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# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Islay man is charged with attempted murder

AN ISLAY man has been charged with the attempted murder of a woman on the island. Appearing at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Monday, Kenneth Milton made no plea and was remanded in custody.

The alleged incident occurred in Port Ellen on January 10.

The 67 year-old was due to appear in court again today (Thursday).

## Local DE Shoes outlets face uncertain future

'THE future is not yet certain,' according to shoe retailer DE Shoes as it embarks on a 90 day consultation process on Friday.

News emerged last week that the company was to shut 21 outlets across Scotland – including stores in Oban and Fort William - as it struggles against falling footfall at its stores.

Both branches had been performing well of late though and are understood to have been profitable.

But the company this week insisted no final decision had been taken.

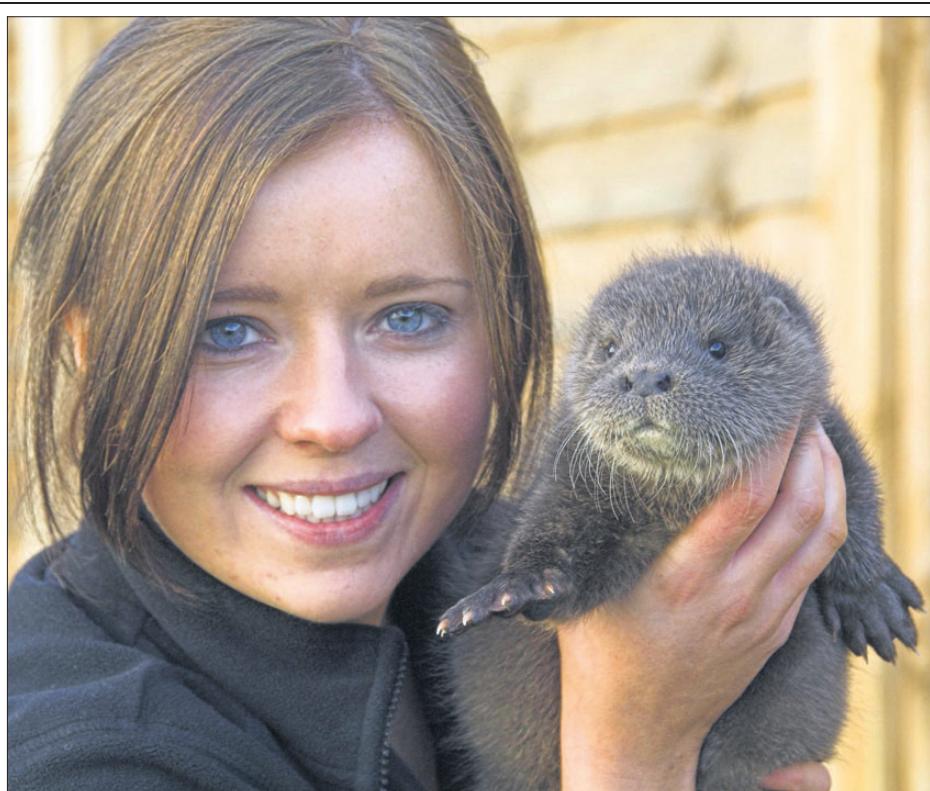
A spokeswoman said: 'There are obviously some difficulties company-wide and we have to have this consultation before we make any decisions.'

## Former Oban man appointed to board of Loganair

FORMER Oban man Phil Preston has joined the board of directors at Loganair, as part of a reshuffle at the company.

Loganair announced yesterday (Wednesday) the appointment of former Tiger Airways of Singapore managing director Stewart Adams as its new chief executive.

Previous chief executive David Harrison becomes executive chairman, while Mr Preston, who has been chief operating officer since he left CalMac in May last year, joins Harrison and Adams on the Loganair board.



Scottish SPCA wildlife assistant Lorin Wilson with otter cub Cally who was rescued near Taynuilt.

## Taynuilt otter cub rescued from car park

A TINY otter cub who had to be resuscitated half-way to safety by an animal welfare inspector has made a remarkable recovery to health.

The seven week old cub was discovered motionless by a passing couple in a forestry commission car park near Taynuilt on New Year's Day.

So frail was she that the couple who found the otter cub took her home and had concerns for her health

when they called the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA). But the cute cub, nicknamed Cally, wasn't quite out of the woods yet.

Claire Shorthose, an auxiliary inspector for the SPCA and a practising vet, responded to the call. She said: 'The couple who found the otter cub took her home and had concerns for her health

kept her warm until I arrived. She was barely alive and in a hypothermic and hypoglycaemic state. I had to stop the van to revive her during the journey but thankfully she pulled through.'

'I cared for her until she was stable enough to be transported to our National Wildlife Rescue Centre near Alloa where she is under the care of wet weather may be responsible for displacing young otters whose holes have been flooded or disturbed.'

Cally is now feeding herself

and growing stronger every day, winning herself plenty of fans in the process.

Centre manager Colin Seddon said: 'Cally has made a remarkable recovery given the condition she was found in. Cally is one of 10 otter cubs in our care. We think wet weather may be responsible for displacing young otters whose holes have been flooded or disturbed.'

A spokesperson for Scottish Water said: 'The work at Bealach an Righ is to complete some water mains rehabilitation in the area which will provide improved services to customers.'

## Winter festival brings more than £1 million to Oban

MORE than £1m is estimated to have come into the Oban area during last November's winter festival, but organisers had a warning about future funding of the event.

### Footfall up 144 per cent

The maiden festival in 2011 brought in more than £900,000 but organisers have estimated the economic benefit the 2012 event to be worth £1,130,000.

Charities based in the town raised a total of £15,500, which

is more than double the previous year's figure.

VisitScotland has also reported the footfall at its Oban visitor centre increased by 144 per cent during the festival, held between November 16 – 25.

Surveys carried out during the festival showed 83 per cent of people ate out in the town, 55 per cent shopped for gifts and 10 per cent of people stayed for more than one night in Oban.

The figures were revealed in a report presented to volunteers on Monday, when the small organising committee was praised for its work.

Committee member Pamela Lockhart told the meeting: 'I think we listened to the feedback from last year and people responded.'

We had received requests for more markets, roller skating and fireworks in a central position to benefit businesses.

'A new food market was very

popular with many stalls selling out early. This event will be repeated and is expected to be oversubscribed and become a major attraction, as is the Victorian market.'

However, the committee also expressed disappointment at its allocation of public funds – it was granted £5,000 by Argyll and Bute Council.

Committee member Eleanor MacKinnon said: 'We were told to prove ourselves in that first

year and we did.'

'But funding is very tight and the committee was worried whether we would break even last year. I think the success of the past two years gives us the evidence to seek funding.'

The first Oban Winter Festival 2013 fundraiser will be a Valentine's Ceilidh with Trail West on Saturday, February 16.

You can view The Oban Times winter festival footage on our website [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## Pennyfuir stench to continue as Scottish Water search for solution

VISITORS to Pennyfuir Cemetery, near Oban, walkers and drivers on the A85 Connel to Oban road may have to put up with foul stenches coming from Oban's Waste Water Treatment Works for months yet.

Pungent odours have been reported from the facility adjacent to the A85 for some months, with Scottish Water saying in December that work had started to address the smelly problem.

While a new chemical system has been fitted, the rest of the work won't be finished until the summer.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'We are about to start the remaining phases of work, which include an upgrade to the control system. This work will be completed by about early summer.'

'In the meantime, we will take other remedial action to help tackle the problem, including the re-positioning of an odourising unit at the works so it is located near the roadside.'

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## ACHA letter printed in error

IN The Oban Times of Thursday January 3 we published a letter from a Ms Elizabeth Smith of Timbertops, Barcaldine, in which serious allegations were made against Argyll Community Housing Association.

The Oban Times now accepts that the allegations within this letter were unfounded, unsupported and regret that due to internal administrative errors the letter was published when it ought not to have been.

The Oban Times sincerely apologises to Argyll Community Housing Association and its management for any damage caused to their good name and reputation.

## World's largest onshore fish farm planned for site near Tayinloan as demand for salmon rises

PLANS for the world's largest onshore fish farm to be built near Tayinloan - the first of its kind in Scotland - will be lodged with Argyll and Bute Council this week.

Dunkeld-based company FishFrom are set to spend some £15 million on building the salmon farm and hopes to later create another onshore farm at Machrihanish on Kintyre to meet greater demand for the fish.

The project would create around 10 to 12 permanent jobs, rising to 15 during harvest season.

Smots and fish in the farm would never enter lochs, rivers or the sea, instead being reared in large tanks with fresh and sea water pumped through. FishFrom say the new system will lessen the environmental impact of fish farms.



The company's website states: 'For the first time we will harness the biological and technological expertise to create a system that grows fish in a sustainable, profitable and predictable way.'

'We hope to commence production in the summer 2013 (during construction) and first harvest by summer 2014 with continual harvesting thereafter.'

Members of the public will be able to comment on the proposal through the Argyll and Bute Council website.

Public consultations in Tayinloan and Gigha were held over the summer, with local reaction seemingly split. While some people were positive about the possible increase in jobs, others expressed concerns about the impact on the local environment.

It is estimated that the new site would produce around 3,000 tonnes of salmon every year.

FishFrom said if their plans are given the go ahead, they intend to roll out the new system to other sites across the world.

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OT

## Lorn Lines

QUIZ teams are being sought for Oban Pipe Band's annual event in the Masonic Lodge, Albany Street, tomorrow (Friday).

Teams can vary in number, from two to six people. The quiz starts at 7.30pm.

Organiser Alastair Dewar said: 'This is firstly a fun evening which always turns out to be a highly enjoyable social event and goes a long way to help the band with its much needed fundraising.'



THE FIRST meeting of members of Oban Speakers Club in the new year started on a seasonal note with Jim Fraser talking on the subject 'A Guid New Year'.

This was followed by Archie McPhail on 'Retail Price Index' and finally Frank Walton on 'A Place called Shimla'.

All speakers and their immediate critics were introduced by the chairman Roy Wood.

In the second half the topics chairman gave topics to Alex Clark, Eamonn Arthur, Bill Leech, John Maclean and Guido Faccenda. Timekeeper for the evening was Bill Leech and a comprehensive general evaluation was given by Tom Clegg.

The next meeting will be held on January 24.



One of Sanfte Strukturen's projects.

A PROJECT to create a living architectural structure with willow is to take place in the grounds of Dunollie's 1745 House.

Sanfte Strukturen is an art group which specialises in willow projects, having completed over 60 around the world in the past 25 years.

Their creations include palaces, cathedrals and churches aided by members of surrounding communities in the building process.

Now the group is coming to Argyll to create a 'large scale living willow structure' and are looking for artists from the area to help.

Artists who wish to take part in the project, from March 23 to 30, should contact tara@ dunollie.org for more information.



MEMBERS of Oban Camera Club gathered in the Regent Hotel for the first meeting of the New Year and were inspired by winning images from two portfolio presentations - the Scottish Photographic Federation and the Photographic Alliance of GB.

The second part of the 2012-13 season has a varied and interesting programme of guest speakers competitions and in-house nights.

May your Christmas present was a new camera - why not join Oban Camera Club in Regent Hotel at 7.30pm on Monday nights.



Two pupils from Rockfield Primary School handed over a cheque for £420 to Oban Toy Cupboard to help the group buy new toys for the children.

Toy librarian Cynthia McKeown and assistant Sheila MacGregor are pictured receiving the cheque from primary seven pupils Finbar Dunne and Emma Masterson.

Rockfield school supports four charities every year, one of which is local.

Money for Oban Toy Cupboard was raised through a retirement collection at the school Christmas service and donations from staff.



OBAN Music Society will host a talented trio in St John's Cathedral this Sunday.

The highly acclaimed Kandinsky Piano Trio will be playing works by Mozart, Schubert and Faure.

The trio, Lora Dimitrova, Alexei Sarkissov and Fenella Barton, was formed in 2002 and has played in many venues both in the UK and in Europe, while Alexei has performed in the presence of Pope John Paul II, Boris Yeltsin and HRH Prince of Wales.



You can send all your news from the Oban and Lorn area direct to Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk or by post to Lorn Lines, The Oban Times PO Box 1 Oban, Argyll

## BRIQUETTES



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**'Camping' Fife man charged with carrying lock knife**

A FIFE man who claims he was 'heading up north for a spot of wild camping' is accused of possessing a lock knife, possession of cannabis and a number of traffic related offences.

Mark Jennings, 52, of 8 Broomhill, Lethrie, Cupar, denied having the knife without reasonable excuse when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last Thursday.

He also pled not guilty to possession of cannabis and to obstructing police officers in the course of their duty by attempting to conceal the drug within his sock and in the centre console of his vehicle.

Jennings, who was stopped by police at Bridge of Orchy, is further charged with speeding and having the incorrect name or address on his driving licence. Having been released on bail, Jennings is expected to stand trial on all charges on March 19. He will appear again on March 5.

**Lack of grid capacity stalling west coast windfarm progress**

THE COMPANY behind a proposed windfarm in Argyll says grid capacity restriction means the site may not be built until 2020 – even if planning permission is granted in 2014.

Musdale Windfarm, sited 12 kilometres south east of Oban and six kilometres west of Loch Awe, is being proposed by renewables company Infinis.

The company submitted an initial design for the windfarm to Argyll and Bute Council in September. However, the potential production from the proposed 20-turbine development – around 50 megawatts – means planning permission could be decided by the council or the Scottish Government.

Jamie Grant of Infinis told Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council last Wednesday: 'We are aware of the limited capacity in the area. Even if we do get permission within a year of submitting the application we would be unlikely to connect to the grid until about 2020.'

Schemes to address the problems of grid capacity have included Active Network Management (ANM) schemes, which use advanced IT systems to balance energy flows, which allows more capacity to be freed up in areas where the grid has no permanent spare capacity. There is also a suggestion of 'legacy' contracts to allow new schemes to replace cancelled proposals.

She said: 'In January 2001 I joined Weight Watchers for the eighth time. This time it had to be different so I decided that I would follow the plan the way it

had been designed and not my own version.'

'To my delight the weight came off no problem this time. I followed the plan to the letter, still had a life and lost the weight that had been dragging me down for years.'

'I was no longer a prisoner in my own body. My total weight loss is 77lbs which is 5 and a half stones.'

'I really do understand how challenging it is to lose weight and I can promise that if you give me the commitment of coming to class each week and staying to the meetings, I will help to get you where you want to be.'

'Anything is possible and your journey can start right here. All that is left to say is come along and let your weight loss journey begin, a warm welcome will be waiting for all.'



## Tobermory lifeboat comes to aid of fishing boat

THE FIRST call out of the year for the volunteer crew of Tobermory Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was to a stricken fishing boat.

Stornoway Coastguard called the lifeboat crew out to the fishing boat which had engine failure and was rolling badly in the rough seas off the Treshnish Isles, to the west of Mull.

The lifeboat was launched at 8pm last Thursday in 'worsening conditions' with a force seven wind gusting at over 40mph to deal with. Coxswain Andrew McHaffie said: 'These were rough conditions and although the skipper had managed to get an anchor out, the fishing boat was drifting.'

'Fortunately we were able to get the fishing boat under tow very quickly and bring her safely to Tobermory.'

## Oban man who spat at police told he could face jail

A YOUNG Oban man has been warned he could face jail when he returns to court for sentencing on February 5.

Michael Duncan, 19, of 17a Glencruitten Drive, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday, pleading guilty to committing a breach of the peace and assaulting a police officer by spitting on him on Boxing Day.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentencing for reports to be prepared. He said: 'I have an abhorrence of people who spit on others, especially those who spit on police officers, so all options are open to me – including custody.'

## Men found guilty of English abuse

SHOUTING racial abuse at an English man landed two Oban men in the town's sheriff court last Wednesday.

Peter McCuish and Andrew MacKenzie, both of flat 3/1, 19 High Street, Oban, denied shouting the remarks towards the man last October 28 but were found guilty following a trial.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence on the pair for the preparation of reports but said: 'I'm in no doubt whatsoever and find you both guilty as libelled – be afraid, be very afraid.'

## Fisherman who broke house windows is fined

A MAN who smashed two windows of a house with his grieving partner inside has been fined £120.

Fisherman Mark MacLean, aged 26, of Strathrown Cottage, Hill Street, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to breaking the two windows on May 16 last year.

The court heard his partner's family had gathered in the house following the death of her father and there had been an argument between the couple.

Defence agent Steven MacLeod highlighted a discrepancy in the evidence of the two witnesses, who gave conflicting evidence over how many cars had been overtaken. However, Sheriff John Herald believed the witness accounts, saying both were credible and reliable.

Martin was fined £500 and disqualified from driving for two years. He was also ordered to re-sit the extended test of competence to drive.

## Weight Watchers say the time is right for Argyll

NEW CLASSES to help people lose weight – and keep it off – are starting in Oban on Monday.

Susan Hoy has been a leader with Weight Watchers for over 10 years, receiving awards for outstanding results along the way, and has decided the time is right to help people in Argyll.

Her classes will be held in The Great Western Hotel on Corran Esplanade every Monday at 5.30pm and 7pm and Tuesdays at 10am and 12pm starting on Monday, January 14.

Susan has personal experience of the challenges involved in losing weight – having tried and failed many times before sticking to the Weight Watchers plan.

She said: 'In January 2001 I joined Weight Watchers for the eighth time. This time it had to be different so I decided that I would follow the plan the way it



Ruby Smith with her winning entry while her class shows off their books. 16\_103comp02



Kai MacKinnon was delighted with his runner-up prize. 16\_103comp01

## Oban driver banned after dangerous overtaking

A DANGEROUS driver attempted a risky overtaking manoeuvre before driving for at least a mile on only a wheel rim after his tyre disintegrated, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Two witnesses, travelling north towards Oban in a car that was overtaken by Martin, described in court how they were scared by the manner of his driving.

The male driver of the car said: 'The car overtook me and several cars together. We were holding our breath because the corner was blind. I thought it was a potentially dangerous manoeuvre.'

'The car accelerated fast, trying to clear the traffic before the bend, but it didn't do that and was faced with an oncoming car.'

'The other car had to slow rapidly and flashed its headlights.'

The witnesses then told how the overtaking car's front offside tyre deflated and started to disintegrate after it had completed the overtake. The car continued on the road before the tyre broke away, but the driver continued for at least another mile on the wheel rim.

He said in July: 'I am filled with confidence and excitement about what is about to be a beautiful chapter in the life of a distillery that never gained the accolades it deserved.' This Cinderella will go to the ball.'

Bruichladdich Distillery was mothballed in 1995 but re-opened in 2001 by investors, headed up by former managing director Mark Reynier, who helped steer the distillery through a successful rebirth.

He said: 'I am filled with confidence and excitement about what is about to be a beautiful chapter in the life of a distillery that never gained the accolades it deserved.'

'This Cinderella will go to the ball.'

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'This Cinderella will go to the ball.'

The court heard his partner's family had gathered in the house following the death of her father and there had been an argument between the couple.

Defence agent Edward Thornton explained his client thought he was being asked to leave permanently, had reconciled with his partner and arranged for the windows to be replaced.



Ambitious plans at Bruichladdich could see considerable increase in production

had been designed and not my own version.

'To my delight the weight came off no problem this time. I followed the plan to the letter, still had a life and lost the weight that had been dragging me down for years.'

'I was no longer a prisoner in my own body. My total weight loss is 77lbs which is 5 and a half stones.'

'I really do understand how challenging it is to lose weight and I can promise that if you give me the commitment of coming to class each week and staying to the meetings, I will help to get you where you want to be.'

'Anything is possible and your journey can start right here. All that is left to say is come along and let your weight loss journey begin, a warm welcome will be waiting for all.'



Susan Hoy (right) receives an award from Samantha Rhodes, operations director, Weight Watchers UK.

## Oban man who assaulted mother with bottle is jailed for 22 months

A YOUNG man, who assaulted his stepfather to his 'severe injury' before throwing a bottle that hit his mother in the face, has been sent to prison.

Joshua Griffiths, 22, a prisoner in HMP Greenock, also admitted spitting at a policeman and striking out with his arms and legs. Last week Oban

Sheriff Court heard the incident started after the family left a party in Oban's McElvie Road because Griffiths had become argumentative.

Procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty said Griffiths had started chatting to a group of young girls outside the party and told his mother to go home

without him. She left but had a 'change of heart' and returned for him, fearing he might 'get into trouble.'

Mr McGinty added: 'Her partner got out of the car to ask Mr Griffiths to get in, at which point the accused lashed out and punched his stepfather to the face causing him to fall

to the ground. He continued to attack him as he lay defenceless on the ground, punching and kicking him to the head.'

'Some people attempted to hold him back at which point he [Griffiths] threw a bottle' which hit his mother in the centre of the forehead.'

Griffiths' mother was taken

immediately to hospital, where she was treated for a four-centimetre cut.

Police attempted to detain Griffiths on Soroba Road but he 'immediately became volatile and aggressive,' the court heard.

Defending, Laura McManus said: 'He is very sorry and his

apology has been accepted by both his mother and stepfather. He accepts this is horrendous behaviour and he had far too much to drink.'

Sentencing Griffiths to a total of 22 months in prison, Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist said: 'You have been offending since 2006.'

After listing Griffiths' previous

convictions for violence, Sheriff Gilchrist added: 'You are still assaulting people – now members of your own family – and causing injury and distress to those who love you. This cannot go on.'

His sentence was backdated to October 22, when Griffiths was taken into custody.

## Horse and pig killed in separate road accidents near North Connel

A HORSE and a pig were killed as a result of collisions with vehicles just a day and a mile apart, near North Connel.

The pig, a sow called Sunshine, had escaped from Adrian's Croft in North Connel in the early hours of Sunday morning but was hit by a minibus at approximately 9am that day, near to the A828's junction with Bonawe Road.

While the pig survived the initial impact and ran off, it was later found dead. The owner had earlier launched a Facebook appeal to find the animal.

Meanwhile, a woman has been charged with causing her horse to be loose on the road after it was killed in a collision with a truck at 7.45am on Monday, just yards from the A828's junction with Oban Airport.

The driver of the vehicle was left unharmed but shaken up by the incident.

## Van driver charged after Lochawe speeding incident

A VAN driver has been charged with driving without due care and attention after speeding through Lochawe and overtaking on a blind corner.

The 24-year-old man was charged by police at 6.10pm on Monday after allegedly reaching speeds of 75mph in the village while overtaking on a blind corner.

## Police seize driver's vehicle at Connel

POLICE stopped a driver in Connel last week and seized his car after charging him with driving without insurance.

The 27-year-old was stopped at 10pm on the A85 near to the junction with the A828.

## Assault charge

POLICE arrested a 28-year-old man near Oban's Railway Pier on Sunday morning and charged with assault.

A 31-year-old man was allegedly assaulted at 1.30am.

## School alarm

ENGINEERS are again investigating problems with Oban High School's alarm after repeated false alarms in recent weeks.

A council spokeswoman said they hoped to resolve the issue 'as quickly as possible.'

# Top Scots engineer to compile report on landslide hotspot

ONE of Scotland's most respected engineers is to compile an independent report on possible solutions to the A83's landslide hotspot.

### Independent report

John Addison has offered to prepare a feasibility study on the Rest and Be Thankful after his friend, and Inveraray businessman, Donald Clark, expressed dissatisfaction with the Jacobs report commissioned by Transport Scotland.

Mr Addison was recently integral in an investigation into the Edinburgh housing repairs scandal and helped rebuild a 16th century archway at Scone Palace after it was hit by a car.

Mr Clark is now canvassing businesses in the Mid Argyll area to contribute towards Mr Addison's fee and hopes his report will be ready ahead of the A83 Task Force's February meeting, when it is set to make its recommendation on a preferred solution.

The proprietor of the Royal Burgh's George Hotel said Mr Addison's input could be the difference between picking the right and wrong option.

He said: 'John has offered to do a quick feasibility survey on it. I'm currently speaking to other businesses to donate some money towards the fee.'

'Basically, I think we have to strip this back to the bare facts. My argument is to build a shelter over the road so that, if there is a landslide, it slips down over the road. That means the road is safe. Some of the options in the Jacobs report are just not realistic.'

Meanwhile, the emergency relief route, via the Old Military Road, should be complete by the end of the month.

Transport Scotland say the road will be fit to be used as a diversion from January 31, providing there are no further delays.

The road was originally supposed to be open by the end of November.

The proprietor of the Royal



Home at last: Sean Rowan meets his newborn daughter, Ava, as mother, Tammy, looks on. 16\_103baby01

## Stranded offshore diver meets new daughter

### First-time father misses birth as bad weather stalls airlifts

IT IS a special moment for any first-time father but one unlucky dad missed the birth of his newborn daughter after getting stranded on an offshore oil rig.

#### First baby of 2013

Sean Rowan's daughter, Ava, was the first baby born in Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, in 2013 when she came into the world on January 3 – five days before her due date.

And despite the best efforts of his workmates, who gave up

their seats on the helicopters, the poor weather conditions conspired over New Year to ground any airlift from the North Sea Balmoral platform.

Sean, a self-employed commercial diver, said: 'A total of 80 flights were cancelled at the turn of the year, so there was a big backlog of flights to get through.'

'I wasn't on the list to get off the rig in time but one of the guys gave me his seat. At one point the chopper got 20 minutes

from our platform, only to turn back. I was absolutely gutted.'

#### Workmate gave up seat

Once the helicopters began flying again there were no shortage of workers volunteering to give up their seat for a stressed-out Sean and he returned home to Kilmore last Friday.

However, his wife, Tammy, was calm throughout, despite giving birth in Oban's accident

and emergency department after her labour progressed too

quickly to get her to the mater-

nity ward. The hairdresser said: 'I am used to Sean being away for weeks at a time, so I wasn't worrying about whether he was going to be back. I just got on with it!'

Sean added: 'I have never been delayed in getting home before, so I couldn't believe my luck when it happened at the time of the birth.'

'I spoke to guys on the rig who have been working there for 10 years, who said they had never experienced a delay like it.'

## Oban charity volunteer retires after 50 consecutive years



Ishbel Banks serves her last coffee as organiser of the Children 1st fundraiser after 50 years in the hotseat. 16\_103ishbel01

'Check what your husband is involved in before you marry him!' – warns Ishbel after long service A CHARITY volunteer who has run an annual fundraising coffee morning in Oban for 50 consecutive years has decided to retire from the role.

Ishbel Banks was in her usual flurry of activity at another busy Children 1st coffee morning at the Regent Hotel on Saturday.

Speaking after the event, which raised £1,015 for the children's charity, Ishbel explained her motivation for maintaining a half century of service was to make as much money as possible for the charity – but she had a warning for would-be wives.

She said: 'I got involved in the charity, which was previously known as the RSPCC, when I married my husband, who is 81 years old in March.'

**Argyll marine research centre forges world-first agreement with United Nations University**

A DUNBEG-based marine research facility has become the first of its kind in the world to be associated with the United Nations University (UNU).

The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has signed a memorandum of understanding with the UNU to formalise an agreement which will lead to closer working links between the institutions.

Welcoming the deal, Scotland's education secretary Michael Russell said it highlighted the 'international recognition' of Scottish marine science.

SAMS and UNU have collaborated on projects previously, but will now work even closer on promoting research, postgraduate training and the spread of knowledge on coastal and marine resource management.

The union will also see the organisations work on safe water provision and water health, particularly with regard to the challenges faced by developing nations.

The agreement was signed by SAMS' director, professor Laurence Mee and the rector of the UNU, Professor Konrad Osterwalder.

Professor Mee said: 'Being the first UNU associate institute for marine science is a huge honour for SAMS and Scotland as a whole. It gives us global recognition for our 126 years of innovation in this field.'

