

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Pages 12 & 13

### Daytime Oban road closures

TWO OF Oban's busiest roads will be closed between 8am-6pm for a month from Monday for resurfacing.

Daytime closures will be in place at Hill Street and Rockfield Road until October 4 as part of the work, which will cover the whole of Hill Street, and Rockfield Road from Hill Street to 80 metres south of its junction with Ardcornel Road.

### Views sought on Miller Road traffic plan

PLANS to restrict right turning onto Oban's Miller Road from Soroba Road in a bid to reduce traffic congestion have gone out to public consultation.

While the council is not yet sure as to when any restriction could come into force, anyone with concerns about the proposal must contact the authority by September 20.

Several complaints about traffic congestion on the road have been received over the years.

Delays have been common at the traffic lights at the Lynn Road junction, which can back up when cars have difficulty turning up Miller Road. Congestion is particularly bad on the road next to Oban High School when pupils are arriving at or leaving the school.

### £1.2m paid out to pre-empt staff complaints

ARGYLL and Bute Council has paid out £552,443 to prevent employment tribunals being held over the past four years.

Figures seen by *The Oban Times* show that the council has pre-empted 96 separate complaints, of which 85 related to equal pay claims.

Only one claim was made for unfair dismissal in that period, understood to be Jo Smith, the former communications manager who was sacked despite being cleared of false accusations she 'spied' on the council.

The payments average £5,755 per person and were all subject to a confidentiality clause, preventing the individuals discussing the settlement.

However, the clauses don't prevent those employees from 'whistleblowing' rights.



Hands up if you're glad that's over! Brian Robinson cannot hide his delight as he completes the Craggy Island Triathlon to cheers from the gathered crowd at the finish line on Kerrera. The Dunfermline man was one of 500 competitors in the event last weekend, which brought nearly 1,000 to the Oban area. For more on the event, see sport. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

### Caretaker council set to take the helm

A CARETAKER administration will take over the running of Argyll and Bute Council next month - bringing to an end six months of uncertainty and political bickering.

Details of an agreement in principle emerged last week when Sandy Taylor, leader of the Argyll and Bute SNP Group, signed a joint statement with Duncan MacIntyre, leader of the Argyll and Bute Change Alliance (ABCA) announcing the new interim administration.

The exact composition of the caretaker council will be

debated at a meeting on Friday (tomorrow), but lead councillor positions will be spread between the SNP and the ABCA group in proportion with numbers.

With ABCA boasting 16 members to the SNP's 11, it is likely the leadership of the interim administration will fall to Oban's Duncan MacIntyre.

Restructuring However, it is thought the temporary arrangement will not have to last long, with a report on a radical restructuring of the council - that could dispense with the tradition of a single

leader in favour of a three-man leadership committee - due in the coming months.

In the joint statement, Messrs MacIntyre and Taylor said: 'With political stability as our key objective, this new partnership will work inclusively and focus, as have previous administrations through the years, on the delivery of good quality services for the people and communities of Argyll and Bute, not only in the short term, but throughout the current term of the council.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr MacIntyre said the new

administration's first priority should be the budget - with the power struggle that has strangled the council for half a year meaning the process of setting next year's figures is already two months behind schedule.

He said: 'For me personally, the first priority is to get a budget working group in place. That should be working now - it should have started in August. It will be September before we can get that in place and October before it starts working so that's two months of work we've got to catch up with.'



Homebase's rafters proved a comfortable spot for the sparrowhawk. 07\_136homebasehawk1

### Sparrowhawk causes chaos in store

A SPARROWHAWK caused chaos at the Oban branch of Homebase this week - when it became trapped in the store.

However, staff were foiled in their bid to use a hamster in a cage as bait to trap the bird - with a local pet shop refusing to sell them one for fear it might be scared to death. Having been trapped in the store since

Monday, concerns were growing on Tuesday evening that the bird with a two-and-a-half foot wingspan was starving. Leaving meat out for the raptor proved unsuccessful.

With the RSPB not to send anyone to assist and even staff from Kerrera's Island Parrot Sanctuary unable to lure the bird into nets - staff resorted to

playing a CD of birdsong at the door in the hope the bird might fly out of its own accord.

Manager Andy Spence said: 'That hasn't worked either. It's just attracted a load of robins into the garden centre.'

Island Parrot Sanctuary staff were due to return for a second rescue attempt when *The Oban Times* went to press.

## Regeneration plans face fresh delays

FRESH delays could be on the cards for Oban's multi-million pound regeneration plans after the man co-ordinating the projects resigned from the council.

Sandy Mactaggart, the executive director of roads and amenity services, has handed in his notice and will leave at the end of October.

One of the most respected and experienced officers at the authority, his portfolio included heading up Oban's bid for £23.75million Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) and the CHORD project - both key to the Lorn Arc, a development corridor from Barcaldine to Oban.

His departure will be even more keenly felt by the council as head of economic development, Robert Pollock - the other key figure in building the TIF bid and CHORD project - has been signed off long-term for personal reasons.

A final business case for TIF is due to be submitted by the end of next month after two years of planning, with the outcome

By STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

pivotal to the scope of the CHORD project.

While efforts are being made to quickly bring in a temporary replacement for Mr Mactaggart to ensure a smooth handover, lead councillor for infrastructure, John Semple, conceded there could be more delays to key schemes already dogged by years of setbacks.

He said: 'Nobody can say there will be no delay but we will be doing our utmost to ensure these projects can go forward how we want them to go forward.'

'There are things we have to make sure we get right - TIF is a major project for Oban and its surrounding area and it is a priority for us.'

Asked if the strength of the TIF bid could be affected by Mr Mactaggart's departure and Mr Pollock's absence, he said: 'That remains to be seen. I've not got a crystal ball.'

Oban community councillor Neil MacIntyre, who has

repeatedly criticised the council for its lack of action on CHORD, which was first started in 2007, said: 'It's a big council and I'd hope other people there are up to speed.'

'The council should be coming out now and telling us exactly what its plans are.'

A spokeswoman for the council said it has 'robust arrangements in place' to ensure service delivery is maintained.

She added: 'Regarding Oban TIF, we are delighted with our progress so far. We updated councillors last week following a very successful meeting between the council's team and Scottish Government representatives, and were further encouraged with the subsequent confirmation that the Scottish Government is supportive in principle of the structure of the TIF business case financial model at this stage.'

'For both Oban CHORD and TIF, the council and its leadership team has a very clear sense of direction and focus upon delivery.'

### Meter concerns on residents' agenda

CONCERNS that inappropriate electricity meters could have resulted in Argyll Community Housing Association residents being overcharged for power will be discussed by Soroba Residents' Association next week.

Oban councillor Fred Hall is worried many ACHA tenants may have had the wrong meters installed as part of an upgrade to heating systems.

Some Soroba residents say they've had suspicions they were paying over the odds for the past six years, when storage heaters and radiators were replaced.

Sean MacIntyre of SRA said: 'I certainly noticed the

difference - during the summer I was having to pay five or ten pounds more a week.'

Three resident John MacLean, 65, has also suffered problems after his heating and meter was changed - his bills soared nearly tenfold from £90 a quarter to £847.

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor denied there was any problem with heating systems or meters - but acknowledges fuel poverty might be a wider issue.

He said: 'ACHA has carried out a survey on two properties to ascertain if there is anything wrong with the system installed. The survey report indicates that the heating systems are working

normally. If ACHA found a heating system that wasn't functioning properly then we would take steps to address that issue.'

'The association does believe that there is a major issue with fuel poverty and many tenants have challenges in paying heating bills.'

'That is however a separate issue to whether or not a heating system is functioning properly.'



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**Scam lottery letter warning**

A WARNING has gone out to residents in the Oban area after a scam lottery posted letters out to a number of addresses.

The European Postcode Millions Online Lottery, which claims to be registered address in Stockholm, Sweden, has written to residents in the area telling them they have won £850,000 following a mix-up with postcodes.

The letter also uses a People's Postcode Lottery logo on the letter.

At least three of these letters have been handed into Oban Police Station this week.

Anyone who receives a similar letter is asked to contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510 500.

**Angry islanders hit out after Orsay Island wind mast plan is approved**

ANGRY Islay residents have branded a public hearing in Portnahaven Village Hall a 'charade' after a proposal to erect a 60-metre mast on the picturesque Orsay Island was approved.

Villagers claim the council's planning committee ignored overwhelming public opposition to Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) Renewables' anemometer mast, which will now be built next to Orsay Island lighthouse, off Portnahaven.

Although planners had recommended approval of the project, campaigners collected a 130-signature petition against the proposal and Islay Community Council also lodged an objection.

The site is a Special Protection Area under the European Bird Directive, yet there were no objections from SNH, nor the RSPB.

At the meeting, Islay-based councillor Robin Currie put forward an amendment to refuse the application but he was only supported by councillor David Kinniburgh and was defeated by five votes to two.

Portnahaven postmaster and Islay community councillor Alastair Redman said: 'There is anger here with the decision and disillusionment with the process.'

'There is a feeling the decision was made before we went into the hall.'

Councillor Currie said that despite the result everyone was a second fair hearing. 'The planning committee never discusses proposals beforehand,' he said.

'I made the amendment because there was a whole page in the officer's report that suggested this application should be refused.'

SSE said it would ensure bird diverters were placed on guy wires to reduce the impact on birds.

A spokesman for the company said: 'SSE Renewables is pleased that our application for a temporary mast has been approved by Argyll and Bute Council. The decision marks an important milestone for the Islay Offshore Wind Farm project, a key project in the Scottish offshore wind portfolio.'

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MacGillivray's Seafood Bar offers **FREE LISMORE SPRING LAMB** on Friday the 6th of September.

The team members of MacGillivray's Seafood Bar invites you to come and celebrate with us the arrival of our new trailer! Existing and new customers are welcome to come and see our new menu.

To thank all customers, Gordon MacGillivray is offering **FREE LAMB** with salt and pepper baguettes for a limited time (4pm-7pm). Don't miss out on this delicious spring lamb from Lismore!!!

We hope to see you on Friday!!

# Walkers take concern over landowners to Skye forum

SKYE and Lochalsh Local Access Forum will tomorrow (Friday) hear of difficulties walkers are having with landowners.

In a report, local Highland Council access officer Donald Kennedy will outline measures being taken to resolve several disputes on Skye.

At Ord House in Sleat, the owners are challenging whether the public can use a short linking path within their

grounds and have deployed 'measures to discourage access at various times' since they bought the property in 2011.

Mr Kennedy said: 'At present private signs are covered up and gates unlocked. However, local residents have complained that the path has become overgrown and very difficult to negotiate and asked [me] to enquire about the possibility of voluntary vegetation clearance work.'

'The landowner agreed to clearance work to be carried out but only by Highland Council employees and suggested that the overgrown state of the path was an indication of how little it was used. [I] and a colleague from the Highland Council Ranger Service carried out vegetation clearance over the period of a morning as a 'one off' event to ascertain if higher use, resulting from improved conditions

underfoot and better path definition, would result in vegetation being kept down. The success or otherwise of these measures will be reviewed during the spring/summer of 2014.'

Mr Kennedy also received a complaint from people who had intended to wild camp at Irishman's Point near Broadford after a day of sea kayaking.

They were told to move on by the landowner, who claimed to Mr Kennedy

that campers had previously started fires on his land, posing a danger to themselves and surrounding flora and fauna. There was also a litter problem.

'[I] explained the rights and responsibilities of wild camping under the current access legislation,' reports Mr Kennedy. The forum meets in the Council Chamber, Tigh Na Sgìre, Park Lane, Portree, tomorrow (Friday) at 2pm. Everyone welcome.

## Oban lifeboat fundraisers collect £1,500

ALMOST £1,500 has been collected for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) in Oban in the space of a week, thanks to an enthusiastic fundraising group.

The Oban group was out in force at the town's recent raft race, sea kayak race and Argyllshire Gathering. Group secretary Moira Kerr said: 'We would like to say a very big thank you to the people of Oban and Lorn and also to the many visitors who showed their support for the charity that saves lives at sea.'

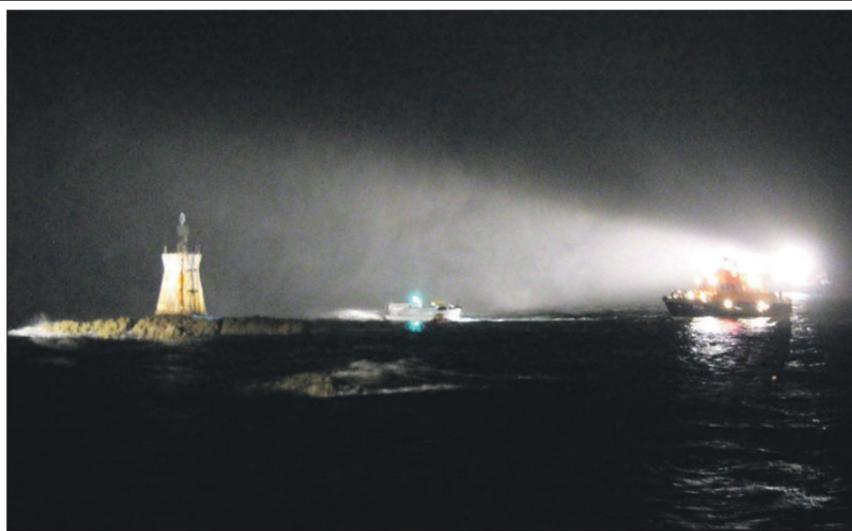
'We are delighted to have raised so much, in such a short space of time.'

'It is an expensive business running the RNLI and we are extremely grateful to those who do their bit to help.'

The fundraising group thanked Oban and Lorn Lions Club for organising the raft race and organisers of the sea kayak race, who are going to make a donation to the RNLI for the fourth year running.

The Oban branch of Tesco and Inverlussa Marine Services also helped by donating prizes for the RNLI's Save a Duck game.

The fundraising group is looking for helpers who are willing to give an hour or two of their time at different events. If you are interested in becoming a Friend of Oban Lifeboat, which was the busiest single all-weather lifeboat in Scotland last year, telephone 01631 563733.



In peril: the motor yacht caught fast on rocks as Mallaig lifeboat arrives in the nick of time.

## Motor yacht owner feared for his life after running aground at Mallaig

A MOTOR yacht owner feared for his life when his boat ran aground on rocks at Mallaig early last Thursday morning.

The sailor, who asked *The Oban Times* not to reveal his identity, hit rocks next to the lighthouse at the harbour entrance.

He had been on his way to Portree from Oban and decided

to stop over in Mallaig as sea conditions worsened.

The man said: 'I thought I was going to die. I told Stornoway Coastguard over the radio 'hurry up!'. The boat was on its side and there was water gushing over the stern. If it had been in the Minch I wouldn't be here.'

The sailor claimed he was

blinded by the lights from a fish farm supply vessel as he tried to enter the harbour in a heavy swell just after 3am. 'I could not see in front of me,' he said.

Mallaig lifeboat crew brought the casualty safely aboard before returning to the launch, which they managed to pull clear and bring into port.

The lucky sailor said on Friday afternoon: 'We have just had her out of the water and she's driveable to Skye. There is not too much damage, although the rudder is bent and the bow's taken a bit of a scrape.'

He added: 'Thanks to the Mallaig folk. They are a wonderful bunch of people.'

## Blackland Project and Uist Wool open day

THE BLACKLAND Project and Uist Wool have issued an open invitation to their annual Michaelmas Open Day on the croft at Kenary, 5 Scotvein, Grimsay, on Saturday September 14.

The fourth annual Blackland Conference with talks, walks and demonstrations will begin at 10am and the new Uist Wool mill will be open for viewing from 1pm to 4pm with a special exhibition in the croft house.

The conference will have as its theme the uses of seaweed on crops in the Uists, especially on lazybeds and eastside blackland.

There will be short talks by the SRUC, Scotland's rural college, and University of Edinburgh researchers and post-graduate students who are investigating the nutrient content of various application methods from fresh to rotted to liquid seaweed, with plenty of time for discussion.

The conference runs from 10am to noon in the New Shed at Kenary. Places are limited so pre-registration is necessary by ringing 01870-602954.

The 'open door' event from 1pm will include a full tour of the beautifully refurbished heritage machinery before production starts in earnest later in the autumn. It will also give people a chance to get a proper peek behind the scenes and ask questions about wool grading, picking, blending, carding and spinning.

To accompany the mill tour, a special one-off display 'Grades & Shades' will be held in the croft house featuring a selection of local fleece donated by crofters for the important 'first run' of spinning at the Uist Wool Mill.

There will be a diverse collection of wool for people to handle ranging from the rich chocolate tones of the Hebrideans to the buttery soft crimps of the Cheviots.

In the afternoon, harvesting of the lazybed crops and a demonstration of CEIA's mowing and baling equipment will take place from 1-3pm. There will also be an opportunity to visit the improved fields at Kenary and to try out the Blackland Index for evaluating disused land.

Finally, the Uist Wool annual meeting will be held at 4pm in the New Shed at Scotvein. Old and new friends are most welcome. The old Stewart Boatshed will be open as usual.



Refurbished machinery in the new Uist Wool mill.



Pipe Major Angus MacColl hands out cheques to Oban Hospice chairman David Entwistle and Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled representatives Betty Alcorn and Lorna Carmichael, right. 16\_136pipe01

## High school pipe band boosts Oban charities

TWO OBAN charities have each benefited to the tune of £260 thanks to the generosity of Oban High School Pipe Band.

The young band, led by Pipe Major Angus MacColl, used one of its weekly outdoor

practises to raise money for Oban Hospice Ltd and Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled. During the summer months the band practises at Station Square every Wednesday, giving them space in which to practise, while

entertaining crowds of locals and visitors. Band committee members sell CDs and take round collection buckets in order to raise money for the pipe band's equipment and travel costs. But one practise night was

set aside for local causes, as the band showed its appreciation for the town's support in recent years, and raised £520. Angus MacColl handed out cheques to the charities last Wednesday before the band practice.

## Key counter-drugs role for HMS Argyll

IN JUST three weeks on counter-drugs operations in the Pacific, *HMS Argyll* has helped her allies to seize more than six tonnes of contraband valued at \$116 million US dollars.

The Royal Navy warship worked alongside her US, Canadian and Colombian allies to help deter potential drug traffickers from using the sea to transport their goods.

## Medal winners on ceilidh stage

MEDAL-winning Gaelic singers will be on stage for the Edinburgh Argyll Association's closing ceilidh of the season this Saturday.

The artists include National Mod gold medallist Calum MacLeod, duet Emma and Rachel Deans of Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir and local Scots singer Fiona Thomson. Music is by Scottish country dance band leader Iain MacPhail (accordion), and Andrew MacIntyre, the association's piper.

Making his debut as Fear an Taighe is Alan MacNiven, from the Edinburgh University Scandinavian Studies Department, who is an expert in Islay Norse place names. The ceilidh will take place from 7.30pm in St John's Church Hall, Princes Street.

## Mull Lines

A DIVER with suspected bends was cared for by Tobermory RNLI - on the same day the charity launched a diver safety campaign.

The male diver, who had developed possible symptoms of decompression sickness having come ashore in Tobermory, was taken on to the Severn class lifeboat before being transferred to Oban lifeboat in the Sound of Mull. The Oban vessel had a specialist dive doctor on board.

The shout came on the same day that the RNLI called on divers to assist with research on safety in the sport by taking part in an online survey.

Last year 314 diving incidents were reported to the British Sub-Aqua Club. The RNLI, in partnership with the British Diving Safety Group, is now asking divers and dive instructors in the UK to take ten minutes to complete an online survey.

The study looks at their reasons for participating in diving, how often they take to the water, preferred methods and locations, experience and training, awareness of possible hazards and use of safety measures.

The findings will be used to help develop tailored and relevant safety messages for the diving community, to help make the sport even safer.

Tobermory's full time Coxswain Andrew McHaffie said: 'This was a timely reminder that while diving is a popular sport, problems can and do arise.'

'This year alone, Tobermory RNLI has gone to the assistance of six divers. Nationally, the RNLI's volunteer lifeboat crews have rescued 96 divers and saved 13 divers' lives in the past five years.'

The online survey will run for nine weeks, during which time anyone who dives in the UK - no matter how often or what level of experience - is invited to visit [www.rnli.org.uk/diving](http://www.rnli.org.uk/diving), [substance.coop](http://substance.coop) and complete the short survey.



MULL and Iona Pipe Band's recent successes are down to the generosity of sponsors according to band secretary Joanne MacDougall.

The group has secured a deal worth £2,000 from the Scottish Sea Farms (SSF) Heart of the Community Trust as well as contributions from other businesses and individuals.

The cash will help with the band's running costs as it represents Mull and Iona in competitions and performances across the UK, including the recent World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow. Joanne said: 'This cash support from Scottish Sea Farms is really appreciated as without it the band would be unable to take part in a lot of competitions.'

'We travelled to Glasgow this month to compete in the World Pipe Band Championships and this funding helped to make this trip possible.'

Geoff Kidd, SSF's Loch

Spelve site manager, said: 'This is what the Heart of the Community Trust is all about.'

'The Mull and Iona Pipe Band gives the whole area something to be proud of and we are delighted to be able to help them go on to achieve further success.'

The band was also backed by Crerar Hotels Trust, Isle of Mull Lions, Hugh Duffy, Robert Denovan, Fionnphort's Ferry Shop, Storm Petroleum, Mull and Iona Gathering, Davy Kirkpatrick, Chris James, Ronnie Kennedy, Craignure's Gardening Club, the Sea Eagle Partnership, Oban's Ranald Hotel and Caledonian MacBrayne.

Joanne added: 'I'd really like to thank everyone that helped us - including anyone we've forgotten to mention.'

'Thank you also to our anonymous donors and the general public - we couldn't have done it without you all - see you in 2014.'

AN ISLE of Mull primary school has been told that improvements have been made in the school but the 'pace of change needs to be brisker'.

An inspection of Bunessan Primary School and pre five unit found 'key improvements are needed to the curriculum to help achieve better outcomes for children'.

The report by Joan Esson from Education Scotland states: 'The lack of stability in staffing has not been helpful to the school in maintaining sustained improvements. We are not yet satisfied with the overall quality of provision.'

'As a result of this visit, we have asked the school and the education authority to update their action plan for improvement.'

However the latest report also highlights improvements in children's achievements. It added: 'Children are more confident and motivated. In the nursery class, children are benefiting from the thinking mat approach which encourages them to think and talk about their learning.'

'Across the stages, staff have concentrated on improving language and mathematics with promising signs that children's skills are improving.'

'Children are much better at explaining the techniques used by authors. They write with increasing accuracy in a range of situations.'

'The older children are becoming more confident in mental calculations. The school has started to develop approaches to checking children's progress but these need to be more thorough so that staff know that all children are making sufficient progress.'

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**Cash seized and man arrested**

A DRUG search by police at a house in the Polvinster Gardens area of Oban last Wednesday has resulted in the discovery of a large sum of cash. A 42-year-old man has subsequently been arrested for obstruction and the cash has been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

**Police hunt cabin break-in suspects**

POLICE in Oban are appealing for witnesses after Portakabins in McCall Terrace, near Oban High School's bus turning circle were broken into last Wednesday. The young culprits were allegedly seen jumping out of the window some time between 9.30am and 9.40am. Police say £2,000 worth of damage was caused during the break-in. Oban Police can be contacted on 01631 510 500.

**Oban dancer is Argyll champion**



An Oban Highland dancer was named Argyll champion at the prestigious world championships at the Cowal Highland Gathering. Katie MacPherson, aged 13, won the under-16 Argyll championship to lift the J C Forrest Challenge Trophy, one of the oldest cups available at Cowal. The first time the trophy came to Oban was when Katie's dancing teacher, Eilidh MacInnes won it for three consecutive years.



**Rockfield pupils' delight as policeman drops in**

Spot the cop: PC Andrew Simpson visited primary two pupils at Rockfield Primary School in Oban on Monday as part of the pupils' project People Who Help Us. PC Simpson, whose son, David, is in the class, let the children try on his stab-proof vest and hat and showed them inside his police van. The pupils will also meet a firefighter, dental hygienist, nurse and post office worker as part of their topic. 16\_136police02

**Top cop happy with how officers police Argyll and Bute streets**

ARGYLL and Bute's top cop says he is comfortable with how his officers police the streets after revealing around a quarter of stop and searches in Oban yielded results. Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan dismissed concerns 'target-based' policing was putting pressure on individual officers to meet key performance indicators - and insisted better monitoring of police activity at management level was helping the fight against crime. His comments come after a number of Oban officers aired

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

fears that over-zealous policing was harming community relations. CS McEwan told *The Oban Times*: 'We all have a directed policing plan and that plan is very successful in letting us find the problem areas and address them. 'If we're getting regular calls to a certain address, for example,

or regular calls about people - all this information is useful to help prevent a future crime. That is purely for management, however. 'We are being far more directed now. The area commanders exceed the amount of stop-searches they are expected to do and that is reducing violent crime. 'To my mind, what they're doing is having an impact.' CS McEwan said if people were being searched it was for good reason, because they have a history of violent crime, are

in a problem area at a particular time or are acting in a suspicious manner - and stressed that many searches were 'consensual'. He said: 'For example, if you see a group of three or four teenagers going down to the park and one of them has the sports bag over their shoulder - there's potentially a bottle of cider in there. 'Our guys will have a chat with them and ask, 'mind if we look in the bag guys?'. 'In Oban, 25-30 per cent of people stopped and searched have something they shouldn't.'

**Three reported after officers witness alleged drug deal**

THREE people have been reported to the procurator fiscal for drugs offences after plain-clothed police officers witnessed an alleged drug deal in Glenfoot Terrace, Miller Road, Oban. The officers stopped and searched one

man last Friday afternoon and charged him with possession of a controlled substance, suspected to be heroin. Search A warrant was subsequently issued to search a property in the area and, as a

result, another man has been reported for possession of a controlled substance, with intent to supply. A woman has also been reported to the procurator fiscal for being concerned in the supply of a controlled substance.

**New Gaelic centre opens in Oban**

Town hub a focal point for language development and education

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



Duncan MacNeil will oversee the development of Furan, the new Gaelic centre in Oban. 16\_136duncan01

OBAN will become the focal point for Gaelic development and education in Argyll when a new hub opens in the Corran Halls.

The Oban Gaelic Centre has been paid for through a £160,000 Scottish Government grant and will offer Gaelic resources, translation and conferencing equipment, classes and other opportunities to speak the language.

A further government investment of £120,000 has funded a multi-media studio at Oban High School for Argyll pupils studying Gaelic.

The centre, on the upper floor of the Corran Halls, will be known as Furan - Gaelic for 'very warm welcome'.

Barra native Duncan MacNeil, the man charged with providing that welcome, is already a familiar face to Gaelic television audiences through his appearances on programmes such as *Machair*, *Speaking Our Language* and *Splaoid*.

Mr MacNeil, who will front the new service as its administrator, said Oban was 'the natural place' for a Gaelic centre because of its

speakers who maybe don't have much opportunity to use the language.

Mr MacNeil, who was involved in establishing the Gaelic centre in Glasgow, added: 'Ultimately, I want people to think of Furan and know exactly what happens here.'

The new hub has been kitted out with six laptop computers, a Gaelic resource library, electronic teaching aids and a meeting room.

**Opportunities** Under the project, the Corran Halls' Studio Theatre has been redeveloped so it can be used independently of the main hall, providing more opportunities for Gaelic drama and arts events.

Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'Argyll and Bute is proud to host the Royal National Mod every three years, and having a welcoming presence for Gaelic speakers in Oban will reinforce this area's historic connection with the language.'

Furan will officially open in the next few weeks with an event showcasing the musical and cultural talent in the Oban area.

**Connel to get new street lights**

CONNEL is to get new street-lights after BEAR Scotland announced a significant upgrade programme.

New lighting columns, ducting and cabling on the A85 through the village will be installed as part of the measures, while the existing 20mph school signs refurbished.

New, speed-activated 30mph

signs will also be erected. The work will take place in two phases, the first starting early next month and lasting approximately six weeks. This will cover the east of the village through to the junction with the A828. The work will be carried out between 9.30am-4.30pm.

Connel Community Councilor Les Stewart said: 'Suddenly,

it's Christmas in Connel. BEAR have decided to send Santa early this year and are replacing Connel's worn out street-lighting and putting in some new stuff.'

BEAR are looking for feedback regarding the proposed works. Large scale plans will be available at the next Connel Community Council meeting on 10 September at the village hall.



Barcaldine couple Toby and Jane Eaton will celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary next week. 16\_136anniversary01

**Barcaldine couple celebrate 70 years of marriage**

A FORMER Wren who was posted to Tullichewan Castle in Balloch from Kent to keep her away from her future husband celebrates 70 years of marriage to him next week.

Jane Eaton was a driver in the Wrens throughout the Second World War and met farmer Toby after he took on her stepfather's farm in Edinbridge, Kent.

Her mother enlisted the help of Jane's aunt, a superintendent in the Wrens, to separate the pair by moving Jane to Scotland - a plan that failed to work.

The couple, who now live in Barcaldine, married on September 14, 1943 in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge. But Jane's heart lay north of the Border and newlyweds moved to Mull.

Toby, aged 92, said: 'Jane had fallen in love with Scotland and I got fed up milking cows. I answered an advert for a farm assistant on Mull and guess what? The job was mostly milking!'

The couple, who have two sons, Michael and Roger, also ran the Alnaharrie Hotel on Loch Broom and returned to Argyll

after a stint in Dorset working for the National Trust. Asked if their platinum wedding anniversary would be a special one, Jane replied: 'It just feels like another anniversary. Because we have worked together so often we are used to each other's company.'

'I had my 90th birthday a month ago and that was quite something. There was a card on the mantelpiece with 90 years on it and I thought 'that can't be me'. It's awful being 90 when you feel 24!'

**Isle of Mull residents urged to get flu jab**

RESIDENTS on the Ross of Mull will be lining up to see the doctor soon but with prevention rather than cure in mind.

Dr Mark Astill, the Bunessan GP, will be at the Community Café in Bunessan Hall on September 30, giving older residents or those vulnerable to infection their flu jab.

He said: 'The annual flu jab is for people aged 65 or over and for people who for medical or other reasons warrant one - including if you are a carer.'

'It is important that people get vaccinated as a number of people are hospitalised in intensive care every year with flu - and some people die as a result. It is people from our target groups who are likely to become more poorly.'

'But the more people who get immunised the less likely it is we will have any flu on the Ross of Mull.'

**Argyll pipe bands' strong showing at Cowal Gathering**

ARGYLL bands gave a strong showing at the Cowal Highland Gathering last Saturday - the last time the event will be counted as a 'major' competition.

Inveraray and District finished fifth in grade one at the weekend, while Oban Pipe Band finished fourth in grade two.

Among the other top performers were Inveraray and District's juvenile band, which finished fourth, one place ahead of Kintyre Schools.

Mid Argyll Pipe Band finished fifth in grade 4B.

Earlier this year organisers of the Cowal Gathering announced they would lose the 'major' status, as the event was attracting too many bands.

**Free tickets on offer to beach clean volunteers**

FREE tickets to Oban's Sea Life Sanctuary are on offer to those volunteers who take part in the Big BID Beach Tidy in Oban this weekend.

Bags, litter pickers and gloves will be provided by BID4Oban for the clean of Oban's coastline, while volunteers will also be treated to free tea and coffee from the Regent Hotel and soup from local take-away, Piece.

Each volunteer will receive one free admission into the Sea Life Sanctuary.

Those looking to take part should meet at the Clock Tower on Railway Pier at 2pm on Sunday. To register in advance, contact Jasmine Boak on 01631 569915 or email [jasmine@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:jasmine@bid4oban.co.uk).

**Partygoers reported to police for setting off flares**

PARTYGOERS have been reported to the police after irresponsibly setting off 12 distress flares - sparking a major rescue operation on Barra.

Stornoway Coastguard was inundated with 999 calls at 9.18pm on Saturday after locals spotted the red flares in the Sound of Barra between South Uist and Barra.

Coastguard teams from Barra and Lochboisdale were scrambled to the area and the Coastguard helicopter

from Stornoway was flown in to search for people or vessels in distress.

An emergency broadcast made to seek assistance from nearby vessels even resulted in the fishing boat *Glenravel* moving in to assist.

However, after an extensive search, the flares were traced back to a beach party at Eolaigearraidh, near Barra Airport.

Martin Collins, Stornoway Coast-

guard watch manager, said the false alarm could have cost lives.

'This was an extremely irresponsible action as it has resulted in several rescue units being called out for no good reason,' he said.

'Not only that but while assigned to search for the source of these flares, the rescue units were not available for anyone who may have genuinely needed their help.'

'It is also prohibited under the

Merchant Shipping Act to set off red distress flares if you are not in difficulty and this incident has been reported to the police.'

'The public should ensure all marine flares are disposed of correctly and you can contact your local coastguard station for information about flare disposal. Under no circumstances should marine flares be disposed of in a manner such as this.'

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Morvern Lines

ALTHOUGH the Camerons are not so numerous in Morvern as they once were, there was a time when theirs was the most prolific surname in the parish.

So much so that a visitor, who was having difficulty finding lodgings for the night, asked in desperation, 'Are there no Christians in this place?' Came the response: 'No, but there are plenty of Camerons!'

It all began around 1650 when one of the Camerons of Lochiel loaned the Marquess of Argyll, who owned most of Morvern, a large sum of money against which he was given a handful of local estates as security.

All straightforward enough until the Marquess had his head chopped off and then the fun began. Seeing an opening, the opportunistic Macleans arrived on the scene from Mull and took control until they were ejected by the Campbells as soon as they were back in favour with the Scottish king.

Meanwhile the Camerons flooded in from Lochaber and far from behaving like startled rabbits trapped between two big guns, they carried on as if they owned the place.

In order to get rid of them the earls, and later dukes of Argyll, let the best farms in Morvern to Campbells, which infuriated the Camerons to such an extent that they went on the rampage.

They assaulted the factor and the minister, burnt their houses, stole their money and wasted their cattle by houghing (cutting the tendons of the hind legs to prevent the beasts from walking.)

In nearby Strontian, which was also Campbell territory, these tartan Talibans halted production at the lead mines by cutting the furnace bellows, roughing-up the lead miners and making off with their tools and work horses.

The situation became so dire that in 1747 the Duke of Argyll instructed his factor, Donald Campbell of Airds, to build a huge wall or dyke, stretching from the head of Loch Eil to Loch Shield and to place guards on it to prevent cattle rustling and to keep the Camerons out!

The Cameron clan were Jacobites to a man and those who still held land in Morvern by fair means or foul, joined Prince Charles Edward Stewart at Glenfinnan in 1745. For this act of defiance a detachment of Scots Fusiliers, loyal to the Duke of Cumberland, rampaged along the coastline between Drimmin and Ardtornish the following year, looting, setting fire to boats, woods, houses, barns full of hay and corn and killing or stealing every domestic animal they could find.

Somehow the Camerons survived; they settled down and took a more peaceful role in the life of the parish.



From ploughshares to swords: Lord Robertson, the former Secretary General of NATO and the UK's Defence Secretary, is the descendant of Peter Robertson, seen here ploughing the land at Rahoy, Morvern.

CONGRATULATIONS go to Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, Islay, who has recently been installed as Chancellor of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

Lord Robertson, a frequent visitor to Morvern where his grand aunt Miss Jessie Robertson was the teacher at Claggan, was Secretary General of NATO and Defence Secretary for the UK.

He is a descendent of two brothers, John and Peter Robertson who, from 1866, had the tenancy for many years of the well known and once productive sheep and cattle farms of Rahoy and Kinlochcaucus. Both are buried in the family plot at Kieil. It is always a pleasure to hear of a Morvern man holding high office.

Iain Thornber iain.thornber@btinternet.com.



Brigadier John MacFarlane presented the MacIntyre Shield prizes on behalf of the clan to, from left, Fionn Keys, Grace Thompson and Ellen MacKechnie. Not pictured, Kirsty MacArthur.

Clan Macintyre to return to Taynuilt Highland Games

THE CLAN Macintyre is expected to return to the Taynuilt Highland Games en masse in 2014.

