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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Thieves target power tools throughout Lorn

POWERTOOLS worth thousands of pounds have been stolen from vehicles across Lorn during a spate of thefts over a week.

The overnight thefts, which police believe are linked, began between November 11 and 12 when thieves entered an unsecured car to steal a power tool worth £100.

Between November 13 and 14 in North Connel, an orange and silver compression gun worth £1,500 and associated tools, a battery-powered impact driver and a battery powered torch were taken from a vehicle. The total value of items stolen is around £2,500.

Elsewhere in North Connel, thieves forced entry to a vehicle to steal four chainsaws totalling £3,400 in value.

At Lochawe's St Conan's Road windows on two vehicles were smashed to allow thieves to steal power tools and Sanders and in another part of the village thieves again smashed vehicle windows to take a large quantity of power tools from inside.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'I would urge people to lock their vehicles overnight, leaving them in a well lit place. If you have to leave valuable items inside, make sure they cannot be seen from outside the vehicle.'

Ella exits X Factor

XFACTOR star Ella Henderson's fanbase was left reeling after her shock exit from the competition on Sunday night but her Oban family insists she has a future in the music industry.

The 16-year-old's aunt and uncle, Angie and Andrew Henderson, who live in Dunollie, hosted X Factor parties and encouraged people around the town to vote for their girl.

Andrew said: 'We are gutted that Ella went out. She didn't deserve to go but we know this is only the start of things for her.'

Indecent images

FOLLOWING a two-year investigation by police in Oban, a 43-year old man who formerly lived in the Benderloch area has been charged with possessing indecent images of children.

The man is due to appear at court in Oban next week.



Councillors Iain MacDonald and Elaine Robertson, right, survey the Dunbeg housing site with West Highland Housing Association chairman Murray Sim and chief executive Lesley McInnes. 16_147site03

Housing hope springs from Dunbeg plan

'Desperate' housing situation will be tackled, says councillor

THE START of construction work on a new housing site at Dunstaffnage has been hailed as a major step forward in tackling Argyll Bute's 'desperate' housing situation.

Councillor Iain MacDonald, Argyll and Bute Council's deputy lead councillor for housing, was at the West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) site next to Dunstaffnage Science Park to run his eye over the plans, along with fellow ward member councillor Elaine Robertson.

Phase one of the housing project is now underway to build 50 new homes, including six three-bedroom houses, eight two-bedroom houses and 36 flats.

WHHA has been able to pay

for the project by selling the land to funders Link Housing Association. The total land available could potentially see 150 new homes being built in the Dunbeg corridor.

Councillor MacDonald said: 'This project is so important to the area because the current situation in housing is desperate.'

'We have huge problems in tackling the housing shortage in this area and this development is hopefully just the beginning of many more housing developments to come.'

The Dunbeg development, which should be completed in early 2014, begins as Argyll and Bute Council tries to cope with a housing waiting list of 529 applicants in Oban alone, with the

current figure in Argyll and Bute standing at 3,590.

Councillor MacDonald has praised WHHA for finding an 'innovative' way of funding the project.

WHHA chairman Murray Sim said: 'This is a partnership project with Link, in which we are acting as the development and management agent. We had to do it this way, as lending from banks was proving difficult.'

'It means new houses are being built in Argyll but our present business model is not impacted, which is good news for our existing tenants. We are grateful for Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council support. Their financial assistance makes projects like this possible.'

Winter Fest brings light and laughter to Oban

OBAN came alive with light and laughter last weekend as the second Winter Festival launched.

Events included Starlight Express roller skating at Atlantis Leisure, a Comedy Club in the Corran Halls and a food and drink market at Oban Distillery - including free tastings and a live cookery demonstration from an award winning chef.

'Now all eyes are on the grand finale this weekend - and a few spectacular secrets.'

Committee member Pamela Lockhart said: 'The festival has been going great. Last year we were having to sell the tickets to people but this year they are just sold out.'

'Sunday is our big finale day. There will be fire art - performers who were at T in the Park will be juggling with fire.'

'It has been a big secret so far but Tara Coia from Dunollie has been working on a special lantern for us in the distillery.'

'She is making us a steam train. It will fit over her car and she will drive it down in the parade. Children have been busy making lanterns too and will be behind Tara in the parade with them. As usual it will be led by Oban High School Pipe Band.'

The parade will be followed by a food court and entertainment at the distillery before fireworks and one last surprise in the finale. This weekend will see the arrival of a 40 foot Victorian style carousel at the Corran Halls along with other rides.

The Corran Halls will also host the Big Fat Electric Ceilidh on Friday night which combines ceilidh and club music.

Major roadworks underway throughout Oban town centre

DRIVERS should brace themselves for major roadworks through Oban's town centre when work to resurface part of George Street gets underway next Sunday.

As part of a £150,000 package of works, Transerv Scotland is currently resurfacing the town's Esplanade and has a three-vehicle convoy system in place to allow for quick traffic flow.

As of next week, attention will focus on George Street, from the roundabout at the bottom of the Bealach an Righ to the Stafford Street junction, which will become a two-way street between 9pm and 6am on Sunday when the Esplanade closes for one night only.

The following night, Monday, November 26, the Esplanade will become two-way as George Street is closed between Craigard Road and Stafford Street.

From Tuesday November 27 until Tuesday December 4 resurfacing work will take place on George Street from Stafford Street to Airds Place.

Overnight This means a convoy system will be in place, with work being carried out overnight between 9pm and 6am, excluding Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday December 5 the Esplanade will be closed overnight and George Street will be closed the following night as the work is brought to its conclusion.

To allow the works to be carried out, there is no on-street parking on Dunollie Road, George Street, Corran Esplanade, Stafford Street and Albany Terrace until December 7 and Transerv has posted notices beside affected bays.

Kilchrenan community gain £1.6m over 25 years

COMMUNITIES in and around Avich and Kilchrenan are set to benefit from a £1.6m windfall over the next 25 years.

The cash will be paid out by GreenPower, which is building a windfarm of 20 turbines around the summit of Carraig Ghael, eight kilometres west of Kilchrenan.

GreenPower (Carraig Ghael) Ltd announced the community fund on Tuesday, indicating payments of £46,000 would be made to the community fund every year for the next 25 years, the lifespan of the windfarm.

A consultation process during December and January will help determine how the fund should be shared to surrounding communities.

David Price, secretary of Avich and Kilchrenan Community

Council said they welcomed the 'long awaited announcement'.

He added: 'We are happy to work together with other community councils to agree a distribution model that is proportionate. We think it is important that the fund distribution does reflect the level of exposure everyone has to the windfarm.'

'We want to fully engage with the consultation and GreenPower to ensure every community gets the best result from the consultation period.'

The Carraig Ghael Wind Farm has been under construction during 2012 and will be switched on and generating electricity in Spring 2013.

Payments into the community fund will be index linked in to keep pace with inflation.



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Charity counts coppers

A GENEROUS cash donation from guests at Oban's Queen's Hotel has been made to Friends of Oban Hospice - but the charity has the unenviable task of counting the amount.

Queen's Hotel proprietors Raymond and Susan Hyams placed a giant empty whisky bottle on the bar at the beginning of the year, asking for donations to the hospice charity.

And last Friday they handed over the bottle, full of pennies, as well as £85 in cash to Friends of Oban Hospice members Anne Ferguson and Sandra Shedden, who will have to count out every penny before they know the total amount raised.

Raymond won the bottle three years ago at the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association dinner dance but, once empty, decided to put it to good use. Susan added: 'We know the hospice is a charity that is very important to people in the town and it is very important to me too; when my mother died I don't know what I would have done without hospice help.'

Anne thanked the couple for their ongoing support of the hospice, adding: 'We are very grateful for this donation and I think it is an absolutely fantastic fundraiser.'

'People put pennies in and don't miss them but these pennies add up to a lot for us.'

Friends of Oban Hospice is hosting its Light Up a Life fundraiser and remembrance service on December 11.

Raymond and Susan Hyams hand over the giant bottle of pennies to Sandra Shedden and Anne Ferguson. 16_147hospice01

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Remote Lochailort house robbed

A REMOTE house at Polnish, near Lochailort, was broken into sometime between 2pm on Friday November 9 and 4.15pm on Remembrance Sunday.

Items stolen included several pairs of binoculars, walkie-talkies and a hand-held GPS system. Anyone being offered similar items for sale from non-legitimate sources or who may have any information should contact Fort William Police station on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.



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Lochaber lovers: Australians Denise and Wayne show off their rings before their marriage in Fort William on Saturday. 20_f47wed01

Couple 'elope' from Oz to marry in Fort William

Bride's special homecoming

AN AUSTRALIAN couple got married in Fort William on Saturday - after eloping from Oz to Lochaber to make their vows. And for bride Denise MacDonald - the great, great granddaughter of Fort William man Alan MacDonald - it was a very special homecoming. Denise, of Ballarat in Victoria, uncovered her Lochaber roots through records showing that Alan emigrated from Blarmafalach in 1852. And when Denise, 52, met husband-to-be Wayne Hall two years after her first pilgrimage to Lochaber in 2006, she knew a return visit to Fort William was on the cards. 'It is like coming home,' she told *The Oban Times* the day before her wedding in the town's Duncansburgh Macintosh Church of Scotland. 'When Alan's mother died, the family split up and he ended up in Strathdownie, Victoria,

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

and became a farmer and blacksmith. 'My father and his brothers were put in a children's home when they were very young and knew nothing about the family history. 'I didn't either, but when I found out I can tell you there was only one place we were getting married - and that was Fort William. There is something about this place that pulls at your heart, it's very hard to explain. It may be generations back but you know this is where your roots are. It is a very emotional feeling standing on the soil your ancestors came from.' Denise, a care call co-ordinator for elderly people living at home, added: 'There is one thing though - no-one in Australia knows we are getting married.' Wayne, originally from Hobart

in Tasmania, said: 'It is a kind of elopement, I suppose!' The 50-year-old, a qualified chef by trade and now a welder making stock pens, has a very different background from Louise - he is descended from an English convict banished to a Tasmanian penal colony. The couple's Celtic rings are fashioned from Irish gold - a tribute to Annie Kelly, the lass from the Emerald Isle Alan MacDonald married in Australia. The Rev David Anderson officiated at Saturday's ceremony. Fort William man Alastair Campbell - a distant cousin of Denise - was best man. The newly-weds spent nine days in Fort William before leaving for Dufftown on Monday to continue their honeymoon. They will then spend time in Rosyth before flying back to Australia on November 30 - St Andrew's Day.

Sheriff gives Oban teenager jail sentence warning

AN OBAN teenager has been warned he faces jail if he re-offends within the next three months.

Steven Tonner, 19, of 3 Richard Court, Dunollie, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week after pleading guilty to carrying a Stanley knife in August. Sheriff John Herald told him: 'I have spent a large part of my professional life on this bench. People found with a Stanley knife normally only go out this court one way and that's not the door they came in. They go away in a white van.'

But he added: 'You're trying to sort yourself out - let's see if you do. You step out of line once and all bets are off. You know where you are going and for a considerable time.'

Sentence was deferred on Tonner for three months, until February 5 next year, to prove he can be of good behaviour.

Pick up after pet or be fined

HIGHLAND Council has put up posters warning dog walkers not picking up after their pet can be fined up to £60.

Education and enforcement officer James Sanderson said: 'We are looking to catch those that offend.'

Police probe Kyle gate theft

POLICE in Kyle are investigating the theft of a seven-bar galvanised gate from near the A890 Strathcarron to Achnasheen road, Lochcarron, on November 12.

Anyone with information should contact Kyle Police station on 01599 534222.

Oban lunch club settles in at new Guide Hall venue

A GROUP of Oban senior citizens has found a new place to socialise following the closure of Soroba House.

Soroba House Lunch Club disbanded when the hotel closed in September but has been resurrected by Maggie Dougall, Argyll Voluntary Action's community resilience co-ordinator.

The club now takes place every Wednesday in the Guide Hall between 1pm and 2.30pm. Mrs Dougall is assisted by volunteers, including teenagers from Oban Youth Cafe, who help during their lunchtime break from school. The club has up to 30 members every week and last Wednesday hosted Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid.

Mrs Dougall said: 'I thought it was important to get this club up and running again and it has proved very popular. 'Having help from the members of Oban Youth Cafe is great. The older folk enjoy talking to them. A few of them have been taught how to use text messages on their mobile phones!'

Transport to the lunch club is available and anyone who wants to attend should contact Maggie Dougall on 01631 564839.



Alan Reid MP meets some lunch club members, served by young volunteers Niamh Rowan, left, and Rebecca Miller. 16_14750uplunch01

Young singer has sights set on London final

A FORT William girl is just one step away from performing in the Open Mic UK Grand Final at The O2 arena in London on January 19.

But first Daisy Burns must sing solo at Dewsbury Town Hall in the area final on Saturday afternoon, when she will hope to book her shot at stardom.

Daisy, 16, of Nevis Bridge, has already made a big impact after winning through from the Scottish regional final in Glasgow last month.

The talented Lochaber High School pupil was one of only four of more than 200 acts to win through in the 16 and under category.

The competition aims to discover unsigned acts with the talent to become a professional recording artist. The top acts win big cash prizes, studio recording time and the chance of a recording contract.

Daisy's rendition of Sarah McLachlan's 'Angel' in front of a live audience and professional judging panel on October 13 at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall earned her a wild card entry to the area final. Now the young songstress can't wait to wow the judges at Saturday's show.

Daisy told *The Oban Times*: 'I'm going to give it my best shot. It has given me a lot of confidence and I have been getting good feedback from people. That's given me the belief that I can



Star in the making: Daisy Burns. 20_f47daisy01

do it. But whatever happens, I want to do musical theatre when I leave school.'

Proud dad Philip said: 'Open Mic is all about finding new talent. It gives the kids the chance to be heard by the movers and shakers in the music industry and the possibility of a recording contract.'

He joked: 'Daisy has been well managed!'

An Open Mic UK spokesperson said: 'Acts that have made it are just one step away from performing at the best live music venue in the country.'

Judges at the grand final will include Radio 1 DJ Annie Nightingale.

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Day 3: Fort Augustus - Banavie. In the morning the Lord of the Glens takes you along the Caledonian Canal and Laggan Avenue to Loch Oich and Loch Lochy. From here your cruise continues to Banavie, which lies in the shadow of Ben Nevis. An afternoon excursion brings you to the Glenfinnan Viaduct and you return to the ship via the Commander's Monument. Overnight in Banavie.

Day 4: Banavie - Tobermory. This morning the Lord of the Glens passes through Neptune's Staircase, a series of interconnecting locks, to Corrach. From Corrach, sail across Loch Linne and the Sound of Mull to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull. The rest of the day is free for you to explore this pretty waterside town, with its gaily painted waterfront.

Day 5: Tobermory - Oban. From Tobermory your cruise continues to Craignure on the Isle of Mull for a visit to Duart Castle. The Lord of the Glens then sails to Oban where you can enjoy a walking tour of the town. Visit a whiskey distillery to see how this fine Scottish spirit is made, and stop at McAlig's Folly. As this is your last night on the ship, the Captain will host a Farewell Reception and Dinner and the Lord of the Glens will remain in Oban overnight.

Day 6: Oban. After a final breakfast on board, your Highlands cruise comes to an end and you disembark in Oban. Transfers are available back to Inverness.

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New Balmacara Estate forest plan could include deer cull

A DEER cull to protect young trees is among possible options being considered under a new forest plan for Balmacara Estate in Lochalsh.

Recent observations detected an increase of browsing damage to saplings on the National Trust for Scotland property, which boasts around 500 hectares of native semi-natural woodland.

NTS staff are particularly concerned about the Coille Mhor oakwoods, which are designated both as a Special Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Special Area of Conservation.

According to Balmacara Estate manager Iain Turnbull, clearfelling of Forestry Commission Scotland and privately owned pine plantations to the east and north could have

displaced red deer into Balmacara through insecure fencing along the SSSI boundary.

The estate already has a resident population of mainly roe deer and it is feared the new arrivals, combined with a general increase in deer numbers, is taking a toll on young oaks and other species.

Mr Turnbull told *The Oban Times* a survey was planned in January and February to assess the woodland.

He said: 'We are concerned the young trees are getting chomped a bit. There has been some evidence of an increase in browsing pressure in some areas, probably because of a dispersal of deer.'

'We will consider a deer cull if necessary. It would be a moderate cull - it won't be carnage. We still have trees regenerating and it is

not a big problem.' The Balmacara Estate Forest Plan was submitted to Forestry Commission Scotland last week.

If approved after the 28-day consultation period, the estate could then apply for Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) cash for woodland projects such as access improvement, new paths, fence maintenance and rhododendron control.

Other proposals for the next five years include working with crofters to manage and protect the native semi-natural woodland on the common grazings and the possible establishment of coppice woodland for fuel sustainable wood production.

Colin Parsons from Achmore provided the plan for the estate, funded by a SRDP grant.

Politicians back Post Office DVLA decision

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP has challenged the government to make the Post Office its front office following news it has retained the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) contract.

During the seven-year contract, the Post Office will offer road tax and vehicle transactions at more than 4,700 outlets; 750 will also cater for driver licensing.

MSP Mike MacKenzie said: 'I am delighted at this announcement for the Post Office which follows a huge campaign organised by the National

Federation of Sub Post masters. 'The challenge however, to both government and Post Office Limited, is to build on this by making good on the promise to make the post office the front office for government.'

Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, also welcomed the announcement. He said: 'I am delighted that the DVLA contract is staying with the Post Office.'

'This means that motorists will continue to be able to tax their cars and apply for driving licences at a Post Office.'

Highland Council ready for winter

SALT supplies in the Highlands are at their maximum level of 67,000 tonnes as the area prepares for winter.

Highland Council says the stock exceeds the average amount of salt used over the past five winters.

TEC Services committee chairman Graham Phillips said: 'With winter

looming, it is important to assure the public that we are ready to cope with the type of adverse conditions that we have experienced in recent years.

Capacity
'Our stores are at capacity and we have a ready supply of salt from our supplier, should we need it.'

Work starts on £10m Achnacarry hydro scheme

CONSTRUCTION work on a £10 million hydro scheme on the Chia-aiq Burn near Achnacarry is set to begin next month.

Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Loch Eil Estates in partnership with RWE Npower Renewables will start on the Glen Cha-aiq 3MW hydro renewables project in the first week of December.

The run-of-river scheme is expected to take around 15 months to complete and will create enough power for 2,200 homes when finished. FCS says access for walkers and tourists will be maintained throughout the work.

FCS Lochaber team planning manager Ben Lennon said: 'A lot of effort has gone in to preparing

the site including the harvesting of mature conifers so we are delighted to finally get this project underway.'

'We've worked closely with the developers to make sure that the project does not adversely impact the Chia-aiq Falls, which is a great tourism hotspot for Lochaber.'

'People will still be able to come here and enjoy the falls - and the picnic site will remain open too.'

Duncan Morrison of RWE Npower Renewables said: 'We anticipate this scheme will be producing green electricity by spring 2014 and we will do everything we can to minimise any disruption through the construction phase.'

Council contract seminars

HIGHLAND Council is running two free events next week aimed at helping Lochaber and Skye businesses win contracts for council work.

The seminars, in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, on November 28 and the Council Chambers, Portree, the following day, will run from 9am-4.30pm. Participants will be able to find out about upcoming contract opportunities, discuss the tendering process and air any concerns.

Action on recycling

HIGHLAND Council representatives are joining Lochaber Environmental Group on Fort William High Street today (Thursday) to promote recycling and cutting down on waste.

Oban cocaine dealer had more than £800 party 'gift'

AN OBAN drug dealer was sent to prison for a year after being found with hundreds of pounds worth of cocaine while in a pub in the town.

Ross Maclellan, 22, of 19a Glencruitten Drive, admitted

being concerned in the supply of cocaine on February 2 when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard as a result of police intelligence a number of officers went to the bar and found

Maclellan in the toilets with another male. He left and sat at a table when he saw police.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'Police approached the table and informed the accused and the other male that they would

be detained for the purposes of a drug search.

'As he stood up he was seen to have an item in his hand. Police recovered the item which was a lottery ticket with a small cellophane bag containing lumps

of white powder.' Maclellan was taken to Oban Police Office where a further bag of white powder was found between his buttocks.

The two bags contained a total of 20.82 grams of cocaine with a street value of more than £800.

Defending, Sandy Mitchell said: 'His intention was to share it with friends at a party. He was prepared to gift to them amounts that he had.

'He didn't intend to sell it to anyone else.'

Council leader calls for A83 action

THE LEADER of Argyll and Bute Council has put people before politics by criticising the lack of government action at the Rest and Be Thankful following another landslide.

SNP councillor Roddy McCuish has urged his party at Holyrood to act quickly to find a permanent solution after the latest landslide and ferry cancellations on Monday meant Nicola Sturgeon, the Deputy First Minister, could not attend a meeting in Dumoon that was subsequently cancelled.

Agreement
Last week *The Oban Times* reported a diversion route on the A83 at the Rest would not be ready until February at the earliest, despite promises from the Scottish Government that the diversion route would be open 'by November at the latest'.

Transport Scotland then announced a legal agreement had been agreed with the private landowner at the Rest to allow work to move forward.

Councillor McCuish has this week called for an early meeting of the A83 taskforce group, which is due to meet on December 14.

Saying the landslides

highlighted the 'fragility' of the county's roads network, he added: 'I am hugely disappointed we were promised by the Scottish Government the temporary alternative route would be in place by November and that has not happened.'

'It has now been promised this will be in place by the end of January but how many more times will Argyll and Bute be effectively cut off before then?'

'We need a permanent fail safe solution to keep the A83 open at the Rest and Be Thankful so Argyll and Bute can carry on as normal even when bad weather hits the area.'

'Our businesses and people living here suffer every time the main route into Argyll and Bute is closed.'

Solution
'The Scottish Government must ensure there is a permanent solution found for these problems and a funding programme pulled together quickly for delivery which needs to be brought forward as soon as possible.'

Transport Scotland said last week a report on possible long-term solutions would be presented to the next meeting of the taskforce.

14-year-old had drugs at school

A 14-YEAR-old girl has been excluded from Oban High School after being found in possession of illegal drugs on school premises.

A drugs detection dog from Strathclyde Police was used in the search on November 1 and while the teenager was found to have cannabis on her possession, no evidence of drugs was found on school property.

The dog had been used earlier that day in drugs raids throughout the town.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Oban High School works very closely

with partner agencies to ensure the health and wellbeing of all of its pupils and staff.'

Following concern raised about a pupil, school staff immediately contacted Strathclyde Police who investigated the situation.

Dog unit
'Purely coincidentally, on the same day a police dog unit was in Oban on another matter. Officers asked if the unit could attend at the school and senior staff agreed.'

'There is no link between the presence of the police dog unit and the incident involving the pupil.'



High-flying ballerina Isabella during last Friday's Winter Wonderland production by Ballet West hopes to be on top of the world at the Genée International Ballet Competition next month. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.

Dancer with world at her feet competes in New Zealand

A TEENAGE ballerina from Argyll is one step closer to achieving her dream of becoming a professional dancer, as she prepares for an international competition.

North Connell dancer Isabella Swietlicki, who trains full time at Ballet West in Taynuilt, will be one of the youngest competitors at the Genée International Ballet Competition in Wellington, New Zealand, from December 7.

The 15-year-old, recently named the best young British dancer this

year, had a leading role in Ballet West's Winter Wonderland last weekend, part of Oban's Winter Festival.

Isabella said: 'My ambition is to be a professional dancer, dancing is all I can think about, so this is a natural progression and a great opportunity for me.'

'It will be hard work but I have been waiting for this chance for a long time. My best friend, Sara Mortimer, competed in 2010 and 2011 and

has gone on to work professionally so she has had some good advice for me.'

The young dancer has also sought advice from the Ballet West's senior principal dancers Jonathan Barton and Sara Maria Smith, from Taynuilt, who have both won bronze at the Genée.

Isabella's mother Flora said: 'Isabella got distinction in her first exams at the age of 11 and things mushroomed from there. We had her home schooled to allow her to

train full time and she trains as hard as any Olympic athlete, seven hours a day, sometimes seven days a week and has devoted her life to ballet.'

Isabella will be joined in New Zealand by another colleague from Ballet West, 18-year-old Charlotte Eades, who is a third year student from Birmingham.

The two Ballet West girls will make up half of the UK entry to the Genée International Ballet Competition.

Wetherspoons recommended for planning permission

PUB giant JD Wetherspoon is a step closer to opening its first premises in Oban's town centre - despite an outcry from local businesses.

Planners will this week meet to discuss an application from the company to redesign the former home of Caithness Glass on the Railway Pier, which currently

houses outdoor clothing store Wilderness.

The application has been recommended for approval in the face of 27 objections, including representations from the Oban and District Licensed Trade Association and several of the town's independent food outlets and wholesalers.

Pier safety

The matter of pier safety was also raised although planners said chief pier operators CMAL would

require the business to sign up to its safety code. Seven letters of support have also been received from local businesses keen to see Wetherspoon opening in the town.

They state Wetherspoon's arrival would create competition and drive up standards, create jobs and would benefit tourism thanks to the scenic location.

Lorn Lines

THREE highly talented solo singers headlined last Saturday's winter ceilidh in Taynuilt.

Mod gold medal finalist Gillian MacDonald, Aberfeldy, Mod silver pendant winner Robert Robertson from Fort William and former Mod gold medal winner Alasdair Whyte, Mull, all delighted the audience with a selection of beautiful Gaelic songs.

Young Lochawe piper Kimberly Campbell started off proceedings with a rousing series of tunes.

An appreciative audience was treated to further musical talent from fiddler Merle Harbron and accordionist Iain MacAskill, both of whom are newcomers to the Taynuilt ceilidh scene. Bronwen Davies, an Eilidh MacInnes Highland dancer, gave an excellent display and deserved great credit for carrying on undeterred when a few hiccups arose with the accompanying music.

Bean an taighe for the evening was Ishbel Banks who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club had an enjoyable evening at their meeting last week.

Chairman for the evening Willie Melville introduced speakers Jim Fraser who spoke on 'The Queen's Jubilee Year', Frank Walton on 'Space travel 2040' and Eamonn Arthur on 'If I was an inventor'.

Their immediate critics were Tom Clegg, Bill Leech and Roy Wood.

After a short tea break, John Maclean introduced a humorous topics session in which the subjects varied from football to litter and included thoughts on the speakers club in 1912 and 2112. Speakers were Bill Leech, Alex Clark, Eamonn Arthur, Tom Clegg, Roy Wood and Willie Melville. Timekeeper for the evening was Donnie Graham and a concise general evaluation was given by Archie McPhail.

The annual dinner will be held on November 29 and the next meeting will be on December 13.

Send your news from Oban and Lorn to Euan Paterson
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

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Former Connel flyer killed in Thailand microlight crash

A FORMER member of Connel Flying Club has died after his plane crashed when trying to scatter the ashes of a late friend in Thailand.

Tom Grieve, 57, was flying above Pattaya Bay on Saturday with a passenger, Patrick Esser from Dorset, when his microlight lost power and dived towards the sea. Mr Grieve tried to carry out an emergency landing, but his aircraft clipped a newly constructed pier and crashed into the water. It's thought the GT450 microlight was travelling at 70mph at the time. He died in hospital from chest injuries while his passenger suffered a broken arm.

Mr Grieve was living in Pattaya and worked as an instructor at Nongprue Flying Club. He received two awards for outstanding airmanship and made the first microlight flight across the North Sea, from Shetland to Norway.

New hi-tech equipment for Lochwatch

THERMAL imaging and night vision cameras have been bought by the Lochwatch scheme as it becomes better prepared to assist with searches on Loch Awe.

The scheme was set up following the death of four fishermen on the loch in thick fog in March 2009.

The thermal imaging camera and night vision cameras cost a discounted total of £4,500, £3,500 of which came from the community's An Suidhe Windfarm Capital Grant scheme. The remainder of the cost came from Lochwatch's own funds.

Lochwatch volunteer Iain MacKinnon said: 'The equipment is being held in Oban at present because the police and coastguard are being trained in how to use it. The cameras will be available to the emergency services for searches in other areas, but mainly Loch Awe.'

Glass charge woman in custody

AN OBAN woman has been remanded in custody after allegedly committing a domestic assault by throwing a glass at a man's face.

Isabel MacArthur, 37, of 7A Longdale Crescent, Oban, denied the charge when she appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week. MacArthur will appear again on November 28 and is expected to stand trial on December 12.

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Morvern Lines

HALLOWE'EN, by all reports, remains as popular as ever. Despite the internet and the latest electronic wizardry, ghosts and ghouls still capture the popular imagination with guisers out in force in Morvern recently.

Before television and wireless became popular and eventually elbowed out the traditional fireside ceilidhs, stories of the supernatural, witches and hauntings were commonplace. Some were carefully collected by well-known folklorists; others remain only a vague folk memory.

Ghostly happenings and sightings were recorded at Rahoy, Laudale, Ben Iadain, Achagavel, Kingairloch, Kinlochaline, Bunavullin and elsewhere in Morvern.

One of the most popular and still talked about is associated with a lonely shepherd's cottage overlooking Loch Tearnait halfway between Loch Aline and Eignaig.

Here the cottage door was flung open for no apparent reason and footsteps would be heard outside.

The story first appeared in print in a book called 'Further Wanderings Mainly in Argyll' published in 1926 by Mary Ethel Muir Donaldson, a colourful and eccentric travel writer, photographer and historian.

Miss Donaldson's family were ship owners but despite a privileged background she did not mince her words as far as absentee landowners were concerned when they fell short of her expectations or tried to prevent her from walking on their land.

Something of her vitriol is to be found in the chapters she wrote about Morvern and Ardnornish especially where she must have met with some resistance.

En route to Loch Tearnait she urges her readers to hurry past the Sellar's 'hideously incongruous modern 'mansion house' that disfigures the landscape' and on the way back, to turn to 'the native simplicity of Kinlochaline Castle' which she felt was 'a standing rebuke to the flaunting vulgarity of the modern pile opposing it, separating the plutocratic parvenu from the humblest inhabitant who really belongs to the country, and is truly, therefore, of a 'county' family'.

Miss Donaldson's source for the Loch Tearnait ghost story is not given but she records that the Dempsters, who lived in the cottage until 1874, refused to give an old man shelter one winter's night and that he was found in the morning dead in the snow outside.

From that day his ghost was alleged to have haunted the place causing the occupants to leave, saying the ghost would give them no more peace.

Shortly after Miss Donaldson's book was published, a letter appeared in *The Oban Times* from a descendant of one of the occupants, pointing out that as their hospitality was well known and that they never turned away anyone from their door, there must be another explanation for the old man's death.

Whatever the circumstances, one of the Dempsters told me about 30 years ago that his father, who had stayed in the cottage, often talked about the door suddenly bursting open in the evening. Large nails were often hammered across it to prevent this happening but they made no difference.

Thirty or so years ago, a well-known senior Glasgow surgeon and his wife, who had a holiday cottage near Lochaline, were fishing on Loch Tearnait and decided to have lunch in the cottage.

