon T3 child ski boots, size 4/5. Good used condition, £30 Telephone 01631 710737.

GIRLS SKI HELMET by Wedge, size 52 - 55cm, only used a few times last winter skiing, excellent condition, £10 Telephone 07866 646482.

JUNIOR/CHILD'S SKIS, Salomon Scramblers, size 140cm, used with scratches but ideal for Scotland. Good quality when new, £30 Telephone 01631 710737.

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BIN WEEVILS DELUXE NEST Playset, ideal Xmas present. Brand new in box. Cost £30, accept £20. Available in Oban. Telephone 01631 358473 or 07442 229407.

WANTED

COPPER, BRASS, LEAD zinc, stainless, all types cable, household and armoured, top prices paid. Telephone 07770 724851 or 07788 961791.

SCRAP METAL all types of scrap metal, we uplift scrap cars, call Mr Cook, West Coast Scrap Metals. Telephone 01499 500638 or 07787 991636.

WINKLES wanted, also Class A cockles. Telephone 01770 503451 or 07710 529975.

PERSONALS

Oban Youth Moto X Prize Giving
 We would like to thank everyone that supported the Club this year with their donations for the raffle, their time and help in the organising, the Royal Hotel for putting up with us, and of course to all our wonderful riders who support and help out at the club throughout the year.
We owe you all a great big thank you.

Malcolm Sloss would like to thank his family, friends, neighbours, and customers for all their kindness and support received at this sad time.

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by Wyvex Media Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, Wyvex Media Limited Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

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BIRTHS

ANDERSON - Congratulations to Katy and Ali, on the birth of their beautiful son, Jack. Born on November 28, 2012. Grandson to Maggie Anderson and also to Ann and the late Willie Buchanan. First great grandchild of Molly Buchanan (Morar) and Ian Wilkinson (Glasgow). A happy new addition to the family.



MACCOLL

Duncan and Rose (Guite) are over the moon with the arrival of their first child, a gorgeous daughter, Charlotte Elizabeth Margaret. Born December 6, 2012 at Royal Alexandra Hospital. Tiny hands and adorable feet, our darling daughter is so sweet.

MACGILLIVRAY - At Raigmore Hospital on December 5, 2012 to Alison (nee Harvey) and Grahame a precious daughter, Isla Elaine. A gorgeous granddaughter for Irene, Bill, Dougie and Catherine. 'May gods blessing surround you each day'

MILLER - Scott and Emily (nee Dayton). The precious gift of a daughter Eilidh Sarita born in Eugene, Oregon on December 10, 2012.

ROBERTSON - Keith and Nina (Nee Tatarowska) are delighted to announce the arrival of Ruairidh Alexander, on November 6 at the Southern General, Glasgow. 1st Grandchild for Andrew and June, Montrose, and 5th for Les and Maggie, Crossford, Lanarkshire. Keith is the eldest grandson of the late Annabel and Sandy MacLennan, formerly Cnoc-na-sith, Connel.

DEATHS

ALCORN - Peacefully, in the loving care of Ward 'A', Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on December 10, 2012. Margaret, 25 Mossfield Drive, Oban, beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother of Janice and Duncan, cherished granny to Jennifer and a loving sister. Funeral will take place at The Church of Scotland, Glenclutten Road, Oban on Thursday, 13th December at 1.30 p.m. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to M. S. Therapy Centre, Glenclutten Road, Oban.

BARR - William McKinlay Barr, MRCVS (Veterinary Surgeon), peacefully, at Mid Argyll Hospital on Friday, December 7, 2012, in his 89th year, of Duissdale, Lochgilphead. Funeral service will be held at Glassary Parish Church, Kilmichael, by Lochgilphead, on Friday, December 14 at 12 noon. All welcome. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to RNLI. Cremation service will take place at Inverness Crematorium on Monday, December 17 at 1.30pm.

CAMERON - Muriel (nee Hewlett), Edinburgh, died in her 98th year, on December 8, 2012 at the Royal Infirmary Edinburgh. Wife of the late Robert Blair Cameron M.B.E., mother of Keith who predeceased her in 1975, Alan and Sally and mother-in-law to two Annes. Grandmother of Ewan, Rory, Duncan and Olivia and great-grandmother of Alexander, Lizzie, William, Max and Hamish. A private cremation will be followed by a service of thanksgiving for her life at 1pm on Saturday, December 15th at St Mary's Church, Dalmahoy, Kirkcubright, EH27 8EB, to which all are welcome, family flowers only but donations if desired made to Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, WC1N 3JH.

HENDRY - On December 6, 2012, peacefully at Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead. Duncan Hendry, formerly of Inveraray Post Office, in his 81st year, beloved husband of Anna and much loved father of Allan, Janice and Gregor, father-in-law of Richard, Gale and May Louise, dear brother of Allan and a dearly loved papa and great papa. Funeral service at Inveraray Parish Church, (today) Thursday, December 13 at 12 noon, interment thereafter at Glen Shira Cemetery, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, collection if desired for church and British Legion.

MACDONALD - Suddenly but peacefully at home on Sunday, December 9, 2012, aged 72, Hector James MacDonald, beloved husband of Aida, wonderful dad to Christine, Liz, Caroline and John, dear father-in-law to Andy, Gary and Dolina and a much loved grandpa to Kenneth, Daniel, Karina and Andrew. Our family will never be the same again.

MACNAUGHTON - Peacefully, after a long illness, borne bravely, at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on December 10, 2012, with her family by her side, Mary Margaret MacNaughton, nee Cameron, of 5 Orchard Park, Ardrishaig, beloved wife of the late Ian, much loved mum of Mairie, Catherine, Kirsty and the late Fiona and adored nannie of George, Lucas, Cameron, Eilidh, Ruairidh, Colin, Ryan and Cara. A much respected mother-in-law. A dear sister of Morag. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Ardrishaig Parish Church on Saturday, December 15 at 9.00am, followed by a service and interment at Acharacle Parish Church at 2.00pm. Flowers or donations, if desired, to MS Centre, Mid Argyll.

MCGILL - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban on Monday December 10, 2012, in his 84th year, Archibald McGill, beloved husband to Joan, a dear father & grandfather. Funeral will take place from Church of Scotland, Glenclutten Road, Oban on Friday 14th December at 1 pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Retiring collection / donations if desired for Alzheimer Scotland, Action on Dementia.

SCOFIELD - It is with great regret that her family announce that Sarah died at home in Langmuir, Calgary, on December 4, 2012. Beloved daughter of the late Paul and Joy Scofield, much loved sister of Martin and aunt of Robin and Rachel. Sarah's funeral will be at Dervaig Church at 12.30pm on Thursday, December 13th and she will be buried in Calgary graveyard.

WYNNE - Marion, 84, died at the family home at St Andrews East, Fassfern Road, Fort William on Saturday, December 8, 2012. Wife of the late Ian Wynne, of Wynne the Butchers. Much loved mother of Patricia, Margaret, Thomas, Anne, Rosemary, Helen, Marion and Gillian, grandmother of 25 grandchildren and great grandmother. Funeral will be held in St Mary's Church, Fort William on Thursday, December 13 at 12 noon.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BUTLER - Liz, Les, Steven and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and kindness, many cards, telephone calls and expressions of sympathy shown to them at this sad time. Thanks also to everyone involved in George's care over the last few years, too many to mention. Special thanks to the Lynne of Lorn for their care and kindness to us all over the past four years. They truly are angels. To Rev Dugald Cameron for the lovely service, thanks to the Rowanree Hotel and everyone who attended the Church and graveside on such an awful day. A big thank you to Catriona and family for funeral arrangements. The total collected for the Residents comfort fund was £232.62. Thank you everyone.

CAMERON - The family of the late John Cameron (Rookie), wish to thank family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy received, Belford Hospital for the care they gave John in his final days, Macmillan Nurses, Tweeddale Practice, 4Bn Highlanders for their attendance, Railway Club for the nice tea, Mike McFall and staff for funeral arrangements, the lovely service by Rev Adrian Varwell and all who paid their last respects. The sum of £500 was raised and split between Macmillan Nurses and Renal Unit Belford Hospital.

CAMERON - The family of the late Jane H Cameron (Sheena) (nee Wilkieson), would like to thank all neighbours, friends and relations for their cards and kind wishes on their sad loss, W.T. Fraser and son for Funeral arrangements also Rev Fiona Smith (Ness Bank Church) for her comforting service. Thank You All

CUMMING - Ian and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy at this sad time. Thanks to the staff of Ward B at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban for the care and attention provided over the last few weeks. Also the community team and all at Lorn Medical Centre for facilitating Molly's home visits. A special thank you to Susan MacAskill and Josie Tidser for the support, time and affection they showed to mum which is very much appreciated by all the family. To Hamish Hoey and Sons for their personal attention and efficient funeral arrangements, Budding Blooms Florist's, Renfrew for the beautiful flowers, Canon James MacNeil for a comforting service. To all those who travelled to St Columba's Cathedral and

to Pennyfuir Cemetery to pay their last respects and to the Oban Bay Hotel for welcoming refreshments.

DONNELLY - Katie Ann on December 3, 2012. Catherine, Donald and our respective families would like to thank everyone for their kindness, support, flowers and telephone calls. Special thanks go to carers and the North Argyll Eventide Home. Gratitude goes to the Rev. Christopher MacRae for his heartfelt and moving service. Also to Mike McFall for providing funeral arrangements. Thanks also to everyone who contributed to the collection for Alzheimer Scotland. The sum raised was £400 which will be split between Fort William and Oban branches.

MCARTHUR - The family of the late Effie McArthur would like to thank all friends and family for coming to the funeral. Special thanks to Rev Kenneth Ross for his comforting service, staff of Luig Ferry and staff at Mount Pleasant care home, Old Kilpatrick who looked after Effie over the past 2 years. Grateful thanks to Clydebank Funeral Services for their professionalism.

MCKERRELL - (Isle of Seil) - The McKerrell family and Margaret wish to thank relatives and friends for the cards and letters of sympathy received following the death of Billy their father and friend. Thanks to Rev Dr Ross for his comforting service and to those who attended the service and graveside at Kilbrandon Church. Special thanks to the staff of Eader Gilm, to the Macmillan nursing team and to Easdale and Lorn Medical Practices for their care and attention. Also thanks to Hamish Hoey & Son for the funeral arrangements.

MEMORIAMS

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear brothers Hugh, died December 13, 2011 and Jack (John), died November 4, 2010, also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

Forever in our thoughts and hearts.

- Allan, John Alex, Cathie, Margaret, Mary, Jimmy and all families.

CAMERON - In memory of my beloved husband and father Lachlan Cameron, also loved ones departed before and since.

Time will pass and fade away Happy memories will always stay

- Mary and Margaret.

GIBSON - Special memories of my dear mum Jenny, who passed away on December 12, 2003.

Quietly today your memory we treasure

Missing you always, forgetting you never

- Your daughter Kathleen, son-in-law Sandy xx

GIBSON - In loving memory of my dear mother Jenny who died December 12, 2003.

- Always remembered Jimmy

GIBSON - Loving memories of a dear mother, granny and great granny, Jenny, died December 12, 2003. Also remembering loved ones gone before.

Sadly missed along life's way - Tommy, Nellie and family

HAY - Happy memories of Robert a precious son, brother and uncle who was taken from us so tragically December 13, 1998 aged 23 years.

A smile we will always remember,

A voice we will always recall,

A memory we will always treasure,

Robert you were dear to us all.

Greatly missed.

-Mum and Dad, Kate and family, and Elaine and family.

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

MACINNES - In loving memory of a special father, father-in-law and papa Donald (Ginty), who passed away on December 18, 2011.