The event is the venue for the annual presentation of the Macintyre Shield, an award that demonstrates the clan's support for the Gaelic language.

It is presented to students from the Gaelic Medium Unit at Rockfield Campus, Oban, who have displayed excellence in their education through the medium of the language.

Winners this year were: 1 Grace Thompson, 2 Kirsty MacArthur; 3 (joint) Ellen MacKechnie and Fionn Keys.

New man at helm of Highland Council

HIGHLAND Council's new chief executive Steve Barron took over the helm of the local authority on Monday.

Mr Barron, who will spend four months reviewing how council services are delivered, replaces Alistair Dodds, who has retired after 22 years with the council, the last six as chief executive.

Mr Barron said: 'There are tremendous opportunities ahead for the people of the Highlands and the main challenge of my job is to make sure we capitalise on these opportunities.'



New man at the helm: Steve Barron.

Fort William Sheriff Court

Duror teenager narrowly escapes prison sentence

A SHERIFF has spared a young south Lochaber man jail after hearing personal difficulties were behind his crime spree.

Noel McPartlin told 17-year-old David Wilson 'at first glance' imprisonment for a lengthy list of offences was in the public interest.

Wilson, of Abhainn Cottages, Duror admitted:

Taking a car from Lovat Road, Kinlochleven on June 21 without the owner's consent and driving without a licence or insurance while on bail.

Damaging a wall at Kinlochleven Bowling Club on June 4 while on bail.

Behaving in a threatening and abusive manner to a Ballachulish couple outside their home on the early hours of January 27 and threatening them with a golf club.

Posting 'grossly offensive, indecent, obscene and menacing' messages on Facebook at Lochaber Road,

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Kinlochleven to a 15-year-old girl, then uttering threats of violence toward two teenagers in Ballachulish on December 18, 2012.

Driving on various roads without insurance or a licence around Kinlochleven, Glencoe and Ballachulish at excessive speeds and clipping a rock; then, having fitted a space saver wheel, on the A82 to Glencoe Ski Centre at unsafe speeds in icy conditions, all on December 2, 2012.

Referring to psychiatric and social work reports describing Wilson as an 'emotionally unstable and angry young man...with significant challenges', defence lawyer Stephen Kennedy said: 'Most of the incidents seem to be a reaction by Mr Wilson to threats against him by third parties and what he sees as criticisms of him being made public on social networking sites, causing him distress and embarrassment.'

'He accepts he needs help. His concern is that he goes to jail today.'

Sheriff McPartlin decided not to send Wilson to prison, instead ordering him to carry out a community payback order involving a year's social work supervision and mental health treatment.

The young offender must also pay £100 compensation to the bowling club and carry out 200 hours of unpaid work in the community. In addition, Wilson was handed two driving bans of 18 months and 21 months and ordered to re-sit an extended driving test after the disqualification period. The sheriff warned him: 'The law won't recognise the kind of feelings you are describing as being a legitimate excuse for committing these offences.'

'You have to understand that if you come back to court the chances of you avoiding a custodial sentence are pretty remote.'

Meanwhile, Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined 33-year-old Fronczek, who plays for Lochaber Rugby Club, £35 for failing to appear in court on July 31 for an earlier hearing on the case without a reasonable excuse.

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose said: 'It was a pure oversight on his part.'

A 35-YEAR-OLD man appeared in private at Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday in relation to an assault to injury and permanent disfigurement in Middle Street, Fort William.

No plea or declaration was made. The case was continued for further examination. The man was released on bail.

THE CASE against two men accused of carrying out thousands of pounds of unnecessary roofing work

on two Lochaber homes was deserted by the Crown at Fort William Sheriff Court last week for the time being.

John McPhee, aged 34, of 58 Wingate Avenue, Dalry, and William McPhee, aged 29, of The Travelling People's site, Kentallen, had earlier denied fraudulently charging £750 for work at a house in Claggan on November 1, 2012.

The duo had also denied carrying out £3,000-worth of unnecessary roof repairs at a house in Inverlochty the following day.

TWO CAOL men have been fined for cannabis offences after a police search.

Lukasz Sroczyński, of 38 Camesky Road and Dominik Aszkielowicz, of 40 Kilmallie Road, admitted possessing the class 'B' drug at the Belford Hospital in Fort William on February 13.

Aszkielowicz also admitted producing cannabis between September 1, 2012 and February 13.

Officers found the stalks of 12 cannabis plants when they searched the Pole's home, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined 31-year-old butcher Sroczyński £200 and 27-year-old kitchen porter Aszkielowicz a total of £500.

A 59-YEAR-OLD Corpach man has appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court to deny shouting racist abuse at a man at Corpach Basin.

John MacKenzie also denied driving while nearly three and a half times the legal alcohol limit on the A830 and at Corpach Basin. Both alleged incidents occurred on Saturday, May 18.

MacKenzie, of 17 Clerk Drive, is due to stand trial September 23.

A STRATHSPEY man has denied driving dangerously at 49mph through Roy Bridge while a 20mph speed limit was in operation.

Michael Sharp, 45, of Creag Bhuidhe, Balgown, Laggan, Newtonmore, is accused of driving at excessive speed on the A86 on May 17.

Sharp is due to stand trial at

Highland Council 'bedroom tax' appeal

HIGHLAND Council is urging the UK Government to exempt rural settlements from the spare room subsidy - the so-called 'bedroom tax' - after figures showed the number of tenants falling behind with their rent has jumped by 40 per cent.

Some 1,175 tenants were in arrears in July - an increase of 451 since the controversial benefit change was introduced on April 1. The level of arrears also rocketed by £96,196 to £269,687.

In an attempt to counter the escalating crisis, the council wants tenants living in communities with a population of 3,000 or less to be spared the benefit cut because the chronic housing shortage prevents them from moving to a smaller home.

Now finance, housing and resources committee chair Dave Fallows is seeking Highland MPs' backing for the move ahead of the council's Welfare Reform Working Group on October 11.

He said: 'There is no doubt that

the current estate cannot be inviolable.'

Mr Robb insisted the council was duty bound to review the school estate to ensure the correct provision of its resources.

He said: 'That does not equate to school closures. It will be up to members when it happens.'

Philip Rowlands of Argyll Rural Schools Network, which campaigned against the previous proposed closures, said: 'The council's stance has not changed in the last two or three years and it is concerning that some councillors are still looking at this as a financial exercise.'

'You can't close schools because they are too expensive. Our group is very much still

active and are here ready and waiting.'

Councillor Robb also highlighted growing concerns, particularly at Hermitage Academy and Oban High School, over falling teacher numbers.

'There is growing concern within our academies, they are feeling the squeeze with limited budgets and problems with the range of subjects,' he said.

'The point is that we have been alerted.'

'The schools are coping but they are under enormous pressure in terms of staff. We have found it early but it is our job to react and bring forward equitable solutions to prevent any real problems occurring.'

Food and Rural Affairs Committee recommendations that settlements of fewer than 3,000 people should be excluded from the under-occupancy policy.

He added: 'I will now be writing to MPs for their support for this concession and also the Minister for Welfare Reform [Lord Freud] to urge the Government confirms this as policy. This would be a welcome boost in rural communities, such as the Highlands.'

Fort William Sheriff Court on October 9.

A FORT William woman has denied allowing her dog to get out of control and bite a three-year-old boy.

Fiona Cann, aged 34, of 5 Riverside Grove, is accused under the Dangerous Dogs Act of allowing the alleged incident to happen on May 26.

A further hearing will be held at Fort William Sheriff Court on September 25 with the trial scheduled for October 9.

A DIVER who fell asleep in his car after locking himself out of his home has been fined £300.

Andrew Gilchrist, 24 Flat 61, 701 Govan Road, Glasgow admitted failing to provide two specimens of breath at Fort William Police Station on August 4.

Police found Gilchrist behind the wheel at 3.30am and took him to the station after a positive breathalyser test, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Prosecutor Laura Ryan said: 'He refused to provide breath specimens because he did not think it was justice.'

Defence lawyer Hamish Melrose said: 'He felt he had not done anything wrong and was not intending to go anywhere.'

Gilchrist, who was doing a £12,000, 11-week training course at the Underwater Centre at the time, also had his licence endorsed with 10 penalty points.

Bridge of Orchy man denies sexual charges

A MAN accused of exposing himself and performing a sexual act on himself in front of two men in Bridge of Orchy is awaiting trial at Oban Sheriff Court.

Steven McColl, 53, of The Railway Station, Bridge of Orchy, denied the offences when he appeared from custody last week.

He was released on conditional bail and is expected to stand trial on October 29. He will appear in court next on October 15.

Homestart Lorn boost

FAMILIES charity Homestart Lorn has been awarded £5,000 towards the salary costs of its full-time co-ordinator.

The charity, which provides support and advice to families

with young children, is the only organisation in Argyll to benefit from the latest round of the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland funding, which amounted to £185,000.

No changes to 'back road' speed limit despite complaints

NEW FIGURES have shown that most vehicles travelling on the Oban to Connell back road travel at under 45mph after locals complained the road was becoming more dangerous.

The Oban, Lorn and Isles Community Safety Forum heard that monitoring by police using a Stierrega device to measure traffic speeds and volume showed 463 vehicles using the route between June 4-6.

Situated on a straight section of the road, which is subject to a 60mph limit, the device recorded an average speed of 31 miles per hour, with the highest recorded speed being 50mph. In total, 11 were recorded travelling at 45mph or faster - 2.4 per cent of traffic.

The report to the group recommended no changes be pursued. It states: 'This section of road does not meet the criteria to support progressing any reduction in speed limit.'

The item will be discussed further at the next meeting of the safety forum.

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## Greylag goose meat on the menu

NA H-EILEANAN an Iar (Western Isles) MP Angus MacNeil has welcomed a move by Scottish Natural Heritage to allow the sale of greylag goose meat on a trial basis in Uist.

Geese numbers in the Western Isles have escalated in recent years, wreaking havoc with crofters' crops, machair grass and even sports pitches.

Mr MacNeil, who has campaigned for the relaxation of the 1981 Act which banned the sale of geese, said: 'Many crofters and those that run community play areas and football parks have been in touch with me after seeing geese make such a mess of their land and also the mess they leave behind on football parks throughout the islands.'

'We also need to look at other measures to try and keep the geese numbers down.'

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan MSP added: 'As least one hotelier has been in touch with me to say they would put greylag goose on the menu if allowed.'

'My strong feeling is that they should be allowed to serve geese if they desire to as the geese are certainly not an endangered species.'

The move comes after RSPB regional manager for the Western Isles, Jamie Boyle, had, in *The Oban Times*, called for the sale of the wild bird's meat to be available for sale to tackle rising numbers.

## McEwans remains committed to Oban branch

SCOTLAND'S largest independent department store chain says it remains 'fully committed' to its Oban store after saying its Inverness branch could close.

McEwans of Perth said it was consulting staff at the outlet, which the company said had not traded profitably 'for some years'.

However, McEwan's managing director John Bullough said the Oban branch, along with those in Ballater, Aberdeen and Perth, remain key and the company would be 'following a programme of investment to take them forward'.

## Probationer teachers get taste of Gaelic

NEW PROBATIONER teachers working for Western Isles Council got a taster in Gaelic last week at their first training seminar of session 2013-14.

Dolina Macleod from Lews Castle College gave an insight into the style in which an Ulpan - total immersion in Gaelic - class is taught.

It is anticipated the probationers will have the chance to participate in a series of Ulpan after-school classes over the school year. Only one of the teachers has Gaelic.

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Daniel MacDonald is held aloft by his Taynuilt Shinty Club team-mates ahead of this weekend's charity run from Glasgow to the Taynuilt Hotel. 06\_a36dan02

## Taynuilt joiner set for three-day charity run

A TAYNUILT joiner will tomorrow start a mammoth three-day charity run from Glasgow to his home village - having already beat his fundraising target.

Daniel MacDonald will set off at noon hoping to cover 80 miles - the equivalent of three back-to-back marathons - in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and the Yorkhill Children's Charity.

After preparing for the gruelling challenge, all 22 year-old Daniel has to do now

is ignore a niggling knee injury - and pray he doesn't pick up any other knocks ahead of starting.

Speaking to *The Oban Times* on Monday, Daniel said: 'I'm getting there.'

'I'm finished training now and there's not much more I can do than eat the right things and get ready for it.'

'I'm a bit nervous, I'm just hoping everything goes well and I don't pick up any injuries. My knee has been a bit sore, that's worrying me. It's probably the

amount of work it's having to do.' Daniel has hammered away at a tough training regime - completing 30 miles in one day, split into 15-mile sessions, plus three 20-mile plus runs in succession.

He aims to run 27 miles on day one, followed by two runs of 28 and 25 miles and will be joined on the first two days by friends and family from Taynuilt and Barra.

Team-mates from Taynuilt Shinty Club will accompany

him for three-mile stints across the entirety of the last day's run. He will finish at the Taynuilt Hotel, which will be holding a special celebration day to mark Daniel's efforts.

The jogging joiner has already surpassed his original £1,000 target - now he hopes to raise as much as possible for the charities that mean so much to him and his family for the help provided over the years.

To donate, log on to justgiving.com/teams/dansbigrun.

## Roundabout 'will have to go ahead'

A £12.7MILLION project to build a roundabout at Dunbeg and the Oban Development will 'have to go ahead' regardless of whether a bid for Tax Incremental Funding is approved.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre made the comment at Oban Community Council last week when put under pressure by Oban community councillor Neil MacIntyre, who asked several times if the roundabout and the development road through Oban were dependent on the TIF bid for £23.75million to develop the Lorn Arc.

Neil MacIntyre was referring to previous comments by Oban councillor Iain MacDonald, who said the projects would fail without TIF.

Speaking at the meeting, Duncan MacIntyre said: 'Of course it would have to go ahead. We're building the first 50 houses now - if we build 800

more houses at Dunbeg do we think the existing road will cope with that?'

It has been more than two years since Oban first submitted its application for TIF funding. When submitted, the plan outlined 11 potential investment priorities projects, with TIF funding to account for £2million of the projected £12.7million cost of the roundabout and the Dunbeg Development Road.

Last month, Falkirk had its bid for £67million in TIF funding approved.

Neil MacIntyre said: 'We're wasting a lot of time and money on something we maybe won't get. The town is dying a death and we're wasting time. What are the alternatives if we don't get the TIF money?'

Mr MacIntyre said: 'We have to take a glass half full approach to this and be positive.'

## Hospitality bill sparks row between community council and BID4Oban

CONFUSION over a hospitality bill for Irish guests attending the recent St Columba celebrations sparked a row between Oban Community Council and BID4Oban.

OCC was told in May that BID4Oban would meet a £500 bill for costs associated with the visit of Kells Town Council.

But at last week's OCC meeting chairwoman Marri Malloy said she was 'really disappointed' to be told later that no money would be paid out unless a formal application form was completed.

She said: 'BIDs did not give us the £500 we expected. We were not told at any time about the application form and we only found out when we presented them with the receipt.'

The dispute followed a presentation by BID4Oban events manager Mike Rowell at OCC's May meeting on the organisation's progress so far.

The community council asked him if BID4Oban would be able to meet some of the cost of the visit of Kells Town Council as part of the arrival of the Book of Kells.

Mr Rowell agreed at the time - but nothing was done to assist with the cash.

Ms Malloy told last week's meeting: 'He sat there and said he'd do anything he could to help. My question is, what did he actually do?'

BID4Oban board member Lindsey MacDonald, responded that she hoped both organisations were able to put the

misunderstanding behind them and move on.

BID4Oban apologised for the mix up and has now clarified with the community council how it should go about completing funding applications.

Ms MacDonald said: 'I don't know about any application but I know going forward we'd like to have a good working relationship with the community council. If you want us to come back to explain our grants application process we can do that.'

She added that any new funding application to BID4Oban for gifts to take back to Kells when the book returns to Ireland, reciprocating what was taken over by the Irish councillors, was unlikely to be successful as would not directly benefit Oban.

# Methadone clinic the big question

WHEN the people of Kintyre had a chance to grill the Scottish cabinet in Campbeltown last week, a single issue stood out.

It was the only one to spark applause from the audience - and revealed to Alex Salmond and his ministers the strength of local feeling against plans to establish a methadone clinic in the town.

One lady asked the telling question: why was a clinic needed when there was 'just 11 registered addicts here?'

She added: 'Why should Glasgow dump their problems in Campbeltown?'

That view reflected widely held concerns that if the proposed methadone clinic at

Campbeltown Hospital went ahead it, together with the town's available and cheap housing would bring other drug addicts - and their accompanying problems - to Campbeltown.

Minister for public health Michael Matheson replied that the Scottish Government was pursuing a policy of 'looking to provide a range of services for people who have a drug dependency'.

He added: 'The health board [NHS Highland] was working in the Campbeltown area to find a way of doing this which was best suited to the community.'

'I'm anxious that there is a feeling of something being imposed on the community.'

## Opinion of NHS patients sought

A WEBSITE which allows people who use health services in the Highlands and islands to share their experiences is urging members of the public to get involved.

Patient Opinion is looking for people who have been hospitalised, or experienced

any aspect of the NHS, to leave feedback - both good and bad.

The website, which can be found at [www.patientopinion.org.uk](http://www.patientopinion.org.uk), is a non profit organisation that allows NHS staff to receive thanks as well as letting the NHS know when things go wrong.

'It is important that it is the kind of service the community feels is acceptable to its needs.'

Campbeltown Community Council opposes the clinic, saying its main function appears to be simply to save those on methadone treatment the fortnightly journey they currently face to Glasgow for new prescriptions.

Chairman Andrew Hemmings and Councillor Donald Kelly recently highlighted the town's opposition to the clinic to NHS Highland chairman Garry Coutts.

Mr Hemmings said this week: 'Noises are made that we are being listened to, but I fear it is already decided.'

## North Uist firm wins Barra harbour contract

A NORTH Uist contractor has been awarded the £1.5million project to build a new harbour at Ardevenish, on Barra.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar confirmed this week that MacInnes Brothers will build the new harbour at Ardevenish, developing existing facilities and providing much needed protection from the elements for the island's fishing fleet.

Accommodating up to seven vessels over 10m in length and a number of static gear vessels, the development is seen as vital to the long-term future of fish processing and exporting from Barra. The harbour construction is made possible through

£1.25million funding from the Comhairle's, £283,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund and £125,000 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE). Work should start this month, with completion by August 2014.

Archie Campbell, chairman of the Comhairle's sustainable development committee said: 'This represents the latest investment in major harbour development to support the local fishing industry and secure local employment and fishing activity in a sector vital to Barra and the wider economy.'

## New restaurant planned on Tiree

TIREE could have a new restaurant if plans lodged with Argyll and Bute Council are approved.

Clackmannanshire-based businessman Jason Syme has lodged papers with the authority to build a restaurant east of Crossapol Farm, with four holiday lets alongside. Based next to the B8065 on the site of the former mart, the restaurant would provide parking for 20 vehicles and seating for up to 41 diners across 14 tables.



Appin firefighters, from left: Stuart Carmichael, Ian MacCorquodale, Alasdair Colthart and Keith Carmichael with their long service medals.

## Long-serving Appin firefighters awarded medals

FOUR members of the volunteer crew at Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Appin station were presented with Long Service and Good Conduct medals, having served more than 20 years in the brigade.

Volunteer leader Ian MacCorquodale, volunteer deputy leader Stuart Carmichael, volunteer fire-

fighter Keith Carmichael and volunteer firefighter Alasdair Colthart received their medals at the station on Monday.

The medals were presented by area commander Paul Connelly and the Royal Warrant was read by group commander David McCaughey.

## Making it easier for parents to improve schools

PARENTS and volunteers hoping to make improvements to their local school will gain more assistance from Argyll and Bute Council.

At a full meeting of Argyll and Bute Council last week, councillors approved a new

Education Management Circular, which will make it easier for families, staff and local trades people to make minor modifications to schools.

It comes after health and safety restrictions and procurement procedures had put

a halt to previous projects. The council said the change, recommended by the Commission on Rural Education, will allow businesses to become more involved in their community and ensure the effective use of public monies.

# All the best to the Camanachd finalists, from one of your biggest fans.

Two worthy finalists and one great occasion. Add passion, pride and powerful performances and you have the ingredients for a brilliant day of sport. Here at Scottish Hydro, we're delighted to be playing our part as a loyal supporter of the game of shinty across Scotland - from grass roots upwards. For now, all that remains to be said is good luck both teams!

Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore will go head to head in the Final at An Aird, Fort William on Saturday 14th September at 2.15pm.






**CORPACH**

THE ANNUAL Corpach in Colour Flower and Produce Show will be held in Kilmallie Community Centre next Saturday, September 7.

All entries should be taken to the hall between 9am and 11am on the morning of the show. The hall will close for judging at 11am before doors opens to the public at 2pm.

Admission £2, children free. The presentation of awards will take place at 3pm.

**GLEN NEVIS**

FRIENDS of Nevis are holding a wildlife event, 'Are there any Water Voles on Ben Nevis?' next Saturday at Edinburgh Woolen Mill's Ben Nevis Highland Centre, Fort William, at 9.30am.

The event concludes at 4.30pm. Two weeks from then, the Friends have organised low level landscaping work at the curling ponds in the glen and path maintenance work parties on Ben Nevis on September 28 and 29.

Please register for both the curling pond work party or path maintenance work party by calling 07770 648330 or via the website.

**LISMORE**

COMANN Eachdraidh Lios Mor held its annual ceilidh in Lismore Hall on Saturday August 17.

Introduced by Duncan Livingstone, with Katy Crossan an entertaining and efficient bean a taigh, the evening featured performers from on and off the island and was opened by piper Calum MacColl from Fort William.

There were lovely songs from the local performers: nine-year-old Katy Cook, 13-year-old Sophie King and adults Mary MacDougall and Laura Cook. Islanders Sebastian and Eva Tombs performed a Gaelic song with fiddle and guitar and Duncan Ferguson played the accordion.

Invited performers were, by and large, from Oban and Fort William and sang mostly in Gaelic but with some English ballads. Charlie MacColl had lost none of his power and musicality since he last visited and was well supported by Norman MacKinnon, Jimmy Cameron, Morag Smith and Graham Campbell. The event was well attended and the supper and raffle enjoyed.



Nine-year-old Katy Cook performs at the ceilidh.

SYMPATHY goes out to the family of May Scott, nee Black, who died recently and was buried in Lismore on August 26.

May was born and brought up on the island and lived here until she went away to pursue a successful nursing career in Glasgow.

She is survived by her daughter Mairi, who now lives in Oban.

ON SUNDAY August 25 the sun shone, the hall committee set tables inside and out, islanders contributed a great range of vegetables as well as smoked mackerel, cakes, meringues, preserves and flowers, and there was an excellent lunch.

The hall committee thanks everyone who supported them so generously and helped raise £302.98 for hall funds.

ONCE again, thanks to the wonderful Lismore Lumiere for the Japanese film 'I Wish', screened on Saturday August 24.

The film is a lyrical, heart warming and at times heart breaking, insightful and moving tale of two brothers separated by their parents' divorce and the lengths they were prepared to go to effect the miracle of becoming a family again. The



The teams from Skiff Around Luinig.

**Sixteen-mile rowing challenge raises island defibrillator cash**

A ROWING challenge to raise money for a new defibrillator on the island of Luinig saw more than £1,000 donated.

John Blackwell, of Blackmill Bay, organised a Skiff Around Luinig when a total of 35 people from the island took to the sea and rowed around Luinig on Sunday August 25.

Using the tide, and taking advantage of the beautiful calm day, they made good time, completing the 16-mile journey in four hours 41 minutes.

The Isle of Seil skiff Selkie was loaned by Seil Coastal Rowing for the day and expert tuition given to the rowers by Dr George Hannah. There were seven teams of five people taking on the circumnavigation of the island of Luinig.

Alasdair MacLachlan's *Virida*, a six-oar boat, was also used for those keen to do more rowing

**LUING**

than their allotted slot. Safety boats were *Lilly* and *Venture* skippered by Eoghann and Alasdair MacLachlan.

Each of the rowers paid £20 to take part in the adventure and make this historic trip round Luinig.

Team one's first stop was Castle of the Dogs on Torsa, then team two took her on to Ardinamir Bay. Team three rowed on to Toberonochy Harbour where team four took her down to Donnie's Bay at Ardluing.

Team five skiffed along to Blackmill Bay, team six had quite a challenge bringing her up against the tide to Cullipool and then team seven raced the final leg to South Cuan where a barbecue was organised to

welcome back the boats to South Cuan. As the two boats raced into Cuan Sound, Luinig piper Innes MacQueen set the pace with a tune from his bagpipes.

John Blackwell spoke to the large crowd gathered at South Cuan, dedicating the memorable day to Margaret King, a founder member of Luinig Canoe Club, who passed away earlier in the week.

He thanked David Mossan for running repairs, Amanda MacLachlan and Joan Morgan for providing transport and to drop off points and Mhairi Ritchie, Hazel Cruickshanks and Jane MacLachlan for producing the barbecue and refreshments. The event raised enough to replace the broken defibrillator and also left a reserve to replace the other one should it be required.



Glencoe Flower Show trophy winners.

**Village hall awash with show colour**

GLENCOE Village Hall was awash with entries for the village flower show on Saturday August 24.

Started in 2003, the show has gone from strength to strength, well supported by Glencoe, Ballachulish and Duror residents and the primary schools in each village. Glencoe Flower Show trophy winners:

- Mr and Mrs P Weir Quiaich for most points in Baking Section - Freddie Gating. Cup for most points in Preserves Section - Margaret Rae. Clachaig Cup for most points in Vegetable Section - George Grant. Freedom of Glen Rosebowl for Best Rose - Jimmy Forsyth. Isobel MacDonald Cup for Best Floral

**GLENCOE**

Exhibit - Jenny Johnstone. Mr and Mrs Ingram Shield for most points in Floral Section - Bert Lander. Abhain Cup Most points in classes 21-46 - Bert Lander. Glencoe Hotel Cup for most points in Floral Art - May MacConmacker.

Shield for most points in Photography Section - Liz Law. Wendy McCubbin Memorial Shield for Best Photo in Photography Section - Isobel MacDonald. Cup for most points in Painting and Drawing Section - Maggie Wilson. Dr McKenzie Trophy for best exhibit in Class 58 - Angie Horsnell. Lyn Leven Quiaich

for most points in Craft Section - Anne Thomson.

Miss Fairweather Shield for best exhibit in Childrens Section - Rebecca Thorne. Henderson Plaque most points Pre-School Section - Lily Nadin. Henderson Targe most points Childrens Section, Glencoe Pupil - Charlie Henshall. Laroeh Bistro Trophy most points Childrens Section, Ballachulish Pupil - Dawn Beaton. Trophy for most points Childrens Section, Duror Pupil - Erin MacCallum-Miller. Henderson Trophy for most points High School Pupil - Rebecca Thorne. Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council Cup for most points overall - Bert Lander.

child actors were particularly watchable and the glimpse of Japanese life extremely interesting.

As a curtain raiser for the film, Beth Campbell offered a Chinese night at the café to eat in or take away. During the evening she drew the raffle she had been running to 'Celebrate Our Youth', the proceeds going to the teenagers at Glencruitten Hostel. She raised £151 and the teenagers really appreciate Beth's efforts. Winners were - Large Celebrations Tree - Mary MacDougall, Small Celebrations Tree, Ali McKinnon, Large Box of Celebrations - Carol and Shannon Maclean, Small Box of Celebrations - Anne Livingstone.

**CALLANDER**

MORE than 100 young people enjoyed trips to Killin, Alton Towers and Edinburgh Dungeons as part of Callander Youth Project's packed summer activities programme.

The club also welcomed 10 young people and three volunteers from China over the summer period, hosting them in the hostel while they spent a week learning about Scottish culture.

Nine young people from the CYP volunteered as peer hosts and took pride in showing their visitors what Scotland has to offer, with the Chinese delegation particularly enjoying the tourist shops and eateries in Callander.

The also enjoyed re-enactments of the Battle of Bannockburn, tried Scottish country dancing, visited Edinburgh Festival and the Castle, while the parties exchanged key Scottish and Mandarin words.

The pinnacle of the week was a farewell party attended by representatives from Scottish Parliament and Youthlink Scotland, the national agency in Scotland for Youth Work, as well as personal messages from the First Minister and the Chinese General Consul.

**PLOCKTON**

PLOCKTON High School roll for session 2013-14 stands at 303 - an encouraging rise of 20 in the previous year.

Fifty six pupils came into S1 from Plockton's feeder primaries. Meanwhile, top academic performers in S5 were Shannon Campbell from Kyle and Alexander MacLeod of Broadford, who both gained five 'A' passes in their Highers in last month's SQA exam results.

**TREE**

TREE is to have separate English and Gaelic pre-schools as part of a new pilot at Treetree High School.

More than half of the 59 respondents to a community consultation said they would prefer separate pre-school provision, a decision which will bring to an end the current joint provision for pre-fives.

The trial will take place over two academic sessions from

November - depending on the recruitment of two staff for each session.

Mary Jean Devon, lead councillor for children and families, said: 'This new provision for young people and families who commit to Gaelic medium education is a great step forward. It is backed by legislation and supported by research evidence.'

'The two-year pilot will be carefully evaluated to enable the council to take informed decisions on future provision.'

Children will continue to be entitled to five two-and-a-half hour sessions a week.

Parents who have currently registered their children, or who have children eligible for pre-school in session 2013/14, have now been asked to complete a form to indicate their preference for Gaelic or English provision.

This includes new three year olds entering for the first time and returning four year olds for their second year, and when the response is collated, parents' preferences will inform plans for the service.

**Down Your Way**

**Aberfeldy**



Organisers of this year's Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally in Aberfeldy are appealing for volunteers to help marshal this October's race.

WITH just five weeks to go, Coltness Car Club has finalised its route for this year's Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally at Aberfeldy.

Held on October 5, this year will see six special stages, all on Forestry Commission property, using the notoriously winding and hilly gravel roads for which the Perthshire forests are renowned.

The rally will start from the centre of Aberfeldy, with the first car being flagged off at 7.30am.

The cars and crews will then tackle two stages in Craigvinean Forest, near Dunkeld, before returning to Aberfeldy for first service where the cars will be repaired for the next group of three stages. These will include the 13-mile mountainous Errochty test overlooking Tummel Bridge, followed by Kindrogan and Blackcraig east of Pitlochry before remote service at Blairgowrie. The survivors will then head towards the last stage, back in Craigvinean, where a final 10-mile thrash through the 'green hell' of the tree cloaked slopes lies in wait.

These six stages are where the real test of man and machine takes place. Competitors are timed to the tenth of a second from stage start to stage finish and the crew with the lowest total time for all six stages will be declared winner; provided they have taken no wrong turnings, complied with their time schedule and their car is in - more or less - one piece at the finish.

Coltness Car Club's rally route team has also been keeping an eye out for suitable spectator points where fans and followers can have relatively easy access to the stages with adequate car parking, and this will be publicised in due course.

Apart from competitors, there is one other element of rally organisation which is essential, a willing band of Marshals. Each special stage will require a team of at least 20 and sometimes up to 40 marshals for the longer tests with Coltness Car Club always on the look out for more volunteers.

Marshals are needed, not just for timekeeping duties, but to look after the safety of competitors, rally spectators and fellow officials. Their duties are many and varied and anyone can learn 'on the job'. Newcomers will be teamed up with experienced personnel to learn the basics.

To volunteer as a marshal, email chief marshal Graeme Sheridan at marshals@coltnesscarclub.com.

REMONY Farm will host a special stock judging competition next month - pitting the best of Aberfeldy's show against the Killin Show winners and Aberfeldy Young Farmers.

James Duncan Millar has given permission for the farm near Fortingall to be used for the event, which has a 1.30pm meet for a 2pm start.

AFTER a successful first year, the joint Highland Perthshire Marathon and Half Marathon and Cycling Marathon returns this weekend.

Held on Sunday September 7, the events are sure to attract a large field of competitors and will undoubtedly bring a sense of occasion to the town.

Entrants in the cycling marathon have the choice of two dedicated cycling routes, 26 or 13 miles - with the option to run the half marathon first for those really keen to test themselves before climbing on the bikes.

Young people aged between 12 and 16 can ride in the event, but only on the half marathon option.

The event is run in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere and is ideal for anyone wanting a fun day on the bike, with like-minded individuals. It is also ideal for those who have just started cycling or are new to cycling events and would like to enter and find out what it is all about. Runners in the marathon will start at Weem Church, with half marathon competitors starting from the Ailean Chraggan corner on the B846. The full marathon will consist of two laps, with the half marathon one. A bigger start and finish area will accommodate the increase in numbers while there will be a ceilidh, showers, free camping, a goody bag, post-race refreshments and a ceilidh for entrants. There will also be prizes handed out for each category.

Again, the emphasis is on fun, with the event last year helping to raise more than £30,000 for charities.

For more information on the running events, see highland-perthshiremarathon.co.uk, while the cycling marathon website can be found at highlandperthshirecycling.co.uk.

**Next week Down Your Way visits Drumnadrochit with reporter Richard Haddock. Contact Richard on 01397 703003 or email rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk.**

**NORTH UIST**

RSPB SCOTLAND has decided to extend its wildlife walks programme in the Western Isles into the autumn after a successful summer season.

The Balranald Reserve walk and the Otter walks at Langass, both on North Uist, will now run until the end of September.

The reserve walk starts from Balranald Visitors Centre on Tuesdays at 10am and otter walks from Langass Lodge Hotel car park on Wednesdays, also at 10am.

The RSPB will also be continuing to run special Golden Eagle Walks in Harris



An otter captured on camera near Langass. Photograph by Cliff Reddick.

every Wednesday in partnership with the North Harris Trust until September 18.

They are being led by RSPB conservation officer Robin Reid, an expert on birds of prey. Details at www.rspb.org.uk/lochnamuilne.



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**Children's author visits Inverlochry Nursery**

Children's author Barry Hutchinson popped into Inverlochry Nursery on Friday to talk about writing stories and some of the weird and wonderful characters in them. Mr Hutchinson, from Caol, wrote 36 of the 52 episodes in a new ITV children's comedy series 'Bottom Knocker Street', which began its run last weekend. The half-hour shows are being broadcast on Saturdays and Sundays at 8am.

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**Strontian powers up for hydro vote**

A LOCHABER community is aiming to build its own hydro-electric scheme - and harness £2 million of revenues for local projects over 25 years.

Sunart Community Company is asking local people how best to use the cash through its development plan.

But first SCC has to win community backing to purchase a dam from Scottish Water for £2,000.

A ballot of all electors in Strontian and the surrounding area, overseen by Highland Council, will be held at the end of this month.

A 'yes' vote would see SCC press ahead with its long-term project to build a 100kW hydro plant on the Allt nan Cailleach burn above the village.

SCC director and treasurer James Hilder said: 'Ballot papers will be hitting people's doormats next week.'

**Morag conquers Loch Maree**

A LOCHABER woman is believed to have become the first person to swim the length of Loch Maree in Wester Ross.

Morag Hughes from Corpach clambered out of the chilly loch on Saturday nine hours and seven minutes after she entered the water.

Solo swimmer Morag, 56, together with relay team Ewe Wild Swimmers, raised around £2,500 for charity, including Good for Ewe, a local group planning a garden for the disabled.

Morag's husband Billy encouraged her from the safety boat during the 12.5 mile marathon. He told *The Oban Times*: 'There were no problems really, Morag kept a steady pace all the way although she got drenched a couple of times with water coming over her head. The weather conditions were not very good and it was quite choppy.'



Brrr! Morag after her swim.



The winners from the junior gardening show pose with their trophies and rosettes. 20\_f36gardening01

**Young Lochaber gardeners impress show judges**

LOCHABER Rural Complex was full of colour on Saturday for the fourth annual junior gardening show.

The entrants defied the cold spring and a late start to the growing season, producing an excellent show of exhibits to impress the judges.

Youngsters from local primary schools, playgroups and nurseries as well as a few

adults took part on the day. Fort William Primary's Liam McCrimmon took home the Marie MacLean Challenge Cup, Kilmallie Playgroup won the Dugie Duncan Painters Cup, the Giggles Child Care Trophy went to Banavie Nursery and Banavie Primary won the United Auctions Cup.