No sooner had they entered than they heard footsteps approaching the door. No one appeared and the two dogs they had with them became highly agitated. After a short period the same thing happened again but by this time the dogs were growling and their hair was standing on end.

The couple opened the door but there was no-one to be seen and in case someone was playing a trick they walked round the entire building but saw nothing upward and could offer no rational explanation as to what they had experienced.



The haunted Loch Tearnait Cottage: once the lonely abode of a shepherd.

RECORDED in Glengalmadale, Kingairloch only a few years ago was the eeriest of all supernatural noises called the 'Oiteagh slough' - the breeze of the host of the dead.

The sound is of strange unexpected gusts of wind and was known to the Romans, who wrote of its meaning in these islands.

These gusts have been heard by shepherds, stalkers and climbers. They are often inexplicable, sometimes sounding like breathing, other times like the cry of a deer in pain.

It is a sound from the past, a kind of ailing or a pre vision of tragedy to come. It is an eerie experience, captured in the old Gaelic song 'Tha sior coineadh am Beinn Dòbhrain' - There's a continual keening on Ben Doran.

'The voice of my darling is on the misty mountain. There is constant crying on the mountain. Your blood is flowing on the mountain. Your flesh is torn on the misty mountain. The voice of my darling is on the mountain, the crying over there is unceasing.'

Iain Thornber.

Drink driver in Tiree 'police helicopter' incident is banned

A DRINK driver who caused police to take a helicopter from Oban to the Isle of Tiree has been fined and banned from driving for a year.

Stewart Wilson, 41, of 18 Nelson Street, Dunoon, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week to admit a charge of driving while unfit through drink or

drugs. The court heard a witness was driving on the island on October 13 when he saw a car coming towards him. The witness pulled over but Wilson continued driving toward him, colliding with him between Cornaigmore and Balinoe.

Procurator Fiscal Eoin McGinty told the court: 'The

witness got out to check the accused was okay and noted he was heavily intoxicated and barely able to stand.'

'Police were telephoned but there were none on the island.'

Sheriff John Herald remarked: 'Is this the famous case where police took a helicopter across?' When questioned, Wilson, a

self-employed builder, told police he had been in shock when he got home and had a 'couple of wines and rums'.

Defence agent Graeme Wright said: 'He had been drinking rum prior to getting in the car. He had two but they were hand poured measures.'

'He now accepts the amount he

consumed would have put him over the limit.'

Mr Wright added: 'There shouldn't be any bigger penalty because the police decided not to be in a certain place at a certain time.'

Wilson was fined £500 on top of the ban.

The case rose to prominence

when a helicopter airlifted two officers onto the island to deal with the drink driving allegation because the resident officer was on holiday.

National press suggested police could have taken the next ferry - although this would have meant arriving 18 hours after the incident.



Lily with her winning design. 16_147calendar01

Lochnell's Lily in the limelight

A BENDERLOCH school pupil was celebrating last week after her picture was chosen out of more than 700 entries for a place in a calendar.

Lily Ferrier, a primary four pupil at Lochnell Primary School, drew and coloured her winning design which is now featured in the 'Get ready for Year Ahead' calendar.

The eight-year old said: 'The picture shows happy people that are ready for winter and sad people who aren't.'

'The border has all the things you would need in an emergency. I really enjoyed drawing it.'

Lily was presented with her winning design as a framed picture along with a copy of the calendar as she celebrated with his classmates and teacher.

The school has also received £100 of gift vouchers for art materials.

Her design was chosen from more than 700 entries and 26 schools across Scotland for a

place in the calendar, which aims to encourage everyone across the country to think ahead and be better prepared for all kinds of emergencies.

Lily is among a total of 20 pupils from other schools across the country whose eye-catching designs make up the calendar.

Each picture helps to communicate the importance of preparing for emergencies at home, in the community and in the car, and the simple steps we can all take to do so.

Kinlochleven community present fifth calendar awards

Trust chairman says calendar portrays a true picture of area

WINNERS of the Kinlochleven Community Trust 2013 calendar photo competition were announced at an informal awards ceremony in the village last Tuesday night.

Local Highland councillor and trust chairman Andrew Baxter presented the prizes in the Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) offices and paid tribute to the high standard of entries and the competition's continuing popularity.

He said: 'It does not seem possible this is the fifth calendar we have organised.'

'I am amazed at what a success it has been and the amount of money it realises for the village every year.'

'We are talking about £1,500 for community projects.'

Mr Baxter criticised recent online reviews portraying Kinlochleven as some kind of 'post-industrial apocalypse' and insisted the KCT calendar told a very different story of the village and its stunning surroundings.

He said: 'It just shows you that

"I am amazed at what a success it has been and the amount of money it realises for the village."

Trust chairman

the comments that were made were absolute nonsense.

'Anyone who lives locally knows that Kinlochleven and this part of Lochaber has a lot to offer.'

Overall photo winner was former Kinlochleven lad Neil Murphy, now of Glasgow. Mr Murphy is the son-in-law of Kinlochleven couple Donald and Janet MacDonald, who collected his prize on his behalf.

Kinlochleven Community Trust 2013 calendar winners and photos:

January - Graham Lawrie (Buachaille Etive Mor); February - Anthony Angus (Around Loch Leven); March - Alasdair MacDonald (A warm evening across Loch Leven (Under 18)); April - Peter Davidson (Kinlochleven from the High Road); May - Graham Lawrie (Bluebells at St John's); June - Chris Shippood (Loch Leven from Ballachulish Bridge); July - Graham Lawrie (Beneath the Loch); August - Anthony Angus (Along the Loch); September - Neil Murphy (The Boat and The Ben); October - Chris Shippood (Falls above Loch Leven); November - Sarah Campbell (Highland Cow (Under 18)); December - Lesley Woollacott (Snowy Pier Walk).

Kinlochleven Post Office was the main sponsor.

Copies of the calendar, priced £2.99, are still available at Kinlochleven Community Trust offices and the village port office.

All proceeds go towards supporting trust projects.

Argyll trio praised at London conference

A TRIO of staff from Argyll and Bute Council has been highly praised at the London Early Years Foundation conference earlier this month.

The team - Anne Paterson, quality improvement manager, Stephen Glen-Lee, head teacher at Easdale and Luig Primary School, and Kathleen Johnston, head teacher from Keills on Islay and the Small Isles Primary School on Jura, were part of a group of eight people from Scotland who made presentations at the event, attended by nursery

school staff from all over London. Mrs Paterson said: 'We were asked to present workshops on our early level work in Argyll and we made comparisons between our rural communities and London's 'villages.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, lead councillor for children and families, said: 'It is great to know that the quality of education provided in Argyll and Bute is admired and that our staff were able to share best practice with colleagues in a very different environment.'

Diabetes project volunteers sought

NHS HIGHLAND is looking for volunteers to join a new region-wide project designed to help manage and prevent type-2 diabetes. Consultant diabetologist Professor Sandra MacRury and UHI PhD student Jenni Connolly plan to develop a website promoting physical activity for people with, or at high risk from the condition. Anyone wishing to take part should contact Jenni at DiabetesExercise@uhi.ac.uk.



Celebrating the fifth KCT calendar: clockwise from left, Peter Davidson, Graham Lawrie, Andrew Baxter, Anthony Angus, KCT development officer Moira Hartley, Janet MacDonald, Sarah Campbell and Donald MacDonald. 20_67ca01

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Scout Post

OBAN and Connel Scouts will once again run the Scout Post to raise funds for repairs to the scout hall, which were completed over the summer by volunteer David Gilroy and his team.

Posting boxes will start appearing from December 1 in the following locations: Tesco, Co-op, Dunollie Shop, Atlantis Leisure, Oxfam, Hannah's, Jackson's, Alba, Albany, Birchwood, Hospital (WRVS), Halfway House and Dunbeg Stores. Delivery is restricted to Oban, Barcaldine, Benderloch, Connel, Dunbeg and Kilmore and costs 30 pence per card.

Last posting date is Wednesday December 12.

Police warn of thefts from work vans at N Connel

FOLLOWING several break-ins into work vans in North Connel, police are warning motorists not to leave any valuables in vehicles overnight.

Two vans were broken into between Tuesday and Wednesday last week with another attempted break in suspected.

PC Stuart Johnston said: 'We are asking people to make sure no valuables are left in vans overnight. Work vans are specifically being targeted with tools being taken. If anyone spots suspect vehicles we would ask they get the registration and inform police.'

'Anyone with information about the thefts is asked to contact 01631 510500.'

Cut price bike hire scheme wins praise for Scotrail

A UNIQUE bike hire project designed to help rail commuters enjoy the Highlands in all their splendour has been praised at a top UK transport award.

The ATOC National Cycle Rail Awards praised Scotrail for its cut-price bike hire scheme which allows cyclists to enjoy scenic journeys across the highlands without returning to their starting point.

Judges praised Scotrail for finding innovative ways of connecting Oban, Inverness and Fort William which are difficult using rail alone, its relationship with Nevis Cycles in Oban and Fort William, together with Ticket to Ride in Inverness and helping promote Highland trails, such as the 73-mile, off-road Great Glen Way between Fort William and Inverness.

Second time drink driver banned for three years

THE MANAGER of an Argyll fish farm has been banned from holding a driving licence for three years and fined £660 after admitting a drink driving charge for a second time.

David Laverty, 52, whose address was given at Oban Sheriff Court as Elderberry Caravan Site, Benderloch, was found to have 43mcgs of alcohol in 100ml of breath on October 18 on the A828 near Benderloch.

The legal limit is 35mcgs. At last week's court hearing Sheriff John Herald told Laverty: 'I accept this reading is not the highest I have seen - what makes this more serious is your previous conviction.'

Large turnout for Tobermory Remembrance Day

A LARGE congregation turned out for the official Remembrance Day Service in Tobermory recently.

As has been the custom since 1921, the event took place in Tobermory Parish Church on Sunday November 11. It was led by Rev Duncan MacDonald from Oban.

The congregation included veterans of the Second World War as well as more recent conflicts such as Bosnia, Northern Ireland and Afghanistan.

The Tobermory Brownies and Guides were also in attendance along with members of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue.

Following the church service, Tobermory High School pipers Alexander Anderson, Fraser Mitchell and Lewis Dillon led the parade from the church to the war memorial.

After prayer and a silence to remember those who have fallen, the pipers played *Amazing Grace* while wreaths were laid.

Another wreath had been laid two days earlier by pupils of Tobermory High School following their own act of remembrance in the school.

Organisers said: 'Many men from Tobermory gave their lives in two world wars so this is always a very poignant day, especially for the families of those who suffered loss.'

'This commemoration was, as always, sombre and dignified.'



Ciamar a tha thu Babòg? Iona Maclean from High Borve meets the teddy bear with her voice.

Iona is the voice behind first Gaelic teddy bear

Five-year-old gives new Babòg bears their Lewis accent

A BATCH of Gaelic-speaking teddy bears with a distinct Lewis dialect has been delivered to Stornoway.

The voice inside the Babòg bears is that of five-year-old Iona Maclean, from High Borve on the island's west coast.

Irish company Babòg initially developed the teddies with Irish Gaelic only - but Stornoway publishers Acair reckoned a Scottish Gaelic version was needed.

Babòg agreed - and Acair recruited Iona to recite 33 words, including colours and shapes.

Acair manager Agnes Rennie said orders had already come in from Canada, England and all over Scotland.

She said: 'He came off the ferry on Wednesday and we are

delighted with him.' A prototype of the talking bear was on show at the Royal National Mod in Stornoway last year and at Dunoon this year, but the final stages of production in China took some time.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig is supporting the venture.

Head of education and learning Mary MacMillan said: 'The development of new resources for the early years sector is a main priority for Bòrd na Gàidhlig and has been highlighted in the National Gaelic Language Plan.'

'We believe that learning a new language while young should be fun and we are delighted to assist Acair in creating this new interactive toy to help young children across Scotland in learning Gaelic.'

Unwelcome Oban hotel 'guest' given additional 80-day 'holiday' by sheriff

A MAN who helped himself to booze and a bed in an Oban hotel has been handed 80 days of free board and lodgings at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Iain Towers, of 50 Kingsway, Glasgow, was in Oban visiting a friend when the pair fell out and he found himself wandering the streets looking for somewhere to stay.

Oban Sheriff Court heard he wandered into a hotel and finding no-one around 'helped himself' to drink from the bar

before selecting a room for the night.

Staff at the hotel then spotted the 66-year-old outside partly clothed and of 'dishevelled appearance'.

They did not recognise him as a guest. Towers walked back into the hotel - telling staff he was going to room two.

Procurator Fiscal Jenny Sapieno said: 'Staff followed him into the room and observed a line of bottles of spirits on the window ledge which were identified as

coming from the hotel bar. They also observed that the room was in a state of disarray and the carpets and furniture smelled strongly of urine.'

Defending, Edward Thornton said Towers had suffered from alcohol abuse for many years and his condition had 'got worse in recent years'.

Sheriff Jamie Gilchrist sentenced Towers to two-and-a-half months in prison as he couldn't 'see any alternative to a custodial sentence'.

Tests take Tyndrum mine project's potential value up to £200,000

A GOLD and silver mine near Tyndrum has seen its potential value boosted to nearly £200million following new test drilling results.

Scotgold Resources announced new yield estimates from its infill drilling programme that suggest Cononish could contain 196,200oz of gold and 631,300oz of silver, increases of 6,200oz and 35,300oz respectively.

While the value of gold and silver has dropped marginally compared to earlier in the year, figures correct at the time of publishing put the total potential value of the mine at just over

£195million. The results were announced by Scotgold Resources on its website last week.

Christ Sangster, chief executive of Scotgold, said: 'The aim of the infill drilling programme has been achieved with a significant increase in indicated resources.'

Construction It is anticipated that test drilling will be complete by early 2013 and, subject to financing, the company anticipates going ahead with construction of the mine in June that year.

Production is scheduled to start in early 2014.

Young Lochaber rugby hopefuls meet Sir Chris Hoy



A few lucky Lochaber Rugby Club youth players got to meet six-time Olympic gold medal winner Sir Chris Hoy at Murrayfield. The club took a busload of youth players down to see Ardgour youngster John Clark, 12, walk out as Scotland's mascot for their game against New Zealand.

Disabled drivers call for clarity in Oban car park

DISABLED motorists heading to Oban's Corran Halls continue to be frustrated by a lack of properly marked parking bays - six months after the council said the car park would be repainted.

A bike shelter cuts across half of a disabled space in the front car park, while the some of the paint marking the general bays in the larger section of the car park have faded away.

Argyll and Bute Council said in April that the full car park was to be repainted in June - but six months have passed since that deadline was set and still no lines have been painted.

The council's head of roads Jim Smith said: 'The lines have been included in a schedule of work for the Oban area.'

'The work will be completed when our lining contractor is back in the area, however, we will require a forecast which gives us a reasonable spell of dry weather.'

Scottish Conservative Party deputy leader presents St Andrew's Day lunch speech



Jackson Carlaw, the list MSP for the West of Scotland and deputy leader of the Scottish Conservatives, ahead of his talk to the Oban branch of the party on Saturday.

THE DEPUTY leader of the Scottish Conservative Party visited its Oban branch last week and said he has full faith in the Better Together campaign.

Speaking at the St Andrew's Day lunch in the Regent Hotel on Saturday, Jackson Carlaw claimed people have responded positively to the cross-party nature of the campaign to preserve the union of the United Kingdom, adding his belief that having a Conservative/Lib-Dem coalition at Westminster is not damaging its efforts.

He said: 'Under the Better Together campaign, Labour, the Conservatives and the Liberal Democrats have been working hard together to demonstrate that whatever our political differences we will put them aside to fight for the future of the United Kingdom.'

'There have been a series of events across the country already and the response we're getting so far has been extremely positive.'

While the list MSP for the West of Scotland admitted his party has rarely been at such a low ebb north of the border, he believes the 'post-Thatcher' party is starting to gain support from new generations of voters.

He added: 'People in Scotland almost more than in England support the government action on welfare reform. 'They understand this is a cost that is unsustainable.'

Airport profits hit despite growth at Tiree and Kintyre

REGIONAL airports operator HIAL managed to claw back much of the trade it lost in the 2010/11 financial year - but still recorded an operating loss of nearly £1million.

A nine per cent increase in passenger numbers in the last financial year, up from 1,158,041 to 1,258,452, helped cut the operating loss from £2.56million to £969,000.

Three of HIAL's airports,

Campbeltown, Sumburgh and Tiree, enjoyed double digit growth during that period, while the number of aircraft movements increased by nine per cent from 116,930 in 2010/11 to 127,805 in 2011/12.

However, much of the savings delivered in the past year were as a result of winter operations costing £1million less than the previous year thanks to milder weather.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, which is wholly owned by Scottish Ministers, said: 'Operating conditions have been tough due to high oil prices and well documented global credit issues.'

Several avenues are being pursued by the company to boost figures in the coming years. Mr Lyon said the growth potential for renewable energy was one area of key focus.



Neil Rowan with the Strathmore Bowl. Photograph - The Write Image.

Commuting young chef rewarded for his commitment

A YOUNG chef who travelled between Dalmally and Fort William every day to pursue his passion has been rewarded for his skill and commitment.

Neil Rowan, from Dalmally, won the Strathmore Bowl for City and Guild Level Two Professional Cookery at West Highland College in Fort William.

He has since taken up a place on the HND professional cooking course at City of Glasgow College.

His lecturer at West Highland College, Michael Campbell, said: 'Neil went over and above what was expected of students on the course and set out to achieve distinction in everything he did.'

'The fact he travelled from Dalmally every day also showed a tremendous commitment to the course.'

Neil's mother Marie, who runs the Mary's Meals shop in Oban, said her son had been inspired by his Lochgilphead grandmother, Mary MacIntyre.

She said: 'My mother is a really good cook, someone that doesn't use measuring jugs. She just knows how much of each ingredient to use.'

'Neil grew up watching her and seems to have the same knack. She has been a great inspiration to him.'

Missing Crianlarich walkers found

TWO MISSING hill walkers who sparked a search on Ben More near Crianlarich on Saturday afternoon were discovered safe and well early on Sunday by a RAF search and rescue helicopter close to the summit on the south east slope.

The walkers had been separated from a group around 2.30pm on Saturday and assistance had been sought from Killin Mountain Rescue Team, members of

the Search and Rescue Dogs Association and a helicopter. In weather conditions described by searchers as 'extremely bad' the search was called off late on Saturday night, with additional searchers being drafted in on Sunday morning from Ochils, Lomond and RAF Leuchars Mountain Rescue Teams.

The walkers were reported to be wet and tired but not requiring medical attention.

Islay disability charity finds new home in Port Ellen after four-year search

AN ISLAY charity has found a new home for its shop after four years of searching.

Islay Disabled Endeavours and Action (IDEA) had to close its shop in Bowmore in July 2008, cutting off a crucial source of funding for its work with disabled and elderly people on the island.

However, next Tuesday at 11am the charity will open its shop at 56 Frederick Crescent, the former butchers shop, in Port Ellen.

IDEA resource centre manager Margaret Rice said: 'This means a lot to the charity because the income we get from the shop is vital. We have really missed that over the past four years.'

The shop is to be run by volunteers and anyone who can help is urged to contact Margaret at the resource centre on 01496 810963. The shop will be open initially on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

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ISLAY

JAMES MacFarlane, a well-known Islay seannachie, recently gave a Gaelic talk at Ionad Chalum Chille Ile (ICCI) about the building of the Donegal-type currach which is currently resident in ICCI's foyer.

James explained the history and construction of these boats highlighting the traditional, local materials used where possible. The boat was constructed in Islay during last summer's Festival of the Sea at Port Ellen by Donal McPolin of Donegal, Ireland, with help from local people. James also showed a traditional lobster creel made of wood and hazel rods with handmade netting and explained how such a creel would have been made.

Islay is fortunate in having people such as James in the community who keep and share their traditional skills and local stories.

□□□
DURING the last few years, wild birds have been killed or injured following collisions with overhead power lines in northwest Islay.

Most casualties have been Whooper swans migrating from Iceland, which find it difficult to manoeuvre past the electrical wires. As well as killing or injuring the birds, damage to electricity lines and equipment from bird-strike can be considerable, causing power cuts which are time consuming and expensive to repair and a nuisance to customers.

SSE electricity company, which maintains the grid on Islay, in consultation with the RSPB and Islay Natural History Trust, tested a new type of 'bird flight diverter' last winter. These devices are attached to the overhead wires, making them more visible to swans and geese, which will hopefully then avoid the power lines. Diversers previously tried in Islay had not proved effective. The new devices installed this year have reflective 'sails' attached, to attract birds' attention. Large numbers of these diversers can be seen hanging from electric lines in the Rhinns and there have been no reported swan collisions with overhead wires so far this year where these diversers were installed.

While some people find the twinkling 'flags' on the overhead lines visually intrusive - and in the dark night skies of the Rhinns, Christmas on Sauchiehall Street has been mentioned! - it will be interesting to see the long-term results of this intervention.

□□□
CÓISIR Ghaidhlig Ile will take part in a Gaelic church service led by the Rev Alistair Scouller on November 25 at the Round Church, Bowmore.

The choir will lead various hymns and, by request, will sing its prizewinning puirt-a-beul from the recent Royal National Mòd and the beautiful song 'Breisleach'.

□□□
ISLAY Pipe Band will hold a fundraising dinner dance in the Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor



Lochnell pupils turn on Victorian style to celebrate winter festival

Lochnell Primary School pupils turned out in style - Victorian style that is - to celebrate the launch of Oban's Winter Festival. The Benderloch youngsters dressed up in their old fashioned best with top hats and chimney sweeps galore to mark the start of the annual event. Some even brought in Victorian items. Most of the school are currently doing a Victorian topic which staff said 'tied in beautifully' with the day. 16_147victorian01

Hotel on Saturday February 9 2013.

Catherine Johnston, who organised a successful fundraising night at the same venue for Ionad Chalum Chille Ile, offered to help the pipe band to do the same, assisted by Sheena MacMillan and everyone connected with the band.

John Carmichael and John MacLellan will host the evening, during which Islay Pipe Band will play. The island ceildh/trad band 'Deoch 'n' Dorus' will play for the evening dance.

An auction and raffle will also be held. To book a table or order raffle tickets email sheena.macmillan@hotmail.co.uk.

A bus will meet the ferry at Kennacraig at 12 noon on Friday February 8 to pick up band members travelling from Islay to Glasgow.

BALMACARA

TWO BIRD surveys on the National Trust for Scotland-owned Balmacara Estate are being undertaken this winter to find out what species use different habitats.

The Wetland Bird Survey organised by the British Trust for Ornithology, a scheme which monitors non-breeding waterbirds throughout the UK, will regularly check bird numbers at several sites along the coast between Kirktown and Plockton.

It will aim to identify population sizes and to determine trends in number and distribution and will run until March 2013.

Bird counts will be conducted

once per month in tandem with other wetlands surveys in the UK. The Balmacara findings will help to inform waterbird conservation in future.

Secondly, the winter farmland bird survey is logging different types of birds between the crofting townships of Erbusaig, Drumbuie, Duirinish and Plockton to better understand how these species use farmland in winter. The project will also run until March next year.

One survey visit to Drumbuie in October produced a mixed flock of more than 60 birds that consisted of twite, yellowhammer, linnet, goldfinch, chaffinch and reed bunting. A dead juvenile Manx shearwater was also found on a chimneystack in Drumbuie.

Shearwaters migrate south from their northern breeding colonies to their wintering ground off South America from late August to early October. A combination of wind direction and street lights probably led to the fledgling's misfortune.

Anyone wishing to help with the surveys should contact Balmacara Estate office or email conservation officer Stephen Bentall at SBentall@nts.org.uk for more information.

LISMORE

THE HALL committee organised an enjoyable and well attended quiz night recently with Katy Crossan an excellent quiz master.

Katy's questions were wide ranging and imaginative and challenging at times. Of the eight teams, the top prize went to 'Inspiration' getting 'The Mucky Ducks' with the

booby prize. The award for the best name, had there been one, would have gone to 'We thought it was a Disco'. The evening raised £153.23 for hall funds.



A proud Fionn Cook with his coin.

TWO LEARNING and events officers from Dunollie Museum and cultural centre - archaeologist Tara Coia and historian and Gaelic scholar Aonghas Murray - spent the day at Lismore Primary School giving the children a taste of archaeology.

It was part of a two session programme organised by Lorraine King and Jennifer Baker from Lismore Heritage Centre in which the children are learning about the significance of the island's archaeological past. Tara and Aonghas brought with them 3 boxes of prepared soil so the children could not only experience a simulated dig but also learn how to wash, label, draw and record artefacts. The plan was to get some time outside at Killandrist with tape measurers and pegs finding out how a real dig is organised but

the weather was not good and there was a great deal to do in the time available.

The children's fascination with the experience was obvious from the outset and their concentration on the tasks impressive.

In the follow up session in the museum, they explored the items in the collection that have been discovered on Lismore, learnt about their significance and how to be on the look out for their own discoveries.

CALLANDER

CALLANDER Youth Project (CYP's) Trust will hold its annual general meeting at the Bridgend Youth Hub next month.

Starting at 7.30pm on Wednesday December 12, the AGM will be followed a video presentation of the CYP's current work before a tour of its new premises, led by the young people that attend.

Proceedings will be closed with a champagne reception and canapés.

SKYE

PROFESSOR Kenneth MacKinnon will be visiting Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Wednesday November 28 at 2pm to attend a short ceremony where the research papers he has donated to the college library will be officially accepted.

Professor MacKinnon will then deliver a lecture entitled 'Research on the Gaelic Community and its Future Implications'.

There will be refreshments available prior to the lecture and everyone is welcome to attend.

SOUTH UIST

THE COMMUNITY group which owns South Uist estate has co-opted a new director to its board.

Calum MacLeod will serve until the next AGM in 2013 after Colin Morrison's recent resignation.



Pupils of Lochside RC Primary School organised a service to mark Harvest Thanksgiving with a power point show and a play. The children are pictured above with food brought in by the school community, which was later distributed to the elderly. The pupils also wrote their own poems for the day.

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The Stòras Uibhist board now comprises six elected directors - Angus MacMillan, John MacMillan, Mary Scholler, Stephen MacAulay, George MacAulay, Sarah MacEachen - and two co-opted members, Calum MacLeod and Lorne MacLeod.

SPEAN BRIDGE

SPEAN Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council has appointed Jonathon Davies, of Roy Bridge, as a co-opted member.

Mr Davies was unanimously approved following David Dignan's resignation from the community council.

PORTSONACHAN

THE BOWLING club has benefited from a grant of £100, from Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

The money was approved by community council members from its RWE npower grant scheme.

TIRRE

RUGBY development officer Allan Wright will travel over the sea to teach an up and under at Tیره this week.

Primary and secondary pupils at Tیره High School will be put through their paces by Allan, who also hopes to deliver a community coaching session.

BALLACHULISH

THE NEWLY refurbished Ballachulish Village Hall will play host to a Christmas pantomime next month.

Local thespians will put on three performances of *Babes in the Wood* on December 13, 14 and 15.

□□□
ST BRIDE'S Primary School in North Ballachulish is holding a Christmas Fair in aid of school funds tonight (Thursday).

The event, which is being held in the school, gets underway at 7pm.

CONNEL



Connel Village Hall was recently awash with ghosts, vampires and bunnies. Locals can relax though as the gathering was part of the annual Connel Halloween party. There was a fantastic turnout of local families and prizes were handed out for the best costumes and best pumpkin. Prizewinners from the various age groups are pictured.

BARCALDINE



Primary seven pupils organised an afternoon of fun to celebrate Halloween at Barcaldine Primary School. All the children - and teachers - were asked to come dressed up as an animal and costumes ranged from startlings and swans to dogs and dinosaurs. The fun started with dooking for apples and pinning the rabbit's tail with everyone getting sticky from trying to eat doughnuts that had been strung up without using their hands and marshmallows with squidgy cream.



As part of their topic work on Polar Lands, children from Barcaldine Primary School were lucky enough to enjoy a workshop with Dr Tim Boyd of SAMS. The experiment involved them decorating polystyrene cups which Dr Boyd then took with him to the North Atlantic. These cups were lowered to 1,000 metres along with exploratory equipment and then retrieved at the end of the trip. The change was amazing; the cups shrank but remained perfect in every detail.

Around the Rurals

ARISAIG

ARISAIG SWRI held its meeting in the lifeboat shed at Mallaig on October 18. An interesting and informative talk on the work of the RNLi was given by Michael Currie, coxswain of Mallaig Lifeboat.

Competitions: Small harvest tablecentre - 1 Margaret MacEachen; 2 Anne Cameron; 3 Helen Lamb. Photo with floral theme - 1 Helen Lamb; 2 Anne Cameron; 3 Margaret MacEachen. The raffle was won by Rose MacEachen.

KILBRANDON

KILBRANDON SWRI's varied programme for 2012-2013 continued in October when president Linda Brown welcomed members and visitors to Seil Island Hall.

Speaker for the evening was Judith Day, who gave a talk and demonstration on sugarcraft. Judith made the production of beautiful, realistic flowers for cake decoration look deceptively easy, whilst at the same time entertaining members with tales of some of her more unusual commissions for cakes. Shona Neil gave the vote of thanks.

FORT WILLIAM

FORT William Women's Rural Institute heard from Sarah Hughes of Caol-based art project Room 13 at its November meeting.

Ms Hughes explained the history of the project, which was started at Caol Primary School in 1994 and has since spread across the world to countries such as Australia, Nepal, China, South Africa and France.

The WRI heard Room 13 aims to improve children's self-confidence and respect for others through creating art. Members then took part in a lively question and answer session with Ms Hughes. Also at the meeting, Mrs MacLean showed a beautiful footstool she had re-covered at a recent SWRI upholstery weekend class.

The winners of the competition for a mountain picture were Neileen MacKenzie in first and Phyllis Knox in second.

Raffle winners were Phyllis Knox and Elspeth MacKenzie. The next WRI meeting will be held at Inverloch Hall on Monday December 3.

As a result of illness, the original plan for the meeting,

ARDNAMURCHAN

TWO CATS are looking for a new home in west Ardnamurchan after their owner moved to Greece and was unable to take them with her.

Brothers Corky and Kito are currently being looked after by Cats Protection Ardnamurchan and Mull.

If you can give them a home, contact Sheila Paterson on 01967 431203.

INVERGARRY

INVERGARRY will hold its annual craft fair on Saturday December 1 in Glenarry Community Hall from 10.30am till 3.30pm.

Cards, crafts, homebaking, a café and a children's craft corner with festive activities will feature - as will a visit from Father Christmas.

A raffle raising funds for local causes and local musical entertainment will add to the festive feel.

GLENELG

THE ANNUAL Glenelg ceildh night raised more than £830 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The well-attended event in the village hall saw song, dance, poetry and a raffle. Among the highlights on the night were the local Proclaimers tribute act 'The Disclaimers'.

TWO RENEWABLE energy projects planned for the shores of Loch Awe were put to Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council.

The Kames Burn (Eas Mor) Hydro Scheme and the Ardchnonnell Wind Farm are in the early stages of planning, although the hydro scheme is due to be submitted this month to Argyll and Bute Council planners for consideration.