There is no words to say, How much we miss you everyday

Always in our thoughts

- Allan, Rachel, Derek and Morven xxxx

We love and miss you papa - Robert, Ellie, Ryan and Claire xxxx

MACINNES - In loving memory of a dearly loved brother, brother-in-law, and uncle, Donald (Ginty), who passed away on December 18, 2011, also loved ones gone before.

Always in our thoughts. - Malcolm, Sheena and family.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory Joe McCombie a loving husband, dad and granddad, who passed away December 11, 2004.

Always in our thoughts -Wilma and family Oban and Glasgow.

MACINTYRE - In memory of our beloved parents, Duncan died December 19, 1981 and Betsy, April 16, 1988. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after.

Memories are like threads of gold,

They never tarnish or grow old

- Inserted by the family late of Kilmore Farm, Connel, Argyll

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our mother Rose, who died December 15, 2011.

When thoughts go back as they often do,

We treasure the memories we have of you

- From John, Sandra and Maggie.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of Rose, a special mother, granny and great-granny,

passed peacefully on December 15, 2011

We talk about you often, of the things you'd say and do

We have so many memories But wish we still had you.

With love and fond memories. - Moira, Billy and family.

Love and miss you. - Flora and family.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of our dear mum and grandma, Agnes, who died December 14, 2008 and our dear father and grandad, Donald John, who died May 21, 1989.

Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Simon, Ishbel, Kirsteen and Kevin Dumbarton.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of our dear mum Agnes, who died December 14, 2008. Also remembering our dear father Donald John, who died at Ormsaig, Lochport, May 21, 1989, and loved ones gone before.

No longer in our lives to share, But in our hearts you are always there.

- Inserted by their loving daughter Ann and son-in-law Cameron, Erskine

MCKINNEY - In loving memory of Marjorie a dear sister, who died December 15, 2003.

You will never be forgotten -Jessie, Pat and boys.

Marjorie - miss you so much - 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

RICHMOND - In loving memory of our dear father and grandfather, John Richmond, 9 Lismore Crescent, Oban, who passed away on December 13, 1973.

He was so caring and content, Loved and admired wherever he went.

Always thoughtful, willing and kind,

Such beautiful memories he left behind

Precious memories woven in gold,

Those are the thoughts we tenderly hold.

Deep in our hearts his memory is kept,

To love to cherish and never forget

- Inserted by his ever loving son Victor, daughter-in-law Anne, grandchildren Yvonne and John, Bermuda.

RODGER - In memory of a special sister and aunt Elsie, who died December 19, 2010.

Loved and remembered every day.

- Ken, Christine, Karen, Chris, Linda and Alan.

SANDISON - In memory of our precious son Liam.

Two little hands are resting A loving heart is still

A little son we loved so much Is waiting for us just over the hill

We love and miss you always Liam

- Mum, Dad, Aaron and Cameron.

SANDISON - In loving memory of our dear grandson, Liam, who died December 10, 2006.

Wishing today as we wished before

That God could have spared you many years more

In our heart your memory is kept

To love, to cherish and never forget

A shining star was on its way A special place was waiting above

For our darling Liam Who everyone loved

Love you forever Liam. - Granda and Granny, Claggan. xx

SANDISON - Those we love don't go away

They walk beside us everyday Unseen, unheard but always near

Still loved, still missed, but very dear.

Love and miss you always Liam.

- Auntie Linda, Uncle Angie, Sean and Lisa. xxxx

STEWART - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, Ann Campbell, passed away on December 12 1982 and Angus Alexander, passed away on October 7, 1994.

Loved and remembered everyday

-Angus, Nancy, Rena and families, Bowmore, Islay and Montreal, Canada.

Thought for the Week

ADVENT is a time of waiting, not the kind of waiting that finds us kicking our heels in boredom, not the fearful waiting for unwelcome news, not the numbed waiting of the grieving at the bedside of the dying - but the attentive waiting as we live each moment fully. Like the waiting of pregnancy, which we call 'expecting', Advent is a time of waiting expectantly, a time to prepare

for Christmas. These preparations will be many and varied. Decorating the house, and checking the Christmas tree lights; writing and posting (or emailing) cards, letters and presents; buying and wrapping those gifts; buying and preparing all the food; and so much more. But all this activity can lead to short tempers and frazzled nerves. A good antidote to this is to take time to prepare

ourselves spiritually as well as physically. Taking a short time every day to be still and think about the reason for the season, Jesus, Immanuel. When we remember the awesome event that we celebrate at Christmas, that unique moment in time when God, the One and Only, came to live 'with us', our hearts are filled with wonder and peace. EM.



Rev Dugald Cameron leads the small party from Kilmore and Oban Parish Church to Kerrera aboard the Nessie Hunter on Sunday.

Kerrera Christmas service - first in 30 years

IT IS thought to be more than 30 years since the isle of Kerrera last hosted a Christmas service - on Sunday, Kilmore and Oban Parish Church travelled over to put that right.

Nearly 30 members of the congregation took to the Kerrera ferry on Oban's North

Pier for the special Christmas service led by the Rev Dugald Cameron at the Waypoint Bar and Grill.

They were joined by more than 30 locals, who came together to enjoy home baking and mulled wine after the service. The locals also provided the music and a warm welcome for

the festive crowd. Rev Cameron said: 'Karen Keys at Ardintvire Farm is the person who got everyone together on the island, we think for the first time in 30 years.'

'It was a nice event and it let people see the religious connections between the island and the mainland.'



Children of St John's RC Church in Caol recently received their confirmation from Bishop Joseph Toal of Argyll and the Isles. Also pictured with the children are Father Roddy MacAulay and their teachers at Lochside RC Primary School.

<p>ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES</p> <p>ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN Campbell Street Church Sunday 16th December 2012 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. Phone-In 'Worship Link' available Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076 All welcome</p>	<p>CHARITY DONATIONS</p> <p>CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland</p> <p>Fighting Cancer on all fronts... CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation Commitment of over £15 million each year Cancer Research UK Angell Building 407 St John Street London EC1V 4AD</p>	<p>WEDDINGS</p> <p>SHARKEY - MACCORQUODALE Deirdre and Iain celebrated their wedding with family and friends at the Phoenicia Hotel, Malta on October 4, 2012.</p>
<p>SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION</p> <p>Friday 14 Dec 2012 Holy Cross, Portnacroish, Appin Carol Service in Appin Parish Church 18.00 Sunday 16 December 2012 Advent 3 St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion..... 08.00 Sung Eucharist..... 10.15 Sunday School and Creche Loop System Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome Nicki McNelly Provost (01631) 562323 St Columba, Gruline, Mull Holy Communion..... 11.00 St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist..... 10.00 Advance Notice Friday 21 Dec 2012 St John's Cathedral, Oban Service of Nine Lessons and Carols..... 19.30</p>	<p>MARIE CURIE CANCER CARE</p> <p>Oban & Lorn Fundraising Branch Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Mrs Lillian Kermode Tynwald, Glenburn, Soroba Road, Oban 01631 571009</p>	<p>BOWMAN - BOYD Jacqueline and Alexander, both of Duisky Fort William, were married earlier this year in Kenmare, Ireland.</p>
<p>OBAN HOSPICE CARING FOR THE FUTURE Donations always gratefully accepted Please contact Jack Tollan Birch Hill Achnacreebeag North Connel, PA37 1RE</p>	<p>WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer West of Scotland Fundraising Office 1st Floor, Erskine House North Avenue, Clydebank Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR Tel 0808 100 6000 In memory of Dawn Joyce</p>	<p>Follow us on facebook www.facebook.com/obantimes</p>

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Oban pool teams on cup quarter final duty this week

THE CLAREDON played host to the Gluepot on Wednesday evening in a re-arranged clash to open last week's fixtures. Unfortunately, for the first time this season, a team couldn't manage a full complement of players with the Claredon being the beneficiaries of an easy point in the singles which proved to be the deciding factor in the result. Despite having only six players, the Gluepot fought valiantly right down to the final doubles match before the home side sunk the black sealing the two points. On Thursday, Lancaster B travelled out to face giant-killers Lochnell. Having just returned to the top of the table, the North Connell venue was the last place the leaders wanted to be. With neither team credited for their quick play, inevitably the other scores would filter through before this one reached its climax, heaping the pressure on the league leaders. Ironically it was their senior counterparts, Lancaster A, who applied the pressure first despatching the Kelvin with relative ease although a special mention must go to the Kelvin's female players who are fast

becoming an integral part of their quest to avoid the wooden spoon. Markie Dans A were next to intensify the pressure after their victory over the Lochavullin, closely followed by the Cellar who gained maximum points against Markie Dans B, although the formality of the doubles had still to be played. With the scores quickly being distributed via phones around the players, news was coming in the Lochnell had the initiative going into the doubles matches. **Top of the pile** With the chasing pack awaiting a slip-up and fully aware of other results, the Lancaster B showed why as the half-way point of the championship approaches they lead the way taking all three doubles matches to remain top of the pile. In tonight's matches the focus turns to the Oban Filling Station Cup which is now at the quarter-final stage. These will be the last matches played this year as the league disbands for its Christmas holidays. The Oban Pool League would like to officially reveal that starting this season the female players will have their own

POOL

League Table

	P	Pts
Lancaster B	8	14
Markie Dans A	8	13
The Cellar	8	12
Lancaster A	8	10
The Lochavullin	8	9
The Lochnell	8	7
The Claredon	8	7
The Gluepot	8	3
Markie Dans B	8	3
The Kelvin	8	2



Some of the Oban Saints coaches who attended the Positive Coaching Scotland workshop at the Corran Halls - Robbie Johnson, Jamie Graham, Martin Rae, Argyll and Bute Council Football Development Officer, David Buchanan and Peter Bain.

Saints take a positive route to coaching

TWENTY-FOUR coaches from Oban Saints Football Club recently attended the first football workshop in Argyll and Bute of a new initiative that is being rolled out across Scotland. Positive Coaching Scotland is a culture change programme that looks to transform Scottish youth sport so sport can transform Scotland's youth. Positive Coaching Scotland's vision is a football culture in Scotland where young players are developed in a positive, safe environment, where they learn to win through effort and where valuable life lessons are developed. Through the Positive Coaching Scotland programme it is hoped to drive change.

Positive Coaching Scotland gives all involved in the game the tools to develop happy, successful, confident and respectful young people. Everyone wants players to win, just not at all costs, and everyone wants them to stay involved in the game through to adulthood. Football Development Officer for Argyll and Bute Council Martin Rae said: 'These workshops are key to the success of the game, not just the game but the child's long term involvement in sport. The coaches involved in the workshop were treated to an interactive Double Goal Coach workshop where they were given appropriate tools to help the children work with by teaching them vital character building skills through football, learning the importance of respect for rules, opponents, officials, team mates and themselves. Also that winning is important 'but not at all costs' and that yes they want to win but through applying concerted effort to achieve set goals.'

Stuart Grieve, Positive Coaching Scotland Football Programme Manager, said: 'The PCS programme aims to instil self-confidence and a 'can-do' attitude in children and by working with parents, club leaders and coaches, we aim to promote the values of effort, respect and a positive winning attitude. We are delighted to be working with Argyll and Bute Council and Oban Saints to promote the PCS messages across to the young people of the town. The workshop in Oban is the start of the process to engage with many to shape a football culture in Scotland where young players are developed in a positive, safe environment, where they learn to win through effort and develop skills for life through football.'

More information on - www.scottishfa.co.uk/positivecoaching or Twitter - @ScottishFA_PCS

Death of former Kyles stalwart

SHINTY
FORMER Kyles Athletic player Alistair (Ally) Turner, passed away on Tuesday December 4 following a long illness. Ally, who played for Kyles Athletic in the 1950s and 1960s, was the oldest of six brothers. The funeral will take place in London on Friday December 14.