The Wooden Spoon was given to Ethel Connacher, of Caol while Corpach's

Alastair Halewood took home the Gents' Tankard. Organiser Isabel Campbell said: 'The centre was full with beautiful flowers and vegetables grown in the raised beds by pupils from Banavie, Caol, Lochside and St Mary's Primary Schools.'

'There was very strong competition in all sections and the judges commented on the high standard.'

**An Aird passed fit for shinty cup final**

AN AIRD in Fort William has been passed fit for the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final next Saturday after pitch repairs.

Now officials believe the showcase will restore the Lochaber venue's proud reputation in shinty.

The famous ground has staged many memorable matches down the years - and the showdown between ancient rivals Kyles and Newtonmore next Saturday promises to be another.

An Aird's drainage system was overhauled over a year ago with the help of SportsScotland funding.

But some wear problems resurfaced this summer and the stadium improvements, it is back to its best.

'With the on-site clubhouse, An Aird is a great sociable venue for a final. It is also equidistant between the north and south of the country. I think we'll see a great match between two excellent sides and a big crowd

on the day.' Tickets are now on sale for the 106th final, which follows a pulsating Artemis Macaulay Cup final between the sides when Kyles emerged 3-2 victors.

Prior to the main event at 2.15pm, spectators can enjoy the U-14 MacMaster Cup Final between Skye and Oban Camanachd at 11.15am. Referee for the day is highly experienced Fort William-based official, Innes Wood.

**Ben race title holder sets sights on repeating victory**

BEN NEVIS Race 2012 winner, Fort William GP Finlay Wild, has hit a rich vein of form ahead of the 2013 event on Saturday.

The multi-talented runner recently broke the record for the Cullin ridge on Skye then followed that up by winning a team alpine race for Scotland

in Italy. Now Finlay, who is currently working in an Oban practice, is setting his sights on repeating his victory last year on Scotland's roughest, toughest mountain race.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Training has been going well and I've had quite a lot of races.'

'Three weeks ago I was in the Italian Dolomites for Tre Rifugi mountain relay race as part of the Scottish team along with Robbie Simpson and Murray Strain. We won as Team Scozia and there were over 100 teams taking part.'

The record times for both men and women have stood since 1984 when Kenny Stuart and Pauline Stuart (nee Haworth) respectively recorded 1h 25m 34s and 1h 43m 25s.

**Hotel owner sexually assaulted two female staff**

Man placed on sex offenders' register after two-day trial

THE OWNER of a Lochaber hotel has been placed on the sex offenders' register after sexually assaulting two female staff members just hours after they started their employment.

Shamsul Arefin was found guilty of making sexual advances and inappropriately touching the woman at The Stewart Hotel in Duror following a two day trial at Fort William Sheriff Court.

The married 46-year-old repeatedly propositioned a Portuguese woman during her six days on the job and on one occasion told her he was in love with her.

She told the court Arefin kissed her on the neck and put his hand underneath her bra.

A second woman, a 23 year-old Lithuanian, said Arefin drank vodka with her on her first night before talking explicitly about his sexual past and pressing himself against her.

After she rebuffed his advances, Arefin tried to get her to convince another member of staff to have sex with him.

Arefin, who bought The Stewart Hotel with his wife in March 2007, lied to both women

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Shamsul Arefin: sexually assaulted two employees.

about his age and told them he was single.

Fiscal deputy Andrew Laing said: 'Both witnesses described a sustained catalogue of unwanted sexualised conversation when they were alone with the accused. Mr Arefin was their employer. He was in a position of trust, with a duty of responsibility to his employees and he abused that position of trust.'

Giving evidence, Arefin repeatedly suggested the two women may have concocted

their story together, but Mr Laing said the fact one witness had travelled from Lithuania to give her account showed she was telling the truth.

He said: 'It is inconceivable that a witness who was not compelled to come Scotland did so to give evidence she had contrived with another witness and which is false.'

Arefin, who was animated throughout his evidence, showed no emotion as Sheriff Noel McPartlin found him guilty of sexually assaulting the two women by touching them and directing sexual comments at them between April 18 and May 8, 2012.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'Having considered the whole evidence, I'm satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the two women were speaking the truth. I therefore find you guilty on both charges.'

Arefin, of 39 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, London, previously also faced a charge of directing sexual communication to a third employee and a fourth charge of rape, but both were both dropped by the Crown.

Arefin spent six months on remand facing the rape charge and is unlikely to spend further time in jail, the court heard. Sentencing was deferred until October 23 for reports.

**Fort Augustus Abbey abuse claims: 80-year-old man charged**

AN 80-year-old man from the east Highland area has been charged in connection with enquiries in relation to reports of historic physical and sexual abuse at Fort Augustus Abbey.

A report detailing the circumstances has been submitted to the Crown Office and the Procurator Fiscal, Police Scotland said on Tuesday. Investigations are continuing.

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# Primary ones in the picture



This trio got carried away with the excitement of starting P1 at Luining Primary school.



Rockfield's new P1 class will be taught by Mrs Acey this year. 16\_136rockfield4



Enjoying their school garden are new Dalmally P1s, from left: Isla, Luke, Dominic and Sam. Not pictured is Anna, who was absent on the day of the picture. 16\_135dalmally01



Rockfield Primary School's new intake of Gaelic P1s, to be taught by Mrs Garvie. 16\_136rockfield5



Three is the magic number at Bunesan Primary School as this trio started P1.



Mrs Campbell's new P1B class at Rockfield Primary. 16\_136rockfield2



Above: Upper Achintore Primary School's new P1s smile for the camera. 20\_134upper01



Rockfield Primary School's P1A class, who will be taught by Mrs Gillies this year. 16\_136rockfield1



Above: St Columba's welcomed this chirpy bunch to the school for their first ever term. They've joined the school's composite P1/2 class. 16\_136stcolumbas1



Left: It was smiles all round on Iona as these primary one pupils started school.



Thirty P1s started at Inverlochry Primary, with the youngsters split into two classes. 20\_135inverlochry01

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**Banavie man denies cocaine charge**

A BANAVIE man has denied being in possession of cocaine at a Fort William venue.

Allan MacMaster pled not guilty to having the class 'A' drug at Skipinnish Ceilidh House on April 13.

The 21-year-old is also accused of obstructing police during the incident.

MacMaster, of Kanas, is due to appear at a further hearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on August 24.

**Accused of wilful fireraising**

A 39-YEAR-OLD man appeared in private in Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday in relation to wilful fireraising at Glen Tarbert, Carnoch Estate and Bellgrove Mines, all near Strontian.

No plea or declaration was made and the case was continued for further examination. The man was released on bail.

**Kyle of Lochalsh Maritime Day**

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI's annual Maritime Day will be the best yet.

A packed programme on Saturday includes demonstrations from Kyle's own RNLI lifeboat, Mallaig lifeboat and Kyle Fire Brigade.

BUTEK (British Underwater Testing & Evaluation Centre) will also be present and are allowing some of their boats and equipment to be boarded and viewed by the public for the first time. Meanwhile, Cuillin FM will be broadcasting live throughout the day.

Kyle Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) crew member Andrew MacDonald said: 'Weather permitting, we will have the local kayaking club and Plockton sailing club enabling people to get out on the water. Onshore the obstacle course is making a welcome return as well as face painting, rope throwing, knot tying and much more. Bring your lifejackets along and our sea safety officer will be on hand to check their condition for you.'

The day, which starts at 11am, will be rounded off with the fire brigade's annual raft race at 6pm.



Special Olympians: the Disability Sport Lochaber bocchia team proudly display their medal haul.

**Bocchia team celebrates Olympic medal haul**

MEMBERS of the Disability Sport Lochaber bocchia team competed in the Special Olympics held in Bath last week - and brought home a clutch of medals.

Despite having to perform on a surface very different to the one used at home,

players Natasha Brown, Jean Mitchell and Claire Madden took gold, Mary Mitchell a bronze while Matthew MacLean claimed a fourth place ribbon. The games, held in the Sports Division of Bath University, attracted 1,700 athletes taking part in a

number of disciplines, including others from the Highlands with Lochaber specialising in the bocchia events.

Bocchia is similar to bowls and is particularly suited to players with a disability.

**Store boss stole £15,000 from Argos**

Manager embezzled cash to fund gambling addiction and drug use

**EXCLUSIVE**

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT William man stole £15,000 from his employer to finance his gambling addiction and cocaine use.

Argos store manager Dion Gibb pocketed the cash after filling in cash slips, telling work colleagues they were for wages in advance or that his bank card had been closed.

The fraud only came to light when auditors found cash missing and the fake slips stashed in a safe and the till.

On the day auditors arrived and Gibb was told who they were he acknowledged he was going to be in trouble, prosecutor Laura Ryan told Fort William Sheriff Court.

'Cocaine and gambling were his reasons for taking the money,' she said. 'It had been his intention to repay it and was hoping for a big win to do that but the amount he had taken had

got out of control.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said first offender Gibb, 39, had tried to reimburse the company, but made only one payment of more than £1,000 - leaving £13,967.43 unpaid.

'The offence had an inevitability about it,' said Mr Melrose. 'The whole thing snowballed - he had household debts and problems with his landlord. He was suspended then dismissed.'

'He made a full admission to police. The arresting officers advised him to see a community psychiatric nurse to help him with his gambling. He took

cocaine to calm his depression at the time but there is no problem there now.'

Heading Mr Melrose's plea not to jail his client, Sheriff Noel McPartlin sentenced Gibb to a community payback order comprising 18 months' supervision under the social work department and 200 hours of unpaid work in the community. He was also ordered to pay £2,000 compensation to Argos.

The sheriff told Gibb: 'This was a gross breach of trust. You seem to have some weakness in the area of gambling and supervision would be important.'

Gibb, of 45 Ross Place, earlier admitted embezzling around £15,000 from Argos on North Road in the town between February 1, 2012 and January 14, 2013 while employed as store manager.



Allan Henderson has turned down pleas for a campaign to keep him as Provost of Lochaber. 20\_13gallan01

**Provost of Lochaber turns down pleas for campaign to keep him in office**

CAOL and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson has turned down pleas for a campaign to keep him as Provost of Lochaber following what he describes as his 'removal' from the civic role.

Lochaber area committee councillors agreed to rethink the need for a provost following Councillor Thomas MacLennan's election as new Lochaber area committee leader at a meeting last week.

Councillor Henderson thanked those who had offered support

since then - but ruled out any move to have the decision overturned.

In a statement to *The Oban Times*, he said: 'Thanks for the offers to mount a campaign for me to be re-instated, which I will not be taking up.'

'For me the chain of office has been tarnished. I will now remain with all my happy memories of the last six years.'

'Thanks also to the previous group of local councillors who had the confidence to promote me to the provost-ship which

I always knew was only on a temporary basis.'

'To this end we had a mechanism for reviewing the position. Sadly in this case it was not used. I will however treasure this honour for the rest of my days.'

**Privilege**

He added: 'It has been a great privilege to represent the people of Lochaber at civic functions. In this role of provost I have made many friends for Lochaber and lasting personal friendships. While voluntary and time

consuming it has been a really rewarding time.'

Councillor Henderson's ward colleague Councillor Eddie Hunter had likened the controversy to Caesar being knifed in the back by his erstwhile supporters.

But Councillor Bill Clark rubbished suggestions of skulduggery, describing the provost's protests as 'pathetic'.

The civic role will be formally discussed at the Lochaber councillors' next business meeting in Fort William on Monday.

**Kinlochleven drunk admits fire threat**

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has admitted threatening to burn down the house of a police officer who detained him.

Robert Fordham also pled guilty to obstructing three police officers in the execution of their duties and lashing out at them at Fort William Police Station.

Inebriated Fordham, of 14 Gordon Square, was detained at a bus stop near the station after attending the Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range on June 8, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Prosecutor Laura Ryan said:

'When they told him he was being aggressive he lashed out and told one officer 'I know where you live and I'm going to burn you out!'

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said: 'Mr Fordham was grabbed by the upper arm by police and pulled to one side.'

'He accepts his behaviour towards police officers was completely unacceptable. They were spur of the moment comments.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered 34-year-old Fordham to carry out 40 hours' unpaid work in the community.



Top of the class: Portree Primary School janitor Donald Gillies, together with pupils Ella MacFarlane and Freya King, receive their award from Councillor John Gordon.

**Skye big hearts honoured**

BIG-HEARTED community groups and individuals from Skye were honoured for their achievements and contribution to local life at an awards ceremony in Portree on Monday.

Billy Reid, nominated by Kyleakin and Kyleheca Community Council, won the community award for his lifelong membership and service to local groups, including over 30 years on the village and then community council, and 20 years as local Justice of the Peace.

Young people category winner was Alan MacKenzie, nominated by Portree and Braes Community Council, for his voluntary work as Pipe Major of Isle of Skye Pipe Band, his

support for Skye Youth Pipe Band/Portree High School Pipe Band and the Youth Fellowship of the Church of Scotland.

Portree Primary School, nominated by head teacher John Finlayson, won the environment award for improvements to the all-community use school grounds, while Lorayne McLucas, nominated by Lorna Cormack, won the arts and music award for establishing the successful Skyedance committee. Skye Sailing Club, nominated by Rosie Somerville, claimed the sport award for its achievements since becoming a recognised Royal Yachting Association (RYA) training centre in 1998. Councillor

Drew Millar praised and thanked the winners for their 'outstanding' work in and for their communities.

Speaking on behalf of the Eilean a' Cheò ward members, he said: 'Volunteering is not just enriching for the wider community it is also fulfilling for those who volunteer.'

'We have some fantastic, enthusiastic people in Skye and Lochalsh who give of their time to us. We congratulate each award winner and also thank everyone for their nominations.' Each winner received a certificate and a specially commissioned plate by Uig Pottery, which they will retain for a year.

**Cyclist denies making up story he was mugged**

A CAOL man has denied falsely representing to police that he was mugged by a masked man in Canal Parks.

James Mathers told officers he had been struck on the face by a man who then stole his wallet containing £180 as he cycled through woods on November 27 last year.

The incident raised fears in the village, coming just 12 days after an elderly shopkeeper was held up at knifepoint in Caol shopping centre.

Mathers, aged 35, of 16 Cameron Place, has been ordered to appear at a further hearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on September 12. A number of witnesses are expected to give evidence at the upcoming trial.

**Fort footballer admits assaulting man in Mallaig**

A 23-YEAR-OLD Fort William footballer has admitted assaulting a man in Mallaig in which three other men were allegedly involved.

Sean Grant pled guilty through his solicitor at Fort William Sheriff Court to punching Ewan MacIntyre on the head at East Bay on September 9 last year.

Grant's co-accused, Mallaig men 20-year-old Samuel Robertson, of 11 Gordon Place, and Donnie Dempster, of 10 Blaven View, together with Lewis MacDonald, of 14 Camanachd Crescent in Fort William, deny their part in the incident.

Robertson is accused of pushing Mr MacIntyre on the body, tripping him up and repeatedly kicking him on the head and body, all to his severe injury.

MacDonald is accused of repeatedly punching Mr MacIntyre on the head and Dempster of punching Mr MacIntyre on the head. All three have pled not guilty.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentence on Grant, who works as a butcher in Oban, until September 24.

A further hearing of the case involving the other three men will be held on the same date.

**Inspection team's top class marks for Upper Achintore Primary School**

UPPER Achintore Primary School in Fort William has received high marks from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMI) assessors following a visit to check standards.

In a follow-up report this week, head teacher Nick Thomson was praised for his leadership role in skilfully building teamwork under the school's motto of 'learning, achieving, succeeding together'.

All staff, parents, children and partners are contributing to the continuous improvement of the school, while Mr Thomson was 'very well respected by almost all parents',

Inspector Joan Esson found. She said: 'We are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.'

The report noted the children were 'highly motivated and enthusiastic' about their learning and achievement and benefited from 'a rich curriculum' developed by staff to inspire them.

High-quality opportunities were also provided for children in the

nursery to learn through play. Pupils recognised the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of taking part in lunchtime and after-school clubs.

Language and mathematics were 'improving' although there was potential for children to make further progress, said the report.

In the nursery, meanwhile, children were making good progress in early language and mathematics.

The inspection team made only two recommendations - improve children's attainment further, especially in writing, and improve the

consistency and level of challenge within learning, while continuing to develop Curriculum for Excellence.

A 'delighted' Mr Thomson said of the report: 'It clearly recognises the hard work, commitment and dedication of staff, pupils and parents, all working together to successfully deliver a Curriculum for Excellence.'

Parent council chairperson Sharon Rydings said: 'This is testament to all the hard work of everyone in school. I am confident the school will continue to make further gains in the future through its work with parents, pupils and partners.'

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

HARSH realities are such that hearing them isn't always easy - even if you know what you're being told is true.

It is undeniable that Oban is at risk of seriously falling behind as a tourist destination. Its infrastructure is creaking at the seams, the tourist facilities remain geared towards travel to the isles and it is, frankly, failing at keeping those people who do come to Oban in the town. A lack of decent, central, long-stay parking alone is testament to that.

Further proof of that was heard at Oban Community Council, where it emerged passengers of a cruise ship which stopped at the town during the Argyllshire Gathering didn't even know the event was happening.

Many of the organisational issues limiting Oban's potential are now being looked at but, frankly, it needs to be more attractive and easier to access - significant investment is essential to make that happen.

Both the CHORD and TIF projects are vital to Oban's long-term future and addressing these issues, so it is hoped Argyll and Bute Council move swiftly to ensure Sandy MacTaggart's departure doesn't cause the schemes further difficulty.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Ceol's Craic

#### Americana Night

CEOL'S Craic, in partnership with An Lochran, will get its 2013/14 programme underway at the CCA, 350 Sauchiehall Street, on Saturday September 14 with an Americana Night.

This evening of music will celebrate the worldwide appeal of this genre and in particular its connection with Gaelic music. The event will get underway at 7.30pm when Macanna, fronted by Dol Eoin MacKinnon, will present its unique brand of Americana and folk/rock based songs in both Gaelic and English. They will be followed, at 8pm, by three of the Veloninos from Port Glasgow who will be joined for the first time by Gaelic singer Ceitlin Smith from Lewis, currently a traditional music student at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Away from his role as a member of the increasingly successful group Manran, singer Norrie 'Tago' MacIver will perform Gaelic country music from 9pm.

Over the past few years Ceol's Craic has provided a platform for different forms of Gaelic music and this September concert has a programme which should appeal to a wide ranging audience. Children are welcome until 10pm. Tickets cost £10/£8 and can be bought from the venue, telephone 041 352 4900, or from www.cealgasgow.ticketsolve.com.

Earlier in the week, on Tuesday September 10, Ceol's Craic will present a bilingual illustrated talk, 'Awopbopaloobop', which will look at rock 'n' roll tours which came to Glasgow from 1957 to 1964. This will also be in the

CCA starting at 6.30pm and as well as the music there will be nostalgia which will include dancing, fashion, hairstyles and long gone venues.

### Inverclyde Gaelic classes

GAELIC classes in Inverclyde at beginners, intermediate and advanced level will start on Tuesday September 10 from 7pm till 9pm in Inverclyde Academy, Cumberland Road, Greenock.

They will run until Tuesday December 10. There will be no classes during the week of the Royal National Mod, the week beginning October 14. For further information contact Sheena Maclean on 0141 577 3306.

### Diary dates

**Tuesday September 10:** Live at the Star, Admiral Bar, 72, Waterloo Street, 8pm, Jenna Reid and Kevin MacKenzie. Gaelic Quiz, Park Bar, 7.30pm. Ceol's Craic-see above.

**Friday September 13:** Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Beacon Arts Centre, Custom House Quay, Greenock, 7.30pm.

**Saturday September 14:** Ceol's Craic - see above. Scottish Fiddle Orchestra, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

### Pub scene

PARTING Glass will be playing in the Islay Inn on Friday evening with Black Velvet there on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Eriskey Lilt on Friday, Monach Isles on Saturday and Nicky McMechan on Sunday. **Neil Murray, Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

## Times Diary

### Audrey gets Elaine in the zone

IT MAY have been caused by cheering on her beloved Celtic Football Club in Oban's Coasters bar the previous night or just part of her usual preparations, but last Thursday Elaine C Smith required a visit to Boots the Chemist ahead of her Oban gig.

On the search for Vocalzone to aid her singing voice, the actress requested the throat pastilles from shop assistant Lynn Parr, from Taynuilt. To her alarm, the shop had sold out of the herbal vocal remedy.

The Rab C Nesbitt star was considering Lynn's numerous alternative offerings when local singer Audrey Paterson, another Taynuilt woman who was in the shop at the time, offered to donate her own packet of Vocalzone for the greater good.

A grateful Elaine attempted to reimburse Audrey but her offer was politely refused. 'People from Oban are so kind,' said Elaine.

'Taynuilt,' Audrey replied. 'Taynuilt,' Lynn added.



FIRST there was the Celtic Park fox, Paul the Octopus who predicted the outcome of the 2010 World Cup matches and, of course, the Benfica Eagle, who swoops around the Stadium of Light before every match.

Now, Oban's Mossfield Park has its own equivalent, Coke, the terrier who decided watching from the sidelines wasn't good enough during Saturday's Bullough Cup Final. Dashing on to the park late on, the energetic pet attempted to aid Kyles by causing chaos in the Ballachulish defence.

Unfortunately for Kyles, his efforts came to a brisk end, when - much like a premier league footballer - he became too interested in a member of the opposite sex trackside to continue his charge.

## YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page.

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

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

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

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



## Getting ready for the Lorn Show

This week's flashback photograph was submitted by Anne Love of Southend, Campbeltown, and shows the boys and girls of yester year who set up the field in time for the Lorn Show. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

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### Bad drivers must be prosecuted

Sir, Having recently very narrowly avoided, with my wife, serious injury or more probably death in the Pass of Brander because of mindless dangerous driving, I regard calls to upgrade the A85 as misplaced. *The Oban Times* August 29.

Those who choose to put the lives of others and themselves at risk will only behave sensibly on the road if they know that to do otherwise it will result in prosecution.

Cameras, capable of identifying culprits' registration plates, including those of motor cyclists given the apparent determination of many riders to be included in road crash statistics, should therefore be employed to obtain proof of offending and to deter those so minded.

**Duncan MacIntyre, Greenock.**

### Action required for passengers

Sir, If cruise ships did not offer attractive shore excursions to their passengers, they would not come to Oban in the first place.

Many people hesitate before visiting an unfamiliar town as individuals, but they enjoy the group experience of a shore excursion. Also, they may not have the ability or energy to walk far.

Oban is the gateway to some of the most spectacular scenery in the world. Why attempt to deny passengers the chance to see it for themselves? Or preventing places such as Inverary or Kilmartin from benefiting from the business?

I was not with *MS Albatros* last week, but as a member of the Scottish Tourist Guides Association, I was with *MS Minerva* the previous week and have accompanied many tours from Oban over the years.

As guides, we make sure to point out the attractions of Oban such as the War and Peace Museum, Oban Distillery and McCaig's Tower.

Some cruise ships offer walking tours of the town. Many of the tours leave enough time for passengers to roam freely if they wish before the last tender leaves for the ship.

Oban might consider following the example of some other ports of call, such as setting up a craft market, providing tasting sessions of local produce or welcoming passengers ashore with the Oban Pipe Band, any one of which might encourage them to explore the town.

A little positive action could make Oban a truly great destination. **Fionna Eden-Bushell, Glasgow.**

### Thanks to CalMac ferry staff

Sir, Recently, through no fault of my own, I found myself with two livestock lorries on the Coll ferry bringing livestock back to the mainland, with no return booking having been made.

This, as you can well imagine, was not ideal as we are already working to a limited time frame to bring these animals from the islands to the mainland for auction sales.

While we managed to get one vehicle back to the mainland that day, with one having to stay on Coll and return the following evening, I would like to give

a big thanks to the crew of the *MV Lord of the Isles* for trying to make extra space when loading the ferry for its return journey.

I would also like to thank John James at Coll pier for his assistance and Finlay McCrae and Alison in the Oban office for doing what they could and keeping me well informed.

**Ian Murrie, For Ian Murrie Haulage Ltd, Stirling.**

### Dangers of Japanese knotweed

Sir, It was interesting to note in a recent *Oban Times* the invitation to tender for the control of rhododendrons within the Lomond and Argyll Forest Park, amounting to £1.6 million over four years.

Obviously rhododendron bushes are non-native, invasive and considerably damaging to native plant species.

However, of much greater significance within Argyll is the rapid, out-of-control spread of Japanese knotweed.

This extremely noxious weed is found in profusion at many sites within Argyll and very little seems to be being done to halt its spread. This invasive species can damage structures including concrete; and if residential properties have it present, their owners usually find that mortgages and building insurance cannot be obtained for them. Japanese knotweed is notoriously difficult to eradicate and only certain chemical sprays are effective against it.

These are usually applied by specialist contractors and several applications may be needed over a number of years to ensure eradication. Cultural methods of

control such as cutting or digging out are ineffective against Japanese Knotweed and this only encourages its growth and spread.

The Weeds Act of 1959, the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (Scotland 1972), all require the control of noxious weeds. Failure to do so renders property occupiers liable to fines.

It would seem that not enough publicity is being given to the dangers of Japanese knotweed infestation, nor does it seem that local councils are doing much to control it. Perhaps an invitation to tender for the control of Japanese knotweed within Argyll should be a priority? **Name and address supplied.**

### Cast your SRU vote

Sir, This year the Scottish Rugby Union is giving the public the chance to vote for a player to be inducted into The Hall of Fame.

Among the candidates chosen by a panel is John M Bannerman, who between 1921 and 1929 gained 37 successive caps for Scotland. For a number of years this was the record number of caps gained by a Scottish player and this at a time when less international games were played than at present.

Apart from being an outstanding rugby player, he was also a Gaelic speaker, composer of Gaelic songs and a Liberal politician. I remember as a pupil at Keil School hearing him giving the main speech on prize day in the 1950s. We already have a Gaelic speaker in the Scottish Football Hall of Fame - Johnny MacKenzie from Tiree. The SRU will be issuing details this month on how to vote via their website, Twitter and Facebook.

**Alistair MacNeill, North Berwick.**

## ISLAY LETTER

of the play 'Angus - Weaver of Grass' performed before an appreciative audience in Bowmore village hall on Saturday.

The production, utilising puppetry, filmed animation, Gaelic song and effective

back projections, told the story of Angus MacPhee, a member of a South Uist crofting family, who spent 50 'devoid of speech' years of his life in a psychiatric unit in Inverness. He had joined the Lovat Scouts at the outbreak of the World War II but was invalided out of the army while serving in the Faroes.

He was diagnosed as schizophrenic and eventually worked on the farm attached to the psychiatric unit. There, he would collect grass from which he created coats, hats and boots thereby displaying his outstanding creative abilities which had been forged at his home island croft.

Sadly many of his creations were burnt by the hospital staff and all would have been lost without the interest shown in his work by the art therapist Joyce Laing. Thanks to her intervention, a number of Angus's grass works survived and are now held in the Collection de l'Art Brut in Switzerland.

The play, written and directed by Bob Frith, captured the pathos of a life dogged by mental illness, the resultant non-communication and the limited treatments available at that time.

Nevertheless, Angus's story was inspirational because, although trapped in a world of darkness and fear and grossly institutionalised, he was able to form, from simple ingredients, creations that could not fail to impress.

The theatre company's island visit was arranged in partnership with the Islay Arts Association and Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile. **Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Tel:01496 810658.**

### Cash for lifeboat

TWO YOUNG ladies with strong local connections have raised, through sponsorship, more than £1,600 for Islay's lifeboat station at Port Askaig.

Heather Metcalfe, younger daughter of Carol and Dr Malcolm Ogilvie of Bruichladdich, cycled from Lands' End to John O' Groats and has raised in excess of £1,100 for the local Royal National Lifeboat Institution's branch.

Heather, head of strategy at Baxters of Fochabers, lives in Lossiemouth and is married to a former RAF Tornado pilot now engaged in administrative duties.

Keeping to byways, she cycled close on 900 miles to reach her north of Scotland goal. The sponsored cycle run, to which a number of Ilich contributed, took place while the country was gripped in the recent heatwave and Heather was only required to don her waterproofs once on her long journey.

You can still contribute to Heather's cause on <http://www.justgiving.com/Heather-Metcalfe/>

Perth resident Mhairi Mackinnon, also with strong Ilich connections, tramped



Heather Metcalfe at John O'Groats.

the West Highland Way and raised £566.50 through her efforts. She has donated £246.50 to the Port Askaig station and has sent the remainder to the RNLI headquarters at Poole. She recently visited the station and presented her cheque to a grateful lifeboat coxswain David MacLellan.

Mhairi's family has had a long association with the lifesaving charity. Her father Nicol is an RNLI systems technician and her grandfather Duncan Mackinnon was a local lifeboat crew member in the mid 1950s. He was also awarded the RNLI's vellum citation for his part in the rescue of the fishing vessel 'May' in October 1959. Well done girls!

### Play impresses

The Horse and Bamboo Theatre Company greatly impressed with their production



Mhairi Mackinnon presents a £246 cheque to the Islay lifeboat crew.

## Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

CHAN eil dearbhadh gun deuchainn, a rèir an t-seanfhaicil. Air an t-seachdain a chaidh thug mi iomradh air rathad an A9 a dhèanamh dà-fhillte agus na beachdan eadar-dhealaichte a' th' ann air an t-slighe a dhèanamh nas sàbhailte.

Tha mòran an aghaidh mhòlaidhean Riaghaltas na h-Alba sgrùdadh camara a chleachdadh gus rian a chumail air astar agus iad ag argamaid gur e leamhadh le bhith air am bacadh le làraidhean slaodach a tha ag adhbharachadh draibhearann a' feuchainn seachd nuair nach eil sin sàbhailte.

Tha ùine bho thòisich iomairt gus astar ceadaichte làraidhean air rathaidean aon-fhillte àrdachadh bhò 40 gu 50 mìle san uair agus chan eil teagamh nach eil comas nan innealan air fàs thar nam bliadhnaichean gu ìre a chothaicheadh gu sàbhailte ri astar den t-seòrsa.

Ged a tha Ministear Còmh-dhail na h-Albann Cè MacIleDhuinn a-nise dèanach gabhail ris an argamaid sin, tha e ag iarraidh dearbhadh gun cuideachadh seo sàbhailteachd agus aonta bhon phoileas.

Their cuid nach eil an sin ach leigseal eile bho neach-poilitigs gus co-dhùnadh a sheachnadh.

Fhad 's a tha sin a' tachairt an seo, tha Ameireagaidh a sior mhaoidheadh ionnsaigh armaichte air Siria, a' fàgail air riaghaltas Assad gun do mharbh iad faisg air mìle gu leth le armachd cheimigeach.

A dh'aindeoin 's ged nach eil luchd-sgrùdaidh nan Rìoghachdan Aonaichte fhathast air breithneachadh a dhèanamh air na lorg iad air làrach an ionnsaigh cheimigeach ann an Damascus, tha Ameireagaidh cinnteach gur e riaghaltas Shiria a rinn an cron seo air an cuid slugh fhèin agus tha Prìomhair Riaghaltas Bhreatainn ag aontachadh.

Saoidh mi gun d' rinn na Buill Pàrlamaid ann an Lunnainn an co-dhùnadh ceart nuair a dh' iarr iad dearbhadh cinnteach air a' chron, agus cò bu chòireach, mun ceadaicheadh iad dha Breatainn a dhol an sàs ann an ionnsaigh sam bith air Siria.

Aig an aon àm, agus an dèidh ceathrar luchd-obrach a bhith air an call ann an tubaist eile le heileacoptair, agus a dh'aindeoin 's ged nach robh Buidheann-Sgrùdaidh Thubastean Adhair fhathast air cothrom fhaotainn rannsachadh a dhèanamh air sprùilleach an t-soithich a thuit, dh'aontaich Ughdarras Chatharra Sgèth gun robh e iomchaidh an Super Puma a leigeil air ais a dh'obair.

Thuir an t-Ughdarras nach robh iadsan a' creidsinn gur e dad teicnigeach a dh' adhbharach an tubaist agus ma tha leithid sin de leirsinn aca, feumar faighneachd an bheil feum air Buidheann-Sgrùdaidh Thubastean Adhair?

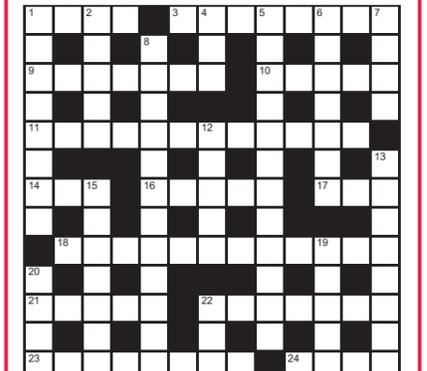
DECISION makers always face situations where action is required before all evidence is available, but little wonder people are confused by the importance attached to evidence and proof.

When the Scottish Transport Minister wants proof that allowing HGVs to move faster on the A9 will ease frustration and make things safer; and The Civil Aviation Authority allows Super Pumas back to work before the latest accident has been fully investigated; and David Cameron and the USA are convinced the Assad regime is guilty of chemical warfare against the Syrian people before the UN investigators have done their analysis.

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

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## THE OBAN TIMES GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- |                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Across</b>                         | <b>Down</b>   |
| 1 Remain (4)                          | 1 Rather (8)  |
| 3 Sticky attraction for insects (8)   | 2 Aspicous (5)  |
| 9 Dye colour named after a battle (7) | 4 Meadow (3)  |
| 10 Sieves through (5)                 | 5 Work after obtaining the highest academic degree (12) |
| 11 What is left over (5,7)            | 6 Grumpy looking (2-5)                                  |
| 14 Also (3)                           | 7 Foolhardy (4)   |
| 16 Devastation (5)                    | 8 Inflammation of the brain (12)                        |
| 17 By which one can be traced (3)     | 12 Fix firmly (5)                                       |
| 18 Developmental (12)                 | 13 Dark colour of uniforms maybe (4,4)                  |
| 21 Minimal (5)                        | 15 Drift (7)  |
| 22 Enclosed area around the altar (7) | 19 African capital (5)                                  |
| 23 Wood and tar mix (8)               | 20 Coalition (4)  |
| 24 Key university? (4)                | 22 Finish cry in production (3)                         |

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# Wedding Editor

**AUTUMN** is becoming an increasingly popular time for weddings; the hectic nature of summer



There are many things to remember before your wedding takes place and regardless of what point your preparations are at, read on for our 'to do' list. You need to start making key decisions straight away. Things like what sort of ceremony you want to have, what sort of colour scheme you would like and how much you are going to spend on your big

day all need clearly set out. Next on the list is checking out venues – make sure you both agree on somewhere rather than one person making a big sacrifice in this area. Once you have booked your venue, book the same date and time with your minister or registrar – also give notice at your local register office. If your reception is to be held some-

where else remember and book that too. Wedding insurance is an increasingly popular addition and couples say they rest easier knowing if something goes wrong they won't be out of pocket. Next up is deciding how many people you want to invite and drafting a guest list. Be prepared to compromise on this one. Ladies, it is time to start looking for that elusive wedding dress. Try on lots of different materials and styles to get a feel for what really suits you. Don't forget to choose your bridesmaids, they can be good company when hunting for the dress. And grooms, the time has come to choose a

best man. Some men may not be too sure what that entails so go over what needs to be done and what his duties will be. If you are planning a honeymoon after your big day now would be a good time to check your passport is valid – many countries will require you to have six months to run on your passport or you may be denied entry. Make sure and book time off work for your honeymoon. When it comes to six months before your wedding you must order your bridesmaids dresses. There will need to be subsequent fittings. You should also have your wedding dress ordered by now, if not get choosing. Make sure you remember

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The Oban Times has five pairs of tickets up for grabs. To enter, simply answer this easy question, complete the coupon and post it to Oban Times, Wedding Competition, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Entries must be submitted by Monday, October 23, 2013.

**In which month does the Autumn 2013 Scottish Wedding Show take place?**  
**A** September **B** October **C** November

Answer .....

Name .....

Address .....

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Email .....

Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB  
 Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 3rd May.  
 Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.