The 900kw hydro scheme, sited between Ardchnonnell and Eredine, is mainly on Forestry Commission land and is being led by Gilkes Energy. It will take the form of a run-of-river scheme, as opposed to a reservoir dam scheme like that at Cruachan.

Crompton, who spoke to members of the community at Portsonachan Village Hall on November 7, said a planning decision would be expected in spring 2013, with a view to starting the construction of the scheme in summer or autumn of that year.

The meeting also heard plans for the proposed Ardchnonnell windfarm had been delayed after site surveys took longer than expected.

Developer RWE npower Renewables is currently investigating the possibility of building and operating a wind farm at Ardchnonnell, approximately six kilometres north-west of Inveraray. The proposal consists of up to 20 turbines, each with a maximum

BANAVIE



Banavie Primary School pupils have given £100 to the Help for Heroes charity. The pupil council organised events throughout the year to raise the money. Council member Emma Simpson hands the cheque to Help for Heroes county organiser Susan Somers.

DALMALLY

DALMALLY Primary School has received a grant from the community to help buy a outside store for equipment.

The school needs £800 for an outdoor storage container, as part of its outdoor PE programme and was successful in gaining £250 from Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council's An Suidhe Community Fund.

The school's parent council is to generate the remaining funds.

GLENORCHY AND INNISHAIL

height to blade tip of 125 metres and a maximum installed capacity of up to 46MW (MegaWatts).

Two temporary anemometry masts were erected on the site in February 2012.

A representative of the project, Alan Greenwood of McGann Greenwood Communications, said: 'Some of the surveys have taken longer to return to us, so there has been a setback in the original timetable. 'We will be holding a public exhibition at the start of next year in Portsonachan Village Hall to show people what the proposed development might look like and how we can work with the community for a development fund.'

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Published on 13th December

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Islay Letter

Ciara's appeal

FUNDRAISING for the Ciara Caskie Allan appeal continues apace and the 11-year-old Bowmore school girl will shortly be heading to Oklahoma to undergo proton therapy to counter a brain tumour which has blighted her young life and has remained a cause of concern to her family. Raising the money to finance the trip has been an island wide effort and no stone has been left unturned. Sponsored runs and walks, ceilidhs, discos and dances have all upped the ante as have quiz nights, cheese and wine events, auctions and carol singing. Local farmers have waived their commission and the local rugby club and football teams, along with members of the crew of the nuclear submarine HMS Vanguard, have all given their support. Whisky tasting at Bruichladdich Distillery, hosted by master distiller Jim MacEwan and singer and writer Robin Laing, will greatly add to the final total, as will the auction of nine specially bottled malt whiskies, each bearing the names of the distillery managers involved. The overall response to the appeal has been overwhelming and it is at a time like this that one is proud to live in such a generous and caring community. Further fundraising details and methods of donation can be obtained at Ciara.appeal@yahoo.co.uk.

Lodge award
A NEWLY-BUILT eco-lodge in the Mull of Oa has been awarded five-star self catering status by the national tourism organisation VisitScotland. Coillabus Lodge, with its outstanding views, is architect-designed with stone clad walls and a turf roof. Property owner Hester Ross was delighted to receive the award which recognises vision and lots of hard work. 'We have worked with so many island and Scottish craftsmen and suppliers to bring it all together,' said Hester. 'With

our whisky, scenery and wildlife I believe Islay is a first class destination and with this award we can become an important part of that vision.'

VisitScotland regional director David Adams MacGilp praised the Oa project and was encouraged to see tourism in Argyll greatly enhanced by the provision of high class properties such as Coillabus Lodge.

Fèis Ile

AT THE annual general meeting of the Islay Festival Association, chairwoman Florence Grey described Fèis Ile 2012 as an outstanding success and thanked committee members and the island community for their commitment and hard work. This resulted in a varied festival programme which attracted large crowds and appealed to both visitors and locals. A number of new faces have joined the committee and they are now doing the groundwork for the first event in the association's 2013 calendar. This will be the annual Burns Supper in the Maltmill at Lagavulin Distillery on January 26.

Gaelic worship
GAELIC speakers can worship in their native or adopted tongue at a Gaelic service at the Bowmore Round Church on Sunday November 25 beginning at 6.30pm. This is one of a series of acts of Gaelic worship promoted by the Argyll Presbytery and held in churches throughout the island. Leading the worship at Bowmore will be Alastair Scouler, a Gaelic translator and member of Edinburgh's Greyfriars Highland church. Alastair is of Colonsay stock and is no stranger to Gaelic pulpits on the island and far beyond. Enhancing the praise will be Còisir Ghàidhlig Ìle, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart, and there will also be musical input from pupils at the Gaelic unit at Bowmore Primary School. Thigheabh agus deanamh adhradh. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JX Tel: 01496 810658.



Flight Lieutenant Tiffany Lamont and Corporal John Macleod unfurl the banner at the Balmacara war memorial.

WHEN Flight Lieutenant Tiffany Lamont from Balmacara heard from her aunt Nina Martin of Ardelve that the branch needed a new standard she decided to raise the money for it. Nina, who is on the committee of the Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, and her Balmacara cousin Corporal John Macleod of the Royal Artillery were serving in Afghanistan at the time and together they raised the £500 needed.

The standard was bought in time for the armistice parade last Sunday and the cousins got special leave to come home and attend. Both laid wreaths, John on behalf of Help for Heroes and Tiffany on behalf of the RAF. John is now at Larkhill, Wiltshire, and Tiffany at RAF Cranwell. Tiffany is the daughter of Lexie and the late Alastair Martin, Balmacara, and John

PLOCKTON

is the son of Ian and Caroline Macleod, also Balmacara. The Lochalsh branch thanked the duo in person for their generous offer.

A COFFEE morning in Plockton Hotel on November 3 raised £267 for the children's Christmas party and a coffee morning in the Plockton Inn on November 10 raised £280 for Plockton Football Club. LOCHAN, the local arts network, presented the Tim Kliphuis Trio to an audience of around 30 in Plockton Hall on November 7.

PLOCKTON and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held its AGM in Plockton Hall on October 24 with 21 members present. Office bearers elected were: president - Jill Charnley; vice

president - Gill Harrington; secretary - Kirsty Stanley; treasurer - Sheila Harvey; membership secretary Adrienne Sowood. A committee of 10 members was also elected. HUNDREDS of waxwings have arrived in Plockton and are attracting a lot of attention as they are not usually seen in the village.

THE PAUL Mackenna band, on a short tour of the Highlands, played in Plockton Hall on November 15. DESPITE one poppy tin being stolen from the Plockton Inn, the village of Plockton and Plockton High School along with Duirinish and Drumbuie raised the record sum of £1034.55 for the Earl Haig fund this year.

INVERARAY National Collection of Aerial Photography. In the autumn of 2012, the Architecture and Design Scotland education team worked with schools around Scotland to give children the opportunity to see their place from an unusual perspective. Children from Inveraray Primary School were inspired by their town and surroundings to create striking visual images, inscribed on the landscape with fabric, to communicate personal

CHILDREN from Inveraray Primary School have contributed to a major national exhibition of aerial photography that opened on October 26 at the Lighthouse, Glasgow. Above Scotland - a new exhibition at created by Architecture and Design Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland - gives visitors a unique bird's-eye view of Scotland through stunning aerial photography from the

INVERARAY from the air, and community narratives of daily life, history and productivity. The Above Scotland exhibition runs until January 23 in Gallery 2, The Lighthouse, 11 Mitchell Lane, Glasgow.

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Kinlochleven

INTERVIEWS will take place shortly for the vacant head teacher's post at Kinlochleven High School. The closing date for applications was November 9. Previous head John McGilp left to take up the post of acting head teacher at Thurso High School in October.

THE DATE of the official opening of Kinlochleven's latest attraction - a 1.5km salmon trail along the River Leven - is expected to be announced shortly. The trail features interpretation panels and

artworks describing and depicting the lifecycles of the salmon and the river's history. The Lochaber Fisheries Trust (LFT) project also highlights the role that fishing and the Leven have played in the local community. Kinlochleven Primary School pupils and local volunteers helped build the £30,000 feature, which was funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund and Highland LEADER.

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust will hold its next meeting in its offices in the business park on Tuesday December 11 at 7pm.

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Council and Kinlochleven Community Trust have held the latest in a series of meetings to agree a joint programme of action for the village. Projects include a small-scale hydropower scheme, which, it is hoped, will provide much-needed revenue in future years. Consultants are currently examining options on harnessing one of the burns above the village to provide electricity.

Rio Tinto Alcan still generates a huge amount of power from its turbine house in Kinlochleven using water brought down in giant pipes from the Blackwater Reservoir. Plans are also in hand to re-open the public toilets opposite the Ice Factor. Local Highland councillors have agreed in principle to hand over the building to community control. Costs of refurbishment and managing the toilets are currently being

KINLOCHLEVEN will stage one of its biggest community days out of the year on December 8 when the 2012 Christmas Leven Festival is held in the Ice factor. The event, now in its fifth year, draws families from across Lochaber to see Santa in his freezing ice grotto. A family of reindeer and Santa's elves - who, we are told, will bear a striking resemblance to some 'weel kent' local faces - will also be among the attractions on the day. Christmas stalls, festive fare and a tombola will add to the festive sense of occasion. Organiser Kay McDuff would be grateful for any suitable donations for tombola and raffle prizes. The event runs from 11am to 3pm



The Ice Factor: part of the Highland Comfort Scheme.

investigated with a view to re-opening them, hopefully by the end of next year. The Ice Factor is currently making toilet facilities available to the public through the Highland Comfort Scheme.



Sheena Mitchell and John Groundwater with children Archie and Brodie visit Santa in his icy grotto at last year's Christmas Leven Festival.

KINLOCHLEVEN'S 'wee charity shop' is to hand over £1,000 towards Kinlochleven Community Trust's (KCT) summer hanging basket display and £500 for the 'Pelton Wheel' interpretation panel in the square. The shop, which operates from premises on Kinlochleven Business Park from 10am to

2pm on Fridays and Saturdays, raises money throughout the year for local good causes. Local woman Kay McDuff runs the enterprise. KCT development officer Moira Hartley said: 'The donation of £1,000 is vital. We would probably not be able to go ahead with the hanging baskets without it.'

Next week Down Your Way visits Lochgilphead with reporter Edel Kenealy. You can contact Edel on 01546 602345 or email editor@argyllshireadvertiser.co.uk

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Roadworks - a necessary evil

YOU DO sometimes have to feel for the organisations looking after our roads.

Bound by ever-tightening and insufficient budgets, health and safety paranoia and legal bureaucracy they are expected to give us road surfaces that are safe and efficient. At the very least, we ask they spare our cars the vehicular equivalent of 12 rounds with David Haye.

And then, when the piggy bank is emptied to pay for repairs, when is a good time to start? Certainly not during the tourist season, or during autumn events and festivals. And don't even think about relaying a road surface in the wet and cold winter.

The state of roads in Scotland, not just Argyll, is so bad that any major investment in the network north of the central belt is hard to come by.

The current roadworks in Oban's town centre will be inconvenient, at best, but long term denial of the condition of the network would be far worse.

GLASGOW LETTER

Tiree Association Annual Concert

NOT FOR the first time in recent years, Tiree Association committee members had to put out extra seats to accommodate the large audience at their annual concert in Lesser Patrickburgh Hall on Thursday November 15.

With Donald Morrison, a native of South Uist and well-known auctioneer and director of United Auctions, in the chair the crowd was treated to a smoothly run occasion with many humorous stories.

The singers on this occasion were Amanda Millen, Gordon McKeeve and Alasdair Whyte and they were joined by Seona Brown, a primary two pupil at Glasgow Gaelic School, who showed why she was so successful at the recent National Mòd in Dunoon.

The concert was opened with piping selections from association Piper Donald Campbell and the second half by piper John Campbell. Iain Smith again provided excellent accordion selections and he joined John Campbell, his colleague from Trail West, while he was piping. Unfortunately Catriona Watt had to withdraw through illness but accompanist Kenny Thomson led a sing-a-long from many of the Scottish islands to compensate.

Fiddler's rally

FORTY years after their formation by a few local enthusiasts, Bearsden and Milngavie Fiddlers will hold its 36th annual rally in Milngavie Town Hall on Saturday December 1.

With Irene MacLaren conducting, the group is now about 50 strong with musicians of all ages playing a variety of instruments. In addition there is a junior fiddle group with around 25 members. Tickets are available from Milngavie Bookshop, Purple Edge in Bearsden, by contacting www.norman.macmillan@yahoo.co.uk or telephoning 07712 764925.

Youth on stage

HAVING had a youth concert on its syllabus for many years, the Ladies' Committee of Glasgow Skye Association this year organised a concert to showcase prizewinners at this year's National Mòd. Held in the Crawford Hall, and with Marion MacLeod in the chair, this proved to be a most enjoyable evening with nearly 30 participants from the wider Glasgow area. The committee hope this can become an annual event.

Scottish music concert

THE FIRST concert of the session by students of the BA Traditional Music Course at the Royal Conservatoire for Scotland will take place in the college at 7.30pm on Wednesday November 28. Students will be showcasing some of their favourite music and some new compositions. For tickets telephone 0141 332 4101 or www.rcs.ac.uk.

Echoes of Oban

THIS year's 'Echoes of Oban'

concert will be held in the College of Piping on Saturday November 24 at 7pm and will feature winners from this year's Argyllshire Gathering. Stuart Liddell, Gordon Walker, Finlay Johnston, Alistair Dunn, Peter McCalister, Jonathan Graham and Innes Smith are programmed to appear with Angus MacColl Junior getting the evening's entertainment underway.

Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain

IN THEIR annual party in the Royal Concert Hall at 7.30pm on Friday November 30, Phil and Aly will be performing with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, conductor John Logan, with special guests Julie Fowlis and the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland.

This promises to be a night of spontaneous witty banter and wonderful Scottish music.

Colonel Lachie Robertson

READERS will be saddened to learn of the passing of Colonel Lachie Robertson, a well-known past president of the Glasgow Skye Association and a long-serving and respected master at Glasgow Academy over many years.

Our sympathy is extended to his family at this time.

Diary dates

Thursday November 22: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Thea Gilmore and support. Comunn Taobh an Iar Haggis Supper, Ellangowan Social Club, Milngavie, 7.30pm. Fred Morrison, WRI Hall, Comrie.

Friday November 23: Building Fund Raising Ceilidh Dance, St Andrew's in the Square, Annasach Ceilidh Band.

Saturday November 24: Ceol's Craic, The Lochies, sold out. Echoes of Oban - see above. Clann Gaidhlig, Westburn Hall, Nelson Street, Greenock.

Wednesday November 28: Night of Scottish Music, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, 7.30pm - see above.

Thursday November 29: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Paul MacKenna Band.

Friday November 30: Glasgow Islay Association St Andrew's Ceilidh, Crawford Hall, Partick, 7.30pm. Ceilidh Dance with Deoch 'n Dorus, Glasgow University Union, 8pm. St Andrew's in the Square Concert and Ceilidh, 8pm. Royal Scottish National Orchestra with Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain - see above.

Saturday December 1: Bearsden Fiddler's Rally - see above.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be played by Deoch 'n Dorus on Friday, Dodgy Ground on Saturday and by Willie Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday.

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



Oban Railway Pier - early 1960s

This week's flashback photograph is of Oban's Railway Pier in the early 1960s and was submitted by Jim Donn of Aberdeen. The ship closest to the quayside is the Fisheries Protection vessel 'Mull'. The railway oil tanker, top right, would have been used for re-fuelling ships at that corner of the pier. In earlier times, coal trucks would have been shunted there to provide bunkers for the steamers. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Safeguard Mull road users

Sir, We are writing to raise serious concerns for the safety of people who use the Glen Aros road on the Isle of Mull.

This is the main road, irrespective of its designation, connecting north west Mull to the main Tobermory to Craignure Road.

This road is used daily by commuters going to the ferry; patients attending hospital in Oban and further afield; emergency services; school transport; medical staff who work at Dunaros soon to be transferred to the PCC at Craignure; home carers; forestry lorries; biomass deliveries; deliveries from the mainland and the public.

We appreciate the council has suggested an alternative route which goes from Dervaig to Tobermory but there are various reasons this is not feasible, including:

- School children in Dervaig would need to be collected around 7.15am-7.30am and parents feel this is unacceptable.
- The alternative route adds 17 miles onto the journey.
- Crannich Farm, in the middle of this road, has been awarded the contract for the biomass heating system at the new hospital and will not be able to use the alternative route unless the Glen Road has been gritted.

We allow children in school transport to travel on this ungritted road.

We are told there have to be 12 in the school bus before the council can grit it. Is Argyll and Bute Council saying it will let 11 or less children travel on an ungritted road?

The reason we have been given for this road not being gritted is it is not a priority road.

This road has had more cars going off than most other roads on Mull.

The majority of the Glen Road has no mobile reception which is another major concern.

We have put representation forward to the council previously but to no avail and we are uniting as a community now to safeguard our Mull road users.

Michelle Duffy, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

Oban's HOPE Kitchen a valuable resource

Sir, On behalf of HOPE Kitchen Management Committee, I would like to address misunderstandings which have arisen following recent *Oban Times* articles.

One article appeared to portray Tesco and the Co-op in a negative light, the comments attributed to Hope Kitchen being somewhat misleading. The committee assures readers we are very appreciative of the support these stores gave to HOPE in the past, particularly in relation to bag packing, gift cards and collection days and trust their future support will continue.

Secondly, the article referred to '100 homeless people a week' that were fed by HOPE, which has been described as 'grossly inflated' by Mr Nugent. This

misunderstanding arose from the article as there were 100 meals prepared during the week for those in need, of which five to seven were living in tents in and around Oban.

HOPE Kitchen is a legally constituted charity regulated by the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. Our objectives are to assist with ensuring that vulnerable people with alcohol, drug and mental health problems in Oban are not excluded by their particular circumstances in terms of social welfare and are given opportunities for support, food, shelter and friendship which are not available through main stream structure to people in their situations.

HOPE relies on voluntary funding from local people and businesses with assistance from grant awarding bodies including Argyll and Bute Council. The generosity shown is gratefully appreciated by all at HOPE Kitchen.

Local councillors will attend HOPE Kitchen in the near future to see the work that takes place and discuss future objectives with management committee members.

HOPE Kitchen is a valuable resource for those less fortunate individuals in our town and values any help given by volunteers.

In these difficult economic times demand is growing and surely reaching out to those in need is something we should all be doing.

Dr Stuart Chalmers, chairman, HOPE Kitchen.

Demolish town centre eyesore

Sir, I write in response to your article on the former Rockfield Primary School in Oban.

The choice is simple. Do we want a derelict building in the town centre that will eventually fall down or do we want a local developer - not us - to build an old folks complex plus affordable housing on the site?

The development would provide much-needed employment and put bread on a lot of people's tables.

May I remind Historic Scotland, Argyll and Bute Council officials and elected members that they are paid to serve the wishes of the people and it is my reading of the situation that a vast majority want to see this eyesore down.

Just to bring the present building up to standard would cost in excess of £3million and thus make restoration a non-starter.

John MacGregor, Ganavan Sands Development Limited.

Radical change needed to save George Street

Sir, It is sad to say, but if nothing is done the north end of George Street, Oban, is doomed to a slow but inexorable death as a place to shop - 'Another retail door closes on Oban's George Street', *The Oban Times*, November 15.

Just look at what is on offer: two narrow pavements divided by a continuous stream of traffic that makes it almost impossible to cross the road without danger and delay; two lines of parked cars, one legitimate, the other taking advantage of the

current lack of wardens and an increasing number of empty stores. This is shopping hell, not shopping heaven. Ironically, it is in this dying part of the street where tourists and residents find many of the small traders that are unique to the town, whilst the southern part is home to several national chains that provide nothing that doesn't exist in most towns and cities of the UK.

But death is not inevitable and Oban's future wealth depends on instituting radical change. Where towns have been brave they have reaped rewards, pulling in shoppers and tourists. The answer is in making the street environment attractive. Crucial is to pedestrianise the stretch between William Street and Stafford Street.

Remove the vehicles, both moving and stationary; pave it to make it attractive to pedestrians; encourage those who can to stake out pavement eating and drinking; license costermongers to set up stalls selling local produce and use CHORD and BID cash to establish a street canopy that would give wet-weather protection and create ambience.

People will then flock to this end of town and the increased custom will help the traders through higher turnover and this, in turn, will justify the high rents.

This will then be the place to be, rather than the place to avoid.

Ian Reid, Oban.

Leave it to the islanders

Sir, Once again Bòrd na Gàidhlig (BNG) is looking for a chief.

How many is that since it started and what actually are they trying to do?

I'd like to see it disbanded altogether, along with all government agencies who are only holding up development, while costing us a fortune. Why do we need BNG, or any other organisation, to tell us what to do in our lives?

Development and enterprise should come from honest individuals, not groups or quangos.

Islanders, whether they be fishermen, crofters or anyone else with enterprising spirit, should be able to go to a bank or a Government office directly to get the necessary support and finance. Disband every single agency that is simply holding us back.

If that means Gaelic will eventually die, I'd rather see that than quangos manipulating it for their own ends and egos.

Let Gaelic die gracefully and stop making it a mongrel language without a culture for the sake of being seen to be doing something.

Angus Campbell, Garrynamonie, South Uist.

Non-Gaelic speakers sidelined at Mòd

Sir, As non-Gaelic speakers, we would like to register a complaint about the policy of near saturation cover in Gaelic at the main events at the recent Dunoon Mòd.

We do appreciate the aim is to promote use of the language but this had the effect of diminishing the pleasure of ourselves and those like us.

We would not expect a full translation, but the name of the competitor or group or choir, where they came from and the name of the piece would be sufficient to satisfy most non-Gaelic speakers.

There must be many like ourselves whose roots are in the Gaelic heartlands, have a love of Gaelic culture and music and who have felt sidelined by the near exclusive use of Gaelic.

The final concert, exclusively in Gaelic, was very poorly attended. Is there a connection? If more non-speakers were to be encouraged to attend, would the attendance improve? We believe it would. Would that small concession to bilingualism be fatal to the Gaelic cause? We think not, but it may just help to fill the coffers.

Dolina Hamilton, Life Member of An Comunn, Kìrn, Dunoon, and Anne Gerber, Perthshire.

Keep things in proportion

Sir, A number of correspondents have been offended by Mr Rodger's sensible letter on Gaelic in your issue of November 1.

It is excellent some money is being spent on maintaining Gaelic culture in Scotland, but the latest census showed less than two per cent of our population claim any knowledge of Gaelic so it can never play a large part in the lives of the Scottish people, other than for the enthusiasts who take an interest in the Mòd. On the other hand, tourism does play a large part in the Scottish economy and tourists must find our new road signs particularly confusing as they will not find it easy to buy a map with Gaelic place names and for 98 per cent of our own population they are meaningless.

John Morrison suggested that the cost of providing these signs is minimal as they only become bilingual when they need to be replaced. This is nonsense as they were all replaced at once at the expense of the taxpayer and I recall for Argyll and Bute alone the cost was £650,000. Let us keep things in proportion and not imagine centuries of decline in the use of Gaelic in our everyday lives can ever be reversed.

Professor Colin Davidson, Ardfern.

Beachd Ailein

Ailean Caimbeul

AN T-SEACHDAIN SEO tha mi a' tilleadh gu cuspair a tha mi air a thogail iomadh uair roimhe.

Gu dearbh, chuir e iongnadh orm a' coimhead air ais gum bheil còrr air ceithir bliadhna bho thug mi a' chaid tarruing air cumhachd ath-nuadhachail anns a' chòlhb seo. 'S e brìgh mo chuid argamaid gur e seo gnìomhachas a tha gu nàdarra làidir air an taobh an iar far nach eil cothroman cosnadh eile cho furasta an lorg neo an stèidheachadh agus gum faodaidte leasachadh maireannach fhaotainn dha eaconamaidh nan coimhearsnachdan air na h-ìomail tron ghnìomhachas seo.

Tha caochladh bhuidhnean poblach air innleachdan taice eadar-dhealichte a dhealbhadh is a chur an gnìomh thair iomadh bliadhna ach a rèir coltais, chan eil cùisean dad nas tèarainte anns na h-eileanan is air ìomail na Gàidhealtachd. Cha mhòtha na sin a tha taicean Eòrpach air adhartas maireannach a thoirt dhaibh seo.

Tha milleanan no de dh'ionmhas poblach air a dhòl an sàs a' cur taice ri caochladh iomairtean leasachaidh ach chan eil suidheachadh eaconamach nan coimhearsnachdan sin dad nas tèarainte. Nach eil e a' dèanamh ciall gum bithe a-nise a' gabhail brath air pòsadh eadar amasan uaine an t-saoghail agus an t-adhartas ann an comasan gionlachd chumhachd ath-nuadhachail gus teachd-an-tìr chothromach a thoirt dha na coimhearsnachdan sin air an òir.

Tha dearbhadh againn ann an caochladh chomhearsnachdan mar-thà air na dh'fhaodas tuathan-gaoithe a chosnadh dhaibh. Nan robh càball air a leagail fon mhuir eadar Steòrnabhagh agus Siorrachd Inbhir Air, dh'fhaodadh a h-uile coimhearsnachd air an taobh siar brath a ghabhail air tuathan-gaoithe agus 's dòcha cumhachd na mara gus tèarainteachd eaconamach a ghleidheadh mu dheireadh thall! Tha sinn a' cluinntinn mòran mun t-sri a th' aig muinntir nan Eileanan Siar a' feuchainn ri càball fhaotainn eadar Leodhas is tìr-mòr Alba gus cumhachd a reic agus gum teagamh, tha na suimean ionmhas air am bheillear a' bruidhinn car eagallach.

Ach tha deastanas air an Rìghalachas agus air buidhnean-leasachaidh poblach sealltainn air feumalachdan a h-uile coimhearsnachd agus bheireadh a leithid de chàball mòran de na sgìrean 'aig an òir' a-staigh air margaid cumhachd ath-nuadhachail.

Dh'fhaodadh an teachd-an-tìr a thigeadh a sin cosnadh is cothroman tèarainteachd a thoirt dha na sgìrean sin mar nach robh aca riamh, gun iocas air na dh'fhaodadh e cuideachd a chur ri amasan croitearachd neo leasachadh Gàidhlig.

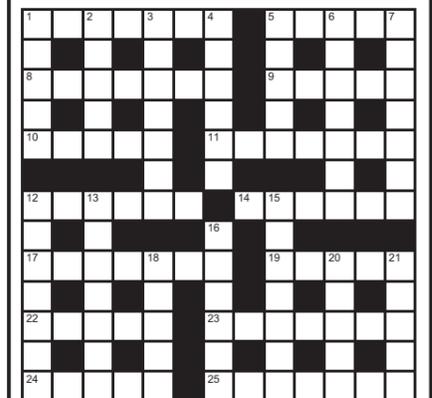
Cothrom leasachaidh mar nach fhacas riamh roimhe agus tha fhios, iomairt is fhaich a chur air adhart!

LINKING the Western Isles to the national grid is clearly important, but a subsea cable between Stormoway and the Ayrshire coast would enable many other peripheral communities the potential to capitalise on renewable energy income.

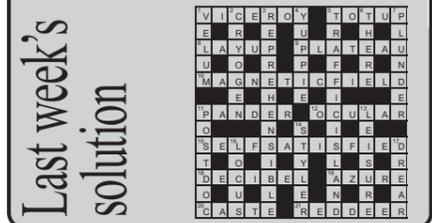
The economic stability and sustainability of these communities is a continuing challenge, and when vast sums are being invested in survival and the future, government and its agencies have a responsibility to give these peripheral communities this unique lifeline opportunity.

This is surely an initiative at the edge worth campaigning for. Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell) ailean@obantimes.co.uk.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across**
- 1 Back pain (7)
 - 5 Bridal path (5)
 - 8 Actual (2,5)
 - 9 One hiding in another country (5)
 - 10 Green (5)
 - 11 Barricade (7)
 - 12 One who dies for their cause (6)
 - 14 Overly enthusiastic person (6)
 - 17 Hand without chosen suit (2-5)
 - 19 Confuse (5)
 - 22 Small piece of land in water (5)
 - 23 Analyze (7)
 - 24 High nest (5)
 - 25 Negligible quantity (7)
- Down**
- 1 Burdened (5)
 - 2 Civilian clothes (5)
 - 3 Bow sport (7)
 - 4 As defined by smelling (6)
 - 5 Crosswise, on deck (5)
 - 6 Greens (7)
 - 7 Constituent (7)
 - 12 Not having female traits (7)
 - 13 Snake in the grass (7)
 - 15 Lift by the conductor (7)
 - 16 Globe (6)
 - 18 Loosen laces (5)
 - 20 Added fancy (5)
 - 21 Inexperienced (5)



Last week's solution

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Fort William parents defend their school

Council clarifies plans

EXCLUSIVE
By RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

ANGRY parents have forced Highland Council to clarify plans for the future of Fort William Primary School after fears it was set to close next summer.

Rumours had been circulating ahead of a hush-hush meeting on Tuesday night that the 25-pupil school would be shut down following the retirement of head teacher Sue Commander in June.

Fort William is scheduled for closure for 2015 and merged with Upper Achintore Primary in a new building on Lundavra Road.

Highland Council senior education officer Norma Young, who arranged the closed-doors meeting, met around 20 concerned parents.

The Oban Times was asked to leave before proceedings began - despite strong protests from parents present.

Ms Young said the meeting was strictly for parents only and not for the public.

One dad called the exclusion move 'disgusting', while a mum said: 'This is our school, we should put this to a vote.'

Speaking after the briefing, Ms Young said it had been agreed to start the search for a new head teacher after P1 enrolment in February.

Strongly denying early closure of the school had ever been on the cards, she told *The Oban Times*: 'I don't know where that came from, it was certainly not from the council. There was absolutely no suggestion of that. We remain on track for amalgamation as per the timetable previously agreed with the parents.'

Bradley O'Neill, who has children at the school, told *The Oban Times* parents welcomed the search for a new head but maintained some concerns still remained. He said: 'It's a fantastic school and that's why we are all so passionate about it. We were all very animated and I think she was a bit shocked by the turnout. Our only reservation is what happens if they can't find someone to fill the post. We'll be watching closely from now on.'

Paris to Fort William for football story

FORT WILLIAM FC may be languishing at the bottom of the Highland League, but this weekend they will become the focus of international attention.

Joachim Barbier, a football writer at Paris-based sports magazine So Foot, is travelling to Lochaber for a two-day visit to write an extensive article on the club.

Mr Barbier is due to arrive in Fort William on Friday with a photographer and will meet some of the players in the evening before covering their

game against Brora Rangers on Saturday. Fort committee member Davie MacDonald told *The Oban Times* Mr Barbier first got in touch around two months ago. He said: 'He found me on Facebook and sent me a message asking about coming over. Paris to Fort William seems like a long way to come for a story, but he seems to be a genuine football guy.'

The monthly magazine is on sale in a number of European countries including France, Belgium and Switzerland.



David MacFarlane battles the floods during Monday's deluge.

Spean Bridge hit by flash floods

PARTS of Spean Bridge were hit by flash floods on Monday morning after torrential rain deluged the West Highlands.