Project director in the pipeline

INDOOR TRAINING
LOCHABER Sports Association (LSA) is hoping to appoint a project director in the New Year to advance plans to create an indoor training facility in Fort William. LSA chairperson Jane Blanchard said the appointment was 'likely' as the group looks to find funding and gain planning permission for the project.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF
RESULTS from Islay Golf Club: Winter League Week 5 - 1 Neil Johnston 34pts; 2 Iain MacCuaig 31pts; 3 Ruairidh MacIntyre 28pts. Ccs75.

Prizes handed out at Oban Sailing Club

JUNIOR GOLF
TOP KEELBOAT at Oban Sailing Club for the 2012 season was Billy Forteith's Beneteau 31.7 Shadowfax. Billy was awarded the customary crystal rosebowl at the club's annual prizegiving dinner dance in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls in November. Colin Crawford's Dehler 35 Nimrod was runner-up with Eric and Irena Chapman's Sigma 33 Amber Haze in third place. The top dinghy helm was James Chapman who finished with a string of firsts in the aggregate series. However, it was a close-run finish with Tierney Carter who took runner-up with a similarly good tally of results and Tierney lifted the ScotWest Windows Trophy for the best Laser Sailor over three aggregates. Third was Thomas Smith in his Laser with Jamie Sinclair a close fourth, again in his Laser. Emma Thompson won the Forteith Refrigeration Trophy for the best Topper performance over the three aggregates with Fiona McLean the most improved novice over the season. Winning the Ladies keelboat Cup was Irena Chapman helming the Sigma 33 Amber Haze with Graeme Strachan taking the Crews Cup, also in

the Sigma. Ben Carter won the junior helm racing Shadowfax. Keelboats - 1 Shadowfax (Billy Forteith) 2 Nimrod (Colin Crawford) 3 Amber Haze (Eric and Irena Chapman) 4 Hot Toddy (Alison Chadwick) 5 Seal (Andrew Mead) 6 Red Oktober (Findlay Clark) 7 Tangle o'the Isles (Joey Gough) 8 Knutz (Richard and Laura Shellcock) 9 Torranan (Toby Sherwin) 10 Blueberry of Lorne (James and Jo Woolnaugh). Crews Cup Graeme Strachan (Amber Haze) Ladies Cup Irena Chapman (Amber Haze) Junior Helm Ben Carter (Shadowfax). Dinghies - 1 James Chapman 2 Tierney Carter 3 Thomas Smith 4 Jamie Sinclair 5 Andrew Chapman 6 Jamie Peden/Jonathan Head 7 Sandy Keys 8 Chris Dowd 9 Ben Carter 10 John and Rebecca Forbes 11 Finn Currie 12 Emma Thompson 13 Fiona McLean 14 Eric Chapman 15 Richard and Laura Shellcock 16 Fergus McGowan 17 Mandy Peden. Malcolm MacKillop Decorators Quaich for most improved novice Fiona McLean. Forteith Refrigeration Trophy for the best Topper performance over 3 aggregates Emma Thompson.



Keelboat winners at Oban Sailing Club.



Dinghy winners.



Tobermory junior golfers hold their annual prizegiving

JUNIOR GOLF
TOBERMORY Golf Club Juniors recently held their annual prizegiving in the MacDonald Arms Hotel. Pictured above are the trophy winners along with junior convener John Weir. William MacCrae won the Club Championship and twice equalled the course record.

The junior section would like to place on record its sincere thanks to MESS, The Isle of Mull Lions and the Lagavullin Fundraisers for their generous donations which allow the juniors to compete at county and national events.

Silverware for the Sinclairs

QUAD bike racing brothers Scott and Lorne Sinclair, from Connell, are celebrating a bumper trophy haul for the season, picking up more than 30 between them. Their achievements are all the more remarkable given that 18-year-old Scott was racing in the adult classes for the first time, while it was 12-year-old Lorne's debut season in quad bike racing. Scott finished third in the North East England Track Trophy (NETT) championship and second in the Scottish Quad Bike championships, while younger brother Lorne finished second in the NETT 250cc Standard Championships with seven wins. The pair are delighted with their performances. Scott said: 'On average I'm racing against a field of 25, although it ranges from six bikes to 40 depending on the race. I'm chuffed with my first season. It's a totally different style of racing. When you go into a corner, the other bikers don't give anything. There's a bit of touch and go - if they think someone is young they'll try to overpower them. If you let folk past you, you could get a name for it so you have to fight your corner. I'd like to win the Scottish Championship in future.'



Scott, left, and Lorne Sinclair with the trophies they lifted during a great racing year for the brothers. 15_1509sinclair1

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company. In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company. The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN £900

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

L Wilson
Ardfur, Taynuilt

D MacMillan
Ardpatrick Place, Lochgilphead

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

Name

Address

.....

.....

..... Tel No.

Please tape your £1 coin here

Feathers fly at Emirates Arena

BADMINTON

PUPILS from Dalmally Primary School joined thousands of other children from schools across Scotland at Glasgow's new Emirates Arena on Thursday to take part in BADMINTON Scotland's annual Scottish International Play Badminton carnivals.

Those attending the event participated in two, hour-long sessions, taking part in a range of activities and receiving coaching in the basics of the game.

And the children were in for a special treat as Olympians Imogen Bankier and Susan Egelstaff, who represented Team GB at London 2012 in the summer, stopped in to lend a helping hand.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Under 13s v North Kelvin United; Under 14s v Helensburgh; Newmains Hammers v Under 15s; Under 16s - no game. All matches postponed.

On Sunday the Under 14s took on the Under 13s in a friendly match with the older boys winning an entertaining game 5-2.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Dumbarton Riverside; Newmains Hammers v Under 15s; Lenzie Colts v Under 16s.

Artemis Macaulay Cup draw live on Oban FM

SHINTY

THE DRAW for the 2013 Artemis Macaulay Cup will take place on Saturday December 15 at 6pm live on Oban FM.

To listen live click on to www.obanfm.net.

Rugby called off

GOLF

LAST Saturday's West Division 3 rugby match between Oban Lorne and Millbrae had to be called off when the pitch at Glencruitten was declared unplayable due to a frozen pitch.



Lewis Cameron fires home Saints' fourth goal against Port Glasgow OBU during last Saturday's Jimmy Marshall Trophy match held at the Oban Community Pitch. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.

Saints back on track with impressive win against OBU

'We played some excellent football and deserve to be in the next round'

Jimmy Marshall Trophy

1st Round

Oban Saints 4

Port Glasgow OBU 1

PORT GLASGOW Old Boys Union were the visitors to Oban for this Jimmy Marshall Trophy first round tie but the tail o' the bank team were no match for a Saints' side who dominated the game right from the first whistle.

For the second week in a row the game had to be switched to the all weather 3G pitch at Oban High School as both the grass parks at Glencruitten and Mossfield Stadium were frozen solid.

The home side wanted to improve on the previous week's performance against Sandys in the Scottish Cup which fell well below the standards the players have set this season and the boys certainly turned on the style against their Port Glasgow opponents.

Saints started well, passing the ball across the defence, making the visitors work hard to try and get it back, although the first chance of the game fell to OBU's Ally Harvey, but his effort went past the post.

The home side opened the scoring in the 11th minute when Dene Cassells broke clear from his defensive duties, strode forward and sent a great ball through for Ross Maitland who curled a great left foot shot past the despairing dive of OBU netminder Mark Turner. Saints

increased their lead two minutes later and this is one the OBU keeper will want to forget as he let Willie Gemmill's free kick slip under his body and into the net.

However, the Oban lads shot themselves in the foot in the 16th minute when Paul Kerr and Ross Maitland made a complete hash of a throw-in on the halfway line. The ball ended up going over the head of Willie Gemmill and fell to Dougie Brown who spotted Daniel Cassells off his line and the Port Glasgow striker fired the ball high into the net. This was a really poor goal for Saints to lose after dominating the opening exchanges of the match.

Credit to the local lads though they kept playing the same way, knocking the ball about confidently and their two goal lead was restored in the 22nd minute when Willie Gemmill picked up the ball deep in his own half before passing to Ross Maitland who in turn played the ball inside to Myles McAuley. He then laid it off to Craig MacEwan who wasted no time in drilling the ball high into the net to make the score 3-1.

Just on the half time whistle Donald Campbell, who had a quiet game by his standards, played a good ball through to Keith Millar, but the Saints skipper failed to control the ball properly and a good opportunity was missed.

Referee Jimmy Lister from Lochgilhead, who handled a sporting game well, blew his whistle for half time with Saints good value for their 3-1 lead.

The second half was much the same as the first with Saints dominating possession, but if you had to be over critical the passing was a wee bit slow and becoming predictable but credit to OBU, they were defending in depth, making things difficult for the Saints attack.

Having been outplayed for most of the game Port Glasgow made an effort to get more men forward, but the home defence looked pretty solid, well marshalled by Alex Craik.

Saints manager Iain Jackson used the second half to give his five substitutes a good amount of game time and two of them - Lewis Cameron and Mattie Rippon - had a clever interchange at the edge of the box and Mattie was unlucky to see his shot scream over the bar. Minutes later Lewis Cameron had a fine

FOOTBALL

effort then keeper Mark Turner made a good save from a Keith Millar rocket as Saints piled on the pressure.

The home team finished off a good afternoon's performance with a goal in the 83rd minute when Willie Gemmill fed the ball through to Lewis Cameron who raced clear before thumping a well placed drive past Mark Turner to make the final score 4-1.

Manager Iain Jackson was happy with the performance. He said: 'We passed the ball about well, although on a few occasions we tried to play an impossible 40 yarder when there was a man in space a few feet away. However, that is probably being over critical. We played some excellent football and fully deserve to be in the hat for the second round draw.'

'We're on a great run just now, we've played 14 league and cup games since the start of the season winning 13 and losing just the one so let's hope we can keep up the good work going into the festive break.'

This Saturday Saints get back to league duty when they travel



Ross Maitland opened the scoring for Saints.

to take on Rolls Royce East Kilbride. The match will be played at The Murray with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Darren Murray from Glasgow.

Saints await the draw for the fifth round of the Scottish Amateur Cup which takes place tonight (Thursday).

Club secretary David Buchanan said: 'There are still a lot of good teams in the draw and all we are looking for at this stage is a home tie which would give us an opportunity to progress to the last 32 of the competition.'

Sports hall athletics get underway

ATHLETICS

THE sports hall athletics programme is underway once again in Argyll this winter.

This form of indoor athletics has been promoted locally since 1994 and Mid Argyll Athletic Club, in co-operation with all the local athletic clubs, are organising four area competitions followed by an Argyll final to be held in Oban at the end of February.

Specialist equipment is used for various running, jumping and throwing events in small arenas and this version of athletics

brings the skills and excitement of 'track and field' into sports halls giving youngsters a taste of athletics in a warm and dry atmosphere.

The successful promotion of the competitions is dependant on the co-operation from schools with most of the schools in the district contacted in advance of the local area competitions in the hope teachers will encourage pupils to take part.

The first two competitions have already been held on Mull and at Lochgilhead.

The local competition for the Oban area will be held this Saturday, December 15, at Atlantis Leisure.

Successful athletes from Saturday's competition will be invited to compete at the Argyll final to be held at the same venue in Oban on Saturday February 23.

Boys and girls entering the Oban competition this Saturday at Atlantis are reminded events start at 12.30pm with entries on the day from 12noon.

There will be an entry fee of

£2 for each competitor or £5 for families of three or more taking part.

Age groups are: under 9, under 11, under 13, under 15 and under 17 for boys and girls.

For all age categories it will be age as on September 1 2012.

Awards will be made to the top athletes in each age category and everyone taking part will receive a medal.