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# Things

has passed and the west Highlands are shrouded in glorious colours and stunning sunsets.



Photograph supplied by Carrs Loch Lomond



Photograph supplied by Highland Photos

and get any appropriate accessories to go with your dress. Decide on what sort of transport you would like for your big day and book it. Now is also a good time to book photographers, caterers and any musicians or djs you might be having. Looking good is important on your wedding day so don't forget to book a hairdresser and someone to do your makeup if you would like that. Remember to go for a trial beforehand. You might also want to think about making a wedding gift list and ordering your wedding cake. About three months before your wedding it is wise to start

thinking about table decorations, favours and place cards. You should also be arranging fittings for the groom and best man as well as buying the wedding rings. Don't forget to send out invitations to your guests. You should choose and order the flowers you want on your day, also start thinking about vows, readings and ceremony music. Decide on a first dance - and get practising if you're not keen. Confirm your ceremony details with your minister or registrar about two months beforehand. Have final fittings about a month beforehand and confirm

all of your bookings from wedding suppliers and timings with the venue. Don't forget to find time for your stag or hen do's and also arrange a date for the wedding rehearsal if necessary. Shortly before your big day you should confirm numbers with caterers and make sure they know of any special dietary requirements. Make sure you have paid any suppliers that require money in advance. It is a good idea for the groom to get a haircut about a week before the wedding

and you should also start packing for your honeymoon. It is polite to write out thank you cards and buy some gifts for any helpers you have had. The day before the wedding you should drop off any decorations, table plans, favours and a guest book if you're having one at your venue. Make sure you take out cash for any payments you need to make on your big day and remember to hand the rings over to the best man. The night before you should lay out your

wedding outfits and make sure all accessories are there too. This will save any panic in the morning. Head to bed early, a good nights sleep is vital and will help you be fresh for your wedding. Don't forget to set your alarm and eat breakfast the next morning. Your stomach will thank you later. Your day has finally arrived, enjoy yourself and let other people worry about the details.

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# what's on

THE OBAN TIMES  
FREE EVENT LISTING

## THURSDAY - September 5

9.20am, Ramblers Scotland Bridge of Orchy walk, meet Glencoe Village car park.  
6pm, Modern Languages opening, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.  
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## FRIDAY - September 6

9.30pm, Music session, Loch Melfort Hotel, Arduaine.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## SATURDAY - September 7

10am, Drawing the human figure, Nether Lochaber Community Hall.  
10.30am, Recording gravestone working party, Annat, Appin  
10am, Ramblers Scotland Kentallen walk, meet Ballachulish tourist info.  
Night time Manx Shearwater colony expedition, Isle of Rum

## SUNDAY - September 8

2pm, Producers' Market, Craignure Hall, Mull.  
3.30pm, The Hobyah Play, Achnabrac Forest Park, Kilmichael.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## MONDAY - September 9

8pm, Scottish Country Dancing, Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban.

## TUESDAY - September 10

7pm, Derek Acorah, Corran Halls, Oban.  
8.30pm, McKenzie Sawers Duo, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.

## WEDNESDAY - September 11

10am, Rangers walk to Lochbuie and Moy Castle, meet Lochbuie Post Office, Mull.  
8pm, Europa, Bunessan Hall, Mull.  
9pm, Quiz, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## THURSDAY - September 12

9.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glenfinnan walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill.  
8pm, The Drawer Boy, Mull Theatre, Drumfin, Tobermory, Mull.  
8pm, Europa, Victory Hall, Benderloch.  
9pm, John 'the box' Turnbull, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## FRIDAY - September 13

Mull Mòd, juniors, various venues.  
8.30pm, Tannahill Weavers, An Tobar, Tobermory, Mull.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

## SATURDAY - September 14

Mull Mòd, seniors, various venues.  
7.15pm, Ken Campbell and Lindsey Aitken, Kilmartin Museum.  
7.30pm, Blas Festival, Bunessan Hall, Mull.  
7.30pm, The Drawer Boy, Appin Hall.

## SUNDAY - September 15

8.30am, Ramblers Scotland Glen Feshie walk, meet Fort William Woolen Mill.  
11am - 3pm, Forest Fun Day, Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine.  
10pm, Disco, The Lorne Bar, Oban.

Send your events to whatson@obantimes.co.uk.

# New book unearths 19th century crime in Argyll and the Isles

A NEW book has lifted the lid on Argyll and the Isles' criminal underworld during the 19th century, from a riotous mob on Tiree to a mysterious death in Cowal. Malcolm Archibald's *Whisky Wars, Riots and Murder*, published by Black and White Publishing, unearths the uglier side of a region that was more widely reported at the time as a Highland sporting paradise. Writing exclusively for The Oban Times, the following article by Mr Archibald tells just some of the unsavoury stories of the time.

'THE LOWEST and vilest alleys in London do not present a more dreadful record of sin than does the smiling and beautiful countryside.'

Conan Doyle wrote these words in 'The Copper Beeches', published in 1892, and he might almost be speaking of Argyll in that century.

It would be difficult to find more beautiful countryside than that of the west coast of Scotland and the Inner Hebrides, yet in the 19th century the area saw a whole raft of crime, including riots, a thief who targeted tourist hotels and a murder that made national headlines.

Campbeltown was particularly prone to riots in the early years of the century. There were riots over the price of bread, and riots when the Royal Navy tried to press gang the local seamen, but they paled into insignificance compared to the later disturbances on Tiree.

Faced with destitution, in 1883 the crofters of Tiree organised a land raid to increase their holdings. The landowner, the Duke of Argyll, objected and shortly afterwards the grandly named Tiree Expeditionary Force set sail from Oban; 40 police to enforce the Duke's Law.

They landed at Gott Bay but faced with 200 angry crofters, withdrew to Oban with their tails between their legs. Perhaps fearful of another Jacobite Rising, the authorities responded with a full blown naval expedition that saw the Royal Marines marching across the island and a handful of

crofters jailed. Of course not every crime - if land raiding was indeed a crime - created such a response, which was just as well, really. This part of Scotland had more than its fair share of criminality.

There was illicit whisky smuggling in Knapdale, Tiree's own whisky galore, ship robbers in Jura and Sanda and even a school teacher from Lochgoilhead accused of cruelty.

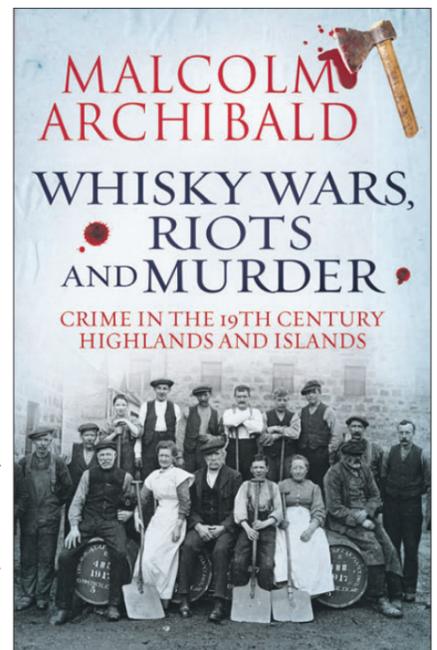
Murder was not common, but it came in many shapes and guises. There was a suspected murder on a fishing boat off Mull. There was a triple murder on Benbecula that saw the islanders sheltering behind locked doors and posses of men scouring the moors. There was a murder at the Crinan Canal that was successfully solved and the guilty man executed using only circumstantial evidence. Perhaps the most high profile killing may not have been murder at all.

In 1893, Windsor Hambrough was a young man, heir to a fortune and he was found dead in the woods behind Ardlamont House, Cowal. Was it suicide or murder? That question was asked the length and breadth of the country, but the case unearthed more wide ranging concerns about the number of gentry who lived beyond their means and exactly who and what a gentleman might be.

But the Scottish west was dynamic and tourists followed the example of Walter Scott and Queen Victoria. The Highlands became a Mecca for those with a love for 'romantic' scenery, with new hotels opening in towns that became tourist destinations.

Crime followed the scent of money and in 1883 a professional thief scoured the Highland hotels, starting with Oban and working his way to jail via Loch Awe and Braemar.

Overall, the 19th century Highlands was a fascinating area, with crime imbedded in every facet of the culture, from crofting to fishing, it was found on sporting estates and in the outwardly quiet towns, in the deep glens and at sea. Forget the tranquil image: this area was nothing but a cauldron of unrest.



The front cover of Mr Archibald's new book, *Whisky Wars, Riots and Murder*. t36malcolm2no



Author Malcolm Archibald. t36malcolm1no



## Poor turnout for Alf's Rally

WITH only two riders turning up, this year's Alf's Rally from Atlantis Leisure was all but cancelled, leaving little in return for the Oban Community Playpark fundraising team.

Children were entertained inside Atlantis Leisure for the normally popular annual charity event, with facepainting and a bouncy castle providing ample entertainment, while kids also got a chance to clamber aboard a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

The two riders that did attend completed the rally route though - a 100 mile drive from Oban to Glencoe and back to Oban via Tyndrum.

Despite the disappointing turnout, £192 was raised on the day.

Meanwhile, the MacQueen Charitable Trust donated £300 to buy the bouncy castle, which Atlantis Leisure will hold and insure.

Young Erik Turnewitsch, four, and his three year old spider-buddy Finlay Cottier, back, get a taste of what it's like to ride a Harley Davidson, watched by Atlantis mascot, Alf. 16\_t36alfally1

## Photographs gifted to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

THE CARNEGIE Trust has gifted a collection of photographs by renowned Skye photographer Cailean Maclean to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Sleat.

The prints depict various aspects of community land and the communities owning that land in Scotland.

They were commissioned by the trust for any Jim Hunter's book 'From the Low Tide of the Sea to the Highest Mountain Top: Community Ownership of Land in the Highlands and Islands'.

Some 40 of the framed photos and 213 digital images from the collection will soon be on display at the college in an upcoming exhibition.

SMO Principal, Professor Boyd Robertson, said 'We deem it a great honour that the college has been chosen by the Carnegie Trust to be custodian of these remarkable photographs.'

'They provide a pictorial record of an immensely important period in the history of landholding and tenancy in the Highlands, a subject of study in courses offered by the college.'

Mr Maclean said: 'I'm delighted that further use is being made of the pictures and especially pleased, given my long-term connection with the college, that they are now archived with Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.'

**Dick Gaughan**  
**Easdale Island Community Hall**  
The kind of voice that could stop a train in its tracks  
- *The Independent*  
**Saturday 14 Sept**  
8.30pm, (doors & bar 7.30 pm), late return ferry  
Entry £12/£10 (accompanied under 16s free)

## Giant vegetables on display at Taynuilt Horticultural Show



Billy Hay, Hugh MacLeod and Hector MacKenzie show off some of the bigger vegetables to be shown at this year's Taynuilt Horticultural Show. 16\_t36tayhort2

GIANT leeks, burgeoning onions and fantastic flowers were just some of the displays to enrich this year's Taynuilt Horticultural Show.

As in previous years, the village hall was awash with competitors and locals keen to see the astonishing efforts of the green-fingered.

Once again, judges were left with a host of

hard decisions, with the standard very high. However, there was a shortage of entries in the baking and children's' classes this year and the organisers are to look at how to improve the picture next year.

Full results will follow next week.



Taynuilt Horticultural Show prizewinners are, from left, Brenda MacLean, Leslie Servant, Laurence Scott, Iain Brown, Hugh MacLeod and Islay MacNab. 16\_t36tayhort1

## Success at Glengarry Produce Show

THE THIRD annual Glengarry Produce Show gave local people the chance to show off the fruits of their labours on Saturday - and they did just that as high class entries from in and around Invergarry filled the village community hall with flowers, vegetables and artwork.

Trophy for most points in show went to Neil Stewart, who also picked up joint first place in the floral section, while the David MacCallum Memorial Cup for best exhibit was given to Invergarry man David Sutherland for his handmade violin.

Youngster Josie Bloom won most points in the children's section, and Fergus Fraser took top spot in the high school category.

Organiser Gayle Rand said there had been a 'wonderful turnout' for the show which saw the hall packed out with exhibitors and visitors.

She said: 'Many thanks to all who helped with the organising, judging and catering, but most of all to the exhibitors themselves, without whom there wouldn't be a show.'



Right - Best exhibit - David Sutherland's handmade violin. 20\_f36produce02



Trophy winners from the Glengarry Produce Show. 20\_f36produce01

## RESULTS

Garden produce, Ardgarry Farm Trophy - 1, Alex Sandilands; 2= May Brockie; 2= Fred Service; 3, Adam Mason. Best exhibit - Gayle Rand. Preserves and baking, Seven Heads Shield - 1, Alex Sandilands; 2, Aileen Cameron; 3, Neil Stewart. Best exhibit - Ricky Grigor. Novelty vegetable, Invergarry Hotel Trophy - 1, Dillon Brockie; 2, Irene Rodgers; 3, Finley Murray. Best exhibit - Gayle Rand. Arts and crafts, Beryl Barnes Memorial Cup - 1, Karen Campbell; 2, Lindsay Rogers; 3, Ken Brown. Best exhibit - David Sutherland. Floral, Great Glen Travel Award - 1= Neil Stewart; 1= Kate Stewart; 2= Carole Sage; 3, Jessie Henderson. Best exhibit - Carole Sage. Floral art, Thistle Stop Trophy - 1, Kate Stewart; 2= Elaine MacRae; 2= Rhoda Stewart; 2= Liz Bailey; 3, Lindsay Rogers. Best exhibit - Kate Stewart. Photography, An Fraser Trophy - 1= Aileen Cameron; 1= Lea MacNally; 2, Kirsty Bloom; 3, Andrew Middleton. Best exhibit - Lea MacNally. Children's section. Most points - Josie Bloom. Best exhibit - Madeline Hayes. High school section: Most points - Fergus Fraser. Best exhibit - Sarah MacLennan. Most points in show - Neil Stewart. David MacCallum Memorial Cup for best exhibit - David Sutherland.

## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

**Argyll Animal Aid**  
**Christmas Fayre**  
Corran Halls, Oban  
Saturday 23rd November 11am to 3pm  
To book a stall please call Sharon on 01886 822408 for a booking form, or download from www.smallpaws.co.uk.  
Charity bookings £18 Commercial etc £23

**APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
RECORDING GRAVESTONES WORKING PARTY  
ANNAT, APPIN  
Saturday 7 September at 10.30am  
ALL WELCOME!  
For further details phone 01631 730309  
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk

Barcaldine Community Association and Barcaldine Primary  
**Forest Fun Day**  
Sutherland's Grove  
Sunday 15th Sept  
11am - 3pm  
Treasure Hunt & Fancy Dress at 11am  
Various Stalls and Activities

# Sell out show coming to the Highlands and Islands

TOURING theatre company Stoirm Óg (formerly known as First Bicycle) are bringing their critically acclaimed Fringe 2012 sell out show *The Idiot at the Wall* to the Highlands and Islands.

The hauntingly beautiful production, set on a Hebridean island in September 1918, is based on a Celtic folk myth telling the tale of two sisters and how their traditional way of life struggles against the encroachment of the modern world - and challenges audiences to consider the power of prophecy over reason.

Traversing myth and reality, the poignant tale is told through traditional Hebridean storytelling, live music and song. Gaelic songs of the period, performed live by the actors, enrich an emotional, original score composed and arranged by Murdo

Turner, Tim de Feu, Annie Grace and Aly Macrae. The play, written by Elspeth Turner, directed by Emily Reutinger and designed by Jan Bee Brown, features a cast including Elspeth Turner, Lucy Goldie, Tim Barrow, Simon Eilbeck and Kenny Lindsay. Music is performed on stage by Annie Grace.

*The Idiot at the Wall* is Stoirm Óg's first touring production and is Elspeth Turner's debut play.

Dates (7.30pm unless otherwise stated):  
Sun 15 Sep - Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, box office: 01852 500746 www.craignishvillagehall.org.uk

Tues 17 Sep - Talla Shomhairle, The Aros Centre, Portree, box office: 01478 613750 www.aros.co.uk

Wed 18 Sep - Applecross Community Hall, tickets available on the door www.applecrosshall.co.uk

Fri 20 Sep - Berneray Community Hall, Isle of Berneray, tickets available on the door www.isleofberneray.com

Sat 21 Sep at 8pm - An Lannair Arts Centre, Stornoway, box office: 01851 708 480 www.lannair.com

Wed 25 Sep - Eden Court Theatre, Inverness, box office: 01463 234234 www.edencourt.co.uk

Thu 26 Sep - Glegarry Community Hall, Invergarry box office: 01809 511220 www.glegarrylife.com

Fri 27 Sep - Craigmone Centre, Drumadrochit, box office: 01456 459224 www.craigmonecentre.co.uk

Sun 29 Sep - Camus Arts Centre, Isle of Canna, box office: 01687 462474

Tues 1 Oct at 8pm - Mull Theatre, Isle of Mull, box office: 01688 302828 www.mulltheatre.com



Stoirm Óg's *The Idiot at the Wall*: coming to the Highlands and Islands. f36og1no



Pictured is Kamayet Ole Parmari, known as Sarge, during Saturday night's performance at the Corran Halls. 07\_t36dancers2

A taste of Kenyan culture arrived in Oban and Connel at the weekend when Osligi Maasai Warriors arrived as part of a British tour. Every year since 2007, the tribe takes their song and dance to the UK to raise funds for their families

and the village of Kisamis, around 30 miles southwest of Nairobi.

The group of seven performed at Connel Village Hall and the Corran Halls at the weekend as part of their visit to Argyll, going on to Edinburgh this week.

## Children's book based in Argyll released after 25 years

A NEW children's book telling an enchanting tale inspired by the Corryvreckan whirlpool has been released 25 years after its author and former Oban resident died.

Shian and the Corryvreckan was first penned by Ian Cochrane in the mid 80s and tells the tale of two sisters, Harriet and Emma, who together with Belle the pony, Sammy the donkey and Becky the dog help the Fairy King defeat a wicked witch's spell.

Ian started writing the book after being diagnosed with cancer in 1983 and, naming the characters after his daughters, embarked on a labour of love that saw him indulge in the local area's most famous landmarks.

Sadly, he passed away in 1988 and his widow, Sally, only discovered the book when sorting through paperwork afterwards.

Now, a quarter of a century later, she has finally been able to bring her late husband's remarkable tale to bookshelves.

Sally, who now goes by Brousson after remarrying and moving to Malta, said: 'Ian fought cancer for five years, so was rather house-bound for some of that time.'

'I can only surmise that he decided to write this story when he had time on his hands. I did not know he had written the story until after he died when I found the file it his papers.'

'As to why I have had it printed it now; I very much wanted the story to be illustrated and waited until I found an artist gifted and willing to do the drawings for me.'

'Further, I have taken the opportunity to include a dedication to our granddaughters too, who weren't around when the book was written.'

Ian and Sally moved back to England in 1984 following his diagnosis, but his family still have strong links to the area. Both Emma and Harriet attended Lochmell Primary School, Benderloch, with Harriet going on to Oban High School before the family returned south.

Shian and the Corryvreckan is published by The Cloister House Press and is available now on Amazon or locally by contacting Andy Wheeler on 01852 300733 or emailing a.wheeler@btinternet.com.



Sally with daughter Harriet, who features as one of the main characters in her late father's book, *Shian and the Corryvreckan*. Not pictured is sister Emma, who also features in the tale. t36shian1no

## Classic Car Club meet the Catalina Flying Boat

MEMBERS of the Oban and District Classic Car Club were invited to have a static display of vehicles at the Oban Airport Open Day when the Catalina Flying Boat was on display.

The cars attracted a lot of attention from visitors to the airport on August 23.

On August 25, the club took to the road once again and eighteen members enjoyed a trip down to Ardfern, in glorious sunshine, before enjoying Sunday lunch at the Galley of Lorne Hotel, Ardfern.

The next club meeting will be held on Thursday, September 26 at 7.30pm in the Lochmell Arms Hotel, North Connel, where anyone can attend.

The classic cars line up alongside the Catalina. t35catalina01



<b>Oban Phoenix Cinema</b>	<b>The Lone Ranger</b>	Thursday 5th September	18:00, 21:30
	<b>One Direction: This is Us</b>	Friday 6th September	18:30 3D
		Saturday 7th September	18:00 3D
		Sunday 8th September	16:00 2D
		Monday 9th September	18:00 3D
		Tuesday 10th September	18:00 2D
		Wednesday 11th September	18:00 3D
		Thursday 12th September	18:00 3D
	<b>2 Guns</b>	Friday 6th September	21:30
		Saturday 7th September	21:00
		Sunday 8th September	19:00
		Monday 9th September	20:30
	Tuesday 10th September	20:30	
	Wednesday 11th September	20:30	
	Thursday 12th September	20:30	
<b>Monsters University</b>	Friday 6th September	16:00 2D	
	Saturday 7th September	12:00 3D, 15:00 2D	
	Sunday 8th September	13:00 3D	

**The Lone Ranger (12A)**  
A thrilling adventure infused with action and humour, in which the famed masked hero is brought to life through new eyes. Native American spirit warrior Tonto (Johnny Depp) recounts the untold tales that transformed John Reid (Armie Hammer), a man of the law, into a legend of justice, taking the audience on a runaway train of epic surprises and humorous friction as the two unlikely heroes must learn to work together and fight against greed and corruption.

**One Direction: This is Us (PG)**  
An intimate all-access look at life on the road for the global music phenomenon. Weaved with stunning live concert footage, this inspiring feature film tells the remarkable story of Niall, Zayn, Liam, Harry and Louis' meteoric rise to fame, from their humble hometown beginnings and competing on the X-Factor, to conquering the world and performing at London's famed O2 Arena. Hear it from the boys themselves and see through their own eyes what it's really like to be One Direction.

**2 Guns (15)**  
Robert Trench, an undercover DEA agent, takes advantage of gunman Michael Stigman's idea to rob a bank to bust him and a mob boss. However, it proves too successful with much more money seized than anticipated with Trench's forces not stopping the getaway. Complicating things still more, Stigman turns out to be a Naval Intelligence agent who shoots Trench and takes the money. The interservice debacle suddenly finds Trench and Stigman in a bloody web of corrupt clandestine rivalries as they are hunted, blackmailed and isolated for the money on both sides of the law. Now, the fugitives must work together to find a way out of this situation with no one to turn to but themselves.

**Monsters University (U)**  
Mike Wazowski and James P. Sullivan are an inseparable pair, but that wasn't always the case. From the moment these two mismatched monsters met they couldn't stand each other. "Monsters University" unlocks the door to how Mike and Sulley overcame their differences and became the best of friends. In this fun loving sequel/prequel to "Monsters Inc." Mike and Sulley prove that first impressions are not always correct and that friendship can overcome even the deepest of rivalries.

# BLAS festival

September 6-14 Sultain [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com)

DISATHAIRNE 7 SULTAIN | SATURDAY 7 SEPTEMBER in RAMSAY HALL, PORT ELLEN @ 7.30pm

**Finlay Macdonald & Chris Stout**  
Darren MacLean  
Fèis Òigridh ile 'Dhiùra  
Tìcaidean - 01496 810366 - Tickets

DIARDAOIN 12 SULTAIN | THURSDAY 12 SEPTEMBER in CORRAN HALLS, OBAN @ 7.30pm

**Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham**  
Mànran | Fèis Latharna in concert  
Tìcaidean - 01631 567333 - Tickets

DISATHAIRNE 14 SULTAIN | SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER BUNESSAN HALL, MULL @ 7.30pm

**Donald Black Band in concert**  
Special Guest Gaelic Singers  
Paul McCallum  
Maggie Macdonald  
Tìcaidean - 01688 302211 - Tickets

Thoiribh sùil air [www.blas-festival.com](http://www.blas-festival.com) for further details

Online tickets [www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk) airson tìogaidean

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# THE DRAWER BOY

by Michael Healey

LIFE ON THE FARM IS FAR FROM SIMPLE...

**Thu Sept 12, 8pm**  
Mull Theatre  
01688 302828

**Tue Oct 1, 8pm**  
Innellan Village Hall  
01688 302828

**Sat Sep 14, 8pm**  
Appin Village Hall  
01631 720498

**Thu Oct 3, 7.30pm**  
Three Villages Hall, Arrochar  
01301 702669

[www.mulltheatre.com](http://www.mulltheatre.com)

## Corran Halls

Upcoming events

**SEPTEMBER**

**DEREK ACORAH**  
Tuesday 10th September Doors 7pm  
Tickets £18 / £16 Conc  
Tickets are not refundable

**ED BYRNE ROARING FORTIES**  
Tuesday 24th September Doors 7.30pm  
Tickets £22.50  
RESERVED SEATING  
Tickets are not refundable  
Late comers will not be admitted

Corran Halls, Oban  
Box Office: 01631 567333

## Taynuilt Hotel Old Coaching Inn

Saturday 12th October 6.30pm-10pm

### Dinner & Live Music

Live Music from Stephen and Chris at Argyll Acoustic  
6 Course Set Menu

£25 per person, bookings only please  
To book please call 01866 822437

Come and enjoy an evening with the Taynuilt Hotel where there will be delicious food, beautiful music and great company.

[www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk](http://www.taynuilt-hotel.co.uk)  
Follow us on twitter @hoteltaynuilt  
Find us on facebook at Taynuilt Hotel New

## Meet the Rum locals: Night time Manx Shearwater colony expedition.

Isle of Rum, Saturday September 7th 2013

Rum is home to many remarkable species including Scotland's largest population of Manx Shearwaters. These incredible ocean wanderers are typically seen at sea, rafting and feeding in the rich Atlantic waters. The Isle of Rum Community Ranger Service and SNH are offering a night time colony expedition to observe the Shearwaters as they return to their burrows on Hallival under cover of darkness. Listen to the distinctive calls as the birds return home for the night and see the fledging young as they prepare for their very first trans-Atlantic migration to their wintering grounds off the South American coast. Observing these remarkable sea birds on land is an experience that is second to none.

If interested in participating or to find out more, contact the Isle of Rum Community Ranger Service on 01687 462404 or e-mail [ranger@isleofrum.com](mailto:ranger@isleofrum.com)  
Places limited so booking essential.  
Accommodation available at [www.isleofrum.com](http://www.isleofrum.com)

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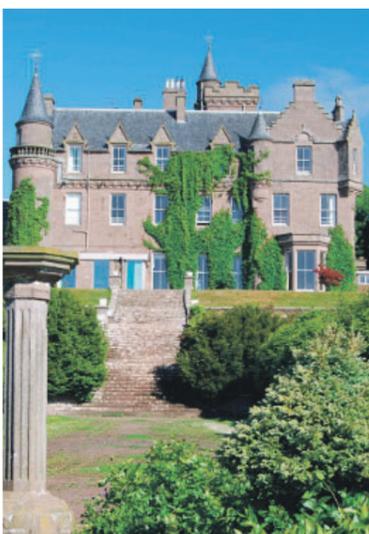
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## LATHALLAN SCHOOL

Pupils and staff at Lathallan School are looking forward to another busy and successful year, after the highlights of last year which included a new sports pavilion being built, trips to Dubai and South Africa, as well as celebrating successes in sports, science, art and music.

The diversity of these achievements underpin the Lathallan School ethos that we strongly believe that every child deserves to enjoy the success of their individual abilities in whatever field they lie – on the sports field, in the classroom, in the arts, in personal achievement.

At Lathallan School, our focus is of course, on educational excellence. Our overall size of under 200 pupils, class sizes averaged at 12 pupils, high quality academic staff and unique environment are all contributors to fulfilling the claim that every child has the opportunity to develop to their own full potential. Small class sizes and confidence from a varied curriculum outside of the classroom really do make a difference.

Lathallan School does not have entrance exams; we assess each child on his or her own merit. It is a place in which challenge, industriousness and maximising individual potential is pivotal in our pupils' educational development. Every individual is made to feel an integral and special part of the school.

Easily accessible, daily coach runs serve Lathallan School's wide catchment area from Aberdeen to Montrose. Full, weekly and flexi boarding is available; the only school in the region to offer such a service.

To really experience Lathallan School, please come visit us. Feel a spark of excitement as the Castle becomes visible through the trees, see the North Sea sparkle from beyond our picturesque Walled Garden, and feel the friendly and dynamic atmosphere that makes Lathallan School so unique.

## STRATHALLAN

Strathallan is a unique school that consistently delivers outstanding academic success.

It is a truly welcoming and friendly environment with a strong sense of community. What's more, it supports and motivates every single pupil to realise their potential in all areas.

This exceptional school challenges pupils. It also supports them. And, because of this, it instills vital confidence through a range of experiences. All this gives them the very finest preparation for the future.

The A-Level results have been consistently high over the last 4 years, making Strathallan the top co-ed A-Level school in Scotland.

The Schools' reputation for outstanding pastoral care is legendary. Being the only School in Scotland to have achieved a five grading on every category - and the only full boarding school to have achieved a six - the top grade.

In the centre of the School is a stunning 19th-century country house, accommodating the English Department, Libraries, Theatre, Music Department and heated refurbished swimming pool.

Surrounding this, are the Senior Boarding Houses, Squash Courts, Dining Hall, Combined Cadet Force buildings, Art School, Medical Centre and Chapel. The main teaching quadrangle houses an impressive purpose-built Computing Centre, Design Technology Centre and Sports Hall, Gymnasium, Sports Hall and Strength Conditioning Centre.

There are extensive playing fields surrounding the buildings including six rugby pitches, four cricket squares, two floodlit synthetic hockey pitches, nine hard tennis courts, two netball courts and a nine-hole golf course.

Yes, Strathallan is a truly exceptional school. In every way.



**their future starts here**

Boarding - Boys & Girls aged 9 to 18  
Fee Assistance Available

**Scholarship Dates:**

**Sixth Form**  
Saturday 16th November 2013

**Riley**  
Saturday 14th January 2014

**Third Form**  
Monday 24th-Thursday 27th February 2014



For more information please contact Felicity Legge:  
T: 01738 812546  
E: admissions@strathallan.co.uk

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

Forganerry Perthshire PH2 9EG

Strathallan is a Scottish Charity dedicated to education. Charity number SC008903



## GLENALMOND COLLEGE

### Inspiring Learning

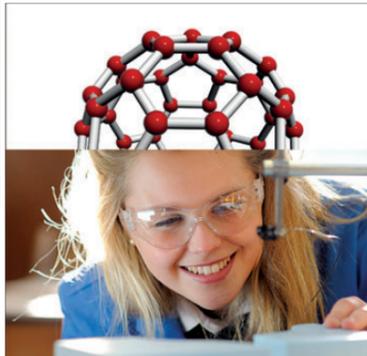
Glenalmond College has a well-justified reputation as one of Scotland's leading boarding and day schools, with a tradition of excellence and achievement. The outstanding 300-acre campus just outside Perth provides the perfect environment for the 400 boys and girls aged 12 to 18 to grow and learn.

The academic focus of the school is clear, and is reflected in the results achieved. 2013 saw a 99.6% A level pass rate for Glenalmond pupils, with 40% of passes at A\* and A grade, and 68% at A\*, A or B grades. A fifth of pupils achieved three A grades or more at A level.

Every year a good number of pupils achieve places at Oxford and Cambridge, 98% of leavers go on to university or higher education and every pupil is helped throughout their school career to recognise and develop their academic strengths.

Academic work is balanced by an extensive range of creative, sporting, social and adventure activities, and every pupil is helped to identify those areas in which they can shine.

When pupils leave Glenalmond for university, they do so with confidence and maturity, and with an attitude towards life and learning that will enable them realise their ambitions.



To arrange a visit to the School, contact the Registrar on 01738 842000 or [registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk](mailto:registrar@glenalmondcollege.co.uk)  
Glenalmond College, Perth PH1 3RY

Scottish charity number SC008903 [www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk](http://www.glenalmondcollege.co.uk)

**Glenalmond College** | inspiring learning

# MERCHISTON STORY IN THE MAKING





Listen to some of our pupils talk about their Merchiston journey [www.merchiston.co.uk](http://www.merchiston.co.uk)  
A Boarding and Day School for Boys aged 8-18

**INFORMATION MORNING: SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2013, 10AM**

Applications for means-tested financial assistance welcome

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



## MERCHISTON EDINBURGH

When it comes to education, boys are different from girls. Merchiston's success proves that doing what's best for the boys works. This year and 51% of A level grades were A\* and A grades: an impressive 80% of grades were A\*, A and B grades. For the last two years Merchiston has been the leading academic school in Scotland when judged on GCSE/A level performance. Boasting particular strengths in Science, Engineering and Mathematics, around five boys go up to Oxford or Cambridge each year. 64% of pupils progressed to Russell Group universities in 2013.

The School's sporting programme also plays an extremely important role in daily life with training and competition in over 20 sports. At present, the School boasts internationalists in: rugby, cricket, athletics, cross country, golf, table tennis, modern pentathlon and skiing.

"We are a very nurturing school with the highest standards of pastoral care. We believe firmly in the significance of a boy's academic platform in putting him in a position of choice, but equally, the co-curricular activities teach the boys vital life skills. Essentially, we develop all-rounders with a sense of values." Andrew Hunter, Headmaster

"It is my common experience in life that when I buy something new, after the original excitement of the purchase dies down, I often start finding small faults with it. However, with our children's education at Merchiston it has been exactly the opposite. In every respect - academic, sporting and pastoral - the School has exceeded our expectations, and continues to do so. In particular, the staff appear to have an almost magical ability to maximise the potential of every boy, irrespective of their natural talents. But above all, it is the Merchiston 'end product' that impresses us year after year; the young men who leave the School for university each year are polite, confident gentlemen, that any parent would be proud to call their sons." Parent



- Achievements 2012/13**
- Top Scottish Independent School for GCSE/A level (Sunday Times Parent Power, 2012)
  - U16s Scottish Schools Rugby Cup Winners
  - Scotland's Young Engineer of the Year

- The Royal Academy of Engineering Prize Winners at UK finals
- Top Scottish School in Chemistry Olympiad
- No. 1 Scottish Golf School (ISGA, 2013)
- Scottish Schools Tennis Champions

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We welcome audition applications throughout the year from talented instrumentalists, composers and singers. Entry at any stage. Scottish Government funding (up to 100%) for tuition and boarding fees.

**OPEN AFTERNOON - Saturday 5 October**

Coates Hall, 25 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EL. Tel: 0131 538 7766 Email: info@st-marys-music-school.co.uk www.st-marys-music-school.co.uk

## ST MARY'S MUSIC SCHOOL

St Mary's Music School in Edinburgh is Scotland's specialist music school, with a well-established reputation as the aspirational school for talented young musicians. It is a vibrant community of 80 boys and girls, aged nine to 19, who enjoy a high level of individual work and rigorous training, complemented by group performing opportunities - classical, jazz, Scottish traditional - alongside an impressive academic education. The school has the flexibility to focus on individual needs, and parents are reassured by the school's long tradition of high attainment levels and an excellent academic track record.

Open Afternoon on 5 October gives the chance to drop in on musical performances, take a guided tour and ask questions of our staff and pupils, who come from all over Scotland and beyond. Find out about auditioning for a place, with Scottish Government and Bursary funding up to 100% for tuition and boarding fees. We look forward to welcoming you.



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**Lomond School** 10 Stafford Street, Helensburgh T 01436 672 476 www.lomondschool.com



## LOMOND

West of Scotland's only Boarding School announces November Open Evening.

Lomond School is one of Scotland's most modern and progressive independent schools. Situated in Helensburgh on the edge of the Loch Lomond National Park it has excellent road and rail links with the West Highlands and is only 35 minutes from Glasgow airport making it the perfect location for students who are looking for the broad experience boarding school can offer.

Facilities at Lomond School are first class. A notable feature has been extensive investment in ICT and other facilities to enhance the learning environment. An exciting project taking place this term is the deployment of iPad's to all Lomond pupils from T1 to S6. The iPad's will act as an extension of traditional teaching resources and the school believes this innovative step will deliver significant gains ahead in students learning.

The school prides itself on its' extra curricular provision with outstanding opportunities in sport, music/drama and outdoor education. In October 2009 a £3.5 million Sports Facility was opened and is the foundation to which great sporting success has been achieved over the past 4 years.