Properties below the road up to the train station came close to being inundated but the rain stopped just in time.

David and Liz MacFarlane's home was one of those worst affected with water a foot deep in their garage.

Mr MacFarlane told *The Oban Times*: 'It started

just before 9am - I don't know where the water was coming from.

'It was pouring down a bank and ran along the road and into my garden, which is the lowest point of the road. It came up really quickly but then the rain stopped and it was gone after an hour and a half. I thought I would be spending the day baling out. The council boys were very good out the front - they did their bit with the drains. But this was definitely the worst I have seen it here.'

Skye woman crashes in freak hailstorm



The accident scene on the A863 near Drynoch on Saturday afternoon. Photograph by The Tartan Lens.

A DUNVEGAN woman had a lucky escape on Saturday afternoon after her car crashed off the A863 road during a freak hailstorm.

Around an inch of slush and hail had made road conditions between Drynoch and Gesto treacherous. First on the scene was Portree man Billy Duncan who reported the woman was uninjured, though badly shaken.

Mr Duncan gave the lady, a B&B owner, a lift back to her home. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The lady was shaking. She came round the bend and slid on the hailstones. The whole road was covered.'

Battle looms over green group's job appointment

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

ONE OF the West Highlands' most active green organisations could face legal proceedings over the appointment of a new project officer, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) chose Kendra Turnbull after holding interviews for the post in Fort William on November 3.

But two unsuccessful candidates, Strontian husband and wife Robert and Justine Dunn claim they were unfairly denied the job.

The aggrieved couple say they put in hundreds of unpaid hours compiling a complex bid for LEG to continue the Lochaber Initiative on Fuel and Energy (LIFE) project for a further 30 months.

The application for £115,131 of Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) cash got the green light from Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) on August 21.

The bid was largely based on the previous LIFE scheme Mr and Mrs Dunn ran for 12 months to March 31 on a jobshare, self-employed basis.

Along with trained local volunteers, the couple advised and supported Lochaber householders and schools on cutting energy bills, fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Positive feedback from local people, head teachers and 16 Lochaber community councils formed a crucial part of the bid documentation.

A letter from then LEG chairman Bill Barber recommending



Robert Dunn: rejected for job

a complaint with the LEG director responsible for monitoring the interview process, but received no response.

The Duns contacted lawyers on Tuesday to pursue a possible claim against LEG for 'mental anguish' and loss of earnings.

They say they have been living on savings while working unpaid for LEG, which is based at An Drochaid in Claggan, since March 31.

Recouping consultancy fees associated with preparing the CCF bid is also being considered while a third action, involving allegations made against the Duns at the time of interview, could also be raised.

Mr Dunn accepted the legal bid could fail, but was prepared to spend £200 'to give us peace of mind'.

He said: 'We never asked a penny for our work from anybody. If LEG had told us they didn't want us in March and to quietly disappear we would have said fine. But nobody said that.'

'It has been a horrific experience and overall we feel betrayed and let down. But they have their £115,000 project.'

He added: 'I know in effect we backed ourselves for the job and would reap the rewards of our labours - how wrong we were.'

Former LEG chairman Mr Barber said the legal moves were 'a shame' but Mr Dunn's complaints should have been addressed.

'It is far from satisfactory for LEG and particularly hard on the Duns,' he said.

The Oban Times tried to contact Mr Pimborough with a colleague at the Lifestyles Project at An Drochaid said he was out of mobile range.

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By John Wallace

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'Legal high' warning

FORT William police have warned of the possible dangers of using 'legal highs' - substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs.

Legal highs, such as the recently banned mephedrone or 'M-cat', are new substances which are often not illegal because not enough research has been carried out to determine if they are dangerous.

Fort William community safety officer Ian Fraser said: "They have not been tested on humans and could cause all sorts of serious long-term and short-term health issues, even when taken for the first time."

"The risk is even greater if the legal high is combined with alcohol or with another type of drug."

Award-winning writer Morvern bound

AWARD-winning author and poet Jackie Kay is to be the Scottish Book Trust's first writer in residence in Morvern.

Ms Kay will stay at the Ardnornish Estate Retreat, a partnership between the trust and the estate backed by top author Alexander McCall Smith. During her time in Morvern, Ms Kay will work on her novel *Bystander* and create a new piece of work exclusively for the trust.

Trust chief executive officer Marc Lambert said the residency was "a world-class creative opportunity for writers of note".

Ardnornish director Hugh Raven hoped Ms Kay would find Ardnornish "an inspiring and peaceful place to write".

Ms Kay, who was awarded an MBE in 2006, said she was looking forward to having time and space for "proper contemplation".



Jackie Kay: at Ardnornish.

New firm wins top award

AN ARISAIG-based business has scooped a top industry prize for its success since setting up earlier this year.

Fuze Ceremonies won the Glasgow Caledonian University award for new business with greatest community impact.

Anne Widdop and Victoria Bisland also received a £5,000 cash prize at the Entrepreneurial Spark presentation in Glasgow. The company specialises in offering humanist ceremonies.

Craft and food festival

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is holding its annual craft and food festival in the Nevis Centre on Saturday from 10.30am.

Santa, his 'little helpers' Ellie MacLennan and Lea MacLennan and the Cairngorm Reindeer Team from Aviemore will arrive shortly after 11am.

The event will feature more than 60 craft and food stalls, club president Sheana Fraser said. Last year the festival attracted more than 2,000 visitors.

Former hotel hosts new music gathering

A FORMER North Uist hotel is to host a new week-long music seminar in 2013.

"Hebridean Tunes" in Newton Lodge near Lochmaddy will run from March 11-16.

The Angus Nicolson Trio and BA Applied Music course students and staff from Lews Castle College in Benbecula will provide tuition.

The 1880s building near Lochmaddy was formerly the Newton House Hotel before being turned back into a private residence by Roger Wake in 1972. It is currently owned by his daughter.

Rollover jackpot

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £200 is up for grabs in this weekend's Fort William FC weekly lotto draw after no-one won the cash prize last week.

The lotto numbers last week were 05-06-09.



Club still rolling after 25 years

Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club celebrated 25 years with a spectacular show at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday night. 'Silver Wheels' saw youngsters and senior skaters from across the region strut their stuff for the delighted audience with a mix of individual and group performances. Club secretary Marjory Currie said: "I would like to thank the many businesses, individuals and committee members who contributed to our 25th anniversary show. The night was a great success and we gratefully appreciated the amount of support received on the night and over the past 25 years." Committee member Frieda Alexander said: "We are extremely proud of all the youngsters we have coached."

Woodland crofting in seminar spotlight

HOW TO become a woodland crofter will be the focus of a Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) seminar in the GALE Centre in Gairloch today.

A new website, www.woodlandcrofts.org, will soon follow to explain the ethos of woodland crofting, as well as legal and practical considerations. It will feature a Woodland Crofts Register of Interest to match up people wanting a woodland croft with those who have them available or plan to develop them.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise is funding the event, the latest in a series run by the Woodland Crofts Partnership comprising the SCF, the Community Woodlands Association and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust.

MSPs tour Marine Harvest operations



Marine Harvest Glenfinnan site manager Sandy MacKinnon, MSP Rob Gibson and Marine Harvest business support manager Steve Bracken head down Loch Shiel.

RURAL Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee MSPs toured Marine Harvest operations in Lochaber last weekend - on foot and by boat.

The parliamentarians viewed the new smolt production plant being built at Lochailort and the processing plant on Blar Mhor Industrial Estate.

The fact-finding visit also included a trip down Loch Shiel by motorboat to the firm's freshwater site and Drimsallie Mill hatchery on Loch Arkaig, where Marine Harvest is working alongside the River Lochy Association to restore native River Lochy salmon and sea trout populations.

The committee is currently scrutinising the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, which is set to reform both wild and farmed fisheries.

Committee convener Rob Gibson said: "The farmed fishing industry is a significant employer in the Fort William area, whilst the wild angling sector attracts thousands of visitors to our rivers and their preservation is critical for our environment."

"This has been invaluable for the committee to see and will help inform their scrutiny of the Bill."

Cadet death Army major fined £5,000

Family regard prosecutions 'far from complete'

AN ARMY major in charge of a botched cadet training exercise on a South Uist loch, during which a 14-year-old girl drowned, was fined £5,000 on Monday.

Major George McCallum had earlier pled guilty at Inverness Sheriff Court to health and safety failures in relation to the death of Kaylee McIntosh from Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, on Loch Carnan in 2007.

Sheriff William Taylor QC told the 52-year-old veteran he would have been given a higher penalty had it not been for his guilty plea.

Kaylee died after being trapped under a capsized speedboat by a lifejacket designed for a soldier in full combat gear, which prevented her from swimming free.

The craft was also overloaded by two persons and no roll call was taken following the accident, the court heard.

Kaylee's distraught parents Derek and Lesley McIntosh



Kaylee McIntosh: drowned on South Uist in 2007.

hoped the Crown Office would ensure "outstanding criminal proceedings are now swiftly advanced against others culpable in respect of Kaylee's death".

They said: "We would like to thank Sheriff Taylor for his kind words and for making us feel he is as outraged as us regarding

what happened to Kaylee. No parent should have to endure what we have - the taking away of one so young and so dear for the very worst of reasons - that those she thought were there to provide for her safety, to look after her, to see her back to the warmth, love and safety of her home, could not be bothered

taking numerous basic, yet fundamental, precautions any one of which, if taken, might have seen Kaylee still with us today.

"We will never forget her, her warm smile, infectious laughter and the love she gave us. We think of her every minute of every day."

Thompsons Solicitors, the family's counsel, successfully sued the Ministry of Defence.

Partner Glen Millar said the McIntosh family regard the matter of prosecutions arising from Kaylee's death as 'far from complete'.

"Major McCallum was but one of a number of individuals implicated in the Fatal Accident Inquiry findings and in the report of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch," he said.

"I am now instructed to write to the Lord Advocate enquiring as to what progress, if any, there has been towards prosecution of other culpable parties in this most tragic of cases."

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Charity hands out £23,000

A CHARITY set up by a Lochailort husband and wife has donated almost £23,000 to various good causes over the past year.

And Kirsty's Kids is now looking for a final push of donations to reach their winter appeal target of £4,000.

The charity was set up by John Bryden and his wife Jan in memory of their daughter Kirsty who died in a car crash on the A830 Road to the Isles in 2010, aged 20.

Mr Bryden raised well over £10,000 last year by circumnavigating Great Britain on his motorbike and a number of other fundraising events have been held across the country, including 'Come

Dine With Me' nights. Among the various causes the money raised has gone to are - £5,000 to Over the Wall summer camp for youngsters with serious illnesses; £5,500 to Children's Hospice Association Scotland for specialist beds; £5,000 for a CHAS summer camp and £960 to Kilmarnock Special School in Cupar for light and sound sensory equipment.

Donations
Mr Bryden said: "We would like to thank everyone for your continued support and ask that the donations keep coming in. 'We are only as good as our volunteers fundraisers and those who donate time, money, sponsorship and equipment to help us on our fundraising events.'"

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<p>MILLIE</p> <p>Very friendly girl. Is spayed.</p>	<p>MINTY</p> <p>Nice girl. Looking for a lap to sit on.</p>	<p>LEO</p> <p>Very friendly boy. Must go with Ollie.</p>
<p>OLLIE</p> <p>Very friendly boy. Must go with Leo.</p>	<p>TOM</p> <p>Neutered boy. Not used to children or dogs.</p>	<p>MOLLY (2)</p> <p>Nice girl. Not used to children or dogs.</p>
<p>SANDY</p> <p>Nice and friendly. 9 years old Kelpie boy.</p>	<p>MAC</p> <p>Friendly and lively. 9 month old lab cross.</p>	<p>BUFFY</p> <p>Friendly 4 year old boy. Is neutered.</p>

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Young pipers Patrick McBeth, left, and Neil MacLean receive their pipes from Netherlorn Piping Society president Alistair Dewar, second from left, and Daphne and Jimmy MacCallum. 16_147piping01

Pipers donate instruments to help next generation

Young Taynuilt cancer victim had remembered Oban Pipe Band in his will

THE PARENTS of a piper who died in January this year presented their son's well-travelled instrument to Oban Pipe Band to be used by the next generation of musicians.

Taynuilt's Fergus MacCallum died aged 35 after a battle with cancer but unbeknown to his parents he included the donation of his pipes in his will.

An extreme sportsman, Fergus travelled the world to satisfy his adventurous nature and paid his way by busking.

Last Thursday, at the Netherlorn Piping Society recital in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Fergus' parents, Jimmy and Daphne, handed the pipes over to 11-year-old Neil MacLean from Connel, who was nominated by the band to be the first recipient of the pipes.

Daphne said: 'It was lovely to see young Neil with the pipes and I hope he gets a lot of enjoyment out of them.'

'Fergus got a tremendous amount of pleasure from playing the pipes and took them everywhere with him.'

'When he was travelling and ran out of money, he would busk somewhere and he played at friends' weddings in Brazil, Australia and Canada. He put more into his 35 years than most people.'

'He made the donation to the band without us knowing but I am not surprised that is what he wanted to do.'

A second set of pipes were donated to the Netherlorn Piping Society by Iain Hamilton QC from North Connel. Mr Hamilton, who became fa-

mous as one of the four students who 'stole' the Stone of Scone from Westminster Abbey in 1950, had not played his pipes for some time and said he was keen they were used by a young person to further their interest in music.

His bagpipes, which will be known as the St Valery Pipes, were handed over to Connel's Patrick McBeth.

The recital was the second of the winter season and featured guest piper Finlay Johnston, who earlier this year won the gold medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban.

Also performing on the evening were several of Angus MacColl's young chanter pupils and bagpipe players, some of whom were playing in front of an audience for the first time.

Oban Winter Festival



A brass band took to the silver screen – or at least in front of the cinema screen – last weekend as they performed in Oban's Winter Festival. Arts Qwest Brass played a well attended set in Oban Phoenix Cinema from 12pm until 3pm on Sunday. Picture - Stephen Lawson



Almost 500 children got their skates on at the weekend to take part in roller discos at Atlantis Leisure in Oban. The youngsters danced – and rolled – all Friday, Saturday and Sunday to music from DJ George Noble who did a 'quality job'. One of the organisers of the event, Ben Pollock said: 'It was brilliant, it was well attended and everything went to plan – there were no injuries. Lots of adults took part too. Picture - Stephen Lawson



Delighted to be turning on Oban's Christmas lights are – from left to right – Erin MacKinnon from Rockfield Primary School, Rhuaridh Shores from Park Primary and Alice Needham from Lochnell Primary School.

Mull St Andrews Night charity dinner dance under threat

A DINNER dance is to be held in aid of the air ambulance helicopter in which a Mull baby was born earlier this year.

Linda Cameron is organising the St Andrews Night dinner dance in Craignure Hall at 7pm but poor ticket sales mean the event is at risk of being cancelled.

Notices have been placed around the island and dance band Off the Rails will be performing – despite this sales have not improved.

Euan Cameron, Linda's grandson, was the first baby in Scotland to be born in an air ambulance in March of this year.

Linda said: 'I hoped this would be a fun night and we were hoping money from the ticket sales and a percentage of the bar takings could go to the air ambulance.'

'The air ambulance is in and out of Mull and Iona a lot and my grandson was born in it which made me realise how important it is. I'm doing this as a thank you.'

Unfortunately, if ticket sales don't improve before Saturday, November 24 the event, on November 30, will be cancelled.

Celtic Connections to host special anniversary tribute to mark 40 years of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

GLASGOW music festival Celtic Connections is to feature a special anniversary tribute to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on its events programme next month.

The SMO 40th Anniversary Festival Concert on January 19 will honour the unique contribution made by the Gaelic college to Gaelic language and culture since its foundation in 1973.

Donnie Munro, SMO director

of development, fundraising and the arts arranged the concert with festival director Donald Shaw.

According to Mr Munro, presenting the celebratory concert re-affirms the college's central role as a 'national treasure' through which many leading practitioners in the arts and education have forged lasting ties with the Slat institution

'Since its inception, Sabhal Mòr has been at the forefront of the revival of the Gaelic language and culture and has contributed enormously to artistic, linguistic and socio-economic development in Scotland,' he said.

The concert's line-up of outstanding performers, all with strong SMO connections, includes multi-award winning

Gaelic singer Julie Fowlis, whose recent achievements include vocals for the Disney Pixar box-office hit 'Brave'.

Highlighting the 'honour' of being part of the concert, Ms Fowlis looked forward to joining old and new friends from Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on stage.

She said: 'My ties with the college have grown over the years, from when I first attended

the college as a student in 2000 to a more recent post-graduate course, which I completed last year.'

Also performing are internationally renowned Irish pianist/composer and director of the Irish World Music Centre at Limerick University, Professor Mícheál Ó Súilleabháin, and master Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser, who has been teaching

at SMO's summer short-course programme for 25 years.

Mr Fraser said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig came into being at a time when Gaeldom and indeed Scotland were in dire need of a place or a 'boiler room' where important work could begin to re-vitalise the Gaelic language, and thus increase awareness of Scotland's rich cultural diversity in general.'

Other musical stars appearing on the night will be Fergie MacDonald, Margaret Stewart, James Graham, Allan MacDonald, Decker Forrest, Mary Ann Kennedy and Dáimh.

The 'house band' will include musicians Allan Henderson, Iain MacDonald, Angus Nicholson, Ingrid Henderson, Andrew MacPherson, Murdo Cameron and Alasdair White.

Winter Activities

AS BUSINESSES throughout the west Highlands work to expand the traditional tourist season, the success of the area's winter activities have become more important than ever.

A variety of clubs have also sprung up as locals, as well as visitors, discover the natural playground that is the Scottish outdoors in winter.

VisitScotland has even created a brand, Ski Scotland, to bolster the success of the tourism market in winter.

And in a time when purse strings are being tightened, skiing and snowboarding families and groups who have previously flown to mainland Europe for their downhill fix have had their heads turned towards ski ranges closer to home.

The experienced winter sportsman or sportswoman will tell you the quality of your equipment and clothing is imperative to having fun on the slopes.

Whether you are a nervous beginner, or a risk-taking expert, falling over is an occupational hazard for any skier or snowboarder and staying warm and dry is much more preferable to the alternative – so make sure you are prepared.

Winter sports are popular, as long as there is snow, but many enjoy the experience of a log cabin or chalet holiday without the stress of activity!

At many resorts, you can stay in accommodation close to the location or even commute depending on how close you live to the area.

It needn't be a long holiday either; many locals who choose to visit ski resorts take a day trip to have a break from it all.

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Euan Smillie and Murray Willis of Room 5 in full flow

Room 5 play Albert Hall

A BAND formed by five music students who met while studying at Lews Castle College UHI in Benbecula last year played the Albert Hall last week as part of the Music For Youth Schools Prom.

Room 5 - the only Scottish representatives to make it to London - were supported by UHI's Student Development Fund.

The group played a variety of Scottish pieces including Gaelic song and pipe music, together with some more contemporary traditional material.

Band member Robbie Greig said: 'We felt privileged to be representing the University of the Highlands and Islands and

even Scotland on such a globally renowned stage.

'The other performers and staff at the hall were very excited to hear the Highland pipes, and appeared to be impressed with our execution of the pieces.'

Anna-Wendy Stevenson, course director and tutor of UHI's new BA in Applied Music in Benbecula said: 'They were interviewed by Classic FM and they brought the house down. I am so happy for them and proud of them for their motivation and hard work.'

Music for Youth is a music education charity providing free access to performance and audience opportunities for young musicians across the UK.

Famous Fred to host debut Oban gig

Fred Morrison brings his own style of piping to Argyllshire Gathering Halls

HE IS one of the best pipers in the world and known throughout Europe for his musicianship, yet Fred Morrison surprised even himself when admitting he had never performed a gig in Oban.

West Highland piping supporters will have seen the 48 year old at recitals and in competitions at the Argyllshire Gathering but his unique take on pipe music has rarely been heard in the Argyll piping heartlands.

All that will change, however, when he and guitarist Matheu Watson come to Oban on December 5 to perform a 'Celtic concert'.

South Uist connection

Fred, who comes from a famous South Uist piping family, said: 'This will be the first time I have brought my own style of music to Oban, although I played at the Argyllshire Gathering this year for the first time in 25 years and performed a recital for the Netherlorn Piping Society in March last year.'

'It was at the piping society meeting when the president, Alistair Dewar, suggested I include Oban on my tour list. It was only then I realised that in 25 or 30 years of gigs I had never performed here.'

Having been schooled in



Fred Morrison will bring his unique style of piping to Oban for the first time.

traditional piping, Fred won the Argyllshire Gathering gold medal in 1986 but his desire to play more contemporary styles took him around Europe and away from the competition scene.

Traditional values

Fearing his unique style and tendency to improvise with traditional tunes would not go down well with traditional audiences, Fred, nicknamed the

Jim Hendrix of piping, continued to tour similar venues throughout his career.

He said: 'From the late 1980s onwards a lot of ground has been broken in that respect.'

'What a lot of pipers are doing nowadays was taboo and frowned upon when I started doing it.'

'After I won the gold medal, I couldn't just switch off all the music I had in my head; I had to play something I believed in and use influences from music in other countries.'

'Years of plugging away, doing what I know is good music, has gradually become more accepted and enjoyed by all sorts of audiences. You see it with Piping Live and on BBC Alba and it is brilliant to see these young guys doing all sorts of new things with pipe music.'

'That is not to take anything away from the more traditional solo piping, because I like seeing both styles thriving beside each other.'

But for all his flair and creativity, Fred admits it was his technical grounding, honed during family holidays on South Uist, that allowed him to experiment and find his own style.

'At the root of everything I do is the traditional values and skills I learned from the age of seven. They are always running through anything I do.'

Multi-instrumentalist Matheu Watson - who Fred considers one of the best musicians in Scotland - will accompany him during the concert in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.



Fred plays with guitarist Matheu Watson.

Book Week comes North

HIGHLAND Libraries are staging a varied programme of activities and events during Book Week Scotland, which begins on Monday.

Highlights include readings and writing workshops in Skye and Lochaber by one of Scotland's best-loved authors, Sara Maitland.

Ms Maitland will read from her acclaimed new book 'Gossip From

The Forest - The Tangled Roots Of Our Forests And Fairytales' at Lochaber Writers Group, Kinlochleven Library on Wednesday, November 28 at 7pm.

Skye Reading Room in the Skeabost Hotel will host Ms Maitland the following evening, also at 7pm. The Skye event will be preceded by a writer's workshop.

Fort William Library will feature a visit by Scottish crime author Frank Muir on Monday (6.30pm to 8pm) and A Mad Hatters Book Talk Tea Party on Wednesday (7pm to 8.30pm).

Bookbug sessions in Fort William, Kinlochleven and Ardnamurchan libraries will be held throughout the week.



Author Sarah Maitland is performing at Kinlochleven and Skeabost. Photo: Adam-Lee

Portree High School Band debut at Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club

THE ROYAL Hotel in Portree was well filled for the November meeting of the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Chairman and MC Jim Campbell introduced Sandy Ross of Lochcarron with his three-row button box, and along with John Cameron on keyboards and Donald John Campbell on drums, Sandy started an evening of tremendous music and 'craic'.

Musicians on show included fiddler Wendy Riva, accordionists David Morton, John MacGilvary, Catherine MacFarlane, Emma Beaton and, on small pipes, Eilidh Beaton.

Two superb players who made a welcome return visit to the club were John 'The Box' Mackerlich from Ardelve on a five-row button box and Aly Cruikshanks of



The Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio proved a big hit at the Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club in Portree

Staffin on piano accordion with sparkling performances from both players. However, one of the highlights of the evening was the first appearance of the Portree High School Band under their tutor, Blair Douglas.

The band was made up of accordionists Emma Beaton, Elaine MacDonald, Ceitidh Douglas, Hannah McDiarmid, Eilidh Cormack and Blair himself with backing from John Cameron on keyboards and Donald John Campbell on drums.

They played three fantastic sets which raised the roof of the function room and earned sustained cheers and applause from a delighted audience who hoped that the band would be making future appearances.

Guest band for the evening was The Charlie Kirkpatrick Trio, led by Charlie on button box, Derek Hamilton on keyboards and Gordon Young on drums with an excellent programme of wonderful music in west coast style interspersed with great banter and vocals - with audience participation!

A great evening was rounded off with a 'stramash' led by Charlie Kirkpatrick leaving the audience looking forward to the next club night on December 6 with The Brandon McPhee Trio.

John Grundy



Rainbows celebrate at Oban

OBAN Rainbows joined national celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the movement on Saturday - by celebrating its own 21st birthday.

Elaine's Cakes provided the perfect celebratory treat with a specially designed cake to mark the occasion - with the first and second Oban Rainbows coming together for fun, disco dancing, courtesy of Sandy Rokitta, and party games. Some 50 children attended the event at the Guide Hall, fresh from having worked on commemorative badges, with Kilbrandon Rainbows also joining the fun. A number of long service awards were presented too. Cathy Lamont, who started Oban Rainbows, was presented with jewellery, Fiona MacPhee of 1st Oban Rainbows and Eileen MacFarlane of Kilbrandon rainbows were presented with awards marking their five years of volunteering.

Oban Phoenix Cinema

The Polar Express Sat 24th, 13:00
Gone with the Wind Thurs 22nd, 13:00, 20:00
Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows Thurs 22nd, 17:30
Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 1 Fri 23rd, 18:00
Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2 Fri 23rd, 20:30 • Sat 24th, 18:00, 20:30
The Help Sun 25th, 18:00, 20:30 • Mon 26th, 18:00
Railway Children Tues 27th, 20:45 • Wed 28th, 20:45 • Thurs 29th, 18:00
The Snowman Mon 26th, 20:30 • Tues 27th, 18:00 • Wed 28th, 18:00
 Thurs 29th, 20:30
The Snowman Sat 24th, 15:00
The Snowman Sun 25th, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00

Be sure to visit www.obanphoenix.com and check the What's on section for all our Winter Festival events and big movies coming soon!

Tel: 01631 562905 www.obanphoenix.com
 08719 025752

The Polar Express (U)
 Santa Claus does not exist. Or does he? For one doubting boy, an astonishing event occurs. Late on Christmas Eve night, he lies in bed hoping to hear the sound of reindeer bells from Santa's sleigh. When to his surprise, a steam engine's roar and whistle can be heard outside his window.

Gone with the Wind (PG)
 Come in out of the cold as Winter Festival Film tickets are just £5/£4

Sherlock Holmes: A Game Of Shadows (12A)
 Sherlock Holmes (Robert Downey Jr) has always been the smartest man in the room...until now. Come in out of the cold as Winter Festival Film tickets are just £5/£4

Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 1 (12A)
 In 2074, when the mob wants to get rid of someone, the target is sent 30 years into the past, where a hired gun awaits. Someone like Joe, who one day learns the mob wants to 'close the loop' by transporting back Joe's future self. TotalFilm called it the best film of the year 2012 stating you'll immediately want to go back and see it again!

Twilight Breaking Dawn Part 2 (12A)
 It all ends here. In the final, breath-taking fifth instalment in the record-breaking TWILIGHT franchise, the now vamped Bella (Kristen Stewart) and Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) must face the mad Ignatius Volturi council, who threaten the well-being of their newborn child.

The Help (12)
 Featuring an ensemble cast, the film is about a young white woman, Eugenia 'Skeeter' Phelan, and her relationship with two black maids during Civil Rights era America (the early 1960s). Skeeter is a journalist who decides to write a book from the point of view of the maids (referred to as 'the help') exposing the racism they are faced with as they work for white families.

The Railway Children (U)
 One night three children, from a happy, comfortable upper middle-class home in Victorian London, see their father usher two strangers into his study. After an argument he leaves with them and does not return. They and their mother fall on hard times and eventually move to a cottage in the country. Yet they keep their spirits up and find ways to help others. Fascinated by the nearby railroad, they wave to the passengers faithfully every day, and their vigilance and courage prevent an accident. Their kindness makes friends of some important people who can help solve the mystery of their missing father. A truly great family film, not to be missed on the big screen!

The Snowman (U)
 Come in out of the cold as Winter Festival Film tickets are just £5/£4
 Who doesn't think of Christmas and think of The Snowman? And now perhaps THAT Snowman imbu advert... Wordless (save for the song 'Walking in the Air') animated adventure about a young English boy who makes a snowman one Christmas Eve, only for it to come to life that night and take him on a magical adventure to the North Pole to meet Santa Claus. To celebrate the close of the Winter Festival and our lovely mascot Coolio, we are showing this charming short film throughout the afternoon so come along and warm your hearts and toes. Special celebration price of only £3 for all tickets!

what's on guide

Friday 23rd November > Disco with DJ Darren, 9.30pm
 Saturday 24th November > Tim O'Connor Markie Dancs, 9.30pm
 Friday 30th November > ST Andrews November Party with Chris Suckle, 9.30pm

West Coast Living
Vintage & Interiors Christmas fair
 NOV Sat 24th (10-6) & Sun 25th (11-4)
 The Cadet Hall, Tweedale Street, Oban
 Tel: 07738 032786

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

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WIN £500 OF Lidl vouchers

Collect token four today

Christmas is coming!

To celebrate, The Oban Times is giving readers the chance to win £500 worth of shopping vouchers to spend at Lidl in Oban or Fort William this Christmas.

Just imagine the perfect Christmas party this festive season without having to spend a penny on food and drink.

Lidl is proud to serve the communities of Oban and Fort William and has built up a solid reputation for offering excellent quality products and superb value for money. Both stores receive a fresh delivery every day - 7 days a week. You can also rest assured that you will only be charged the exact same low prices as charged in every other Lidl store in Scotland.

TOKEN FOUR

To enter, simply collect five tokens - here is token four. Token five will be printed next week along with full details on how to enter.

Terms and conditions: The prize is as stated. No cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. One entry per purchased copy. The winner may be asked to take part in publicity and may appear in a Wyvex Media publication and website. This competition is not open to Wyvex Media and associated company employees and their families. This competition is open to readers of other Wyvex Media publications. The £500 vouchers can only be spent in Lidl stores in Fort William and Oban, Scotland.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Argyll Animal Aid Reg Charity SC 013211
Christmas Fayre
 Saturday 24th November
 Corran Halls, Oban
 11am - 3pm
 Craft and charity stalls
 Many unusual Christmas gifts and cards
 Bric-a-brac
 Teas and home baking

Christmas Fair
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Children in Need fundraising fun



Sgoil Araich Nursery.

Youngsters at Rockfield am/pm and Sgoil Araich Nursery held a spotty day for Children in Need. They baked and decorated spotty cakes and invited their mums, dads, grannies and grandads in for juice and cakes, raising £126.54.



Rockfield am/pm.



Erin MacFadyen, P5, Alistair MacRae, P7, and Jenna MacLean, P5, were among the Lochside RC pupils who enjoyed a fun day of dressing up, getting their faces painted. The youngsters were able to fill to Pudsey bear outlines with some of the money they raised for Children in Need. 20_147lochside01



Youngsters at Acharacle Primary School enjoyed a day of fundraising fun for Children in Need with belly dancing, golf, yoga and a bouncy castle on offer last Friday.