Junior winners at Glencruitten Golf Club

Glencruitten Golf Club's junior prizewinners for 2012: S MacLeod - Bridgend Trophy; D MacMillan - Johnston Trophy, Young Trophy, Cameron Trophy and Treasury Cup; F Sinclair - J MacCallum Trophy, F MacFarlane - Monthly medal; R MacIntyre - Leicester Shield and MacDonald Cup; A MacCuish - Liddell Trophy; S Murphy - Trust Quaich. The juniors are about to start a winter coaching programme with the club's resident professional Terry Burgoyne.

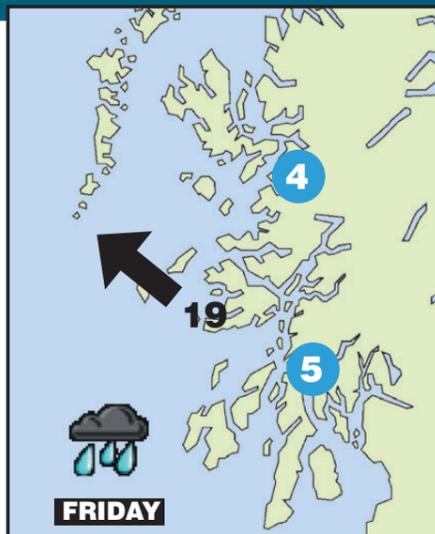
Weather

Thursday Cloudy
Winds light, easterly
Temperatures -1C to 1°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 5°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 7°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 13, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am			pm		
Thur	05.13	4.1	11.30	0.7	17.31	4.1 23.54 0.7
Fri	05.57	4.2	12.21	0.6	18.15	4.1 *** **
Sat	00.40	0.6	06.41	4.3	13.10	0.7 18.58 4.0
Sun	01.26	0.6	07.26	4.2	13.58	0.8 19.41 3.8
Mon	02.13	0.7	08.11	4.0	14.46	1.0 20.24 3.6
Tues	03.00	0.9	08.58	3.8	15.35	1.2 21.08 3.4
Wed	03.49	1.1	09.48	3.6	16.25	1.5 21.56 3.1

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Spean group moves to cash in on hydro power plans

A LOCHABER community council plans to set up a new company to handle potential earnings from a raft of micro hydropower schemes.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry believe the move could unlock a dividend from projects proposed for the area.

A letter to the community council from Richard Sidgwick, chairman of local residents association Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes Group, prompted the bid.

Mr Sidgwick said he felt his group, who currently receive community benefit from the nearby Caig hydro scheme, should be the sole beneficiary of any new schemes in Loch Arkaig.

Community council chairman John Fotheringham told *The Oban Times*: 'After a lively debate it was agreed that we would not object to the current status of the ABC Group in relation to the Caig hydro scheme, but we could not agree to a similar relationship for other developments.

'There is a proliferation of proposals for micro hydro schemes across our area - there is likely to be four schemes in

Loch Arkaig seeking permission in the next four or five months.

'We've taken the decision to set up a community company for the benefit of the whole area.

'To avoid any divisiveness we plan to speak to the ward manager and Voluntary Action Lochaber with a view to setting up the company to handle any benefit we may get in the future.'

The community council recently discussed a number of planning applications for small-scale power schemes, which will be decided imminently.

Approved

Developer Coneloch Renewables, along with SSE, has already had plans for a 90kW hydro plant at Upper Glenfintaig approved.

Highland Council encourage companies developing new schemes to contribute to a community benefit fund, which is given to local residents affected by the development.

Local ward manager Dot Ferguson will be at the next community council meeting on January 8 to discuss setting up the new company. Mr Fotheringham said ABC Group will be invited to attend.



Gaelic Singer of the Year Riona Whyte: a popular winner at the MG Alba 2012 Scots Trad Music Awards. 20/150trad06

Town rolls out red carpet for Trad Music Awards

FORT William rolled out the red carpet for the MG Alba 2012 Scots Trad Music Awards on Saturday night - and Lochaber was among the honours as Lochaline's Riona Whyte was announced as Gaelic Singer of the Year.

To loud cheers from family and friends from Mull, Morvern, Barra and Ardnamurchan, Riona took to the Nevis Centre stage to receive her award from Gaelic singing star Arthur Cormack.

An audience of around 600 attended the gala event, which was broadcast live on BBC Alba.

A delighted Riona told *The Oban Times* backstage: 'It is absolutely fabulous. My whole body was shaking when I was walking up that hall.' The talented artist recently released her

debut album 'Bunachas' (Roots) on Ardgour studio Watercolour's Stòras imprint.

Watercolour's Mary Ann Kennedy, who co-hosted the awards said: 'We're really delighted that Riona is getting the recognition she deserves.

'Her album Bunachas was a joy to work and play on, and we hope it will give many more folk the chance to hear a special voice.'

Isle of Skye 'electrad' band Niteworks - Chris Nicolson and Allan MacDonald from Braes and Breakish boys Ruairidh Graham and Innes Strachan - won the Up and Coming Artist of the Year award.

See our exclusive Trad Awards photonews special, page 15.

Roy Bridge village shop shutdown on the cards

ROY BRIDGE could be set to lose its village shop after more than 50 years of trading due to a downturn in business from both tourists and locals.

The store, the last grocery outlet for 27 miles heading east on the A86 to Laggan, first opened in 1956 and was bought over by Lorna and Ray Weir in 2007, who told *The Oban Times* this year has proved tougher than ever.

Mrs Weir said locals choosing to shop online with supermarkets such as Asda which offer home delivery was having a negative affect on the shop.

She said: 'There's a number of factors, but I think the Asda deliveries are one of the main ones.

'People are going to use shops like Asda, that's human nature, but there is a distinct possibility of closing the shop, which is

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

rather a shame. The business is obviously struggling at the moment, the winter is normally quiet anyway but this year is worse than normal.

'There was a downturn in tourists over the summer in the whole area, and it affects all local businesses, not just us.

'In the winter we need local support.

'It's not just a shop - it's a focal point and it's a place for people to meet.

'It would be a real shame if it closed, the village would lose part of its community.'

The Weirs put Roy Bridge Stores on sale last year but have not yet received any offers.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council chairman John Fotheringham said: 'The shop is clearly suffering from the residents using delivery vans from Asda and Tesco. It feels like the supermarkets are spreading their tentacles further and further.'

An Asda spokesperson said: 'The reason we extended our home delivery was because the local community petitioned for it. They felt the local shop wasn't offering them the best value and desperately wanted access to Asda.'

The supermarket started delivering to some Lochaber locations - including Roy Bridge - for a small charge in 2011, with vans travelling to the west Highlands from a store in Elgin.

Duror Stores, at the other end of Lochaber, closed in November 2011 due to dwindling trade.

Pledge to help path clearing volunteers

HIGHLAND Council has pledged to help local people clear snow and ice from local footpaths.

Volunteers who have pre-registered through their community council will be provided with snow shovels and snow pushers, gloves and high-visibility vests.

Health and safety advice will be given and the council will provide both public liability and personal injury insurance. Discussions will also take place on best locations for salt

piles for use on footpaths. TEC services chairman Graham Phillips said: 'Whilst the Council operates a fleet of over 40 footpath gritting tractors, we just don't have the resources to clear every path that is covered in snow and ice.

'Communities have let us know that, with our support, they would be keen to take on this task.'

Any community council interested should return the application form or contact their local TEC Services office.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up 75.5% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2004



Couple get go-ahead to build beach home despite local opposition

A SURREY couple have been given the go-ahead for a house next to Morar's 'Local Hero' beach - despite local opposition.

Highland Council's south planning committee approved Jane and Mike Pardoe's bid for the three-bedroom dwelling at Camusdarach sands on Tuesday.

The Pardoes were previously granted permission in 2006 on condition they improved access and turning at a public car park.

But landowner Angusina MacDonald-Lewis refused to sell the required land, leading the Pardoes to contest the key

clause. Under legal challenge, council officials agreed the wording was not sufficiently 'robust' and ruled it could not be imposed.

Ms MacDonald-Lewis told *The Oban Times* the decision disappointed her.

She said: 'I'm horrified. I am determined not to give up. If they get permission all the traffic is going to be coming through my croft.'

The application attracted 20 letters of opposition from local people. The Pardoes could not be contacted.

Quake shakes Lochaber

PARTS of Lochaber were shaken by an earthquake at 7.22pm on Tuesday night.

The tremor measured 1.6 on the Richter scale, according to the British Geological Survey.

Effects were felt in Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge with several residents running outside to check what the noise was. Achnacarry man Andrew Bootman was one of those who felt the quake. He told *The Oban Times*: 'It was like thunder - there were a couple of loud rumbles. There was no damage as such.'

Earth tremors are fairly frequent in Lochaber, which lies at the southern end of the Great Glen fault. The quake occurred at a depth of 7kms.

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John McLellan & Co Funeral Directors would like to take this opportunity to wish all the families they have helped through difficult times a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Parents' fury at Kinlochleven High staffing levels following head teacher's departure

FURIOUS Kinlochleven High mums and dads are accusing Highland Council of 'abandoning' the school following the departure of head teacher John McGilp on secondment to Thurso High in October.

The parent council claims promised additional staffing support to ensure standards don't drop and pupils lose no teaching time has not materialised.

They are particularly incensed that acting head teacher Gordon Milne is still expected to teach chemistry classes and tute around for staff to cover vacancies - including his own position.

Chairman Stewart Borland told

The Oban Times: 'We have had quite a time of it. We are by the way Mr Gilp's departure was handled - now we need staff to ensure the children get their lessons. They are calling in anybody they can to cover classes.

'The poor ones who are working towards exams - how can you do this to them? This could be having an impact on the rest of their lives and careers.'

'At an emergency meeting we were promised admin support and that quality assurance guys would be in to help - but that has just not happened.'

Parent Moira Hartley added: 'It really feels like the staff are just being left to their own devices. While in the short term, long hours and lots of extra effort might get the school and teaching time by, in the longer term the situation is untenable.

'The more drafted in 'temps' we end up with - just covering classes rather than teaching classes - the more chance there is of this situation having a negative impact on the children's futures. Kinlochleven needs qualified teachers and administration support - now.'

Local councillor Andrew Baxter told *The Oban Times*: 'I am trying to get answers to the questions the parent council have asked, and that

moments

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Trial postponed after witnesses fail to appear

THE TRIAL of a Kinlochleven man accused of assaulting a man during an incident in the village has been postponed after witnesses failed to appear. Philip McDonagh, aged 37, had been due to stand trial for the alleged attacks, which occurred at a house on Foyers Road on August 31. Fiscal Alison Wylie said a number of Crown witnesses, including one of the victims had not shown up at Fort William Sheriff Court for the trial last Wednesday. She added: 'I will certainly be making enquires to ascertain the reasons for their non-attendance.'

Music school students take to club stage

STUDENTS at Plockton Music School - the Centre For Excellence In Traditional Scottish Music - will be guest artists at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's first gathering of the New Year. Around 10 young musicians, including fiddlers and button-box players, will make the trip for the January 10 gig at the Royal Hotel in Portree, music school administrator Rhona Sharp said.



Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall and Camanachd Association shinty development officer Russell Jones with the Upper Achintore pupils after the presentation. 20_150schools01

All smiles as Upper Achintore pupils complete course

IT WAS all smiles at Upper Achintore Primary School last Thursday as around 90 P3-P7 pupils celebrated completing a six-week shinty training, food hygiene and healthy eating course. Fort William Shinty Club chairman Richard Gall and Camanachd Association shinty development officer Russell Jones were on hand to present the children with certificates marking their achievement. Mr Gall told the pupils: 'A lot of our players have come through here over

the years I'm sure, and one I know of is Adam Robertson. 'I would be delighted if any of you came along to our under-14 shinty training with Victor Smith. **Great sport** 'One of our main jobs is to try to get a coach into schools regularly. Shinty is a great sport and we would love to see you taking it up. I'm sure you would enjoy it.' Last month the Camanachd Association announced a three-year partnership with

the Food Standards Agency to deliver the hygiene, healthy eating and activity in primary schools (HHEAPS) programme to thousands of primary pupils across Scotland. The first six-week block covered Ross-shire, Inverness, Strathpey, Badenoch, Lochaber, Skye, Mid Argyll, Dunoon, Edinburgh and Aberdeen. Other Lochaber schools involved included Caol and Lochyside RC. Mr Jones said: 'The HHEAPS initiative

was extremely successful when piloted earlier this year and we see this as an exciting opportunity to introduce a large number of youngsters to shinty and an important lifestyle message around healthy eating and exercise. **Coaches** Top club coaches involved include Stuart Macintosh, Glenurquhart; Willie Cowie, Skye; Michael Clark, Kingussie; Glen Tonkin, Newtonmore, and John-Al MacAulay, OJ Sports.

Chamber on target for 100 members

FORT William Chamber of Commerce (FWCC) is on track to achieve its target of having 100 members by Christmas. The group took its membership to 99 when it welcomed two new businesses, John and Heather Vernon of Morvich Guest House and James Couits of Fishing Scotland, at its latest meeting. FWCC chairman Don Hind congratulated Fishing Scotland for being the first fishing business to achieve a five-star award from VisitScotland. The networking event in Ben Nevis Distillery also heard a presentation from Scott Donald of KD Partnership, who gave the 30-plus members a fascinating insight into their architectural projects from small croft house conversions to large-scale

designs for businesses such as BSW at Corpach. Mr Donald shared his thoughts on procurement procedures and reflected on how the current system can see perfectly competent local businesses lose out to competition from outwith the area - businesses which in turn do not re-invest in Lochaber. **Hospitality** Bringing the meeting to a close, Don Hind thanked Colin Ross and his team for their hospitality and reminded members of the opportunity to have a tour of the Ben Nevis Distillery. The December meeting of the chamber will take the form of a Christmas lunch in The Moorings Hotel at Banavie on Thursday December 20.

Kishorn Port seals wave energy deal

KISHORN Port Ltd in Wester Ross has made a breakthrough in its bid to become a major centre of operations for the growing offshore renewables sector. The company has announced a lease with Trident Energy (TE), an independent developer of attachable wave energy power devices for oil-rigs and wind turbines. From spring 2013, TE will test its PowerPod technology at sea and gather operating data to inform commercial designs and performance modelling. The power plants work by harnessing wave action to supply off-grid renewable electricity, reducing reliance on offshore diesel generation. During the Kishorn tests, the PowerPod prototype will be attached to the side of a deep-water jetty. Sea conditions at Kishorn, a former oil-rig fabrication yard, are less extreme than the open ocean. But waves are

sufficiently energetic for test purposes, meaning costs and risks associated with offshore deployments are lower. TE will test different control systems during the trial period, subject to marine licence approval. The lease with Kishorn Port is for an initial period of one year. Trident Energy chief operating officer Jonathan Armstrong said: 'Looking for a jetty on which to test our co-located wave technology posed two challenges. 'First, jetties are largely in sheltered locations. 'Second, most structurally sound jetties have other on-going operations. 'Kishorn represents a great solution - the site is a legacy from oil and gas construction in the 1970s and offers a substantial,



Ali Ferguson: signed deal. 20_50kishorn01

them as we install and test our PowerPod technology.' Kishorn Port Ltd director Alasdair Ferguson said Kishorn - already in the National Renewables Infrastructure Plan for Scotland - was 'ideally suited' for such projects. He added: 'We see this agreement between KPL and Trident Energy as only the beginning. Potential projects and developments on site for the renewable energy sector for offshore wind, wave and tidal will be able to utilise the exceptionally deep water, berths, dry dock, quarry and expansive laydown land which Kishorn Port has to offer.' Highlands and Islands Enterprise chief executive Alex Paterson said: 'This leasing agreement with Trident Energy is a real vote of confidence in the port's capabilities, the local skills and workforce and its prime location as a base for servicing the renewables market.'

Lochaber woman denies £36,000 benefit fraud

A LOCHABER woman has denied fraudulently claiming more than £36,000 in benefits over six years. Anne Mustarde, of Tigh Linn, Kinlochell, pled not guilty to pretending to have no savings to claim income support from the Department of Work and Pensions between July 2004 and August 2010. The 49-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 25, with a further hearing set for January 13.

Rotary Club carol singers hit the high notes

CARE home and supported housing residents across Lochaber will get a special Christmas treat next Wednesday - from Rotary Club of Lochaber carol singers. The group, led by president Sheana Fraser, will give its opening performance at Victoria Court, Fort William, in late morning before singing at Mosspark at Caol, Invernevis House in Fort William and Abbeyfield in Ballachulish. The singers will end its tour with carols at the Belford Hospital in the evening.

Broadford Primary School Christmas concert

BROADFORD Primary School will entertain the local community with a medley of song, music and rhyme at its Christmas concert in Broadford Village hall tonight (Thursday). The evening gets underway at 6.45pm.

Cash help for Highland fishing communities

HIGHLAND fishing communities are being encouraged to apply for assistance from the European Fisheries Fund. The Highland Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG), which administers the fund locally, has £549,392 available. Communities where fishing is in decline can receive cash grants for schemes designed to help local people, groups and businesses develop new enterprises. Any expressions of interest must be submitted by January 31 2013. For more information contact Highland Council on 01463 702250, visit the council website or email planning@highland.gov.uk.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig in national call for Gaelic teachers

BORD na Gàidhlig is making a national call for Gaelic teachers through a 12-day advertising campaign. The move represents a major step-up in efforts to meet ambitious targets laid down in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2017. A BnaG spokesperson told The Oban Times: 'We know we have a huge job before us to increase the number of teachers in Scottish Gaelic medium education if we are to meet those targets.' Mary MacMillan, head of education and learning at BnaG, said: 'Scotland aims to double the number of children going through Gaelic-medium education by 2017 and this is only achievable by also increasing the number of Gaelic teachers. Gaelic medium primary schools at Glasgow and Inverness are close to full capacity. Others are planned at Bonnington in Edinburgh, Fort William and Portree.'

Isle of Skye gardener cream of the crop

AN ISLE of Skye gardener has been voted cream of the crop at a prestigious London awards ceremony. David MacLean, head gardener at Dunvegan Castle and Gardens, won the 'Beyond the Call of Duty' accolade at Hudson's Heritage Awards at Goldsmith's Hall in London. Mr MacLean received his award from TV chef Lloyd Grossman and TV broadcaster and writer Lucinda Lambton. The annual event recognises the UK's top heritage attractions and their contribution to the UK tourism industry across 11 categories. Mr MacLean said: 'I am very

honoured to receive this award for our garden on the Isle of Skye. It was exciting and a bit overwhelming. I would like to thank Hugh MacLeod, Janet Clarke, my great team at Dunvegan and the many years of dedication from my wife Rosemary.' Estate director Hugh MacLeod said: 'Janet Clarke, myself and the entire team at Dunvegan Castle and Gardens are thrilled that David's impressive career in horticulture spanning 53 years has been recognised in this way. David MacLean is a profoundly modest man of exceptional ability and this award is thoroughly deserved.'



David MacLean, left, receives his award from Lloyd Grossman and Lucinda Lambton.

MP welcomes Autumn Statement measures

ROSS, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy has welcomed the Chancellor George Osborne's Autumn Statement - particularly the rise in the personal tax allowance and the cancellation of the fuel duty increase. Mr Kennedy said: 'The cancellation of the fuel duty increase will be extremely welcome news for the hundreds

of people who wrote to me on this issue. 'When you live in a rural community a car is a necessity, not a luxury and when you travel tens if not hundreds of miles a week, a 3p rise quickly adds up.' Mr Kennedy also said raising the personal allowance to £9,440 means two million Scots will receive a tax cut in April.

Businesses on awards shortlist

TWO SKYE and Lochalsh businesses have been shortlisted for the Scottish 2012 Countryside Alliance Awards. The Skye Quilt Studio in Glendale on Skye is a finalist in the 'start-up' category while the Glenelg-based Skye Ferry Community Interest Company

has been nominated for the 'enterprise' prize. All finalists are invited to Holyrood on February 5 2013 to celebrate their success, speak to MSPs about rural business and find out who will take the title in each category, propelling them into the UK and Ireland finals.

Showstoppers plan special 20th anniversary return

A FORT William musical group is planning to be back with a bang for next year's festive season after calling off their popular annual panto this year - but first they have to find a new musical director. And if someone comes forward, Christmas 2013 promises to be extra special for Lochaber Showstoppers as it celebrates its 20th anniversary. The group cancelled this year's Christmas panto and the spring show planned for 2013 after musical director Susan Munro stepped down. Efforts were made to find someone to take up the role, but without success. Clare Brewer, who wrote and directed last year's performance

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk 'A Christmas Carol', said Ms Munro needed a rest from the heavy workload. She told The Oban Times: 'Susan needed a bit of a break, doing two shows back to back every year is almost a full time job. She might come back in the future though. 'We ideally need someone with a range of skills and the confidence to stand up in front of a group of people, but musical skills are definitely needed.' Ms Brewer said cancelling the panto was 'a shame', but the lack of a director left the group with little option. 'People are definitely going to miss seeing the show,' she said.

'The performers and everyone involved are disappointed as well. 'The younger members of the group were pretty devastated - it's their chance to get up on the stage and shine. 'But having a bit of a break is quite a good thing. I think because of our size and location we maybe have a bit of a monopoly, so it gives others a chance and it means we'll get to go and see some other shows, which we don't normally get to do.' She added: 'It's nice to be missed but hopefully we'll be back next year. We're hoping our next show will be our Christmas show and it would be nice to put on a real whizz-banger for our 20th year.'

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Health secretary to visit Ardnamurchan

THE SCOTTISH Government's health secretary is to visit Ardnamurchan on January 28 to discuss the ongoing out-of-hours 999 cover in the area. Alex Neil MSP will meet with representatives from the three local community councils during his visit as well as NHS Highland officials. The visit was originally scheduled for September but was postponed after Nicola Sturgeon was moved from health to become infrastructure secretary.

Community carol service

KILMALLIE Community Centre will host a community carol service on Sunday December 16. The event, traditionally a big hit with locals, starts at 6.30pm. Everyone welcome.

Plockton High School pupil off to Strasbourg

PLOCKTON High School sixth year pupil Catriona Galloway has been selected to take part in the Euroscola Project. Catriona will travel next month with 25 students from all over Scotland to Strasbourg. There the Scots will work with other students of the same age from EU countries in a five-day programme of research, planning and discussion, culminating in a debate in the European Parliament.



Jimmy Smith gets into the festive spirit with Maisie Dennison and Margaret Simpson at Saturday's Christmas Fair. 20_150kilmallie01

Big-hearted locals back Kilmallie Hall Christmas fair

BIG-HEARTED locals helped Kilmallie Community Centre Limited make £1,000 for hall funds at a Christmas Fair at the popular venue on Saturday. Chairman Jimmy Smith said on Monday: 'I'd like to thank everybody for coming along. We have spent over £200,000 on the hall and there's more to do such as doing up the toilets. We have no paid staff, just volunteers, and we depend on the local community's support. We have so many facilities here - I think we are the only hall in the Highland Council area that ticks all the boxes. The only thing is that a lot of local people don't know what we have here.'

Hundreds flock to festival North Uist in a spin with new mill plan

THE FOURTH Christmas Leven Festival proved to be another success in Kinlochleven on Saturday as hundreds flocked to the Ice Factor for a day of festive fun. Attractions included the Caingorm Reindeer team, sales stalls and Santa in his North Pole-like ice cave. Speaking to *The Oban Times* on Monday, organisers Kay McDuff reported a profit of £509.29 for the community enterprise. She said: 'It was a brilliant day. We are now thinking of doing a Summer Leven Festival as well.'