This year's exam results support the school's claims to deliver academic achievement for students, focusing on maximising the potential of each individual. In S4 67% of grades were at the top two grades, and at S6 71 % were similarly either A or B grades. More than a quarter of pupils taking Higher in S5 gained 4 or more A grades. These are very high level figures from a non-selective school and represent strong added value from small class sizes and individualised teaching. These public examination results are at a level three times higher than the national and county average.

Lomond School Open Evening takes place on 7th November 2013 and the school is also delighted to welcome families to look round the school at a time convenient for them. For more information on Lomond School please contact Head of Admissions, Justine Scullion.

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Dollar focuses on the Scottish curriculum and all pupils study for Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers. Their academic achievements speak for themselves; on average 22% of the cohort achieve at least 5 As at Higher in their penultimate year and the proportion of pupils gaining A passes is over twice the national average. The university destinations of Dollar leavers are particularly impressive.

Dollar is one of the best academic schools in Scotland, but it is what goes on out with the classroom that really makes the school stand out. Dollar pupils can talk proudly of their accomplishments in debating halls, sports field, auditoriums, music halls, art studios and on sports



Their continued successes as former pupils are testament to the passion here for encouraging a lifetime of enthusiasm, ambition and achievement.

"Dollar Academy provides pupils with a very high standard of educational experience." HMLE Report.

"Dollar has given me so many opportunities to develop my talents and confidence." Sixth Form pupil

"Dollar gave him a direction. He found something he never expected to enjoy and he flourished in it. Now he has made a career out of it." Parent of Former Pupil

"I loved being at Dollar. Now that I look back on everything, I realise how much I owe the school. I can't imagine anywhere better to grow up." Former Pupil

"Pupils enjoyed the sense of belonging - everyone know each other and was very friendly and people got on well together." Care Inspectorate Report

"Dollar pupils seem to volunteer enthusiastically for just about anything - I am constantly amazed by their positive attitude" Dollar Teacher



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Please contact admissions@esms.org.uk Tel: 0131 311 1111.

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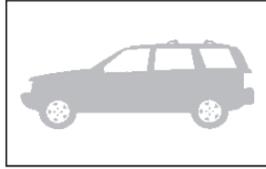
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Bentley Continental GT V8	36	£1,842.98	£114,990.00	£25,000.00	£1,991.98	£36,539.00	£89,990.00	£126,192.30	5.9%	6.0% Representative
Bentley Continental GT Speed	36	£2,237.36	£129,990.00	£25,000.00	£2,386.36	£39,254.58	£104,990.00	£142,711.18	5.8%	6.0%



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Prices correct at time of going to press and include VAT at 20%. Price excludes road fund licence, registration and delivery charges. Representative finance example is based on an Alpha PCP Regulated agreement for the models pictured, a Continental Flying Spur with a contract mileage of 18,000 miles and an excess mileage charge of 30.06p per mile; a Continental GT V8 with a contract mileage of 18,000 and excess mileage charge of 24.16p per mile and a Continental GT Speed with a contract mileage of 18,000 and excess mileage charge of 24.51p per mile. All finance is subject to status and available to over 18s in the UK only (excluding the Channel Islands). Guarantees and indemnities may be required. We can arrange finance for you. Advertised finance is provided by Alpha Financial Services (AFS), Hampshire RG27 9UF. Whilst we have close links with AFS and commonly introduce customers to AFS, we do not work exclusively with AFS. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders to assist with your purchase, who may pay us for introducing you to them. Park's of Hamilton (Townhead Garage) Ltd, Consumer Credit licence number 047093, is an appointed representative of Park's of Hamilton (Holdings) Limited, who are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority for the purposes of insurance mediation activity. \*Payable with optional final payment. Mileage correct at time of print. The name 'Bentley' and the 'B' in wings device are registered trademarks.



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## Market reports

### United Auctions Islay

UNITED Auctions held its annual show and sale of suckled calves at Islay Auction Mart on Saturday, when 336 head was sold.

An exceptional show of quality calves were on offer and sold to a good ringside of mainland buyers.

Bullocks sold to average £969.59 per head or 243.7 per kilo whilst heifers sold to average £826.65 or 219.8 per kilo.

The show was ably judged by regular attendee, Mrs. Margaret Kingan of Kingan Farms, New Abbey, Dumfries and the following were her awards. Bullock Calf: 1 - Ardbeg, British Blue Cross weighing 564kilos which sold for £1,320 to Camps Farms. 2 - Starchmill, Limousin Cross weighing 488kilos and sold for £1,165 to Duncan Low, Pitkenkerrie. 3 - Neriby, Limousin Cross weighing 470kilos and sold for £1,195 to M/s Watson, Aberchirder.

Heifers: 1 - Neriby, Limousin Cross weighing 418kilos and sold for £1,050 to Camps Farms. 2 - Ardbeg, Limousin Cross weighing 430kilos and sold for £1,005 to M/s Watson. 3 - Carrabus, Charolais Cross. Champion Calf - Ardbeg - British Blue Cross Bullock. Reserve - Strachmill - Limousin Cross Bullock.

Top prices per head:

Bullocks:  
AAx: £1065 - Brybruich  
CHARx: £1285, £1245(2), £1205, £1135 - Claggan: £1085 - Ballimartin and Gartacharra: £1075, £1055, £1045(2), £1015(5) - Gartacharra  
LIMx: £1255 and £1245 - Claggan: £1195(2) - Neriby: £1165 - Starchmill and Ardbeg(3): £1155 - Lössit(2) and Neriby(4): £1145 - Ardbeg(3) and Claggan(2): £1135 - Ardbeg(6) and Balaclava: £1115(4) - Kilchiaran: £1105(3) and £1100 - Lössit: £1100 - Neriby: £1095 - Ardbeg(2) and Kilchiaran(3): £1085 - Lössit: £1055 - Claggan and Lössit(2): £1045 - Blackrock: £1035 - Claggan(2) and Lössit: £1010 - Carrabus.  
BRBx: £1320 - Ardbeg.

Heifers:  
CHARx: £1125 - Tallant: £1025(3) - Claggan.  
LIMx: £1095 - Kilchiaran: £1050 - Neriby: £1015(2) - Ballimartin: £1005 - Ardbeg: £985, £975(2) and £965 - Lössit: £950(5) and £945 - Neriby: £915 - Ardbeg(4) and Neriby: £905 - Kilchiaran.

Cows and calves at foot: £1220 - 108 Frederick Crescent  
In calf cow: £1010 - 108 Frederick Crescent.

Top prices per kilo:  
Bullocks:  
AAx: 239p(5) and 218p - Keppols.  
CHARx: 284p and 273p - Tallant: 253p - Gartacharra: 251p(2) and 249p - Claggan: 239p - Gartacharra: 238p



Young stockhandlers enjoyed their day out at Lochaber Agricultural Show. 20\_135show01

## Lochaber Show handicraft, horse and pony results

RESULTS from handicraft and horse and pony sections at the Lochaber Agricultural Show, held at Torlundy on Saturday August 24.

Horse and pony trophy winners: Highland Pony In-hand: Champion - Kirsty Mann, Ruby of Sunnyneuk; Reserve Champion - Maureen O'Hara, Silvia of Croila; Highland Champion - Kirsty Mann, Ruby of Sunnyneuk; Highland Reserve Champion - Lauren Miller, Harveston Elsa; Tack and Turnout Shield - Alex Fergusson, Landswood Diamond; Trailer: Lead Reigen Champion - Megan Hart, Twyford Jamies; Overall Champion Cup - Millie Ferguson, Wait with Welsh Magic; Marion Campbell Reserve trophy - Amanda Fergusson, Darris Fair Wind; Handicraft trophy winners

Section 1 - Home Baking: Mrs Isabel Campbell Cup (most points in Home Baking) - Helen Leslie; Silver Spoon (presented by Shaw Family) Champion Baker - Helen Leslie; Mrs Van Voss Cup (runner-up in Home Baking) - Amy Fullford; Spean Bridge Hotel Cup (best exhibit in Home Baking) - Mary Kerr; For Cloutie Dumpling Section 2 - Produce and Preserves: Mrs A McColl Cup (most points in Produce and Preserves) - Catherine MacKinnon; Mrs M Bateman Cup (most points in Home Baking and Produce and Preserves) - Helen Leslie; Braeroy Estate Cup (most points in Wine and Refreshments) - Sharyn Morgan; Section 3 - Knitting: Mrs R MacLennan cup (most points in Knitting) - Mary Kerr; Mrs Isabel MacPhee Quaitch (Runner-up in Knitting) - Valerie Forsyth; Section 4 - Handicraft: Lochaber Agricultural Society Cup (B Kirkbride Cup) (most pts in Classes 43-53) - Eddy the Knowles; Marshall and Pearson Shield (most points in Classes 54 - 60) - Helen Leslie; John Kerr Trophy (most points in Classes 54 - 56) - Anthony Angus; Section 5 - Floral Decoration: Mrs Ann MacCallum Cup (most points in Floral Decoration) - Anne Smith; The BOSS Salver (Runner-up in Floral Decoration) - Margaret Bellwood and Ann MacPherson; Section 6 - Floral: Ness Motors Shield (most points in Floral Section) - Vic MacPherson; Vic MacPherson Shield (most pts for Dahlias (Classes 81 - 83) - Amy Fullford and Yochen Baak; Section 8 - Garden Produce: P Robertson Shield (most points in Garden Produce) - Vic MacPherson and Gayle Rand; Ruth Langan Cup (Runner-up in Garden Produce) - Archie MacKinnon and Lochaber Rural Education Trust; The Hunter Rose Bowl (most points in Floral and Garden Produce) - Vic MacPherson; Section 9 - Children's: Lundavra cup - Primary School with most points) - Spean Bridge; Jessie Corson cup (Nursery/Playgroup with

most points) - Spean Bridge; Lochaber Show Medals (Boy and Girl with most points in each age group): nursery/playgroup - Girl - Kayla Milne (Spean Bridge); Boy - Osian Bellshaw (Spean Bridge); Primary 1 and 2 - Girl - Katie McIntyre (Spean Bridge); Boy - Conner Pollock (Spean Bridge); and Luke McGillivray (Banavie); Primary 3 and 4 - Girl - Abbie MacKay (Lochside); Boy - Jake Sessions (Spean Bridge) and Calum Flux (Roy Bridge); Primary 5 and 6 - Girl - Lyra Swabey (Spean Bridge); Boy - Ivan Davies (Spean Bridge); Primary 7 - Girl - Jennifer Chisholm (Spean Bridge); Boy - Malv Shepherd (Roy Bridge); High school - Girl - Sian Angus; Boy - Ben Fullford. Collection of Mixed Vegetables from School Garden - Spean Bridge; WRI Cup - Sharyn Morgan; Mrs Elma MacKellar Cup (most points in whole Handicraft Section) - Vic MacPherson.

Wednesday. Bullocks averaged 228.2p (-3p) to 281.6p per kg and £1,340. Black and White blks averaged 161.4p (+2.1p) to 183.3p per kg and £1,070. Heifers averaged 219.8p (-0.93p) to 281.9p per kg and £1,230. Forward Cattle averaged 185.95p to 213.8p per kg and £1,330. Cast Cows averaged 139.16p to 213.6p per kg and £1,410. Mules averaged £56.29, up 0.96p on the week. Blackface averaged £40.41, up £3.47 on the week. Beltex cross averaged £63.29, down 0.14p on the week. Suffolk cross averaged £65.73, down -0.07p on the week. Texel cross averaged £61.71, up +0.51p on the week. Cheviot cross averaged £60.08.

£37.50 - Killundine Estate: £37.00 - Lephinkill. Ewes: £40.00 - Ardhatten HF. Top prices per kilo: Suffolk cross: 179p - Glenshellach: 167p - Ardhatten HF. Texel cross: 192p - Ormsary Farmers & 83 Borve, Barra: 185p & 179p - Ormsary Farmers: 177p & 170p - Glenshellach: 170p - 83 Borve, Barra. Charollais cross: 170p - 83 Borve, Barra. Cheviot cross: 187p - 83 Borve, Barra. Cross: 172p - 15 Ardmhor, Barra. Mule: 175p - Ormsary Farmers: 173p - Blarghour Farm. Blackface: 155p - Lephinkill Farm: 145p - High Carse & Carse Estate: 143p - Brechnoille Farm: 142p - Lephinkill Farm & Rhemore: 141p - Invernahyle.

## Dingwall and Highland Marts Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2,067 store sheep of all classes at its Fort William sale on Friday, where the first sale of the season saw stronger demand than anticipated.

Lambs averaged £39.14 per head and sold to £64.50 gross for Texel crosses from Ardnornish Farms, Oban.

Feeding sheep sold to £42 gross for Cheviot rams from Kinloid, Arisaig.

Other leading prices per head: Store lambs: TexX - Dalroch, Roy Bridge, £60; Zwart - 7 Ferrindonald, Sleat, £56; SuffX - 19 Blarmafoldach, Fort William, £56; Cross - Kinloid, Arisaig, £55; CharX - 19 Blarmafoldach, £54.50; Chev - 8 Balmeanach, Struan, £54; LleyNX - Glenquoich, Invergarry, £51.50; Mule - Carnoch, Ardgour, £49; BF - Carnoch, £47.50.

## Lochmaddy

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 3,185 store lambs at its Lochmaddy sale last Wednesday, where the excellent show of lambs although barely as strong as last year sold extremely well. The overall average showed a decrease of £2.83 on the year.

Lambs sold to £74 per head for Texel crosses from 1 Knockline, Bayhead.

Prize list: Cheviot lambs: 1st A MacLean, 5 Balemartin, £69; 2nd A MacDonald, 12 Hougharry, £65.

BF lambs: 1st A MacDonald, 1 Ahmore, £40.50; 2nd D J MacDonald, 3 Island Flodda, £40.

Suffolk cross lambs: 1st J MacDonald, Trumisgarry, £70.50; 2nd D MacDonald, 3 Hougharry, £70.50.

Continental cross lambs: 1st H MacDonald, 1 Knockline, £74; 2nd Mrs A MacLeod, Sandhill Farm, £69.

Leading prices per head:

Wedder lambs: SuffX: 3 Hougharry, Lochmaddy & Trumisgarry, Lochmaddy, £70.50, 3 Hosta, Tigharry, £67.50, No 1 Clachan Farm, Lochmaddy, £61; Chev: 24 Linciate, Benbecula, £70, 5 Balemartin, Lochmaddy, £69, 12 Hougharry, Lochmaddy, £65; Cross: 1 Nunton Hill, Gramsdale, £70, Liniuke, Eochar, £58.50; TexX: Sandhill Farm, Berneray, £69, 3 Hosta, £65, 11 Rushgarry, Berneray, £62; Mule: 3 Hougharry, £58; CHM: 3 Creagorry, Benbecula, £51.50; Lley: 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy, £51.

Ewe lambs: Chev: 5 Balemartin, £65, 24 Linciate, £61, 9 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, £49; TexX: 11 Rushgarry, £63, Templedale, Carinish, £61, Liniuke, £53; BF: 3 Island Flodda, Benbecula, £36.

Ewes: Textel Cross: £78 Ballard; Textel: £68 Fanmore; Chev: £57 Ballard; Mule: £53 Achnacreebeag; Cross: £53 Tirragh; Blackface: £37 Kilchoan; Blackface cross: £28 Dunach.

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och, £63.50; TexX - Fleucharry, Dornoch, £50.50; CHM - 196 Lednabirichen, £52.00; West Sutherland: Chev wedder lambs - Rhifail Farms, Strathnaver, £59.00; Chev ewe lambs - Rhifail Farms, £54.00; SuffX - Invercharron, Ardgay, £51.00; TexX - Rhifail Farms, £73.00.

Inverness and South: Chev wedder lambs - Erchite, Dores, £56.00; SuffX - Lochbuie, Newtonmore, £62.00; TexX - Lochbuie, £63.00; Mid Ross and Black Isle: Chev wedder lambs - 1 Donnie, Edderton, £66.50; Chev ewe lambs - 1 Donnie, £58.00; SuffX - Park Farm, £68.50; TexX - 120 Newton of Ferintosh, Mulbuie, £72.00; Cross - Woodside, Ardvannie, £46.00; BFL - Cypress, Achterneed, £54.00.

Wester Ross: Chev wedder lambs - Aird, Ardsheilaig, £67.00; Chev ewe lambs - Ashcroft, Erbusaig, £54.00; SuffX - Lockmelm Estate, Ullapool, £65.00; TexX - Keppoch Farm, Dundonnell, £62.00; Cross - 55/57 Rhue, Ullapool, £46.00.

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## Caledonian Marts Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts had forward 4,172 store lambs and feeding sheep at its Oban sale last Tuesday, when all classes of lamb lacked the size of last year's sale.

Store lambs averaged £44.93 (-£6.84 on the year) and feeding ewes averaged £26.63 (-£6.73 on the year).

Cheviot lambs averaged £40.64 (-£6.74 on the year) selling to £58 A L Brodie, Ballard, Isle of Coll.

Suffolk lambs averaged £54.93 (-£1.13 on the year) selling to £80 I McColl, Mid Farm, Isle of Lismore.

Texel lambs averaged £52.63 (-£6.84 on the year) selling to £68 H & NA McCorkindale, Scammadale.

Blackface lambs averaged £28.61 (-£1.35 on the year) selling to £45 R Sandford, Isle of Gometra.

Mule lambs averaged £49.13 (+£3.75 on the year) selling to £62.50 Frackersaig, Isle of Lismore.

Leading prices: Lambs: Cheviot: £54 Drumfionnghail, £52 Cailaich, £51 Slaterich; Tex: £67.50 Achnacreebeag, £67 Balaing, Baligarve; Suffolk: £74 Achnacreebeag, £67 Ballinmackillichan, £63 Tirfirru; Mule: £55 & £49.50 Fiart, £52.50 Balaing, £49 Duntrune Castle; Blackface: £40 Dunach Estate, £39 Saulmore, £37 Gordonlea.

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**Sun shines for open sheepdog trial**

MULL and Morvern Sheepdog Society held its annual Open Sheepdog Trial, by courtesy of Knock Farm on Gruline Fields last week.

A sunny day welcomed a good entry of 35 dogs from across the country, even including competitors from the Netherlands.

The trial was run on fit Blackface Hogs from Lachlan and Donald MacLean. They ran evenly throughout the day and while not easy, they responded well to dogs that handled them with care. Many handlers found them tricky to pen.

Kathy Freeman from Killin judged the trial, which produced a clear winner in Alec McCuish from Skippness with Moss on 91 points from 100. Alec and Moss are in great form, having won two trials in Kintyre the previous week.

Second was Mosse Magnusson from Ardnornie with Davie on 82. Mosse has qualified with two dogs to compete for Scotland in the International Trial to be held next month at Stoneleigh in Warwickshire, alongside another of the day's competitors, Peter Martin from Glen Lyon with Jill.

Results: 1. A McCuish and Moss, Skippness 91 of 100; 2. M. Magnusson and Davie, Ardnornie 82; 3. A. Simpson and Loos, Comrie 81; 4. A. Carnegie and Don, Comrie 78; 5. P. Martin and Jill, Glenlyon 77; 6. M. Magnusson and Jim 72. Local: 1. J. Nudds and Ben, Lochaline; 2. J. Moore and Rick, Gruline.

**Morris Leslie Monthly Auctions**  
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All types of plant, machinery, agri-equipment, vehicles, HGV's, tools, cabins, trailers, and equipment welcome. Entries already include selection of diggers and assorted plant equipment. Entries anticipated from Local Councils and direct from Liquidators

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# Business

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## Fyne ales do the double at national beer festival

FYNE Ales has won two top awards for their Jarl blonde session ale at this year's Great British Beer Festival.

The drink was named Champion Golden Ale and scored a bronze medal in the overall Champion Beer of Britain award, the first time a Scottish brewery has placed in the competition since 2005.

Managing director of the Loch Fyne distillery, Jamie Delap, said: 'To win both of these competitions is testament to Jarl's popularity and great taste.'

It has been a successful summer for Fyne Ales and Jarl, with the beer also being crowned the Champion Beer of Scotland at the Scottish Real Ale Festival in July. It also took home a strong haul at this year's International Beer Challenge, with two silver and five bronze medals including a packaging award for Sublime Stout.

The recent awards, coupled with television appearances, have raised the national profile of the beer and seen an increase in demand throughout the country.

With the brewery planning a significant expansion within the next 12 months, adding jobs to the local area, the wins are seen as key for the development of the business.

## Free export training for Highlands and food and drink firms

HIGHLANDS and Islands food and drink businesses are being invited to a free export training course this month.

The Preparing to Export Course, hosted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in partnership with Scottish Development International, will introduce firms to the benefits of finding new markets abroad.

The two day workshop, funded by Smart Exporter, is aimed at companies thinking about exporting for the first time or are in the very early stages of exporting. Delivered by experienced specialists from Giraffe Consulting, the course will cover the basics of exporting, highlight opportunities in international markets.

Attendees will have assistance to develop a practical export plan to help their business grow. Anja Baak from Great Glen Game, who attended a similar course last year, said: 'It really helped us to think about which markets to target and which routes to take.'

'It gave us a better understanding of the support available for companies and helped us develop a clear plan of action to build the business internationally.'

Norma Macdonald from HIE urged local firms to grab the chance of boosting cash flows through foreign sales.

She said: 'This is an excellent opportunity for food and drink businesses who are interested in exporting to come along and find out all of the basics.'

'This course will also give them the skills to be able to assess where to look for new opportunities while avoiding any pitfalls. As proven by the amazing results across our region in the recent Great Taste Awards, we have some of the finest producers in the UK and in some cases, the world.'

'There are already a large number of businesses exporting from the Highlands and Islands to countries across the world and with this course we hope many other businesses will choose to follow their lead.'

The Preparing to Export Food and Drink - Introductory course will be held at the Kingsmills Hotel in Inverness on September 9 and 16. Scottish Food and Drink Fortnight runs from September 7-22.



TSL's new operations and HR director Deborah Feeney at the company's construction site in Dunbeg, where the company is building the first of the 50 new homes for the area. 16\_13616512

## New appointment as TSL expands

CONSTRUCTION company TSL has appointed Deborah Feeney as its new director of operations and HR as the Mull-based business looks to expand.

Based in the firm's Oban office, Deborah will help implement a new infrastructure to provide a base for growth, with optimism finally starting to return to the construction sector.

Deborah's appointment to the company, which employs 65 staff and is owned by Mull entrepreneur Andy Knight is seen as a key step in its long-term development.

She said: 'Andy is an excellent entrepreneur and has done brilliantly in building the business.'

'It has now got to the size where how it is organised and structured is really crucial to the ongoing development and that's my job.'

Deborah comes to the company with a wealth of experience, having worked with family-business Thistle Generators for 23 years.

She comes to TSL having just graduating from the University of Glasgow, with an LLB with distinction, winning the Arrol Falconer Memorial Prize for family law, adding to the business economics degree she already had from the University of Paisley.

Not only was she attracted to the nature of the role, but the Argyll surroundings were a major draw for Deborah.

She said: 'I do enjoy my twice-weekly commute to and from Mull, when people are cooing at the scenery and I think, I live here. We hope to grow. I'm coming into the company at quite an exciting time for the business and the industry.'

'The feeling seems to be things are starting to pick up, so this is great timing for us to get organised and ready.'

## New rules see installers gear up for busy season

DEVELOPERS have been reminded that government legislation requires all homes built after 2016 have to be gas-free - something that could be set to deliver a boost to the domestic renewables market.

Requirements to make all new homes move away from gas were first announced in 2006, but the looming deadline for the changes has been overlooked by some.

Now, with just over two years remaining before the legislation is introduced, installers are gearing up for a busy season.

**Potential**

Speaking at the company's renewables open day in Oban last week, Stuart Hawthorn, of PTS Renewable Solutions said: 'It's a UK-wide measure and we see the potential for people in Argyll and Bute to benefit from this.'

'There's also a lot of houses up here that are not connected to the grid that could benefit from these sources instead of relying on LPG or heating oil.'

'There's more and more reasons for people to move to technology such as heat pump systems and that means more work for local installers.'



Laurence Allison from Dimplex Renewables, Stuart Hawthorn, and Will Currie of Barcaldine-based providers, Renewables Now at the PTS open day at its base in Glengallen Road. 16\_13616512

## Passenger numbers at Highlands and Islands airports soar

PASSENGER numbers at airports across the Highlands and Islands soared during July with an increase of almost 10 per cent.

Regional airport group HIAL recorded its strongest monthly rise in passenger numbers this year so far - to 139,164, an increase of 12,466 people passing through the gates.

The group, which operates 11 regional airports across Scotland, saw its strongest results at Islay, Wick, Kirkwall and Sumburgh.

Campbeltown also recorded a three per cent rise and Stornoway was up six per cent but Tiree fell almost five per cent. Benbecula was more than 14 per cent down and Barra dropped almost 24 per cent.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'July was a particularly strong month for the HIAL group, with the biggest monthly increase in passenger numbers so far this year. As passenger numbers grow, the challenge is to ensure that we continue to deliver the same quality experience for our customers.'

In 2012/13, the HIAL group recorded 1,297,676 passengers.

# TWENTY YEARS AGO

September 9 1993



The new primary one pupils at St Bride's School, Onich, pose for our photographer. Sitting at the back is Sonia Smith, while in front are Jane Morrison, Kyle MacIntyre and Graeme Smille. 16\_13616512



Gillian Barton puts her pupils through their paces. 16\_13616512

## Ballet West students take centre stage

The lives of many young west coast dancing hopefuls were turned upside down when they joined the Taynuilt-based Ballet West company three years ago. For they suddenly found themselves appearing in productions usually only familiar to Glasgow or Edinburgh.



Above: Corporal Brian Carmichael preparing one of his vehicles for its next mercy mission. 16\_13616512

## Islay soldier in Bosnia

Corporal Brian Carmichael, 25, from Port Ellen on the Isle of Islay, is serving with a platoon of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders which is supporting the main British battalion in Vitez, Bosnia.



Youngsters shone at the fourth annual competition of Comann Pìobaireachd Uibhist agus Bharrach, held recently in Sgoil Lionacleit, Benbecula. Pictured are some of the junior competitors with Katie Buchanan, Benbecula, who presented the prizes. From left: Tracy Brogan, Oban, Allan James Burnett, junior champion, Mrs Buchanan, Sarah Buchanan, Fiona Morrison and Margaret Campbell. 16\_13616512

## He will always be remembered

A MOVING tribute was made on Friday to Inverlochy soldier, private Mark Ferguson, who died in the Gulf War.

Soldiers young and old attended a ceremony in Fort William to mark the Freedom of Lochaber District to the Queen's Own Highlanders (Seaforth and Camerons).

Accepting the honour, Major General John Hopkinson said: 'In particular, we should not forget Private Ferguson, the latest in a long line of gallant men who died for his country in the service of the nation, in the pursuit of freedom.'



Right: Lochaber District Council chairman Neil Clark, right, presents the Freedom Scroll to the colonel of the regiment, Major General John Hopkinson CB. 16\_13616512

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Please apply with full CV and covering letter to Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Ltd, Crannog Lane, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB or email: [ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk](mailto:ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk)

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FOR ALL

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- City & Guilds 2382 17th Edition wiring regulations BS7671
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- City & Guilds 2395 Condition reporting

**This is a re-advertisement, previous applicants need not apply**

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Experienced, time served, multi skilled builder, competent in all types of building work, roughcast, plastering and roof works. Experience of plumbing and carpentry work would be an advantage. Applicants need to be qualified to City & Guilds / NVQ level.

**Joiner** Salary £21,106 - £23,280 per annum  
Experienced, time served joiner with a background in domestic properties. Experience of other multi-trade work would be advantageous. Applicants need to be qualified to City & Guilds / NVQ level.

**All of the above posts will be based Argyll & Bute wide.**  
Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 20th September 2013  
To make an application visit our website at [www.acha.co.uk/recruitment](http://www.acha.co.uk/recruitment); Tel 01546 605817 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)

**HC**  
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Kintyre Care Home is situated within the town of Campbeltown, Western Scotland, with views over the nearby loch, harbour and surrounding countryside, a purpose built 40 bedded care home offering Dementia, Nursing and Residential care.

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To apply or find out more about this extraordinary opportunity, please call 0800 169 0229, email [jobs@hc-one.co.uk](mailto:jobs@hc-one.co.uk) or visit our website [www.hc-one.co.uk](http://www.hc-one.co.uk)

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Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.

**Operations Officer**  
37 hours a week, Fixed Term until June 2014  
Starting salary £23,839 - £31,586 per annum (pay award pending)  
Dunoon (SNH offices at Lochgilphead, Oban, Clydebank, Stirling may also be possible locations)  
(Ref: 045-330)

This role contributes to the work of the Argyll and Outer Hebrides Area Team as defined by the Unit Business Plan. You will be responsible for the delivery of Scottish Natural Heritage's objectives within the Bute, Cowal, West Loch Lomondside & Helensburgh area of Argyll.

You must have a degree or equivalent in an environmental discipline or countryside management with relevant practical experience in environmental or countryside management. You must also have knowledge and experience of relevant planning and environmental legislation and understanding and experience of working with the planning system (including development plans, planning applications and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) with an understanding and experience of monitoring and management of designated areas (Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and Natural sites). The knowledge and experience of species ecology (particularly Internationally important bird species such as geese, raptors and other European Protected Species found in Southern Argyll), habitat management, land use, landscape and associated natural heritage issues are required with relevant experience of working with a range of official bodies, NGO's and the general public.

You must also have good organisational skills to enable targets to be prioritised and met, and an ability to work with, and manage, a team with a flexible approach, with well-developed oral, written and presentation skills, in particular an ability to produce well structured and accurate written work and an ability to communicate effectively and sensitively with a variety of partners, colleagues and members of the public.

Finally, you must have a full driving licence or the ability to call upon suitable alternative means of transport.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.

Closing date: 19th September 2013.

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Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine, PA37 1SE  
Tel: 01631 720496, Mobile: 07787 523 755, email: [alaycock@sol.co.uk](mailto:alaycock@sol.co.uk)

**Assessors/Verifiers**  
2 Posts  
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**Childcare - Oban or Dunoon**  
Argyll Training requires a resourceful, organised and flexible SVQ Assessor and Verifier in childcare. You must be occupationally competent and hold a professional qualification in Children's Care Learning and Development. Ideally the successful candidate should have A1/D32/D33 and V1/D34 or equivalent however, training can be given. Hours are 16 per week which can be worked flexibly with the potential to increase to reflect new business.

Closing date for applications: Monday 23 September 2013  
Interviews Dunoon: Monday 30 September Interviews Oban: Wednesday 2 October  
To apply please send cv to Caroline Askew at [caskew@argyll-training.co.uk](mailto:caskew@argyll-training.co.uk)

**Hospitality - Oban**  
Candidates must have current practical experience in the Hospitality Industry and knowledge of SVQ's. Ideally the successful candidate should have A1/D32/D33 and V1/D34 or equivalent however, training can be given. Hours are 16 per week with the opportunity to increase to full time hours as you build your client base.

Closing date for applications: Monday 23 September 2013  
To apply please send cv to Jill Millar at [jmillar@argyll-training.co.uk](mailto:jmillar@argyll-training.co.uk)  
Scottish Charity Registration Number: SC017700

**Health Care Assistant/Dispensing Assistant**

Ross of Mull and Iona Medical Services, Bunessan.  
12 hours per week over 3 mornings.  
Experience desirable, although not essential, training will be given to the right candidate.  
For a job description email the Practice Administrator: [emma.morgan4@nhs.net](mailto:emma.morgan4@nhs.net)  
Please email a CV and covering letter, closing date 13/09/2013.

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**John Forteith- Depot General Manager**  
on 01631 569100  
Forteith Foodservice, Glengallain Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HG. email: [enquiry@forteith.co.uk](mailto:enquiry@forteith.co.uk)  
[www.forteith.co.uk](http://www.forteith.co.uk)

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**Experienced 360° Excavator Operators**

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Glebe Street, Campbeltown, PA28 6LR  
E-mail: [info@mcfadyscontractors.co.uk](mailto:info@mcfadyscontractors.co.uk)

**LGV Drivers (Class I)**

**Experienced Full/Part Time LGV Drivers required to join busy haulage company based in Argyll area.**

Please contact :-  
**Peter McKerral & Co Ltd**  
Darlochan Yard, Kilkenny By Campbeltown, PA28 6NT  
Please apply in writing to above address, Email: [petermckerral4@gmail.com](mailto:petermckerral4@gmail.com) or Telephone: 01586 820 258 Mobile: 07717 531 242

**PROPERTY**

**Argyll Otter Ferry Long Let**

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 £13,427 - £14,662 **Lochdonhead Primary School, Mull Ref: CME35271**  
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**Catering Assistant (Part-time)**  
 £12,270 - £13,022 **Craignish Primary School Ref: CTF00275**  
 10 hours per week

**Assistant Harbour Master (Part-time)**  
 £21,096 - £23,030 **North Pier, Oban Ref: DVE00060**  
 17.5 hours per week

**Catering Assistant (Part-time)**  
 £13,427 - £14,662 **Campbeltown Grammar School Ref: CTF00827**  
 12.50 hours per week

☎ 01546 604334  
 Closing date: 20 September 2013.  
 To apply visit our website 

[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

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 OR Email: deli@inverawe.co.uk

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 argyll community housing association  
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 Tel 01546 605817 or email [recruitment@acha.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@acha.co.uk)  
**Closing Date: 12 noon on Friday 13th September 2013**  
 Interviews for this post will be held in Lochgilphead in late September 2013

[www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) 

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6EL and online at <http://www.highland.gov.uk>

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
13/03094/FUL	Am Maol Isle of Muck Mallaig	Temporary (test) installation of AlbaTERN wave energy device within moorings area of marine finfish farm
13/03142/FUL	Grianan, Corriebeg Kinlochell, Fort William	Erection of house & improvement to existing access in garden ground
13/03200/LBC	Bayview Isle of Rum	Replace existing windows with wooden double glazed windows in a similar style
13/03205/PIP	Land North of Old Railway Goods Yard, Ballachulish	Proposed house site
13/03207/FUL	Maceachan & Carr Boat Builders, Toigal, Morar Mallaig	Proposed dwelling house
13/03215/FUL	Phase 3 Land to East of Achnaha, Lochaline, Morvern	New dwelling house
13/03219/FUL	Land 250m South of Cnocan Dharach 2 Bohuntin, Roy Bridge	Erection of house

Time period for comments is 14 days. Application 13/03200/LBC is 21 days.  
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
 Email: [eplanning@highland.gov.uk](mailto:eplanning@highland.gov.uk)

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATION**

Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number  
 Mr D H Young & Ms J H Young  
 11a Lower Carnach, Lismore & Appin  
 0.013 ha - Amenity ground  
 4.86.43082

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
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**Notice of Sunart Community Company Ballot**

Notice is hereby given that the SCC is holding a ballot THIS MONTH to seek community consent to the purchase of the redundant Scottish Water dam on the Allt nan Cailleach, (above Strontian) for the purposes of constructing a community owned hydro power scheme for the benefit of the community.

A ballot is required under land reform legislation. This is being run independently for the community by Highland Council. All registered voters in the Sunart Community area will receive a ballot paper around 13th September.

If you need a vote by proxy please email [elections@highland.gov.uk](mailto:elections@highland.gov.uk) by no later than Wednesday 10 September 2013.

**WE NEED A 50% TURNOUT - WHICHEVER WAY YOU VOTE .....YOUR VOTE COUNTS!!**

Don't delay - your ballot MUST BE RECEIVED by the Council by Wednesday 25th September - please allow time for postage!