Bun-sgoil Shlèite (Sleat primary School) English medium nursery youngsters held a bake sale for Children in Need on Friday and raised £45. Parents, grandparents and friends came along to lend a hand and eat the tasty baked goods.



Inverlochty Primary School pupils joined in the Children in Need fun with a range of activities last Friday including making and painting a giant Pudsey bear cut out. The youngsters also enjoyed Pudsey-themed bingo, Children in Need puzzles and making Pudsey masks. 20_147inverlochty01



As part of their health topic, Easdale Primary School children planned a dance fit session with dance teacher and parent Lindsay McGhee. After having so much fun they invited Lindsay back for another session with a difference. Children, teachers and parents donned their pyjamas as part of the Blue Peter challenge to raise money for Children in Need. All took part in a series of dances and £79 was raised for Children in Need.



Parting with childhood toys is never easy to do but generous school pupils in Benderloch did just that to raise money for charity. Youngsters at Lochnell Primary School took part in a toy sale in aid of Children in Need. Pupils brought in their old toys and bought other offerings to raise £157 for the children's charity. The sale is an annual event and always well supported by the whole school and nursery. Primary four pupils are pictured with some of the toys for sale. 16_147toyale01

Youngsters do their bit for charity



Caol Primary School youngsters dressed up with spots, stripes and painted faces to raise money for Children in Need. Head teacher Steven Hamilton got into the spirit, sporting a huge spotty tie for the day - even to a meeting of local head teachers at Lochaber High School. 20_147caol01



Angel OF THE YEAR

Do you know an unsung hero who deserves recognition?

Nominate someone special today for The Oban Times ANGEL OF THE YEAR award

If you know someone who really makes a difference in their community or to someone's life then fill in the nomination form provided below or online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel and let us know.

All nominations will be assessed by an independent panel and the winner announced in The Oban Times this Christmas.

As well as winning a trophy and the title of ANGEL OF THE YEAR, the winner will also receive £500. Two runners up will each win £100.

All nominations must be received by 10am MONDAY DECEMBER 10 2012. Full terms and conditions are available online at www.obantimes.co.uk/angel.

NOMINATION FORM

Nominee's name.....

Nominee's address.....

My nominee should win because.....

(please submit up to 200 words on a separate sheet and attach to this form).

Your name

Your address

Daytime telephone number

Email address.....

Send to: The Oban Times, Angel of the Year, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.

Luig centre building work to start

Grant boosts fund total to more than £1m

BUILDING work on the Atlantic Islands Centre is set to begin after another grant was received - boosting the funding total to well over £1 million.

Isle of Luig Community Trust received the latest award of up to £360,000 from the European Regional Development Fund.

Norman Bissell, trust vice chairman, said: "This is a huge achievement for the centre and for the Luig community."

"We are delighted that all our hard work over so many years has paid off and would like to thank the funders and everyone who has helped us to obtain this tremendous outcome for the people of Luig. We are now looking forward to the centre being built."

This latest grant is in addition to the £754,910 already awarded by the Big Lottery Fund, £72,256 from the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund and £15,000 from Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Organisers hope the centre will become a community hub, providing much-needed facilities for residents and visitors.

The trust will now advertise for a project manager and a building contractor for the centre. There will be an open information night in Cullipool Hall on Friday November 30 at 7.30 pm.

North Connel teenager to prove he can behave

A NORTH Connel teenager sent 'menacing and abusive' messages to a girl who was prepared to act as a witness against his brother.

William Stephen, 19, from Ibrox, Ach Na Beich, North Connel, admitted sending messages to the girl on October 4.

Sheriff John Herald said it 'appeared to be a one-off, stupid incident' and deferred sentence for four months for Stephen to prove he can be of good behaviour. He will appear again on March 5 2013.

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The dancers who took to the stage gather before the show. 20_147danc01

Packed audience enjoys special performance by dancers

DANCERS from across Lochaber came together for a special performance in Fort William on Saturday night at the Lochaber Dance Platform 2012.

Parents and friends packed out Lochaber

High school's hall for the show, which saw 19 groups take to the stage to perform everything from ballet and Highland dancing to gymnastics.

The youngsters included pupils from

Fort William RC, Inverlochty, Lochside, Fort William, Banavie, Upper Achintore, Caol and Spean Bridge primary schools, as well as a selection of groups comprising of secondary school pupils.

Taynuilt tops for protection posters

CREATIVE school pupils in Taynuilt have contributed four of the five winning poster designs chosen by Argyll and Bute Council's Child Protection Committee.

Primary school pupils across Argyll and Bute were invited to design posters to promote the committee's work, considering messages they would give to people about protecting children at home, at school and in the community.

Of the five designs selected, four of them were Taynuilt Primary School pupils: Emily Hunter, Scott Summers, Katie Houston and Poppy Wilkinson. Scott, Katie and Poppy now attend Oban High School.

Councillor Mary Jean Devon, lead councillor for children and families who presented the prizewinners with their poster designs, said: "The chosen designs were picked because they portrayed strong images to re-enforce the messages on the posters - it's everyone's



Taynuilt's talented poster designers, from left: Scott Summers, Emily Hunter, Poppy Wilkinson and Katie Houston. 16_146poster01

responsibility to help keep worried about a child or young person they should share their help.

Christmas preparations

GETTING ready for Christmas can take all of the joy out of the season if you're not prepared – but don't worry – even if you haven't lifted a finger follow our tips for the next few weeks and you can have festive fun to remember.

Christmas is about spending time with friends and family – but that's after you've decorated the house, bought enough food to feed a small army and coiffed and preened yourself to within an inch of your life.

Let's start with the home...

Getting your house ready for Christmas can mean different things to different people, some people put decorations up in November while others wait until early December and some families prefer to put the tree up on Christmas Eve.

Whatever your preference make sure and buy your decorations as soon as possible before prices shoot up or at the very least dig them out the loft to make sure they are still usable.

Ordering a wreath from the florist for your front door can be a nice festive touch as can choosing a real tree instead of a synthetic one – just be prepared to dig pine needles out the carpet if you opt for this. Many families say this is a small price to pay for the warmth it brings to the room.

Make a festive feast...

You should start buying in food for Christmas day – as well as the surrounding days – as soon as possible. Fill your freezer with party nibbles and trimmings for Christmas day. You could even prep your vegetables and freeze them – cutting down on work in the kitchen on the big day.

Order your turkey from the butcher as soon as possible or if you're getting a frozen one be sure to leave plenty of time to defrost it for Christmas.

You should also pack the cupboards with snacks and make sure you have packs of stuffing and gravy granules if you're using them. Buy in sauces too.

Present time...

Everyone loves hitting the shops but if you go Christmas shopping unprepared you can expect to spend a fortune on gifts.

It is a much better idea to take an evening and write out a list for everyone you have to buy presents for. Use the internet for inspiration – you might even pick up some bargains online, local suppliers usually have cheap or even free delivery, saving you the hassle of heading out in the winter weather.

Check down your local high street before heading to the city shops – you might be surprised at the unique and high quality gifts you can pick up.

Wrapping may seem like a chore but make some mulled wine and throw on a Christmas movie – your gifts will be beautifully packaged before you know it.

If you are sending out cards buy these as soon as you can, again if you take an evening in front of a film writing them out really won't seem so bad. If you want to save pennies on postage use Scout post for the local area.

Don't forget about the kids...

Buy advents calendars for the little ones (and big kids) so they are waiting to be opened on December 1.

Let children get involved with decorating, give them baubles (not breakable ones) to hang on the lower branches of the tree and let them spray the inside of windows with artificial snow.

Encourage children to make presents and cards for family, handmade items will be treasured memories for years.

Remember and stock up on milk (or whisky) and mince pies so the children can leave something out for Santa. Rudolf might like a carrot too.

Grab a little me time...

When all of your preparations are done and wrapping that last present left your nails in tatters sit down, relax and take some time for yourself.

There are lots of hairdressers

and beauty salons that will take the weight off, provide relaxing massages and leave you feeling radiant and ready to soar through Christmas day with perfect hair, nails and a tan. Just remember to book in advance as spots fill up quickly.

When you're looking gorgeous invite some friends over for a festive meal or party, Christmas day isn't the only time you can over indulge in the mulled wine.



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OLDER people in Argyll are being encouraged to take on healthier and more active lifestyles to stay fit into old age.

Oban Seniors Forum, assisted by Argyll Voluntary Action, organised an Age Positive event at the town's Argyllshire Gathering Halls this week which saw pensioners take part in indoor curling, Zumba and line dancing.

Part of the reshaping care for elderly people initiative, Age Positive is an event which aims to encourage older people to take part in various activities so they lead healthier lives allowing them to stay at home for longer instead of moving into a care home.

Maggie Dougall, a community resilience worker for Argyll Voluntary Action said: 'In my role I am encouraging fitter older people to volunteer to help less fit older people. It is intended to be mutually beneficial as both parties get something out of it.'

'This is the year of active ageing and the aim of the day is to promote active ageing through activities.'

Staff at Healthy Options were also on hand to carry out personal fitness MOTs – comprised of seven test these MOTs monitor heart and lung fitness, strength, agility, balance and flexibility.

Andrea James, of Healthy Options said: 'People will have the opportunity to ask questions about physical activity and healthy lifestyles.'

'We are doing this to raise awareness of the benefits of a physical activity and assisting people with any areas they think they need help or advice with.'

Benefits of physical activity in elderly people include improvements in coping with daily tasks, help to control existing medical conditions and a reduction in the risk of acquiring long term medical conditions.

Planning

for your retirement



Beatrice Keenan tries her hand as curling as Penny MacPhail and Marri Malloy look on.

At R A Clement Associates our staff have spent many years advising clients on their best options for a happy retirement.

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As The Oban Times reported last week, a massive overhaul in Argyll and Bute of elderly care is in the works to provide for its rapidly ageing population.

Anyone concerned about their fitness in latter years can be referred to Healthy Options by their GP.

Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau
Riverside, Oban Road, Lochgilphead

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Garelochhead, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire G84 0AB

Marion Brown, Human Givens Psychotherapist, points out that the Human Givens approach offers a very useful framework for helping to recognise the emotional needs that we have to consider when approaching retirement. Our work/employment tends to have contributed to many of our essential emotional needs

(those important for our mental wellbeing, for example senses of Status, Achievement, Community, and Purpose) over many years – though we may not have been aware of or appreciated this! The first few months after retirement may feel like an extended holiday – when at last there is time for all sorts of things that haven't been possible

whilst working. Then there is gradually a readjustment to a different on-going lifestyle – with different routines, activities and challenges gradually replacing those previously provided by work! The Human Givens 'Emotional Needs Audit' is a helpful checklist and can be found on the Human Givens website www.hgi.org.uk.

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Eorabus Suffolks lead Islay UA sale

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 2147 head of lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart last Friday. All classes sold at rates comparing favourably to current mainland values. Suffolk lambs from Eorabus led the top call per head at £62.50.

Store cattle trade dearer on week

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 486 weaned calves and store cattle, 113 breeding cattle and 77 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Thursday when all classes proved dearer on the week.

Stot calves averaged 214.2p and sold to 340.4p per kilo for a 260kg Limousin cross from Wester Tomloan, Ardclach and £920 gross for a 385kg Limousin cross from Breakachy, Beauly.

Heifer calves averaged 202p and sold to 284.4p per kilo and £910 gross for a 320kg Simmental cross from Wester Tomloan.

Store bullocks averaged 181.7p and sold to 218.4p per kilo for a pen of 380kg Limousin crosses from Wester Lochend Farm, Loch Flemington, and £1075 for a pen of 590kg Limousin crosses from Kinchyle, Scamport.

Store heifers averaged 183p and sold to 229.6p per kilo and £1010 gross for a 440kg British Blue cross from Torgormack, Kirkhill.

Young bulls averaged 177.6p and sold to 201.6p per kilo and £750 gross for Simmentals from Wellback, Scarfskerry.

Breeding cattle sold to £1700 for a Simmental cross in calf heifer from 101 Torrbolie, Lairg.

Weather conditions prove key factor in planning ewe nutrition ahead of lambing

ANIMAL nutritionists at the Scottish Agricultural College's SAC Consulting is advising sheep farmers to take important ewe nutrition steps for winter, in preparation for successful lambing next Spring.

Difficult weather has led to variable ewe condition scores and low quality/low intake forages. This means farmers may need to modify sheep diets and keep a closer watch on ewe condition score, says animal nutritionist Dr Colin Morgan.

'Silage composition has suffered badly in some areas as a result of the weather conditions. It is essential that silages are analysed so that they can be supplemented appropriately.'

In meeting the nutrient needs of the ewe, energy and protein require-

ments will be determined by her weight, condition score and numbers of lambs carried.

Colin said: 'With poor quality forages ewes may need more supplementary feed but it is important to manage this to avoid overfeeding starchy cereals or sudden dietary changes that can cause metabolic upsets.'

'Manage the use of body reserves to ensure ewes lamb in condition score 2 1/2 - 3 when lambing in March or condition score 2 - 2 1/2 for ewes lambing at grass.'

The stressful weather combined with an increase in sheep diseases caused by parasites has meant a difficult year for ewes, so their condition scores may be lower than

usual. For thin ewes, feeding should start earlier at nine weeks pre-lambing. Supplementary feeding levels by lambing will need to be higher at around 0.75kg compound/cereal per day split into two feeds.

'Do not leave it too late, score your ewes now and make planned changes to rations,' said Colin.

It is also advisable to supplement thin twin-bearing ewes in mid-to-late-pregnancy.

Immediately after scanning separate thin ewes out for extra feeding.

Supplement with cereal at 0.5 kg per day if the ewes are on low quality silage. Try to at least maintain or improve condition score by up to half a score between scanning and the last three weeks of pregnancy.



Dingwall and Highland Marts held their last sale of the season at Fort William auction mart last Friday when there was a good trade for quality cattle with plainer and native types proving harder to cash

Lambs meet improving trade at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 2,354 store sheep at Dingwall on Thursday when strong and medium sized lambs again met an improved trade, prime and feeding ewes were similar to the previous week.

Lambs averaged £42.19 and sold to £67 for a Texel from Lochduh, Nairn.

Gimmers averaged £52.31 and sold to £62 for a Cheviot from The Swallows, Culbokie.

Ewes averaged £38.79 and sold to £78 for Charollais crosses from Whitebog, Rosemarkie.

Rams sold to £400 for a Blue Faced Leicester from Newton of Crathie, Ballater.

Wedders averaged £51.87 and sold to £62 for crosses from Glenvarragill, Portree.

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Market reports

ISLAY

United Auctions

Lambs
SuffolkX: £62.50 Eorabus £59.00 Coull (D Jones) £58.50 Coull £56.50 Eorabus. TexelX: £59.50 Dunlossit Keills £57.50 Coull CheviotX: £49.00 Coull (D Jones)
Cross: £57.00 Ballmartin £49.50 Lossit £48.00 Sabhal Mor and Ardalla Estate.
Mule: £44.00 Ardalla Estate
Blackface: £49.50 Unskentuaie £45.50 Keppols £43.50 Coull £42.00 Keppols £41.50 RSPB Kinabuss £40.00 Lossit.

Ewes
TexelX: £58.50 Coull £44.50 Dunlossit Keills £43.50 Coull (D Jones).
Cross: £37.50 RSPB Kinabuss
Mule: £48.50 Coull £43.50 Coull (D Jones).
Blackface: £36.50 Dunlossit Ceannacraig.

Pries per kilo
SuffolkX: 155p - Coull (D Jones) 150p - Duich 149p - Craighaid 145p and 141p - Eorabus.
TexelX: 151p - Coull 148p - Dunlossit Keills 143p - Craighaid 142p - Dunlossit Keills.
CheviotX: 136p Coull (D Jones)
Cross: 136p - Ballmartin.
Blackface: 124p - Keppols 121p - Unskentuaie and Duich 120p - Keppols and Dunlossit Lossit.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks
201-250kg Gesto, Struan, £630, 262.5p; 251-300kg Wester Tomloan, £885, 263p; 301-350kg Grainish, Aviemore, £810, 253.1p; 351-400kg Breakachy, Beauly, £920, 239p; 401-450kg Torgormack, £890, 206p; 451-500kg Torgormack, £1040, 215.3p; 501-550kg 7 Balranald, Lochmaddy, £1030, 202p; 551-600kg Torgormack and Balmacaan, Drumadrochit, £1020, Kinchyle, 182.2p.

551-600kg Feabue, Culloden, £780.
Young Bulls
Balmacara Square, Kyle of Lochalsh, (AA), £545, Ardheslaig, Shialdaig, (AA), £694p.
Breeding cattle
In-calf heifer
SimX Cairntrach, Belhelvie, £1400, SalX - 1 Rychraggan, Drumadrochit, £1100, LimX - 1 Rychraggan, £1050, ShoX - 43 Farlary, Rogart, £950 (thrice), AAX - Croft Martin, Insh, £950.

In-calf cows
SimX Bogburn, Duncanston, £1020, AAX - 43 Farlary, £900 (twice), LimX - 43 Farlary, £900, ShoX - 43 Farlary, £900.

Heifers with male calves at foot
AAX - Croft Martin, £1180.
Cows with male calves at foot
AAX - Heathmount, £1580, LimX - Heathmount, £1420, Baz - Nigg Mains, £1020, SimX - Achintoul, £1020, ShoX - Achintoul, £950.

Cows with heifer calves at foot
SimX - Nigg Mains, Nigg, £1520, AA - Heathmount, Tain, £1250, BBX - Achintoul, Kinbrace, £1180, SimX - Rurach Croft, Inverinate, £950, LimX - Achintoul, and Achly Farm, Dornoch, £920, ShoX - Achintoul, £850.

OTM
OTM prime cows: Clury, (Lim), £1170; Kinahaird, Contin, (SimX), £1130; Heathmount, (AA) and Kinchyle, (SimX), £1090.

OTM feeding cows: 7 Balranald, (ShoX), £830; 3 Glaick, Ardross, (AA), £790; 83 Inchcape, Rogart, (WShoX), and Kinchyle, (LimX), £730.

OTM bullocks and heifers: Kinahaird, (SimX hfr), £1310; Kinchyle, Contin, (LimX hfr), £1290; Galantray, Cawdor, (SimX hfr), £650.

OTM bulls: Sanguhar Mains, (Lim), £1370; Knocknagael, (Sim), £1310; Knocknagael, (AA), £1230.

OTM prime cows: Kinchyle, (SimX), 155.7p; Clury, (Lim), 155.2p; Achly Farm, (Sho), 147p; OTM feeding cows: Kinchyle, (SimX), 140.3p; 3 Glaick, (AA), 139.8p; Kinchyle, (Lim), 125.9p.

OTM bullocks and heifers: Kinchyle, (Lim hfr), 169.7p; Kinahaird, (SimX hfr), 152.3p; Galantray, (SimX hfr), 117.1p.

OTM bulls: Knocknagael, (Sim), 132.4p; Knocknagael, (Lim), 125.4p; Knocknagael, (AA) 111.3p.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:

Cheviot: Gask house, Balnafoich, £65.50, 7 Tarskavaig, Sleat, £62.50, Blackmuir, Heights of Docharly, £58.
TexelX: Achnaoich, Ardross, £65.50, Ivy Croft, Heights of Brae, £64.50, Balmaglagler, South Laggan, £62.50.
BeltexX: Castle Grant Home Farm, Grantown on Spey, £65.
CharollaisX: Gorthleck Mains, Inverness, £61; Texel: Barnyards, Beauly, £60;
SuffolkX: The Swallows and Castle Grant Home Farm, £60, Easterton Croft, Auldearn and Lochbuie, Newtonmore, £44.
Blackface: 18 Heights of Brae, Heights of Docharly, £60, Higher Tullochribben, Dulaish Bridge and Cuianlan, Kinlochewe, £47; CharmoiseX: Castle Grant Home Farm, £59.50, Woodlands, Dingwall, £47.50, Castle Grant Home Farm, £43.50;

Cross: 18 heights of Brae, £56, The Barracks, Glenelg, £43.3 Tarskavaig, Sleat, £42; Mule: Gorthleck Mains, £56; Zwartbles: Broynach, Thurso, £51.
Gimmers:
TexelX: Croft Martin, Insh, £56; Cross: The Barracks, £52;
Texel: Glenlich, Wester Balbar, £48; Blackface: 187 Balchladich, Stoe, £45.

Ewes:
Charmoise: Lochduh, £70;
CharollaisX: Glenlich, £70;
Blueface Leicester: Whitebog, £70;
TexelX: Easter Dalziel, Dalross, £67, Little Kildrummie, Nairn, £66, Kerrow Farm, Can-nich, £63;
Cheviot: The Swallows, £64, Cherrytrees, 11 Loaneckheim, £54, Castle Grant Home Farm, £53;
SuffolkX: Little Kildrummie, £60;
Mule: Abersky, Torness, £55;

Blackface: The Barracks, £55, Moy & Ruthven Farms, Moy, £43, Greenfield, Insh, £42; Cross: 26 Tarskavaig, Sleat and The Swallows, £40, 3 Tarskavaig, Sleat, £39, The Barracks and Nuide Farm, Kingussie, £35.

Rams:
Texel: Newton of Crathie, £200; Cheviot: Cran-nich, Ardross, £180, Archronie, Ardgay and Wester Grunards, Ardgay, £150; Suffolk: Whitebog, £115.

Wedders:
Cheviot: Lochduh, £56, 2 Eynort, Carbost, £55; Blackface: 187 Balchladich, Stoe, £53, 18 Heights of Brae, £51, Nuide Farm, £43.

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West Coast Property Guide

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MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
MARINE CONSTRUCTION:
PORT KILCHERAN, ISLE OF LISMORE
 Notice is hereby given that Mr D. Norman has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of Installation of a Private Mooring at:

Cost of project description	Latitude	Longitude
Location Port Kilcheran	Co-ordinates 56°29.381'N	Co-ordinates 05°31.932'W

(WGS84)
 Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Lismore Post Office, Isle of Lismore.
 Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by e-mail: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: FKBJ201
 D.C.W Norman, Kilcheran Cottage, Lismore, PA34 5UQ

MARINE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010
INSTALLATION OF THREE COMMERCIAL MOORINGS, FEARNACH BAY, KILMELFORD
 Notice is hereby given that Gordon MacKinnon has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under Part 4 of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010, in respect of moorings installation at:

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Fearnach Bay, Kilmelford	Co-ordinates 56.16.070'N 56.16.041'N 56.16.010'N	Co-ordinates 0530.480'W 0530.480'W 0530.479'W

(WGS84)
 Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Kilmelford Post Office.
 Objections relating to safety of navigation or environmental issues in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Licensing Operations Team, Marine Scotland, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen, AB11 9DB within 28 days of the date of this notice or by e-mail: MS.MarineLicensing@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, quoting reference: FKBJ197
 Gordon MacKinnon

Oban Times Oban Times
 PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTING COMMISSION
COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECROFTING APPLICATIONS

Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number
 Mr & Mrs W Barber 14 & 15 Anahelt, Ardnamurchan & Sunart 0.091 ha - Existing house site 4.86.40969

*Mr & Mrs A.R. Cameron 6 Eorabus, Kilfrichen & Kilvickieon 0.4157 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.40627

Mrs S Corms Brolas Croft 3, Ardcattan & Muckairn 0.138 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.41213

Mr & Mrs J Livingstone Glasdrum, Lismore & Appin 0.096 ha - Site for a dwelling house 4.86.41259

Mr W A Maclean 1 Heijlpol, Tiree 0.105 ha - Amenity ground 4.86.40371

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, Leachin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Applications marked with an asterisk - Interest can be expressed in obtaining the tenancy of the area subject to the application.

Police arrest two men twice within 24 hours

TWO MEN from Alexandria kept Oban Police busy during a weekend trip to Argyll after they were arrested twice on the same day.
 The men, aged 25 and 17, were arrested at 3.30am on Sunday for disorder offences at Portsonachan Hotel.
 However, after being released later that morning, police were again called to the hotel at 2pm and charged the men with the same offence.

Argyll Holiday Park is best in Britain

AN ARGYLL holiday park has been named the best in Britain at a glittering awards ceremony held in Birmingham.
 Lochgoilhead Lodges, part of Argyll Holidays, was handed the accolade at the Hosesons Conference and Customer Service Awards on November 7. Argyll Holidays also came out on top for the best relax and explore park in Scotland. Keith Campbell, managing director said: 'I believe that these awards for Lochgoilhead Lodges reflect Argyll Holidays vital role in Scottish tourism, and our overall commitment to providing exemplary customer service and a fantastic customer experience to our guests.'

Oban photographers in national competition

MEMBERS of Oban Photographic Club were entertained by the Scottish Photographic Federation Digital Portfolio.
 Over 100 images chosen through a strict selection procedure were on display. These photos are from the cream of Scotland's Camera Clubs and are circulated throughout the country.
 Members were delighted to see that images from John Douglas and Stephen Lawson were included.
 Almost every subject was covered however landscapes/seascapes and birdlife were prominent.
 New members always welcomed at the Regent Hotel every Monday at 7.30pm

Curtain comes down on Clyde Coastguard

OPERATIONS at Clyde Coastguard have officially been handed over to stations in Belfast and Stornoway.
 The move came as a blow to campaigners who say the closure 'will affect the safety of people on the west coast of Scotland'.
 The closure came a few days earlier than expected - operations had been due to be handed over on Tuesday but campaigners say the station was 'effectively closed' on Friday.

Clyde Maritime Rescue and Co-ordination Centre (MRCC Clyde) at Greenock covers an extensive operational area including Argyll and Bute's coastline.
 All staff at Clyde will have left their building by December 18 before it officially closes on December 31.
 An MCA spokeswoman said: 'This handover period has been planned for some time. All the staff have been informed well in advance.'

Oban man found guilty of drink fuelled assault

ASSAULTING a 64-year-old male landed one Oban man in the town's sheriff court last week.
 John McKay, 49, of 18 Nelson Road, Oban denied the charge but was found guilty following a trial.
 The court heard McKay 'went for' his elder victim after 'downing' a bottle of wine on July 6. The man had tried to intervene in a dispute between McKay and his then girlfriend.
 Sheriff John Herald found McKay guilty of assault and deferred sentence until December 11 for the preparation of reports.

Firearms seized by police on Isle of Kerrera

FIREARMS were seized by police from a house on Kerrera last Friday in a planned operation by officers.
 Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said the operation was to ensure the well-being of residents on the island and was not in response to any emergency call.

Bar manager fined following Oban after-hours drinking trial

AN OBAN woman who police claimed was drunk in charge of a bar and allowed customers to consume alcohol after hours has been fined £450 by Oban Sheriff Court.
Denied
 Elaine Cameron, also known as Elizabeth Callander, of Arbour Guesthouse, Dunollie Road, Oban, denied the charges but was found guilty after standing trial.
 The court heard police officers went to Paparazzi, Breadalbane Street, just after 1.30am on September 10 last year following a complaint about excessive noise.
 When the officers entered the bar they saw around 10 people standing at the bar with glasses and bottles. Many left on seeing the police.
 Cameron, then premises manager, greeted the officers and they noted she was 'unsteady on her feet and slurring her speech'.
 Defending, Sandy Mitchell told the court the police arrived at the bar around 1.15am - not 1.30am as indicated by CCTV. Giving evidence, 60-year-old

Cameron said her till clock had always been 16 to 18 minutes slow and, as the till had been closed off at 1.35am, she had finished up on time.
Speaking clock
 Defence witnesses, all former staff at the bar, told the court the till clock had always been slow and Cameron had asked them to keep a record of this by telephoning the speaking clock and verifying the time before signing the receipt.
 But when procurator fiscal Eoin McGinty asked one woman, who claimed to have



Representatives of the Oban schools receive their goodie bags from Alan Reid MP, while Tesco store manager Neil Armour, right, looks on. 16_477tesco01

Oban schools collect their voucher rewards from Tesco

OBAN schools picked up their rewards for months of voucher collecting at Tesco this year.
Equipment
 School pupils, staff and parents in the town have been busy collecting vouchers for the Tesco for Schools and Clubs 2012 scheme and last Wednesday went to the store to collect goodie bags and sports and computer equipment worth

hundreds of pounds.
 Rockfield Primary School collected enough vouchers to recoup £741 worth of school equipment, the highest number of vouchers of any school in the town.
 Oban High School received equipment to the value of £620, Park Primary earned vouchers worth £546, while St Columba's Primary collected £479 worth of school equipment.
 Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid and Tesco store manager Neil Armour were on hand to gift the goodie bags to representatives of every school.
 Mr Armour said: 'This is the 21st year Tesco has run its voucher scheme in some form and Oban schools always do really well because the community is so supportive.'

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and online at <http://wam.highland.gov.uk>
 Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/03988/FUL	Watercolour Music Fang Na H-Airigh Ardgor, Fort William	Construction of a Micro Hydro Scheme

Time period for comments is 14 days
 ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
 Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008

Notice of Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be published in a local newspaper under regulation 7(2)

Argyll Resources Group, the prospective applicant, hereby gives notice of a Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) to be undertaken in advance of the submission of a planning application to Argyll and Bute Council for a prospective development comprising continuation of rock quarrying and concrete batching activities and renewal of planning permissions for the siting of a bitumen coating plant and waste transfer shed at Pennygown Quarry, Isle of Mull.

Further information in respect of the prospective development may be obtained by contacting Adrian Laycock Ltd., Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine, Argyll PA37 1SE.

A public event which will include a presentation of the prospective development and opportunity for public discussion with the prospective applicant is to be held at An Roth Enterprise Centre, Craignure on Tuesday 4th December 2012 between the hours of 3.30pm and 6.30pm.

Any persons wishing to submit comments should submit these to the prospective applicant c/o Adrian Laycock Ltd., Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine, Argyll PA37 1SE before Tuesday 18th December 2012.

Persons submitting comments in response to Pre-Application Consultation (PAC) are advised that comments submitted to the prospective applicant at this time are not representations to the planning authority; in the event that prospective applicant submits a formal application for planning permission then there would be an opportunity to submit representations to Argyll and Bute Council as the planning authority at that time.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
 These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02207/PPP	Site for the erection of one dwellinghouse.	Land South of Blarhasaig Farm Appin Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Ledaig
12/02273/PP	Installation of hydro power scheme and associated access track	Torloisk Estate Torloisk Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Dervaig
12/02327/PP	Demolition of two agricultural barns and erection of three dwellinghouses.	Lagganmore Kilmiver Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UU	Oban Area Office
12/02338/PP	Increase in outhouse roof-pitch and installation of external flue to accommodate bio-mass boiler (part retrospective)	Tiroran House Tiroran Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA69 6ES	Sub Post Office Bunnessan Isle of Mull
12/02434/PP	Erection of new detached single storey dwelling and detached garage/logstore	Plot 4 Betts Field Ardnacross Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JS	Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull
12/02440/PP	Formation of vehicular access	Land East of Oakview Taynult Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynult
12/02454/PP	Erection of detached garage	Darach Benderloch Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1QS	Sub Post Office Ledaig

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Ref	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02337/LIB	Installation of replacement windows.	The Royal Hotel Argyll Square Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4BE	Oban Area Office
12/02513/LIB	Internal and external refurbishment	Hawthorn House Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UL	Sub Post Office Lismore
12/02527/LIB	Internal and external alterations to dwellinghouse.	Bachuil Isle of Lismore Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5UL	Sub Post Office Lismore

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 - 17:00hrs Monday to Friday at 67 Chalmers Street Ardaraigh PA30 8DX, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.
 Argyll and Bute Council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: <https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk>
 The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.
 A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.
 Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website.
 Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

Oban Camanachd Club

AGM

Saturday 1st December at 7pm
 Royal Hotel, Oban

Lorn Agricultural Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 13th December, 2012
 Lochnell Arms Hotel, North Connel 8pm
 All welcome

CROFTING COMMISSION
COMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD
DECISION ON APPLICATION TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Application by Niall MacLeod of 1 Ballimore and 2 Ballimore, Kilchrenan has been Approved.
 5.01.39118

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



Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile at the Royal National Mòd in Dunoon in October.