She added: 'We could not raise the money without the boxing club, which give us a room for our wee charity shop.' Ms McDuff also thanked the Ice Factor, Kinlochleven Community Trust and the local Co-op for their support.



Clockwise from left: Nikki Glayrose, Kay McDuff, Gina Bruce-Low and Oban mum Emily Lawn with 15-month old daughter Amanda join Santa in his chilly ice cave 20_150leven01

Work starts on project to revive traditional craft industry

NORTH Uist is going 'back to the future' by reviving a traditional craft industry to create much-needed employment. The island's last spinning mill at Lochport ran for just a decade from the 1950s, but now community enterprise Uist Wool is on track to open a new mill at Scotvein on Grimsay. South Uist contractor JJ Macdonald and Sons started work at the site this week, heralding the building's completion by spring next year. The ambitious undertaking has been four years in the planning following the establishment of the Uist wool development group in 2008. Its successor Uist Wool took over last year and has secured £250,000 European Social Fund cash over 30 months for training and other activities. Leader Innes Gall also gave £90,000 towards the £150,000 building costs. The latest 10-week Uist Wool CALANAS training course, Intermediate Wool, covers all stages of modern-day small-scale woolwork production. The programme features practical work, theory and discussion sessions, craft visits and field trips. Trainees visited Lewis and Harris to see a working spinning mill and met weavers and organisations involved in the current Harris Tweed revival. The training ensures local people will take up long-term work placements at the new mill as the first machine-spun production on the Uists for almost 50 years gets underway. 'Heritage machinery' currently being reconditioned in Yorkshire includes a 1950s spinning machine and a carding machine of even older vintage. A new spinner/plyer is also being delivered from Belfast Mini Mills in Prince Edward Island, Canada. Project co-ordinator Dana MacPhee told *The Oban Times*: 'We are aiming for four full time equivalent jobs - which may not sound very much but in a small community like ours that is quite significant. We hope the mill will operate throughout the year. Evidence from the feasibility study suggests there will be a demand. Spinning, weaving and knitting have become quite trendy. But it's early days.' CALANAS is supported in part by the European Social Fund and Awards for All. Uist Wool is planning a special open day to mark the mill's opening.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Parents' relief as teachers recruited

Broadford Primary School crisis averted as Gaelic teaching post is covered

A POTENTIAL teaching crisis in the Gaelic medium unit at Broadford Primary School has been averted after two teachers were recruited on a jobshare basis to cover for maternity leave. The new staff, one from Skye and the other from Lewis, will bring their language skills to the classroom when pupils return after the New Year holidays. Fears had been expressed that tuition in Gaelic for 39 pupils would suffer after no applicants for the temporary post came forward. But now P1-P3 Gaelic medium pupils will continue to be taught through the language in all subjects. A second Gaelic teacher remains in post teaching P4-7 children. One parent with a child in the junior class, who asked not to be named, told *The Oban Times*: 'This has come as a bit of a relief to be honest. At least now we are not going to be worrying about who is going to be teaching the children. 'But it's been hard recruiting staff and is becoming more difficult. People with permanent contracts are not going to be giving those up to cover maternity leave.'

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Chairman of the council's adult and children's services committee Councillor Alasdair Christie said: 'Following the closing date for the maternity cover, the council then actively worked with the head teacher to seek a solution to the fact that no applications had been received. We have been working together for some time to remedy the situation. All vacancies are advertised widely and in situations such as Gaelic medium where we appreciate that there is a shortage of personnel, we work closely with schools and potential candidates to make these posts as attractive as possible.' Dave Thompson, MSP for Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch, contacted Highland Council after being alerted to the situation by a constituent at his recent surgery in Broadford. Praising the efforts of Broadford head teacher Gordon Wyness, he said: 'It is thanks to him that the situation has been remedied. 'The uncertainty must have been upsetting for both the children and their parents. I am saddened that there were no applicants for the position and will be contacting Highland Council to see what can be done to resolve this in the future.' 'I look forward to working together with Highland Council to ensure that the uncertainties that occurred here do not happen again.' But Councillor Christie hit back: 'Highland Council staff have been working on this well before Dave Thompson MSP got involved.' Local councillor and Comunn na Gàidhlig chairman Hamish Fraser told *The Oban Times*: 'As far as I am aware there was not a major issue and if there was it has been covered.'

Cash boost for groups

LOCHABER councillors recently made six cash awards from their discretionary budget: Glengarry Community Council - £400 towards senior citizens Christmas party; Wild Lochaber (sub-group of OCUK) - contribution to Wild Lochaber Festival - May 18 to 25 - £5,000 agreed in principle; Lochaber Disability Access Panel - contribution to running costs - £2,500; Nether Lochaber Old Folks Association - contribution to Christmas lunch and summer outing - £500; Plantation Community Association - contribution to Christmas meal for elderly residents and outing to panto for children - £500 and Caol Regeneration Company - contribution to Lochaber Lunch Club Christmas Party - £300.

Music school's concert high notes

A ROY Bridge church will be alive with Christmas carols and festive music for Lochaber Music School's annual concert on Sunday. Stars of the show will be folk group Sgoil Chiuil Loch Abar - Hannah MacRae, Helena Rose, Kirstin McAdam, Caitrin Edmond, Francesca Rose and Ruari Edmond - who won gold at this year's Mòd in Dunoon. The music school will perform seasonal orchestral, ensemble and solo pieces and will preview traditional music specially recorded for BBC Alba's Christmas Eve service. Choristers will sing new music specially written for the concert and the string orchestra and handbell ringers will accompany the audience carols. Refreshments The concert starts at 3pm in St Margaret's and will be followed with home-baked seasonal refreshments and a fundraising raffle in Roy Bridge Village Hall at 4.30pm.

Man must get mental health treatment

A TORLUNDY man who falsely told police he had killed a woman in Corpach has been ordered to undergo mental health treatment. Adrian Hammond Smith, of 3 North Steadings, called 999 from his house on September 21 and made the claim, sending police on a two-hour hunt to find the woman. She was traced safe and well and unaware of Smith's claim. Six days later Smith knocked on his neighbour's door while naked and told the man who answered he was a sex offender and needed to confess. On October 10 police were called to the A82 between Torlundy and Nevis Range and found the 46-year-old standing in the northbound carriageway. He told the officers he was going to jump in front of a passing lorry. Appearing at Fort William Sheriff Court from custody, Smith, who had no previous criminal convictions, pled guilty to all three charges.

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Community cinema gains funding for new digital projectors

OBAN'S community-owned cinema is set to enter the digital age after securing all the funding it requires to buy new projectors.

As revealed in last week's *Oban Times*, the Phoenix Cinema was granted nearly £50,000 by Creative Scotland to go towards buying two digital

projectors and the renovation of the second, smaller screen.

Orders for the projectors will be placed as soon as possible, with a view to having them in operation early next year. Fundraising will continue to help renovate the second, screen. The total project is anticipated to cost just under £100,000.

Digital projectors are deemed essential to the long-term viability of the cinema, with most studios no longer distributing movies via old-fashioned film reels.

Manager of the cinema, Fee Shaw, is excited for the future, but said work was still required. She said: 'We need to put in so

much money ourselves to show the project is sustainable so we need to put in £20,000 from our own money.'

'The more money we get in though, the better the renovations can be.'

'For example, we can put in more expensive seats to the second screen.'

'But we have the money we need for the projectors now. Normally, once we say yes it takes six weeks to order and get the projectors in place and we're meeting this week to see if we can get the ball rolling. It may take a bit longer though due to the Christmas period.'

Having a second screen means

the cinema can show more films on the day of release, with studios insisting a film is shown for a full week if the cinema takes it at the earliest opportunity.

Other organisations have contributed towards the cost of the refurbishment, including Crerar Hotel Trust and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Fundraising for the ongoing refurbishment will continue next month when the Oban Phoenix Cinema Committee holds its post-Christmas Bring and Buy sale at the Corran Halls. An opportunity to de-clutter or sell on unwanted Christmas presents, it will take place on January 19.

MSP's office expense report was misleading

LAST week's report on expenses claimed by Argyll and Bute based MSPs erroneously stated Michael Russell's total claim included claims for the party's office in Oban.

Mr Russell did claim £1,564.27 in office cost provision for furnishings and decorations. This included £527.60 for carpets, £187 for blinds, £480 for internal office decoration and £234 for external office decoration.

However, none of the above related directly to the Oban office.

We apologise for the error.

Photographers enjoy meeting

OBAN Camera Club members enjoyed one of the most entertaining and enjoyable evenings last Monday in the company of guest speaker Neil Scott from Edinburgh.

Neil, a retired pharmacology lecturer, is a self taught amateur photographer. From simple experiments he progressed to achieve distinction at home and abroad with his unique style of graphic photography.

His Oban presentation included many of his international award winning images and he divulged what was in his mind's eye when he took the photos. Humour featured largely in his talk. The enthusiastic applause endorsed the delight of the audience. New members are always welcome on Monday nights at 7.30pm in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

Changes to child benefits due

CHANGES to child benefits for people who earn over £50,000 per year will come into play in the next month.

High-earning child benefit recipients in Argyll have until January 7 to decide whether to stop receiving the benefit or to pay a charge on it.

For those with income of more than £60,000, the tax charge is 100 per cent of the amount of child benefit. If income is between £50,000 and £60,000, the charge is gradually increased to 100 per cent of the child benefit.

Holiday win

AN OBAN couple are off to Budapest after winning the top prize in Oban Sailing Club's dinner dance raffle.

Jim and Joan Tolmie won two nights in the luxury Park Suite in the Four Seasons Gresham Palace Budapest Hotel. The prize was donated by Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts and would retail at just under £3,000.

Joan said: 'We're over the moon at winning this fantastic prize and can't wait to go. However, we will probably leave our trip until the springtime when the weather is warmer in Budapest.'

'We will certainly enjoy our stay at what looks like a most wonderful hotel.'

More cuts hit school cleaning

Pupil health could be under threat by 20 per cent cut say staff

CLEANING hours at Argyll and Bute schools are to be cut by 20 per cent, prompting warnings from staff that pupil health could be affected as a result.

The local authority has notified cleaning, catering and janitorial staff of the intended changes, with meetings to be held across the county next month to discuss with employees how the changes will affect them.

£42million over seven years

It is understood the proposals are part of a long-term plan to cut millions of pounds from the education budget over the next five years, with the council looking to reduce its overall spend by £42million over the next seven years.

It is thought school support staff, vehicle costs and extra-curricular activities likely to suffer the brunt of the education cuts, with the authority keen to maintain teacher numbers.

Plans to reduce cleaning hours

could come into effect ahead of the new financial year. They come after several voluntary redundancies last year and the introduction of measures only clean schools during term time.

A staff member who contacted *The Oban Times* in the wake of the latest proposal said taking such decisions would mean cleaners would not be able to take as much care when cleaning.

He said: 'People don't realise cleaning in schools has been cut and cut and cut. Now they're planning on cutting again. The last thing our schools need is an outbreak of norovirus.'

'Now they're taking about a 20 per cent cut of the hours we've already had cut.'

'We're supposed to have a meeting at the Corran Halls in Oban on January 18. I'll be telling them it's a cut too far.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'Like all local

authorities, we are faced with making savings and reducing costs across all service areas.'

'The proposed changes to the catering, cleaning and janitorial service have been reviewed in close and extensive consultation with staff and trade unions, as well as benchmarking with other Scottish councils.'

'The process for making decisions about changes to services is based on an extensive range of factors and the impact on valued council employees is always taken into consideration. Throughout this process, every effort has been made to mitigate the impact on staff as far as possible.'