Full details at [www.sunartcommunitycompany.org.uk](http://www.sunartcommunitycompany.org.uk)  
 Registered Charity no SC039640 Company No SC293485

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**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, Monday to Friday 9am to 12:30pm and 1:30pm to 5pm. On Wednesdays, the Customer ServicePoints will open at 10am. 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 No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01534/PP	Erection of 5 dwellings, installation of 5 septic tanks and formation of new access	Land West Of Craignis Balinoe Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute	Tiree Area Office
13/01740/PP	Erection of replacement dwellinghouse and detached garage/studio room	Eathie Arduaine Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
13/01865/PPP	Site for the erection of dwellinghouse	Land East Of Kilmaluag Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4DD	Sub Post Office Leding
13/01929/PP	Renewal of planning permission reference 08/01255/DET (Formation of North-South link track)	North-South Link Track Isle Of Kerrera	Oban Area Office

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED)**

Notice is hereby given that Mr Andrew Sutherland and Mr Donald McLaren have submitted a Masterplan to Argyll and Bute Council in respect of potential development area/development allocation 5/56 Stromichan - Old Military Road, Dalmally as designated by the 'Argyll and Bute Local Plan (2009)' in association with planning application 13/01891/PPP for the development of Site for the erection of 3 dwellings.

A copy of the Masterplan (Document Number 20865362 and dated 29th August 2013) and the associated planning application may be inspected Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Planning and Regulatory Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW, at the Sub Post Office Dalmally during normal opening times (on Wednesdays the Customer Services Points open at 10 a.m.) and by logging on the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications during the period of 21 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the council about the Masterplan or the associated planning application should make them in writing to Planning and Regulatory Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AW before the 26th September 2013.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Ref No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01397/LIB	Alterations, extension and internal alterations to dwellinghouse	Dunlop The Green Kilmaluag Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XB	Tiree Area Office
13/01708/PP	Erection of 5 affordable dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank, formation of vehicular access and associated landscaping (amended design relative to planning permission reference 12/02124/PP)	The Glebe Field Baile Mor Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
13/01848/PP	Formation of new door and installation of access ramp	Clydesdale Bank 20 Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6NU	Tobermory Area Office
13/01916/PP	Erection of shed and fence and formation of hardstanding area (retrospective)	The Old Inn Ellenabeich Isle Of Seil Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4RF	Sub Post Office Balvicar

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 7:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8BX, at the alternative locations detailed below during their normal opening times 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 No	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
13/01854/PP	Erection of two semi-detached dwellinghouses, installation of septic tank and formation of new vehicular accesses (Amendments to design and siting relative to planning consent 10/01853/PP) - (Retrospective)	Land South Of Cladach Kilmaluag Isle Of Tiree 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: <http://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

**DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (SCARINISH, ISLE OF TIREE) (DESIGNATED DISABLED PERSON'S VEHICLE PARKING BAY) (VARIATION) ORDER 2013**

On Monday 2nd September 2013, Argyll and Bute Council made the above named Order in terms of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended.

The Order, which comes into operation on 18th October 2013, introduces an amendment to the designated disabled person's vehicle parking bay at Scarinish, Isle of Tiree. The bay will be re-located to the south end of the lay-by outside the Co-Op to accommodate a new bus shelter at the north end of the lay-by.

A copy of the Order and plan relative thereto are available for inspection during normal working hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:-

- (i) Scarinish Post Office, Scarinish Farm, Isle of Tiree;
- (ii) Roads and Amenity Services, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

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 6th September 2013, apply to the Court of Session for this purpose.

Sandy MacTaggart Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8RD

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This is an opportunity to put your views on local or national issues directly to Marine Scotland staff and on MPAs to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) staff and help decide how Scotland's seas are managed in the future.

**Drop-in Events:**

**Tuesday 10 September**  
 Lochgilphead - Community Centre  
 1- 8pm, SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs.

**Wednesday 11 September**  
 Inverary - Loch Fyne Hotel,  
 1-8pm SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs.

**Thursday 12 September**  
 Islay - Columba Centre,  
 Marine Scotland: 1-5pm drop in session & 6-8pm presentations.

**Thursday 19 September**  
 Oban - Corran Halls  
 Marine Scotland: 1-5pm drop in session & 6-8pm presentations.  
 SNH drop in session focussed on MPAs: 1-8pm

**For more information please visit:**  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/marineconsultation](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/marineconsultation)

**Information on MPAs, including site specific Management Options Papers, is available at:**  
[www.jncc.gov.uk/scottish-mpa-consultation](http://www.jncc.gov.uk/scottish-mpa-consultation)  
[www.snh.gov.uk/mpa-consultation](http://www.snh.gov.uk/mpa-consultation)

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Would like to thank Mr Micells, Raigmore, Mr Sedgwick, Belford, all nurses, physio dept, catering staff, Ewan, Charlie, Fire Service, family, friends and neighbours for all gifts, flowers and visits when in the Belford. Special thanks to Rev Corbett and Fr MacKinnon, St Mary's.

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**BIRTHS**

**MOIR** - Arrived safely on August 18, 2013 at Dr Gray's Elgin, a 4th son for Tamara and Mark, and grandson for Peter and Katy Weir, North Ledaig House.

**ENGAGEMENTS**

**CUMMING - MACNEIL** - Both families are happy to announce the engagement between Laura Frances, younger daughter of Linda and Angus, Newton Mearns, Glasgow and Angus John, younger son of Catherine and Roddy, Soroba, Oban.

**GOLDEN WEDDING**

**BROWN - ROBERTSON** - On September 6, 1963 at Minard Parish Church, by the bride's father Rev. Donald Robertson, Jim to Violet.

**DEATHS**

**BARNHAM** - Peacefully at home with her family on September 3, 2013, aged 57 years, Val, much loved wife to Les, mum to Rebecca and Josh, mother-in-law to Matthew and grandma to Louis and Oliver.

**MACDONALD** - Unexpectedly, on Friday August 30, 2013, Moira MacDonald, beloved wife of Donnie, dearly loved mum of Heather, Sandy and Bobby, and adored granny of five; a much loved sister and true friend to many. Requiem Mass will take place in St. Cumin's RC Church, Morar on Saturday September 7, 2013, at 2pm, thereafter to Beoraid Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired, to Friends of the MacKintosh Centre and Church Funds. Enquiries to John McLellan Funeral Directors, Tel. 01397 702128. R.I.P.

**MACKINNON** - Hector. Peacefully after a short illness at his home in New Zealand, on Sunday, September 4, aged 74. Much loved brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Late of Canna. Sadly missed by all. R.I.P.

**MACLENNAN** - Peacefully, at the Glenaray Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilhead, on September 1, 2013, Murdoch (Murdie) MacLennan MBE, aged 73 years, of 8 McCracken Court, Lochgilhead, and formerly of Dewar Avenue. Former Sub-Officer at Lochgilhead Fire Station. Beloved husband of the late Elizabeth, much loved dad of Lorne, Leone, Darren, Laurene, Murray and the late Kevin, adored grandpa and great grandpa, a much respected father-in-law and a dear brother, uncle and cousin to all the family. A good neighbour, dear friend and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church, on Monday, September 9, 2013, at 12.00 noon, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Chest, Heart and Stroke Foundation and The Fire Fighters Charity.

**MACLEOD** - Hugh, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, August 28, 2013 at Gartnavel Hospital with his family by his side. Beloved dad of Rita, Johann, Morag, Ian and their families. Sadly missed.

**MACPHEE** - Peacefully at Tigh-a-Ruadh, Scarinish, Tiree on August 23, 2013 in her 86th year. Mary T (née MacLean) beloved wife of the late William MacPhee. Much loved mum of Duncan and the late Neil and Christopher. Grandmother of Duncan, Andros, Ian, Jamie, Alison and Mark. Loved and missed by everyone.

**MACPHERSON** - Peacefully at home, on August 30, 2013 surrounded by his family, Ewen MacPherson, dearly beloved husband of the late Carrie, respected dad of Carol, Sara, Edith, Donald and Ewen and dear grandpa and great-grandpa. Funeral service on Thursday (today), September 5, at St. Modan's Church, Benderloch at 1.30 p.m., thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**CAMERON** - The family of the late Annabell Cameron sincerely thank all relatives and friends for their words of comfort following their recent bereavement. We express our thanks to all Ward A staff at Lorne and Islands Hospital, Oban, also to the Rev Dugald Cameron for his comforting service, to Maureen Gracie for the beautiful flowers and to Angus J Maccoll for piping at the church and graveside. Thanks also go to D&A Munn for their efficient funeral arrangements and to all those who donated to Cancer Research UK at the service.

**CRUICKSHANK** - Duncan, Catherine, Duncan Jnr, Margaret and families sincerely thank all family and friends for the kindness and support received on the sad loss of Flora. Grateful to the Ambulance and Police for their care and attention. Thanks also to Rev. D Cameron for his heartfelt service, D & A Munn Ltd Funeral Directors for their efficient arrangements, The Royal Hotel for catering and refreshments. The sum of £428.90 collected at church was donated to local branch of Alzheimer's Scotland.

**MCNEILL** - Ronald, Tarby, the Boys, David and Pamela wish to convey their heartfelt thanks to the Ambulance Crew, Police Officers, Andrew Simpson, Andy and Bea, Doctors at Lorn Medical Centre and most especially nurse Fiona Thomson for all the care and compassion shown to both ourselves and Richie. Huge thanks to Richie's neighbours who have shown such loving respect and kindness - he treasured their friendship. To all family, friends and neighbours for each and every expression of sympathy. To Rev Kenneth Ross for fulfilling spiritual guidance, friendship and for conducting Richie's funeral with such warmth. To James Gray for invaluable musical talent and help - so freely given. To our dear friend John MacKenzie for delivering 'Richie's Story' with such humanity, to Catriona MacKinnon for her emotive rendition of Turn, Turn, Turn, to our friend and piper, Donald Campbell who piped Richie to his Rest. To Mr and Mrs Ramage of the Lancaster Hotel, Libby from Subway and Richie's Pool Team. To the beloved people of Oban who have taken us to their hearts and have showered us with overwhelming love. To our 'Forres Sons' for strength and support and everyone who could not be with us but carried us in their hearts. To Funeral Directors D & A Munn, most especially Ian Jnr and Donald Cameron whose sensitivity, caring and guidance touches us deeply. To Richie's colleagues at Scottish Water and D.K. Lafferty for their compassion. A sum in excess of £800 has been raised in Richie's memory for Argyll Animal Aid. Our heartfelt thanks to all. 'To know Richie was to love him'.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of a dear brother-in-law and uncle Ian. Died September 5, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Calum, Flora and family.

**MACMILLAN** - Treasured memories of Ian (Parrot), who died September 5, 2012, a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great-uncle who passed away September 5, 2012. Always remembered with a smile! - Norrie, Carol and family.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of a dear brother-in-law and uncle Ian. Died September 5, 2012. Always in our thoughts. - Agnes, Martin, Chloe & Leona xx

**MACMILLAN** - Fond memories of our dear friend Ian. Sadly missed. - Katie, Annie and families.

**MARSHALL** - Remembering with love all those who have passed away throughout the years at Kilpatrick, Bunessan, Mull. - Senga and family.

**McDOUGALL** - In loving memory of his 10th anniversary of Lindsay, who died so suddenly on September 4, 2003. - Inserted by the family.

**WOOD** - In loving memory of a dear son and brother Robert, who died September 8, 2012. Sadly missed by all. - Mum and family.

- Sheana, Anne, Kenneth, Sarah and Grant.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of our dear brother Angie, who died September 11, 2011. Never forgotten. Also remembering all those gone before.

- Maimie and Charlie, Inverness, Kathleen and Wally Farnborough and families.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of a much loved husband, dad and papa, Duncan (Dochie), who died September 7, 1993. When we visit the place you rest

We know you were simply the best And when we turn and walk away

We know you're with us every day Sadly missed by us all.

- Loving wife Rose and family.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of a dear mum, granny and great grandmother, Mary Flora, Hillcrest, Tiree who passed away September 6, 2012.

It broke our hearts to lose you But you did not go alone A part of us went with you The day God called you home A million times we've needed you A million times we've cried If love could have saved you You never would have died.

**MACMILLAN** - Cherished memories of my dear beloved husband Ian, who passed away on September 5, 2012.

You never said I'm leaving We did not say goodbye You were gone before I knew it

And only God knows why In life I loved you dearly In death I love you still In my heart I hold a place That only you can fill.

- Your loving wife Mary.

**MACMILLAN** - Treasured memories of Ian MacMillan precious Dad and Pappy passed away September 5, 2012. We think about you always, We talk about you still, You have never been forgotten And you never will. We hold you close within our hearts. And there you will remain. To walk with us throughout our lives Until we meet again. Loved and missed everyday. - Iona and Ashley.

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of Ian dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and grand-uncle who passed away September 5, 2012. Always in our thoughts.

**MACMILLAN** - Treasured memories of Ian (Parrot), who died September 5, 2012, a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle and great-uncle. Always remembered with a smile!

**MACMILLAN** - In loving memory of a dear brother-in-law and uncle Ian. Died September 5, 2012. Always in our thoughts.

**MACMILLAN** - Fond memories of our dear friend Ian. Sadly missed.

**MARSHALL** - Remembering with love all those who have passed away throughout the years at Kilpatrick, Bunessan, Mull. - Senga and family.

**McDOUGALL** - In loving memory of his 10th anniversary of Lindsay, who died so suddenly on September 4, 2003. - Inserted by the family.

**WOOD** - In loving memory of a dear son and brother Robert, who died September 8, 2012. Sadly missed by all. - Mum and family.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 8 September 2013  
Trinity 15  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Sung Eucharist.....10.15  
Children's Corner  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All Welcome  
Nicki McNelly, Provost.  
(01631) 562323  
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist.....11.00  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Communion.....11.00  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Evensong.....20.15  
Holy Eucharist.....Wed 11 Sept 14.30

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**Obituary**

**Hector Morrison (1926 - 2013)**

THE DEATH of Mr Hector Morrison, 1 The Square, Achmore, in Broadford Hospital on August 12 after a short illness came as a shock to his many friends over a wide area.

He was 86 years old but belied his years and was driving his van up to a few weeks ago.

Hector was born in Craig near Gairloch on Christmas Day, 1926. He was the youngest of a family of seven, all of whom are now gone.

He went to school in Diabaig, a daily three mile walk round an exposed coastline. Fond of learning, Hector acquired a wide range of skills throughout his life.

His first job was on a fishing boat at Diabaig, which began a lifelong attachment to the sea. The family moved to Tomatin in 1944 and around that time Hector joined the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in the latter stages of the war.

He was present at the D-day landings, working as an engineer on the landing crafts and immediately after the close of the war served as a driver or batman at the Nuremberg war crimes trials.

After demob he returned to Tomatin, helping with the agricultural work. He worked for the Automobile Association and for this he had a motorbike and sidecar, covering the area north of Drumochter Pass.

At weekends he would remove the sidecar, put a bag over the petrol tank and conceal the AA livery and motor incognito up to Inverness for the craic. It was here he met Margaret Mackay whom he later married in 1951.

For a time he took employment as a lighthouse keeper at Rattray Head, but this was not conducive to married life so Hector embarked on a new career in shepherding, working first at Ahlaine, Glenmoriston, where his son Brian was born.

Work took him to Ben Mor in Assynt, Alter Estate near Forres

- where children Peter and Janet completed the family - and Eriboll, Durness, where he was promoted to farm manager.

Later Hector moved to Killilan for three years as a shepherd, before finally in 1962 the family relocated to the hub of civilisation, Achmore near Plockton, settling in the forestry house which was to be his home for the rest of his life.

Here, apart from a further change to forestry, he had the opportunity to do all the things he loved, helping his neighbours with cattle and sheep, ploughing with a horse, keeping sheep and fishing in the sea.



Hector Morrison.

Hector was blessed with a strong and durable physique, which suited him to the demanding outdoor work he chose.

When he started with the forestry he was employed dragging timber off the hill above Achmore by hand, where a horse had been used before.

When the oilyard opened in Kishorn, he worked there as a marine foreman, in charge of moving freight from Stromeferry by sea to the yard, maintaining moorings and also shipping materials from Kyleakin quarry.

At the close of the yard, he moved to Highland Marine, being employed on their tugs, in jobs as far north as Shetland and in projects at the Raasay pier and at the Kyleakin and Skye bridges.

When it came to retiring age, Hector carried on working at the estate at New Kello for a further eight years and at the grand age of 77 he finally received his last wage packet, but continued to live an active and busy life, buzzing around in his blue van up until the last few weeks.

Hector enjoyed growing vegetables in his garden and helped his son-in-law Roddy with his sheep. He was vice-president of the Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland and poppy convener for Achmore and district, doing the collections for many years.

Hector was also a freemason, a past master in Lodge Kyle 1117 and deputy grand master for Ross and Cromarty.

Sadly Margaret died in 1996 and for the last couple of years of his life daughter Janet stopped work to look after Hector - he was never keen on housework.

Popular with young and old, particularly with his own grandchildren, Hector had a determined, independent frame of mind which ensured his life was full of many chapters.

One friend posted on Facebook: 'Hospitalite, generous, loyal and great company, Wester Ross and the Highlands are poorer for his passing.'

Evidence of Hector's popularity was the very large crowd which attended his funeral at Kyle Church of Scotland with a full church and hall and many standing outside. The service was conducted by the Rev. Roddie Rankin, assisted by Rev. Gordon Matheson.

Burial was at Balmacara New Cemetery, where pipe William Salmon from Edinburgh played. The collection was shared between Broadford Hospital and the Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland.

Sympathy is expressed to sons Brian in Inverness, Peter in AIness and daughter Janet (Mrs MacPherson) at Achmore.

CM MacRae

**The Oban Times**

& West Highland Times  
**THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL**



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Chairwoman Joan Kemp has the duty of cutting the Oban U3A birthday cake at Tuesday's AGM. Pictured are, from left: Liz Allen, Mary Wilson, Kathy Murgatroyd, Joan Kemp, Rob Lightfoot, Judy Watt, Denise Evernell, Jennifer Shaw and Christine Hodge. 16.3.663a1

**Members say happy birthday to U3A**

OBAN'S University of the Third Age (U3A) celebrated its fifth anniversary this week - as the organisation reached 123 members.

When it started in 2008, the organisation registered 73 members, but it has grown to the stage where the Regent Hotel's McCaig Suite struggled

to cope with the number of members keen to celebrate its birthday party at the AGM.

Now offering more than 20 interest groups, the group hosted a talk on Mayan Culture as part of its celebration, before tucking into a special celebratory cake.

**Alexander uses pedal power to raise £800**

AN ARDGOUR youngster has raised more than £800 for his school - by cycling 14 miles with his mum.

Alexander MacLeod, a seven-year-old pupil at Ardgor Primary School, and his mum Donna tackled the arduous route between Strontian and his village on Saturday.

School clerical assistant Rosie Maclean said: 'Well done Alexander! Ardgor Primary School and Nursery is proud of you.'

**Park area volunteers sought**

LOCH Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is seeking nominations for unsung volunteers in its area as part of a UK-wide competition.

The volunteers being recognised can range from schoolchildren to those who have offered decades of service, from the individual who helps mend fences to the organisation helping to reintroduce a native species.

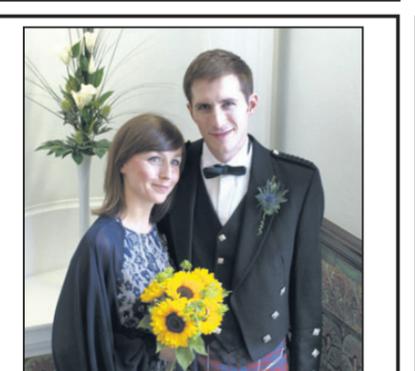
Winners of the group and project categories will receive a £1,000 bursary to help future volunteering activity.

The winning individual and young person will each receive their choice of footwear from UK National Parks brand partner, Merrell.

**Honoured**  
Volunteers from communities across Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park are also to be honoured at the National Park Community Partnership's annual gathering event.

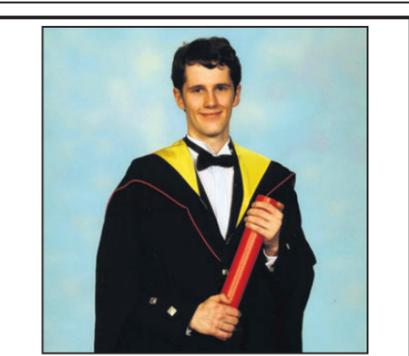
Nominations must be submitted by midnight, September 7 and can be emailed to Marie Harvey at marie.harvey@lochlomond-trossachs.org.

**WEDDINGS**



**GRANTHAM - KRAWCZYK**  
Robin Grantham and Krzysztofa Krawczyk were married in Glasgow on August 23, 2013. Robin is the younger son of Brian and Frances Grantham, Ganavan, Oban. Krzysztofa is the daughter of Marek and Ewa Krawczyk, Łódź, Poland.

**GRADUATIONS**



**Iain Dugald Cameron graduated from Glasgow University in June with a BSc (Hons) in Virology. Iain is the son of John and Rena Cameron, Kingie, and the grandson of Mary Ann and the late Sandy Morrison, Knoydart and Dugald Cameron and Jean Cameron, Acharacle. Iain attended Invergarry Primary and Lochaber High School and is going on to do a masters in Glasgow.**



**Kayleigh MacLeod graduated from the University of Abertay with BA (Hons) in Computer Art. Kayleigh is the daughter of Neil and Fiona MacLeod and a former pupil of Fort William Gaelic Medium Unit and Lochaber High School.**

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# Testing sailing at dinghy regatta

STRONG winds made for testing sailing at Oban Sailing Club's annual dinghy regatta held over the weekend of August 17/18.

Because of the poor weather forecast, only 10 dinghies competed, experiencing varying wind strengths from F2 to gusts of F7 which fully tested the skills of all competitors.

Saturday's racing in strong, very gusty winds found several boats with gear failure and tired crews with only one boat finishing the course in each class in Race 1.

Ryan MacIntyre from Lochaber YC won the Fast Handicap Class in his Laser Radial, *Now or Never*, and Matthew Strachan

## SAILING

and Thomas Smith in an Oban High School (OHS) RS Feva XL won the slow handicap class. Race two was cancelled because of increasing wind strength which also caused the cancellation of the Atlantis Leisure Sponsored Kerrera swim which was to follow the dinghy racing.

Sunday found slightly lighter but less gusty conditions and all four scheduled races were completed. Ryan MacIntyre dominated the fast handicap class with four further wins and Thomas Carter posted a steady stream of four second places in her first open event sailing her

Laser Radial, *Top Cat II*. Andrew and James Chapman came third in their recently acquired B14, *B-Sting*, despite a series of gear failures.

The slow handicap class was dominated on Sunday with steady results by Fergus McGowan and Murray Peden in an OHS Feva, followed by Jamie Peden and Paul Beuchting, an exchange



Young prizewinners from the Oban Town Dinghy Regatta.

student from Germany, who had never sailed before, in another OHS Feva, followed by Matthew and Thomas in the Feva XL.

Overall results gave the fast handicap class to Ryan MacIntyre with Tierney Carter second and Andrew and James Chapman third overall. Matthew Strachan and Thomas Smith took the slow handicap class

overall with Fergus McGowan and Murray Peden second and Jamie Peden and Paul Beuchting third, all sailing OHS Fevas.

Jamie and Paul recorded the maximum number of capsize in the gusts on Saturday which was well into double figures.

Race officer Eric Chapman said Oban Sailing Club was indebted to Nancy Black Oban Chandlery,

the sponsors of the event, which generously donated voucher prizes for the first three boats in each class. He added thanks were also due to the rescue boat crews who performed an exemplary job especially in the strong gusty conditions, and those who provided soup and sandwiches to sustain the crews and helpers for lunch on Sunday.

## Oban netball team relaunches

### NETBALL

OBAN Netball Club is taking off by relaunching itself with a new team name - Oban Ospreys.

The new team is looking to reach out, initially, to adult players of any standard, particularly those who have played previously.

Additionally, the Ospreys want to provide a supportive environment for young players to play outside the school environment and make the transition into the adult game, so would welcome any keen senior school pupils who want to improve their skills.

A free taster session will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 6pm - 7pm at Atlantis Leisure.

Anyone interested is invited to come along and give it a go at this first training session, or contact Lorraine Reynolds on 01852 300046 for further details.



Alasdair Gorrie, 16, was crowned the 125 Scottish Motocross Champion this week. 06\_a34motocross01

## Alasdair is Scottish Champion

AN ARDRISHAIG teenager, who has been crowned the 125 Scottish Motocross Champion in his first year of competing in the national championships, has described his victory as 'a dream come true'.

Alasdair Gorrie had his stamina and strength put to the test at the competition in Leuchars, Fife at the weekend as he fought off tough competition from 14 other riders.

The 16-year-old, who is a member of the Mid Argyll Motocross

## Oban Athletic net eight, but manager warns of the bigger challenges ahead

West of Scotland AFL - League Cup Oban Athletic 8 Erskine Thistle 0

FOLLOWING last week's convincing 4-0 away win at Third Lanark, Oban Athletic maintained their 100 per cent record this season in emphatic fashion, defeating Erskine Thistle 8-0.

Athletic raced to a four-goal lead inside 30 minutes, with Steven MacLeod putting the first two on a plate for strike duo Dean Smith and Kris Gillies, before the pair linked up well to grab one each before half time.

Chipping in

Dougal Graham carried on his excellent form by chipping in with a goal, before substitutes Mark Ferguson and Lance MacCush made cases for a starting place by scoring seconds after coming on.

But Gillies had the final say, completing his hat trick after

passing up a couple of chances to do so earlier.

Manager Calum Fox couldn't hide his delight, saying: 'The lads were fantastic. Once the game was won we wanted to give the defence a boost by protecting the back four to get another clean sheet.'

Possession 'We did that by keeping possession and attacking from wide areas, which Erskine just couldn't

deal with. The big games are just around the corner and as long as the boys don't think they have cracked it after a couple of heavy wins, we will be ready for the bigger challenges.'

'We are also doing this with key players unavailable so the squad is healthy and that is important.' Athletic have no game this weekend.

### FOOTBALL

## Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

OBAN Saints Under 13s played their first ever league game on Sunday and came away with an impressive 7-2 home win over Renton.

Saints goalscorers were Scott Mossman (4), Cameron Hill (2) and Keir MacLean.

Under 14s 0, Dumbarton United 1; Under 15s v Blair Thistle Postponed; Kilpatrick 3,

Under 17s 1. Netting for Saints was Rhys Cook.

This weekend's fixtures - Strathaven Dynamoes v Under 13s; Dumbarton Riverside v Under 14s; Under 15s v Hamilton Caledonian Thistle; Ardencaple v Under 17s.

### YOUTH FOOTBALL

## Oban High School sports day and Highland games results

Diarmid: Alyssa Usher - S1 girls 100m, Grace Thompson - S1 girls high jump, Heather Fothergill - S2 girls 200m, Heather Fothergill - S2 girls 600m, Shona Wright - S2 girls 60m hurdles, Andrew Ritchie - S2 boys 200m, Andrew Ritchie - S2 boys 60m hurdles, Beth Menzies - S3 girls 60m hurdles, Ben Coates - S3 boys 100m, Ben Coates - S3 boys 200m, Ben Coates - S3 boys 60m hurdles, Ben Coates - S3 boys long jump, Emma Thompson - S4 girls 200m, Emma Thompson - S4 girls 600m, Emma Thompson - S4 girls long jump, Ruairidh Cain - S6 boys 100m, Ruairidh Cain - S6 boys 200m.

Champions: Grace Thompson - S1 Girl; Heather Fothergill - S2 Girl; Andrew Ritchie - S2 Boy; Ben Coates - S3 Boy; Emma Thompson - S4 Girl; Ruairidh Cain - S6 Boy.

Somerled: Billie Grant - S1 girls 200m, Sandy Welsh - S1 boys 600m, Sandy Welsh - S1 boys high jump, Rory Dowd - S1 boys 60m hurdles, Rory Dowd - S1 boys long jump, Tommy McQuade - S1 boys shot putt, Shannon McKay - S2 girls 100m, Shannon McKay - S2 girls high jump, Lauren Turner - S2 girls 1200m, Lauren Turner - S2 girls long jump, Craig McCorquodale - S2 boys long jump, Lomond MacPherson - S3 boys 600m, Lomond MacPherson - S3 boys 1200m, Jamie Kilorn - S4 boys 100m, Jamie Kilorn - S4 boys 200m, Jamie Kilorn - S4 boys 600m, Jamie

Kilorn - S4 boys 1200m, Jamie Kilorn - S4 boys 60m hurdles, Jamie Kilorn - S4 boys long jump.

Champions: Sandy Welsh - S1 boy; Jamie Kilorn - S4 boy.

Ossian: Eilidh Shearer - S1 girls 600m, Eilidh Shearer - S1 girls 1200m, Kate MacFarlane - S1 girls 60m hurdles, Katie MacFarlane - S1 girls long jump, Sol Smith - S1 boys 100m, Sol Smith - S1 boys 200m.

Sol Smith - S1 boys 1200m, Lauren



Ben Coates: Diarmid 53 champion

Powell - S3 girls 100m, Roanne Lilley - S3 girls 600m, Emma Baird, S3 girls 1200m, Daniel Spiers - S3 boys shot putt, Caitlin Taylor - S5 girls 100m, Caitlin Taylor - S5 girls 200m, Caitlin Taylor - S5 girls high jump, Isla Donald - S5 girls 600m, Isla Donald - S5 girls long jump, Lewis MacFarlane - S5 boys 60m hurdles, Sam Lines - S5 boys long jump, Jodie Dairon - S6 girls 100m, Jodie Dairon - S6 girls 60m hurdles, Alison MacVicar - S6 girls 600m, Alison MacVicar - S6 girls 1200m.

Champions: Roanne Lilley - S3 Girl, Caitlin Taylor - S5 Girl, Lewis MacFarlane - S5 Boy.

Fingal: Scott Rowley - S2 boys 600m, Scott Rowley - S2 1200m, Melissa Robertson - S3 girls 200m, Ellen Barlow - S3 girls long jump, Katherine Tamplin - S4 girls shot putt, Ellie MacNiven - S5 girls shot putt, Zak Straub - S4 boys shot putt, Crissy Budge - S5 boys 100m, Crissy Budge - S5 boys 200m.

Champions (trophy winners): Alexander Heather McColl S6 Girls. Murdo Masterson and Ross Christie were joint winners of the heavy events.

## Last minute equaliser denies Saints all three points

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division Oban Saints 1 Thorn Athletic 1

THORN Athletic were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Scottish Amateur League Premier Division match and the men from Johnstone must have thought Christmas had come early as Saints gifted them an equaliser in the final minute of the game.

Saints have never beaten Thorn in Oban and Saturday's match was to be no different.

The home side were without Donnie Campbell and Eddie Swift for this match, but welcomed Ross Maitland and Myles McAuley back into the squad.

Before the match both sets of players and officials observed a two minute silence in memory of Mr Graham Harkness, President of the Scottish Amateur Football Association who died earlier in the week.

The game was pretty evenly balanced in the early stages with Saints creating the first chance in the 14th minute when Japanese

striker Sonin Kurishita cut the ball back for his strike partner Allan MacKay, but Allan fired his effort high and wide.

The same two were involved in the next chance when Sonin flicked the ball forward with his head, but again Allan's effort was off target.

The visitors came close in the 40th minute with a well taken free kick from Jason Henderson.

Saints took the lead right on the half time whistle when Willie Gemmell fired in a long throw which was met by Craig MacEwan who headed the ball into the net past Liam McWilliams for a well taken goal.

The home side should have increased their lead right at the start of the second half when Allan MacKay sent a great ball through the middle for Sonin Kurishita, but the young Japanese striker shot past the post.

Saints had started the second period well, but gradually Thorn were creeping back into the game and Daniel Cassells had to make a good save from a Brian Robertson piledriver.

It was turning out to be a good game of football with Saints striving to get a vital second goal that would probably be good enough to gain all three points and Thorn were pushing forward to get an equaliser.

As the game drew to a close Saints were being forced to defend as Thorn threw men forward.

Deceive

With the game entering the final minute and Saints holding on for the three points Brian Robertson sent a long ball forward which seemed to deceive Craig MacEwan allowing Thorn substitute Thomas Graham to run through on goals and knock the ball past a helpless Daniel Cassells much to the disbelief of the Saints contingent.

There was barely time for the ball to be centred before referee Robert Doolan who handled a sporting game well, blew for full time and it was a shell-shocked Saints team that trudged off the park at the final whistle.

Manager Iain Jackson was stunned at the end of the game.



## Fort William

A STABLEFORD competition at Fort William Golf Club on Saturday was won by Sebastian MacMillan with a score of 40 points.

MacMillan finished four points ahead of runner up Neil Feggins, while third place went to Andrew Brown with his score of 31.

A 'hidden hole' competition was held in conjunction with the stableford. Players' scores from six randomly chosen holes were added together, and Feggins' net score of 24 gave him the win.

MacMillan was second with a score of 25, with Sinclair Gunn taking third with 26.

The club will hold its September medal competition this Saturday, with the senior medal being played on Sunday.

## Dalmally

KEVIN Mackie's course record equalling 65 at Sunday's Dalmally Gents Open was all the more creditable given the tough conditions players had to endure.

In winning the scratch section by one stroke from fellow Glencruitten member Philip Murphy, Mackie had to battle against a course playing three strokes tougher than usual. Nowhere was this better

illustrated than in the handicap section, where nobody broke the 60 barrier. Pitlochry's Tony Flynn, playing in the final group, posted the day's lowest net score of 62 to claim the trophy from young Daniel MacMillan (Glencruitten), who had the consolation of hitting nearest the pin at the 7th hole. Paul Kersley took the pin prize at the tough signature third hole, while Pitlochry's David Flynn joined his father Tony as the day's longest drivers at the 4th and 8th respectively.

However, the biggest winner from the event could be a local joiner, as the new Open trophy awarded to Mackie will need one of the largest display cabinets ever seen.

## Taynuilt

LADIES: SLGA Brooch played 27 August - 1 Carol Church 67 (20); 2 Sandra Elliott 76 (25); 3 Mairead Sim 76 (14).

Gents: Medal played 1 September - 1 Calum Munro 58 (10); 2 Allan Stewart 63 (12); 3 Andrew Diggory 63 (6).

Gents: Medal Qualifiers 7 April - M Bergant, A Dowell; 28 April - F Inglis, K MacGregor; 16 June - I MacMillan, M Grant; 30 June - E McGlynn, C Munro; 4 August - K Mills, A Wilson; 1 September - A Stewart, A Diggory.

## Islay

SEPTEMBER Medal Played Sunday 1 September - 1 D Livingstone 82 less 8 Net 74; 2 K MacDonald 83 less 7 Net 76; 3 A Livingstone 88 less 12 Net 76. Csa 74.

## Argyll riders travel to Blair Horse Trials

ARGYLL riders were well represented in national showing and show jumping classes held at Blair Horse Trials.

Four riders made the seven-hour round trip to Blair Atholl for the national finals, held between August 22 - 25, the biggest event on the Scottish calendar.

Roanna Clark, a member of Argyll Riding Club and her horse, Hero, contested both the novice and open working hunter classes, where horses jump a course of natural obstacles before being assessed for manners, conformation and way of going, and were unlucky to roll a single pole in the novice class. They also went on to compete in two show jumping classes and the style jumping competition.

Three other Argyll Riding Club members were also in action - John Brailsford, riding Monty, and Fabienne Renfrew,

### HORSE RIDING

riding Mystic Harlequin, also competed.

Oban riders Yvonne Voss, riding Effie, competed in the working hunter class while Julie Shaw and Emerald competed in the small riding horse class.



Argyll Riding Club member Roanna Clark and Hero compete in the working hunter class at Blair Horse Trials.

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# Ballachulish defeat Kyles in final of the Bullough Cup

**BALLACHULISH** won their second trophy of the season by beating rivals Kyles Athletic 3-0 in the final of the Bullough Cup at Mossfield on Saturday.

Ballachulish had the strong wind at their backs and deservedly took the lead in the 17th minute through Michael Slezas with a fine turn and shot.

Both teams had short spells of pressure in a fierce contest and the game blew up in the 43rd minute when David Campbell and Ewan Mitchell clashed with both ending up being booked.

Ballachulish's second came in odd circumstances; Michael Slezas looked to have scored his second but this was immediately disallowed for offside. The resultant hit from the Kyles keeper only went as far as the Ballachulish forwards and was sent straight past him by Duncan MacDonald to give Ballachulish a deserved 2-0 half time lead.

Scott Henderson added a decisive third goal in an otherwise uneventful second half.