Mull's singing juniors gain BBC grant to produce album

THE JUNIOR Mòd Club on the Isle of Mull will be celebrating its 10th anniversary in style after receiving a grant to record a CD.
 Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile, the Isle of Mull Junior Mòd Club, was started in 2003 and was awarded a grant by the BBC Performing Arts Fund to make a CD to celebrate this.
 The Club will be working with Mary Ann Kennedy at Watercolour Studios in Ardgor and with An Tobar in Tobermory to make the album.
 Riona Whyte, tutor of Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile said: 'We are delighted to receive this grant from the BBC Performing Arts Fund.
 'The club has gone from strength to strength, with young people from Mull, Lochaline and Kilchoan learning traditional Gaelic songs and taking part in local and national Mòds.
 'What better way to mark the ten years since the club started than to record a CD with past and present members?
 'Everyone is very excited and keen to get into the recording studio.'
 The fund receives revenue from the voting lines of BBC One entertainment programmes such as The Voice, and Over the Rainbow.
 Miriam O'Keefe, Director of the Performing Arts Fund said: 'We are delighted to be providing an avenue for these projects to flourish.
 'The passion these groups have for music is inspiring. The range, not only in the types of groups but also in the spread of ages, shows us that music really is for everybody.'
 Riona added: 'Comunn Gàidhealach Mhuile would also like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to everyone who has supported the club in 2012, and for grants received from Argyll and Bute Council as well as the Mull and Iona Community Trust white tailed eagle fund which helped fund our trip to the National Mòd in Dunoon in October.
 'Thanks again for your support this year and we look forward to an exciting 2013. Mòran taing dhuibh uile.'

Sterling Trio to play Kilmallie centre

LOCHABER Music For All will hold the second of their five-concert-season tomorrow (Friday) in Kilmallie Community Centre at 7.30pm.
 Guest artists will be 'The Sterling Trio' who will perform a programme of new and old music on flute, clarinet and piano.
 The trio were formed at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester and have developed an innovative and versatile approach to musicmaking.
Man allegedly spat on policemen
 A 23-YEAR-old man, who is accused of spitting in the face of a police sergeant in Oban last weekend, has been charged.
 The man was arrested in Nelson Road last Saturday at 8.45pm for allegedly conducting himself in a disorderly manner.

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To apply for this vacancy, please send your CV and covering letter to (angus.maceachen@jewson.co.uk). Closing date for applications is 7th December 2012.

SRSL SAMS

Business Development Assistant
Salary £19,526-£22,476
Fixed term appointment for two years

We are looking for an individual with excellent organisational and planning skills to join the SAMS Business Team who operate SRSL, a commercial company that is part of the "SAMS Group".

The main purpose of the job will be to support SRSL business development activities and provide administrative assistance to the Managing Director directly. Key aspects of the role include, information management, coordinating meetings, arranging travel and liaising with staff and external customers, as well as assisting in the production of commercial tenders where necessary.

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

For further information and to apply for this position online, go to: www.sams.ac.uk. Alternatively, please write to: Human Resources, Business Development Assistant, (Job Ref D19/12.TS), The Scottish Association for Marine Science, Scottish Marine Institute, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1QA or e-mail recruitment@sams.ac.uk

The closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 30th November 2012**

SAMS is a registered Scottish charity (SC 009206), has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Argyll Resources Group

Concrete Technician/Batcher

We seek a self motivated, reliable individual who is capable of working on their own initiative. Reporting to the General Manager, you will be responsible for accurately batching quality concrete, testing and quality control, managing raw material inventory and supervising Mixer Drivers.

You will be responsible for the daily, weekly and monthly tasks associated with maintaining the batch plant.

You should have strong communication skills, and the ability to work effectively in a stressful, fast-paced environment.

Experience of concrete batching operations is desirable but not essential as full training will be given to the ideal candidate.

Competitive salary

All interested parties please phone 01631 566370 ask for Graham Greenlees or alternatively e-mail: info@argyllresources.co.uk for an application form.

The Scottish Salmon Company

The Scottish Salmon Company is a leading producer of high quality Scottish salmon. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

Due to Expansion of the Company and Internal Promotion we are pleased to announce that we are seeking the following staff to work at our new site in Loch Tuath off Gometra and our current site at Inch Kenneth, both on the Isle of Mull.

Preference will be given to candidates who live on the Isle of Mull.

Marine Site(s) Manager
(Salary: Grade 2 - £35,720.40 - £38,872.20)
(Ref MSM/GO/11/12)

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

THE COMMISSIONERS OF NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSES

require an

ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN

The Northern Lighthouse Board - www.nlb.org.uk - is the General Lighthouse Authority for Scotland and the Isle of Man, established by statute to provide, maintain and inspect marine aids to navigation throughout its waters.

Based in Oban but travelling to any of the lighthouses within Scotland & the Isle of Man, with the requirement to stay at remote locations for periods up to 12 days at a time, the successful candidate will be offered a wide range of technical challenges working in a team carrying out maintenance and rectification work on aids to navigation and associated electronic and electrical equipment.

Preference will be given to those who can successfully work as part of a team and have experience of, (or who can demonstrate the capability of developing skills in), some or all of the following: Maintenance and fault-finding on control, telemetry and power electronics systems, diesel and solar power generation, PSTN and radio data-communications, instrument calibration, PLC diagnostics/documentation, wiring skills to the current IEE wiring regulations. As a minimum, a relevant HNC, or equivalent, is required.

Salary range is £21,396 (Recruitment Level) per annum to £28,524 plus a consolidated overtime allowance of £3,744 per year and a generous career average occupational pension scheme.

For further details and an application pack (closing date Friday 7th December 2012) please e-mail jobs@nlb.org.uk or write to: - HR Advisor, Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street, EDINBURGH, EH2 3DA.



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Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

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If you hold or would like to acquire a PCV licence and are interested in such a position, please apply in writing (enclosing your c.v.) to:

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Campbeltown • Argyll PA28 6DN
or complete our online application form at www.westcoastmotors.co.uk

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Part time Cleaner

We are seeking to recruit a part time cleaner based at our Oban depot.

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Hours of work (Mon - Sat) 7pm - 10pm.

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In addition, the candidate should have strong planning, organisational and communication skills with an understanding of associated software systems. Boat Handling and Fork Lift Certificates are desirable and a Full Clean Driving licence is essential.

Senior Marine Operative
(Salary: Grade 2 £23,113.20 - £26,265.00)
(Ref SMO/GO/11/12)

The ideal candidate will have a minimum of 2 years experience in fish husbandry and have the capability to lead a small team in the day-to-day operations. This position would suit someone who is enthusiastic, outgoing, highly motivated, with good communication, organisational and IT skills. Candidates should be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within a small focused team, in a constantly changing and challenging environment. They should also have a good understanding of Health and Safety requirements and the awareness of environmental issues. Experience of Aquaculture and Boat Handling is Essential for this post. The Company also offers further development opportunities. A Full clean Driving Licence is essential for this post.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

Marine Operatives x 3
(Salary: Grade 1 £16,284.30 - £19,961.40)
2 x Gometra (Ref MO/GO/11/12)
1 x Inch Kenneth (Ref MO/IK/11/12)

Duties will involve all the day to day operations including fish welfare, sampling, grading and weighing of fish along with site maintenance, net changing and boat handling.

Applicants should be enthusiastic, outgoing, highly motivated, and dedicated individuals with good communication and IT skills. They should enjoy working in an outdoor environment which at times can be challenging. They should be able to operate well as part of a small focused team and work flexibly to meet the demands of this role. Previous Aquaculture and Boat Handling experience is desirable but not essential, as the company will also offer further development opportunities through in-house and external training providers.

A Full clean driving licence is essential.

Working hours are normally 40hrs per week Monday to Friday, with weekend working required on a rota basis. Overtime is paid at enhanced rates.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company Pension Scheme.

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In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company Pension Scheme.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
Suzanne Mawer, HR Department,
The Scottish Salmon Company Ltd,
Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow, Argyll PA26 8BH
Tel: +44 (0) 1499 600 435 / 415
Email: suzanne.mawer@scottishsalmon.com
Visit our website www.scottishsalmon.com
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Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8LB - Tel 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or e-mail - recruitment.ab@nhs.net
Please quote reference: 12BK/241.
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WINKLES wanted, also Class A cocksles. Telephone 01770 503451 or 07710 529975.

PERSONALS

We would like to thank Stephen, Robert, Leigh and Alana. My brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews and close friends for their support on the death of my daughter Mary. A special thank you to Ian McInnes for his kindness and compassion. Eddie & Jane McGhee.

Oban Times PERSONALS

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BIRTH

CLARK - To Donald and Emma on November 13, 2012 at the Simpson Centre, Edinburgh, a son Dara James. A brother for Myles. Another grandchild for Alasdair and Joan Clark, Dunfermline and James and Antoinette Doran, Lusk, Co.Dublin.

MARCUS - Amy Jennifer, born on October 8, 2012, first child of Madeleine and Derek, third grandchild of Elizabeth and David Pender, Oban, and first grandchild of Margaret Gibson, Glasgow.

ENGAGEMENTS

FORRESTER - ALLOTT - Alison and Peter Forrester, Port of Menteith, formerly of Ardnacross, Isle of Mull, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Lucy to Mr Simon Allott of Marlborough, Wiltshire.

DEATH

ANFIELD - Suddenly but peacefully at home in her loving husband Paul's arms, on Friday November 16, 2012, Margaret nee McCahon (formerly White) and known as Margaret the car scheme to all her passengers. The funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium, Cardross on Monday November 26 at 12.15pm, all friends are respectfully invited to attend. No flowers, please. Retiring collection / donations if desired for North Argyll Volunteer Car Scheme.

GILLIES - Allan James. Peacefully passed away with dignity and surrounded by love after a difficult illness, at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital on November 12, 2012 in his 34th year. Much loved son, brother, step son, brother-in-law, uncle, nephew, great-nephew and friend. Sadly missed.

MACINTYRE - Peacefully at The Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, on Thursday November 15, 2012. Lachie aged 70 years, of 1 Lawe Cottages, Lower Soroba, Oban. Much loved father of Laura, Gillian, Mairi, Elaine and Jennifer, and much loved Grandad. A friend to many who will be sadly missed.

MACKECHNIE - After a short illness at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, Rosemary (nee Sutherland), aged 79, former Poulter and Dairy Advisor with Scottish Agricultural College, loving wife of the late Angus, devoted mum of Alan, Erik and Maureen a much loved mother in law and proud GaGa of Amanda, Mia and Rowan. Funeral on Wednesday November 28, Service in Perth Crematorium at 11.30am to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please, however a retiring collection will be taken for the caring dedicated staff at Ward 32 Ninewells.

MACKECHNIE - Gilbert Snr, Beinn Dorain, Oban. Passed away peacefully on Saturday November 17, in his 97th year. A proud Oban boy all his days. Now together with his sweetheart Jean again. Dearly loved and sorely missed by all his family. A wonderful Father, Papa and Great Papa.xxx

MARTHUR - Peacefully at Lorn & Islands Hospital, Oban, on November 15, 2012, Neil Marthur, aged 85 years, of 47 MacDonald Terrace, Lochgilphead, and formerly of Kilmory Home Farm, Lochgilphead. Much loved husband of Avril, and loving and much loved Father of Jean, Caroline, Catherine, Neil and Fiona. An adored grandpa. A much respected father-in-law. A dear brother, brother-in-law, cousin and uncle to all the family. A good friend and dear neighbour and former work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilphead Parish Church today, Thursday, November 22, 2012, at 12 noon, thereafter to Achmabreac Cemetery. Flowers or donations, welcome.

WHITE - Linda, The Lodge Dunmor Easdale, passed away on November 15, 2012 peacefully, with her family by her side, at the Beatson Cancer Centre, Gartnavel. Beloved wife of Kevin and adored mother of Tracy and Karyn was an inspiration to many and will be sorely missed. Funeral service on Thursday November 22, at Kilbrandon Church at 1pm. All welcome, family flowers only, donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Care may be given at service.

WILSON - Suddenly but peacefully at home on November 13, 2012, Hamish Wilson, 3 Fort William Road, Fort Augustus, aged 72 years, ex Calmac, husband of Helen, dear father of Eilidh, Calum, Seonaid and Hamish, loved by his 12 grandchild and dear brother of Dorothy. Funeral service on Thursday, November 22, at 2.00pm in Fort Augustus Church of Scotland, all friends respectfully invited, thereafter private cremation on Friday. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the RNLI may be given at the service or forwarded to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduhel Road, Inverness.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BOYD - Alasdair and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy and support at this sad time. Thanks to the staff of the Lynn of Lorne Care Home who so professionally and kindly cared for Nan over the last few months. Most sincere thanks to the Rev. James Beaton for a very personal and comforting service. To Ian MacInnes of D&A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements and the Royal Hotel for refreshments.

CAMPBELL - Gus (65), who passed away peacefully at home on November 4, 2012 with his loving family around him. Helen and family would like to convey heartfelt thanks for all flowers, cards and letters of condolences, which have been a great source of comfort and support at this time. Special thanks to the staff at Lorn Medical Centre, especially Euan Glen for his kindness and compassion. Grateful thanks also to Rev. Dugald Cameron for a fitting tribute and to Hamish Hoey & Sons Ltd for support and guidance throughout. Thanks also to the many family and friends who travelled to the Church of Scotland and thereafter Pennyfuir Cemetery to pay their last respects, and to the Oban Bay Hotel for welcoming refreshments. Finally thank you to the Macmillan Nurses for their devoted care and attention for which we are eternally grateful and to the generosity of all who donated towards the £636.29 retiring collection for this worthy cause.

FARQUHAR - Margaret and family wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy received in so many ways during the sad loss of Robert. Our gratitude to the staff at the Belford Hospital, Fort William for the care and compassion shown in Robert's final days. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fiona Ogg for her comforting service, to Mike McFall and staff for their personal attention and efficient funeral arrangements, to Jill Gosney for a lovely tea and to all those who paid their last respects at the church and so generously donated £720 to Ward 1, Belford Hospital, Fort William.

GILLIES - Pat, Allan, Isla and the rest of Allan's family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the comforting kindness and support, cards, messages, flowers, and other gifts following our loss. Thanks also to the various staff at Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and the Southern General, Glasgow for the fantastic care he received and the support shown to us. To Care+ and the Community Team who made his short time at home possible and particular gratitude to those who cared for him after his readmission to hospital when he was so unwell through to his passing. Thanks to Hamish Hoey Funeral Services, The Columbia Hotel and Cardross Crematorium and to those who paid respects and donated to Macmillan Nurses in Allan's memory.

KOWBEL - (East Linton/North Berwick) Michael, Joe and Ruth together with their families, would like to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for the wonderful support received during their recent very sad loss of Lorna and to all who attended the service at Prestonkirk and so kindly donated £1081.35 in aid of the exceptional medical care provided to Lorna over the last three years and the spiritual comfort given to her by the Rev David Scott is greatly appreciated, as is the kind and considerate manner in which Mr Gary Tait (John Bald Funeral Directors) attended to all funeral arrangements.

MACEACHEN - The family of the late Alistair, 6 Howbeg, South Uist, would like to thank Fr Michael MacDonald, altar servers, MacPhee Brothers, grave diggers, and Borrodale Hotel. We would also like to thank friends and neighbours who attended the service and graveside. Finally a big thank you to his brother Angus Peter and sister-in-law Angusina and family for the help and care to Alistair since the death of his wife Annabel. R.I.P.

MATHER - The family of the late Bill Mather wish to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy and support shown to them during their recent sad bereavement, also for the cards and letters of condolences received. Thanks also to Drs Campbell and Taylor-Cavanagh at Argyll Street Surgery and special thanks to all the staff at Ardenlee Care Home for the loving care and attention given to Dad over the last five months. Thanks to the Rev Dr Robin Mackenzie for his very personal and comforting service; to organist, Cathie Montgomery for the lovely tunes and to Roddy MacDiarmid for his very fitting Eulogy. Thanks to Caladh Funeral Services for their very efficient and professional funeral arrangements; to the pallbearers, to all who attended at the church and graveside and to Cairndow Stagecoach

Inn for the excellent purvey. Thanks also for the generous contributions to the retail collection for Kilmorich Parish Church, which amounted to £455.

MITCHELL - The family would like to thank relatives, family and friends for their support and kindness, for the many cards, telephone calls and baking. Grateful thanks to Fr MacKinnon at St Mary's and to the staff at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William. The family would sincerely like to thank the ambulance crew and hospital staff at the Belford, to the helicopter crew from Fort William to Glasgow and the nursing staff and doctors in the Neuro ITU ward at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. Thanks also to Mike McFall, funeral director and staff for their sympathy and efficiency in conducting the funeral arrangements. Donations received amounted to £2050, which will be divided between the Belford Hospital and the Neuro ITU unit at the Southern General Hospital.

SEGGIE - Doreen's family would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness, telephone calls, cards, letters and flowers. Grateful thanks to Dr Davies and staff at the Lynn of Lorne for the loving care given to Mum. Sincere thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for his sensitive service, to Doreen and Andy Henderson and to all who attended the service at Glencruitten Road Church. Thanks also to the Falls of Lora Hotel. Special thanks to Ian MacInnes, D & A Munn Ltd for his kind, considerate and professional attention to the funeral arrangements and to those who contributed £275 to Alzheimer, Scotland.

MEMORIAMS

DAVIS - Gavin. Cousin Gav, miss you too much. - Love Deb.

HENDERSON - In loving memory of my dear husband Iain who died November 22 2002. A smile I will always remember A voice I will always recall A memory I will always treasure Of the one who was dear to all. - Greatly missed Isabel.

MACINNES - In loving memory of a dear mum and nana, Nancy, passed away November 25, 2005. Forever loved and missed. - Mairi, Donald and Sarah.xxx

MACKAY - In loving memory of Eddie, father and grandfather who died November 22, 1968. Always in our thoughts - Families, Inveraray and Canada

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of Iain (Jura). Dearly loved husband of Betty. A loving Dad, Papa, Grandad and Great Grandad who died on November 20, 2011. It's a year since you were taken from us. Our lives changed that day and nothing will ever be the same. We miss your presence, we miss your voice. Most of all we miss your laugh and all your jokes. We shared so much, the good and the bad. Our memories are precious of the time we had. You're always in our hearts and mind. For Jura you were truly one of a kind. - With love Betty, Marina, David, Agnes, Karen, Diane and family, Gavin, Kenny, Cammy and Emma.

MACLAREN - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather Angus, who passed away on November 23, 1983. Forever in our thoughts. - Hazel, Nigel, David and Gareth.

MAY - In loving memory of my dear mum Cathie, who died November 23, 2006. Sadly missed and remembered every day. -Love Steven. In memory of my dear mum. Always in my thoughts. -Love Norman. Treasured memories of my dear mum. Though absent you are very near. Still loved, still missed. Still very dear. -Love Karen. If I could have one lifetime wish. One dream that could come true. I'd pray to God with all my heart. For yesterday and you. -Love Sandra and Chris. Sweet Jesus take this message. To our dear Granny up above. Tell her how we miss her. And give her all our love. -Love always, Caitlin and Erin. Xx

NEWELL - Flora Elizabeth (Lily) who fell asleep November 29, 2011. Will never be forgotten, always and forever in loving memory. - Ralph

NICOL - Treasured memories of a beloved son Gavin, who passed away on November 23, 2010. Forever in our hearts. - Mum, Jimmy and Chloe.

RATCLIFFE - Happy memories of Malcolm, a much loved husband and father, died November 27, 1991. Remembered always. - Linda and family, Dumfries and Norway.

RICHMOND - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, Agnes Richmond (nee Paterson), 9 Lismore Crescent, Oban, who passed away on November 21, 1984.

There is a bridge of memories From here to Heaven above That keeps you very close to us, It's called the Bridge of Love, As time goes by without you Mum. And months turn into years. They hold a million memories. And a thousand silent tears. - Inserted by her ever loving son Victor, daughter-in-law Anne, grandchildren Yvonne and John, Bermuda.

TRAYNOR - In loving memory of a much loved husband and father John who passed away November 22, 1994.

No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do A special place within our hearts Is always kept for you Loved and remembered always. - Jessie and Families

WRIGHT - Bill. Dear Dad, miss you. Bless the day you were born. Love you. - Deb.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church
Sunday 25 November 2012
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 25 November 2012
Christ the King
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Followed by AGM
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All Welcome
Nicki McNelly Provost
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Holy Communion..... 11.00
St Columba,
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Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

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Thought for the Week

Black and white is straightforward

BLACK trousers, white shirt, a well tested black and white choice.

Life, is rarely black and white when it comes to decisions, choices or even our memories. Old photos may well be black and white, the scenes in them were bright and vivid in life.

Now here's a thing, black

is black and white is white, but what colour of blue was a Caledonian Railway locomotive when it steamed into Oban? Children painting pictures of old trains often have a straightforward approach to this. They paint their train the colour of blue they like.

There is something in the

wisdom of children.

Christians believe and give thanks that God has created the world in its great variety, full of colour and shade, much to note and remember, to prefer and choose. Which doesn't always make for easy choices.

It does give us great things to remember, great memories to

share.

Not that any of us can afford to live in the past, life moves on and demands choices times and again, complex choices that are far from black and white.

Lets try to make choices we and others will be glad to remember in years to come.

Rev Jeff McCormick, Ardrchattan

'We are God's Work of Art...'

"We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it." (Eph. 2.10)

EARLIER this year I took part in the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes and the theme we followed through our week in Lourdes was "We are God's work of art". These lovely words of St. Paul

express the deep truth that God has made us all as he wished and we are all therefore precious in his eyes.

A deeper sense of our human beauty comes from knowing the Lord Jesus Christ through the richness and goodness of the gift of his grace. This grace lifts us from sin and opens up for us the good life he wishes us to live in him. This is always a work in progress, the picture not being complete until we

reach eternity with him. Each day brings new opportunity to allow the Lord to create us as his work of art, and he invites us anew today to give ourselves to him in complete love and trust.

We pray that we be ready to welcome the Lord into our hearts, that we allow him to work in and through the good gifts he has blessed us with, and that we work with him in drawing the bigger picture of the height and the depth of his

love, especially in our love and service of our smallest and most vulnerable brothers and sisters. Thinking back to Lourdes a wonderful part of God's work of art there is St Bernadette, especially her openness to God and her response to Mary("Our Lady") in helping build there something beautiful for God.

Can we do the same?

Bishop Joseph Toal
Diocese of Argyll and the Isles.

Oban Winter Festival



Above and below - The Sequence Choir sang for a very appreciative audience at the Corran Halls' Studio Theatre, Oban on Monday night as part of Oban's Winter Festival 2012 Pictures - Stephen Lawson



For more on
Oban's Winter Festival 2012
see next week's edition of The Oban Times

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Geo wins Top 32 Trophy with last black in the final frame

Markie Dans 'A' still out on top, but only by a point

LEAGUE leaders Markie Dans 'A' continued a rich vein of form last week when they travelled to Connel to take on The Gluepot, returning home with the victory in what turned out to be a rather comfortable night's work for the defending champions.

With two of the chasing pack The Lancaster 'A' and The Cellar colliding, the two points could prove to be crucial come the end of the season.

The Lancaster 'B' on the back of two comprehensive victories and with home advantage had looked good value to sustain their challenge. However it was The Cellar who announced themselves as serious title contenders with the performance of the season and now look like being the biggest threat to Markie Dans' crown. The Cellar seem to have grown in confidence and stature after capturing last season's Oban Filling Station (OFS) Cup.

The Lancaster 'B' and The Lochavullin might dispute the claim, both remain in touch with the leaders after overturning deficits against The Kelvin and The Claredon respectively. It might have taken six weeks, but Markie Dans 'B' have finally something to cheer about as far as the league is concerned. Following on from the previous week's cup success their quest to avoid the wooden spoon is underway, albeit with the aid of a solitary point against draw specialists The Lochnell.

Results: Lancaster 'A' 3, Cellar 7; Claredon 4 Lochavullin

Team	P	Pts
Markie Dans 'A'	5	9
Lancaster 'B'	5	8
Cellar	5	8
Lochavullin	5	7
Lancaster 'A'	5	6
Lochnell	5	4
Claredon	5	3
Kelvin	5	2
Gluepot	5	2
Markie Dans 'B'	5	1

Last Saturday saw Oban's elite pool players compete at long last for the coveted Top Thirty Two singles trophy.

Due to circumstances outwith the committee's control the competition had been postponed, as it should have been the concluding event of last season.

Nonetheless spectators at the Lancaster Hotel were treated to an exhibition of pool as Oban's finest cue specialists locked horns throughout the afternoon in a straight forward race to three knock-out.

With five of the top eight seeds progressing through to the last eight, mistakes from there on in were always going to come at a premium. The first quarter tie saw Jim Muir quickly depart the competition at the hands of the impressive Geo Adam, and with

his team-mates Colin Maxwell and Gordon McKenzie contesting another, The Cellar were guaranteed two players in the semi-finals. Unfortunately for Gordon his loose control of the cue ball sealed his fate, handing Colin the match after battling to force a deciding frame.

Having flown under the radar for most of the day George 'Podgy' Johnstone's consistency finally paid off against Ian Blair in the quarters game of attrition.

The last quarter final saw defending champion Barry Clark of The Lancaster confirm his semi-final slot defeating the ever improving Paul Kersley, clawing back a two-frame deficit to cap a dogged performance.

Looking to become the first man to defend the title, a much more polished performance saw Barry ease past Colin Maxwell in the first semi-final. The second semi saw the in-form Geo Adam book his place, although 'Podgy' Johnstone can take heart from a spirited performance.

In a somewhat fitting end to a terrific tournament the final went right down to the black ball in the deciding frame. Ultimately there can only be one winner and on this occasion Geo Adam will be the new name on the trophy. Although Barry nearly became the first two-time champion in the competition's history, there was a sense of inevitability that Geo would get his hands on the trophy that had eluded him for the last couple of years.



Tobermory Golf Club annual prizegiving took place in the clubhouse on Saturday, November 17. Our photograph shows the trophy winners with, seated front row left to right: Captain John Wilshire and Eilidh Wilshire, who presented the winners with the various cups and shields. Also taking place that evening was the 100 club draw and the £500 winner was Kath Campbell, £100 Derek MacAdam, £100 Jim Fenouillet, all from Tobermory. The £50 sweep was won by Ewan MacCron. Result of the nine-hole Hangover Trophy - 1 John Wilshire 16 points; 2 Ross Kirsop 16 points; 3 Gordon Chalmers 16 points.

Connel youngster crashes out during last Moto3 race of the season in Valencia

AN UNAVOIDABLE crash in CEV Moto3 season in Valencia from the track unconscious. John McPhee's final race of the season saw the Connel teenager taken. The 18 year old had ambitions



John McPhee - taken from the track unconscious.

MOTORCYCLING

to finish in the top three of the championship but these were dashed on lap six of the 18-lap finale when KTM rider Arthur Sissis fell directly in his path.

With nowhere else to go, John flipped over his fellow Grand Prix rider's bike, knocking himself out in the process.

After undergoing tests in the medical centre, John was allowed to return to the KRP team's motorhome with a sore head but no recollection of the incident.

The riders, who two laps earlier had been contesting the lead, were third and fourth at the time with McPhee looking likely to make the podium and realise his top three goal.

Instead he was bumped down the standings from fourth to seventh by points-scoring finishers Philipp Ott and Marcos Ramirez who crossed the line in fourth and 11th.

A large Oban and Lorn contingent had travelled to Valencia to see the race, the last of the season, before John joins Racing Team Germany for next season's Moto3 World Championship.

Update on Competitions Structure Review

SHINTY

THE Competitions Review Group met last week to collate and discuss the responses and suggestions received from the questionnaire circulated in early October. Nearly 60 responses were received and a summary of key findings plus initial recommendations will now be put to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Following this, initial proposals/options will be circulated to members for further consultation before the end of November.

The Season Review meeting to be held on Saturday, December 1 will provide an important forum for discussion of these proposals, although members will also have the opportunity to comment online and in writing.

Final proposals will be presented at the General Meeting of the Association on Friday, February 1, 2013.

The Camanachd Association would like to thank those individuals and clubs who responded to the questionnaire.

Scottish Amateur results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Scottish Amateur Cup, 3rd round - Dunoon Athletic 2, Star Hearts 4; West of Scotland Cup, 1st round - Mauchline United 0, Oban Saints 2; West of Scotland Cup, 3rd round - Harmony Row 0 Dunoon 4; Coronation Cup, 1st round - Lochgilphead Red Star v Millerston Thistle, postponed; Premier Division Two - Glencastle Sparta 3, Campbeltown Pupils 6; Division 1A - Tarbert v East Kilbride, postponed.

This weekend's fixtures: Premier Division Two - Campbeltown Pupils v Carlton YM; Dunoon v Port OBU; Division 1A - Millbeg v Tarbert; Division 1B - Kings Park Rangers 'B' v Lochgilphead Red Star; West of Scotland Cup, 2nd round - Donaldsons v Dunoon Athletic; Oban Saints v Eastfield.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

ISLAY Golf Club Winter League Week 3 - 1 Neil Johnston 43pts; 2 Neil Carmichael 34pts; 3 Iain MacCuaig 33pts. Css 72

Sports Hall Athletics in Argyll

SPORTS Hall Athletics will once again be promoted in Argyll this winter with the first competition for the Mull and Morvern area being held at Tobermory High School this Saturday, 24th November.

Saturday's competition is the first of 4 area events being held in Argyll this winter and is promoted jointly by Argyll & Bute Local Athletics Partnership and Mull Athletic Club. Qualifiers from the area competitions will be invited to take part in the Argyll Sports Hall Athletics

final to be held on the 23rd February 2013 at Atlantis Leisure in Oban with successful athletes from the Campbeltown, Oban, Lochgilphead and Mull contests taking part.

The next local area competition is at Lochgilphead on Sunday, 2nd December followed on Saturday, 15th December by the Oban event at Atlantis Leisure. The Kintyre contest will take place at Campbeltown Grammar School at the end of January or early February 2013.

Youngsters are reminded

that the Tobermory contest on Saturday starts at 10.30am for the Under 7, Under 9 and Under 11 age groups with entries taken from 10am. The Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17s start at 2pm with entries from 1.30pm. There will be awards for 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall in each age category and an overall trophy for the best primary school. Age is taken as on the 1st September 2012 and an entry fee of £2 per competitor will be levied.