## Dalmally changing room plan gets major funding boost totalling almost £110,000

A PLAN to build changing rooms as an extension to Dalmally Community Centre has been given a major boost following the award of £109,982.

Muirleach Ishbel MacKinnon is pictured left testing a new Handicare chair in Aros Hall.

## Tobermory hall gains new chairlift

A donation of £5,000 from the Neil Cameron Bequest helped fund the new stair lift, while the North of Mull Amateur Dramatics Society donated a further £250 from pantomime programme sales.

Keith Brown urged to visit accident black spot, page 5.



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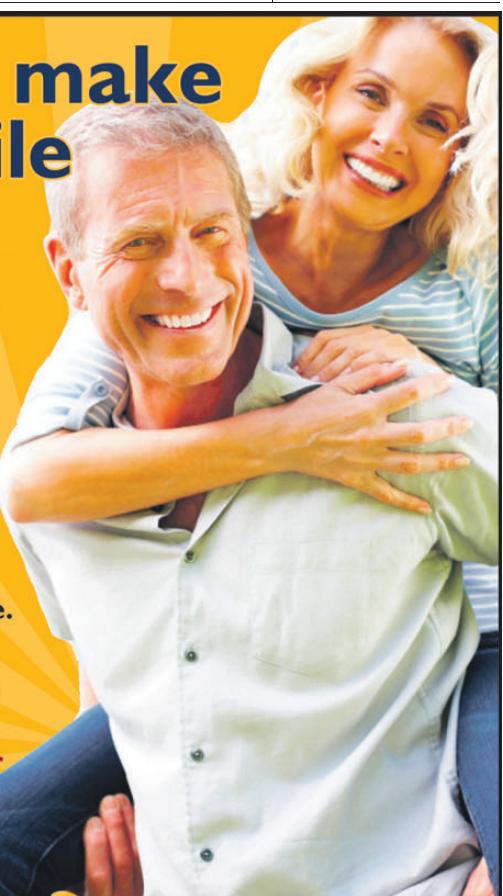
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# Proposed 'water tax' on whisky industry strikes sour note with west coast distillers

'Whisky is all the country has left, so if you tax that too highly the whole thing will fold'

A NEW 'water tax' has been suggested by economic experts as a way to reap more rewards from the booming Scotch whisky industry, prompting frustration from distillers.

Professor John Kay, who served on the Scottish Government's council of economic advisers, proposed new charges be imposed on the industry in response to what he said were 'disappointing' returns for the country from whisky. His call was backed by Sir George Mathewson, former chairman of the council of economic advisers appointed by Alex Salmond, as figures show the industry was worth approximately £5 billion in 2011.

While alcohol taxation is not devolved, the power to charge for water is within the Scottish Government's remit, with a levy of between 10p to £1 per bottle suggested to boost Scotland's coffers by up to £1 billion.

However, the Scotch Whisky Association (SWA) has described the proposal as 'ridiculous', saying it would impact on demand, global competitiveness of the drink and Scottish jobs.

*The Oban Times* spoke to distillers across the west coast to find out their reactions to the proposed 'water tax'.

BEN NEVIS Distillery managing director Colin Ross believes a new tax would punish the recent success of the industry.

He said: 'I think because our industry would appear to be doing very well everybody has been hitting the whisky industry and they'll continue to hit it – I'm sure there will eventually be a tax on the water we use.'

'Look at the price of whisky in other countries – it's much cheaper. People come to Scotland and expect whisky to be cheaper here.'

'We all have a sense of national pride in Scotland and we want to see it doing well, but it's totally unfair to put yet another tax on us. It just doesn't seem right.'

John MacLellan, distillery manager for Kilchoman Distill-

ery on Islay, said: 'It's a difficult one because on one hand I'd like to see more money generated from whisky spent in Scotland, but I wouldn't like to see another punitive tax on whisky.'

'Whisky is booming at the moment but all we've ever asked for is a level playing field with other imported drinks such as gin, vodka or wine. Scotch whisky is the target time and time again for extra tax. Instead I would like to see more incentives for these businesses to invest in Scotland, such as has been done in the past to help attract foreign companies.'

Duncan McGillivray, manager of Bruichladdich Distillery on Islay, said:

'An extra 50p or £1 on the price of a bottle of whisky would not adversely impact the industry



Caol Ila's distillery on Islay, whose owner Diageo is opposed to the proposed water tax.

to any great extent but clearly believed the extra bill should not be foisted onto the industry.'

Mr McGillivray said: 'In essence, they want to put a tax on our water.'

'If there is any extra cost to be incurred by the industry it cannot come from the distilleries - the government needs to step up to the plate.'

'Whisky is experiencing a boom just now but the reason for that is everyone within the industry is working extremely hard to make it happen.'

bottle of whisky is tax. Scotland has lost its engineering industry and we are in the middle of a recession.'

Diageo operates four distilleries in the local area, producing its Oban, Talisker, Lagavulin and Caol Ila brands. The company is wholly against proposals to introduce another tax on the industry.

A spokesperson for the drinks giant said: 'The suggestion of a production tax on Scotch whisky is potentially deeply damaging to the industry and to the prospects for investment

and growth in the future. Scotch whisky is part of a fiercely competitive global market place and anything which adds to the cost of production will damage its competitiveness and harm its long term prospects.'

'Anything which damages the growth of Scotch whisky will also jeopardise the investment which is being made in Scotland and the jobs it creates.'

Gavin Hewitt, Scotch Whisky Association chief executive, said: 'It is a ludicrous suggestion that Scotch Whisky, one of Scotland's few economic success stories, should be burdened with additional taxation.'

'It would impact on jobs and damage the many communities which depend on the industry. Why would a government looking for export-led recovery penalise Scotch Whisky, its biggest export? It shows economic naivety about the industry.'

on to consumers, which would reduce demand, stifle growth and new capital investment in Scotland, much of it from foreign sources.'

'It would impact on jobs and damage the many communities which depend on the industry.'

'Scotch Whisky competes in the international market with other spirits and alcoholic drinks, most of which are cheaper to produce and sell at a lower price. Any new tax would be passed

## New Year, New You? Business Gateway Workshops in Argyll and Bute

### Planning to start your own business?

Develop your ideas into a practical and effective plan to launch your business. Getting the marketing right for your business is crucial to its success. This workshop will help you to understand your competitors, identify your customers and understand the things you need to consider for effective marketing.

Developing a realistic, working business plan is essential when you're starting up a business, this 2 day workshop shows you how to create a robust business plan. Good financial management is essential, learn to manage a profit and loss account; produce a cashflow statement; understand the meaning of working capital; describe the main sources of finance; and understand the different legal structures of a business.

- January – 21/22, Heliensburgh; 23/24, Dunoon
- February – 13/14, Lochgilphead
- March – 5/6, Oban; 18/19, Campbeltown; 20/21, Helensburgh; 26/27, Rothesay

### The "Practical Basic Book-keeping" workshop

Book-keeping is a core business skill, and, even if someone else does it for you, you still need to understand and value the process.

If you want to know the starting point for good record-keeping, this is the course for you. Those new to business and with little or no formal training in bookkeeping will particularly benefit.

- February – 19, Dunoon
- March – 1, Helensburgh; 12, Inveraray; 20, Oban

### Introduction to social media for your business

This workshop is aimed at people that are very new to or still sceptical about the idea of using social media for their business.

#### Course objectives:

- Provide delegates with a basic understanding of what social media is and what benefits there may be of using it for business
- Give delegates a chance to explore some of the basic technical aspects of well-known social media sites (Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter)
- Show delegates how to get the most out of using social media and how to deal with negative feedback

The workshop will explain the principles behind what social media is, how it works and why it is so popular. It will explain how the "process" of social media allows it to be used for a wide variety of business objectives. It will discuss and explain a number of the most popular social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Blogger, etc.

- February – 18, Mull; 21, Rothesay
- March – 4, Inveraray; 7, Oban

### Improve your business website performance

Aimed at small businesses that already have a website, whether this was built by a professional website designer or homemade, who feel that their website isn't producing the results that they expect, or needs refreshing. It is also suitable for people currently in the process of building or having a website built to make sure the end result is going to be successful. It is aimed at those with no technical web development skills BUT basic PC skills are required.

#### Course objectives:

- Provide delegates with a basic understanding of which factors are key to the success of a website
- Show delegates how these factors can be used to create a good design
- Give delegates examples of common mistakes made
- Provide delegates with a number of online sources that provide further good practice and advice
- The course will discuss the 4 key success factors of website development: visibility, appearance, functionality and compatibility. It will cover issues including graphic design, layout, navigation, the online sales process, search engine optimisation, browser compatibility and site feedback.
- February – 18, Mull; 21, Rothesay
- March – 4, Inveraray; 7, Oban

### Build your own business website

Aimed at small businesses looking to build their own business website. It is aimed at those with no technical web development skills or experience but basic PC skills are required. The course will include some very basic online trading.

#### Course objectives:

- Introduce delegates to the basics of good website design
- Explain the various (online) tools available to build a website and how to choose the one best suited for the purpose
- Show delegates the kind of activities that are involved in building their own website using an online tool

Delegates will be introduced to the basic essentials of website design, how to make it findable as well as attractive and at the same time usable. The course will explain which tools are available and how to pick the one that would be best suited for the purpose. Delegates will learn a wide variety of skills using a simple online website building tool. These skills include working with text, images, colour and layout as well as managing pages (navigation) adding links and some simple functionality.

- February – 19, Mull; 22, Rothesay
- March – 5, Inveraray; 8, Oban

### NEW Online trading essentials

Small businesses that are considering selling products or services, or taking bookings and payments online, but don't know where to start. This course is less suitable for people who are already trading online and are looking for detailed technical advice.

#### Course objectives:

- Explain the basic building blocks of an online trading site
- Discuss various options available to achieve an online shop or booking system
- Show various means of taking online payment
- Make delegates aware of the legislation in relation to online trading

The workshop will introduce delegates to the basics of online trading. It will look at the essential things needed in order to be able to take online orders or bookings, and how they can be achieved, including online payment such as PayPal. It will cover various means by which an online shop or booking system can be achieved, including using third party providers such as eBay, Amazon or Booking.com.

- March – 6, Inveraray

### HM Revenue and Customs Becoming Self Employed

This FREE workshop is an introduction to becoming self-employed and covers tax, National Insurance, VAT, record keeping and when to pay, partnerships and Online services.

The course aims to give you the knowledge to:

- register your self-employment
- setup and maintain business records
- know what National Insurance to pay
- know what expenses you can claim
- know which pages of your Self Assessment Tax Return you need to complete

February – 6, Dunoon



Rosemary Gallagher, Scotch Whisky Association communications manager, pictured during last year's launch of the Scotch Whisky: From Grain to Glass Exhibition at the Scottish Parliament. Picture Sean Bell Photography

## Fishing communities can gain European cash through FLAG

HIGHLAND fishing communities are being encouraged to apply for a slice of European Fisheries Fund cash.

Some £549,392 is available through administrators, the Highland Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG).

The fund aims to help communities where fishing is in decline by supporting local diversification projects.

FLAG is inviting local groups and businesses to submit expressions of interest by January 31. A further round will be announced in due course.

All funding must be committed by the end of 2013, although the cash drawdown period will extend into 2015.

FLAG chairman, Councillor George Farlow, said: 'A wide range of projects can be considered such as those relating to skills development, promoting eco-tourism, diversifying activities, adding value to fisheries products, infrastructure improvements and the promotion of the culture and heritage aspects of fisheries communities. Projects which encourage co-operation and communication among groups locally, nationally or trans-nationally are also encouraged.'

For further details contact the Highland Council Planning and Development Service on 01463 702250 or email planning@highland.gov.uk.

## Forestry Commission Scotland aims to keep track of visitors

A NUMBER of Lochaber woodlands will be tracked for the next year to see how many people visit them and how often.

Forests at Glencoe, Glen Righ, Ariundle, Loch Sunart, Glen Nevis, Leanachan and Glenarry will all be part of the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) monitoring programme.

Numbers will be calculated using face-to-face interviews with visitors as well as vehicle and people counters.

FCS communities, recreation and tourism manager in Lochaber Craig Millar said: 'Our forests are often part and parcel of overall tourism strategies and can be big tourism destinations which support local economies.'

'On the other hand, our woodlands are vital as they are well used by local communities as popular places for walking, cycling or simply taking the dog for a walk.'

'The information will help FCS and other organisations get a better picture of what is happening in our forests and woodlands.'

## Lochaber company gains public sector green energy contract

A FORT William company is to benefit from a new green energy contract that will deliver renewable heat to public sector buildings.

Torlundy-based HWEnergy will supply wood fuel from sustainable sources and, if required, install wood-burning boilers through the biomass energy supply framework, which has been developed by the Scottish Government.

#### Huge market

Buildings affected include central government, fire, police, health, local authorities, police, universities and colleges and the third sector.

The contract is expected to save taxpayers up to £8.5 million and will save more than 198,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide by 2017.

Stuart Reid, HWEnergy head of marketing and business

## MSP wins safety award

SKYE, Lochaber and Badenoch MSP Dave Thompson has been named as 'Road Safety Parliamentarian of the Month' by the charity Brake and Direct Line.

Mr Thompson received the award for his work campaigning for barriers on level crossings and improvements to the A830 'Road to the Isles'.

The MSP battled to have barriers installed at all 23 open level crossings in Scotland after a crash in 2009 claimed three lives at Halkirk in Caithness.

Mr Thompson also backed Lochalort couple John and Jan Bryden in their campaign for safety improvements to the A830 following the tragic death of their daughter Kirsty and her friend Roddy MacInnes in a horrific accident on a notorious stretch of the road in September 2010.

development, said the company was now in pole position to take advantage of new opportunities under the scheme.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It is great news that we are ranked first in the framework. It is the single biggest thing that has happened in the sector.'

'It could mean further considerable growth – the public sector is a huge market for us. A lot of buildings have a need for what we do.'

Announcing the news, Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: 'It is important for companies like HWEnergy because it supports jobs and encourages further growth and investment in Scotland's renewable energy sector.'

The Scottish Government has a target of meeting 11 per cent of total heat demand from renewable energy by 2020.

## Argyll & Bute Council

A crash barrier has since been installed on the corner where the youngsters died, to prevent cars coming off the road and into Loch Eilt.

Transport Scotland has also agreed to resurface the most dangerous corners with high-friction surfacing, limit speed to 50mph on the Glenfinnan-Lochalort stretch, add signs to highlight severe bends, and add more and better crash barriers.

Mr Thompson said: 'Transport Scotland have met with the local community on several occasions, and have been able to make substantial improvements to the road and I hope that these improvements will mean no other family will have to experience what the Bryden and MacInnes families have gone through.'

## Oban court shown CCTV footage as three admit violent assault

THREE people have admitted carrying out an assault with such a 'level of violence' Oban's procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty struggled to describe it.

Brian Edwards and Carrie Anne Robertson, both of 17 Keil Gardens, Benderloch and Andrew MacMillan, described

in court as a prisoner in Gate-side Prison, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Friday.

### Permanently disfigured

Edwards, aged 20, admitted 'severely injuring' one of his victims by punching him on his head to the point he will be permanently disfigured.

He also pled guilty to assaulting another man by repeatedly punching and kicking him on his head and body and repeatedly stamping on his body and attempting to stamp on his head.

Robertson admitted repeatedly stamping on the body and attempting to stamp on the head of the same man.

MacMillan pled guilty to repeatedly punching his victim on the head and body. He has been remanded in custody while the two others were released on bail.

All of the incidents took place

last November 23 in or outside a food outlet on Oban's George Street.

### Opposed bail

In initially opposing bail for the trio procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty showed the court CCTV images which he said was something he had never

done before but felt the 'level of violence' in the case made it necessary.

He added: 'I played the CCTV as it could explain the violence far better than I ever could.'

Sentence was deferred on the trio until February 8 for the preparation of reports.

## MORVERN LINES

THE SHORTEST day has passed and on the high tops it is winter, but weather has little effect on the nesting of the great stalwarts of the glens and sea-cliffs of Morvern – the ravens.

What are to us inclement months - January, February and March - see ravens actively repairing their old nests, courting and egg-laying.

'Nest at Candlemas [2 February], egg at Shrovetide [the day before the beginning of Lent], bird at Easter, if the raven have these not, death then is its lot,' used to be an old Highland saying.

From time immemorial ravens have been a powerful symbol and a popular subject of folklore and mythology in the Highlands where they were often considered birds of ill omen and death.

So called 'vermin lists' record that 1,962 ravens were killed in Caithness and Sutherland during 1819-26; 475 in Glengarry between 1837-1840 and a further 662 destroyed in Sutherland, including 134 by a single Assynt keeper from 1870 to 1880 for a bounty of 2s 6d each.

At Inverewe, in Wester Ross, 27 were killed between 1897-1902 and, at Ullinish on Skye, 25 between November 1885 and July 1886.

As the old Highland shepherds and keepers never willingly killed ravens because they were mentioned in the Bible, these numbers suggest this slaughter must have been done by incomers.

Ravens seem to have fared better in Argyll, including Morvern, where their numbers have at least remained fairly static over the past 50 years.

A 'raven's messenger' was said of one sent on a message, who was slow in returning, or not at all, and of course refers to the time of the Great Flood featured in the Biblical story of Noah's ark (Genesis 8: 7).

In bygone days young ravens were often taken live from their nests and kept as pets and by having their tongues slit, they were able to speak better than parrots.

Adult birds are credited with great intelligence especially during the deer stalking season when they can associate a rifle shot with a gralloch (discarded entrails) and fresh food.



Staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital demonstrate the new machine to members of ABCD, who donated £5,000 towards its cost. 16\_103scan01

## Donation helps bring state-of-the-art scanner to Lorn and Islands Hospital

A NEW ultrasound machine is helping to make Lorn and Islands Hospital one of the best in the country for cardio respiratory, thanks to a charitable donation.

No bigger than a PC laptop, the state-of-the-art scanner is worth £35,000.

However, a trade-in with the department's old ultrasound machine brought the price down to £20,000 and a further £5,000 was offset by a grant from the charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD).

The mobile scanner allows Jayne Mahmoud, chief clinical

cardiac physiologist, to carry out a treatment known as echocardiography, in which an ultrasound of the heart is taken to identify any defects or health problems.

It is used throughout Argyll and the isles and taken as far as Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Islay, Colonsay and Mull.

Ms Mahmoud explained: 'The department we have in Oban is equal to anything in the country and we are lucky to have it.'

'From the patients' point of view, the purchase of this ultrasound machine is fantastic.'

'It means patients in Campbell-

town and the islands don't have to come here for a scan, we can take it to them.'

'By the nature of their condition, a lot of our patients would struggle to travel.'

An investment in cardio respiratory was one of the first projects undertaken by ABCD in 2010.

Dr Andy Henderson, of ABCD, said: 'This is important equipment that meets one of the aims of our charity: helping to prevent cardiovascular disease.'

'The money will be used in Argyll, which is important too.'

The 25 year old man was arrested at 9.40am.

## Dalmally volunteer responders group disbands

A VOLUNTEER group that provided emergency medical response in a remote part of Argyll has had to disband because of a lack of members.

The First Responders Scheme in Dalmally provided a quick response in the Glenorchy and Lochaweside areas, where the nearest ambulance is up to an hour away in Oban.

The scheme, which is supported by the Scottish Ambulance Service, requires volunteers to operate on-call shifts in case of a medical emergency in their area.

And after failing to recruit the sufficient number of volunteers the Dalmally scheme disbanded last Monday.

The group's vehicle will be returned to the Scottish Ambulance Service but a defibrillator will remain in Dalmally Community Centre.

## Outboards stolen

OUTBOARD motors worth thousands of pounds have been stolen from Linhra Marine at Appin sometime between January 1 and 10.

The stolen engines are a Mercury 50bhp four stroke engine and a Yamaha 225bhp four stroke. Anyone with information should contact Oban police.



Solus a Chuain will provide cruising for hotel guests

## New writer-in-residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig



Catriona Lexy Campbell is the new writer-in-residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

ground - both her father Norman Campbell and her uncle Alasdair Campbell have held the writer in residence post at SMO.

Her mother Mary Jane Campbell is an accomplished Gaelic singer and lecturer at Sabhal Mòr.

Catriona Lexy said: 'As a writer, it is always wonderful to have the opportunity to develop your work. I'm so pleased to be working with the exceptional students and staff of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and I'm sure that we'll have a great year together.'

Kath MacLeod, Gaelic development officer at SMO said: 'Catriona Lexy is a very talented writer whose work includes prose, poetry and drama.'

She has written both children's titles such as Balach Beag, a Mhàthair and Sgeulachdan Eagalach Feaglach and novels for adults, Samhráidean Diomhair and Cleasan a' Bhàile Mòr.

She also won the Gaelic poetry prize at the Wigtown Book Festival in 2006 with her poem 'Cineas'.

Catriona Lexy has been involved in Gaelic drama for a number of years as both an actor and tutor, and up until last April

## Award winning Skye hotels add luxury yacht to customer service

A YACHT provided for guests at two Isle of Skye hotels will come into service in April.

Anne Gracie and Ken Gunn, who own and run Duisdale House and Toravaig House Hotels in Sleat, have bought *Solus a Chuain* (Light of the Ocean), an ocean-going 50 foot Jeanneau Sun Odyssey.

It replaces *Solus na Mara* (Light of the Sea), a 42-foot version of the same craft they had operated for five years.

The yacht's route will take in surrounding islands, Atlantic waters and the Knoydart peninsula across the Sound of Sleat.

The hotels are the only two in Scotland with a luxury yacht reserved exclusively for guests.

Anne and Ken, who is the former captain of the five-star cruise ship Hebridean Princess, were voted Scottish hoteliers of the year in 2011.

residency. It will be especially interesting to see the results of her collaborative work with the other artists who are resident at the college.'

The residency, part of a partnership between SMO and Creative Scotland, will last for a year.

## Royal Society of Edinburgh to continue public talk tour with lecture at Kinlochleven

THE ROYAL Society of Edinburgh will continue its public talks series in Lochaber when Dr Andrew Perchard of the University of Strathclyde addresses an audience in Kinlochleven on February 4.

Dr Perchard's talk will focus on the impacts of the Highlands' aluminium industry, of which Kinlochleven was a major centre.

The lecture in Kinlochleven High School, entitled 'For the Benefit of Mankind: Industrialisation, Environment and the Politics of Highland Development', begins at 7pm.

Tickets to the free event can be booked on 0131 2402780 or events@royalsoc.org.uk.

## Harris Tweed company enjoys global interest

SHAWBOST-based Harris Tweed Hebrides has predicted 'another strong year' for the fabric, based on early ordering and continuing global interest.

Chief executive Ian Angus MacKenzie was 'cautiously optimistic' progress in 2012 would be maintained.

### Encouraging

Mr MacKenzie visited Japan recently and reports demand from the country - the company's biggest market - remains strong.

He said: 'I saw a vast range of really excellent products which included very little of traditional Harris Tweed jackets. One of our big strengths now is in the greater diversity of uses.'

'We are a little bit ahead of where we were this time last year on orders and the sampling has been excellent.'

'You can never be sure until the actual orders come in but at the moment it looks encouraging. We have a good match now between demand and weaving capacity so that is what we will be trying to maintain throughout the year.'

Elsewhere on the export market front, HTH chairman Brian Wilson and creative director Mark Hogarth have just returned from Pitti Uomo in Florence - the world's foremost show for displaying mainly menswear collections to potential buyers.

### High quality

Mr Wilson said: 'We saw a huge range of great products which have been made up from samples supplied from Shawbost over the past few months. All the response was extremely positive and there was confidence that the collections will sell well.'

'Everyone commented on the quality of the samples which is a tribute to the weavers and everyone at the Shawbost mill.'

The Isle of Lewis firm accounts for 90 per cent of Orkney Harris Tweed production.

## Transport minister should visit Argyll accident blackspot says councillor

AN ARGYLL councillor has called on Transport Scotland and the transport minister to visit an accident hotspot in her ward after accusing them of 'not listening' to community concerns.

The A828 between Benderloch and Appin has seen high-friction surfacing applied to the road but Councillor Louise Glen-Lee says locals regard parts of the route as unsafe.

The most recent incident was a single-car road crash on Monday night, when a Vauxhall Astra ended up on its side, blocking the road near to the Sea Life Sanctuary for more than an hour.

Councillor Glen-Lee said: 'I have spoken to the transport minister Keith Brown to

make sure he is aware of the community safety aspect on that road.

'I am really angry that no-one seems to be listening to a whole community and despite advice from the rulebooks that the new surface is the standard, it has not made anyone feel safer.'

'I want to sort this out as soon as possible and it is time for Transport Scotland and Keith Brown to come and see this road.'

High friction road surfacing was applied to the A828 near Barcaldine, during four overnight road closures in November last year.

The work was carried out as part of an accident reduction plan, with a number of cars skidding off that section of road last winter.

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## SPEAN BRIDGE

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council met recently, with issues discussed including:

- Highbridge path - The secretary explained that the Spar had agreed to take a key, so hopefully access outwith the Post Office Hours could be arranged. The community council expressed condolences after the death of Doctor Reece, who gave funds to make the Highbridge path possible.
- The Community Council regretted the imminent closure of the Roy Bridge Stores and its impact especially on the elderly members of the community.
- Further quotations for replacing the Spean Bridge notice board will be sought after a price of £902 + VAT had been received.
- The community council applauded the work of Lochaber Women's Aid and agreed to invite their spokesperson to the March meeting.
- Street flooding in Roy Bridge continued to cause concern, and although TranServ had been in attendance it was agreed to monitor the situation.
- Dominic Sargent reported that there had been no call-outs for the Fire and Rescue Service in the past month and six for the First Responders.
- Three planning decisions were considered and passed without comment.

Lochaber Environmental Group representatives will give a short presentation on their food waste compost project at the next community council meeting on February 5.

## BALLACHULISH

SOUTH Lochaber youngsters will get the chance to show off their wide range of abilities at a talent show in Ballachulish next month.

The event will be held in the local village hall on Friday February 1.

## KILCHOAN

A NEW playpark in Kilchoan is set to be completed and formally opened in May, just in time for summer.

A number of community events have been held in recent years to raise money for the project, including a fun day in 2010 and a dance in the local hall.

A group of local men raised more than £25,000 for the project by walking the West Highland Way.

Locals decided to create the playpark in memory of youngster Caleb Cameron. The four-year-old died in 2009 after being hit by a jet ski that came out of the water as he played at the slipway near his home in Kilchoan.

Work started on the playpark in April last year.

## West Ardnamurchan Community Council

AMONG matters discussed at the community council meeting last Monday night were:

- The Kilchoan Playpark: full funding is now in place and planning signed off, so it should be opened formally in May.



Dozens of Santas turned out in Tobermory for a special 'dash' around the town just before Christmas. Organised by Babs Whyte, the event aimed to be fun for all the community, with mince pies and a dram – or a juice for the little ones – served at the end. All entrants were also presented with a medal. The day was in support of the Marie Curie Cancer Care group recently set up on Mull.

It was pointed out that there had been some 200 power outages locally in the last seven years. WACC will be monitoring the success of the recent tree felling in the estate plantation to see if this improves things.

□ Road salt is being made available to volunteers by Highland Council Transport Services. It will be stored beside the road. Anyone wanting some for their area should contact Ian Ramon.

□ Highland Council is also anxious to devolve some of its services to local contractors – contact WACC secretary Jac on wacc@kilchoan@yahoo.co.uk for details.

□ There was a complaint about the state of the Ormsaigbeg road.

□ PC Andy Irvine warned that heating oil has been stolen from a property in the area, and that thieves are now more active in rural areas. He urged householders to improve security.