At the close of play the Bullough Cup was presented to Ballachulish captain Alan Clark who made a welcome return to the team after a lengthy lay off with a broken shoulder.

Ballachulish can now concentrate on the league and must win their final three fixtures to catch Kyles and force a play-off for the league.

**FORT WILLIAM** travel to relegated Oban Camanachd looking to keep alive their flickering hopes of Orion Group Premiership survival.

The An Aird men went down to champions elect Newtonmore on Saturday with a goal from veteran Gordy MacKinnon their sole consolation in the 5-1 defeat.

Now co-manager Victor Smith will once again have to rely on youth as injuries and absence continue to plague Fort's run in.

Two 15-year-olds - Calum Shepherd (midfield) and Gregor Cameron (centre line/defence) will play a part alongside two 16-year-olds - wing wizard Alexander MacMillan, who is highly rated by Smith, and Lewis Smith.

Midfielder Arran MacPhee - already in his second premiership campaign at the age of 17 - and 18-year-olds Jamie Cruikshank (midfield) and defender Camerhan Grant will also feature.

Smith told *The Oban Times*: 'It's through necessity. Because we have limited squad just now through players being on holiday and two being injured we have to put them in. It's good experience for them as well.'

Oban will prove tough opponents but Fort William have to find a route to victory to have any chance of playing top flight next season.

Smith said: 'It is a must win game. We will keep fighting till it is impossible for us to stay up but the odds are really stacked against us just now. We will give it our best shot.'

**OBAN CAMANACHD** manager Gussie Campbell says Fort William will 'fight to the end' when they visit Mossfield this Saturday.

The Fort realistically need two points to keep alive their hopes of staying in the Orion Group Premiership and Campbell says his players will be ready for the onslaught.

Campbell said: 'Fort William have a slight chance of escaping relegation. I know their management team and if there is even the slightest chance of league survival, their players will fight to the end.'

'They have more to play for in terms of points but our boys are playing for pride and positions

next season, so I expect more of the same from last week.'

Campbell said there were many positives to take from his side's 0-0 draw with Kyles Athletic last Saturday.

He added: 'James MacMillan came back from holiday and was outstanding for us in defence.'

'Young Shaun Morgan got 90 minutes and David Lafferty came up from Lochside and was very busy in midfield.'

'I got very positive vibes about Shaun from those watching and if he trains hard and keeps learning there is no reason he can't win a starting place up front next season.'

As well as being the final game of Camanachd's season, the Fort William match will also signal the retirement of full back Gareth Evans.

**KYLES ATHLETIC** have no game this weekend, as they continue preparations for the Camanachd Cup final.

An under-strength Kyles played out a 0-0 draw with Oban Camanachd last weekend.

**LOVAT** have no game this weekend, and with two matches left to play still harbour the faintest of hopes of snatching the Orion Group Premiership title. But should Newtonmore take a point or more away from Kinlochshiel on Saturday, the men from The Eilan will retain the crown.



Oban Camanachd's Sean Morgan is brought down just outside the area early in the first half against Kyles Athletic on Saturday.

**KINLOCHSHIEL** just need a point in their last two matches to make absolutely sure that top tier shinty will be returning to Kirkton for another season.

The good news is that 'Shiel will have home advantage in both games - the bad news is that Newtonmore provide the opposition on Saturday.

'More are undefeated in the league and thrashed Fort William 5-1 last weekend with players missing - so 'Shiel coach Johnston Gill has a major task on his hands to conjure up any kind of a result.'

He told *The Oban Times*: 'We are still looking for a point or two and although the results went for us last week we would like to do it off our own back rather than depend on other people's results.'

'We have a small pool of players and we will have a look at the opposition to see where they are strong and weak and try to combat or exploit that.'

'They are a powerful squad - they were five or six short against Fort William last week and still managed to score five goals.'

'It is a big ask for us but I have every faith in the players that I have and they, like myself, want to prove themselves.'

For tactical reasons, Gill was reluctant to name the two youngsters who will be drafted in from the second team which lost 5-2 to Lovat in the Strathdearn Cup final at Invergarry on Saturday.

But he said: 'We will have more power on the sidelines and more power on the pitch. If we can get

## SHINTY

a result the players will get a big lift and it would be a good way to finish the season.'

**NEWTONMORE** travel to Balmacara to take on Kinlochshiel this Saturday knowing a win would secure their fourth Orion Group Premiership title in a row.

Unbeaten after 14 games, the two points against 'Shiel would give PJ MacKintosh's men a five point lead over Lovat, who have just two games left to play.

'More have declined the chance to take the weekend off ahead of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final against Kyles Athletic on September 14.'

MacKintosh said: 'I think for Newtonmore, from what I've seen this season, we're always better when we've got games behind us.'

The manager said he was hoping to secure the league to give his side a boost ahead of the final.

He said: 'We want to go out there and get the win. Hopefully we'll have something close to our strongest team out.'

'More were 'down to the bare bones' last weekend against Fort William, with seven players missing for the game, but still managed a comfortable 5-1 win. Danny MacRae scored twice to take his tally to 17 league goals,



Ballachulish captain Alan Clark holds aloft the Bullough Cup after his team defeated Kyles Athletic 3-0 at Mossfield Stadium last Saturday.

He said: 'We'll be looking to get something out of the game because we're not safe yet. We were desperate to get something last weekend to try and put it to bed.'

Kings fell behind early on last week but goals from Chris Holysong and Kevin Thain gave them a half time lead, only to see Invergarry score twice in the second half to take the win.

Jones said: 'We were disappointed last week, that's the third time in four games that's happened to us, losing by the odd goal.'

'But we can't ask any more from the players. They're quite young and they are playing against experienced premiership players.'

Jones will have much the same squad to choose from, with the addition of John Gibson.

Three weddings this Saturday will put a strain on **INVERARAY'S** squad for their return trip to Kingussie, including their goalkeeper and entire backline.

But player-manager Garry MacPherson says the squad will cope with the extended absence list as he prepares his side for a second meeting with Kings in a week.

The Royal Burgh beat their northern counterparts 3-2 last Saturday, thanks to goals from MacPherson, Lewis MacNicol and Euan McMurdo.

MacPherson said: 'We were all over them at the start but took our foot off the gas and they scored

two goals in four minutes.'

'We changed the team around a little and Neil Campbell, who is usually a forward, was excellent at half back.'

The win moved Invergarry into third place in the Orion Group Premiership, which MacPherson admitted was above his expectations.

**GLENGARRY'S** late season good form will be put to the test when they welcome Marine Harvest north division two leaders Newtonmore to Invergarry this Saturday.

Three points from their last two games has seen Ewen Cameron's men all but secure safety from relegation.

But Cameron admitted the planned reorganisation of the leagues for 2014 had left him unclear what division his side will be in next year.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I don't know how it's all going to work with this new system. I really don't. But I don't think we're going to be relegated at least.'

'Garry found themselves a goal down at half time against Fort William after Davie Duncan's 11th minute strike, but a storming second half saw them run out 5-1 winners with two goals from Steven Simpson and a hat trick from Martin Cameron.'

Even Cameron said: 'It was always going to be a game of two halves with the wind that was blowing, but it was good to get a win at the end of the season.'

John MacCallum and Iain McDonald added the extras.

## Innes Wood gets Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final

The Camanachd Association is pleased to announce that Innes Wood from Fort William has been appointed as referee at this year's 2013 Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final.

Former Fort William player and manager Innes has been refereeing shinty for more than seven years. He took a brief break from refereeing to manage Fort William's second team but since his return in 2008 he has steadily progressed and has been officiating at Grade One level for the past two years.

Supporting Innes on the day will be David Mitchell as fourth official, Willie Cameron and George MacKay as goal judges and Alex MacVicar, Archie Ritchie, Calum Girvan and John MacGregor as linesmen.

The Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final between Kyles Athletic and Newtonmore takes place at An Aird, Fort William on Saturday September 14 and tickets are on sale now at [www.shinty.com](http://www.shinty.com).

'It'll be a little bit different this weekend though, Newtonmore will be strong.'

**OBAN CELTIC** president David Hamilton was surprisingly calm in the wake of his club's 12-1 drubbing at the hands of title chasing Bute in their South Division One tie.

The last game of Celtic's season, this was always going to be a tough overseas trip but few would have expected a scoreline of that margin.

Robert Walker starred for the islanders with six goals, with Gordon MacMillan chipping in with a fine contribution of four goals.

John MacCallum and Iain McDonald added the extras.

Oban Celtic had only a single John Turnbull goal to show for their effort, which didn't go unnoticed by Hamilton, who criticised the team's commitment last week following an 8-0 defeat to GMA.

He said this week: 'We were short of a few regular players and they were just too quick and mobile for us.'

'They still have the title to play for but needed to improve their goal difference, so they went all out for goals.'

'Our boys tried their best and never gave up but we played a team that was on fire.'

**TAYNUILT'S** manager says this weekend's opponents, Strachur could easily beat his team unless he gets more commitment from players.

Willie Gillies was speaking after a disappointing 4-1 defeat at Kilmory, during which he had to play the game himself and only had the injured James MacLaren on the bench.

And with goalkeeper Gary Cameron and forward Alan Duffy unlikely to make this Saturday, the team could be down to the bare bones.

'Unless we get a better turnout than we did on Saturday, I can see Strachur beating us,' he said. 'Last week was embarrassing and Kilmory deserved to beat us.'

'We have two games to go and there are four points up for grabs but it is up to the boys to show they want to play.'



## Fixtures

Friday 6 September

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Strathglass v Beaulieu  
Robert Morrison - 6pm

Saturday 7 September

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Oban Caman v Fort William  
David Mitchell  
Kinlochshiel v Newtonmore  
Kingussie v Invergarry

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Lovat v Beaulieu  
Archie Ritchie  
Skye v Kinlochshiel  
Calum Girvan  
Glengarry v Newtonmore  
Graham Cameron

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Kilmallie v Strathspey  
Dunkie Kerr

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Strachur v Taynuilt  
Daniel MacRae  
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Innes Wood - 3pm

**Marine Harvest South Division Two**  
Bute v Ballachulish  
John MacGregor - 12pm

(Throw-ups 2.30pm unless stated)

## Youth Fixtures

**Marine Harvest Under 14 League Division 1**  
Kingussie v Beaulieu  
Skye v Kilmallie

**Division 2**  
Fort William v Kinlochshiel  
Lovat v Newtonmore

**Division 3**  
Glenurquhart v Caberfeidh

## Women's Camanachd Association

**Marine Harvest Challenge Cup Final**  
Strathglass v Glasgow MA  
David Stafford - 12.30pm  
(at The Eilan, Newtonmore)

**Valerie Fraser Cup Final**  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Badenoch & Strathspey  
John Angus Gillies - 2.30  
(at The Eilan, Newtonmore)

## Results

Saturday 31 August

**Strathdearn Cup Final**  
Lovat 5 - 2 Kinlochshiel

**Bullough Cup Final**  
Ballachulish 3 - 0 Kyles Athletic

**Orion Group Premiership**  
Invergarry 3 - 2 Kingussie  
Newtonmore 5 - 1 Fort William  
Oban Caman 0 - 0 Kyles Ath

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh 1 - 0 Strathglass

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Newtonmore 5 - 0 Skye  
Glengarry 5 - 1 Fort William

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Inverness 3 - 3 Lewis  
Strathspey 4 - 5 Lochcarron

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Kilmory 4 - 2 Taynuilt  
Bute 12 - 1 Oban Celtic  
Glasgow MA 4 - 0 Aberdeen

**Strathdearn Cup Final**  
Lovat 5 - 2 Kinlochshiel

**Bullough Cup Final**  
Ballachulish 3 - 0 Kyles Athletic



## League Tables

### The Orion Group Premiership

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	14	13	1	0	58	12	27
Lovat	16	9	6	1	36	15	24
Invergarry	16	7	4	5	27	25	18
Lochaber	18	6	5	7	28	34	17
Glenurquhart	17	6	3	8	24	28	15
Kingussie	16	7	0	9	28	32	14
Kinlochshiel	16	5	4	7	29	40	14
Kyles Athletic	13	5	2	6	22	19	12
Fort William	15	2	5	8	16	35	9
Oban Camanachd	17	3	2	12	19	47	8

### Marine Harvest North Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmallie	15	14	0	1	72	13	28
Beaulieu	14	11	1	2	40	15	23
Caberfeidh	15	7	1	7	36	32	15
Skye	15	6	2	7	28	26	14
Strathglass	14	1	3	10	17	46	5
Inverness	15	1	1	13	14	75	3

### Marine Harvest South Division 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glasgow MA	15	12	2	1	68	5	26
Bute	15	11	2	2	66	19	24
Glenorchy	16	9	3	4	39	20	21
Lochside Rovers	15	9	1	5	34	26	19
Aberdour	16	6	1	9	33	49	13
Oban Celtic	16	5	1	10	26	53	11
Taynuilt	14	4	2	8	25	42	10
Kilmory	16	2	3	11	21	53	7
Strachur	15	1	3	11	17	51	5

### Marine Harvest North Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	16	13	1	2	62	19	27
Lovat	16	9	6	1	39	26	24
Skye	17	11	2	4	38	22	22
Glenurquhart	18	8	3	7	29	28	19
Beaulieu	15	7	3	5	34	23	17
Kingussie	18	5	5	8	42	40	15
Glengarry	16	5	1	10	27	32	11
Fort William	18	5	1	12	31	60	11
Aberdeen Uni	18	3	4	11	25	44	8
Kinlochshiel	16	3	4	9	24	46	8

### Marine Harvest South Division 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	14	12	1	1	58	7	25
Ballachulish	11	9	1	1	61	10	19
Col Glen	14	8	1	5	47	32	17
Invergarry	13	7	2	4	36	27	15
Bute	13	4	1	8	22	40	8
Tayforth	14	4	1	9	16	52	5
Glasgow MA	14	3	0	11	22	67	5
Aberdour	13	2	1	10	15	42	4

### Marine Harvest North Division 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	18	15	0	3	92	28	30
Lochcarron	18	14	1	3	81	26	29
Boleskine	18	13	1	4	67	30	27
Kilmallie	17	9	3	5	51	47	20
Caberfeidh	18	6	2	10	34	48	14
Strathspey	17</						

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## Still time to enter Oban Sportive cycling event

### CYCLING

THRILL-seeking cyclists have still time to enter Scotland's charity cycling event of the year - the Oban Sportive.

The endurance challenge, sponsored by land and property agents Bell Ingram, offers competitors the chance to cycle through some of the most stunning scenery Scotland has to offer.

Riders can tackle a choice of two courses, both starting from Oban on Sunday, September 29 - the 52-mile Loch Avich route or the 84-mile Kilmartin route, with both set to challenge.

Joanne Stennett, PR manager at Bell Ingram, said: 'We hope that the Oban Sportive will attract cyclists from both far and wide to come and enjoy the spectacular scenery that Argyll has to offer, the tough challenge, and of course the warm hospitality of the Oban community.'

The event is a collaborative project between North Argyll Cycle Club and Oban Rotary Club and all proceeds will go to local good causes.

The Oban Sportive is dedicated to Sportive organising committee member Chris Bell, who was tragically killed at the age of 24 in an avalanche at Glen Coe earlier in the year. His vision was to make the Sportive a top quality event offering courses tough enough to give even the strongest riders a real test while not excluding anyone through excessive mileages.

People wishing to take part in the event should visit the Oban Sportive official website [obansportive.co.uk](http://obansportive.co.uk)

## Ross is the expert at Scottish Trials

### TRIALS

ROSS McArthur came out top of the expert section when the fifth round of the Scottish Bike Trial Championship was held in Killin last week.

Cammy Paton won the Intermediate category, while Cal Herd won the novice section.

Full results are as follows:  
Expert: 1 Ross McArthur; 2 Stuart Tait; 3rd Aaron Duke.  
Intermediate: 1 Cammy Paton; 2 Ian Rennie; 3 Simon Duke.  
Novice: 1 Cal Herd; 2 Max Chalmers; 3 Lewis Munro.  
Primary: 1 Andrew Williams; 2 George Kyriacou; 3 Mhairi Herd.

## John in the points at Silverstone

### MOTORCYCLING

RACING Team Germany's John McPhee finished 14th in the Moto3 race at Silverstone at the weekend.

Watched by fellow Lorn motor sport star Susie Wolff, McPhee claimed his second points-scoring finish in a row after his team made some adjustments to his bike.

'In short, the bike was 10 times better, which was a big relief for me after the previous disappointing free practise and qualifying sessions,' he said.



Triathletes complete the swim phase from Oban. Photo: Stephen Lawson

# Robert helps Great Britain and Ireland win Jacques Leglise Trophy

'We were quite a close-knit team'

### GOLF

AN OBAN golfer has helped a Great Britain and Ireland team regain the Jacques Leglise Trophy with a convincing 15-9 victory over Europe.

Robert MacIntyre won three out of a possible four points, in his debut at this standard, to make a huge contribution to the team's victory.

The competition, which is contested by amateur boys, saw two nine-man teams play over Friday and Saturday last week.

Robert told *The Oban Times*: 'We were quite a close-knit team because we knew each other

from the Home Nations Tournament.

'So, the highlight for me was the team winning and getting my hands on the trophy.

'The standard required for this competition was a big step up and the mentality was just to win. You couldn't give these guys a chance. The conditions were quite windy, which we coped better with and it became our trophy to lose.'

Robert was paired with fellow Scot Connor Syme - a familiar partner from the Home Nations Tournament - for the doubles

matches on Friday and Saturday and the boys contributed the maximum two points.

Robert lost his first singles match on Friday to Michael Hirmir after the German holed a 40-foot putt on the 17th to go one up.

However, Robert got revenge on his opponents by beating Frenchman Paul Elisalde 4 & 2.

Speaking after the victory, GB and Ireland captain Ashton Turner said: 'The lads have gone out this year with such a great mentality and it's just great what we've done.

'They have more than held their own against the best in Europe.'

Statistically, most of the Jacques Leglise Trophy team will go on to represent GB and Ireland as adults in the Walker Cup against the USA.

Robert added: 'I now have to set my sights on the Walker Cup and the Junior Ryder Cup in the next few years.'

Robert, as Scottish boys' champion, will represent his country next week at the Duke of York Young Champions Trophy at the Royal St George's Golf Club, Kent.



Robert MacIntyre, back row, far right, joins his Great Britain and Ireland teammates following their Jacques Leglise Trophy win. Photo: The R&A



The Spokeys Dokeys Relay Team of Scott Graham, Gavin Blainey and Colin Kupris were the team winners. Photo: Stephen Lawson

## Craggy Triathlon welcomes Scottish championship

### TRIATHLON

OBAN celebrated having new Scottish champions as the town and the neighbouring island of Kerrera welcomed 500 entrants to this year's Craggy Island Triathlon.

Held over Saturday and Sunday, this year's event ran the usual two races over the weekend, such as the demand for the 400 places on offer.

The course starts with a swim from Gallanach, Oban to Kerrera, followed by a bike ride around the island and a run to Gylen Castle.

However, the triathlon's third year proved to be the busiest yet, as an extra 100 entrants competed in the Scottish Off-road Triathlon Championship, which has a different venue every year.

By hosting the championship this year, the Craggy Island Triathlon welcomed Edinburgh's Rory Downie, current Scottish and European under-23 champion.

He went on to defend his title on Kerrera ahead of Tires's Will Wright.

Oban's Michael Bossard crossed the line in fifth place and South Uist native Kerry MacPhee, who now lives in Stirling, retained the women's Scot-

tish championship, finishing 10th overall.

But Oban could celebrate two age category Scottish champions in Leigh Murray (female super veteran) and Tim Brand (male super veteran).

Local lads Scott Graham, Gavin Blainey and Colin Kupris, The Spokeys Dokeys, won the team event.

Kerrera's Duncan MacEachen, who co-organises the triathlon with Paul McGreal of Durty Events, said: 'Kerrera's gain from this event is fantastic and is helping the island go from strength to strength. The triathlon is good for the local economy in Oban as well. I have to thank our volunteers and businesses that have helped us put this event together. This event would not be possible without them.'

Despite a large local contingent entering the triathlon, it is estimated the event attracted around 1,000 people to the town. The ceilidh in the Royal Hotel, organised as part of the weekend, was deemed a great success.

## Hard-fought win for Green Machine

### RUGBY

RBS West Division 2  
McLaren 7  
Oban Lorne 10

OBAN Lorne made a winning start to their 2013/14 league campaign on Saturday with a hard fought 10-7 win over McLaren in Dunblane.

The squad included two new players, back row Dan Hull and fullback Struan Simpson, but were still without twins Cammy and Struan Smith, who hope to be available for next week's game.

The men in green made a strong start to the game and found themselves putting pressure on the tryline within the first two minutes. Oban looked certain to score at one stage but were undone with handling errors.

McLaren grew into the game but Oban debutant Simpson kept the home side out with some good cover tackles. Oban found

themselves again pressurising the McLaren line and were rewarded with the first try of the game after 20 minutes.

Stand-off Ruairidh Aitken threw a miss-pass to centre Craig Wright, who hit a fantastic line through the defence to touch down beneath the posts. Wright converted his try for Oban to lead 7-0.

**Converted try**

Not to be outdone, McLaren hit back with a converted try of their own after the Oban backline gifted the ball to the hosts from a poor pass on the halfway line.

Oban seemed more organised as the second half got underway but were still being undone, giving away needless penalties and giving away turnover ball at crucial moments. The home side too were struggling at the breakdown and eventually stretched the referee's patience

## Taynuilt youngster finishes fourth and defeats his father in Atlantis 5k series race

### ATHLETICS

NOT many runners are remembered for finishing a race in fourth place - but it's a different matter if you are nine years old in an adult race.

At the last 5k race of the Atlantis 2013 race series, Andrew Barrington finished first ahead of Finlay Walton and veteran Alastair Hall.

But it was Taynuilt's Daniel Teape, who turned nine last month, that caught the eye after a great run that saw him finish in 22.44, a place ahead of his father, Stephen. Stephen's blishes were somewhat saved by finishing as first male veteran in the MV40 category.

Daniel, who was Argyll Sports Hall Athletics champion in the under-nine age group, has an unusual but effective training regime, which includes running, swimming and ballet.

The race returned to Fearnoch for the first time in two years last Wednesday, with Barrington winning in a time of 19:05 and Walton coming home in 20:21.

Flying the flag for the veterans was Alastair Hall who finished third overall in 21:05.

Alastair was also first in the super veteran category (MV50). Dave Bleazard was second in this category with a time of 25:00.

Winner of the female race was Eilidh Shearer, who recorded a time of 25:42. Second home was Roanne Lilley in 26:09 and Alison Kersel was third in 26:28.

Bill Gallacher from Massachusetts, USA had searched for running events in Argyll before leaving the States for a holiday. Bill delayed his family's Wednesday evening departure from Glendareel for the Cowal Games in Dunoon so he could take part in the Fearnoch 5k and finished in a commendable time, for a middle-aged Bostonian, of 28:24.

The next event will be a 5k on Wednesday, September 11 at Loch Creran.

## Sir Chris Hoy to compete at Aberfeldy

### RALLYING

BRITAIN'S most successful Olympian, Sir Chris Hoy, is coming to Aberfeldy next month to participate in the Colin McRae Forest Stages Rally, the penultimate round of the ARR Craib Scottish Rally Championship, on October 5.

Sir Chris will swap pedal power for horsepower when he climbs aboard the rally course car alongside five times British Rally Champion, Jim McRae.

A known petrol head, Sir Chris hosted the recent BBC Television tribute to the late Colin McRae which was part of the company's 'Racing Legends' series.

Since his retirement Sir Chris has participated in both saloon car and sports car racing events at circuits including Brands Hatch and Oulton Park.

## Weather

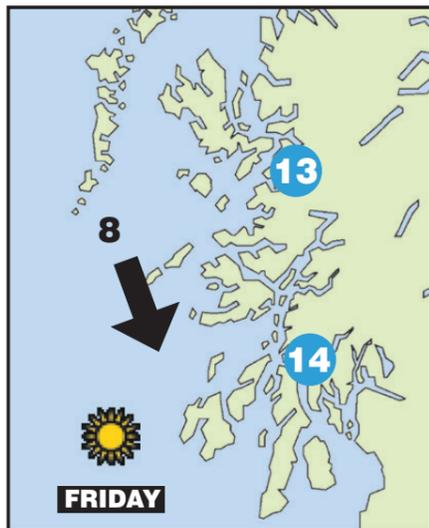
**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C

**Friday** Sunny  
Winds light north north westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

**Weekend Outlook** Sunny  
Winds light north north easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 5, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	11.44	0.8	17.49	4.0	***	**
Thur	05.42	3.8	11.44	0.8	17.49	4.0	*** **
Fri	00.18	0.9	06.14	3.9	12.16	0.7	18.19 4.1
Sat	00.49	0.9	06.40	3.9	12.47	0.7	18.47 4.1
Sun	01.17	0.8	07.05	3.9	13.19	0.7	19.15 4.0
Mon	01.45	0.9	07.36	3.8	13.54	0.8	19.48 3.9
Tues	02.18	1.0	08.12	3.6	14.35	1.0	20.25 3.7
Wed	02.58	1.2	08.55	3.5	15.24	1.2	21.09 3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Pages 12 & 13

### Strontian powers up for hydro vote

A LOCHABER community is aiming to build its own hydro-electric scheme - and harness £2 million of revenues for local projects over 25 years.

Sunart Community Company is asking local people how best to use the cash through its development plan.

But first SCC has to win community backing to purchase a dam from Scottish Water for £2,000.

A ballot of all electors in Strontian and the surrounding area, overseen by Highland Council, will be held at the end of this month.

A 'yes' vote would see SCC press ahead with its long-term project to build a 100kW hydro plant on the Allt nan Cailleach burn above the village.

SCC director and treasurer James Hilder said: 'Ballot papers will be hitting people's doormats next week.'

### Morag conquers Loch Maree

A LOCHABER woman is believed to have become the first person to swim the length of Loch Maree in Wester Ross.

Morag Hughes from Corpach clambered out of the chilly loch on Saturday nine hours and seven minutes after she entered the water.

Solo swimmer Morag, 56, together with relay team Ewe Wild Swimmers, raised around £2,500 for charity, including Good for Ewe, a local group planning a garden for the disabled.

Morag's husband Billy encouraged her from the safety boat during the 12.5 mile marathon. He told *The Oban Times*: 'There were no problems really. Morag kept a steady pace all the way although she got drenched a couple of times with water coming over her head. The weather conditions were not very good and it was quite choppy.'



Brrr! Morag after her swim.



The winners from the junior gardening show pose with their trophies and rosettes. 20\_f36gardening01

### Young Lochaber gardeners impress show judges

LOCHABER Rural Complex was full of colour on Saturday for the fourth annual junior gardening show.

The entrants defied the cold spring and a late start to the growing season, producing an excellent show of exhibits to impress the judges.

Youngsters from local primary schools, playgroups and nurseries as well as a few

adults took part on the day. Fort William Primary's Liam McCrimmon took home the Marie MacLean Challenge Cup, Kilmallie Playgroup won the Dugie Duncan Painters Cup, the Giggles Child Care Trophy went to Banavie Nursery and Banavie Primary won the United Auctions Cup.

The Wooden Spoon was given to Ethel Connacher, of Caol while Corpach's

Alastair Halewood took home the Gents' Tankard. Organiser Isabel Campbell said: 'The centre was full with beautiful flowers and vegetables grown in the raised beds by pupils from Banavie, Caol, Lochyside and St Mary's Primary Schools.'

'There was very strong competition in all sections and the judges commented on the high standard.'

### An Aird passed fit for shinty cup final

AN AIRD in Fort William has been passed fit for the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup final next Saturday after pitch repairs.

Now officials believe the showcase will restore the Lochaber venue's proud reputation in shinty.

The famous ground has staged many memorable matches down the years - and the showdown between ancient rivals Kyles and Newtonmore next Saturday promises to be another.

An Aird's drainage system was overhauled over a year ago with the help of SportsScotland funding.

But some wear problems resurfaced this summer and the venue was closed for six weeks as a precautionary measure.

Now officials have confirmed re-turfing of goal and central areas has left the arena below Ben Nevis in immaculate condition for the sport's big day out.

Richard Gall of the Camanachd Association said: 'An Aird has meant an awful lot to many shinty people over the years and, following the work and the stadium improvements, it is back to its best.'

'With the on-site clubhouse, An Aird is a great sociable venue for a final. It is also equidistant between the north and south of the country. I think we'll see a great match between two excellent sides and a big crowd

on the day.' Tickets are now on sale for the 106th final, which follows a pulsating Artemis Macaulay Cup final between the sides when Kyles emerged 3-2 victors.

Prior to the main event at 2.15pm, spectators can enjoy the U-14 MacMaster Cup Final between Skye and Oban Camanachd at 11.15am. Referee for the day is highly experienced Fort William-based official, Innes Wood.

### Ben race title holder sets sights on repeating victory

BEN NEVIS Race 2012 winner, Fort William GP Finlay Wild, has hit a rich vein of form ahead of the 2013 event on Saturday.

The multi-talented runner recently broke the record for the Cuillin ridge on Skye then followed that up by winning a team alpine race for Scotland

in Italy. Now Finlay, who is currently working in an Oban practice, is setting his sights on repeating his victory last year on Scotland's roughest, toughest mountain race.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Training has been going well and I've had quite a lot of races.

'Three weeks ago I was in the Italian Dolomites for Tre Rifugi mountain relay race as part of the Scottish team along with Robbie Simpson and Murray Strain. We won as Team Scozia and there were over 100 teams taking part.'

The record times for both men

and women have stood since 1984 when Kenny Stuart and Pauline Stuart (nee Haworth) respectively recorded 1h 25m 34s and 1h 43m 25s.

Some 600 athletes are expected to line up for the big race on Saturday, which starts from Claggan Park at 1pm.

## Hotel owner sexually assaulted two female staff

### Man placed on sex offenders' register after two-day trial

THE OWNER of a Lochaber hotel has been placed on the sex offenders' register after sexually assaulting two female staff members just hours after they started their employment.

Shamsul Arefin was found guilty of making sexual advances and inappropriately touching the woman at The Stewart Hotel in Duror following a two day trial at Fort William Sheriff Court.

The married 46-year-old repeatedly propositioned a Portuguese woman during her six days on the job and on one occasion told her he was in love with her.

She told the court Arefin kissed her on the neck and put his hand underneath her bra.

A second woman, a 23 year-old Lithuanian, said Arefin drank vodka with her on her first night before talking explicitly about his sexual past and pressing himself against her.

After she rebuffed his advances, Arefin tried to get her to convince another member of staff to have sex with him.

Arefin, who bought The Stewart Hotel with his wife in March 2007, lied to both women

By RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk



Shamsul Arefin: sexually assaulted two employees.

about his age and told them he was single.

Fiscal deputy Andrew Laing said: 'Both witnesses described a sustained catalogue of unwanted sexualised conversation when they were alone with the accused. Mr Arefin was their employer. He was in a position of trust, with a duty of responsibility to his employees and he abused that position of trust.'

Giving evidence, Arefin repeatedly suggested the two women may have concocted

their story together, but Mr Laing said the fact one witness had travelled from Lithuania to give her account showed she was telling the truth.

He said: 'It is inconceivable that a witness who was not compelled to come Scotland did so to give evidence she had contrived with another witness and which is false.'

Arefin, who was animated throughout his evidence, showed no emotion as Sheriff Noel McPartlin found him guilty of sexually assaulting the two women by touching them and directing sexual comments at them between April 18 and May 8, 2012.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'Having considered the whole evidence, I'm satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that the two women were speaking the truth. I therefore find you guilty on both charges.'

Arefin, of 39 Arlington Drive, Carshalton, London, previously also faced a charge of directing sexual communication to a third employee and a fourth charge of rape, but both were dropped by the Crown.

Arefin spent six months on remand facing the rape charge and is unlikely to spend further time in jail, the court heard.

Sentencing was deferred until October 23 for reports.

### Fort Augustus Abbey abuse claims: 80-year-old man charged

AN 80-year-old man from the east Highland area has been charged in connection with enquiries in relation to reports of historic physical and sexual abuse at Fort Augustus Abbey.

A report detailing the circumstances has been submitted to the Crown Office and the Procurator Fiscal, Police Scotland said on Tuesday. Investigations are continuing.



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## People power wins the day as council concedes over Corran Ferry fares

PEOPLE power appears to have succeeded in winning major concessions from Highland Council over its shake-up of the fares regime on the Corran Ferry.

*The Oban Times* understands the most contentious proposal, to scrap the existing 30-journey ticket books in favour of £40 monthly smart cards, has been shelved.

If that had been implemented, relatively few daily commuters would have paid under £1 per crossing, an annual saving of up to £400.

Hundreds of pensioners and others going to Fort William on weekly trips faced a 94 per cent rise to £3.65, or around £180 per year.

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

But now Sam MacNaughton, head of transport and infrastructure, will tell a ward forum meeting at the Sunart Centre in Strontian on Monday that the current paper ticketing system will be maintained meantime.

That news is likely to delight campaigners who argued that the proposed fares regime was little more than price discrimination.

TEC services was due to debate the matter last month, but the item was pulled from the agenda following

a deluge of criticism. Ahead of that meeting, Mr MacNaughton presented his plans at village venues in Ardgour, Morvern, Sunart and Ardnamurchan to gather feedback.

Most was well-reasoned - and hostile. Fears over impacts on the fragile tourist trade and displacement of traffic on to single track roads were also expressed.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Bren Gormley would not be drawn on the specifics of the revised fares structure.

But he said: 'Having listened to public concerns, officers have done a power of work and dropped the worst of the proposals, I can't go into

more detail than that. The parts that caused the maximum distress to folk have been binned.'

'But we still have the problem of operating costs rising faster than prices.'

'Other business options such as using CalMac or putting it out to tender have been examined and found to be more costly for the travelling public.'

He added: 'I think we have done an honourable piece of work.'

The Strontian meeting begins at 6.30pm. The revised schedule of fares will be presented to the TEC Services Committee on September 19 for approval.

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**Banavie man denies cocaine charge**

A BANAVIE man has denied being in possession of cocaine at a Fort William venue.

Allan MacMaster pled not guilty to having the class 'A' drug at Skipinnish Ceilidh House on April 13.

The 21-year-old is also accused of obstructing police during the incident.

MacMaster, of Kanas, is due to appear at a further hearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on August 24.

**Accused of wilful fireraising**

A 39-YEAR-OLD man appeared in private in Fort William Sheriff Court last Wednesday in relation to wilful fireraising at Glen Tarbert, Carnoch Estate and Bellgrove Mines, all near Strontian.

No plea or declaration was made and the case was continued for further examination. The man was released on bail.

**Kyle of Lochalsh Maritime Day**

KYLE of Lochalsh RNLI's annual Maritime Day will be the best yet.

A packed programme on Saturday includes demonstrations from Kyle's own RNLI lifeboat, Mallaig lifeboat and Kyle Fire Brigade.

BUTE (British Underwater Testing & Evaluation Centre) will also be present and are allowing some of their boats and equipment to be boarded and viewed by the public for the first time. Meanwhile, Cuillin FM will be broadcasting live throughout the day.

Kyle Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) crew member Andrew MacDonald said: 'Weather permitting, we will have the local kayaking club and Plockton sailing club enabling people to get out on the water. Onshore the obstacle course is making a welcome return as well as face painting, rope throwing, knot tying and much more. Bring your lifejackets along and our sea safety officer will be on hand to check their condition for you.'

The day, which starts at 11am, will be rounded off with the fire brigade's annual raft race at 6pm.



Special Olympians: the Disability Sport Lochaber bocchia team proudly display their medal haul.

**Bocchia team celebrates Olympic medal haul**

MEMBERS of the Disability Sport Lochaber bocchia team competed in the Special Olympics held in Bath last week - and brought home a clutch of medals. Despite having to perform on a surface very different to the one used at home,

players Natasha Brown, Jean Mitchell and Claire Madden took gold, Mary Mitchell a bronze while Matthew MacLean claimed a fourth place ribbon. The games, held in the Sports Division of Bath University, attracted 1,700 athletes taking part in a

number of disciplines, including others from the Highlands with Lochaber specialising in the bocchia events. Bocchia is similar to bowls and is particularly suited to players with a disability.