The organisers introduced an Under 7 category at Mull for the

ATHLETICS

first time in 2009 and this will apply again but there will be less events for this age group. Instead of the normal 7 events the under 7 boys and girls will compete in 5 events. There will be no under 7 competition at the Argyll Final as Mull is the only venue where under 7s will take part.

Successful athletes will qualify to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on the 23rd February 2013.

Final Shinty League Tables

The Orion Group Premiership						
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Newtonmore	18	14	2	2	54	22
Kyles Athletic	18	12	3	3	48	31
Lovat	18	9	4	5	39	29
Fort William	18	8	3	7	36	34
Inveraray	18	8	2	8	37	34
Glenquhart	18	8	2	8	32	39
Kingussie	18	7	3	8	40	39
Kinlochshiel	18	6	4	8	43	42
Kilmalie	18	3	2	13	28	49
Bute	18	0	5	13	11	49

Marine Harvest North Division 1						
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Lochaber	18	16	2	0	87	16
Skye	18	12	3	3	44	24
Caberfeidh	18	8	3	7	51	39
Beauly	18	9	1	8	40	40
Inverness	18	5	2	11	29	57
Locharron	18	4	3	11	24	50
Strathglass	18	1	2	15	23	72

Marine Harvest North Division 2						
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Newtonmore	18	14	1	3	76	20
Kinlochshiel	18	9	5	4	36	40
Skye	18	10	2	6	42	22
Glenquhart	18	8	2	6	36	32
Fort William	18	8	0	10	33	36
Kingussie	18	5	6	7	42	45
Aberdeen Uni	18	6	3	9	37	39
Lovat	18	7	1	10	37	47
Glenarry	18	7	1	10	31	42
Lochaber	18	3	3	12	39	76

Marine Harvest South Division 1						
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Oban Camanachd	14	13	1	0	66	11
Glasgow MA	14	10	0	4	40	17
Glenorchy	14	10	0	4	31	18
Taynuilt	14	4	5	5	28	33
Oban Celtic	14	5	1	8	26	38
Strathur	14	3	3	8	19	30
Kilmory	14	3	2	9	23	43
Aberdour	14	2	0	12	11	54

Marine Harvest South Division 2						
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Lochside Rovers	18	17	0	1	98	27
Kyles Athletic	18	13	0	5	75	29
Ballauchulish	18	9	4	5	39	30
Tayforth	18	9	1	8	49	48
Col Glen	18	7	3	8	41	52
Bute	18	7	2	9	47	47
Inveraray	18	6	3	9	46	52
Aberdour	18	5	2	11	35	64
Ardnamurchan	18	5	1	12	44	49
Glasgow MA	18	4	0	14	19	95

Marine Harvest North Division 3						
Team	P	W	D	L	F	A
Beauly	18	15	2	1	102	21
Bolaskine	18	12	3	3	73	40
Lochnoon	18	12	2	4	57	29
Kilmalie	18	10	3	5	73	41
Locharron	18	9	1	8	46	46
Caberfeidh	18	9	0	9	51	47
Strathpey	18	5	2	11	39	71
Lewis Camanachd	18	3	2	13	26	69
Strathglass	18	3	2	13	27	79
Inverness	18	3	1	14	20	71



All you have to do
We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.
The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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The Lochgilphead Golf Club competition winners at the annual prize winning ceremony.

Lochgilphead Golf Club hand out the prizes

LOCHGILPHEAD Golf Club held its annual prize giving ceremony last Saturday evening with 45 members and guests being wined and dined before dancing the night away to the Ryan McGlynn Ceilidh Band.

Captain Stewart Lytner welcomed everyone to the club and invited his lovely wife, Norma, to present the trophies to the gathered winners.

Tribute
He also paid tribute to Colin Penman and Stuart Watson who whilst not winning anything in this, their first full competitive season, have become valued players with the club.

Golfers won a host of awards throughout 2012.
David Lister: Marie Curie Trophy, RNLI Medal, Macaulay Cup, Nett Champions Trophy and MacKenzie Cup, which was won with P.Sinclair, Ryan McGlynn; Nicholas Cierella Memorial Trophy, July Trophy, Ann Williams Shield and Open Trophy, Simon Taylor; Sargent Cancer Trophy, Jimmy Lister; Centenary Cup, Charity Cup, Burgh Cup and Club Championship Tro-

WIN £750

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
G MacNeill
Bowmore, Islay
V Currie
Bowmore, Islay

GOLF

phy. Kenny Crawford: Help For Heroes Trophy. Roddy MacDonald: Captain Champion Trophy. David Lister: September Trophy and Miss Campbell Decanter. Alex MacAulay: Jubilee Plate and Downhill Trophy. Stewart Lister: August Trophy.

Tom Campbell won the award for best suggestion at an open meeting with Andrew Kennedy winning best dancer of the evening award.

Cowal & Bute Ladies appeal for shinty coach

WOMEN'S SHINTY

COWAL and Bute Ladies Camanachd, better known as 'The Cowgirls' are looking for a volunteer manager/coach for the start of next season, due to the current manager retiring.
Please contact Lindsay Mitchell for further details either on Facebook or by email to lindsaykennie@hotmail.com.

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Saints march on in West of Scotland Cup with impressive away win in Ayrshire

'As soon as we saw the pitch we knew we would be in for a tough game'

West of Scotland Cup
1st Round
**Mauchline United 0
Oban Saints 2**

SAINTS made the long trip to Ayrshire to take on Mauchline United in the first round of the West of Scotland Cup and it was a happy Oban contingent that travelled back up the road with a hard-fought 2-0 win under their belts.

The Oban side were hit by three late call-offs - Mattie Rippon, Craig MacEwan and Chris Graham all had to pull out for various reasons, so the club would like to thank Daniel Cameron for stepping in at the last minute.

Thankfully the club have a big pool of players, but with Asen Gaydardzhiev still on holiday in Bulgaria, Jamie Graham recovering from an ankle operation and Marc MacCallum suspended the resources were stretched a bit. However, a strong 14-man squad made the trip to Mauchline for the game.

Culture shock

The pitch at the Ayrshire town was a bit of a culture shock for the Oban boys as it lay on a distinct slope and one of the lads remarked after the game that it was like playing on the side of Ben Nevis.

The home team had the first chance in the 4th minute, but keeper Daniel Cassells saved low down from a Josh Muir shot.

The visitors came storming back and created a good chance when Donald Campbell squared the ball for Eddie Swift, but Swift's effort sailed over the bar.

Eddie had another great opportunity in the 14th minute when Myles McAuley played him through the middle one-on-one with the keeper, but he delayed too long and Mark Higgins managed to knock the ball away for a corner and a good chance was missed.

Left hand post

However, the Obanside opened the scoring two minutes later when Dene Cassells flighted a great free kick to Donald Campbell. Donnie brought the ball down, cut inside his marker and fired a shot in off the keeper's left hand post and into the net.

Saints were playing some good stuff on a heavy pitch and

created a chance when Donald Campbell and Ross Maitland combined to set up Myles McAuley, but the midfielder's effort went over the bar.

The Oban lads were controlling the game, but United looked dangerous on the break with Josh Muir proving a handful for the Saints defence and he came



Oban Saints midfielder Myles McAuley.

close with a header in the 31st minute.

Ross Maitland and Donald Campbell worked a clever free kick between themselves in the 26th minute, but Ross's shot whistled past the post.

However, the visitors increased their lead in the 36th minute when Mauchline skipper Andy Cartner handled the ball in the box leaving referee Ross Fisher, who had a good game, no option but to point to the penalty spot. Donald Campbell stepped up to

drill the ball home to make the score 2-0.

Both teams can take credit for playing some good football on a tricky surface. There was no further scoring with Saints good value for their 2-0 lead.

It was the home team who started the second half on top, but they were finding the Saints back line a hard nut to crack as the experienced defenders were giving nothing away, although keeper Daniel Cassells made a brilliant save in the 56th minute touching a Josh Muir effort on to the crossbar and out for a corner.

Saints were finding it hard to get the fluency in their play that they had in the first half and it was the home side who were pushing forward looking to get back into the match, but the visitors were defending well and Daniel Cassells was dealing with any high balls that came into the box.

The visitors were awarded a free kick some 30 yards out and United keeper Mark Higgins made a great save touching Willie Gemmell's pile-driver over the bar.

Worked hard

Saints took off Eddie Swift, who had worked hard all afternoon, replacing him with Lewis Cameron in attack as they tried to put the home defence under pressure.

The home side were pushing more men forward as the clock ran down, but Saints manager Iain Jackson countered this by putting on new signing Daniel Cameron in place of Ross

Women's Camanachd AGM

THE Women's Camanachd Association 2012 AGM will be held in the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Sunday at 1.30pm.

With this being the most important meeting of the year, the current committee would like to see as many people there as possible.

Each women's club in the Marine Harvest National Division 1, North Division 2 and South Division 2 should send representatives to the meeting.

The WCA would also like to extend an invitation to all those involved or interested in the future and development of

women's shinty and anyone who feels that they can contribute to both the meeting and the 2013 season.

It should be noted that due to a change in work commitments, both the president and secretary positions on the committee are available for re-election.

Anyone who would like to request more information or a job description on either posts should email womens.shinty@goolemail.com

The WCA committee would like to put forward the following proposals:

- That a development sub-com-

FOOTBALL

Maitland to give extra cover at the back. He also introduced PJ Sinclair to take over from Alan Miller on the right hand side of midfield.

Both teams battled away for the remaining minutes, but there was no further scoring and an excellent first half performance from Saints was good enough to get the Oban side through a tough game against a resolute Mauchline outfit.

Saints had one supporter at the match, former Dunbeg FC team manager Iain 'Tanno' MacDonal, who now lives near Irvine.

Slope

Manager Iain Jackson said: 'As soon as we saw the pitch we knew we would be in for a tough game. It had a pronounced slope, the grass was a bit long and it was pretty heavy, but the lads were excellent especially in the first 45 minutes. Mauchline put us under pressure in the second half, but we defended well and we fully deserve to be in the next round.'

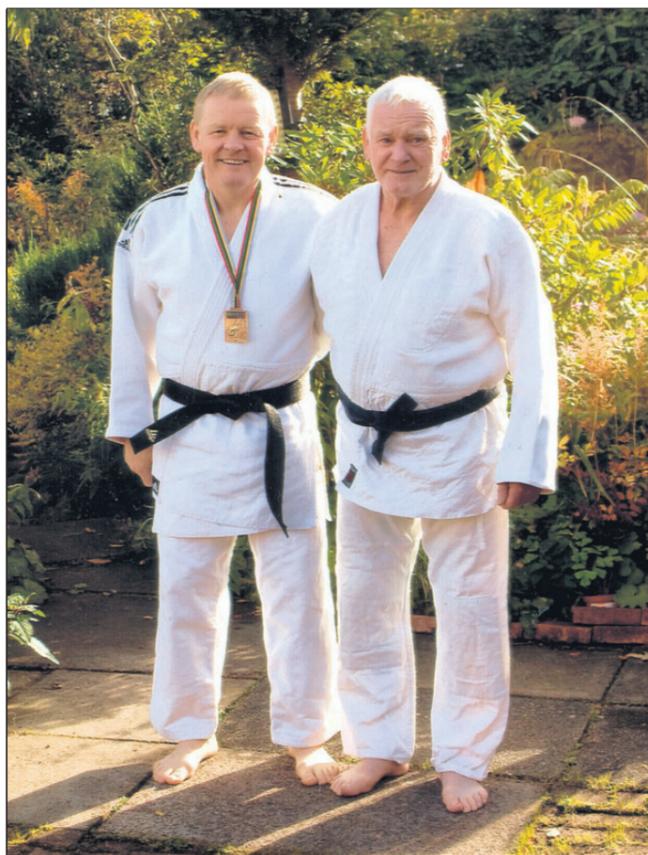
Saints continue on West of Scotland Cup duty this Saturday with a tough home tie against top Central Scottish League side Eastfield. The match will be played at Glencruitten with a 1.30pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Jimmy Lister from Lochgilphead. The game has to be finished on the day, so extra time and penalties, if required, will decide who takes on Pollok in the 3rd round.

WOMEN'S SHINTY

mittee should be established, to oversee the development camp, improve links between school, university and league shinty, and to increase participation in women's shinty.

- That Skye Camanachd Ladies Shinty Club should play all league home games on Saturdays (for the 2013 season as a trial period).

- That the number of 'free weekends' which clubs are allowed, should be reduced to one (in line with the Camanachd Association).



Congratulating Drew Thomson, left, on his recent win at the British Judo Masters in Northern Ireland is his father, former coach and biggest supporter, Bill. Drew returned to competitive judo for the first time in around 20 years by attending the veterans' event at the end of September and was surprised to come back to Scotland with a gold medal. Now staying in Glenlyon, Drew formerly lived in Oban, where his proud father still resides.

Mull rugby player steps up to National League with Kelso

A RUGBY player who turned out for Mull in West Division 3 at the start of this season has been experiencing first team action in the game's second tier with Kelso just three months on.

Scott MacColl, from Glenelg, near Tobermory, was recommended to Kelso by a former player during a coaching session at Heriot Watt University, where Scott studies civil engineering and is the current university team captain.

Scott, who plays at number eight, said the step up to the National League was a challenge, but one challenge he is relishing.

The 21 year old told The Oban

Times: 'I had been playing with the Stewart's Melville second team but I didn't really feel I was given a chance to play first team, so when Kelso asked me to train with them, I went for it.'

'The pace of the game at this level is a lot quicker than I'm used to but it has made me get fitter and it is a challenge I am up for.'

Scott insists the fact Kelso play in black and white - the same colours as his native Mull - was purely coincidental but he has been receiving great support from his old team.

'People on Mull have been pleased for me and are keeping in touch about how their games are going.'

'A few of the Mull boys came to watch me play a cup match in Selkirk, as it was the day before Scotland played New Zealand at Murrayfield and they were in Edinburgh for that.'

Scotland captain Ross Ford is a former Kelso player but Scott says he has no ambitions to play professionally - yet.

'I am just looking to get a regular game for Kelso just now and that may be my level but if the chance comes to play at a higher standard I would have to think about it.'

RUGBY



Scott MacColl playing for Heriot Watt University.

Oban Saints youths results and fixtures

YOUTH FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's results: Scottish Cup, 3rd round - Antonine v Under 13s, postponed. League games - Milngavie 3, Under 14s 10. On target for Saints were Jay Cooper (4), Lomond MacPherson (3), and Arik MacKechnie (3). Under 15s 0, Clydebank 4; Under 16s 1, Allander 2. Saints scorer was Stewart Twort. Regional Cup - St Conval's 2, Under 17s 3. Scoring for Saints were Aidan Campbell, Shaun McIvor and Donald MacCallum

This weekend's fixtures: Scottish Cup, 4th round - Riverside v Under 13s; Regional Cup - Rossvale v Under 14s. League - FC Thistle v Under 15s; Under 16s no game.

Over 35s League

INDOOR FOOTBALL

LATEST scores from the Indoor Over 35s League: Clements 5 Spartak 1; Hydro 2, Sail Trim Coach 3; Teachers 4, West Coast Massive 6

Oban golfer in Scottish Golf Union Performance Squad

GOLF

A YOUNG Oban golfer has been officially recognised as one of the country's most promising players after being included in a new Scotland Boys Squad.

Robert MacIntyre, who plays at Glencruitten Golf Club, is one of seven juniors included in the elite Performance Squad of the Scottish Golf Union.

This is incorporated within a new approach from the union, which will see four National Squads in place for the 2013 season: a Men's Performance and Men's Transitional group, as well as a Juniors Performance Squad and a Development Squad.



Robert MacIntyre. 14750601

The boys' Performance Squad includes Scottish Youths Champion Ewan Scott (St. Andrews) and Great Britain and Ireland Boys cap Bradley Neil (Blairgowrie).

Scottish Golf Performance Manager Steve Paulding, who came into his role three years ago from a background in cycling and athletics, said: 'All the players in the National Squads deserve their place thanks to their progression and performances to date. What I now require from each of them is more hard work and commitment.'

'Most people would say you can't afford to run big squads, because if you run big squads you've got to dilute what you do.'

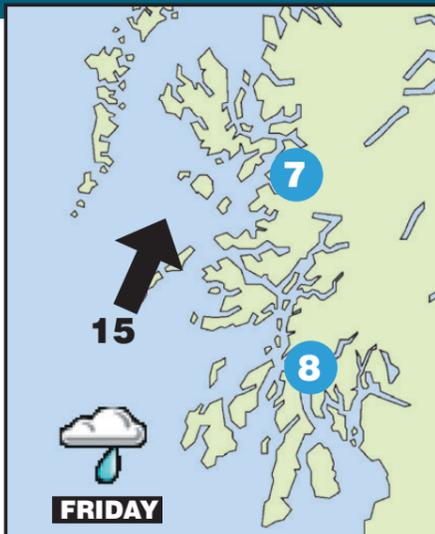
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 7C to 11°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 8°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, November 22, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.40 2.8 06.35 1.6 13.29 3.3 19.24 1.7	
Fri	02.03 2.9 07.53 1.6 14.28 3.3 20.31 1.7	
Sat	02.50 3.1 08.59 1.5 15.12 3.5 21.20 1.6	
Sun	03.24 3.3 09.50 1.4 15.48 3.6 22.00 1.5	
Mon	03.58 3.5 10.33 1.4 16.22 3.7 22.35 1.3	
Tues	04.33 3.7 11.11 1.3 16.56 3.8 23.10 1.2	
Wed	05.08 3.8 11.46 1.3 17.31 3.9 23.46 1.*	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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Fort William parents defend their school

Council clarifies plans

EXCLUSIVE
By RICHARD HADDOCK
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ANGRY parents have forced Highland Council to clarify plans for the future of Fort William Primary School after fears it was set to close next summer.

Rumours had been circulating ahead of a hush-hush meeting on Tuesday night that the 25-pupil school would be shut down following the retirement of head teacher Sue Commander in June.

Fort William is scheduled for closure for 2015 and merged with Upper Achintore Primary in a new building on Lundavra Road.

Highland Council senior education officer Norma Young, who arranged the closed-doors meeting, met around 20 concerned parents.

The Oban Times was asked to leave before proceedings began - despite strong protests from parents present.

Ms Young said the meeting was strictly for parents only and not for the public.

One dad called the exclusion move 'disgusting', while a mum said: 'This is our school, we should put this to a vote.'

Speaking after the briefing, Ms Young said it had been agreed to start the search for a new head teacher after P1 enrolment in February.

Strongly denying early closure of the school had ever been on the cards, she told *The Oban Times*: 'I don't know where that came from, it was certainly not from the council. There was absolutely no suggestion of that.'

'We remain on track for amalgamation as per the timetable previously agreed with the parents.'

Bradley O'Neill, who has children at the school, told *The Oban Times* parents welcomed the search for a new head but maintained some concerns still remained. He said: 'It's a fantastic school and that's why we are all so passionate about it. We were all very animated and I think she was a bit shocked by the turnout. Our only reservation is what happens if they can't find someone to fill the post. We'll be watching closely from now on.'



David MacFarlane battles the floods during Monday's deluge.

Spean Bridge hit by flash floods

PARTS of Spean Bridge were hit by flash floods on Monday morning after torrential rain deluged the West Highlands.

Properties below the road up to the train station came close to being inundated but the rain stopped just in time.

David and Liz MacFarlane's home was one of those worst affected with water a foot deep in their garage.

Mr MacFarlane told *The Oban Times*: 'It started

just before 9am - I don't know where the water was coming from.

'It was pouring down a bank and ran along the road and into my garden, which is the lowest point of the road. It came up really quickly but then the rain stopped and it was gone after an hour and a half. I thought I would be spending the day baling out. The council boys were very good out the front - they did their bit with the drains. But this was definitely the worst I have seen it here.'

Skye woman crashes in freak hailstorm



The accident scene on the A863 near Drynoch on Saturday afternoon. Photograph by The Tartan Lens.

A DUNVEGAN woman had a lucky escape on Saturday afternoon after her car crashed off the A863 road during a freak hailstorm.

Around an inch of slush and hail had made road conditions between Drynoch and Gesto treacherous. First on the scene was Portree man Billy Duncan who reported the woman was uninjured, though badly shaken.

Mr Duncan gave the lady, a B&B owner, a lift back to her home. He told *The Oban Times*: 'The lady was shaking. She came round the bend and slid on the hailstones. The whole road was covered.'

Battle looms over green group's job appointment

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS

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ONE OF the West Highlands' most active green organisations could face legal proceedings over the appointment of a new project officer, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) chose Kendra Turnbull after holding interviews for the post in Fort William on November 3.

But two unsuccessful candidates, Strontian husband and wife Robert and Justine Dunn claim they were unfairly denied the job.

The aggrieved couple say they put in hundreds of unpaid hours compiling a complex bid for LEG to continue the Lochaber Initiative on Fuel and Energy (LIFE) project for a further 30 months.

The application for £115,131 of Climate Challenge Fund (CCF) cash got the green light from Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB) on August 21.

The bid was largely based on the previous LIFE scheme Mr and Mrs Dunn ran for 12 months to March 31 on a jobshare, self-employed basis.

Along with trained local volunteers, the couple advised and supported Lochaber householders and schools on cutting energy bills, fuel consumption and carbon emissions.

Positive feedback from local people, head teachers and 16 Lochaber community councils formed a crucial part of the bid documentation.

A letter from then LEG chairman Bill Barber recommending



Robert Dunn: rejected for job

a complaint with the LEG director responsible for monitoring the interview process, but received no response.

The Duns contacted lawyers on Tuesday to pursue a possible claim against LEG for 'mental anguish' and loss of earnings.

They say they have been living on savings while working unpaid for LEG, which is based at An Drochaid in Claggan, since March 31.

Recouping consultancy fees associated with preparing the CCF bid is also being considered while a third action, involving allegations made against the Duns at the time of interview, could also be raised.

Mr Dunn accepted the legal bid could fail, but was prepared to spend £200 'to give us peace of mind'.

He said: 'We never asked a penny for our work from anybody. If LEG had told us they didn't want us in March and to quietly disappear we would have said fine. But nobody said that.'

'It has been a horrific experience and overall we feel betrayed and let down. But they have their £115,000 project.'

He added: 'I know in effect we backed ourselves for the job and would reap the rewards of our labours - how wrong we were.'

Former LEG chairman Mr Barber said the legal moves were 'a shame' but Mr Dunn's complaints should have been addressed.

'It is far from satisfactory for LEG and particularly hard on the Duns,' he said.

The Oban Times tried to contact Mr Pimborough but a colleague at the Lifestyles Project at An Drochaid said he was out of mobile range.

Paris to Fort William for football story

FORT William FC may be languishing at the bottom of the Highland League, but this weekend they will become the focus of international attention.

Joachim Barber, a football writer at Paris-based sports magazine So Foot, is travelling to Lochaber for a two-day visit to write an extensive article on the club.

Mr Barber is due to arrive in Fort William on Friday with a photographer and will meet some of the players in the evening before covering their

game against Brora Rangers on Saturday. Fort committee member Davie MacDonald told *The Oban Times* Mr Barber first got in touch around two months ago. He said: 'He found me on Facebook and sent me a message asking about coming over. Paris to Fort William seems like a long way to come for a story, but he seems to be a genuine football guy.'

The monthly magazine is on sale in a number of European countries including France, Belgium and Switzerland.



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Heart start machines for Fort William

LOCHABER Rotary Club and Fort William Pubwatch have teamed up to supply and install 10 defibrillators in the town.

A defibrillator gives the heart an electric shock following cardiac arrest and is particularly valuable in rural areas. The Rotary is providing around £400 of funding for the scheme.

The first machine will be installed in the Alexandra Hotel and dedicated to the late Dr Gavin Brown of the Belford Hospital, who set up the local Heartstart Club to support people with heart problems.

Rotary president Sheana Fraser said: 'Research shows that every minute that passes without defibrillation decreases the chances of survival and we strongly support this initiative to strategically locate defibrillators around our local area.'

Armed robber injures elderly Caol centre shopkeeper

A LOCHABER community was stunned after an armed robbery left an elderly shopkeeper in hospital.

A man brandishing a knife entered knitwear store Togs in Caol shopping centre before threatening and assaulting shop owner Jenny Markland.

Mrs Markland, of Ballachulish, suffered a minor injury and was taken to Belford Hospital for treatment.

Joyce Fraser of nearby hairdressers Caol Cuts said Caol had been left 'shocked' by the incident last Thursday at 5.30pm.

She told *The Oban Times*: 'I can't believe it's happened here. I don't remember anything like this ever happening before.'

'It's sad the knock-on effect that it's

had. We won't be able to open late on Thursdays anymore. We normally only have one person working but I don't know if that's safe now.'

Police said the culprit was white, between 5ft 10in and 6ft tall, of large build and was wearing a dark blue fleece, dark coloured trousers and a dark beanie hat with a peak.

The man was last seen walking quickly or running in the Glenloy Street area.

A Northern Constabulary spokesperson said: 'Investigations are ongoing and we are still looking for information from the public which could resolve this incident.'

Fort William police can be contacted on 01397 702361 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

Golden girl Katherine to deliver royal society lecture

OLYMPIC rowing gold medalist Katherine Grainger

MBE will deliver the latest of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's public lectures in Lochaber High School on Tuesday December 11 at 7pm.

Glasgow-born Katherine has won six rowing World Championships, three silver Olympic medals and a gold medal at the 2012 London Olympic Games. She will talk on the challenges she has faced along with her successes over the past 12 years. To book a seat at the free event call the RSE events team on 0131 240 2780.

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'Legal high' warning

FORT William police have warned of the possible dangers of using 'legal highs' - substances which produce similar effects to illegal drugs.

Legal highs, such as the recently banned mephedrone or 'M-cat', are new substances which are often not illegal because not enough research has been carried out to determine if they are dangerous.

Fort William community safety officer Ian Fraser said: "They have not been tested on humans and could cause all sorts of serious long-term and short-term health issues, even when taken for the first time."

"The risk is even greater if the legal high is combined with alcohol or with another type of drug."

Award-winning writer Morvern bound

AWARD-winning author and poet Jackie Kay is to be the Scottish Book Trust's first writer in residence in Morvern.

Ms Kay will stay at the Ardtornish Estate Retreat, a partnership between the trust and the estate backed by top author Alexander McCall Smith. During her time in Morvern, Ms Kay will work on her novel *Bystander* and create a new piece of work exclusively for the trust.

Trust chief executive officer Marc Lambert said the residency was "a world-class creative opportunity for writers of note".

Ardtornish director Hugh Raven hoped Ms Kay would find Ardtornish "an inspiring and peaceful place to write".

Ms Kay, who was awarded an MBE in 2006, said she was looking forward to having time and space for "proper contemplation".



Jackie Kay: at Ardtornish.

New firm wins top award

AN ARISAIG-based business has scooped a top industry prize for its success since setting up earlier this year.

Fuze Ceremonies won the Glasgow Caledonian University award for new business with greatest community impact.

Anne Widdop and Victoria Bisland also received a £5,000 cash prize at the Entrepreneurial Spark presentation in Glasgow. The company specialises in offering humanist ceremonies.

Craft and food festival

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is holding its annual craft and food festival in the Nevis Centre on Saturday from 10.30am.

Santa, his 'little helpers' Ellie MacLennan and Lea MacLennan and the Cairngorm Reindeer Team from Aviemore will arrive shortly after 11am.

The event will feature more than 60 craft and food stalls, club president Sheana Fraser said. Last year the festival attracted more than 2,000 visitors.

Former hotel hosts new music gathering

A FORMER North Uist hotel is to host a new week-long music seminar in 2013.

"Hebridean Tunes" in Newton Lodge near Lochmaddy will run from March 11-16.

The Angus Nicolson Trio and BA Applied Music course students and staff from Lews Castle College in Benbecula will provide tuition.

The 1880s building near Lochmaddy was formerly the Newton House Hotel before being turned back into a private residence by Roger Wake in 1972. It is currently owned by his daughter.

Rollover jackpot

A ROLLOVER jackpot of £200 is up for grabs in this weekend's Fort William FC weekly lotto draw after no-one won the cash prize last week.

The lotto numbers last week were 05-06-09.



Club still rolling after 25 years

Lochaber Artistic Roller Skating Club celebrated 25 years with a spectacular show at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday night. 'Silver Wheels' saw youngsters and senior skaters from across the region strut their stuff for the delighted audience with a mix of individual and group performances. Club secretary Marjory Currie said: "I would like to thank the many businesses, individuals and committee members who contributed to our 25th anniversary show. The night was a great success and we gratefully appreciated the amount of support received on the night and over the past 25 years." Committee member Frieda Alexander said: "We are extremely proud of all the youngsters we have coached." 20_1477roller01

Woodland crofting in seminar spotlight

HOW TO become a woodland crofter will be the focus of a Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) seminar in the GALE Centre in Gairloch today.

A new website, www.woodlandcrofts.org, will soon follow to explain the ethos of woodland crofting, as well as legal and practical considerations. It will feature a Woodland Crofts Register of Interest to match up people wanting a woodland croft with those who have them available or plan to develop them.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise is funding the event, the latest in a series run by the Woodland Crofts Partnership comprising the SCF, the Community Woodlands Association and the Highlands Small Communities Housing Trust.

MSPs tour Marine Harvest operations



Marine Harvest Glenfinnan site manager Sandy MacKinnon, MSP Rob Gibson and Marine Harvest business support manager Steve Bracken head down Loch Shiel.

RURAL Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee MSPs toured Marine Harvest operations in Lochaber last weekend - on foot and by boat.

The parliamentarians viewed the new smolt production plant being built at Lochailort and the processing plant on Blar Mhor Industrial Estate.

The fact-finding visit also included a trip down Loch Shiel by motorboat to the firm's freshwater site and Drimsallie Mill hatchery on Loch Arkaig, where Marine Harvest is working alongside the River Lochy Association to restore native River Lochy salmon and sea trout populations.

The committee is currently scrutinising the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill, which is set to reform both wild and farmed fisheries.

Committee convener Rob Gibson said: "The farmed fishing industry is a significant employer in the Fort William area, whilst the wild angling sector attracts thousands of visitors to our rivers and their preservation is critical for our environment."

"This has been invaluable for the committee to see and will help inform their scrutiny of the Bill."

Cadet death Army major fined £5,000

Family regard prosecutions 'far from complete'

AN ARMY major in charge of a botched cadet training exercise on a South Uist loch, during which a 14-year-old girl drowned, was fined £5,000 on Monday.

Major George McCallum had earlier pled guilty at Inverness Sheriff Court to health and safety failures in relation to the death of Kaylee McIntosh from Fyvie, Aberdeenshire, on Loch Carnan in 2007.

Sheriff William Taylor QC told the 52-year-old veteran he would have been given a higher penalty had it not been for his guilty plea.

Kaylee died after being trapped under a capsized speedboat by a lifejacket designed for a soldier in full combat gear, which prevented her from swimming free.

The craft was also overloaded by two persons and no roll call was taken following the accident, the court heard.