□ PC Irvine also warned that Northern Constabulary is carrying out speed checks in the area, particularly in the 20mph limit around the school.

□ Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue are aware of increased concern about fire safety following the Sonachan incident, and are available to give advice to householders.

More information at <http://www.hifrs.org/FireSafety-Check>.

## PLOCKTON

AT MIDNIGHT on New Year's Eve the annual bonfire and fireworks were held at Plockton with

rockets from the shore lighting the bonfire on the island.

Large crowds looked on and afterwards attended the dance in the village hall, which raised over £1,000 for the Computers for Africa Appeal. It was organised by Pat and Terry Heaviside.

## EASDALE

THE EASDALE event which allows people to 'cruise in company' will return for 2013.

The annual RIB Rendezvous, which has become a feature on the island calendar, is open to rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) of all sizes.

This year's event will take place over the weekend of May 4 and 5 with many events available to the RIB owners participating.

Trips include a 'jaunt around Jura', west Loch Tarbert and a visit to Carsaig, the setting for the classic 1950's Michael Powell film *I Know Where I'm Going*.

A full itinerary and list of necessary information is available at [www.easdaleRIBrendezvous.org.uk](http://www.easdaleRIBrendezvous.org.uk), where those considering attending are asked to register their interest.

Organisers would like to remind participants they are responsible for the seaworthiness of their RIB and for the safety of all aboard.

## GLENORCHY

GLENORCHY and Innishail Community Council is to compile a list of the area's assets as part of a community resilience plan.

The stormy weather last winter caused problems with power and access across the area, prompting communities to think about how they could cope in the future.

At last Wednesday's community council meeting, secretary John Kerr said: 'We need to know which farmers have tractors and who has a generator in their shed etc.'

'We also need a system of contacting people quickly.'

'The local authority doesn't have the assets or the manpower they used to have.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'Glenorchy and Innishail is such a diverse area, so I would encourage places like Portnanagan and Bridge of Orchy to have their own resilience plans.'

Correspondence with government ministers and Scottish Water have given the community hope that there may be a solution to the water supply problem.

Scottish Water is currently undertaking a survey to find out how much an upgrade of the water system would cost.

In the meantime, Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council has been in discussion with government ministers, including Michael Russell, the area's MSP, and Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

Speaking at the community council meeting last Wednesday, secretary John Kerr said: 'The big difference now is that I can see hope. A year ago it seemed

the situation was hopeless.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson added: 'This issue is being recognised at the highest level and we all need to pull together.'

'There is a difference in the tone used between the parties involved.'

Although temporary repairs have been made to the water supply for the village, the community fears a spell of cold weather will see the system break down again.

The system initially failed in November 2010, prompting Argyll and Bute Council to declare the water unsafe to drink.

## APPIN

THE COMMUNITIES of Appin and Lismore will unveil defibrillator cabinets outside their respective village halls on all sizes.

The event will include first aid training and defibrillator use for members of the public, in case of emergency.

A defibrillator is applied to the chest to give the heart a shock following a cardiac arrest and has become a part of modern-day first aid.

The machine will be locked in cabinets mounted on the outside wall of Appin Village Hall and Lismore Village Hall. Keyholders will have been trained in its use and be issued with a punch code to gain access.

Alasdair MacDermott of Achnacone Farmhouse, Appin tells us that a cyclist pointed out primroses on the cycle path just

north of Appin last Friday. Is this the first sighting of Argyll primroses in 2013?

## BUTE

A COMMUNITY forest on the Isle of Bute has received a funding boost from a charity lottery.

Bute Community Land Company was awarded £6,650 by People's Postcode Trust, a grant-giving charity, funded entirely by players of People's Postcode Lottery.

Nearly 200 flags have so far been submitted, bringing the project half way to its 400 flag goal.

Sarah MacLean, who runs the project, said: 'If you would like to support Barra Bunting then please go onto the Epic Awards website and vote. It would be great if you could also tell family, friends and colleagues so they too can vote.'

To register your vote, go to [epicawards.co.uk/shortlist](http://epicawards.co.uk/shortlist).

Meanwhile, Barra Bunting's 2013 workshops will soon be up and running, with the next Big Stitch Up running in March.

For more information on Barra Bunting visit [www.barrabunting.net](http://www.barrabunting.net).

## KILLIN

CRIANLARICH and Killin School came fourth in the final in the schools dual slalom relay which was held at Braehead.

They just missed out on a medal with a 3-3 score in the head to head race novice section.

Winning ski-team was Logan Mailer, Anna Stitt, Ross Ronald and Catriona Gammons.

Mrs Tyrell is leaving to take up a principal teacher post at Crianlarich, and will be missed.

Mrs Marie Law has been appointed the new class teacher for Class 3. She is currently working at Crianlarich School.

Mrs Law will liaise with Mrs Tyrell to ensure a smooth transition for all the children in Class 3.

Jo Robinson has also moved to Killin Nursery.

Mrs Sammy Hibbert has been appointed to work in Class 1 on Thursday and Fridays.

THE KILLIN Tourism Forum held an open information meeting in the Bridge of Lochay Hotel when 70 tourism related businesses within the Killin area were invited.

Stuart Bain, senior grading advisor with the Perth-based Green Tourism Business Scheme gave a presentation about the nature of the scheme, the benefits of membership and the possibility of marketing the area as a 'green' destination.

A number of participants stayed behind afterwards to get more details of the scheme.

THE NATIONAL Park will pay for modification to existing signage and improvements to the visibility of the signs at Lix Toll.

Hopefully this work will be completed by March 2013.

The park is applying for planning permission to erect one of the new stone park entrance signs at the Bridge of Lochay.

If funds are available at the end of the Park's financial year a Welcome to Killin sign may also be erected.

Suitable locations for two tourist information points (TIPs) have been identified in consultation with the Park planning officer, one incorporating an improved community notice board.

Designs are required before site owners can be approached and planning permission sought. Funding will be sought for two sets of designs and construction of the first TIP.

## Islay Letter

**Closure threat**

THE FUTURE prospects for the island's Family History Society are causing concern and an extraordinary general meeting will be held in the Bowmore Service Point at 7:30pm on January 23 where the issue will be under discussion.

The group was set up in 1991 to encourage and support research into family history for those with an interest in the genealogy of the island.

During that time Steve's wife

Chris continued her studies for

ordained local ministry. These

were completed in November

and she now awaits her formal

transfer to the Presbytery of

Argyll.

The Fulchers many friends on

the island wish them every blessing

in their new ministry among

the good folk of south Argyll.

changed with more information readily available on various websites. This has resulted in a decrease in the numbers using the society's resources and a resultant fall in income.

Encouraging new recruits continues to be problematic and this has had a knock on effect on the operation of the Bridgetown centre.

If the threatened demise of this

valuable local asset is of concern

to you come along to this important meeting and make your voice loudly heard as other options are explored.

**Live Gaelic ceilidhs**

A SERIES of ceilidh nights at

Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile begin

on January 30.

Each event begins at 7:30pm and admission is free.

The Gàidhlig Bhòi evenings

will feature songs, music and

stories and will celebrate the island's rich Gaelic culture and traditions.

If you wish to assist or want

further information contact Ann

or Catriona on 01496 810 818

(info@gaelic-islay.net).

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street,

Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX. Tel:

01496 810 658

In recent years the pattern of

genealogical research has greatly

improved.

Information on the

ceilidh nights is available on

the website

www.gaelic-islay.net.

Information on the

ceilidh nights is available on

the website

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Information on the

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## Land Reform Review Group urged to back call for 10,000 crofts

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has urged the Land Reform Review Group to back its call to the Scottish Government for 10,000 new crofts to be created by 2020.

The federation believes a 'rapid extension' of crofting is required to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development.

SCF vice chair Fiona Mandeville said: 'Review of land reform in Scotland should reflect these policy goals and so we have asked the group to support our request.'

'We want to see more people on the land, more families benefiting from a stake in Scotland and being able to take care of their own part of it.'

Scottish Ministers has charged the Land Reform Review Group with producing a report on broadening community land usage and ownership.

See SCF backs Barra campaigners, page 3.

## Police condemn Portree charity shop break in

SKYE POLICE have condemned a callous break in at the Highland Hospice charity shop in Portree.

Cash was stolen and damage was caused to the property sometime between Saturday evening and Monday morning.

Acting Inspector at Portree, Fiona Paxton said: 'It is particularly disappointing that a shop raising money for well regarded charitable work and which is staffed mainly by volunteers, would be targeted in this way.'

Anyone with useful information is urged to contact Portree Police on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555 111.

## Lochaber ceilidh

MEUR LOCHABAIR will hold their annual Skye Ceilidh in the West End Hotel, Fort William on Saturday, February 16th at 7.30pm.

For further details contact Charlie MacColl on 07885 177717.

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000



Glenfinnan Village and Glenfinnan 45's line up before the start of the match - 20\_f03glen01

## Glenfinnan celebrates Old New Year in traditional style

GLENFINNAN villagers turned out in force to celebrate the old Scots New year with an annual shiny match under the famous railway viaduct on Saturday.

Around 40 people from the small village either took part

in the game or cheered on their favourites. Each side featured male and female players, with ages ranging from primary school to pensioners.

Previous year's matches have been played in snow and rain, but the conditions this year were

more favourable with Saturday proving dry but chilly.

A pitch side fire and a few drums kept the players and spectators warm on the banks of the River Finnian during the clash of the ash.

Glenfinnan '45s eventually

took the win, narrowly outscoring Glenfinnan Village by 3-2 during a friendly but competitive game.

Glenfinnan Estate manager Alasdair Gibson helped organise the event, and he told *The Oban Times* it had gone well.

He said: 'The weather stayed dry, conditions were good and it was well attended. I think everyone enjoyed themselves.'

After the game the villagers enjoyed a ceilidh dance, with the celebrations continuing deep into the wee small hours.

## Another Lochaber jobs blow as shellfish firm announces Corpach plant shutdown

LOCHABER has been hit with a second jobs blow in as many weeks with news that the Glen-Isla shellfish processing plant based at Corpach is to close.

**The only option?**

Owner Associated Seafoods Ltd (ASL) of Buckie announced the shutdown on Tuesday following a 30-day consultation period with the plant's 27 employees.

The move comes as the Scottish shellfish industry battles tough trading conditions, particularly within the export sector.

The factory processes

langoustine for shipment to European and the Middle Eastern markets.

ASL said 'the only option' for the business was to close the site and transfer operations to its main langoustine processing facility in Buckie.

**Alternative employment**

All employees have been offered alternative employment within ASL, but at this stage there is no indication on how many staff will take that to the Fort William area.

A spokesman for ASL said: 'We regret having to take this decision and we are very sorry for the impact this will have on employees.'

However, after undertaking a full review of the site, it was decided that the only viable option for the business was to close the facility.

We have offered alternative employment within the ASL group for everyone affected, but we do appreciate that for many people this will not be an option because of their close ties to the Fort William area.'

Last week DE Shoes announced the possible closure of its Fort William store with the loss of seven jobs.

## Transport minister denies voter apathy

TURNOUT for the upcoming referendum on Scottish independence will be 80 per cent or more, transport minister Keith Brown predicted in Fort William on Tuesday night.

Mr Brown made the bold claim at the second in a series of debates being staged by Fort William Chamber of Commerce ahead of the big poll in autumn 2014.

The SNP MSP was responding to concerns from Torlundy House B&B owner Michael Dunham that voter apathy could see independence come through a majority of a minority vote.'

Mr Brown told around 40 business people in the Alexandra Hotel: 'For the independence referendum we will have a very

high turnout. There will be in excess of an 80 per cent turnout. I think we will definitely see that.'

Recent controversy surrounding an independent Scotland becoming an automatic member of the European Union in its own right were among topics raised from the floor.

Mr Brown said: 'Under what scenario does the EU want to get rid of a country with 80 per cent of Europe's energy resources? This will be resolved by politics and not the law.'

Chamber chairman Don Hind thanked Mr Brown for a 'fantastic level of debate' and delivering a 'very passionate and personal' presentation on why Scotland should vote 'yes'.

# Small Isles concern over RIB

'This has caught everybody by surprise'

## EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

COMMUNITY representatives have criticised proposals to introduce a rigid inflatable boat (rib) as a passenger ferry between Mallaig and the Small Isles.

The controversial suggestion, outlined in the new Scottish Ferries Plan 2013-2022, would be accompanied by the redeployment of the islands' present vehicle ferry, the *MV Loch Nevis*, to Coll.

That prospect is also causing islanders disquiet – the roll-on/roll-off vessel was specially built to berth at Muck, Eigg, Rum and CalMac?

'I think the Small Isles wanted a faster service but I don't think they envisaged a rib or that anyone envisaged the *Loch Nevis* – a boat built with the Small Isles in mind – would possibly be taken off the service.'

'I don't think a rib is an option for a west coast of Scotland mainly passenger service. But it is for the Small Isles people to decide what they want. We can't decide what suits Eigg, Muck, Canna and Rum – that's why it's better if it comes from them.'

Transport minister Keith Brown told *The Oban Times* in Fort William on Tuesday night: 'A rib is a fairly basic craft. However, the plans are always going to be drawn up with the local community.'

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'While no decisions have been taken about the selection and deployment of vessels to replace the *Loch Nevis*, in the medium term we plan to provide both a ro-ro vessel and a high speed craft capable of carrying around 150 passengers, supplemented by an appropriate freight vessel.'

'The medium term timetable will see all the islands in the Small Isles provided with a seven day a week service for the first time.'

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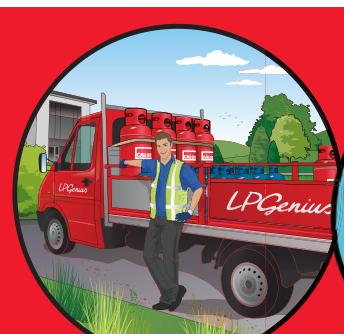
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## A free press is important

AMIDST the current fall-out from the Leveson Inquiry come two different approaches from the British Prime Minister, who wishes the press to be free of legal statute and the First Minister of Scotland who thinks the press should be subject to statutory law. Which way to go?

No one supports the abuse of privacy through illegal phone hacking but that is already illegal and should be prosecuted.

A few weeks ago we had news that a Westminster-based MP might have broken the rules on MPs expenses and that one of her special advisors told the newspaper reporting the matter that it should consider her role in deciding the future of press regulation before publishing details about those claims.

Now we have an investigation into the police handling of the 'Plebgate' Downing Street story.

In Scotland we have ministerial claims that proven legal advice on EU membership was – or has not been obtained.

And so it goes on to illustrate why politicians should be kept at arms length from the press and that statute which must pass through Parliaments and which can be so easily tampered with over time, should be resisted.

In this matter the Prime Minister is right to stand up for a free press. Let the wrongdoers be prosecuted under our existing laws and keep freedom of the press.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Celtic

#### Connections 2013

I suppose by now readers will be well acquainted with the above heading to this column and of course tonight (Thursday) is the Opening Concert.

It would be impossible to list even a small number of the events which can be enjoyed but there is still time to book tickets and go along to hear the wide range of music which will be on offer until the Festival ends on February 3rd.

For ticket tel 0141 353 8000 or online at [www.celticconnections.com](http://www.celticconnections.com)

#### Local Associations

As I intimated last week some of the local Associations were to get their 2013 seasons underway and from what I can gather the common theme was one of attendances fewer in number than all their usual functions although I am led to believe that this is not unusual for January functions.

At the Clydebank Highlanders the artes were piper Robert Wood, Gaelic singers Alasdair Whyte together with Ceilidh Smith and Mischa MacPherson, both students at the Traditional Course at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, Isla MacVean and fiddler John MacMillan.

Ceilidh will be in full training from now until the summer when she will cycle from London to Paris in aid of Breast Cancer and I am sure her friends in Glasgow and back home in Lewis will fully support this venture.

Alasdair MacCuish was in the Chair and Kirsteen Grant was the accompanist.

The following evening the Glasgow Skye Association held their traditional New Year family Ceilidh in the Crawford Hall where, as well as the fine supper provided, those in attendance were able to test their knowledge with a quiz and then join in community singing led by both Fiona Ross and Seumas Campbell.

In Stirling the concert was chaired by Peter Campbell and the artes were piper Craig Sutherland and singers Stephen MacIver, Alasdair Whyte, Rachel Deans and Emma Deans as well as the Cluaran Dancers.

#### Ceo's Craic

This month's meeting of Ceo's Craic will be a celebration of the connections between Gaelic and Celtic musicians in the CCA on Saturday January 26th.

From 6pm there will the opportunity to try out your Gaelic in an informal setting at the conversation cafe and then at 7.15pm comedy actor Carina MacLeod will open the show with a multilingual welcome.

This will be followed by local musician Padraig Campbell performing traditional Irish songs at 7.30pm, Breton Band Askolem with their fusion of Breton, Gaelic and French music at 7.45pm and Richard James and Gareth Bonello with Welsh folk pop at 8.30pm.

At 9pm the Joy Dunlop Band will perform songs from Joy's new album 'Faileasan'.

Remember also that the Cafe Bar will be serving two courses for £7.50 between 6pm and 8pm. Children are

welcome to attend until 10pm.

#### Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland will be the venue on both Saturday January 19th and Saturday February 2nd in association with Celtic Connections.

On the 19th there will be a presentation of Solas an exciting collaborative project between Tobar an Dualchais and the University of the Highlands and Islands to create a new musical suite to celebrate Scotland's heritage of music and song. The project is directed by Julie Fowlis.

Then on February 2nd the students of the Traditional Music Course will join with KHM, folk music students from the Royal College of Music in Stockholm.

The students of both establishments showcase their individual and collective talents while embracing the opportunity to welcome the traditional music from their respective countries.

Both of these concerts will commence at 2pm.

#### Congratulations

Many congratulations to the young pipers from the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland who took the audiences by storm when they visited China recently together with the Scottish National Orchestra.

Staff at the National Piping Centre must be extremely proud of the youngsters who were superb ambassadors for our national instrument.

#### Scottish Night

Now well established on the social calendar the annual celebration of Scottish culture will take place in St Columba's Church of Scotland on Monday January 21st.

The evening, commencing at 7.30pm, will be chaired by Cameron MacKichan who will also be one of the artes. The others will be Sheena Walker, John Anthony Graham, John MacMillan and Donald MacIntosh.

Tickets will be available at the door.

#### Dates for Diary

Thursday January 17 Opening Concert Celtic Connections, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall.

Saturday January 19 Glasgow Islay Association Burns Supper, Crawford Hall, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm-Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band.

Monday January 21 St Columba Church Scottish Night – see above.

Friday January 25 Uist and Barra Association New Year Dance, Glasgow University Union, 9pm-lam

Saturday January 26 Ceo's Craic – see above

#### Pub Scene

Robert Robertson will be playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday this weekend with Martin Pottinger there on Friday.

In the Inn Inn it will be Black Velvet on Friday and Gunna Sound on Saturday.

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



## First load of timber leaves Mull by barge

On Saturday, February 19, 1994 the first load of timber left Mull by barge from the newly built Forestry Commission jetty at Fishnish. After two years of planning, 750 tonnes of timber left the island by barge instead of being loaded and shipped via Crignure. The barge sailed from the Isle of Mull to the Iggesund Paper Board Mill at Workington. 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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#### Independent councillors should act as individuals

Sir,

The new Lochaber/Skye area committee has not yet come into existence and some Independent councillors are already talking about taking power instead of acting like real Independents and voting as individuals in the interests of residents.

It has been claimed that they have a 6-5 majority in their favour on a Lochaber/Skye area committee. What happens if an Independent councillor acts independently?

Acting independently in the past has seen Independent councillors having their fingers rapped by their Independent colleagues.

Since the election in May, with one exception to date, the Independent group has voted en-block. In an ideal world there would be no party politics in Highland Council.

These days are well and truly over.

When I was first elected as a councillor in 2003, Independent councillors voted as individuals. After the election in 2012, I was informed that Independent councillors could not put my name forward for any Highland Council committee if I did not agree to act and adhere to the Independent group's decisions.

That is what I call controversial.

Due to my commitment to act as an Independent councillor, I was left in the position of not being a member of any committee.

The SNP led Administration let me know that they would welcome me into their group and the Joint Administration.

I joined the SNP rather than be Independent in name only.

Bill Clark, Highland Council

#### Morvern no more

Sir,

When I came to Morvern 15 years ago, I discovered a peninsula largely ignored by all agencies, virtually airbrushed out of existence by exclusion from the Initiative at the Edge, by a post

code which failed to distinguish it from the town of Oban, by signs at Ardgour 'Welcome to Ardnamurchan', by the fact that the word 'Morvern' did not appear on a single road sign (with the honourable exception of the ferry slipway at Fishnish), and later, by the adoption of a local government definition of 'Fort William and Ardnamurchan'.

I coined the term 'Morvern OVER THE EDGE' and hoped that time would see change for the better. Some things have improved, although there remains a deplorable reluctance at every level to distinguish between Ardnamurchan and all the non-Ardnamurchan districts which lie to the west of the Corran Ferry.

This week I received my copy of The Oban Times with a book entitled 'Fort William & Lochaber Index'. This is a telephone directory of residential and business numbers throughout Lochaber, and includes the code for Lochaline. It stops there! There are NO residential or business numbers for Morvern! Ardgour, Sunart, Ardnamurchan, Moidart, all appear, but NOT Morvern!

What do we have to do to reassert the ancient historic and geographic status of this district and community in the face of these repeated onslaughts?

D.A.L.Watt, Sruthan House, Lochaline

#### Savile's Glencoe cottage

Sir,

As someone whose work is with survivors of childhood sexual abuse and as a keen hillwalker who loves Glencoe, I feel dismayed at events, decisions and suggestions about Alt na Righ, the house Jimmy Savile owned for some years. I ask everyone involved to re-think.

Proposals for demolition are policies of despair against the

current wave of vandals. But they also pander to a hypocrisy witnessed throughout the UK.

Rushed removal of commemorative names, other tributes to or associations with Savile enable embarrassed agencies to remove all traces of their association with him, and wash their hands of his actions. They may feel better but this does little for survivors. What would have made a difference was if people who feted him over 40 years had reported him, and if prosecutors had taken him to court!

Secondly, buildings aren't guilty: people are. This house had a longer, proud association with famed mountaineer Hamish McInnes; it's a useful contact point for people with disabilities who love the mountains were excellent and needed. Is this really the result that at least this one positive legacy now cannot come about?

To the vandals and graffiti mob, I ask what earthly good for abused children or adults you're doing, except to make you puffed-up and self-congratulatory. If as I suspect you were abused yourselves, find the courage to report and seek help, instead of projecting your anger uselessly. If you're simply mindless and aggressive, the police need to put in CCTV and arrest you. Why not, they put it in everywhere else!

Please, councils, funding

Trusts, mountaineering interests and communities, have the care and courage to create a positive outcome and future purpose for this historic building, one which gives something back to vulnerable people.

Name withheld, Edinburgh

#### Warning lights

Sir,

Fergie MacDonald tells of the strange blazing red sunset observed from Shiel Bridge on August 4th 1914 prior to the commencement of the First World War ('Fergie's Talk' - The Oban Times January 3rd).

This reminds one of the strange light which was observed by many across Europe on the 25/01/1938 almost six months prior to the commencement

of the Second World War and which was prophesied would happen back on July 13th, 1917.

This prophecy was given to Sr Lucia in Fatima, Portugal and she said God had told her that this sign would be given to warn people of what was to come - for not amending their ways.

Further information on this can be obtained on visiting 'Fatima' websites.

Calum MacFarlane-Barrow Dalmally

of the Second World War and which was prophesied would happen back on July 13th, 1917.

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Further information on this can be obtained on visiting 'Fatima' websites.

Calum MacFarlane-Barrow Dalmally

#### Can't see the windfarms in the wood for the trees

Sir,

There is a simply way to limit wind farm expansion and avoid tourist disappointment.

All planning permits for wind farms shall include an obligatory forest planting. Wind turbine masts shall be respectively higher.

Wind farm companies that consider planting forests too expensive can develop off shore wind farms.

Permits will be issued locally and local authorities will be made responsible of the lack of any forested wind farms.

Tourists like forests and won't see the wind turbines while walking in forest.

Bogumil Fic, Oban

#### Problems in the High Street start in the home

Sir,

There has been much comment, particularly online and on social media sites, about the demise of the retail outlets in numerous villages and towns throughout the west of Scotland.

Most agree that losing these small, individual shops leads to a loss of the character that makes our towns and villages what they are today.

Many of these comments are directed at encouraging communities to use, or lose, their local stores. But how many of these online commentators are the very people who buy everything they can online?

John Stewart, Oban



## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

Nuar a bhithinn a' leughadh mu na milleanan a bhathas a' call tro chairtean-creideis a bhith gan goid, bha ceist daonna nam inninn Carson roibh na bancaichean a' toirt air daoinne an dealbh a' chur air a cuid cairtean. Aig ceann cuise, bhiogh roghainn aig an feadhainn nach robh airson an dealbh nochdadh air cairt-creideis a dhiliadach.

Ain an doigh, an toimh agagain air beachd mòr-sluagh na dùthcha air leithid seo de riaghail ma bheir sinn sùil air a'aireamh de dràibhean Breatann a fhuaire cairt cead-dràibhidh len dealbh oirre. Tha còig blàthadh deug bho thòisicheadh a' tabhann nan cairtean sin an toiseach agus ged nach eil e mar fhiachaibh air dràibhean an gabhal fhaistast, a réir an DVLA tha còrr air trichead milenn feadh na dùthcha air am faotainn. Ach ann da bliadhna eile, ann an 2015, feumaidh mo leithid fhin agus ionadaid duine eile na h-àrdagan páipear a th' againn mar dearbhadh air cead-dràibhidh a thigl bhuain agus cairtean tura faoaithean. Mar a th' mi air a nochdadh mar-thà,

## Roadworks herald A82 overnight closures in March

MAJOR resurfacing works planned south of Fort William at Onich, if they go ahead, will mean overnight road closures of the A82 in March, Nether Lochaber Community Council has heard.

Chairman Iain Jenner revealed details of the improvements, from the Onich Hotel north to the 40mph sign, at NLCC's monthly meeting last Wednesday.

He said: 'Resurfacing will start no later than March 10 and will be finished by March 22. But if they can't start before March 10 they won't start at all.'

He added: 'I don't believe they are going to work over weekends but there will still be overnight closures from 9pm to 6am. It is their intention to allow vehicles through as and when they can.'

Mr Jenner was among community representatives who met Transport Scotland and Scotland TranServ chiefs on December 19 to discuss the works, which were postponed in October 2011 amid local claims of insufficient consultation.

Cycle path construction through Onich to the Corran Ferry could coincide with the road resurfacing.

No date for a second set of A82 improvements east towards North Ballachulish, which were also postponed, has yet been set.

### Shopmobility raise more than £500

**SHOPMOBILITY** Lochaber staff and volunteers raised £585.33 during an in-store collection at Morrisons in Fort William on Saturday.

Coordinator Billy Ward thanked the store and all involved in helping to raise the 'fantastic total'.

# Ardtornish commissions second hydro electric scheme

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

According to Angus Robertson, who manages the estate's energy interests, Tearnait is projected to earn £500,000 and Rannoch Dam £1 million annually through the UK government's 'feed-in tariff' (FIT) scheme.

#### Revolutionise estate

Ardtornish, along with other developers of hydro projects between 500kW and 2MW, is paid 12.1p per kilowatt-hour by

their electricity supplier, plus up to 5p per kWh for surplus power exported to the grid.

All electricity consumers subsidise FITs, which aim to boost small-scale renewable power generation, through their energy bills.