**Store boss stole £15,000 from Argos**

Manager embezzled cash to fund gambling addiction and drug use

**EXCLUSIVE**

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

A FORT William man stole £15,000 from his employer to finance his gambling addiction and cocaine use.

Argos store manager Dion Gibb pocketed the cash after filling in cash slips, telling work colleagues they were for wages in advance or that his bank card had been closed.

The fraud only came to light when auditors found cash missing and the fake slips stashed in a safe and the till.

On the day auditors arrived and Gibb was told who they were he acknowledged he was going to be in trouble, prosecutor Laura Ryan told Fort William Sheriff Court.

'Cocaine and gambling were his reasons for taking the money,' she said. 'It had been his intention to repay it and was hoping for a big win to do that but the amount he had taken had

got out of control.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said first offender Gibb, 39, had tried to reimburse the company, but made only one payment of more than £1,000 - leaving £13,967.43 unpaid.

'The offence had an inevitability about it,' said Mr Melrose. 'The whole thing snowballed - he had household debts and problems with his landlord. He was suspended then dismissed.'

'He made a full admission to police. The arresting officers advised him to see a community psychiatric nurse to help him with his gambling. He took

cocaine to calm his depression at the time but there is no problem there now.'

Heading Mr Melrose's plea not to jail his client, Sheriff Noel McPartlin sentenced Gibb to a community payback order comprising 18 months' supervision under the social work department and 200 hours of unpaid work in the community. He was also ordered to pay £2,000 compensation to Argos.

The sheriff told Gibb: 'This was a gross breach of trust. You seem to have some weakness in the area of gambling and supervision would be important.'

Gibb, of 45 Ross Place, earlier admitted embezzling around £15,000 from Argos on North Road in the town between February 1, 2012 and January 14, 2013 while employed as store manager.



Allan Henderson has turned down pleas for a campaign to keep him as Provost of Lochaber. 20\_13gallan01

**Provost of Lochaber turns down pleas for campaign to keep him in office**

CAOL and Mallaig councillor Allan Henderson has turned down pleas for a campaign to keep him as Provost of Lochaber following what he describes as his 'removal' from the civic role.

Lochaber area committee councillors agreed to rethink the need for a provost following Councillor Thomas MacLennan's election as new Lochaber area committee leader at a meeting last week.

Councillor Henderson thanked those who had offered support

since then - but ruled out any move to have the decision overturned.

In a statement to *The Oban Times*, he said: 'Thanks for the offers to mount a campaign for me to be re-instated, which I will not be taking up.'

'For me the chain of office has been tarnished. I will now remain with all my happy memories of the last six years.'

'Thanks also to the previous group of local councillors who had the confidence to promote me to the provost-ship which

I always knew was only on a temporary basis.'

'To this end we had a mechanism for reviewing the position. Sadly in this case it was not used. I will however treasure this honour for the rest of my days.'

**Privilege**

He added: 'It has been a great privilege to represent the people of Lochaber at civic functions. In this role of provost I have made many friends for Lochaber and lasting personal friendships. While voluntary and time

consuming it has been a really rewarding time.'

Councillor Henderson's ward colleague Councillor Eddie Hunter had likened the controversy to Caesar being knifed in the back by his erstwhile supporters.

But Councillor Bill Clark rubbished suggestions of skulduggery, describing the provost's protests as 'pathetic'.

The civic role will be formally discussed at the Lochaber councillors' next business meeting in Fort William on Monday.

**Kinlochleven drunk admits fire threat**

A KINLOCHLEVEN man has admitted threatening to burn down the house of a police officer who detained him.

Robert Fordham also pled guilty to obstructing three police officers in the execution of their duties and lashing out at them at Fort William Police Station.

Inebriated Fordham, of 14 Gordon Square, was detained at a bus stop near the station after attending the Mountain Bike World Cup at Nevis Range on June 8, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Prosecutor Laura Ryan said:

'When they told him he was being aggressive he lashed out and told one officer 'I know where you live and I'm going to burn you out!'

Defending, Stephen Kennedy said: 'Mr Fordham was grabbed by the upper arm by police and pulled to one side.'

'He accepts his behaviour towards police officers was completely unacceptable. They were spur of the moment comments.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered 34-year-old Fordham to carry out 40 hours' unpaid work in the community.



Top of the class: Portree Primary School janitor Donald Gillies, together with pupils Ella MacFarlane and Freya King, receive their award from Councillor John Gordon.

**Skye big hearts honoured**

BIG-HEARTED community groups and individuals from Skye were honoured for their achievements and contribution to local life at an awards ceremony in Portree on Monday.

Billy Reid, nominated by Kyleakin and Kyleheca Community Council, won the community award for his lifelong membership and service to local groups, including over 30 years on the village and then community council, and 20 years as local Justice of the Peace.

Young people category winner was Alan MacKenzie, nominated by Portree and Braes Community Council, for his voluntary work as Pipe Major of Isle of Skye Pipe Band, his

support for Skye Youth Pipe Band/Portree High School Pipe Band and the Youth Fellowship of the Church of Scotland.

Portree Primary School, nominated by head teacher John Finlayson, won the environment award for improvements to the all-community use school grounds, while Lorayne McLucas, nominated by Lorna Cormack, won the arts and music award for establishing the successful Skyedance committee. Skye Sailing Club, nominated by Rosie Somerville, claimed the sport award for its achievements since becoming a recognised Royal Yachting Association (RYA) training centre in 1998. Councillor

Drew Millar praised and thanked the winners for their 'outstanding' work in and for their communities.

Speaking on behalf of the Eilean a' Cheò ward members, he said: 'Volunteering is not just enriching for the wider community it is also fulfilling for those who volunteer.'

'We have some fantastic, enthusiastic people in Skye and Lochalsh who give of their time to us. We congratulate each award winner and also thank everyone for their nominations.'

Each winner received a certificate and a specially commissioned plate by Uig Pottery, which they will retain for a year.

**Cyclist denies making up story he was mugged**

A CAOL man has denied falsely representing to police that he was mugged by a masked man in Canal Parks.

James Mathers told officers he had been struck on the face by a man who then stole his wallet containing £180 as he cycled through woods on November 27 last year.

The incident raised fears in the village, coming just 12 days after an elderly shopkeeper was held up at knifepoint in Caol shopping centre.

Mathers, aged 35, of 16 Cameron Place, has been ordered to appear at a further hearing at Fort William Sheriff Court on September 12.

A number of witnesses are expected to give evidence at the upcoming trial.

**Fort footballer admits assaulting man in Mallaig**

A 23-YEAR-OLD Fort William footballer has admitted assaulting a man in Mallaig in which three other men were allegedly involved.

Sean Grant pled guilty through his solicitor at Fort William Sheriff Court to punching Ewan MacIntyre on the head at East Bay on September 9 last year.

Grant's co-accused, Mallaig men 20-year-old Samuel Robertson, of 11 Gordon Place, and Donnie Dempster, of 10 Blaven View, together with Lewis MacDonald, of 14 Camanachd Crescent in Fort William, deny their part in the incident.

Robertson is accused of pushing Mr MacIntyre on the body, tripping him up and repeatedly kicking him on the head and body, all to his severe injury.

MacDonald is accused of repeatedly punching Mr MacIntyre on the head and Dempster of punching Mr MacIntyre on the head. All three have pled not guilty.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentence on Grant, who works as a butcher in Oban, until September 24.

A further hearing of the case involving the other three men will be held on the same date.

**Inspection team's top class marks for Upper Achintore Primary School**

UPPER Achintore Primary School in Fort William has received high marks from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMI) assessors following a visit to check standards.

In a follow-up report this week, head teacher Nick Thomson was praised for his leadership role in skilfully building teamwork under the school's motto of 'learning, achieving, succeeding together'.

All staff, parents, children and partners are contributing to the continuous improvement of the school, while Mr Thomson was 'very well respected by almost all parents',

Inspector Joan Esson found. She said: 'We are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the school's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection.'

The report noted the children were 'highly motivated and enthusiastic' about their learning and achievement and benefited from 'a rich curriculum' developed by staff to inspire them.

High-quality opportunities were also provided for children in the

nursery to learn through play. Pupils recognised the importance of a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of taking part in lunchtime and after-school clubs.

Language and mathematics were 'improving' although there was potential for children to make further progress, said the report.

In the nursery, meanwhile, children were making good progress in early language and mathematics.

The inspection team made only two recommendations - improve children's attainment further, especially in writing, and improve the

consistency and level of challenge within learning, while continuing to develop Curriculum for Excellence.

A 'delighted' Mr Thomson said of the report: 'It clearly recognises the hard work, commitment and dedication of staff, pupils and parents, all working together to successfully deliver a Curriculum for Excellence.'

Parent council chairperson Sharon Rydings said: 'This is testament to all the hard work of everyone in school. I am confident the school will continue to make further gains in the future through its work with parents, pupils and partners.'

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**Daytime Oban road closures**

TWO OF Oban's busiest roads will be closed between 8am-6pm for a month from Monday for resurfacing.

Daytime closures will be in place at Hill Street and Rockfield Road until October 4 as part of the work, which will cover the whole of Hill Street, and Rockfield Road from Hill Street to 80 metres south of its junction with Ardoconnel Road.

**Views sought on Miller Road traffic plan**

PLANS to restrict right turning onto Oban's Miller Road from Soroba Road in a bid to reduce traffic congestion have gone out to public consultation.

While the council is not yet sure as to when any restriction could come into force, anyone with concerns about the proposal must contact the authority by September 20.

Several complaints about traffic congestion on the road have been received over the years.

Delays have been common at the traffic lights at the Lynn Road junction, which can back up when cars have difficulty turning up Miller Road.

Congestion is particularly bad on the road next to Oban High School when pupils are arriving at or leaving the school.

**£1/2m paid out to pre-empt staff complaints**

ARGYLL and Bute Council has paid out £552,443 to prevent employment tribunals being held over the past four years.

Figures seen by *The Oban Times* show that the council has pre-empted 96 separate complaints, of which 85 related to equal pay claims.

Only one claim was made for unfair dismissal in that period, understood to be Jo Smith, the former communications manager who was sacked despite being cleared of false accusations she 'spied' on the council.

The payments average £5,755 per person and were all subject to a confidentiality clause, preventing the individuals discussing the settlement.

However, the clauses don't prevent those employees from 'whistleblowing' rights.



**Hands up if you're glad that's over!**

Brian Robinson cannot hide his delight as he completes the Craggy Island Triathlon to cheers from the gathered crowd at the finish line on Kerrera. The Dunfermline man was one of 500 competitors in the event last weekend, which brought nearly 1,000 to the Oban area. For more on the event, see sport. Photo: Stephen Lawson.

**Caretaker council set to take the helm**

A CARETAKER administration will take over the running of Argyll and Bute Council next month - bringing to an end six months of uncertainty and political bickering.

Details of an agreement in principle emerged last week when Sandy Taylor, leader of the Argyll and Bute SNP Group, signed a joint statement with Duncan MacIntyre, leader of the Argyll and Bute Change Alliance (ABCA) announcing the new interim administration.

The exact composition of the caretaker council will be

debated at a meeting on Friday (tomorrow), but lead councillor positions will be spread between the SNP and the ABCA group in proportion with numbers.

With ABCA boasting 16 members to the SNP's 11, it is likely the leadership of the interim administration will fall to Oban's Duncan MacIntyre.

Restructuring However, it is thought the temporary arrangement will not have to last long, with a report on a radical restructuring of the council - that could dispense with the tradition of a single

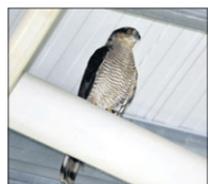
leader in favour of a three-man leadership committee - due in the coming months.

In the joint statement, Messrs MacIntyre and Taylor said: 'With political stability as our key objective, this new partnership will work inclusively and focus, as have previous administrations through the years, on the delivery of good quality services for the people and communities of Argyll and Bute, not only in the short term, but throughout the current term of the council.'

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Mr MacIntyre said the new

administration's first priority should be the budget - with the power struggle that has strangled the council for half a year meaning the process of setting next year's figures is already two months behind schedule.

He said: 'For me personally, the first priority is to get a budget working group in place. That should be working now - it should have started in August. It will be September before we can get that in place and October before it starts working so that's two months of work we've got to catch up with.'



Homebase's rafters proved a comfortable spot for the sparrowhawk. 07\_136homebasehawk1

**Sparrowhawk causes chaos in store**

A SPARROWHAWK caused chaos at the Oban branch of Homebase this week - when it became trapped in the store.

However, staff were foiled in their bid to use a hamster in a cage as bait to trap the bird - with a local pet shop refusing to sell them one for fear it might be scared to death. Having been trapped in the store since

Monday, concerns were growing on Tuesday evening that the bird with a two-and-a-half foot wingspan was starving. Leaving meat out for the raptor proved unsuccessful.

With the RSPB not to send anyone to assist and even staff from Kerrera's Island Parrot Sanctuary unable to lure the bird into nets - staff resorted to

playing a CD of birdsong at the door in the hope the bird might fly out of its own accord.

Manager Andy Spence said: 'That hasn't worked either. It's just attracted a load of robins into the garden centre.'

Island Parrot Sanctuary staff were due to return for a second rescue attempt when *The Oban Times* went to press.

**Regeneration plans face fresh delays**

FRESH delays could be on the cards for Oban's multi-million pound regeneration plans after the man co-ordinating the projects resigned from the council.

Sandy Mactaggart, the executive director of roads and amenity services, has handed in his notice and will leave at the end of October.

One of the most respected and experienced officers at the authority, his portfolio included heading up Oban's bid for £23.75million Tax Incremental Funding (TIF) and the CHORD project - both key to the Lorn Arc, a development corridor from Barcaldine to Oban.

His departure will be even more keenly felt by the council as head of economic development, Robert Pollock - the other key figure in building the TIF bid and CHORD project - has been signed off long-term for personal reasons.

A final business case for TIF is due to be submitted by the end of next month after two years of planning, with the outcome

By STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes.co.uk

pivotal to the scope of the CHORD project.

While efforts are being made to quickly bring in a temporary replacement for Mr Mactaggart to ensure a smooth handover, lead councillor for infrastructure, John Semple, conceded there could be more delays to key schemes already dogged by years of setbacks.

He said: 'Nobody can say there will be no delay but we will be doing our utmost to ensure these projects can go forward how we want them to go forward.'

'There are things we have to make sure we get right - TIF is a major project for Oban and its surrounding area and it is a priority for us.'

Asked if the strength of the TIF bid could be affected by Mr Mactaggart's departure and Mr Pollock's absence, he said: 'That remains to be seen. I've not got a crystal ball.'

Oban community councillor Neil MacIntyre, who has

repeatedly criticised the council for its lack of action on CHORD, which was first started in 2007, said: 'It's a big council and I'd hope other people there are up to speed.'

'The council should be coming out now and telling us exactly what its plans are.'

A spokeswoman for the council said it has 'robust arrangements in place' to ensure service delivery is maintained.

She added: 'Regarding Oban TIF, we are delighted with our progress so far. We updated councillors last week following a very successful meeting between the council's team and Scottish Government representatives, and were further encouraged with the subsequent confirmation that the Scottish Government is supportive in principle of the structure of the TIF business case financial model at this stage.'

'For both Oban CHORD and TIF, the council and its leadership team has a very clear sense of direction and focus upon delivery.'

**Meter concerns on residents' agenda**

CONCERNS that inappropriate electricity meters could have resulted in Argyll Community Housing Association residents being overcharged for power will be discussed by Soroba Residents' Association next week.

Oban councillor Fred Hall is worried many ACHA tenants may have had the wrong meters installed as part of an upgrade to heating systems.

Some Soroba residents say they've had suspicions they were paying over the odds for the past six years, when storage heaters and radiators were replaced.

Sean MacIntyre of SRA said: 'I certainly noticed the

difference - during the summer I was having to pay five or ten pounds more a week.'

Three resident John MacLean, 65, has also suffered problems after his heating and meter was changed - his bills soared nearly tenfold from £90 a quarter to £847.

ACHA chief executive Alastair MacGregor denied there was any problem with heating systems or meters - but acknowledges fuel poverty might be a wider issue.

He said: 'ACHA has carried out a survey on two properties to ascertain if there is anything wrong with the system installed. The survey report indicates that the heating systems are working

normally. If ACHA found a heating system that wasn't functioning properly then we would take steps to address that issue.'

'The association does believe that there is a major issue with fuel poverty and many tenants have challenges in paying heating bills.'

'That is however a separate issue to whether or not a heating system is functioning properly.'

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**Cash seized and man arrested**

A DRUG search by police at a house in the Polvinster Gardens area of Oban last Wednesday has resulted in the discovery of a large sum of cash. A 42-year-old man has subsequently been arrested for obstruction and the cash has been seized under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

**Police hunt cabin break-in suspects**

POLICE in Oban are appealing for witnesses after Portakabins in McCall Terrace, near Oban High School's bus turning circle were broken into last Wednesday. The young culprits were allegedly seen jumping out of the window some time between 9.30am and 9.40am. Police say £2,000 worth of damage was caused during the break-in. Oban Police can be contacted on 01631 510 500.

**Oban dancer is Argyll champion**



An Oban Highland dancer was named Argyll champion at the prestigious world championships at the Cowal Highland Gathering. Katie MacPherson, aged 13, won the under-16 Argyll championship to lift the J C Forrest Challenge Trophy, one of the oldest cups available at Cowal. The first time the trophy came to Oban was when Katie's dancing teacher, Eilidh MacInnes won it for three consecutive years.



**Rockfield pupils' delight as policeman drops in**

Spot the cop: PC Andrew Simpson visited primary two pupils at Rockfield Primary School in Oban on Monday as part of the pupils' project People Who Help Us. PC Simpson, whose son, David, is in the class, let the children try on his stab-proof vest and hat and showed them inside his police van. The pupils will also meet a firefighter, dental hygienist, nurse and post office worker as part of their topic. 16\_136police02

**Top cop happy with how officers police Argyll and Bute streets**

ARGYLL and Bute's top cop says he is comfortable with how his officers police the streets after revealing another quarter of stop and searches in Oban yielded results. Chief Superintendent Barry McEwan dismissed concerns 'target-based' policing was putting pressure on individual officers to meet key performance indicators - and insisted better monitoring of police activity at management level was helping the fight against crime. His comments come after a number of Oban officers aired

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

fears that over-zealous policing was harming community relations. CS McEwan told *The Oban Times*: 'We all have a directed policing plan and that plan is very successful in letting us find the problem areas and address them. 'If we're getting regular calls to a certain address, for example,

or regular calls about people - all this information is useful to help prevent a future crime. That is purely for management, however. 'We are being far more directed now. The area commanders exceed the amount of stop-searches they are expected to do and that is reducing violent crime. 'To my mind, what they're doing is having an impact.' CS McEwan said if people were being searched it was for good reason, because they have a history of violent crime, are

in a problem area at a particular time or are acting in a suspicious manner - and stressed that many searches were 'consensual'. He said: 'For example, if you see a group of three or four teenagers going down to the park and one of them has the sports bag over their shoulder - there's potentially a bottle of cider in there. 'Our guys will have a chat with them and ask, "mind if we look in the bag guys?'. 'In Oban, 25-30 per cent of people stopped and searched have something they shouldn't.'

**Three reported after officers witness alleged drug deal**

THREE people have been reported to the procurator fiscal for drugs offences after plain-clothed police officers witnessed an alleged drug deal in Glenfoot Terrace, Miller Road, Oban. The officers stopped and searched one

man last Friday afternoon and charged him with possession of a controlled substance, suspected to be heroin. Search A warrant was subsequently issued to search a property in the area and, as a

result, another man has been reported for possession of a controlled substance, with intent to supply. A woman has also been reported to the procurator fiscal for being concerned in the supply of a controlled substance.

**New Gaelic centre opens in Oban**

Town hub a focal point for language development and education

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



Duncan MacNeil will oversee the development of Furan, the new Gaelic centre in Oban. 16\_136duncan01

OBAN will become the focal point for Gaelic development and education in Argyll when a new hub opens in the Corran Halls. The Oban Gaelic Centre has been paid for through a £160,000 Scottish Government grant and will offer Gaelic resources, translation and conferencing equipment, classes and other opportunities to speak the language. A further government investment of £120,000 has funded a multi-media studio at Oban High School for Argyll pupils studying Gaelic. The centre, on the upper floor of the Corran Halls, will be known as Furan - Gaelic for 'very warm welcome'. Barra native Duncan MacNeil, the man charged with providing that welcome, is already a familiar face to Gaelic television audiences through his appearances on programmes such as *Machair*, *Speaking Our Language* and *Splaoid*. Mr MacNeil, who will front the new service as its administrator, said Oban was 'the natural place' for a Gaelic centre because of its

speakers who maybe don't have much opportunity to use the language. Mr MacNeil, who was involved in establishing the Gaelic centre in Glasgow, added: 'Ultimately, I want people to think of Furan and know exactly what happens here.' The new hub has been kitted out with six laptop computers, a Gaelic resource library, electronic teaching aids and a meeting room. **Opportunities** Under the project, the Corran Halls' Studio Theatre has been redeveloped so it can be used independently of the main hall, providing more opportunities for Gaelic drama and arts events. Argyll and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish said: 'Argyll and Bute is proud to host the Royal National Mòd every three years, and having a welcoming presence for Gaelic speakers in Oban will reinforce this area's historic connection with the language.' Furan will officially open in the next few weeks with an event showcasing the musical and cultural talent in the Oban area.

**Connel to get new street lights**

CONNEL is to get new streetlights after BEAR Scotland announced a significant upgrade programme. New lighting columns, ducting and cabling on the A85 through the village will be installed as part of the measures, while the existing 20mph school signs refurbished. New, speed-activated 30mph

signs will also be erected. The work will take place in two phases, the first starting early next month and lasting approximately six weeks. This will cover the east of the village through to the junction with the A828. The work will be carried out between 9.30am-4.30pm. Connel Community Councilor Les Stewart said: 'Suddenly,

it's Christmas in Connel. BEAR have decided to send Santa early this year and are replacing Connel's worn out street-lighting and putting in some new stuff.' BEAR are looking for feedback regarding the proposed works. Large scale plans will be available at the next Connel Community Council meeting on 10 September at the village hall.



Barcaldine couple Toby and Jane Eaton will celebrate their platinum wedding anniversary next week. 16\_136anniversary01

**Barcaldine couple celebrate 70 years of marriage**

A FORMER Wren who was posted to Tullichewan Castle in Balloch from Kent to keep her away from her future husband celebrates 70 years of marriage to him next week. Jane Eaton was a driver in the Wrens throughout the Second World War and met former Toby after he took on her stepfather's farm in Edinburgh, Kent. Her mother enlisted the help of Jane's aunt, a superintendent in the Wrens, to separate the pair by moving Jane to Scotland - a plan that failed to work.

The couple, who now live in Barcaldine, married on September 14, 1943 in St Paul's Church, Knightsbridge. But Jane's heart lay north of the Border and newlyweds moved to Mull. Toby, aged 92, said: 'Jane had fallen in love with Scotland and I got fed up milking cows. I answered an advert for a farm assistant on Mull and guess what? The job was mostly milking!' The couple, who have two sons, Michael and Roger, also ran the Altnaharric Hotel on Loch Broom and returned to Argyll

after a stint in Dorset working for the National Trust. Asked if their platinum wedding anniversary would be a special one, Jane replied: 'It just feels like another anniversary. Because we have worked together so often we are used to each other's company. 'I had my 90th birthday a month ago and that was quite something. There was a card on the mantelpiece with 90 years on it and I thought 'that can't be me'. It's awful being 90 when you feel 24!'

**Isle of Mull residents urged to get flu jab**

RESIDENTS on the Ross of Mull will be lining up to see the doctor soon but with prevention rather than cure in mind. Dr Mark Astill, the Bunnessan GP, will be at the Community Café in Bunnessan Hall on September 30, giving older residents or those vulnerable to infection their flu jab. He said: 'The annual flu jab is for people aged 65 or over and for people who for medical or other reasons warrant one - including if you are a carer. 'It is important that people get vaccinated as a number of people are hospitalised in intensive care every year with flu - and some people die as a result. It is people from our target groups who are likely to become more poorly. 'But the more people who get immunised the less likely it is we will have any flu on the Ross of Mull.'

**Argyll pipe bands' strong showing at Cowal Gathering**

ARGYLL bands gave a strong showing at the Cowal Highland Gathering last Saturday - the last time the event will be counted as a 'major' competition. Inveraray and District finished fifth in grade one at the weekend, while Oban Pipe Band finished fourth in grade two. Among the other top performers were Inveraray and District's juvenile band, which finished fourth, one place ahead of Kintyre Schools. Mid Argyll Pipe Band finished fifth in grade 4B. Earlier this year organisers of the Cowal Gathering announced they would lose the 'major' status, as the event was attracting too many bands.

**Free tickets on offer to beach clean volunteers**

FREE tickets to Oban's Sea Life Sanctuary are on offer to those volunteers who take part in the Big BID Beach Tidy in Oban this weekend. Bags, litter pickers and gloves will be provided by BID4Oban for the clean of Oban's coastline, while volunteers will also be treated to free tea and coffee from the Regent Hotel and soup from local take-away, Piece. Each volunteer will receive one free admission into the Sea Life Sanctuary. Those looking to take part should meet at the Clock Tower on Railway Pier at 2pm on Sunday. To register in advance, contact Jasmine Boak on 01631 569915 or email [jasmine@bid4oban.co.uk](mailto:jasmine@bid4oban.co.uk).

**Partygoers reported to police for setting off flares**

PARTYGOERS have been reported to the police after irresponsibly setting off 12 distress flares - sparking a major rescue operation on Barra. Stornoway Coastguard was inundated with 999 calls at 9.18pm on Saturday after locals spotted the red flares in the Sound of Barra between South Uist and Barra. Coastguard teams from Barra and Lochboisdale were scrambled to the area and the Coastguard helicopter

from Stornoway was flown in to search for people or vessels in distress. An emergency broadcast made to seek assistance from nearby vessels even resulted in the fishing boat *Glenravel* moving in to assist. However, after an extensive search, the flares were traced back to a beach party at Eolaigearraidh, near Barra Airport. Martin Collins, Stornoway Coast-

guard watch manager, said the false alarm could have cost lives. 'This was an extremely irresponsible action as it has resulted in several rescue units being called out for no good reason,' he said. 'Not only that but while assigned to search for the source of these flares, the rescue units were not available for anyone who may have genuinely needed their help. 'It is also prohibited under the

Merchant Shipping Act to set off red distress flares if you are not in difficulty and this incident has been reported to the police. 'The public should ensure all marine flares are disposed of correctly and you can contact your local coastguard station for information about flare disposal. Under no circumstances should marine flares be disposed of in a manner such as this.'

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## Fort find it hard going against Nairn

Another tough game expected this weekend away to Buckie

**REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK**  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

Fort William will look to get back on track for their trip to Buckie Thistle this Saturday after last weekend's 5-1 defeat at home to Nairn County.

Fort had shown signs of improvement in their first four games of the season but found life tough going against a strong Nairn side.

**Hope**

Manager Danny Conlon is expecting a tough game against Buckie, but a 3-3 draw at Victoria Park last year and the addition of some impressive new signings at Claggan will give him hope his side can get a result.

He told The Oban Times: 'If you look at the fixture list, there's no easy games, certainly not for us. All we can do is try to make progress.'

'Buckie have started off quite slowly but they've brought in a few good players, some that we were looking at.'

'The players we've brought in have certainly improved us in terms of quality. Keith Millar has given us a bit more drive and enthusiasm in midfield. But we're still short in some areas, like the goalkeeper situation.'

Conlon said he will be looking at another potential goalkeeper this weekend as the search for a new number one continues.

He said: 'We'll have another trialist in goal, and we could

**FOOTBALL**

be in that position for the next couple of months to let us get a look at them. We can't arrange friendlies to look at players because of the geographical situation and the lack of pitches.'

**Return**

Captain Andy Martin and Michael Gillespie return to the squad, but forward Duncan Campbell will miss the trip.

Fort were left disappointed against Nairn, despite matching their opponents for periods of the game. With Martin and Gillespie missing, Conlon was forced to field two trialists in his starting 11.

The home side started well but conceded a soft penalty early on,



Keith Millar winning the ball against former Northern Ireland international Sean Webb before setting up James MacKay's goal

and Nairn added a further three goals before half time.

But after the break Fort showed the fighting spirit that has characterised their start to the season and two of Conlon's

summer signings combined to score a consolation.

Midfielder Keith Millar burst into the Nairn box before playing a clever back heel to set up James MacKay, whose crisply

hit first time shot from 18 yards

flew past Nairn keeper Callum Donaldson. Nairn responded quickly to grab a fifth and were able to see out the game.

Conlon said: 'I thought in the first 45 minutes we created as much as they did, but our defending was really poor. That's the worst I've seen us defending this season.'



Champs! Mallaig celebrate a hat trick of trophy wins in 2013.

## Hat-trick of wins for Mallaig

MALLAIG confirmed their status as the best welfare football side in Lochaber by lifting Duthie Cup on Sunday - their third trophy of a successful season.

After lifting the Uisdean MacDonald Cup earlier in the season and wrapping up the league title last month, Mallaig took on runners up Lochaber in challenging conditions at the BA Club.

The two sides played out a close game, with Mallaig taking a 2-1 lead. With a strong wind at their back Lochaber piled on the pressure towards the end but were unable to find an equaliser.

**WELFARE FOOTBALL**

Later in the day, Ballachulish and Lundavra met in the final of the Kinloch Cup. Balla have had an up and down season, finishing fourth in the league and just losing out to Mallaig in the Uisdean MacDonald Cup.

Similarly, Lundavra finished bottom of the league but won the John Baird Cup.

After a strong finish to the season Balla were favourites going in and lived up to their billing to record a 2-1 win.

## Roller skaters gear up for Silver Wheels show

LOCHABER Artistic Roller Skating Club are gearing up for their upcoming Silver Wheels show at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Saturday November 17.

**Nine medals**

The club, which is celebrat-

ing its 25th anniversary year, recently took home nine medals from the Newton Aycliffe Open in County Durham.

**Entrants**

The Lochaber skaters were the only Scottish entrants taking part against competitors from across

**ROLLER SKATING**

the UK, and won two golds and seven bronze medals.

Secretary Marjory Currie said: 'Our skaters really did the club and their coaches proud and were an absolute joy to take away.'

## Vital pitch drainage to start at rugby club's home park in Banavie

**RUGBY**

VITAL pitch drainage improvements are set to get underway at Lochaber Rugby Club's home park at Banavie.

The club has suffered numerous postponements and cancellations in recent seasons after winery weather left the pitch muddy, waterlogged and unplayable.

Highland Council, who own the park, have hired Soutars who are set to start work on Monday September 16.

The project is expected to take six to eight weeks to complete, and the park will then be left fallow for one year.

The works mean the team will not be able to use their home pitch for the rest of this season, with the visit of Aberdeen Wanderers on Saturday September 14 set to be their final home game.

They will instead use the rugby pitch at Black Parks in Inverloch as their home for both training at matches for the rest of the RBS Caledonia division two north season.

The team and visiting sides will still use the club house for



Lochaber Rugby Club's new committee line up.

pre and post match activities.

Mini rugby sessions, meanwhile, will move to King George V Park in Fort William from Saturday September 21.

Club committee member Pauline Donaldson said: 'We apologise in advance to all our members for this disruption, but it will be worth it all to have a properly drained pitch to play on for next season.'

'We hope you will make the extra effort to come and support the boys at the Black Parks and continue to enjoy a post-match pint at Banavie afterwards.'

Meanwhile, the club's new committee met for the first time this week. Captain Mike McEish and vice captain Jack Baxter the two new names on board.



The Willie Duff Trophy for nominated triples was won by Agnes Thain, Wilson Thain and Bill Gibbons at the Railway Bowling Club in Inverloch. Also pictured are runners up Helen Ross, Eddie Downs and Agnes Boyle. Willie's daughter Sandra Cameron presented the trophies.

## Lochaber lose out to Wanderers

**RUGBY**

RBS North Caledonia Division Two  
**Aberdeen Wanderers 22 Lochaber RFC 8**

LOCHABER suffered their first defeat of the season after going down 22-8 away to Aberdeen Wanderers at Hazlehead Academy Fields on Saturday.

The Fort William side made a strong start in the league and RBS North Regional Bowl double header, with direct running from the centres and back row.

This early pressure resulted in a penalty in front of the posts, which Kenny Turnbull slotted to put the visitors in the lead.

The rest of the half was a very evenly contested affair; however poor defence led to a break, with the Wands' centre crossing the whitewash.

On the stroke of half-time, a rolling maul close to the line extended the Wands' lead despite the best efforts of the Lochaber pack.

As has been the case this season, Lochaber had a lot of work to do in the second half. Direct running was proving the most effective method of gaining yards, and Chris Simpson reduced the deficit with a try in the corner after good vision by Craig Macpherson.

Lochaber pushed hard for more points but the legs began to tire and with the clock running down, the Aberdonians managed two breakaway tries.

Captain Mike McEish said: 'Despite less than ideal conditions, the team competed well and shouldn't be too disheartened with their display.'

Lochaber will face RAF Lossiemouth in their first home game of the season at Banavie this Saturday, with kick off at 3pm.

## Tricky conditions for disabled sailors

**SAILING**

DISABLED sailors braved tricky conditions on Loch Linnhe to take part in Lochaber Yacht Club's annual challenger travellers event last weekend.

A brisk force three wind was blowing for the series of five races, which made for tough but exciting racing.

In the gold fleet, Graham Hall in Daisy from Rutland SC took first place, with Alex Hodge of Clyde Cruising Club second and Loch Venacher SC's Anne Ritchie in third.

Jamie Scott and Keith Wilson from Loch Venacher SC took top spot in the bronze fleet, with prizes presented by Maurin Macdonald.

The challengers - trimaran sailing dinghies - are designed and developed to allow disabled people to sail without difficulty. The Challenger Class Association organises a series of races around Scotland and the UK, with the Lochaber event being held every year since 2005.

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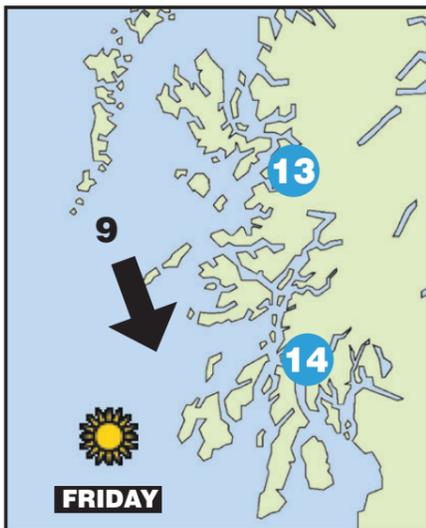
## Weather

**Thursday** Sunny  
Winds moderate westerly  
Temperatures 6°C to 13°C

**Friday** Sunny  
Winds light north westerly  
Temperatures 9°C to 14°C.

**Weekend** Sunny  
**Outlook** Winds moderate north north easterly  
Temperatures 11°C to 16°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, September 5, 2013** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	11.44	0.8	17.49	pm	4.0	**	**
Thur	05.42	3.8	11.44	0.8	17.49	4.0	**	**
Fri	00.18	0.9	06.14	3.9	12.16	0.7	18.19	4.1
Sat	00.49	0.9	06.40	3.9	12.47	0.7	18.47	4.1
Sun	01.17	0.8	07.05	3.9	13.19	0.7	19.15	4.0
Mon	01.45	0.9	07.36	3.8	13.54	0.8	19.48	3.9
Tues	02.18	1.0	08.12	3.6	14.35	1.0	20.25	3.7
Wed	02.58	1.2	08.55	3.5	15.24	1.2	21.09	3.4

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Mallaig	+0.25
Campbeltown	-5.30	Portree	+0.55
Crinan	-0.47	Tobermory	+0.16
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Dover	+5.30
Lochboisdale	+0.30		

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