With regards possible further cuts to education, the spokeswoman said: 'Currently all areas of the council budget, including education, are under review. No detail is available at this stage prior to the council budget meeting in February.'



Santa bought presents and smiles to faces during his visit to the Dad's Group at Atlantis Leisure on Monday. 16_150d4ssanta1

Santa drops in at leisure centre with special presents

SANTA dropped in on the Dad's Group which meets at Atlantis Leisure on Monday - with special presents for the children attending.

Now on a break for the Christmas holidays, the group normally meets from 9.30am-

11am every Monday. It gives dads a chance to take part in any activity such as swimming, squash or the gym - or even just have a coffee in the café - while their kids are looked after in the crèche.

Each session costs £2.50 and

is open to any dad or granddad with a pre-school age child.

Meeting back on January 14, the group is a partnership between several Argyll and Bute Council departments and Atlantis Leisure. It is funded by grants from the Substance

Misuse Group, Ladbroke's, Public Health Network and West Highland Housing Association.

For further information, contact Julie MacQueen at Health Visitors on 01631 570565 or email maureen.evans@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

More doubts over Isle of Tiree off-shore wind turbine plan

FRESH doubt has been cast over the future of the proposed Argyll Array after energy giant, ScottishPower Renewables (SPR), delayed the project for a further year.

In March, *The Oban Times* revealed the company owned by Spanish company Iberdrola was to delay submitting a planning application to establish an 180-300 turbine farm off the coast of Tiree by 18 months, until late 2014, over concerns about protected species in the waters.

At the time, it rejected speculation financial and political pressures played a part in the decision, but the latest delay comes shortly after owner Iberdrola had its credit rating downgraded.

At the soonest, an application now won't be submitted until at least 2015.

SPR insisted this week the latest delay was purely down to a need to find technical solutions for the site's challenges, but campaign group No Tiree Array

say it raises questions over the company's ability and willing to deliver the project.

Monitoring technology

On the delay, a spokesman for SPR told *The Oban Times*: 'During this period the company, acting as a responsible developer, will work alongside other agencies to study the results of initial detailed environmental studies of the project area.'

'The pause will also enable the company to monitor the industry's progress in relation to improvements in turbine, foundation and vessel technology with a view to developing a technical solution that is fit for purpose in dealing with the physical characteristics of this site.'

'This project is still very much part of our project pipeline.'

Tiree's Robert Trythall, who has co-ordinated the No Tiree Array campaign, said: 'When the Array was adopted in 2010 it was the 'jewel in the crown' of the Scottish Government's

offshore windfarm plans.

'Now it would appear technical difficulties and the financing of the project are putting it in jeopardy.'

He said if the wind farm is built, it won't be fully operational until 2023 at the earliest.

'That means the so-called 'Argyll Array' is irrelevant and redundant to the Scottish Government's 2020 renewables target,' he added.

Argyll and Bute SNP MSP Michael Russell said SPR's wish to look at new technical solutions was 'understandable'.

On the delay, he added: 'I don't think it is particularly problematic in terms of their plans or national targets.'

'There will obviously be a comprehensive public decision making process and I am sure all those with views will want to be heard at that stage, and will of course be fully entitled to make representations based on fact and planning law. I will be, as ever, listening to both sides.'

BID4Oban manager named

FORMER hotelier, Nicolas Jones, has been appointed as the man to manage BID4Oban's drive to revive the town.

Nic, a former head teacher in the private sector, first moved to Oban in 2004 to take over the Barriemore Hotel and has retained an interest in the town's trading environment despite selling the business in 2010. He now lives on Lisimore with his wife, Sarah.

The appointment of Nic to the part-time BID manager role has been welcomed by the group's chairman, John Forteith. He said: 'We're delighted to be welcoming Nic to join our team of directors in the work to make the BID's vision a reality. Nic comes to us with a wealth of experience and skills which we believe will serve the business community here in Oban well.'

Nic said: 'I realise that BID4 Oban is a major opportunity for the entire town. I am, therefore, greatly looking forward to starting in my position as manager with its many and varied roles.'

BID4Oban hope to appoint an events manager this month.

Seil teenager put on sex register

A YOUNG man from the Isle of Seil is to be placed on the sex offenders register and supervised for two years after sending sexually explicit material to a schoolgirl.

Ian Adam, 19, whose address is given on court papers as Tigh na Sith, Isle of Seil previously admitted the offences and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday for sentencing.

The court heard the girl, who was 15 at the time, had been so upset by what she was receiving she confided in a teacher at her school, who contacted police.

Defending, Heather Wilson said Adam was particularly 'immature'.

She added: 'He is very sorry for upsetting the young girl.'

Multi-million pound pier at Fishnish gets underway

WORK on building a new multi million pound pier on Mull is set to start before Christmas.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) is to invest £3 million in the new pier, to be built at Fishnish, which will help transport greater quantities of timber off the island while cutting costs.

The project will also save at least 800,000 lorry miles each year. Use of the pier will be open to other timber suppliers, including island-based North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWCW).

Colin Morrison, chairman of the NWMWCW, said: 'Over the coming years we will transport many tens of thousands of tonnes of timber from the north west of Mull and the pier should

help our business and others move timber more economically as well as enabling significant savings in road miles.'

Moray Finch, general manager of the Mull and Iona Community Trust, added: 'The FCS pier will be a massive boost to the economy of Mull, not just through the jobs involved in construction but also through the increased sustainability of forestry and any other operations which might make use of the pier in years to come.'

The pier should be operational by late summer next year. Mull based TSL Contractors will carry out most of the work. It is expected around 50,000 tonnes of timber will be transported from the pier annually.

Wullie succeeds single-handed

HE MAY have broken his hand half way through his 100 fight challenge, but Oban black belt Wullie Rodger finished his Kumite challenge expertly on Saturday.

At 41, Wullie decided to end his competitive martial arts career with the 100 fight challenge at Oban Martial Arts Centre, facing a new opponent every minute.

He has raised more than £1,200 for Help for Heroes in the process. Talking of the break, he said: 'I felt it go, I must have hit an awkward point like an elbow or a hip. I just strapped it and carried on.'

You can still sponsor Wullie online at bmy-charity.com/100kumite.



Oban black belt Wullie Rodger, left, on Saturday. Picture - Kevin McClynn

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Mull fishermen claim fish farmers have changed plans

FISHERMEN on the Isle of Mull are furious this week after discovering agreements made with a salmon company have not been delivered.

Those who fish the waters surrounding the proposed fish farm site off Gometra were shocked to discover that plans agreed with The Scottish Salmon Company (SSC) were not what was submitted to Argyll and Bute Council for planning permission.

One fisherman, who did not wish to be named, said there was a 'big difference' between what was agreed with the company and what they are now faced with.

Such was the outcry, SSC staff travelled to Mull for a meeting to resolve a 'number of problems'. Fishermen are also understood to be unhappy at the appeal the company has lodged to overturn the rejection of their planning application for a fish farm in Loch Scridain.

Nick Turnbull, secretary of the Mull Aquaculture and Fisheries Association (MAFA) said they had discussed with SSC how to 'set up better communication between the salmon companies and the community at large'.

He added: 'Our association had a meeting with representatives of SSC to discuss issues surrounding the Gometra site and general discussion on other proposed sites within Mull.'

'There is a piece of miscommunication regarding the exact siting of the salmon farm at Gometra. There are great hopes that this will be resolved in the near future and there is a willingness for this to happen from all sides.'

But there are fears from those in the fishing industry that SSC now 'hold all the cards' as they already have permission for this site.

One fisherman added: 'We are relying on their willingness to resolve this problem - if they decide not to budge we've had it.'

A statement issued by SSC and agreed with MAFA says the two organisations 'look forward to holding further joint discussions'.

New Oban road surface comes under fire before hot tar is dry

A ROADS authority has been forced to defend the quality of resurfacing work in Oban town centre after criticism from the town's community council and a councillor.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre claims he has been advised by an engineer that the work is not up to standard.

And a damning letter to Transport Scotland and Transerv

from Oban Community Council secretary Duncan Martin brands the work 'unacceptably poor'.

Scotland Transerv has conceded the road surface was not the most aesthetically pleasing but insisted the materials used would potentially make the road surface twice as durable.

In its letter, Oban Community Council questions why the

work was not carried out from the Bealach an Rìgh, through the whole of George Street and claims the work is of a poorer standard, compared with other recently resurfaced sections of road.

The community council letter says: 'We were concerned to hear that there was as yet no definite date for the work to be completed on the approach

to Oban by resurfacing from Pennyfuir Cemetery to Stafford Street including the Bealach an Rìgh, Dunollie Road and the north part of George Street - sections of road which we would consider to be in even poorer condition than the sections now being resurfaced.'

The letter continues: 'We would also like to comment that the standard of the new road

surface, particularly southbound on George Street, is unacceptably poor.'

The community council also states the reduced programme of works has done nothing to improve street lighting, pavements and the overgrown scrub on the Bealach an Rìgh.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv explained the road surface looks different 'because

the materials used were unusual but recent studies

show low texture surfaces are advantageous in low speed areas as more of the tyre is in contact with the road, so it improves skid resistance.'

He said resurfacing using the previous type of material would have given the surface a life expectancy of eight to 12 years. Hot rolled asphalt should last 20 years.

'The surface may look

Council encourages groups to claim grants

COMMUNITY groups throughout Argyll are being urged to apply for grants to bolster their funds for next year.

Argyll and Bute Council is currently accepting applications to its Third Sector Grants scheme, which is aimed at supporting communities and vulnerable people.

Last year, a total of 130 community groups and organisations across Argyll and Bute benefited from £140,000 available from the programme.

The £35,000 funding made available to Oban, Lorn and the Isles supported more than 30 groups and organisations including Oban Friendship Club, Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled Group and Isle of Mull Mòd Club.

Elizabeth Little, an Oban Friendship Club volunteer, said: 'Our committee would like to express our very sincere thanks to the council for the grant towards the cost of running our new Oban Friendship Club, which is dependent on an enthusiastic band of volunteer helpers and drivers.'

'Our members kindly help with the costs by weekly donations but we are dependent on grant funding for the rest of our budget.'

'It is encouraging that our local council has recognised our efforts in this generous way. The application process was very straightforward from our point of view and we would encourage other groups to apply.'

Applications forms are available from local area community learning offices or can be accessed using the link www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/council-and-government/third-sector-grants.

The closing date to return completed application forms for a decision at the April area committee meeting is Friday February 1 2013.



Fred Morrison, centre, and guitarist Matheu Watson helped select musicians for Oban High School's new music programme. 16_1509red01

Fred lends an ear at auditions

WORLD-renowned piper Fred Morrison lent his ear to help young musicians at Oban High School before entertaining a large audience at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Mr Morrison, whose family hails from South Uist, helped to choose pipers for the school's Celtic Charity Fund music programme at auditions last Wednesday afternoon.

And that evening he was joined by guitarist Matheu Watson for a Celtic concert that demonstrated his expertise on pipes and whistles.

The concert was the first time Fred had brought his unique style of playing to Oban, having only previously performed at competitions, such as the Argyllshire Gathering.



Fred Morrison and Matheu Watson played to a packed Argyllshire Gathering Halls. 16_1509red03

Former pupils use old school to train

Below and right: full-time and retained firefighters from Oban put the former Rockfield Primary School building to good use when they carried out breathing apparatus training. The crews split up into three teams and were given different instructions on where dummy casualties were placed before entering the building, which was filled with artificial smoke. Station commander Martin Hill explained the change of training venue was because the firefighters had become familiar with their training base at Oban Fire Station. However, he added a number of them were already familiar with the 'new' training base, as they had been to the school as pupils! 16_1509red01/02



Royal mail reviews parcel structure

ROYAL Mail is consulting on changing how it charges for parcels as it aims to reduce the 15 different weight bands that currently exist.