Mr Robertson said: 'We have taken quite a big risk and the purpose of this is to keep the place going and make it better. It is going to revolutionise the economy of the estate, and Morvern.'

The project will mean substantial spin-offs for the local community of over £10,000 per year. Ardtornish, unlike many

other developers, has agreed to meet Highland Council's recommended community benefit of £5,000 per installed megawatt in full.

#### No agreement

However, despite Tearnait generating power for a year, no agreement has been reached on which local group should administer the fund.

Dot Ferguson, Lochaberwards manager for Highland Council, said a local ballot would soon be held to decide the issue.

She said: 'The likely options are Morvern Community Council or Morvern Community Trust – either is set up in

such a way that they can receive community benefit cash.'

'The ballot will be asking which body you would like to see holding the community benefit money for the community.'

'Ardtornish have voluntarily agreed to take part in Highland Council's scheme which recommends a payment of £5,000 per megawatt, per annum.'

'They are paying in full and are very good to deal with. If the other [estates] were as fair it would be good – there has been a history of figures settling down at around only £2,000 per megawatt.'

Meanwhile, Ardtornish has received planning and water abstraction consents for a third scheme at Uileann, in the White Glen, but has delayed construction on cost grounds.

Mr Robertson said: 'The reason we have not started building yet is raising the extra finance required and not risking too much at once.'

'We plan to start building in autumn 2013 using the same team that built the other two, consultants Hydroplan of Fort William and contractors DA MacDonald of Lochgilphead. The grid connection has been secured.'



## Crofting federation back Barra fishing grounds protest

**BARRA PROTESTS** over local fishing grounds being designated as a marine Special Area of Conservation have won backing from a national crofters' organisation.

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) says the Scottish Government should turn down proposals to make the Sound of Barra a protected area the interests of local democracy.

The SCF also wants government to 'radically revise' the way it enacts European environmental legislation.

SCF director Roddy MacDonald conceded changes were needed to help global efforts on environmental and species protection – but not if that meant ignoring informed local opinion. He said: 'The campaign by Barra people against the proposed mSAC

has highlighted a long-standing complaint in crofting communities that there is a democratic deficit in the way that environmental legislation is applied in Scotland.'

The controversial proposal, first put forward in 2000, is being made by Scottish Natural Heritage, the government's nature conservation agency.

Islanders fear restrictions on fishing and other activities could damage an area classed by government as socio-economically fragile.

The SCF says the Sound of Barra case is 'the latest in a long list' of expensive and time-consuming disputes between communities and environmental administrators.

Mr MacDonald said: 'Given the financial restrictions currently being imposed on SNH and on government generally, the government should think again about how nature conservation is carried out in Scotland.'

'However, the Barra conflict is only the latest instance of Scottish governmental approaches to applying environmental conservation commitments under international law, leaving communities feeling that their opinions are ignored and they are effectively having designations imposed on them.'

'This is prolonging unnecessary

antagonism between the Scottish Government and the people of Scotland.'

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'This is prolonging unnecessary

Above - Finance Secretary John Swinney at the Old Fort before his speech to delegates at the West Highland College UHI in Fort William

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### SCHOOL ENROLMENT

Will your child be five years of age before 28 February 2014? Yes? Then it's time to enrol them for school.

The next school session starts on 14 August 2013. Children who will be five on or before 28 February 2014 are eligible to be enrolled for Primary 1. Enrolment will take place week commencing 28 January 2013.

Although you may wish that your child attends a school other than your local primary school, you must, in the first instance, enrol your child at the local primary school and then make a placing request to the Area Education, Culture and Sport Office.

Placing requests are not required for Gaelic Medium education or for those eligible to attend a denominational school.

When to enrol your child?	Where	What to bring
3.00pm 28 January - 1 February 2013	Local Primary School	Child's birth certificate

Am bi an leanabhagaibhcòigbhliadhna a dh'aoisro 28 Gearran 2014?

Bidh? Ma-thà, tha an t-àmann an clàrachadhairsonnasgoile.

Bidh an t-àmann an clàrachadhairsonnasgoile a' tòiseachadh air 14Lùnastal 2013.

Faoadhaidhclann a bhioscòig air no roan 28 Gearran 2014 a bhith air an clàrachadhairson P1. Bidhan t-seachdainchàrlachaidh a' tòiseachadh air 28 Faoilleach 2013.

Ma thasibhairson 's gun tèid an leanabhagaibhcòigbhliadhna a' bhun-sgoilonadail, feumaidhshibh an clàrachadhairsonnasgoile a' bhun-sgoilonadailanteoisch, agusiarrtas a chur a-steachàsdeidh sin guOifisFoghlaim, CulairagusSpòrsnaSgire.

Chan eilfeum air iarrtasairsonàite-sgoileairsonFoghlaumtroMheadhannaGàidhlig no dhaibhsan a thaairidh air roghainnairsonsgoilbuidhne.

Cuin a chlàrassibhanleanabhagaibh?	Càite	Dèbheisibhleibh?
3.00pm 28 January - 1 February 2013	A' Bhun-sgoilonadail	Teisteanasbreith an leanaibh

### ALIENERGY

Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Argyll  
Bute  
COUNCIL

#### Worried about your energy bills?

Interested in receiving  
FREE renewable heating?

If you live in the Oban/North Lorn area and a member of your household receives benefits, including:

- child tax credit
- income-related employment and support allowance
- income-based job seeker's allowance
- income support
- state pension credit
- working tax credit

Then you may qualify for a FREE installation - wood fuel stoves, biomass boilers, air source heat pumps or solar thermal panels are on offer- as part of our new pilot project on a limited first come, first served basis.

FREE internal solid wall insulation is also available.

Contact: Mandie Currie on 0791 9370397

or mandie@alienergy.org.uk

This pilot project is funded by the Scottish Government and energy suppliers

## Lewis man killed in cliff fall

A 48 YEAR-OLD man from the Point area of Lewis has died after falling from cliffs at Swordale, five miles east of Stornoway, on Monday afternoon.

The victim, named locally as Donald Macdonald from Knock, is believed to have been working with sheep when he slipped and fell around 70 feet down a ravine onto the shore.

Mr Macdonald suffered severe head injuries and was airlifted to the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway by coastguard helicopter. He later died from his injuries.

A member of the public who witnessed the accident alerted police and coastguards at 3.40pm.

Two crew members from Stornoway lifeboat aided the rescue after reaching the shore in the vessel's inflatable dinghy.

Police are investigating the incident and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. Relatives have been informed.

Local people have been left stunned by the tragedy.

One Bayble man, who asked not to be named, told The Oban Times: 'Everybody I have spoken to has expressed their shock and horror at what has happened.'

### Police appeal following Stornoway death

POLICE are seeking information about the final movements of a Stornoway man whose body was found in the town last week.

William John Johnson, aged 54, was found dead behind a block of flats in the Bayhead area on the afternoon of Thursday January 10.

Police said there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

Anyone with information is urged to call Stornoway police on 01851 702222.

### Knoydart Burns night

THE PEOPLE of Knoydart will celebrate Burns Night on Saturday will an informal family get together in Inverie village hall.

**Fort William Primary pupils have handed over a cheque for £100 to the local branch of Highland Hospice. The money was raised through donations taken during the youngsters' nativity play 'Children of the World'. Zara Struthers and Charlie MacHugh, who played Mary and Joseph in the show, presented the cheque to John Crawford from the charity, who said the money would be 'very useful'.**

## Rethink required over Fort William bus stops

DEVELOPERS have been forced to rethink their decision to place two bus stops next to a new Fort William roundabout on the busy A830 trunk road after claims they would cause huge traffic tailbacks at peak times.

The stops appeared next to the service road to Blair Mhor Industrial Estate during the final stages of construction.

With no lay-bys created for buses fears quickly grew locally about long traffic jams and possible safety issues.

Transport Scotland said the deci-

sion to reconsider the positioning of the stops followed a safety audit of the site in December.

A Transport Scotland spokeswoman said: 'The provision of bus stops on the A830 near the Blair Mhor development was a requirement of the planning consent and they have been designed by the developer to the current trunk road standards.'

'At a routine safety audit inspection in late December the locations of the bus stops were discussed in detail and further investigations were agreed.'

'These are currently underway

and, as soon as the report is received, a decision will be taken whether any additional works or modifications to the current layout are needed. This is expected to be within the next two weeks.'

The roundabout opened to traffic before Christmas, but the bus stops are not yet operational.

Ward councillor Bill Clark told The Oban Times he welcomed the rethink.

He said: 'It would be horrendous during the summer months to have the buses stopping there.'

'Obviously there is going to be

a car park there, and I was under the impression they would be able to take the buses into the site.'

That would certainly save a lot of hassle.'

'Wherever they go they have to put in lay-bys for the buses to stop in. It wasn't planners who decided the bus stops would go there. The reality is it was a daft idea.'

The new roundabout has been created as part of Miller Developments £50 million project to create a retail park and communities facilities, including a new police station, on the Blar.

### JEWSO

TOOL HIRE

#### Hiring Tools to the Trade and Public</

# Sorren joins Connections' New Voice line-up



Muileach Sorren Maclean, right, helped launch this year's Celtic Connections alongside Duncan Chisholm and Celine Donoghue.

HAVING soaked up the creative atmosphere in An Tobar as a small boy and played his first Glasgow gig as an underage teenager, it seems strange to refer to Sorren Maclean as a 'new voice'.

The 23-year-old has been crafting his creative talents on a guitar for the best part of a decade, yet he will take to stage at Celtic Connections – which starts today (Thursday) – in the New Voices line-up.

For it may come as a surprise to many, including those on his native Isle of Mull, that the young musician has never recorded an album of work, preferring to accompany and collaborate with established musicians, including former Idlewild front man Roddy Woomble and Mull Historical Society's Colin Macintyre.

The New Voices arm of the festival commissions up-and-coming artists to produce a concert of original material. The four artists, including Oban's former Young Scottish Traditional Musician of the Year, Rona Wilkie, will play their own music at the Mitchell Theatre during the festival.

Glasgow-based Sorren, who helped to

launch this year's Celtic Connections alongside Duncan Chisholm and Celine Donoghue, has played at the festival for the past four years but believes he fits perfectly into the New Voices listings.

'I had a good two or three years of writing and performing my own music, leading up to the collaborations I have done over the past two years, so I have plenty of material.'

'But I have never actually written an album before and New Voices has given me the incentive to do that.'



Rona Wilkie will be one of the festival's New Voices.

'It feels like the right time.'

Sorren, who co-wrote Roddy Woomble's latest album, Listen To Keep, could be forgiven for feeling like a music venue veteran. His father, Gordon, is the manager at An Tobar, Mull's famed arts centre and Sorren had already been exposed to various musical influences when he first picked up a guitar at the age of 11.

Continuing his musical education and exploration into his teens, Sorren's first foray into the Glasgow music scene came at the age of 17, when he supported the then relatively unknown Frightened Rabbit at the T-Break heats.

'I shouldn't have been allowed to play in that because I was under 18 years old but it was too good an opportunity to miss,' he explained.

Having seen many fellow musicians fine-tune their art at colleges and universities, Sorren chose to continue his development outside of an academic setting, a decision he has not regretted.

'It has been interesting not doing the uni

thing, because I felt I had to work extra hard. You feel intimidated at first because you don't have that behind you but it has allowed me to get a head start in my career, whereas students my age are just starting now.'

Rona Wilkie's New Voices gig will be on January 27, while Sorren plays a week later, February 3.

Sorren and Rona are part of an all-star Argyll line-up on the Joy Dunlop album, Faileasan – Reflections. Released this week, Faileasan is a collection of Argyll songs that has brought the county's traditional music to the fore, nationally and internationally.

A Faileasan Mini Tour has been announced as a follow up to a successful tour last year. It begins in Bunessan Village Hall on February 28, followed by Lochgoilhead Village Hall on March 1, Carradale Village Hall on March 2.

Joy, who is originally from Connel, will also perform at Celtic Connections to a sell-out audience in the Mitchell Library next Wednesday, alongside former Runrig frontman Donnie Munro.



Connel's Joy Dunlop will perform at Celtic Connections with former Runrig frontman Donnie Munro

**WYVEX MEDIA**  
sponsored by **TESCO**

*Photo of the year*  
*Every little helps*

Lochside, Oban,  
Argyll and Bute, PA34 4HP



**VARIETY**, it seems, is not just the spice of life but of our Photo of the Year competition, with amateur snappers showing their creativity.

Submissions for the competition must be made by the end of this month, with the finalists to be revealed in February.

This week's colourful entries will no doubt catch the eye – but

remember there's still time to vote for your favourite photo by sending us a text or by completing a voting form.

To vote by text, send a message to 88010 using the key word POY followed by the code below your favourite picture if you think it's worthy of a final spot.

For example, if the number below your photograph is 123,

your message would read POY 123.

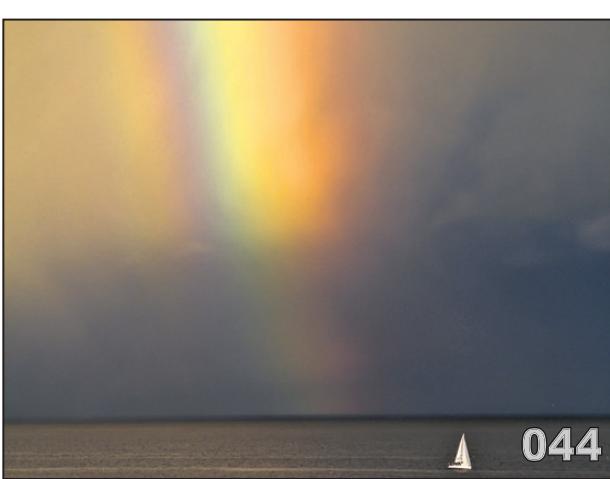
Alternatively, complete the voting form on page 11.

Photocopies will not be accepted.

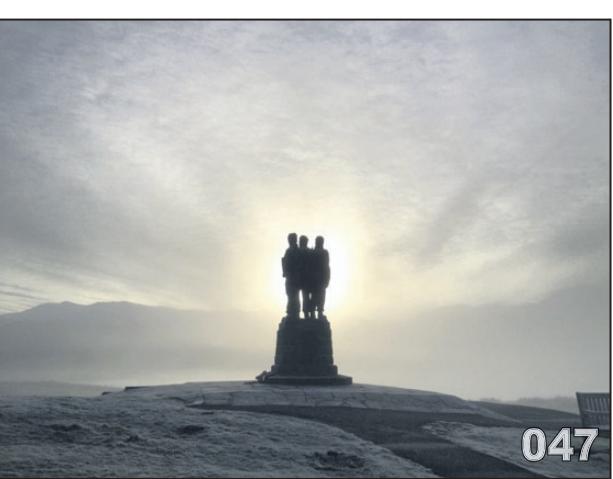
To submit your own photographs for the competition, log on to our website at [www.obantimes.co.uk/poy](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/poy). Please note that photographs must be large enough to print.



Tom Campbell, Motherwell: Roll on summer, at Macharioch  
T02tomcampbell1no 045



Steve Partridge, Carradale: A combination of intense evening sunlight and a huge rainbow. Looking seaward from near Peninver, Kintyre.  
T02stevepartridge1no 044



Brian Donald, Roy Bridge: Commando Memorial, Spean Bridge, Inverness-shire.  
Taken on a November morning 2012.  
t03briandonald1no 047



Grant Cooper, Taynuilt: Sunset on River Awe where the river runs into Loch Etive outside Taynuilt. T03grantcooper1no 048



June MacIntyre, Campbeltown: Time off for Bob and Jim at Glenelvie Shore.  
T03juneamacintyre1no 051



Jessica Crighton, Fort William: Itchy Coo, Great Glen. T03jessicacrighton1no 052

## Kintyre author could take hometown to silver screen

A CRITICALLY acclaimed book by Campbeltown author Denzil Meyrick could see his hometown feature on the silver screen following a bidding war to dramatise the novel.

Two film companies are currently vying to turn Denzil's debut, Whisky from Small Glasses, into a feature-length production and both are keen to use the inspiration for the fictional town of Kinloch as its location.

Scouts are due to visit the town this spring, something the former police officer and businessman hopes will be 'very exciting' for Campbeltown.

The book is to be the first in a series and has already received major recognition from reviewers, including being named The Herald's paperback of the week in December.

It tells the story of Detective Chief Inspector Jim Daley's investigation into a brutal murder in Kinloch which exposes the seedy underbelly of life in the fictional town.

Denzil, who penned the tale after being struck ill with two acute forms of arthritis, is overjoyed at the book's initial success.

Speaking from his home near Loch Lomond, he said: 'My initial expectations for the book were quite low. It's astonishing though. It made it on to the Kindle best sellers' list and continues to do really well.'

'It looks like it will be turned into a film and I know one film producer is visiting Campbeltown in the spring. It could be very exciting for the town.'

The former owner of the Davaar pub in Campbeltown added: 'I've been amazed by the support I've had from local people and I've had messages from people from all over the world - from people I haven't spoken to in 30 odd years. It's been fantastic.'

### Early Tiree Music Festival tickets set a blistering pace

TIREE Music Festival has reported blistering sales of its discounted 'early bird' tickets ahead of the July event.

Having gone on sale just before Christmas, there are now fewer than 200 left of the 500 tickets released early.

Co-organiser Daniel Gillespie said the early bird tickets were on course to be sold out by the end of January.

### Oban Camera Club welcome Cowal guest speaker

OBAN Camera Club recently welcomed guest speaker Andrew Daw, CPAGB, from Cowal Camera Club.

In an excellent digital presentation he charted his interest in photography from a beginner to an accomplished amateur.

Members eagerly absorbed his theory of skills and techniques in the art of digital imaging.

The club meets each Monday at 7.30pm in the Regent Hotel, Oban. New members always welcome.



The Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio were a popular choice at the Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club annual dance Picture - Kevin McGlynn

## Oban club host annual dance date

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club held their annual dance last Friday in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban with the event being well supported by more than 70 dancing enthusiasts.

MC for the evening was Freddy MacKenzie who welcomed everybody and thanked them for attending then introduced the band for the evening, the Glasgow-based Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio. Charlie on his trusty three-

row button key accordion, Gordon Young, on drums and Derek Hamilton, on keyboard.

### Busy dance floor

The band had a varied programme of music and dances plus requests that pleased everyone and the busy dance floor told its own story.

After midnight Freddy MacKenzie announced that it was Charlie's birthday and the singing of 'Happy Birthday' led by Derek Hamilton.

The evening, which was thoroughly enjoyed by both dancers and listeners, was brought to a close by Freddy MacKenzie MC who thanked the band for a great night of entertainment, the Argyllshire Gathering Hall and its staff for being excellent hosts.

Next club night will be back in Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Thursday February 7, 2013 when the guest artistes will be the Susan MacFadyen Trio.

## Plockton students wow first Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club of the year

### Accordionist Gordon Pattullo and fiddler Gemma Donald to play February date

THE JANUARY meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club was moved from the usual first Thursday of the month to the second Thursday to allow for the annual visit of some very special guest artistes - students from the National Centre for Excellence in Traditional Music at Plockton.

### Appreciative audience

The musicians, all teenagers under the supervision of centre director Dougie Pincock, took over the first

half of the evening and from the start produced a wonderfully varied programme of music played to an amazing standard which wowed their appreciative audience.

As solos, duets and trios they provided proof, if proof were needed, that the future of traditional Scottish music is in good hands. Their obvious enthusiasm and love of the music is a great tribute to the centre, its tutors and Dougie Pincock himself.

The students taking part were Charlie Gray of Fort Augustus on fiddle, Cameron Sharp of Plockton on pipes and accordion, Pablo Lafuente of Dunblane on guitar, Charlotte Gunn of Oban on fiddle, Lucy Hendrie of Auchentibbie on clarsach, Kirsten Forsyth of Westhill on fiddle, Nikki Goldmann of Dundee on piano and vocals, Innes White of Dingwall on guitar and Joseph Peach of Achiltibuie on accordion - nationwide talent indeed.

All too soon it was time for the young musicians to make their way back to their accommodation at Plockton and it fell to the only three local musicians present plus a visiting box player to round off the evening's entertainment.

The visitor was Jimmy Johnstone of Spear Bridge who joined John Cameron on keyboard, accordion and vocals and accordionist John MacGillivray in various sets to round off an enjoyable evening.

The next Club night will be in the Royal Hotel, Portree on 7th February when the guests will be accordionist Gordon Pattullo and fiddler Gemma Donald.

- John Grundy



Plockton music students entertained at the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club's first gathering of the New Year.

## 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. Full details and terms and conditions are below this voting form.

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. Photocopies entries will not be accepted.

**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 as stated, no cash alternatives. Employees of Wyvex Media and their immediate family are prohibited from entering. Text votes cost £1 plus one message at standard network rate.

## BURNS NIGHT



Thursday 24th January only. Limited availability and preferred room rates available. To reserve please call the hotel on 018668 33 333 [www.Ardanaiseig.com](http://www.Ardanaiseig.com)

### BUIDHEANN DRÀMA GÀIDHLIG AN ÒBAIN

#### OBAN GAELIC DRAMA GROUP FIRST MEETING

### TALLAICHEAN CHORRAIN CORRAN HALLS

7.00f DICIDAIN 23MH Am FAOILLEACH  
7.00pm WEDNESDAY 23rd JANUARY 2013

If you have an interest in any aspect of Gaelic drama – performing, writing, script-reading, music, design, painting, stage-management etc. – please come along, no matter your level of Gaelic.

Bidh fàilte chridheil air a h-uile duine  
A warm welcome to everyone

Making a welcome return visit to BA Club Fort William On Friday 25th January GARY GAMBLE with THE GAMBLIN' MEN Doors Open 8.30pm Admission £10 Tickets on sale from club or Tel 01463 221268 DON'T MISS THIS GREAT ENTERTAINER!

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**Pitch Perfect**  
**Trouble with the Curve**  
**Silver Linings Playbook**  
**Parental Guidance**  
**JIG**  
**Playing for Keeps**

Thurs 17th, 14:00, 20:30  
Sat 19th, 13:00, 15:30 • Sun 20th- 13:00  
Sun 20th, 15:30  
Sat 19th, 20:30 • Sun 20th, 18:00 • Mon 21st, 18:00  
Tue 22nd, 20:30 • Wed 23rd, 18:00 • Thur 24th, 20:30

**Pitch Perfect (12A)**  
When Becca at her new college, she finds herself not right for any clique but somehow is muscled into one that she never would have picked on her own: alongside mean girls, sweet girls and weird girls whose only thing in common is how good they sound when they sing together, in the new out-loud comedy Pitch Perfect.

**Trouble with the Curve (12A)**  
Gus Lobel (Clint Eastwood) is an oiling baseball scout in his twilight years who takes his daughter, Mickey (Amy Adams) along for one last recruiting trip. Forced to spend time together for the first time in years, each makes new discoveries - revealing long-held truths about their past and present.

**Silver Linings Playbook (15)**  
Life doesn't always go according to plan. Pat Solitano (Bradley Cooper)

**Parental Guidance (U)**  
Comedy legends Billy Crystal and Bette Midler play Artie and Diane Decker, who are called in by their daughter (Marisa Tomei) to help care for their three grandkids. When their old-school parenting methods collide with their daughter's new-school ways, the once-ordinary household spins out of control.

**JIG (U)**  
JIG is the remarkable story of the 40th Irish Dancing World Championships, held in March 2010 in Glasgow.

**Playing for Keeps (12A)**  
George (Gerard Butler) agrees to coach his son's football team when the previous coach proves hopeless. George, however, doesn't anticipate the hilarious bevy of attractive single moms (with a cast including Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman) who aggressively compete for his affections.

has lost everything - his house, three thousand dancers, their families and teachers from around the globe descend upon Glasgow for one drama filled week. Clad in wigs, make up, fake tan, diamantes and dresses costing thousands of pounds they compete for the coveted world titles. Award-winning filmmaker Sue Bourne was given access for the very first time to the little known world of competitive Irish Dancing and reveals an extraordinary year of obsession and dedication for just a few tense minutes on stage.

**Opera Highlights (12A)**  
George (Gerard Butler) agrees to coach his son's football team when the previous coach proves hopeless. George, however, doesn't anticipate the hilarious bevy of attractive single moms (with a cast including Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman) who aggressively compete for his affections.

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OT

**Invergarry wind farm power delayed until 2015**

DEVELOPERS behind plans for a 25-turbine wind farm near Invergarry have said it will not produce power until 2015 at the earliest.

RidgeWind Ltd were granted permission to build the 85MW Beinnneun Wind Farm by the Scottish Government late last year, although construction has yet to start.

Project manager Neal Reid told *The Oban Times* they were waiting for confirmation of a grid connection from SSE before building work started.

He said: 'Construction will take around two years, so it will be at least 2015 before it is up and running.'

**Robertson Trust boost for Lochaber sea cadets**

LOCHABER sea cadets at Training Ship St Christopher in Fort William have received a £2,000 funding boost from the Robertson Trust.

The cash will help cover the cost of electricity and insurance – significant expenses for which financial support can be hard to find.

Meanwhile, treasurer Janice Moyer is stepping down after three years. Anyone with bookkeeping experience who would like to step in can contact Tina Calder on 01397 704246.

**VAL training courses begin in Fort William today**

VOLUNTARY Action Lochaber (VAL) will deliver the second in a series of training courses for local charitable organisations at its base in Fort William today.

The session at An Drochaid will focus on funding plans, fundraising and bid writing.

Two more one-day courses are planned – organising activities and events on February 21, and practical quality assurance systems for small organisations (POASSO) on March 7.

High Life Highland (HLH) is supporting the winter training series through its adult learning fund.

Julie Simmons at HLH said: 'I am delighted that High Life Highland has been able to support [VAL's] training programme which is enabling local people to gain such important skills within their own communities.'

The first course on good governance and motivation, and retention and development of volunteers, was held last Friday.

**Lochaber Women's Aid gain support**



Julie Wileman thanked local people 20\_f03womens01

LOCHABER Women's Aid has paid tribute to the generosity of local people over the festive season after donations to Christmas hamper and toy appeals flooded in.

Service manager Julie Wileman said: 'We had a fantastic response to the appeals and were truly overwhelmed by the number of toys and gifts we received for our children and young people.'

'We would also like to thank businesses and individuals who donated items for Our Christmas Food Hamper Appeal.'

She added: 'We were able to provide all of our service users with gifts and a food hamper, which we know went a long way to brightening their Christmas.'

## Lochaber community groups reach compromise over Loch Arkaig hydropower scheme funding

REPORT by  
RICHARD HADDOCK  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Fotheringham told *The Oban Times* the agreement suited both parties.

He said: 'We have reached a compromise with the ABC Group.'

Any funding from the first two hydro schemes in Loch Arkaig will be paid over in its entirety from the ABC Group to the new company.

'It was very generous of them and it has resolved any difficulties there might have been. We don't need any disagreements, we're only a small community. I think this is probably the best solution for all.'

He added: 'But we have no idea how much money, if any, there will be.'

Although Highland Council have their community benefit policy, the developers hold all the cards. If they decide they don't want to pay, they don't pay it.'

Highland Council wards manager Dot Ferguson attended a recent meeting in Spean Bridge to discuss the community council's plans to set up a new company to handle the potential funding avenues.

After looking at a number of different models, the members agreed to look into creating a



charitable company. A sub-committee comprised of community councillors Sandy

Edmond and Brian Donald was set up to take the project on to the next stage.

Mr Fotheringham said the company would not be linked to the community council.

He said: 'We might set it up,

## Lochalsh school playground bench destroyed

CHILDREN at a Lochalsh primary school returned from their Christmas holidays to find a playground picnic bench had been destroyed by a maliciously started fire.

