

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Also inside this week: My village, Tarbert • Oban Community Council crisis • St Andrew's Day fun

Brick thrown through window of parked police car

POLICE are investigating an incident in the village of Taynuilt when a brick was put through the rear window of a parked police car.

As is normal practice outside stations in Dalmally and Connel, the Taynuilt car was parked by the main road to act as a deterrent to speeders.

However, overnight between Wednesday and Thursday last week the car was vandalised. No-one was inside the car at the time.

Oban Police chief inspector Glen Bland said this was an 'unusual event' but urged anyone with information about the crime to come forward.

He added: 'CID have been investigating and would be happy for someone to contact them anonymously.'

Charged with breach of peace

A 29-YEAR-old man was charged under criminal justice and licensing legislation after causing a breach of the peace following an alleged incident happened on Shore Street on Friday night. A report has been made to the procurator fiscal.

Suspect held over heroin allegation

A MAN allegedly found to be in possession of heroin has been reported to the procurator fiscal.

The 26-year-old was arrested at 2pm on Sunday the North Pier for obstructing a drugs search.

High Street arrest

A 28-YEAR-old man was arrested after he was found to allegedly be in possession of cannabis in High Street, Oban on Saturday night.

It's panto time...oh yes it is!



Panto Dame George Hamilton and baddie Ab Fab (Douglas MacKenzie) rehearse for next week's production of Jack and the Beanstalk. See page 14 for full story and more pictures: 15_149panto03

Council cuts will be painful, admits chief executive

ONE in 20 Argyll and Bute council workers faces redundancy as the local authority seeks to cut £13 million from its budget.

Job losses are part of a series of measures being considered by council leaders, who say they still want residents to have their say on where the axe should fall on services.

The council's executive committee will discuss the situation on Monday and decide whether to forward with a public consultation until December 31.

Service cuts could include:

- Closure of libraries, including the mobile van in Lorn;
- Reduced rural bus transport services;
- Reduced maintenance of roads;

- Corran Halls and other community buildings transferring to community ownership;
- A 15 percent cut in grants to swimming pools;

REPORT by LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

- Cleaning, catering and domestic staff moving to term time contracts;
- Removal of free fruit to infant schools;
- Schools meal prices to rise by 15p to £2 per day;
- Bi-weekly bin collections throughout Argyll and Bute;
- Restructuring of Glencruitten Hostel to remove study support and annual contracts for staff and a change in night cover.

Papers reveal the council has identified ways to reduce staff numbers by 162.

Biggest losses would be in cleaning and janitorial services – with more than 42 jobs to go. Cleaning services would be cut by 20 per cent in a bid to reduce down the number of staff required, while janitorial services at community halls would be slashed altogether.

Pupils could have to pay an extra 15 pence per day for a school lunch – making it £10 a week for meals.

Leisure services may be in line to lose 38 members of staff – with one plan seeing all facilities operated by the council, such as the Corran Halls and village centres, transferring to community trust ownership.

Another plan would see the end of the Lorn Mobile Library and three libraries in Cardross, Rosneath and Tarbert.

Sally Loudon, chief executive, said: 'The council is facing the most challenging budget it has ever seen.'

'We've asked residents to suggest how we could do things differently and while lots of these ideas have been incorporated into the reviews, we can't make the savings we need to by efficiency measures alone.'

'We've conducted comprehensive service reviews, working with partner organisations, service users, employees and trades unions to come up with sensible, achievable ways to reduce our costs.'

'We have to present a balanced budget and while we don't know what our final settlement will be from the Scottish Government we know it will be lower than previous years. We can't afford to do all of the things we used to, in the same way we used to.'

'None of the proposed savings come without any pain. We've tried to minimise the impact on front line services by making savings to our back office. But this means there may be fewer people working for the council or staff working fewer hours and this has a knock-on effect to our communities and our economy. The reality is that if we are to carry on providing essential services we'll have to stop providing some others.'

Parents' fury at councillors 'playing politics' with education

THERE was unanimous condemnation from parents and communities throughout Argyll and Bute after councillors voted to consult on the closure of up to 25 rural primary schools.

Opponents have vowed to go to the highest levels possible – including the instructing of a QC and lawyers to fight schools closures.

Lynne Robertson, of Lochdonhead Primary

School, said: 'We will be fighting a positive joint campaign with Ulva Primary School to make a case for keeping our schools open.'