Plans are afoot to reduce the number of bands to seven from April 2013.

Royal Mail say the changes will make it easier for consumers to 'understand and improve choice', while introducing first time the option to send parcels between one kilo and 20kgs by second class, with the added option to receive a signature on delivery.

The publicly owned company also wants to introduce two broad parcel band categories, small parcels and medium parcels, bringing it in line with other postal operators in countries such as Germany, Italy and France.

Further proposals include changes to compensations arrangements, which would see compensation for loss of damage of items sent untracked reduced from £46 to £20.

Compensation limits for signed for items would increase by £4 to £50.

Lorn Lines

PHOENIX Cinema in Oban has issued a Bauble Appeal to help it decorate the huge Christmas tree that stands in its lobby.

Oban Phoenix Cinema was gifted the tree by West Coast Tool and Plant Hire after being unable to find funds to buy one.

Fee Shaw, cinema manager, said: 'I asked the guys if they had any small ones that no-one wanted but they said they would give us as big a tree as could fit in our roof space.'

'Now we have a huge tree and no decorations. We are asking people to donate a bauble to help decorate the tree - it might look a bit odd when it is finished but at least it will be unique.'

Anyone who wishes to donate a bauble should hand it in to Oban Phoenix Cinema at 140 George Street.

AN OBAN store is looking for a worthwhile local charity to support throughout next year as part of its community campaign.

The Original Factory Shop has been running its Make a Difference campaign, which sees it team up with local good causes, since 2009.

The Oban shop is now on the lookout for a 2013 charity partner. The lucky organisation will receive at least £500 through the store's fundraising efforts.

Gwen Cameron, store manager, said: 'We've been raising funds for Oban Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre this year and with the partnership due to end on December 31, we're now searching for a local charity to team up with in 2013. We're dedicated to making a difference to our local community and are all really looking forward to next year's campaign.'

Any organisation wishing to apply to receive support from the store must fill in the form available on The Original Factory Shop's Facebook page before Friday January 11 2013.

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor will attend the Lorn Lunch Club's festive lunch tomorrow (Friday).

The lunch, taking place at the Regent Hotel from 12.30pm, is open to anyone and tickets can be obtained by phoning 01631 564230.

IDEAS for what will be going on in the new Atlantic Islands Centre on the Isle of Luing were put forward at a recent information night on the island.

The Isle of Luing Community Trust hosted a St Andrew's Night information session in Cullipool Hall last Friday.

The evening was attended by about 40 islanders as well as Shauna Cameron, the centre's architect, and Annie Tunnicliffe, Big Lottery adviser.

Organisers said that through an informal exchange of information, many interesting, positive suggestions for activities in the centre, which is due to open in 18 months, were made.

There was a sense of celebration in the hall as the trust had received the last bit of funding from the European Regional Development Fund so that work on the centre could begin. This grant of up to £360,000 has been added



Alasdair Flemming, trust director, left, and Shauna Cameron, architect, right, with Emma MacLachlan and Fergus Ritchie.

to the Big Lottery Fund award of £754,910 along with other pieces of money awarded.

Isle of Luing Community Trust was also selling roof slates at the Seal Island Hall Craft Fair on Sunday December 2, so that everyone can own a piece of the new building.



Staff and students from Oban High School dressed to impress as they visited Oban Phoenix Cinema to see the new James Bond movie. Clan Diarmid were celebrating a victory - and supporting the town's cinema - as they went to see Skyfall in their best Bond attire. 16_1509bond01

PUPILS from Lochneil Primary School have been getting creative in Tesco by decorating the windows for Christmas.

The children painted winter scenes, including Santa and Rudolf, on the large windows in the store after being invited by Tesco's better service manager Debbie Jamieson.

Staff from the school said the children loved the experience - one that is designed to make the store more a part of the community.

The opportunity was offered to all schools in the area and Debbie said: 'We hope this is something the children can do that is arty and people can get brightened up by - no-one else in any other Tesco store will have this.'



Children from Lochneil Primary School decorate Tesco's windows. 16_1501tesco 02

Send your news from Oban and Lorn to Euan Paterson at epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

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State of Claggan Park causing 'major problems'

Fort face a tough trip to Nairn



Danny Conlon: pitch is a 'major worry.'

REPORT BY
RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

THE POOR state of the surface at Fort William FC's Claggan Park has been thrown back into the spotlight after another weekend of cancellations and postponements.

Fort William's game against Fraserburgh was called off due to the pitch being unplayable - the fourth time the surface has put paid to the match schedule already this season.

The under 17s' game against Clachnacuddin on Sunday was also cancelled. The youth side have only played once at Claggan this season, and managed just two home games all of last year, with a total of 10 home games cancelled due to the pitch over the past two seasons.

Fort manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times the pitch was a 'major problem' for the club.

He said: 'There's no easy answer, and it certainly doesn't make my job any easier having to put up with all these cancellations.'

'There's no easy answer, and it certainly doesn't make my job any easier having to put up with all these cancellations'

'Personally, if we could get the funding I think a 3G or 4G all-weather pitch would provide a massive boost to not just football, but all sport in the area.'

'Kids want to play games, and regular football is the only way you will see them develop. It's a major worry for us and if it continues I think football could go into decline in this area.'

Youth coach John Matheson told The Oban Times the lack of matches was frustrating for everyone involved.

He said: 'The youth in Fort William are not getting enough football, and there's other sports available for them in their late teens to get game time. It's frustrating for them and you can see why they might turn to other sports.'

'The first team is quite young just now, but the gap is going to

FOOTBALL

Kinlochleven show proves to be a big hit with boxing fans

'All of our fighters put on a fine display and I am very proud of them all'



Scottish national champion Callum Clement, of Tyndrum, was in action during the home show.

KINLOCHLEVEN played host to a night of spectacular boxing as local fighters took to the square ring on Saturday night.

Four Kinlochleven-based boxers took part in Claymores ABC's show as well as young prospects from the club's Amateur Boxing Academy.

The night's big fight saw local light-heavyweight Nathan McDade take on Ross Houston from the Highland Boxing Academy.

McDade kept a healthy distance early on, only stepping in to deliver fast jabs before moving out of range.

Scored heavily

McDade dodged Houston's shots throughout and scored heavily with his own blows to both body and head.

The judges gave a unanimous decision to the home boxer, as

BOXING

well as the 'Bout of the Night' trophy.

Ben Wilson, 14, of Kinlochleven took on Connor Garritty from North Glasgow ABC. Wilson took a while to warm up and let Garritty take an easy lead by the end of the first.

Single point

Wilson came back strongly but lost a judges' decision by a single point.

Cian MacPhee, of Ballachulish, put on a convincing display to beat Tony Bartle, of Forsyth's ABC in Hamilton.

The 14 year-old dominated every round to win a well-observed unanimous decision from the judges.

Callum Clement, 15 of Tyndrum, took part in an exhibition after his opponent pulled out.

Four youngsters - Ally Banks, 13, of Onich, Mikey McLean, 13, of Kinlochleven, Caitlin McCaffrey, 14, of Glencoe and Claire Kelly, 14, of Forsyth's ABC - put on a skills show.

Female fighter

Caitlin created a bit of history by being the first female fighter in a Lochaber show.

Lochaber Phoenix ABC fighter Igor Sliwinski, 16, took a unanimous points victory against Josh Dunlop of Elgin ABC.

Sliwinski's sustained bodywork left Dunlop struggling to mount any attacks of his own.

Claymores coach Martin Glenesk said: 'All of our boxers put on a fine display and I am very proud of them all.'

'I would like to thank everyone who took time out of their busy lives to help put on this show - if you didn't do what you do then these boxers wouldn't be able to show you what they can do.'



Nathan McDade preparing to throw another punch during his bout with Scottish Novice Championships finalist Ross Houston.

FOOTBALL

FORT William head to Moray to take on Nairn County this Saturday with at least three first team players missing.

Midfielder Sean Grant and keeper Iain MacLeod will both miss the game, along with long-term absentee Andy Martin.

Manager Danny Conlon told The Oban Times he expects Nairn to provide tough opposition.

He said: 'They are a good footballing side, and they seem to be as good as, if not better, than last season.'

'They've got two good players up front - their movement and finishing is just fantastic.'

Nairn currently sit eighth in the Highland League but have games in hand on all the teams above them, while Fort are four points adrift at the bottom.

Goon Squad keep up the pressure

INDOOR FOOTBALL

GOON SQUAD recorded an incredible 15-2 victory against AA Young at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night to keep the pressure up on the Ali Young indoor football league leaders.

They remain in third, five points behind leaders Achintore FC who ran out 7-1 winners against Portowey for the second time in seven days. Lochaber Leisure are two points behind in second place after a narrow 2-1 over Ballachulish.

Meanwhile, a high-scoring encounter saw HW Energy No Stars pick up their third win of the season as they defeated Caol FC 5-4, and All Blacks won 6-3 against Old Codgers.

Rugby boys hope for better weather

RUGBY

LOCHABER Rugby Club will be hoping for improved pitch conditions for this Saturday's scheduled trip to the northeast to take on Aberdeen University Medics.

Lochaber's game against Aberdeenshire second XV last Saturday was postponed for the second weekend in a row after freezing temperatures left the pitch unplayable again.

The Banavie side, who have won five out of seven league games this season, have only played once since the start of October due to international breaks and call offs for weather.

The lack of action has seen them slip from second to sixth in RBS Caledonia Regional League division two north.

Race frozen off

CYCLING

WEST Highland Wheelers latest winter league race at Spean Bridge was postponed on Sunday due to ice on the track.

The club are hoping to run the event again this Sunday, weather permitting.

Jackpot rollover

LOTTERY

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £500 is up for grabs in this weekend's Fort William Football Club lotto draw after no one won the cash prize last week. The lotto numbers last week were 05-06-14.



Igor Sliwinski put on an impressive display during his points win against Josh Dunlop.



The Claymores - (left to right) John MacDuff, Callum Clement, Martin Glenesk, Caitlin McCaffrey, Cian MacPhee, Mikey MacLean, Ben Wilson, Nathan McDade, and Colin Thomson.

Weather

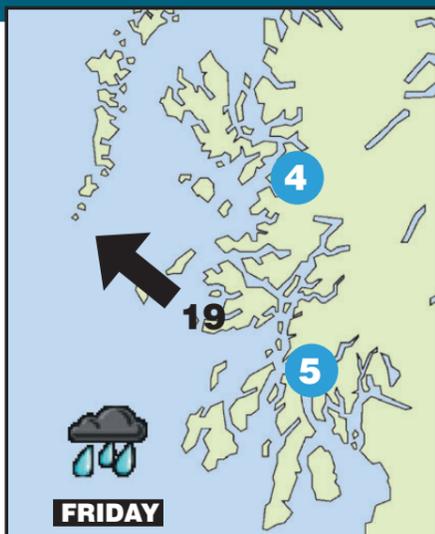
Thursday Cloudy
Winds light, easterly
Temperatures -1C to 1°C

Friday Heavy rain
Winds moderate, south easterly
Temperatures 4°C to 5°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly
Temperatures 6°C to 7°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 13, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 05.13	4.1 11.30	0.7 17.31 4.1 23.54 0.7
Fri 05.57	4.2 12.21	0.6 18.15 4.1 *** **
Sat 00.40	0.6 06.41	4.3 13.10 0.7 18.58 4.0
Sun 01.26	0.6 07.26	4.2 13.58 0.8 19.41 3.8
Mon 02.13	0.7 08.11	4.0 14.46 1.0 20.24 3.6
Tues 03.00	0.9 08.58	3.8 15.35 1.2 21.08 3.4
Wed 03.49	1.1 09.48	3.6 16.25 1.5 21.56 3.1

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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