The wooden bench outside Kyle Primary was set ablaze sometime between December 20 and January 7, with the damage only discovered when the school reopened.

The parent council bought three wooden garden benches for the 60-pupil school around two years ago at a cost of more than £1,000 after a series of fundraising events.

Head teacher Alison MacLellan told *The Oban Times* the extent of the damage might mean repairs will be too expensive.

She said: 'It was very badly scorched and burned. Three or four plants were destroyed as well.'

'They were good quality garden benches, and we think it would cost around £470 to replace it. We will probably need to fund raise to get it repaired or maybe replaced.'

'They are well used benches. The children will sometimes use them as a quiet area, or for table-top games and when the weather is nice we sometimes let the children with packed lunches eat outside.'

'To have one damaged is really a shame after all the hard work of the parents.'

Kyle of Lochalsh police are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them on 01599 554222, or phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police have recently launched an operation to deter and detect acts of vandalism.

## West Highland Way gets £750,000

THE WEST Highland Way between Milngavie and Fort William has been given a £750,000 cash boost.

The Scottish government funding, part of a £3.15m package to Forestry Commission Scotland for improving the country's public forest estates, will go towards upgrading eroded sections of the 96-mile route.

Over the years the Campbell clan has produced no fewer than seven Mod medalists including several winners of the coveted Mod 'double' - the Gold Medal and the Traditional Medal.

Many of the Campbells, who hailed from Skye and latterly Glasgow, went on to become household names.

Kenna Campbell famously sang the 23rd Psalm at the memorial service for the late Labour leader John Smith while Kenna, honoured with a doctorate from RSAMD in 2009, was part of folk group Na h-Eilteirich (The Exiles) in the 70s along with sister Ann and brother Seumas.

More recently, other members of the family have sung together in Ciar.

Kenna's aunt Seonag won the family's first Mod Gold Medal in 1957 followed by Kenna's sister Ann and Ann's daughter Maggie MacDonald. Kenna's two daughters Mary Ann and Wilma Kennedy were both double medalists just as their uncle Seumas was in his day.

Fonn, initially co-ordinated by Skye photographer and broadcaster Cailean MacLean, features a large collection of traditional songs from the family's repertoire, transcribed by Mary Ann.

The cash injection comes as the government develops its national walking strategy throughout 2013 - the Year of Natural Scotland. Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said:

'The projects will not only create new work and jobs but will also have a lasting benefit in supporting green tourism in rural parts of Scotland and encouraging people to get involved in physical activity.'

## Savile's Glencoe cottage should stay say community

Local opinion is strongly opposed to demolition simply because the last owner happened to be Savile



Locals are opposed to its demolition of Allt na Reigh, Jimmy Savile's Glencoe home

Innes' climbing exploits. He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have had contact with several people in the mountaineering association with Hamish MacInnes is partly why the mountaineering community is interested in preserving it.'

If we could find a use like

suggestion of turning it into a mountaineering museum.'

'The property's association with Hamish MacInnes is partly why the mountaineering community is interested in preserving it.'

He added: 'I intend to contact the Mountaineering Council of Scotland to see if this would

be something they would be interested in pursuing.'

Leading author, hillwalker and broadcaster Cameron McNeish is also backing a museum at Allt na Reigh, where Mr MacInnes fashioned cutting-edge ice axes in his workshop.'

### Lochaber police files

LIGHTING AT the sign to Coire Glas Guesthouse in Spean Bridge was damaged between January 1 and January 5.

A QUANTITY of fuel was stolen from Russell Plant Hire at Torthundy between 7pm on Wednesday, January 9 and 7am the following morning.

Anyone with information on any of the above incidents can contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 confidentially on 01397 702000.

### Nether Lochaber Community Council -

on the spot report from Nether Lochaber Village Hall



Scenic Glen Nevis is to be part of a proposed 'national park'?

10\_f03glennevis01

renovated or rebuilt, then used both by Mr Starkey commercially and by the community as a meeting place - should the allotments ever happen and funding become available.

'I don't see Vertical Descents interests and community council interests conflicting,' Mr Jenner said.

Calum Murdison added: 'I think it would need a new building.'

ANOTHER local building is in need of repair or replacement - the village hall itself.

Members heard from chairman Iain Jenner that representatives of the local Scottish country dancing club were concerned about a corner of the hall floor.

New efforts will be made to meet

with the hall committee to agree what should be done next following a recent consultation on a possible replacement venue.

Mr Jenner said: 'I do think considering the community council made the effort to give backing to the consultation process that it needs to be reinvigorated now, and I will write to the hall committee to put that point across.'

Colin Campbell said: 'There is an awful lot of apathy.'

'But if it were said that the hall is going to get knocked down they would all be out there in the car park.'

Ann Marie Cameron said: 'We need to get more folk involved in the committee - you can't do anything with two people.'



Is Nether Lochaber Village Hall Past its sell-by date? 20\_f03nether01

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here. I just don't see them imposing a national park in times of austerity.'

Councillor Baxter added: 'There is no government money behind this.'

Environmental consultants Red Kite are currently drawing up a report on the proposal.

A DILAPIDATED stone building next a popular tourist car park Inchree has been condemned by Forestry Commission Scotland - leaving a local businessman with a major headache.

The offer coincided with an idea to ask Lochaber Housing Association to free up adjacent land they purchased from the commission for housing, but never used, for a community allotment scheme.

The meeting heard suggestions that the building could be

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Also this year visitors can visit a brand new Borders Leisure Accessory Superstore, showcasing the latest accessories from the leading suppliers. To enter, simply answer the question below, complete the coupon and return it to Caravan Competition, The Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4HB by no later than noon, January 24.

**Q: In which city does the 2013 Scottish Caravan, Motorhome & Holiday Home Show take place?**

- A Glasgow    B Dundee    C Inverness**

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**Terms & Conditions:** The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entry coupons will not be accepted. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvern Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvern Media and associated company employees and their families. Tickets will be posted to the winners.

CELEBRITY Caravan Club member Simon King will officially open this year's Scottish Caravan, Motorhome and Holiday Home show next month.

Held at the SECC in Glasgow on February 7-10, one of the UK's most respected TV wildlife experts, will open the show and talk of his love for the outdoors, motorhoming and caravanning. With his Scottish roots, he's the ideal choice to open this year's event.

Describing caravanning as 'connecting to the earth with comfort', Simon King has recently been travelling around the UK in his personalised Green Bailey Orion, and will be venturing around Scotland in his 'Green Goddess' in the lead up to the show.

Nikki Nichol, head of publicity and industry relations at The Caravan Club said: 'Simon is one of our most celebrated members and was a natural choice to open the show for us. As an author, film-maker and naturalist he has travelled extensively around the world but regards Scotland as one of his favourite places.

It's great that he will be able to welcome both our Club members and show visitors to this fantastic Scottish Show on Caravan Club Day.'

Show Manager Jamie Taylor is very excited about the star presenter's presence: 'Each year we try and make the show more special than the last, with the Caravan Club bringing someone as interesting and relevant as Simon King to open the show ensures that we do just that. His passion for the outdoors is shared by our exhibitors and visitors alike, and I'm personally looking forward to hearing all about his adventures.'

More than 150 companies will be showcasing the very latest caravans, motorhomes, holiday homes and accessories in the largest exhibition in Scotland. With all the big names in caravanning and motorhoming, visitors will have the chance to see the very latest designs, speak to the experts first hand, and take advantage of outstanding offers and discounts exclusive to visitors of the show.

On offer will be a phenomenal selection of

holiday homes and luxury lodges from the UK's leading suppliers. The collection is the widest in the UK and is a sight not to be missed.

Once again the show will take over all five halls of the SECC and for the first time ever have one hall dedicated to accessories and awnings, with a brand new Borders Leisure accessory superstore, showcasing the latest accessories from the leading suppliers.

Simon King will be available for meet and greets and autographs from 12.30pm.

Advance ticket prices have been held at 2009 levels and with attractions for all the family to enjoy, it's a great value family day out. Advance tickets are £7 or £6 for seniors and on-the-door tickets are £10 each or £9 for seniors. Kids under 16 go free. All tickets include a show brochure. For more information visit and to book tickets visit [www.caravanshowscotland.com](http://www.caravanshowscotland.com) or call the ticket hotline on 0844 395 4000 and you can follow the show on Twitter and Facebook, where you will find all the latest news on this year's show.

#### Braidaugh Holiday Park



For more information about our park or to make a general enquiry please contact: Braidaugh Holiday Park, South Bridgend, Crieff, Perthshire PH7 4DH

Tel: +44(0)1764 652951 Fax: +44(0)1764 652692

**Forestry Commission Scotland**

**Sallochy Campsite**

**Surprising discoveries! Lorgan longantach!**

Wake up by the 'bonny banks' of Loch Lomond at this stunning location. This informal tents only campsite is open 29 Mar - 31 Oct; £5 p.p.n. under 16s £2.50, under 5s free.

To book: <http://tiny.cc/sallochy> [www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland)

**INVERCOE HIGHLAND HOLIDAYS**

**Invercoe Highland Holidays** is a family run business where we offer you a quiet, get away from it all holiday in historic Glencoe. Our Maclean holiday cottages, timber lodges, comfortable family caravans and spacious camping/touring park provide a range of self catering accommodation for every taste. Glencoe, Argyll, Scotland, PH49 4HP

CALL TO BOOK ON 01855 811 210 [www.invercoe.co.uk](http://www.invercoe.co.uk)

**Linnhe LOCHSIDE HOLIDAYS**

**lonacampsites** Chnoc-oran - Isle of Iona - PA76 6SP

Open from Easter until the end of October We provide a natural basic camping experience with beautiful views. There are 3 toilets and 2 showers.

Contact us for further details on 07747 721275 or email [info@lonacampsites.co.uk](mailto:info@lonacampsites.co.uk) [www.lonacampsites.co.uk](http://www.lonacampsites.co.uk)

**Argyll Caravan Engineer Gordon Pollock**  
Mobile Servicing and Repairs

T: 01631 770656, M: 07501 002285  
E: [argyllcaravanengineer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:argyllcaravanengineer@hotmail.co.uk)



**The Croft Bunkhouse, Bothies & Wigwams**  
A full range of high quality hostel accommodation on the Isle of Skye.

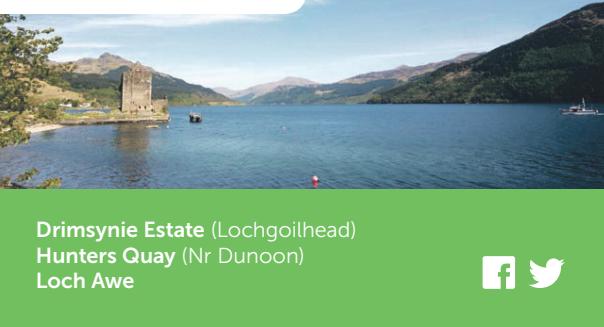


Under New Management  
Please contact Theresa Black for more details on Tel: 01478 640254 or Email: [blacktheresa@hotmail.com](mailto:blacktheresa@hotmail.com)

## Escape with Argyll Holidays in Summer 2013

Early booking discounts extended until the end of January 2013

Call or book online today:  
**0845 459 9772 • [argyllholidays.com](http://argyllholidays.com)**



Drimsyne Estate (Lochgoilhead)  
Hunters Quay (Nr Dunoon)  
Loch Awe



#### MOTORHOMES – Hire/Sales/Repairs



**MOTORHOMES FOR HIRE**

**CHOICE OF MOTORHOMES FOR SALE**



**Caravan & Trailer Centre**  
3-4 Mill Lane Lochavullin Ind Estate OBAN

#### CARAVANS – Servicing/Parts/ Repairs



**Trail West**  
For All your Caravan, Motorhome or Trailer needs

#### TRAILERS – Sales/Servicing/Repairs



**West Highland Motorhome Rentals**  
01631 563638 [trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net](mailto:trailwest@talktalkbusiness.net)

**Farm Manager - Isle of Muck****Highly Competitive Remuneration Package**

We are currently looking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated individual to undertake the role of Farm Manager on our new site on the Isle of Muck. The role will commence in the summer of 2013.

The successful candidate will report to the Area Manager and he/she will be fully involved in the development of the new farm site/facilities and integration into the community. Initially the role will involve overseeing the construction of the shore base and housing facilities, and the recruitment of a strong team.

As Farm Manager you will be responsible for the day to day planning, running and reporting of the farm. The successful candidate will ideally already be a Site Manager within the aquaculture industry with proven ability for developing site infrastructure and establishing best farming practice.

Essential skills will include several years' fish farming experience and a sound understanding of fish husbandry, biology and welfare. Leadership skills combined with strong interpersonal, communication, organisational and planning skills, as well as the ability to motivate and achieve results through the success of others are some of the attributes also required for this post.

In addition, applicants should have a full driving licence and should be prepared to undertake travel as required.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from a highly competitive salary package and bonus. Assistance with relocation will also be available, if required.

Informal enquires can be addressed to Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Blair Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

E-mail: vicky.ferguson@marineharvest.com

Telephone: 01397 715042

**Vacancy: Site Manager**

Location: Rousay Seasites, Orkney

**Full Time****Overtime as and when required****Salary dependant on skills and experience**

Meridian Salmon Farms is a leading company in the Scottish Salmon Industry producing exceptionally high quality products for an increasingly demanding market. An exciting opportunity has arisen within our company for a Site Manager. As part of a well-trained highly motivated team, you will lead and assist the team at Rousay Seasites building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for co-workers.

The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment. Candidates are also required to have strong and proven management skills, excellent communication skills, be computer literate, self-motivated and committed to delivering results. A technical aptitude is advantageous.

Relevant experience of seawater production is essential. All duties must be carried out in a consistent manner and to a high standard that will comply with all Food Hygiene, Health & Safety and Environmental legislation as well as Welfare recommendations. Qualifications such as Sea Survival and First Aid are essential.

A multi-disciplined approach and attitude will be needed to manage a fast moving environment.

All applications should be sent by 21 January 2013 to:  
Vicci Laird, Human Resources Manager, Meridian Salmon Ltd, Crownsea Point, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG.  
Electronic applications welcomed – vicci.laird@northernislessalmon.com  
For further information please call: 07747 840 052

**JDP Oban**

JDP are opening a New Branch in Oban. This is a fantastic opportunity for 3 enthusiastic individuals to join the JDP team.

**Branch Supervisor**

The successful applicant will oversee the day to day running of the branch and work with colleagues locally, regionally and centrally, to maximise profitability through a trained and motivated team. With an outgoing personality and the ability to deliver customer service both face to face and by telephone you will be responsible for effective operations and efficient administration controls.

The ideal candidate will be familiar with the preparation and progression of quotations as well as invoicing, ordering, stock control as well as possessing strong people management skills.

**Branch Assistant**

The successful candidate will be involved in all areas of the branch, yard and warehouse. Together with excellent customer service skills, forklift license would be advantageous. This is an opportunity for a flexible, hardworking individual to train in all aspects of our operation.

**HGV Driver category C1 or C (7.5t Rigid Vehicle)**

Drivers are at the forefront of the Company. The successful candidate will be delivering to customers in Oban & surrounding areas. The role ideally requires an individual who enjoys dealing with different people and being part of a small team. A Digital Driving License is essential; CPC Driver Training & FLT Experience would also be advantageous.

In return we offer a competitive salary, contributory pension scheme, and staff discounts as well as Contributory Travel and Health Insurance Schemes.

Interested in a move for the better? Email CV & covering letter for any of the above positions to [hadmin@jdpipes.co.uk](mailto:hadmin@jdpipes.co.uk)

For background information on JDP refer to: [www.jdpipes.co.uk](http://www.jdpipes.co.uk)

The closing date is 25.01.2013

We are a profitable and growing National Distributor of pipe Products with 25 Branches in the UK  
JDP is part of Tessenderlo Chemicals Group: a multi National Business

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Advertising Sales Executive

**BASED IN OBAN****£ Excellent Basic + £ Bonus + Private Health Care + Pension + Good Holidays**

**Based in our Oban office the successful applicant will be part of a small team selling advertising and features for our well established, award winning publications.**

You will be responsible for calling new and existing clients to generate and maintain lasting business relationships. The successful applicant will benefit from on-going training, first class support, job stability and the opportunity to work for a professional company that believes in rewarding success and effort.

Please apply by email with full C.V and covering letter to:  
[ali@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:ali@obantimes.co.uk)

**PUBLIC NOTICES**

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02039/PP	Erection of dwellinghouse, installation of septic tank and formation of vehicular access.	Garden Ground of Barcaldine Lodge Barcaldine Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1SG	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/02622/PP	Installation of micro hydro scheme (0.7m³) comprising intake, penstock, powerhouse and access track to ABS.	Land North East of Awe Service Station Bridge of Ave Tynwald Argyll and Bute PA35 1HI	Sub Post Office Tynwald
12/02661/PP	Erection of 6 chalets with associated landscaping.	Land at Dalavich Chalet Park Dalavich Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Oban Area Office
12/02810/PP	Alterations to entrance, formation of coffee bar, installation of bi-fold doors and formation of external decking area.	The Olive Garden Restaurant Railway Pier Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4LW	
13/00007/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 07/00008/DET - Erection of private dwellinghouse and formation of access	Land at McIfford Home Farm Kilmelford Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
13/00017/PP	Partial demolition, alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and extension to boathouse.	Ardrut House Port Appin Argyll and Bute PA38 4DD	Sub Post Office Ledaig

**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
12/02424/PP	Part change of roof covering from west highland slate to spanish slate.	The Farmhouse at Glenure Lodge Fasnacloich Argyll and Bute PA38 4BJ	Sub Post Office Ledaig

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardishaig PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk). Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/00005/PP	Installation of emergency back up diesel generator, fuel tank, 2.1 metre high security fencing with gates and ancillary development	Lower Cragabus Television Station The Oa Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Port Ellen

Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://planning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, 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. Any names or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE****THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (DISABLED STREET PARKING – OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES) (AMENDED) (NO.1) ORDER 2013**

On Monday 14th January 2013, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in accordance with the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 and the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The Order, which comes into operation on 4th March 2013, makes it an offence for anyone to park in a marked disabled persons' bay as described within the Order, unless they are a holder of a valid blue badge and are using it in accordance with the national blue badge legislation.

A copy of the Order and plans relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:

(i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;

(ii) Post Office, Lagganluva Farm, Ulva Ferry, Isle of Mull;

(iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll.

This order affects the following streets:-

OBAN -Lismore Crescent, Longdale Terrace, Scalpay Terrace, Longdale Crescent

MULL -B8073 at Ulva Primary School

Any person, who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any provision contained in it on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or on the grounds that any requirement of that Act or any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order may, within six weeks from 18th January 2013, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Sandy MacTaggart, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING DIRECTIONS ISSUED****MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 MARINE CONSTRUCTION: A83 ARDGARTEN**

Notice is hereby given that Scotland Transerv has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect to wall repairs at:

Cost of Project	£700	Latitude	Longitude
Location	Co-ordinates	Co-ordinates	
Ardgarten	56° 11.44'N	04° 46.73'W	

(WGS84)

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Three Villages Hall, Arrochar, Argyll & Bute G83 7AB.

Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by email: [MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk), quoting reference: FKB/A1381

Scotland Transerv, Broxden House, Broxden Business Park, Lamberkine Drive PH1 1RA

**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:

(b) the proposed development completion

(c) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(d) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(e) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(f) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(g) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(h) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(i) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(j) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(l) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(m) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(n) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(o) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(p) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

(q) That fence shall be maintained in good order and repair by each successive owner or occupier of the land.

## RECRUITMENT

**Home Care Procurement Officer (Part time)**  
£23,724 - £25,932  
17.5 hours per week

**Escort**  
£6.96 - £7.60  
10 hours per week

01546 604334

Campbeltown Area Ref: CTF01063



Closing date unless otherwise stated:  
1 February 2013.  
To apply visit our website

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)
**HELP REQUIRED FOR ELDERLY COUPLE**

Ideally mature couple who are caring and thoughtful and understand the needs of the elderly. Housework, cooking, washing, gardening and handyman work. Rural location in Argyll with 2 bed cottages for right applicants. For more details contact gillian@dippny.com or 01505872380



**Oban Electrical Services Ltd**  
19, Stevenson Street  
Oban, PA34 5NA  
info@oes-group.co.uk  
Due to an internal promotion we require the following.

**Stores Person/Buyer**  
Must be a team player and have a flexible approach to working. Computer literacy is essential, full training on our buying systems will be given.

**Apprentice Electricians**  
Please send full CV's for either position to Angus MacPherson, Managing Director, OES Ltd  
Closing Date Friday 1st February 2013

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Kilmartin House Trust**

is seeking to appoint a manager and catering staff for our busy Museum café which re-opens on 1st March 2013. The café is famous for its high quality, light lunches, home baking and service with a smile. If you would like to be part of our small friendly team, we have a variety of opportunities available, so please get in touch via email admin@kilmartin.org, or by phoning 01546 510 278.

**Are you an outgoing person who enjoys a challenge and likes to meet new people?**

Mid Argyll Community Pool wishes to recruit a part time Customer Relations Manager. You will be outgoing, confident and friendly. You will increase sales and help us meet our targets.

**Salary £10,000 - 20 hour week**  
**Closing Date:** Friday 8th February 2013

Application packs from [www.macpool.org.uk](http://www.macpool.org.uk) or [stuart.owen@macpool.org.uk](mailto:stuart.owen@macpool.org.uk)  
Charity Number: SC020084 • Company Number: 137229/1992

**CARE HOME MANAGER**

We are a ten bedroom care home for the elderly. The home is operated by a charitable trust and we require an experienced manager. All applicants should have previous experience in care of the elderly. They must be a strong leader with good character and caring skills. In return we will offer a competitive salary and full back up from our management board. You will work in a beautiful location in the village of Killin.

Contact Mandy Hay  
Falls of Dochart Retirement Home  
Tele: 01567 820237  
E-Mail [fallofdochart@btconnect.com](mailto:fallofdochart@btconnect.com)

**Crinan Boatyard**  
is looking for a person to work with the Slipping Crew

Boat handling skills and practical boat knowledge including painting and varnishing skills will be required.

Please apply with CV to:-  
[john@crinanboatyard.co.uk](mailto:john@crinanboatyard.co.uk)



Seasonal Full Time and Part time Cleaner required for busy Fort William holiday park, must have previous experience, driving license and be able to work Saturdays as part of their weekly hours. The successful applicant will be able to work as part of a team and keep to a rigid timeframe. They will be physically fit, friendly and hard working, references will be required as will an immediate start.

Full time post will be between 28 and 40 hours per week, part time 15 and 30 hours starting rate of £7.20 per hour. The job starts immediately and will finish at the end of November.

Tel. (01397) 772376 for more information, or email relax@linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk

School Leaver required for a variety of outdoor work on a busy Fort William holiday park. Previous experience not necessary but a willing, hard working outlook essential as this work can be physically demanding, in all weathers. Jobs will include grass cutting and grounds maintenance. Driving License is an advantage but not essential. Training will be given. Starting at 25 hours per week this job has the potential to become a full time trained post. £5.00 per hour.

Tel. (01397) 772376 for more information, or email relax@linnhe-lochside-holidays.co.uk

**Dochas Carers Centre**  
**Carer's Assessment / Information Support Worker**

(Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Isles / Oban, Lorn & the Isles)

Hours: 24 hours per week  
Salary: £13,686  
Post initially funded for 2 years

We are looking for an experienced and highly motivated individual with an understanding of the needs of unpaid carers to join our team.

- The person must have experience of working in a caring role
- An SVQ or equivalent Professional qualification
- Current full UK Driving Licence and access to vehicle for work purposes
- Require flexible working hours
- Computer literate

It is essential you have previous experience of speaking with and providing information or advice to vulnerable and/or disadvantaged people and have used assessment or evaluation tools to prepare reports. You must also be able to plan, organise, prioritise and administer your own workload to meet deadlines. The days and hours worked are flexible and regular home working may be possible. You must be able to travel independently throughout Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Isles/Oban, Lorn and the Isles. Closing date for applications is Friday 1 February 2013, 4.00 pm. For further information and an application pack, please contact Maggie McLaren, Centre Manager at 01546 600 022 or Email [enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dochasfund.org.uk)

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

**Gamekeeper Required**  
Experienced gamekeeper required for Glenmoriston Estate

Duties and responsibilities will include deer stalking, grouse management, pheasant and partridge release and operating shoots. Accommodation included. Full CV required, to include clean driving licence and DMQ 1 and 2 qualifications.

Applications to be received by 1st February 2013  
For further details tel: 01320 351300  
[www.glenmoriston.eu](http://www.glenmoriston.eu)

**The GRAB Trust**  
GROUP FOR RECYCLING IN ARGYLL & BUTE**The Beaches & Marine Litter Project is looking for a part-time, temporary****Argyll & Bute Beach Forum Events Co-ordinator**

14 hours a week  
(flexible term-time working may be possible)

Salary is £20,457 (pro-rata),

This post is fully funded by The Crown Estate until April 2015

This post will be based in our Oban Office located in Lorn House, Albany Street. However, the post covers the whole of Argyll, so a full clean driving licence and the use of your own car would be essential.

Please contact Julie Fairbrass on 01631 569174, or email [julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk](mailto:julie.fairbrass@grab.org.uk) for a full Job Description and Application Form. Closing date for applications – Tuesday 29th January 2013. Interviews for this post will take place during week commencing 4th February.

**Scottish Canals****Crinan Canal Seasonal Waterway Operatives**

Starting salary: £13,000

Dates: March – October, various hours including weekends and bank holidays

In 2013 we are expecting another busy boating season and so we are starting our search for exceptional seasonal staff to join us working on the Crinan Canal.

For more information and details on how to apply, please visit

[www.scottishcanals.co.uk](http://www.scottishcanals.co.uk)  
Or call 01546 603210

**Single-handed River****Ghillie/Estate Maintenance Worker**

Dalness Estate, Glen Etive

Opportunity for river ghillie with at least 10 years experience, on a west coast estate. Good quality accommodation provided with attractive salary and chance to develop skills. Applicants must be well organised and highly motivated, used to working independently and have general maintenance skills. Experience of RIB for Sea Loch fishing would also be useful. There is also stalking on the estate and experience here would be an advantage. Please apply in writing, including current CV, by 31st January 2013 to: Susanna Thomson Bidwells, Carn Dearg House, North Road, Fort William, PH33 6PP



Strathclyde Fire & Rescue are now recruiting Retained Firefighters for the retained duty system at Lochgilphead Community Fire Station.

If you are interested in joining one of the biggest fire & rescue services in Europe. For further information. Details can be found on [www.myjobscotland.gov.uk](http://www.myjobscotland.gov.uk)

**Bossards**  
patisserie & coffee shop**VACANCIES**

Bossards Patisserie, busy coffee shop patisserie requires experienced

**Manager/Assistant Manager**  
Full or part-time, also  
**Part-time waitress**  
**and counter assistant.**

Please telephone 01631 564641.

## PROPERTY

**FLAT TO LET**  
**FORT WILLIAM**  
1/2 Bedrooms, High Street, Partially furnished, £400pcm Tel 07747 081762

**HOUSE TO RENT**  
**DUNBEG**  
3 bedrooms in a bright and sunny position. Immediate entry available. £575.00 per month & Bills Sorry no DSS Tel: 07813 105702

**OBAN**  
2 and 3 bedroom flats available for immediate entry, References required. Contact: 07810 713 768

**OBAN TOWN CENTRE**  
1 bedroom flat in lovely condition. Available immediately. Partially furnished. Rent £430 pcm + bills Sorry no DSS Telephone 01631 570060



When moving home, 62% of people relocate within a five-mile radius.