Kaylee's distraught parents Derek and Lesley McIntosh



Kaylee McIntosh: drowned on South Uist in 2007.

hoped the Crown Office would ensure "outstanding criminal proceedings are now swiftly advanced against others culpable in respect of Kaylee's death".

They said: "We would like to thank Sheriff Taylor for his kind words and for making us feel he is as outraged as us regarding

what happened to Kaylee. No parent should have to endure what we have - the taking away of one so young and so dear for the very worst of reasons - that those she thought were there to provide for her safety, to look after her, to see her back to the warmth, love and safety of her home, could not be bothered

taking numerous basic, yet fundamental, precautions any one of which, if taken, might have seen Kaylee still with us today.

"We will never forget her, her warm smile, infectious laughter and the love she gave us. We think of her every minute of every day."

Thompsons Solicitors, the family's counsel, successfully sued the Ministry of Defence.

Partner Glen Millar said the McIntosh family regard the matter of prosecutions arising from Kaylee's death as "far from complete".

"Major McCallum was but one of a number of individuals implicated in the Fatal Accident Inquiry findings and in the report of the Marine Accident Investigation Branch," he said.

"I am now instructed to write to the Lord Advocate enquiring as to what progress, if any, there has been towards prosecution of other culpable parties in this most tragic of cases."



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Charity hands out £23,000

A CHARITY set up by a Lochailort husband and wife has donated almost £23,000 to various good causes over the past year.

And Kirsty's Kids is now looking for a final push of donations to reach their winter appeal target of £4,000.

The charity was set up by John Bryden and his wife Jan in memory of their daughter Kirsty who died in a car crash on the A830 Road to the Isles in 2010, aged 20.

Mr Bryden raised well over £10,000 last year by circumnavigating Great Britain on his motorbike and a number of other fundraising events have been held across the country, including 'Come

Dine With Me' nights. Among the various causes the money raised has gone to are - £5,000 to Over the Wall summer camp for youngsters with serious illnesses; £5,500 to Children's Hospice Association Scotland for specialist beds; £5,000 for a CHAS summer camp and £960 to Kilmarnock Special School in Cupar for light and sound sensory equipment.

Donations Mr Bryden said: "We would like to thank everyone for your continued support and ask that the donations keep coming in."

"We are only as good as our volunteers fundraisers and those who donate time, money, sponsorship and equipment to help us on our fundraising events."

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Thieves target power tools throughout Lorn

POWERTOOLS worth thousands of pounds have been stolen from vehicles across Lorn during a spate of thefts over a week.

The overnight thefts, which police believe are linked, began between November 11 and 12 when thieves entered an unsecured car to steal a power tool worth £100.

Between November 13 and 14 in North Connel, an orange and silver compression gun worth £1,500 and associated tools, a battery-powered impact driver and a battery powered torch were taken from a vehicle. The total value of items stolen is around £2,500.

Elsewhere in North Connel, thieves forced entry to a vehicle to steal four chainsaws totalling £3,400 in value.

At Lochawe's St Conan's Road windows on two vehicles were smashed to allow thieves to steal power tools and sanders and in another part of the village thieves again smashed vehicle windows to take a large quantity of power tools from inside.

Oban Police chief inspector Brian Auld said: 'I would urge people to lock their vehicles overnight, leaving them in a well lit place. If you have to leave valuable items inside, make sure they cannot be seen from outside the vehicle.'

Ella exits X Factor

X FACTOR star Ella Henderson's fanbase was left reeling after her shock exit from the competition on Sunday night but her Oban family insists she has a future in the music industry.

The 16-year-old's aunt and uncle, Angie and Andrew Henderson, who live in Dunollie, hosted X Factor parties and encouraged people around the town to vote for their girl.

Andrew said: 'We are gutted that Ella went out. She didn't deserve to go but we know this is only the start of things for her.'

Indecent images

FOLLOWING a two-year investigation by police in Oban, a 43-year old man who formerly lived in the Benderloch area has been charged with possessing indecent images of children.

The man is due to appear at court in Oban next week.



Councillors Iain MacDonald and Elaine Robertson, right, survey the Dunbeg housing site with West Highland Housing Association chairman Murray Sim and chief executive Lesley McInnes. 16_1475ite03

Housing hope springs from Dunbeg plan

'Desperate' housing situation will be tackled, says councillor

THE START of construction work on a new housing site at Dunstaffnage has been hailed as a major step forward in tackling Argyll and Bute's 'desperate' housing situation.

Councillor Iain MacDonald, Argyll and Bute Council's deputy lead councillor for housing, was at the West Highland Housing Association (WHHA) site next to Dunstaffnage Science Park to run his eye over the plans, along with fellow ward member councillor Elaine Robertson.

Phase one of the housing project is now underway to build 50 new homes, including six three-bedroom houses, eight two-bedroom houses and 36 flats.

WHHA has been able to pay for the project by selling the land to funders Link Housing Association. The total land available could potentially see 150 new homes being built in the Dunbeg corridor.

Councillor MacDonald said: 'This project is so important to the area because the current situation in housing is desperate.'

'We have huge problems in tackling the housing shortage in this area and this development is hopefully just the beginning of many more housing developments to come.'

The Dunbeg development, which should be completed in early 2014, begins as Argyll and Bute Council tries to cope with a housing waiting list of 529 applicants in Oban alone, with the

current figure in Argyll and Bute standing at 3,590.

Councillor MacDonald has praised WHHA for finding an 'innovative' way of funding the project.

WHHA chairman Murray Sim said: 'This is a partnership project with Link, in which we are acting as the development and management agent. We had to do it this way, as lending from banks was proving difficult.'

'It means new houses are being built in Argyll but our present business model is not impacted, which is good news for our existing tenants. We are grateful for Scottish Government and Argyll and Bute Council support. Their financial assistance makes projects like this possible.'

Winter Fest brings light and laughter to Oban

OBAN came alive with light and laughter last weekend as the second Winter Festival launched.

Events included Starlight Express roller skating at Atlantis Leisure, a Comedy Club in the Corran Halls and a food and drink market at Oban Distillery - including free tastings and a live cookery demonstration from an award winning chef.

Now all eyes are on the grand finale this weekend - and a few spectacular secrets.

Committee member Pamela Lockhart said: 'The festival has been going great. Last year we were having to sell the tickets to people but this year they are just sold out.'

'Sunday is our big finale day. There will be fire art - performers who were at T in the Park will be juggling with fire.'

'It has been a big secret so far but Tara Coia from Dunollie has been working on a special lantern for us in the distillery.'

'She is making us a steam train. It will fit over her car and she will drive it down in the parade. Children have been busy making lanterns too and will be behind Tara in the parade with them. As usual it will be led by Oban High School Pipe Band.'

The parade will be followed by a food court and entertainment at the distillery before fireworks and one last surprise in the finale. This weekend will see the arrival of a 40 foot Victorian style carousel at the Corran Halls along with other rides.

The Corran Halls will also host the Big Fat Electric Ceilidh on Friday night which combines ceilidh and club music.

Major roadworks underway throughout Oban town centre

DRIVERS should brace themselves for major roadworks through Oban's town centre when work to resurface part of George Street gets underway next Sunday.

As part of a £150,000 package of works, Transerv Scotland is currently resurfacing the town's Esplanade and has a three-vehicle convoy system in place to allow for quick traffic flow.

As of next week, attention will focus on George Street, from the roundabout at the bottom of the Bealach an Righ to the Stafford Street junction, which will become a two-way street between 9pm and 6am on Sunday when the Esplanade closes for one night only.

The following night, Monday, November 26, the Esplanade

will become two-way as George Street is closed between Craigard Road and Stafford Street.

From Tuesday November 27 until Tuesday December 4 resurfacing work will take place on George Street from Stafford Street to Airds Place.

Overnight
This means a convoy system will be in place, with work being carried out overnight between 9pm and 6am, excluding Friday and Saturday.

On Wednesday December 5 the Esplanade will be closed overnight and George Street will be closed the following night as the work is brought to its conclusion.

To allow the works to be carried out, there is no on-street parking on Dunollie Road, George Street,

Corran Esplanade, Stafford Street and Albany Terrace until December 7 and Transerv has posted notices beside affected bays.

Although the George Street resurfacing work is being carried out overnight, Scotland Transerv says the noisier aspects of the work will be done first, to reduce the impact on residents.

These roadworks were first announced seven years ago but work by utility companies stalled the project until 2009.

In 2010, then council roads spokesman councillor Duncan MacIntyre was told work would be completed in 2011 - but plans took another backwards step when in March 2011 it was announced the project's funding was in jeopardy.

Kilchrenan community gain £1.6m over 25 years

COMMUNITIES in and around Avich and Kilchrenan are set to benefit from a £1.6m windfall over the next 25 years.

The cash will be paid out by GreenPower, which is building a windfarm of 20 turbines around the summit of Carrag Ghael, eight kilometres west of Kilchrenan.

GreenPower (Carrag Ghael) Ltd announced the community fund on Tuesday, indicating payments of £46,000 would be made to the community fund every year for the next 25 years, the lifespan of the windfarm.

A consultation process during December and January will help determine how the fund should be shared to surrounding communities.

David Price, secretary of Avich and Kilchrenan Community

Council said they welcomed the 'long awaited announcement'.

He added: 'We are happy to work together with other community councils to agree a distribution model that is proportionate. We think it is important that the fund distribution does reflect the level of exposure everyone has to the windfarm.'

'We want to fully engage with the consultation and GreenPower to ensure every community gets the best result from the consultation period.'

The Carrag Ghael Wind Farm has been under construction during 2012 and will be switched on and generating electricity in Spring 2013.

Payments into the community fund will be index linked in to keep pace with inflation.

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Clear Vision in Retirement
By John Wallace

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Oban cocaine dealer had more than £800 party 'gift'

AN OBAN drug dealer was sent to prison for a year after being found with hundreds of pounds worth of cocaine while in a pub in the town.

Ross Maclellan, 22, of 19a Glencruitten Drive, admitted

being concerned in the supply of cocaine on February 2 when he appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

The court heard as a result of police intelligence a number of officers went to the bar and found

Maclellan in the toilets with another male. He left and sat at a table when he saw police.

Prosecutor Fiscal Eoin McGinty said: 'Police approached the table and informed the accused and the other male that they would

be detained for the purposes of a drug search.

'As he stood up he was seen to have an item in his hand. Police recovered the item which was a lottery ticket with a small cellophane bag containing lumps

of white powder.' Maclellan was taken to Oban Police Office where a further bag of white powder was found between his buttocks.

The two bags contained a total of 20.82 grams of cocaine with a street value of more than £800.

Defending, Sandy Mitchell said: 'His intention was to share it with friends at a party. He was prepared to gift to them amounts that he had.'

'He didn't intend to sell it to anyone else.'

Council leader calls for A83 action

THE LEADER of Argyll and Bute Council has put people before politics by criticising the lack of government action at the Rest and Be Thankful following another landslide.

SNP councillor Roddy McCuish has urged his party at Holyrood to act quickly to find a permanent solution after the latest landslide and ferry cancellations on Monday meant Nicola Sturgeon, the Deputy First Minister, could not attend a meeting in Dumoon that was subsequently cancelled.

Agreement Last week *The Oban Times* reported a diversion route on the A83 at the Rest would not be ready until February at the earliest, despite promises from the Scottish Government that the diversion route would be open 'by November at the latest'.

Transport Scotland then announced a legal agreement had been agreed with the private landowner at the Rest to allow work to move forward.

Councillor McCuish has this week called for an early meeting of the A83 taskforce group, which is due to meet on December 14.

Saying the landslides

highlighted the 'fragility' of the county's roads network, he added: 'I am hugely disappointed we were promised by the Scottish Government the temporary alternative route would be in place by November and that has not happened.'

'It has now been promised this will be in place by the end of January but how many more times will Argyll and Bute be effectively cut off before then?'

'We need a permanent fail safe solution to keep the A83 open at the Rest and Be Thankful so Argyll and Bute can carry on as normal even when bad weather hits the area.'

'Our businesses and people living here suffer every time the main route into Argyll and Bute is closed.'

Solution

'The Scottish Government must ensure there is a permanent solution found for these problems and a funding programme pulled together quickly for delivery which needs to be brought forward as soon as possible.'

Transport Scotland said last week a report on possible long-term solutions would be presented to the next meeting of the taskforce.

14-year-old had drugs at school

A 14-YEAR-old girl has been excluded from Oban High School after being found in possession of illegal drugs on school premises.

A drugs detection dog from Strathclyde Police was used in the search on November 1 and while the teenager was found to have cannabis on her possession, no evidence of drugs was found on school property.

The dog had been used earlier that day in drugs raids throughout the town.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Oban High School works very closely

with partner agencies to ensure the health and wellbeing of all of its pupils and staff.'

Following concern raised about a pupil, school staff immediately contacted Strathclyde Police who investigated the situation.

Dog unit

'Purely coincidentally, on the same day a police dog unit was in Oban on another matter. Officers asked if the unit could attend at the school and senior staff agreed.'

'There is no link between the presence of the police dog unit and the incident involving the pupil.'



High-flying ballerina Isabella during last Friday's Winter Wonderland production by Ballet West hopes to be on top of the world at the Genée International Ballet Competition next month. Photograph by Stephen Lawson.

Dancer with world at her feet competes in New Zealand

A TEENAGE ballerina from Argyll is one step closer to achieving her dream of becoming a professional dancer, as she prepares for an international competition.

North Connell dancer Isabella Swietlicki, who trains full time at Ballet West in Taynuilt, will be one of the youngest competitors at the Genée International Ballet Competition in Wellington, New Zealand, from December 7.

The 15-year-old, recently named the best young British dancer this

year, had a leading role in Ballet West's Winter Wonderland last weekend, part of Oban's Winter Festival.

Isabella said: 'My ambition is to be a professional dancer, dancing is all I can think about, so this is a natural progression and a great opportunity for me.'

'It will be hard work but I have been waiting for this chance for a long time. My best friend, Sara Mortimer, competed in 2010 and 2011 and

has gone on to work professionally so she has had some good advice for me.'

The young dancer has also sought advice from the Ballet West's senior principal dancers Jonathan Barton and Sara Maria Smith, from Taynuilt, who have both won bronze at the Genée.

Isabella's mother Flora said: 'Isabella got distinction in her first exams at the age of 11 and things mushroomed from there. We had her home schooled to allow her to

train full time and she trains as hard as any Olympic athlete, seven hours a day, sometimes seven days a week and has devoted her life to ballet.'

Isabella will be joined in New Zealand by another colleague from Ballet West, 18-year-old Charlotte Eades, who is a third year student from Birmingham.

The two Ballet West girls will make up half of the UK entry to the Genée International Ballet Competition.

Wetherspoons recommended for planning permission

PUB giant JD Wetherspoon is a step closer to opening its first premises in Oban's town centre - despite an outcry from local businesses.

Planners will this week meet to discuss an application from the company to redesign the former home of Calthness Glass on the Railway Pier, which currently

houses outdoor clothing store Wilderness.

The application has been recommended for approval in the face of 27 objections, including representations from the Oban and District Licensed Trade Association and several of the town's independent food outlets and wholesalers.

Among the concerns is that the national chain will be able to offer prices small businesses won't be able to compete with and that could have a knock on effect for local suppliers and cost jobs.

Pier safety

The matter of pier safety was also raised although planners said chief pier operators CMAL would

require the business to sign up to its safety code. Seven letters of support have also been received from local businesses keen to see Wetherspoon opening in the town.

They state Wetherspoon's arrival would create competition and drive up standards, create jobs and would benefit tourism thanks to the scenic location.

Former Connel flyer killed in Thailand microlight crash

A FORMER member of Connel Flying Club has died after his plane crashed when trying to scatter the ashes of a late friend in Thailand.

Tom Grieve, 57, was flying above Pattaya Bay on Saturday with a passenger, Patrick Esser from Dorset, when his microlight lost power and dived towards the sea. Mr Grieve tried to carry out an emergency landing, but his aircraft clipped a newly constructed pier and crashed into the water. It's thought the GT450 microlight was travelling at 70mph at the time. He died in hospital from chest injuries while his passenger suffered a broken arm.

Mr Grieve was living in Pattaya and worked as an instructor at Nongprue Flying Club. He received two awards for outstanding airmanship and made the first microlight flight across the North Sea, from Shetland to Norway.

New hi-tech equipment for Lochwatch

THERMAL imaging and night vision cameras have been bought by the Lochwatch scheme as it becomes better prepared to assist with searches on Loch Awe.

The scheme was set up following the death of four fishermen on the loch in thick fog in March 2009.

The thermal imaging camera and night vision cameras cost a discounted total of £4,500, £3,500 of which came from the community's An Suidhe Windfarm Capital Grant scheme. The remainder of the cost came from Lochwatch's own funds.

Lochwatch volunteer Iain MacKinnon said: 'The equipment is being held in Oban at present because the police and coastguard are being trained in how to use it. The cameras will be available to the emergency services for searches in other areas, but mainly Loch Awe.'

Glass charge woman in custody

AN OBAN woman has been remanded in custody after allegedly committing a domestic assault by throwing a glass at a man's face.

Isabel MacArthur, 37, of 7A Longdale Crescent, Oban, denied the charge when she appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week. MacArthur will appear again on November 28 and is expected to stand trial on December 12.

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<p>MILLIE</p> <p>Very friendly girl. Is spayed.</p>	<p>MINTY</p> <p>Nice girl. Looking for a lap to sit on.</p>	<p>LEO</p> <p>Very friendly boy. Must go with Ollie.</p>
<p>OLLIE</p> <p>Very friendly boy. Must go with Leo.</p>	<p>TOM</p> <p>Neutered boy. Not used to children or dogs.</p>	<p>MOLLY (2)</p> <p>Nice girl. Not used to children or dogs.</p>
<p>SANDY</p> <p>Nice and friendly. 9 years old Kelpie boy.</p>	<p>MAC</p> <p>Friendly and lively. 9 month old lab cross.</p>	<p>BUFFY</p> <p>Friendly 4 year old boy. Is neutered.</p>

Dog enquiries please phone Jean on 01631 566406
 Cat enquiries please phone Pat on 01852 300362

Lorn Lines

THREE highly talented solo singers headlined last Saturday's winter ceilidh in Taynuilt.

Mod gold medal finalist Gillian MacDonald, Aberfeldy, Mod silver pendant winner Robert Robertson from Fort William and former Mod gold medal winner Alasdair Whyte, Mull, all delighted the audience with a selection of beautiful Gaelic songs.

Young Lochawe piper Kimberly Campbell started off proceedings with a rousing series of tunes.

An appreciative audience was treated to further musical talent from fiddler Merle Harbron and accordionist Iain MacAskill, both of whom are newcomers to the Taynuilt ceilidh scene. Bronwen Davies, an Eilidh MacInnes Highland dancer, gave an excellent display and deserved great credit for carrying on undeterred when a few hiccups arose with the accompanying music.

Bean an taighe for the evening was Ishbel Banks who kept proceedings flowing smoothly.

MEMBERS of Oban Speakers Club had an enjoyable evening at their meeting last week.

Chairman for the evening Willie Melville introduced speakers Jim Fraser who spoke on 'The Queen's Jubilee Year', Frank Walton on 'Space travel 2040' and Eamonn Arthur on 'If I was an inventor'.

Their immediate critics were Tom Clegg, Bill Leech and Roy Wood.

After a short tea break, John Maclean introduced a humorous topics session in which the subjects varied from football to litter and included thoughts on the speakers club in 1912 and 2112. Speakers were Bill Leech, Alex Clark, Eamonn Arthur, Tom Clegg, Roy Wood and Willie Melville. Timekeeper for the evening was Donnie Graham and a concise general evaluation was given by Archie McPhail.

The annual dinner will be held on November 29 and the next meeting will be on December 13.

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Kelly being lined up for vacant manager's job

SHINTY



Duncan Kelly: set for Kilmallie job? 20_147kilmallie05

KILMALLIE are lining up former Scotland boss Duncan Kelly as their new manager after Peter Jackson and Lachie Innes stood down from the role. Kelly, 55, has been refereeing for the past two seasons but has now decided to hang up his whistle. His last managerial job was as assistant to Ally Ferguson at Lochaber Camanachd, and he may be tempted to return to the touchline with the Caol club in Marine Harvest north division one.

The third member of Kilmallie's management team from last season, John Morrison, has yet to confirm his plans for next season.

Kilmallie plan to announce the new man at the helm at their annual general meeting at the end of January.

Bowling club hand out the prizes

BOWLING

RAILWAY Bowling Club handed out trophies to competition winners from throughout the year at the annual dinner dance recently.

The gents singles champion at the Inverloch club was Innes Woods, while the trophy for ladies singles champion went to Agnes Boyle.

Trophy winners: President's Prize - E Kennedy, D Mackenzie; Adam Robertson memorial (ladies singles) - A Boyle; Stewart memorial (singles championship) - I Woods; I Cameron nominated pairs - H Ross, E Downs; Mixed pairs - A Boyle, E Downs; Two bowl - A Boyle; Plinth - B O'Shaughnessy, R Strangeways; Gents singles (open) - I Woods; Plinth - H Ross, R Strangeways.

Dochie MacIntyre balloted pairs open - R Hunter, K Brannigan; Plinth - R Strangeways, K Brannigan; Mackleensers balloted pairs - A MacDonald, E Downs; Brain Hamilton memorial pairs - A Thain, A Lawrie; James Fitzsimons nominated pairs - K MacInnes, J Miller; Willie Duff memorial trophy - G Hamilton, W Clark, E Kennedy; Plinth - M Keenan.

Achintore win top of the table clash

INDOOR FOOTBALL

ACHINTORE FC have moved into first place in the Ali Young indoor football league after winning the top of the table clash with Lochaber Leisure at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Unbeaten Achintore moved two points clear after the 3-1 win, while Goon Squad remain third after a 6-3 victory over Portwocky.

Balachulish's 4-1 win against Caol saw them stay close behind in fourth.

AA Young are still looking for their first point after going down 4-1 to Old Codgers, while HW Energy No Stars and All Blacks played out a 3-3 draw.

Kilmallie forget their relegation woes at club presentation night

'It was a great night, everyone really enjoyed themselves'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

SHINTY

KILMALLIE shinty players and club members put last season's relegation woes behind them to enjoy a night of celebration at the annual prizegiving and dinner dance on Saturday night.

Kilmallie's second year in the Orion Group Premiership after winning promotion in 2010 ended with them in ninth place and relegated back to north division one.

But the crowd of around 100 people who gathered in Caol Community Centre didn't let that cloud their fun as the club honoured the most impressive individual performers from the year.

Full back Alan Macdonald was named as club player of the year for 2012, while youngster Craig MacIassac took the top prize for the second team.

A strong youth section gives hope for the future of the club, with Kilmallie under 17s recently winning the national shinty

sixes competition in Oban after defeating Lochaber in the final.

Captain Frankie Innes was named as the under 17 player of the year, with Jordan MacPhee given the trophy for most improved.

The under 14s side have also had an impressive year, with Donald MacIntyre their player of the year. Shane Gillies was awarded the most improved U14 player of the year.

Club committee member Linda Campbell told The Oban Times: 'It was a great night, a great success. Everyone really enjoyed themselves.'

After the prizes were handed out, Archie MacPherson gave out certificates for some more light-hearted honours. The 'winners' of the awards - including worst dressed and worst hair - produced roars of laughter from the hall.

For the second year in a row, Michael Rodger was named worst trainer at the club while John Stewart and Martin Gra-



The trophy winners from Kilmallie Shinty Club's annual prize giving ceremony on Saturday night. 20_147kilmallie01



Outgoing managers Peter Jackson (left) and Lachie Innes said they plan to stay involved with the club. 20_147kilmallie02



Club president Hugh MacIntyre presents player of the year Alan Macdonald with his trophy. 20_147kilmallie03

ham shared the award for best trainer.

Meanwhile, co-managers Peter Jackson and Lachie Innes told The Oban Times they plan to play a big role in the future of the club after stepping down from their positions.

The pair said although they would not be in charge of the first team, they still planned to remain strongly connected to the Caol club in 2013.

Peter said: 'I'm certainly not leaving the club. I'd like to think the two of us will be there most Saturdays in some capacity.'

Lachie added: 'I've been involved with the club for 12 years, so I've got no intention of walking away.'



Members of the Kilmallie under 17s team who won the recent national shinty sixes competition in Oban. 20_147kilmallie04

Boost for Skye swimmer as she bids for the Commonwealth Games

A YOUNG Isle of Skye swimmer has received £100 from a Fort William renewable energy company to help her Commonwealth Games bid.

'Skye Dolphins' Rebecca Smith will use the cash from HW Energy to offset her training expenses.

The company recently set up a community fund to support charities, activities, sports, clubs and schools across Scotland with grants.

Rebecca, aged 15, who travels up to 830 miles a week and trains six days a week, already has a Scottish national record under her belt.

She was also chosen to represent Scotland internationally in France, achieving a fourth place in the 10,000 metres, and first

place in the 5000 metres.

HWE managing director Bruno Berardelli said: 'We are delighted that the first payment has been made to Rebecca, who is working very hard to reach her goals of competing at the next Commonwealth Games, and we are proud to be able to support her.'

Rebecca's mum and coach Maxine said: 'Training is expensive but Rebecca shows real potential so we believe the time and costs of her swimming training and competitions are worth it.'

The community fund is financed through the quarterly Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) payments received by the company for boilers heating the head office and showroom.

Brave Fort fight back twice to gain hard-fought draw against Buckie



Captain Andy Martin helped Fort gain a point with a 77th minute strike. 20_147fort01

FORT William manager Danny Conlon is hoping last weekend's rousing comeback against Buckie Thistle can provide a platform for the rest of the season.

Conlon saw his side twice come from behind to grab a 3-3 draw and pick up only their second point of the season.

The Fort team was strengthened by the return of midfielders Sean Grant and Danny MacIntosh, who both made their first appearances of the season.

Conlon told The Oban Times: 'It meant I was able to freshen up the squad a bit. Danny and Sean gave us a bit more energy and a bit more experience. They are both full of running and have a wee bit of pace.'

'Having a few more players means we can dictate circum-

stances a bit more, rather than always having it dictated to us by who is available.'

Fort found themselves 2-0 down after just 24 minutes, and most onlookers would have anticipated an 11th defeat in 12 games for Conlon's men. But a goal from Davie Forbes just before half time gave the Lochaber side hope.

Fort were denied what appeared to be a certain penalty when Grant was fouled in the box on the hour mark, but drew level when captain Andy Martin scored with 13 minutes left.

Buckie immediately retook the lead, but Fort weren't finished and young forward Iain Maclellan slammed home a shot from 14 yards in the 91st minute to secure the draw.

FOOTBALL

Conlon said: 'We were a bit disappointing in the first half, but in the second half we grew in confidence and we maybe could have nicked the win late on.'

'We showed great character to come back from 2-0 down, and then 3-2 down.'

'Gary Farquhar made a big contribution, but so did all the players.'

Fort are due to host much-fancied Brora Rangers at Claggan this Saturday, but the game may be switched if the Fort pitch is unplayable.

'It's going to be a really difficult game, wherever it goes ahead,' Conlon said. 'They are on a bit of a run themselves, and are four or five games unbeaten.'

Former players snub Fort to join Inverness Clach

FOOTBALL

TWO former Fort William FC players are to return to Highland League football after a 10-month sojourn in Australia - with Inverness club Clachnacuddin.

Cousins Sean and Michael Ellis left Lochaber to join Melbourne-based club Cobram Tigers in February and had agreed a deal with Clach before even arriving back in Fort William.

Fort manager Danny Conlon said he was 'a bit disappointed' the pair had decided not to rejoin the Claggan side, despite them spending much of their youth careers at the club.

Heavy rain greets Druum Fada race runners

ATHLETICS

A FIELD of 52 runners braved the heavy rain for Lochaber Athletic Club's Druum Fada race on Sunday.

The 10km route - from Loch Eil Outward Bound Centre to Annat Farm near Corpach - was very wet and muddy with several of the runners coming in covered from head to toe in mud.

LAC's Stephen Burns finished in second place in a time of 47 minutes and 28 seconds, some 32 seconds behind winner Manny Gorman of Westies Running Club.

Jon Gay, of LAC, was third in 50 minutes 4 seconds.

LAC's Amanda Blackhall was the first female runner home in 57 minutes 21 seconds, with Lyndsey Shaw second and Nix Forster third.

The male over 50 race was won by Ali Kennedy in 52 minutes 23 seconds, while Johnny Banks was the fastest in the male veteran 60s in 1 hour 4 minutes and 15 seconds.

The female veteran 50s race was won by Teresa McKay 1 hour 16 minutes 24 seconds, while the only female vet 60s of the day Elma Murdoch came home in a respectable 1 hour 30 minutes 18 seconds.

Fort youngsters win at Wick

YOUTH FOOTBALL

FORT William under 17s continued their good recent form with a 4-1 win away to Wick Academy.

Wick started the match better, but Fort took the lead against the run of play. A Lewis Morrison drive brought out a fine save from the Wick keeper only for striker Aellean MacLellan to tap the ball in.

But on the half hour mark the home side got a deserved equaliser to send the sides into the break at 1-1.

Within 60 seconds of the restart Fort had retaken the lead with midfielder Ryan Clark firing home from 25 yards out. Wick were becoming increasingly frustrated and had a man sent off for constant dissent on 55 minutes.

Fort controlled the game and began to dominate, with further goals from Morrison and Clark making the final score 4-1.

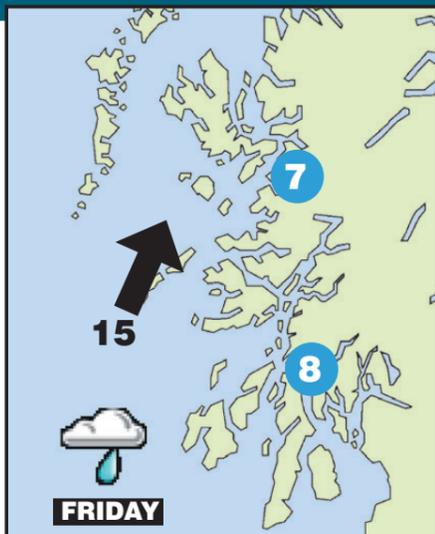
Weather

Thursday Heavy rain showers
Winds moderate southerly
Temperatures 7C to 11°C

Friday Light rain showers
Winds moderate south westerly
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

Weekend Cloudy
Outlook Winds moderate west south westerly
Temperatures 7°C to 8°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, November 22, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.40 2.8 06.35 1.6 13.29 3.3 19.24 1.7	
Fri	02.03 2.9 07.53 1.6 14.28 3.3 20.31 1.7	
Sat	02.50 3.1 08.59 1.5 15.12 3.5 21.20 1.6	
Sun	03.24 3.3 09.50 1.4 15.48 3.6 22.00 1.5	
Mon	03.58 3.5 10.33 1.4 16.22 3.7 22.35 1.3	
Tues	04.33 3.7 11.11 1.3 16.56 3.8 23.10 1.2	
Wed	05.08 3.8 11.46 1.3 17.31 3.9 23.46 1.*	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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