Source: Consumer Choice V. The Newsletter Society CALL: 0845 866 4920

This illustrates a strong attachment to the local area. Regional press is the relevant choice for property advertising.

## MOTORS/DRIVE TIMES

**WANTED**

Landrover Defenders from 1990 – 2012 All Japanese pickups 2 or 4 WD Mot'd or not All models required (Uist)  
Contact 07787058277

**MANITOU MT 1235CP**

R reg. Very tidy with low hours. Any inspection welcome Telephone: 0777 5741628 or 07889 725885

**HONDA CR-V. ES**

Registered Sept. '05 2 litre petrol automatic. 65,500 FSH. MOT Sept Telephone: 07770 827373  
£4,500

**WANTED**

All types of motor homes & caravans. Any age or condition. We also buy water damaged or in need of repair. Also all types of touring caravans from 95 onwards. Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020

**ROVER 620 S.I 1997**

95,000 miles Tax and Mot March 2013, Very reliable, good runner, new exhaust Some body bumps. Telephone: 0794488959  
£400 o.n.o.

**ATLAS EVERGLADE**

30ft x10ft, 2005, toilet and shower room, full size cooker all good condition Telephone: 01855 831279

**VAUXHALL CORSA VAN**

1.3 diesel, 60mpg VAT free Telephone: 01586 554289 (after 6pm)  
Any 4 x 4 vehicle, Landrover, Toyota, Mitsubishi etc. High mileage, non runners or MOT failure considered. Will travel.

**WANTED**

Caravans and motorhomes Any make, Model or condition. Instant decision and payment. Telephone: 07864 035750  
Please telephone 07783 638067

**WANTED**

All types of light commercial vans, pickups, etc.. We also buy rough or high mileage, non-runners considered. Also all types of 4x4 vehicles, land rover, Toyota, etc... Telephone : 01250 884306 or mobile: 07885 203020

**WANTED**

new car index

**ISUZU S & S Services**

Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440

**S & S SERVICES**

Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440

**Great Wall****TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE**

**CALL: 01631 568000**

**HONDA PANTHEON SCOOTER, 2007**

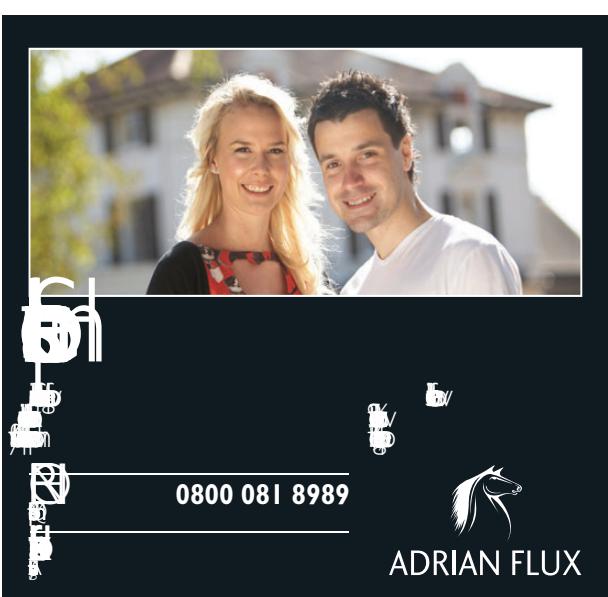
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## BIRTHS



**MACLEOD**  
Donald and Kimberley  
(née Beckett) of  
Tobermory are delighted  
to announce the birth  
of Grace Elizabeth at  
Southern General Hospital  
on December 23, 2012. A  
beautiful grand-daughter  
for both families.

## ENGAGEMENT



**MCMASTER - MAIN**  
Both families are  
delighted to announce the  
engagement of Gemma,  
daughter of Matthew  
and Morven, Oban, to  
Stephen, son of Colin and  
Brenda, Aberdeen. Love  
and congratulations to  
you both.

## DEATHS

**CAMPBELL** - Jessie Ann (Nan), (née Donn), (Edinburgh). Peacefully at Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, on January 9, 2013, Nan, beloved wife of the late Alex, mother of Thomas and Hazel, grandmother of Michael, Kara, Mary, Robert and Heather, great-grandmother of Lucy, Stuart, Jake, Dawn, James, Connor and Lucas. Funeral at St Stephen's Church, Comely Bank on Friday, January 18 at 1pm and thereafter at the Dean Cemetery at 1.45pm approx.

**MACLEAN** - On January 10, 2013, suddenly at Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Violet Colston Anderson Maclean, née Davidson, in her 66th year, beloved wife of Hugh Maclean and much loved mother of Lesley Ann and Lindsay Jane, dearly loved sister of Janet, Jessie, Agnes and George, and cherished gran of Amanda. Funeral service was held at Tarbert Free Church, on Wednesday, January 16. Service at Kilmacolm Old Kirk, (today) Thursday, January 17, at 1.00pm, interment thereafter at Houston Cemetery, Renfrewshire, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Flowers, or collection if desired, for the Waverly Preservation Society.

**MCLENNAN** - Suddenly but peacefully on January 10, 2013 at the Lorn & Islands General Hospital, Oban, John (Clink), in his 76th year of 20 Glenfoot Terrace, Oban, father of Duncan, Donald and Maureen and grandfather to Martine and Joseph and father-in-law to Joe and Louise. Sadly missed.

**RAMSAY** - Peacefully, after a long illness, in the Lynn of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch, Colina (Lena) Ramsay, aged 84 years, formerly of Caledonia Court, Ardriishag and Island of Islay, dear sister of Margaret and the Katie. A much loved aunt to all the family, a good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Cardross Crematorium, on Friday, January 18, at 12.15pm. Family flowers only please.

**WATHEN** - Peacefully on January 10, 2013, at the Lorn and the Isles General, Oban, after a short illness, David Anthony Wathen, lately of Dervaig, Isle of Mull. Loving husband of Pixie (Balfour-Paul), dear father of Richard, Wendy and the late Alastair, brother of Guy and the late Ronnie. Funeral service on Tuesday, January 22 at 2.30pm in Inverness Crematorium. All friends respectfully invited. Donations are welcome at the service for the Red Cross and Oban Hospital or please forward to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduthel Road, Inverness.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**CAMERON** - Alasdair would like to thank all friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of his beloved wife Mary. Grateful thanks to the home help carers and district nurses who cared so lovingly towards Mary. Sincere thanks to Rev Richard T Corbett for his comforting service and to Scott Greenlees of John McLellan Funeral Directors for his professional and kind manner in handling the funeral arrangements. Finally, to all who paid their last respects at Kilmallie Church and kindly donated over £400 to MS Lochaber and Cancer Care in Lochaber.

**CROSSAN** - Maureen and the family of the late John Crossan would like to thank everyone for messages, cards of sympathy and acts of kindness following their recent loss. Sincere thanks also to Rev. Dr. Roderick Campbell for support to the family and to the medical and care staff at Lynne of Lorne Care Home and NHS Highland who cared for John over the years. Your generosity has allowed us to make a donation to Alzheimer Scotland.

**MACINTYRE** - Dougie and family would like to thank most sincerely their family, friends and neighbours for the

many cards, calls and flowers received on the recent sad loss of Jean. Grateful thanks to D&A Munro for their caring and efficient services and to Glencruitten Golf Club for the beautiful buffet afterwards. Special thanks to Donald MacKinnon for the lovely, personal church service which was a great comfort to us all. Finally to those who attended church and graveside - a retiring collection raised £69 for CHAS foundation - thank you all.

**MCALLUM** - The family of the late John (Jock) would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and support they received following their bereavement. Also to all who came to pay their last respects. Many, many thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for a perfect service and his comforting support, D&A Munro Ltd thanks for their compassionate handling of John's funeral. Thanks to the Rowantree Hotel for their catering arrangements. £411 has been donated to Oban Hospice. Thank you one and all.

**THOMSON** - The family of Annag Thomson, Strontian wish to thank relatives, friends, Rev Donald MacCorkindale, Ben View Hotel and Mike McFall Undertaker for their support. Also the staff of Dalhutor who cared for Annag in her last years.

**THOMSON** - Thank you to the many individuals who paid their respects to John Fergus Thomson (Fergie) at his recent funeral. To Jeff McCormick for his personal and comforting service and Mr Nicholson for providing appropriate music. Thank you to Hamish Hoey & Son for their efficient and sympathetic organisation and the Oyster Inn for providing refreshments. Thank you to the carers who provided help for Fergie whilst still at home and finally thank you to all nurses and staff in Cruachan Ward & Ward I of Lorn and Isle Hospital who with dedication and professionalism cared for Fergie over a number of years. Fergie's presence and memory will live on in everyone who met him.

**POTTER** - Treasured memories of my dear grand-daughter Jennifer Jane, tragically killed on January 20, 2001. Always remembered.

- Nana.

**POTTER** - Always remembering a dear niece and special cousin Jennifer Jane.

- Stephen, Kirsty, Findlay and Susannah

## CHURCHES

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 20 January 2013  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
.01631 567076  
All welcome

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 20 January 2013  
2nd after Epiphany  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion.....08.00  
Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
Children's Corner  
Loop System  
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Nicki McNelly Provost  
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**St James, Ardrrecknich, Cladich**  
Holy Eucharist.....15.00

**Holy Cross, Portnacross, Appin**  
Holy Communion.....18.00  
A cordial welcome to people from any church or none

**St Columba, Gruline, Mull**  
Service of Prayer for Christian Unity.....11.00

**St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona**

Holy Eucharist.....09.30

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In memory of Dawn Joyce

## Thought for the Week

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

TOMORROW (18<sup>th</sup>) marks the beginning of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Each year the theme is developed by a different nation and this year it falls to Indian Christians.

Amongst the teeming millions who live in India there still exists a caste system that separates people into different groups by virtue of their status.

One particular group, the Dalits, are at the bottom of the ladder which has led to millions of them being 'socially marginalised, politically under-represented, economically exploited and culturally subjugated'.

Not surprisingly, the intention of the Christians in India is to explore what it means to 'act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God' (Micah 6:8) and seek a rejection of a system that divides people from one another.

In other words they are advocating a desire for unity in society that can be modelled by unity within the body of Christ - the church!

In order to help us get hold of this notion in a practical way, the metaphor of walking together is used.

As newcomers to the West Highlands, my wife and I have

from time to time joined a walking group.

As the journey unfolds, it is surprising how many different people we spend time with and how deep the conversations can go.

So as we journey day to day, let us be aware of those we walk with and seek to do so in unity.

And to the church I would say let us demonstrate Christ's love together by finding one another and risking walking in harmony!

Ian McFarlane,  
Oban Baptist Church

## Muckairn Guild - A Faith to Proclaim

A SMALL number of Muckairn Guild members met in the church on January 9 for a session on the theme, A Faith to Proclaim.

Stella Huntingford began the meeting with a prayer. The hymn *What a Friend we have in Jesus* was followed by a reading by Marlene Stanners from Philomen and Hebrews Chapter II.

Rev Robert Brookes led a discussion on 'Being a Christian in today's world'.

After tea and biscuits the meeting concluded with the hymn, *Take my life and let it be, consecrated, glad and free*, and the blessing.

The next meeting will be in the church on Monday, February 4 when Aileen Binner will give a talk on the work of Homestart.

## The Oban Times

## &amp; West Highland Times

## THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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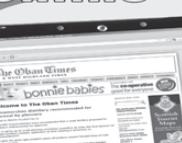
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## The Oban Times &amp; WEST HIGHLAND TIMES 20 years ago

Thursday, January 14, 1993



Showing off one of the many presents she received from staff at the Belford Hospital, Fort William, is Anne Cameron who recently retired at 34 years service. Anne's first post was appointments clerk in 1958. Laterly she was a personal secretary.

## Consecration of Episcopal Bishop of Argyll and Isles



Pictured in a happy mood at the consecration service are (l to r): the Right Rev. Douglas Cameron, the Most Rev. R Holloway, the Right Rev. Bruce Cameron, Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney and the Right Rev. John Taylor, Bishop of Glasgow.



## Port Ellen pupils raise charity cash

PORT Ellen Primary School infants raised £40 for Oxfam at their nativity play, which was entitled 'Star of Wonder'.

The primary one, two and three children, pictured above, are taught



## Milan for two

Shopkeeper Paddy Scott gets ready to swap the VG store in Mallaig for a weekend for two in Milan - his prize in a competition run by Campari. Mr Scott is pictured receiving his tickets from Alan Kellock, from Campari.

## MEMORIALS

## Stokes Memorials

# Saints net five against Inverclyde

'We dominated the last quarter of the match and could have scored another two or three goals'

## Scottish Amateur League Premier Division

### Inverclyde 0 Oban Saints 5

SAINTS made the journey to Battery Park, Greenock, to take on Inverclyde in a premier division league match determined to get back on track after their disappointing display against



Willie Gemmell - scored with two free kicks

Postal United the week before. Although not a vintage performance, especially in the first half, some clinical finishing saw Saints put five goals past the tail o' the bank side for the second time this season. They defeated them 5-0 in the Centenary Cup semi final.

For the second week in a row David Buchanan and Peter MacCallum were in charge of the team as manager Iain Jackson's car broke down on the way to the game.

The visitors, playing against a blustery wind in the first half, got off to the perfect start with a goal in the first five minutes. They were awarded a free kick on the right hand side. Willie Gemmell fired in a cross to the back post for Craig MacEwan, who turned the ball back into the centre of the goalmouth for Mattie Rippon to knock it past Stephen McEleny in the Clyde goal.

#### Dangerous

The home side had the bulk of the play in the first half, but Saints always looked dangerous on the break and they doubled their advantage in the 34th minute when they were awarded a free kick 25 yards out. Willie Gemmell stepped up and sent a great right foot curler past the helpless Inverclyde net-minder to make the score 2-0.

Inverclyde kept plugging away, but never really looked like scoring and it was a contented Saints

## FOOTBALL

The home side were stung into action and were pushing forward at every opportunity and had the Saints defence on the back foot, but the Oban lads were handling the pressure well and although the home side created a couple of half chances they never troubled Daniel Casselli between the sticks for the visitors.

**Dangerous**

squad who made their way from the field at the interval two goals to the good and with the advantage of the stiff breeze in their favour in the second half. Any hopes the home side had of staging a fightback were dashed when Keith Millar broke clean through on goals but was unceremoniously brought down by Brian McLaughlin, leaving referee Darren Murray, who had a good game, no option but to show the Clyde sweeper the red card. Willie Gemmell took the resultant free kick and for the second time in the match he curled a great shot out of the reach of Stephen McEleny and into the net to make the score 3-0.

Saints now had the opportunity

to get the ball down and pass it about against the 10 men and that they did, playing some excellent football in the process.

With the game over as a contest Saints gave all their substitutes a good run out. They increased their lead in the 73rd minute when Myles McAuley found Donald Campbell with a throw to the near post. Donald cleverly turned his marker before squeezing the ball home from an acute angle to make the score 4-0.

The Oban side were turning on the style and Myles McAuley had a great chance when he was clean through with only the keeper to beat, but he pulled his shot past the post. Keith Millar had a similar opportunity but he tried to square the ball across the

goals when a shot on target might have been the better option.

With the clock ticking down Saints scored their final goal when Lewis Cameron was sent clear and the young striker made no mistake steering a well placed shot past the luckless goalkeeper.

#### Convincing

Eddie Swift had the last chance of the match, but he blazed his shot over the bar, so the final score ended up as a convincing 5-0 win for the visitors.

David Buchanan said: 'We took a 2-0 interval lead against the run of play as Inverclyde played well with the breeze in their favour, although in saying that they never threatened our goal too much. We were much

better in the second half and played some good football. The sending off and the goal from the resultant free kick meant the game was over as a contest and we dominated the last quarter of the match and could have scored another two or three more goals. But credit to Inverclyde, they never gave up and the game was played in the right spirit.'

This Saturday Saints make the long journey to Fife to take on Burntisland United in the 5th round of the Fosters Scottish Amateur Cup. The game will be played at Toll Park, Burntisland, with a 2pm kick-off.

The competition started with nearly 700 teams so the winners of this game would gain a place in the last 32.



Saints captain Keith Millar is unceremoniously brought down by Inverclyde sweeper Brian McLaughlin as he raced through on goal. The tackle earned the Inverclyde player a red card from referee Darren Murray. Willie Gemmell scored from the resultant free kick.

Inset: Keith lands face first on the Battery Park surface. Photos: Stephen Lawson.

## Oban Pool League results

### POOL

This week's fixtures: Kelvin v Cellar; Lancaster B v Gluepot; Claredon v Markie Dans A; Lochness v Lochavullin; Markie Dans B v Lancaster A

Player of the Year standing to date: 1 J Muir - Markie Dans A; 2 L Sneddon - Lancaster B; 3 B Clark - Lancaster A; 4 G Adam - Cellar; 5 A Gilgley - Lancaster A; 6 R MacDougall - Lancaster A; 7 G McKenzie - Cellar; 8 C Maxwell - Cellar; 9 D Swan - Lochness; 10 B Thompson - Lochavullin.

Results: Gluepot 3, Lancaster A 7; Kelvin 4, Lochness 6; Lancaster B 3, Markie Dans A 7; Markie Dans B 8, Claredon 2; Lochavullin 3, Cellar 7



Oban Saints Under 17s travelled to take on Campbeltown Youth Under 18s in a friendly match last Saturday at the new 3G pitch in Campbeltown. The game resulted in a 5-3 win for the home side. Saints goalscorers were Donald McCallum, Aidan Campbell and Bob MacIntyre. Our picture shows Coll MacKenzie going past his marker in midfield. 103pupilsaints10

## Locals do the business in duathlon

MORE THAN 70 runners braved a frosty Saturday morning in Glen Nevis to take part in a duathlon race, which saw locals secure a one-two finish.

It saw the competitors tackle a circular course which involved a 5km trail run followed by 15km off road cycle, then a further 5km run to the finish line.

Lochaber Athletic Club's Tim Brand was the first man home, crossing the line in 57 minutes and 18 seconds.

Club mate Stephen Burns pushed hard all the way to take second place, finishing some 35 seconds behind Brand. Jamie Maxwell took third place but was more than a minute behind Burns.



Kinlochleven's Gary MacDonald (in green) leads off the field at the start of the duathlon in Glen Nevis. 20\_f03race01



Pictured after the Old New Year shoot are from left: Pool trap winner Gus MacDonald and the top five in the main competition, Gordon Shankland, George Nairn, Paul Chalmers, Eric McAllister (winner) and Matthew Currie. 16\_t03shoot01

## Eric wins Old New Year Shoot

LORN Clay Target Club held a 50-bird down the line competition at the weekend to bring in the Old New Year.

Eric McAllister was the clear winner in the main competition, while Gus MacDonald won the pool trap competition.

The club is currently seeking new members of any standard and more information on practices

and competitions can be found at lornclaytarget.com

Results for the main competition: 1 E McAllister, 145 points out of 150; 2 P Chalmers, 138/150; 3 G Nairn, 135/150; 4 G Shankland, 134/150; 5 M Currie, 133/150.



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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:

A Stewart  
Nant Drive, Oban  
D Robison  
Argyll Terrace, Dunoon

### 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, Lochgilphead, Oban by the same time.

Otherwise all entries must be posted.

### Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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Address .....

Tel No. ....

Please  
tape your  
£1 coin  
here

## Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: Under 13s 2, Balloch 3. Scoring for Saints were Daniel McCuish and David Cameron.

Helensburgh United 0, Under 14s 16. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper (4), Scott Robertson (3), Cameron MacLean, Zander Kil-

murray, Fergus Lawson, Patrick

McIntyre, Hector MacDonald and Mateusz Polewaczyk.

Kilpatrick 6 Under 15s 1.

Stewart MacLean was on target for the Oban side.

Under 16s 2, Lenzie Colts

Thistle 1. Saints marksmen

were Rhys Cooke and Alan

Buchanan.

This Saturday's fixtures:

PFD United v Under 13s;

Clydebank v Under 14s; Under

15s v Milngavie; Lenzie Colts

Thistle v Under 16s; Under 17s

v Eastwood.

## New-look Taynuilt cruise to victory

### FOOTBALL

TAYNUILT Amateurs recorded their second win of the season and their first clean sheet with a 4-0 win over Helensburgh in the West of Scotland Amateur League.

New manager Callum Fox has taken over the reins from Stuart Reid and introduced new signings Colin Tindall, Dougal Graham and Stephen Fox to the fold.

Scorers for Taynuilt were Craig Campbell, Kris Gillies, Andy Smith and Dean Smith.

The Tartan Tavern and Steakhouse-sponsored team travel to play Crown Park this weekend.

## Primary school championships in Campbeltown

### BADMINTON

ONCE again this year's Primary Badminton Championships will take place in the Victoria Hall, Campbeltown on Saturday, January 26 from 11am to 4pm.

The event is open to all Primary six and seven pupils in Argyll and Bute.

### Atlantis 5-a-sides

### FOOTBALL

RESULTS: Royal Hotel 3, Carpet Fitters 16; Atlantis Leisure 7, RM Builders 4; Oban Times 8, Oban High School 4; The Handy Men 17, OES 4.

103youngsaints01



Oban Saints Under 13s pictured in their new playing kit sponsored by AJG Parcels. 16\_t03youngsaints01

## Alleycats prove to be the top dogs

AFTER Week 5 of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10-pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre, Alleycats lead the scratch division with 23 points closely followed by Rotavators in second place with 22 points and Sphileheads in third place with 21 points.

Alleycats also lead the handicap division with 22 points. Rotavators are in second spot with 20 points whilst Ardroe/Nevis Radio are in third place with 16 points.

The top individual scratch averages this week came from Rossamy Wareing of Ardroe/Nevis Radio with 191. Bill Clark (British Legion Scotland) chipped in with a 180. Bill Clark also had the top handicap game

### TEN PIN BOWLING

of 236 and the top two-game series of 344 scratch, 456 handicap.

Top team games of the week were 543 scratch from Council and 806 handicap from British Legion Scotland. The best scratch two-game team series was 1005 from Council whilst the best handicap two-game series was 1547 from British Legion Scotland.

The top individual scratch averages were held by Tony Whitelocke (Alleycats) with 173, followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) on 155 and Rossamy Wareing (Ardroe/Nevis Radio) on 153.

## Oban Camanachd prepare for life back in the premier division



Oban Camanachd players past and present pictured before the match with referee Billy Wotherspoon. 16\_t03caman03



### Youngsters edge out over-30s in pre-season challenge

IT WAS experience versus energy and enthusiasm as Oban Camanachd stars of the past lined up against the current crop of players for a pre-season run out.

The annual New Year fixture, played last Saturday between the Over-30s and Under-

Former Oban Camanachd player, manager and president Nigel Evans, right, received a long service award from another ex-manager, Peter MacCuish. 16\_t03caman03

30s, produced a closely-contested match that finished 2-1 to the youngsters, thanks to a goal six minutes from time.

David Devine had opened the scoring for the more 'senior' side but Camanachd drew level when Gavin Stobart struck.

A former international goalkeeper, Stobart has re-invented himself as a useful full forward and will give manager Angus 'Gus' Campbell another option up front for the coming season. The match remained

all-square until Malcolm Clark hit a late winner for the Under-30s.

Manager Campbell said: 'This was a good game for the boys but we have some friendships against other teams coming up and they will be important preparation for us ahead of this coming season.'

'The lads only had a month off at the end of last season and we have been in training since November because we know it will be a tough return to the premier league.'

#### SHINTY

'It will be a hard season but we will give it our best shot, for ourselves and for the town. It is important for the rebuilding of the team that we stay up. I am looking forward to it and can't wait to get started.'

Oban Camanachd play Strachur away on January 26 and hope to arrange two more friendlies, including Lochcarron at home.

## Green Machine wins on Arran

RBS West Division 3  
Isle of Arran 10  
Oban Lorne 14

A VICTORY over promotion contenders Arran and an unexpected slip up from leaders Loch Lomond have put Oban Lorne in the driving seat for the league title.

The weekend results mean Oban are joint second in the league with Arran but have two games in hand on their opponents and league leaders Loch Lomond, who lost 26-10 against surprise package Lanark.

Oban would gain top place in the league by winning their games in hand.

The Green Machine returned to league duty for the first time since the beginning of November with the tough trip away to Arran.

The Oban team were in confident mood after a comfortable 74-10 win the previous weekend in the bowl but knew they would be in for a hard game against a team who impressed at Glencruitten earlier in the season.

Oban welcomed Liam Burns,

Jamie MacMillan and Graham MacEachan into a strong starting line-up.

The Green Machine impressed straight from the kick off with an impressive run from flanker Andy MacDougall and Oban controlled the opening stages of the game; a Craig Wright penalty giving a 3-0 lead.

Oban continued to dominate in territory and possession, but were undone 10 minutes into the game. As Oban moved the ball wide in midfield the ball was knocked-on and spilled straight

into the hands of the opposition who raced half the length of the Brodick pitch to score the first try of the afternoon. The score was converted for the home side to lead 7-3.

Lorne hit back shortly after with a try from player/coach Corrie Louv after an impressive driving maul from a lineout.

An Arran penalty, scored late in the first half, gave the islanders a 10-8 lead at the break.

Oban improved in the second half and camped themselves in the Arran 22 for long periods. The home defence was standing firm but captain Robin MacQueen decided to go for goal after the award of a penalty, which turned out to be a great decision as Wright again steered the ball over for Oban to lead 11-10.

While Arran impressed in defence they failed to have any significant pressure on the Oban 22 and repeatedly gifted possession to Oban.

With five minutes to go Oban were awarded another penalty just inside the Arran half. Craig Wright again stepped up and put Oban 14-10 up with a very impressive long distance effort.

Oban Lorne will be looking to continue their impressive form as Clydesdale travel to Glencruitten this Saturday, with a 2pm kick off.

#### RUGBY



Daniel Spiers runs in a try for the Argyll S1/S2 team after sprinting clear of the Newton Stewart defence.

Photo: Stephen Lawson



Argyll under-16 prop Fergus Bradbury bulldozes his way through the Newton Stewart defence.

Photo: Stephen Lawson

### Argyll do the double over Newton Stewart

West Division 2A North  
under-16

Argyll 36, Newton Stewart 5

ARGYLL youth teams completed an impressive double win over Newton Stewart at Oban's

Glencruitten pitches.

The under-16 side returned to action last Sunday after the Christmas break with a crucial league victory, running in an impressive six tries to win 36-5.

At the same time, the S1/2 age Argyll team won 34-24. Argyll

rugby would like to thank Newton Stewart for making the long trip to Oban and all the players, coaches and volunteers who all

made it a great afternoon.  
Oban Mini Rugby continues every Sunday from 1-2pm at the club. All new players welcome.

#### YOUTH RUGBY

National Under-16 Bowl  
quarter final

North Argyll Schools 19  
Selkirk 24

A SPIRITED comeback by North Argyll Schools was not enough to book a semi-final place in the national bowl, as they narrowly lost out at Glencruitten.

The schools team, made up of players from Oban and Tobermory high schools, welcomed Selkirk last Wednesday.

Selkirk is a renowned rugby stronghold in the Borders and made the long trip north boasting an impressive coaching team including former Scotland No.8 Iain Paxton and former Scotland and British and Irish Lions centre John Rutherford.

Argyll started the game well and went 7-0

ahead with a try from Fergus Bradbury. The away side however dominated the majority of the rest of the first half, running in four tries to lead 24-7 at half time.

The Argyll team were dealt a blow with injuries to Alfie Tinline-Bartholemew, Chrissy Budge and Lewis MacFarlane.

The boys were determined, despite these setbacks, and mounted an impressive comeback with a try from Simon Fraser and then from second row Lewis Evans that brought the score back to 19-24.

Argyll were unlucky not to win the game and were held up over the opposition line on two occasions in the last 10 minutes.



North Argyll centre Robert Dempster breaks the Selkirk line.

07\_t03rugby02



Action from last Saturday's match between the Isle of Arran and Oban Lorne. The Green Machine won a close game 14-10.

## Weather

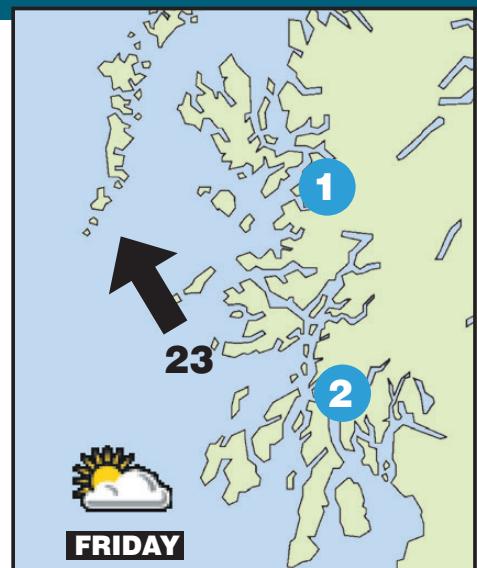
Thursday Cloudy  
Winds moderate, south easterly  
Temperatures 0°C to 2°C

Friday Sunny intervals  
Winds moderate, south easterly  
Temperatures 0°C to 2°C.

Weekend Sunny intervals  
Outlook Winds moderate south easterly  
Temperatures 0°C to 2°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist  
Oban to Coll/Tiree  
Kennacraig to Islay

Moderate  
Moderate  
Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from

Thursday, January 17, 2013

are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	
Thur	03.21	1.0	09.12
Fri	04.03	1.3	09.53
Sat	04.50	1.6	10.43
Sun	05.45	1.8	11.56
Mon	06.08	2.9	06.52
Tues	01.58	2.9	08.55
Wed	03.07	3.1	10.07

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriishaig	-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

Established 1861 No 8130

Thursday 17 January, 2013

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## CARAVANS and CAMPING

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on page 14

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### Land Reform Review Group urged to back call for 10,000 crofts

THE SCOTTISH Crofting Federation (SCF) has urged the Land Reform Review Group to back its call to the Scottish Government for 10,000 new crofts to be created by 2020.

The federation believes a 'rapid extension' of crofting is required to promote sustainable agriculture and rural development.

SCF vice chair Fiona Mandeville said: 'Review of land reform in Scotland should reflect these policy goals and so we have asked the group to support our request.'

'We want to see more people on the land, more families benefiting from a stake in Scotland and being able to take care of their own part of it.'

Scottish Ministers has charged the Land Reform Review Group with producing a report on broadening community land usage and ownership.

See SCF backs Barra campaigners, page 3.

### Police condemn Portree charity shop break in

SKYE POLICE have condemned a callous break in at the Highland Hospice charity shop in Portree. Cash was stolen and damage was caused to the property sometime between Saturday evening and Monday morning.

Acting Inspector at Portree, Fiona Paxton said: 'It is particularly disappointing that a shop raising money for well regarded charitable work and which is staffed mainly by volunteers, would be targeted in this way.'

Anyone with useful information is urged to contact Portree Police on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers confidentially on 0800 555 111.

### Lochaber ceilidh

MEUR LOCHABAIR will hold their annual Skye Ceilidh in the West End Hotel, Fort William on Saturday, February 16 at 7.30pm.

For further details contact Charlie MacColl on 07885 177717.



Glenfinnan Village and Glenfinnan 45's line up before the start of the match - 20\_f03glen01

## Glenfinnan celebrates Old New Year in traditional style

GLENFINNAN villagers turned out in force to celebrate the old Scots New year with an annual shiny match under the famous railway viaduct on Saturday.

Around 40 people from the small village either took part

in the game or cheered on their favourites. Each side featured male and female players, with ages ranging from primary school to pensioners.

Previous year's matches have been played in snow and rain, but the conditions this year were

more favourable with Saturday proving dry but chilly.

A pitch side fire and a few drums kept the players and spectators warm on the banks of the River Finnian during the clash of the ash.

Glenfinnan '45s eventually

took the win, narrowly outscoring Glenfinnan Village by 3-2 during a friendly but competitive game.

Glenfinnan Estate manager Alasdair Gibson helped organise the event, and he told *The Oban Times* it had gone well.

He said: 'The weather stayed dry, conditions were good and it was well attended. I think everyone enjoyed themselves.'

After the game the villagers enjoyed a ceiliad dance, with the celebrations continuing deep into the wee small hours.

## Another Lochaber jobs blow as shellfish firm announces Corpach plant shutdown

LOCHABER has been hit with a second jobs blow in as many weeks with news that the Glenelg shellfish processing plant based at Corpach is to close.

**The only option'** Owner Associated Seafoods Ltd (ASL) of Buckie announced the shutdown on Tuesday following a 30-day consultation period with the plant's 27 employees.

The move comes as the Scottish shellfish industry battles tough trading conditions, particularly within the export sector.

The factory processes

sorry for the impact this will have on employees.

'However, after undertaking a full review of the site, it was decided that the only viable option for the business was to close the facility.'

'We have offered alternative employment within the ASL group for everyone affected, but we do appreciate that for many people this will not be an option because of their close ties to the Fort William area.'

Last week DE Shoes announced the possible closure of its Fort William store with the loss of seven jobs.

## Transport minister denies voter apathy

TURNOUT for the upcoming referendum on Scottish independence will be 80 per cent or more, transport minister Keith Brown predicted in Fort William on Tuesday night.

Mr Brown made the bold claim at the second in a series of debates being staged by Fort William Chamber of Commerce ahead of the big poll in autumn 2014.

The SNP MSP was responding to concerns from Torlundy House B&B owner Michael Dunham that voter apathy could see independence come through 'a majority of a minority vote.'

Mr Brown told around 40 business people in the Alexandra Hotel: 'For the independence referendum we will have a very

high turnout. There will be in excess of an 80 per cent turnout. I think we will definitely see that.'

Recent controversy surrounding an independent Scotland becoming an automatic member of the European Union in its own right were among topics raised from the floor.

Mr Brown said: 'Under what scenario does the EU want to get rid of a country with 80 per cent of Europe's energy resources? This will be resolved by politics and not the law.'

Chamber chairman Don Hind thanked Mr Brown for 'a fantastic level of debate' and

delivering a 'very passionate and personal' presentation on why Scotland should vote 'yes.'

03>  
  
9 771468 629089

## Highland Council under fire as office shuts door to public enquires

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

HIGHLAND Council has been slated after closing its planning office in Fort William to general enquires.

Members of the public who could previously walk off the street to speak to the department now have to phone a call centre in Alness.

Onich man Bill Bryce, who has been involved in the building industry in Lochaber for 40 years, said he felt the new system had erected another barrier for people wanting to build in the area.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'How can it be more efficient for me if I can't walk off the street and talk to someone?'

He added: 'It's more difficult now to build than it ever has been in my 40 years in the industry.'

'How can it be more efficient for me to talk to someone in a call centre in Alness? Do they know where Corran Ferry is, or anywhere else?'

'I went in one day recently to get a form and they said I had to contact the call centre and they would send the form out to me.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'How can it be more efficient for me if I can't walk off the street and talk to someone?'

He added: 'It's more difficult now to build than it ever has been in my 40 years in the industry.'

Mr Bryce said he felt consultation with members of the public and industry figures should have taken place before the planning department made their decision.

Caol and Mallaig councillor Bill Clark told *The Oban Times* the move would increase the efficiency of the planning office.

He said: 'It is for general enquiries only. If someone has got an ongoing case then they can still get directly to see the case officer in Lochaber.'

'It's a way of being more efficient from the planners point of view. It will let them plan their day so they can carry on with their everyday work and still see people.'

Asked whether the cash would be better spent elsewhere, an NHS Highland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*:

'We have an obligation to inform people about what we are doing and most people demand it.'

'Everything we do, including producing this newspaper, is designed to help the public.'

## NHS Highland spends £20,000 on free paper

NHS HIGHLAND says almost £20,000 being spent on a free newspaper being delivered to every household in the area represents good value for money.

The 12-page paper, which will drop through letterboxes at the end of January, will cost £8,439.62 plus VAT to produce and £7,133 plus VAT to distribute.

The 'NHS Highland News' will cover various health topics and feature a survey for readers to have their say on services. The first issue was published in August 2011.

Asked whether the cash would be better spent elsewhere, an NHS Highland spokesperson told *The Oban Times*:

'We have an obligation to inform people about what we are doing and most people demand it.'

'Everything we do, including producing this newspaper, is designed to help the public.'

## S&S Services

4WD Roadshow Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th January, Tesco Car Park, Oban

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## Invergarry wind farm power delayed until 2015

DEVELOPERS behind plans for a 25-turbine wind farm near Invergarry have said it will not produce power until 2015 at the earliest.

RidgeWind Ltd were granted permission to build the 85MW Beinnneun Wind Farm by the Scottish Government late last year, although construction has yet to start.

Project manager Neal Reid told *The Oban Times* they were waiting for confirmation of a grid connection from SSE before building work started.

He said: 'Construction will take around two years, so it will be at least 2015 before it is up and running.'

## Robertson Trust boost for Lochaber sea cadets

LOCHABER sea cadets at Training Ship St Christopher in Fort William have received a £2,000 funding boost from the Robertson Trust.

The cash will help cover the cost of electricity and insurance – significant expenses for which financial support can be hard to find.

Meanwhile, treasurer Janice Moyer is stepping down after three years. Anyone with bookkeeping experience who would like to step in can contact Tina Calder on 01397 704246.

## VAL training courses begin in Fort William today

VOLUNTARY Action Lochaber (VAL) will deliver the second in a series of training courses for local charitable organisations at its base in Fort William today.

The session at An Drochaid will focus on funding plans, fundraising and bid writing.

Two more one-day courses are planned – organising activities and events on February 21, and practical quality assurance systems for small organisations (POASSO) on March 7.

High Life Highland (HLH) is supporting the winter training series through its adult learning fund.

Julie Simmons at HLH said: 'I am delighted that High Life Highland has been able to support [VAL's] training programme which is enabling local people to gain such important skills within their own communities.'

The first course on good governance and motivation, and retention and development of volunteers, was held last Friday.

## Lochaber Women's Aid gain support



Julie Wileman thanked local people 20\_f03womens01

LOCHABER Women's Aid has paid tribute to the generosity of local people over the festive season after donations to Christmas hamper and toy appeals flooded in.

Service manager Julie Wileman said: 'We had a fantastic response to the appeals and were truly overwhelmed by the number of toys and gifts we received for our children and young people.'

'We would also like to thank businesses and individuals who donated items for Our Christmas Food Hamper Appeal.'

She added: 'We were able to provide all of our service users with gifts and a food hamper, which we know went a long way to brightening their Christmas.'

## Lochaber community groups reach compromise over Loch Arkaig hydropower scheme funding

REPORT by  
RICHARD HADDOCK  
fort@obantimes.co.uk

Fotheringham told *The Oban Times* the agreement suited both parties.

He said: 'We have reached a compromise with the ABC Group.'

Any funding from the first two hydro schemes in Loch Arkaig will be paid over in its entirety from the ABC Group to the new company.

'It was very generous of them and it has resolved any difficulties there might have been. We don't need any disagreements, we're only a small community. I think this is probably the best solution for all.'

A charitable organisation is likely to be created to distribute the funds.

A POTENTIAL conflict between two Lochaber community groups over prospective earnings from micro hydropower schemes has been avoided after a deal was reached.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council will receive any community benefit paid from the next two hydro projects set up in Loch Arkaig.

A charitable organisation is likely to be created to distribute the funds.

Local residents association Achnacarry, Bunarkaig and Clunes Group (ABC) had originally claimed they were entitled to any earnings from the loch, but offered to hand over money from two of the new schemes currently in the planning process stage.

ABC Group currently receives funding from the Caig Aig development. The scheme was the result of a partnership between Lochiel Estate, Forestry Commission Scotland and energy company RWE.

**Compromise**  
Community council chair John

He added: 'But we have no idea how much money, if any, there will be.'

Although Highland Council

have their community benefit policy, the developers hold all the cards. If they decide they don't want to pay, they don't pay it.'

Highland Council wards manager Dot Ferguson attended a recent meeting in Spean Bridge to discuss the community council's

plans to set up a new company to handle the potential funding avenues.

After looking at a number of different models, the members agreed to look into creating a



charitable company. A sub-committee comprised of community councillors Sandy

Edmond and Brian Donald was set up to take the project on to the next stage.

Mr Fotheringham said the company would not be linked to the community council.

He said: 'We might set it up,

but the community council's influence will then diminish dramatically and the local community will take over.'

'They were good quality garden benches, and we think it would cost around £470 to replace it. We will probably need to fund raise to get it repaired or maybe replaced.'

'They are well used benches. The children will sometimes use them as a quiet area, or for table-top games and when the weather is nice we sometimes let the children with packed lunches eat outside.'

'To have one damaged is really a shame after all the hard work of the parents.'

Kyle of Lochalsh police are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them on 01599 554222, or phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police have recently launched an operation to deter and detect acts of vandalism.

## New book on Skye family launched

### A CELEBRATORY new book documenting the lives of a famed family of Gaelic singers will be officially launched at a special concert at Celtic Connections in Glasgow on Saturday.

**Fonn: The Campbells of Gruinard** will be unveiled at Sabhal Mor Ostaig's 40th Anniversary Festival Concert in Glasgow's City Halls. The book, presented in Gaelic and English throughout, traces the story of the Skye family with a gift for music which goes back generations, and pays tribute to the place and culture that allowed them to flourish.

Over the years the Campbell clan has produced no fewer than seven Mod medalists including several winners of the coveted Mod 'double' - the Gold Medal and the Traditional Medal.

Many of the Campbells, who hailed from Skye and latterly Glasgow, went on to become household names.

Kenna Campbell famously sang the 23rd Psalm at the memorial service for the late Labour leader John Smith while Kenna, honoured with a doctorate from RSAMD in 2009, was part of folk group Na h-Eilteirich (The Exiles) in the 70s along with sister Ann and brother Seumas. More recently, other members of the family have sung together in Ciar.

Kenna's aunt Seonag won the family's first Mod Gold Medal in 1957 followed by Kenna's sister Ann and Ann's daughter Maggie MacDonald. Kenna's two daughters Mary Ann and Wilma Kennedy were both double medalists - just as their uncle Seumas was in his day.

Fonn, initially co-ordinated by Skye photographer and broadcaster Cailean MacLean, features a large collection of traditional songs from the family's repertoire, transcribed by Mary Ann.

The cash injection comes as the government develops its national walking strategy throughout 2013 - the Year of Natural Scotland. Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said:

'The projects will not only create new work and jobs but will also have a lasting benefit in supporting green tourism in rural parts of Scotland and encouraging people to get involved in physical activity.'

## Savile's Glencoe cottage should stay say community

Local opinion is strongly opposed to demolition simply because the last owner happened to be Savile



Locals are opposed to its demolition of Allt na Reigh, Jimmy Savile's Glencoe home

Innes' climbing exploits.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I have had contact with several people in the mountaineering community who have suggested that they could find a solution.'

'If they sold the house to someone at least it would mean somebody else living in the glen.'

Local councillor Andrew Baxter had cited demolition as a 'last option' - but is now working to find a use linked to Mr Mac-

suggestion of turning it into a mountaineering museum.

'The property's association with Hamish MacInnes is partly why the mountaineering community is interested in preserving it.'

He added: 'I intend to contact the Mountaineering Council of Scotland to see if this would

be something they would be interested in pursuing.'

Leading author, hillwalker and broadcaster Cameron McNeish is also backing a museum at Allt na Reigh, where Mr MacInnes fashioned cutting-edge ice axes in his workshop.

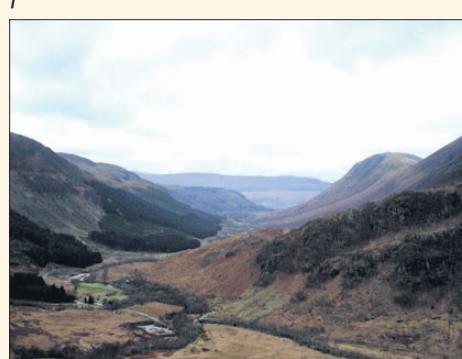
## Lochaber police files

LIGHTING AT the sign to Coire Glas Guesthouse in Spean Bridge was damaged between January 1 and January 5.

A QUANTITY of fuel was stolen from Russell Plant Hire at Torthundy between 7pm on Wednesday, January 9 and 7am the following morning.

Anyone with information on any of the above incidents can contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 confidentially or 01397 702000.

## Nether Lochaber Community Council - on the spot report from Nether Lochaber Village Hall



Scenic Glen Nevis is to be part of a proposed 'national park'?

10\_f03glennevis01

here. I just don't see them imposing a national park in times of austerity.'

Councillor Baxter added: 'There is no government money behind this.'

Environmental consultants Red Kite are currently drawing up a report on the proposal.

A DILAPIDATED stone building next to a popular tourist car park Inchree has been condemned by Forestry Commission Scotland - leaving a local businessman with a major headache.

But Alistair Campbell could see the status of the national park benefiting Lochaber, citing the draw of Yellowstone in the US as an example.

If I was from the States and saw a Ben Nevis and Glencoe National Park I would go there,' he said.

Chairman Iain Jenner said: 'It

would need to be looked on very favourably by the community

get it repaired without success - and now needs room to expand.

A building opposite, which Mr Starkey also leases from the commission, is in full use.

Mr Starkey was seeking the

community council's support and

advice about possible next steps.

Chairman Iain Jenner said the

commission had asked the CC if

they were interested in using the

building.

The offer coincided with an idea

to ask Lochaber Housing Associa-

tion to free up adjacent land they

purchased from the commission

for housing, but never used, for a

community allotment scheme.

The meeting heard suggestions

that the building could be

renovated or rebuilt, then used both by Mr Starkey commercially and by the community as a meeting place - should the allotments ever happen and funding become available.

'I don't see Vertical Descents interests and community council interests conflicting,' Mr Jenner said.

Calum Murdison added: 'I think it would need a new building.'

ANOTHER local building is in need of repair or replacement - the village hall itself.

Members heard from chairman Iain Jenner that representatives of the local Scottish country dancing club were concerned about a corner of the hall floor.

New efforts will be made to meet



Is Nether Lochaber Village Hall Past its sell-by date? 20\_f03nether01

## Lochalsh school playground bench destroyed

CHILDREN at a Lochalsh primary school returned from their Christmas holidays to find a playground picnic bench had been destroyed by a maliciously started fire.

The wooden bench outside Kyle Primary was set ablaze sometime between December 20 and January 7, with the damage only discovered when the school reopened.

The parent council bought three wooden garden benches for the 60-pupil school around two years ago at a cost of more than £1,000 after a series of fundraising events.

Head teacher Alison MacLellan told *The Oban Times* the extent of the damage might mean repairs will be too expensive.

She said: 'It was very badly scorched and burned. Three or four plants were destroyed as well.'

'They were good quality garden benches, and we think it would cost around £470 to replace it. We will probably need to fund raise to get it repaired or maybe replaced.'

'They are well used benches. The children will sometimes use them as a quiet area, or for table-top games and when the weather is nice we sometimes let the children with packed lunches eat outside.'

'To have one damaged is really a shame after all the hard work of the parents.'

Kyle of Lochalsh police are appealing for anyone with any information to contact them on 01599 554222, or phone Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Police have recently launched an operation to deter and detect acts of vandalism.

## West Highland Way gets £750,000

THE WEST Highland Way between Milngavie and Fort William has been given a £750,000 cash boost.

The Scottish government funding, part of a £3.15m package to Forestry Commission Scotland for improving the country's public forest estates, will go towards upgrading eroded sections of the 96-mile route.

The Great Glen Way between Fort William and Inverness is also to get major investment - £1m for more than 11 miles of new paths and surface improvements works.

The Outdoor Capital of the UK, which promotes Lochaber as an activities destination, welcomed the news. Project director Frazer Coupland told *The Oban Times*: 'From Fort William's point of view this is really putting us at the hub of long distance walking in Scotland.'

The cash injection comes as the government develops its national walking strategy throughout 2013 - the Year of Natural Scotland. Environment minister Paul Wheelhouse said: 'The projects will not only create new work and jobs but will also have a lasting benefit in supporting green tourism in rural parts of Scotland and encouraging people to get involved in physical

## Roadworks herald A82 overnight closures in March

MAJOR resurfacing works planned south of Fort William at Onich, if they go ahead, will mean overnight road closures of the A82 in March, Nether Lochaber Community Council has heard.

Chairman Iain Jenner revealed details of the improvements, from the Onich Hotel north to the 40mph sign, at NLCC's monthly meeting last Wednesday.

He said: 'Resurfacing will start no later than March 10 and will be finished by March 22. But if they can't start before March 10 they won't start at all.'

He added: 'I don't believe they are going to work over weekends but there will still be overnight closures from 9pm to 6am. It is their intention to allow vehicles through as and when they can.'

Mr Jenner was among community representatives who met Transport Scotland and Scotland TranServ chiefs on December 19 to discuss the works, which were postponed in October 2011 amid local claims of insufficient consultation.

Cycle path construction through Onich to the Corran Ferry could coincide with the road resurfacing.

No date for a second set of A82 improvements east towards North Ballachulish, which were also postponed, has yet been set.

### Shopmobility raise more than £500

**SHOPMOBILITY** Lochaber staff and volunteers raised £585.33 during an in-store collection at Morrisons in Fort William on Saturday.

Coordinator Billy Ward thanked the store and all involved in helping to raise the 'fantastic total'.

# Ardtornish commissions second hydro electric scheme

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

ARDTORNISH Estate has commissioned a second hydro-electric scheme in Morvern as the West Highlands' renewable energy drive continues apace. The 1.5MW 'Rannoch Dam' plant, built on a burn flowing down to Loch Aline, is already producing electricity and is shortly expected to gain accreditation from industry regulator Ofgem.

A smaller 700kW scheme at Loch Tearnait above on the same watercourse has been operating for over a year.

To fund the projects, the estate raised £7 million loan finance, repayable over 20 years.

### Revolutionise estate

Ardtornish, along with other developers of hydro projects between 500kW and 2MW, is paid 12.1p per kilowatt-hour by

their electricity supplier, plus up to 5p per kWh for surplus power exported to the grid.

All electricity consumers subsidise FITs, which aim to boost small-scale renewable power generation, through their energy bills.

Mr Robertson said: 'We have taken quite a big risk and the purpose of this is to keep the place going and make it better. It is going to revolutionise the economy of the estate, and Morvern.'

The projects will mean substantial spin-offs for the local community of over £10,000 per year. Ardtornish, unlike many

other developers, has agreed to meet Highland Council's recommended community benefit of £5,000 per installed megawatt in full.

### No agreement

However, despite Tearnait generating power for a year, no agreement has been reached on which local group should administer the fund.

Dot Ferguson, Lochaberwards manager for Highland Council, said a local ballot would soon be held to decide the issue.

She said: 'The likely options are Morvern Community Council or Morvern Community Trust – either is set up in

such a way that they can receive community benefit cash.'

'The ballot will be asking which body you would like to see holding the community benefit money for the community.'

'Ardtornish have voluntarily agreed to take part in Highland Council's scheme which recommends a payment of £5,000 per megawatt, per annum.'

'They are paying in full and are very good to deal with. If the other estates were as has been there would be a history of figures settling down at around only £2,000 per megawatt.'

Meanwhile, Ardtornish has received planning and water abstraction consents for a third scheme at Uileann, in the White Glen, but has delayed construction on cost grounds.

Mr Robertson said: 'The reason we have not started building yet is raising the extra finance required and not risking too much at once.'

'We plan to start building in autumn 2013 using the same team that built the other two, consultants Hydroplan of Fort William and contractors DA MacDonald of Lochgilphead. The grid connection has been secured.'

## Finance Secretary announces £590,000 funding package for West Highland College

Investment will mean expansion at Portree

A 'SUBSTANTIAL' new building at West Highland College UHI's Portree campus is to be built under a £590,000 funding boost for further education on Skye.

Finance Secretary John Swinney announced the package in a speech to the Institute of Directors Highland and Islands members in Fort William on Tuesday.

The European Regional Development Fund money will also pay for improvements to existing facilities for students and staff.

Mr Swinney said the investment meant the college could press ahead with ambitious expansion plans at Portree, bringing benefits to the wider area.

He said: 'Jobs will be created during the construction process putting more money into the local economy and the new and upgraded buildings will give the community greater access to the quality further and higher education that it needs to help people achieve their ambitions.'

'With courses in construction

Above - Finance Secretary John Swinney at the Old Fort before his speech to delegates at the West Highland College UHI in Fort William

and tourism, the expanded college will also provide local businesses with the skilled workforce that they require for success.'

WHC UHI principal and chief executive, Lydia Rohmer said:

'Thanks to leadership and support from the Scottish Government, we are planning to create a significantly enhanced centre

for further and higher education and enterprise in Portree on Skye, which will provide for over 300 learners, with an additional 60 full-time places from September 2013.'

The centre will contribute

support to key local economic sectors in tourism and hospitality, construction, creative industries, and health and care

services as well as business and IT - helping individuals in the West Highlands to get a job, get a better job and hopefully to get a career.'

Before he addressed delegates,

Mr Swinney visited the Old Fort

next the college to view improvements made to the historic site by Friends of the Old Fort (FOOF).

## Lewis man killed in cliff fall

A 48 YEAR-OLD man from the Point area of Lewis has died after falling from cliffs at Swordale, five miles east of Stornoway, on Monday afternoon.

The victim, named locally as Donald Macdonald from Knock, is believed to have been working with sheep when he slipped and fell around 70 feet down a ravine onto the shore.

Mr Macdonald suffered severe head injuries and was airlifted to the Western Isles Hospital in Stornoway by coastguard helicopter. He later died from his injuries.

A member of the public who witnessed the accident alerted police and coastguards at 3.40pm.

Two crew members from Stornoway lifeboat aided the rescue after reaching the shore in the vessel's inflatable dinghy.

Police are investigating the incident and a report will be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal. Relatives have been informed.

Local people have been left stunned by the tragedy.

One Bayble man, who asked not to be named, told The Oban Times: 'Everybody I have spoken to has expressed their shock and horror at what has happened.'

'The feelings of the whole community are with the family at this terrible time.'

Stornoway Coastguard watch manager Murdo Macaulay urged people to be aware of the dangers when working or walking near cliff edges.

### Police appeal following Stornoway death

POLICE are seeking information about the final movements of a Stornoway man whose body was found in the town last week.

William John Johnson, aged 54, was found dead behind a block of flats in the Bayhead area on the afternoon of Thursday January 10.

Police said there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances.

Anyone with information is urged to call Stornoway police on 01851 702222.

### Knoydart Burns night

THE PEOPLE of Knoydart will celebrate Burns Night on Saturday will an informal family get together in Inverie village hall.



## Crofting federation back Barra fishing grounds protest

BARRA PROTESTS over local fishing grounds being designated as a marine Special Area of Conservation have won backing from a national crofters' organisation.

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) says the Scottish Government should turn down proposals to make the Sound of Barra a protected area the interests of local democracy.

The SCF also wants government to 'radically revise' the way it enacts European environmental legislation.

SCF director Roddy Macdonald conceded changes were needed to help global efforts on environmental and species protection – but not if that means ignoring informed local opinion. He said: 'The campaign by Barra people against the proposed mSAC

has highlighted a long-standing complaint in crofting communities that there is a democratic deficit in the way that environmental legislation is applied in Scotland.'

The controversial proposal, first put forward in 2000, is being made by Scottish Natural Heritage, the government's nature conservation agency.

Islanders fear restrictions on fishing and other activities could damage an area classed by government as socio-economically fragile.

The SCF says the Sound of Barra case is 'the latest in a long list' of expensive and time-consuming disputes between communities and environmental administrators.

Mr MacDonald said: 'Given the financial restrictions currently being imposed on SNH and on government generally, the government should think again about how nature conservation is carried out in Scotland.'

'This is prolonging unnecessary

antagonism between the Scottish Government and the people of Scotland.'

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## Islay man is charged with attempted murder

AN ISLAY man has been charged with the attempted murder of a woman on the island.

Appearing at Campbeltown Sheriff Court on Monday, Kenneth Milton made no plea and was remanded in custody.

The alleged incident occurred in Port Ellen on January 10.

The 67 year-old was due to appear in court again today (Thursday).

## Local DE Shoes outlets face uncertain future

'THE future is not yet certain,' according to shoe retailer DE Shoes as it embarks on a 90 day consultation process on Friday.

News emerged last week that the company was to shut 21 outlets across Scotland – including stores in Oban and Fort William – as it struggles against falling footfall at its stores.

Both branches had been performing well of late though and are understood to have been profitable.

But the company this week insisted no final decision had been taken.

A spokeswoman said: 'There are obviously some difficulties company-wide and we have to have this consultation before we make any decisions.'

## Former Oban man appointed to board of Loganair

FORMER Oban man Phil Preston has joined the board of directors at Loganair, as part of a reshuffle at the company.

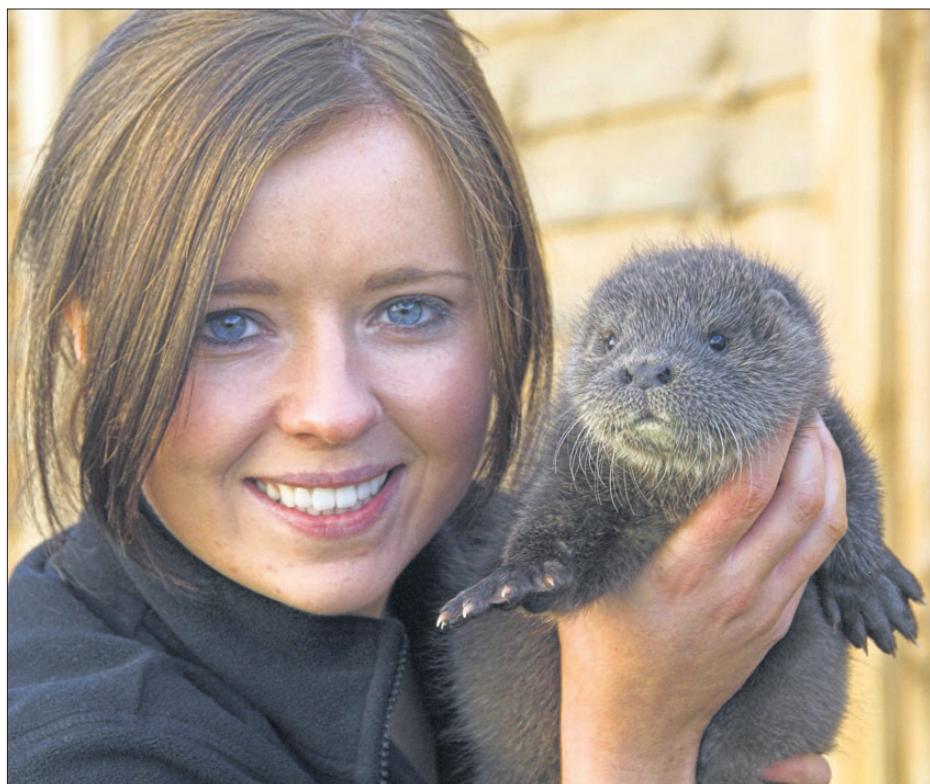
Loganair announced yesterday (Wednesday) the appointment of former Tiger Airways of Singapore managing director Stewart Adams as its new chief executive.

Previous chief executive David Harrison becomes executive chairman, while Mr Preston, who has been chief operating officer since he left CalMac in May last year, joins Harrison and Adams on the Loganair board.

## NEWSDESKS

01397 703003

01631 568000



Scottish SPCA wildlife assistant Lorin Wilson with otter cub Cally who was rescued near Taynuilt.

## Taynuilt otter cub rescued from car park

A TINY otter cub who had to be resuscitated half-way to safety by an animal welfare inspector has made a remarkable recovery to health.

The seven week old cub was discovered motionless by a passing couple in a forestry commission car park near Taynuilt on New Year's Day.

So frail was she that they had real concerns for her health

when they called the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA).

But the cute cub, nicknamed Cally, wasn't quite out of the woods yet.

Claire Shorthose, an auxiliary inspector for the SPCA and a practising vet, responded to the call.

She said: 'The couple who found the otter cub took her home and

kept her warm until I arrived. She was barely alive and in a hypothermic and hypoglycaemic state. I had to stop the van to revive her during the journey but thankfully she pulled through.'

I cared for her until she was stable enough to be transported to our National Wildlife Rescue Centre near Alloa where she is continuing her recovery.'

Cally is now feeding herself and growing stronger every day, winning herself plenty of fans in the process.

Centre manager Colin Seddon said: 'Cally has made a remarkable recovery given the condition she was found in.'

'Cally is one of 10 otter cubs in our care. We think wet weather may be responsible for displacing young otters whose holes have been flooded or disturbed.'

A spokesperson for Scottish Water said: 'The work at Bealach an Righ is to complete some water mains rehabilitation in the area which will provide improved services to customers.'

## Winter festival brings more than £1 million to Oban

MORE than £1m is estimated to have come into the Oban area during last November's winter festival, but organisers had a warning about future funding of the event.

### Footfall up 144 per cent

The maiden festival in 2011 brought in more than £900,000 but organisers have estimated the economic benefit the 2012 event to be worth £1,130,000.

Charities based in the town raised a total of £15,500, which

is more than double the previous year's figure.

VisitScotland has also reported the footfall at its Oban visitor centre increased by 144 per cent during the festival, held between November 16 – 25.

Surveys carried out during the festival showed 83 per cent of people ate out in the town, 55 per cent shopped for gifts and 10 per cent of people stayed for more than one night in Oban.

The figures were revealed in

a report presented to volunteers on Monday, when the small organising committee was praised for its work.

Committee member Pamela Lockhart told the meeting: 'I think we listened to the feedback from last year and people responded.'

We had received requests for more markets, roller skating and fireworks in a central position to benefit businesses.

A new food market was very

popular with many stalls selling out early. This event will be repeated and is expected to be oversubscribed and become a major attraction, as is the Victorian market.'

However, the committee also expressed disappointment at its allocation of public funds – it was granted £5,000 by Argyll and Bute Council.

Committee member Eleanor MacKinnon said: 'We were told to prove ourselves in that first

year and we did.'

'But funding is very tight and the committee was worried whether we would break even last year. I think the success of the past two years gives us the evidence to seek funding.'

The first Oban Winter Festival 2013 fundraiser will be a Valentine's Ceilidh with Trail West on Saturday, February 16.

You can view The Oban Times winter festival footage on our website [www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

## EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN

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

'There was no problem with the work carried out earlier by Scottish Water's contractors at this location.'

'They had to come off the road due to resurfacing work carried out in December and have returned to complete the rehabilitation work.'

Local councillors have ex-

pressed frustration that the work wasn't completed at the first time of asking and using 'nonsensical gobbledegook' to evade blame.

The operator has also been accused of a lack of communication with trunk roads operator, Scotland TranServ, who were under the impression Scottish Water was simply returning to resurface the road.

A spokesperson for Scottish Water said: 'The work at Bealach an Righ is to complete some water mains rehabilitation in the area which will provide improved services to customers.'

of trying to talk their way out of admitting a mistake.

He said: 'It sounds like they've made a mess of it the first time round and they have to go back, do it again, and it costs double. Public bodies are famed for it.'

'Then they talk in nonsensical gobbledegook so nobody knows what they're talking about. It may as well be Klingon. What is rehabilitation work?'

Administration colleague Louise Glen-Lee, is to write to Scottish Water and Transport Scotland over the matter.

She said: 'There is no public

operator awash with cash and to dig a road up to have it resurfaced, then to dig it up to have it resurfaced again seems ludicrous to me.'

'There is a national protocol for digging up our roads - it seems strange this applies everywhere else in Scotland and yet, time and again in Oban, Lorn and the Isles, operators seem to fly in the face of national strategy.'

## Pennyfuir stench to continue as Scottish Water search for solution

VISITORS to Pennyfuir Cemetery, near Oban, walkers and drivers on the A85 Connel to Oban road may have to put up with foul stenches coming from Oban's Waste Water Treatment Works for months yet.

Pungent odours have been reported from the facility adjacent to the A85 for some months, with Scottish Water saying in December that work had started to address the smelly problem.

While a new chemical system has been fitted, the rest of the work won't be finished until the summer.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'We are about to start the remaining phases of work, which include an upgrade to the control system. This work will be completed by about early summer.'

'In the meantime, we will take other remedial action to help tackle the problem, including the re-positioning of an odourising unit at the works so it is located near the roadside.'

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FW

## Lorn Lines

QUIZ teams are being sought for Oban Pipe Band's annual event in the Masonic Lodge, Albany Street, tomorrow (Friday).

Teams can vary in number, from two to six people. The quiz starts at 7.30pm.

Organiser Alastair Dewar said: 'This is firstly a fun evening which always turns out to be a highly enjoyable social event and goes a long way to help the band with its much needed fundraising.'



THE FIRST meeting of members of Oban Speakers Club in the new year started on a seasonal note with Jim Fraser talking on the subject 'A Guid New Year'.

This was followed by Archie McPhail on 'Retail Price Index' and finally Frank Walton on 'A Place called Shimla'.

All speakers and their immediate critics were introduced by the chairman Roy Wood.

In the second half the topics chairman gave topics to Alex Clark, Eamonn Arthur, Bill Leech, John Maclean and Guido Faccenda. Timekeeper for the evening was Bill Leech and a comprehensive general evaluation was given by Tom Clegg.

The next meeting will be held on January 24.



One of Sanfte Strukturen's projects.

A PROJECT to create a living architectural structure with willow is to take place in the grounds of Dunollie's 1745 House.

Sanfte Strukturen is an art group which specialises in willow projects, having completed over 60 around the world in the past 25 years.

Their creations include palaces, cathedrals and churches aided by members of surrounding communities in the building process.

Now the group is coming to Argyll to create a 'large scale living willow structure' and are looking for artists from the area to help.

Artists who wish to take part in the project, from March 23 to 30, should contact tara@ dunollie.org for more information.



MEMBERS of Oban Camera Club gathered in the Regent Hotel for the first meeting of the New Year and were inspired by winning images from two portfolio presentations - the Scottish Photographic Federation and the Photographic Alliance of GB.

The second part of the 2012-13 season has a varied and interesting programme of guest speakers competitions and in-house nights.

May your Christmas present was a new camera - why not join Oban Camera Club in Regent Hotel at 7.30pm on Monday nights.



Two pupils from Rockfield Primary School handed over a cheque for £420 to Oban Toy Cupboard to help the group buy new toys for the children.

Toy librarian Cynthia McKeown and assistant Sheila MacGregor are pictured receiving the cheque from primary seven pupils Finbar Dunne and Emma Masterson.

Rockfield school supports four charities every year, one of which is local.

Money for Oban Toy Cupboard was raised through a retirement collection at the school Christmas service and donations from staff.



OBAN Music Society will host a talented trio in St John's Cathedral this Sunday.

The highly acclaimed Kandinsky Piano Trio will be playing works by Mozart, Schubert and Faure.

The trio, Lora Dimitrova, Alexei Sarkissov and Fenella Barton, was formed in 2002 and has played in many venues both in the UK and in Europe, while Alexei has performed in the presence of Pope John Paul II, Boris Yeltsin and HRH Prince of Wales.



You can send all your news from the Oban and Lorn area direct to Euan Paterson epaterson@obantimes.co.uk or by post to Lorn Lines, The Oban Times PO Box 1 Oban, Argyll



Ruby Smith with her winning entry while her class shows off their books. 16\_103comp02



Kai MacKechnie was delighted with his runner-up prize. 16\_103comp01

## Park pupil wins books for her class 'Artistic' Ruby draws her special prize

A FIVE year old girl so impressed *Oban Times* staff with her artwork she won a prizes of books and dvds and well as something for her entire school class.

Ruby Smith, a primary one pupil at Park Primary School in Oban, was off school ill when she found out she had won the competition with her colourful entry.

She said: 'I really had my fingers crossed, I really didn't think I would win because the phone call took quite a while to come but it made me feel better when I found out.'

Ruby, who was pleased she

won a Myro storybook for her class, decided to draw Myro, the smallest plane in the world, as he was her favourite character from the books.

### 'So artistic'

Class teacher, Alison Johnston, said she was 'really pleased' Ruby had won, adding: 'It is very special because she is so artistic, every day she brings in things she has drawn.'

'Her artwork is fantastic, particularly for a primary one pupil.'

Miss Johnston added the class was also using Myro as a way to start their project for this month on Australia.

Meanwhile, Kai MacKechnie, also five, and a pupil at Lochness Primary School, Benderloch took one of the runner up spots in the competition, run in association with publishers Nick Rose, winning an activity pack and teaching kit.

He was delighted to pick up his prize after a long day at school 'doing numbers'.

He was looking forward to taking the kit into school and hoping it earns him a green ticket from his teacher, Mrs Cameron.

Kai said: 'I drew the jet fighter for the competition after practicing all day.'

## Islay distiller aims to increase annual production of whisky

### 1.5 million litres each year could lead to new jobs for islanders

BRUICHLADDICH Distillery's plan of becoming a major player on the world whisky stage will take its first giant steps with the doubling of its spirit output.

Following a £58m takeover of the previously independent Islay distillery in July, French drinks giant Remy Cointreau stated its intention to increase production at the site, which still has some equipment dating back to its construction in 1881.

The plans had been put on display at public meetings and were available to view on Argyll and Bute Council's website but a 'breakdown in communication' meant the two organisations believed different plans had been agreed to.

The result is that the siting of cages and anchors at the fish farm will render it a no go area for local fishermen but SSC have now agreed to do whatever they can to help.

Nick Turnbull of MAFA said: 'SSC have agreed to do everything that they can to move the site into a more suitable position in Gometra. This is a separate issue completely to Loch Scridain and is certainly not being used as a lever.'

Theambitious plans

The distillery has revealed ambitious plans to increase production to make 1.5m litres of whisky per year, compared with 750,000 litres in 2012.

This will be achieved by converting to a 24-hour shift pattern, six days a week.

Bruichladdich does not currently operate night shifts and is

in production five days a week.

Distillery manager Duncan McGillivray said: 'Remy has strong retail throughout the world and reckon our stock is not big enough for what we want to achieve.'

'Before Christmas we had a trial run with increased production and it worked well. We have also been undertaking a lot of maintenance, so we will be ready.'

'The only thing we can't prepare for is rainfall. We will need a lot of water to keep up the new levels of production, so I think I'm one of the few people hoping for plenty of rain on Islay.'

Bruichladdich Distillery

now has 60 staff in its payroll

- five more than during the pre-takeover - but is anticipating

the creation of some new jobs to coincide with the increase in production.

At the time of the takeover, Bruichladdich's production manager spoke enthusiastically about the company's plans, indicating the distillery would become more easily recognisable across the globe.

He said in July: 'I am filled with confidence and excitement about what is about to be a beautiful chapter in the life of a distillery that never gained the accolades it deserved.' This Cinderella will go to the ball.'

Bruichladdich Distillery

was mothballed in 1995 but

re-opened in 2001 by investors,

headed up by former managing director Mark Reynier,

who helped steer the distillery

through a successful rebirth.



Ambitious plans at Bruichladdich could see considerable increase in production

## 'Camping' Fife man charged with carrying lock knife

A FIFE man who claims he was 'heading up north for a spot of wild camping' is accused of possessing a lock knife, possession of cannabis and a number of traffic related offences.

Mark Jennings, 52, of 8 Broomhill, Luthrie, Cupar, denied having the knife without reasonable excuse when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last Thursday.

He also pled not guilty to possession of cannabis and to obstructing police officers in the course of their duty by attempting to conceal the drug within his sock and in the centre console of his vehicle.

Jennings, who was stopped by police at Bridge of Orchy, is further charged with speeding and having the incorrect name or address on his driving licence. Having been released on bail, Jennings is expected to stand trial on all charges on March 19. He will appear again on March 5.

## Lack of grid capacity stalling west coast windfarm progress

THE COMPANY behind a proposed windfarm in Argyll says grid capacity restriction means the site may not be built until 2020 - even if planning permission is granted in 2014.

Musdale Windfarm, sited 12 kilometres south east of Oban and six kilometres west of Loch Awe, is being proposed by renewables company Infinis.

The company submitted an initial design for the windfarm to Argyll and Bute Council in September. However, the potential production from the proposed 20-turbine development - around 50 megawatts - means planning permission could be decided by the council or the Scottish Government.

Jamie Grant of Infinis told Glenorchy and Innishiel Community Council last Wednesday: 'We are aware of the limited capacity in the area. Even if we do get permission within a year of submitting the application we would be unlikely to connect to the grid until about 2020.'

Schemes to address the problems of grid capacity have included Active Network Management (ANM) schemes, which use advanced IT systems to balance energy flows, which allows more capacity to be freed up in areas where the grid has no permanent spare capacity. There is also a suggestion of 'legacy' contracts to allow new schemes to replace cancelled proposals.

She said: 'In January 2001 I joined Weight Watchers for the eighth time. This time it had to be different so I decided that I would follow the plan the way it

had been designed and not my own version.'

'To my delight the weight came off no problem this time. I followed the plan to the letter, still had a life and lost the weight that had been dragging me down for years.'

'I was no longer a prisoner in my own body. My total weight loss is 77lbs which is 5 and a half stones.'

'I really do understand how challenging it is to lose weight and I can promise that if you give me the commitment of coming to class each week and staying to the meetings, I will help to get you where you want to be.'

'Anything is possible and your journey can start right here. All that is left to say is come along and let your weight loss journey begin, a warm welcome will be waiting for all.'



Susan Hoy (right) receives an award from Samantha Rhodes, operations director, Weight Watchers UK.

## Tobermory lifeboat comes to aid of fishing boat

THE FIRST call out of the year for the volunteer crew of Tobermory Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) was to a stricken fishing boat.

Stornoway Coastguard called the lifeboat crew out to the fishing boat which had engine failure and was rolling badly in the rough seas off the Treshnish Isles, to the west of Mull.

The lifeboat was launched at 8pm last Thursday in 'worsening conditions' with a force seven wind gusting at over 40mph to deal with. Coxswain Andrew McHaffie said: 'These were rough conditions and although the skipper had managed to get an anchor out, the fishing boat was drifting.'

'Fortunately we were able to get the fishing boat under tow very quickly and bring her safely to Tobermory.'

## Oban man who spat at police told he could face jail

A YOUNG Oban man has been warned he could face jail when he returns to court for sentencing on February 5.

Michael Duncan, 19, of 17a Glencruitten Drive, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday, pleading guilty to committing a breach of the peace and assaulting a police officer by spitting on him on Boxing Day.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentencing for reports to be prepared. He said: 'I have an abhorrence of people who spit on others, especially those who spit on police officers, so all options are open to me - including custody.'

## Men found guilty of English abuse

SHOUTING racial abuse at an English man landed two Oban men in the town's sheriff court last Wednesday.

Peter McCuish and Andrew MacKenzie, both of flat 3/1, 19 High Street, Oban, denied shouting the remarks towards the man last October 28 but were found guilty following a trial.

Sheriff John Herald deferred sentence on the pair for the preparation of reports but said: 'I'm in no doubt whatsoever and find you both guilty as libelled - be afraid, be very afraid.'

## Fisherman who broke house windows is fined

A MAN who smashed two windows of a house with his grieving partner inside has been fined £120.

Fisherman Mark MacLean, aged 26, of Strathrowan Cottage, Hill Street, Oban, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Wednesday to breaking the two windows on May 16 last year.

The court heard his partner's family had gathered in the house following the death of her father and there had been an argument between the couple.

Defence agent Edward Thornton explained his client thought he was being asked to leave permanently, had reconciled with his partner and arranged for the windows to be replaced.

## Weight Watchers say the time is right for Argyll

NEW CLASSES to help people lose weight - and keep it off - are starting in Oban on Monday.

Susan Hoy has been a leader with Weight Watchers for over 10 years, receiving awards for outstanding results along the way, and has decided the time is right to help people in Argyll.

Her classes will be held in The Great Western Hotel on Corran Esplanade every Monday at 5.30pm and 7pm and Tuesdays at 10am and 12pm starting on Monday, January 14.

Susan has personal experience of the challenges involved in losing weight - having tried and failed many times before sticking to the Weight Watchers plan.

She said: 'In January 2001 I joined Weight Watchers for the eighth time. This time it had to be different so I decided that I would follow the plan the way it

## Fort sign goalkeeper on loan deal

In terms of importance the game against Strathspey is 'massive'

**REPORT BY**

**STEPHEN NORRIS**

[snorris@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:snorris@obantimes.co.uk)

FORT WILLIAM manager Danny Conlon is breathing a little more easily ahead of Saturday's big game against Strathspey Thistle after securing the services of another goalkeeper.

Daniel Bell comes to Claggan Park under a loan deal with Inverurie Locos, which will keep him with the Fort until the end of the season.

Conlon had made getting extra cover between the sticks an urgent priority because present keeper Iain MacLeod, who is also Aberdeen-based, works in the oil industry and could be deployed offshore at any time.

Bell is an experienced stopper who has seen action with Brora, Wick and Ross County as well

as Locos, Conlon told The Oban Times.

'It just gives me peace of mind,' he said. 'It means I have a difficult decision to make on who starts this week but we will just have to see how it goes.'

Fort have fared poorly against lower ranking sides in the division so far in this campaign – a record Conlon is determined to change in the clash with the Jags.

### Importance

He said: 'In terms of importance this game is massive. I have said on a number of occasions there are games we should be looking to get something out of – and this is one of them.'

'It is like a mini league at the bottom involving perhaps five sides – and we have not picked up anything in games against those teams so far.'

### FOOTBALL

'Hopefully Saturday can be the start of something, but Strathspey are a strong, physical competitive side who play a certain way.'

'We struggled to match them up there on a tight pitch – but hopefully on our bigger park we can play a bit more football and cause them some problems.'

Fort will be without Iain MacLellan who is in plaster after breaking his metatarsal bone in his foot while playing a bounce five-a-side game last week.

Danny Mackintosh, Andy Martin and Farquhar MacRae are also out as they continue to recover from injury. Of those three, only Mackintosh has a chance of making Saturday's squad, Conlon said.



Jack Baxter claims the ball from a lineout during Saturday's defeat to Ross Sutherland. 20\_f03rugby01

## Lochaber almost pull off the great escape

LOCHABER slipped to only their second home defeat of the season on Saturday, going down 27-25 to Ross Sutherland after almost pulling off a late comeback.

The Banavie side were 27-18 down with just minutes left on the clock when they scored a fine try to cut the gap to two points – but Ross were able to hang on for the final whistle.

A healthy crowd turned up to cheer on the home side from the clubhouse and on the hill despite the cold conditions. The Banavie pitch was left waterlogged by heavy rain in December but held

up well during the game.

Forward Jack Baxter was impressive throughout, driving forward and making key tackles.

Rory MacKay took over kicking duties and made a number of conversions and penalty kicks to keep the scoreboard ticking over for Lochaber, while Connor Taylor scored the home side's first try.

In the second half, Ross stretched their lead with a controversial try. A Ross winger drove at the corner and claimed he grounded the ball, but the home side felt they had managed

to push him into touch before he scored.

After taking a pause to think, the referee gave a try, much to the annoyance of the home players, coaches and supporters.

Lochaber refocused and reduced arrears after a fantastic breakaway try from Kenny Turnbull, with MacKay's conversion bringing them to within a point at 19-18.

Shortly after some loose tackling from Lochaber allowed Ross to stretch their lead, and after a penalty went over Lochaber found themselves 27-19 down.

A late surge from Lochaber

saw Jack Baxter surge through for the final try, but they couldn't force a further score to take the win.

After an impressive start to the season, Lochaber have now suffered defeats in their last four league matches and have slipped to seventh in RBS Caledonia Regional league division two north.

This Saturday they will look to reverse that run when they travel to take on Aberdeen University Medics, who are ninth in the table.

### RUGBY

ACHINTORE FC maintained top spot in the Ali Young Premier indoor football league at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night with a narrow 5-4 win over a combative All Blacks side.

Lochaber Leisure remain in second place but could only draw 4-4 with the Goon Squad, who stay fourth.

Ballachulish moved up to third after a comprehensive 5-1 win over bottom placed AA Young, while Caol FC and Portoway fought out a 15-goal thriller, with Portoway edging the match 8-7.

Elsewhere, Old Codgers closed the gap on those above them with a 4-2 win over HWEnergy No Stars.

## Free access to the Glencoe slopes

### SKIING

LOCHABER youngsters will have free access to the slopes at Glencoe Mountain Resort for one day only this Sunday.

Among the events on the day will be sledding from the top of the access chair, the opportunity to learn how to build an igloo and a snowman competition.

Ski races for all ages are on throughout the day, along with snowboarding demonstrations.

The day, organised by Snowsports Scotland to coincide with World Snow Day, is for youngsters aged 8-18.

## Ballachulish back in training

### SHINTY

BALLACHULISH Shinty Club's preparations for 2013 got underway last week as the players turned out for pre-season training.

Balla will play friendlies against the second teams of Newtonmore and Kilmallie on January 26 and February 9 respectively, before travelling to take on Strathglass on February 23.

## Lochaber Squash Club final proves to be a family affair

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club continue their busy schedule this weekend when they welcome one of Scotland's premier boxing clubs, Hayfield ABC, to Fort William for a training camp.

The Glasgow club will be bringing four current Scottish senior champions and a Scottish youth champion – three of whom competed for Scotland only last week.

The camp will feature training sessions and runs, and the club's boxers will spar together to help each other prepare for a packed programme in the coming months.

Heavyweight Chris Donnelly and youth light welterweight Igor Slivinski, who both sparred at Inverness City ABC last weekend, compete in the Scottish Intermediate championships at the end of this month, while Lochaber Phoenix will hold their first-ever afternoon show at the Ben Nevis Hotel in Fort William on Sunday, February 3.

The show, entitled 'Battle of the Little Big Men', begins at 1.30pm and features boxers aged between 10 and 16.

Tickets, priced at only £10 for adults and £5 for under 16s, are available from the venue (01397702331), Niall Clark (07554994744), Steve Docherty (07767069532) and Vince Lopez (07979321025).

**Lochaber Squash Club prizewinners, from left, Norma Gregory, Liz Merry, Bruce Love, Alan Love and Chris Walker. Pictured at front are top juniors Bruce and Ewan MacLean.** 20\_f03squash01

round in which the lower ranked men, ladies and juniors played to improve their position.

In the first round despite their best efforts the prelim winners could not overcome the top players and Bruce and Alan Love fought out a five-game thriller.

Some 22 club members ranked on past performance competed in two rounds of matches on each day, the winners meeting progressively stronger opponents.

The top four seeds were excluded from the preliminary

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