'We reject the education department's position on travelling times and are confident that we will be able to prove they are well in excess of 45 minute benchmark.'

Amy Watson, a parent from Achaleven Primary School, says there are

so many mistakes in the proposal document that it would be unfair to put it through.

A mum of two children in the school, she said: 'Parents are very upset and angry. This proposal is wrong.'

'My family moved here for the school and we will stand behind it all the way.'

Douglas McKenzie, of Barcaldine Primary School, said: 'The councillors who voted for consultation to go

ahead presume that sense will prevail. We are not so sure.'

'We are not sure that Barcaldine can be separated from the other two schools, Achaleven and Ardchattan, in our proposal. We are having one consultation, not three despite each school having a different case.'

'The whole thing should be called in by the education minister. This is simply a divisive way to save money.'

We need a genuine debate.'

Frances McNeill, who jointly chairs the parent council at Rhunahaorine Primary School said: 'I think it's an absolute disgrace.'

'It's politics, that's all it is; two of the councillors said that they were not for school closures and the both voted for the consultation.'

Duncan Mcallister, chairman of the Glenbarr Primary parents, said: 'If all our Kintyre councillors had

voted the right way there would be none of this.'

'They are playing politics with education. It was a chance for the Liberal Democrats to get into power and they're using schools to get it but their days are numbered in Kintyre.'

'Parents here in Southend are appalled,' said Tracy Chambers, chairwoman of the parents at the village primary school. 'We have to keep fighting; at present the

village hasn't got a doctor or a minister. Without a school as well it would just die.'

Alka Foster, chair of Ashfield Parent Council, added: 'Ashfield Parents are concerned councillors chose to accept inaccurate figures on travel times, school roll and energy consumption, rather than force the authority to prove these exaggerated savings.'

□ Dramatic day at Kilmory - see page 4

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School closure 'hit list' was kept secret to avoid public alarm, admits education boss

A SECRET list of possible school closures was drawn up months before councillors went public with their plans to consult on the future of primary education in Argyll and Bute.

Despite denials from council officials at the time, it was revealed last week that the authority wanted to keep the list quiet to avoid 'public alarm'.

Backing the decision to keep the list secret, executive director Cleland Sneddon told last Thursday's council meeting into the proposed closures: 'We did not want to cause public alarm. As we can see from the reaction from parents outside the building today that is exactly what would have happened.'

He went onto say that lists had been drawn up months before he arrived in post – as was reported in The Oban Times in February.

At that time the council denied there was a list claiming the authority was 'not currently considering any schools for closure'.

In response to a question at last Thursday's meeting about a schools 'hit list', Mr Sneddon continued: 'Before I arrived in May, there had been a number of 'hit' lists for schools that had been discussed.'

'After I arrived, I produced a new methodology for coming up with a list. This was rather than use the method that had been previously used. The list is dramatically different from the previous lists.'

A Freedom of Information Request undertaken by MP Alan Reid in March did not reveal a list of schools for closure.

Responding to the authority's admission that a secret list did exist, Mr Reid said: 'The council has to clear this matter up. Not wanting to cause public alarm is not a good enough reason for denying parents and pupils the right to know that their school was under threat. They must tell us who took the decision to keep the hit list secret.'

It is understood that a complaint has been lodged with the Freedom of Information officer regarding the issue.

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The emergency team on the Isle of Luing at the launch of the Argyll Islands Emergency Service Rescue Plan. 16_t47rescue1

Emergency plan comes to rescue for isle patient

AN EMERGENCY rescue during one of the coldest nights of the year saw the Argyll Islands Emergency Rescue Plan come into force on the Isle of Luing.

Just two weeks after the ground-breaking scheme was launched, the first emergency evacuation was carried out.

By all accounts, the patient was moved quickly and efficiently - and without delay - to hospital in Oban.

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
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Using the skills of the island's volunteer firefighters to lay out a temporary landing site for the approaching Sea King helicopter, and the expertise of the island's trained First Responder team, the incident proved that the plan is simple and efficient, but most of all works in some of the harshest of

conditions. Luing is the first of six islands off Argyll that will benefit from improved access for ambulance crews and speedier patient evacuation, with the introduction of a dedicated ambulance vehicle and special landing lights for the air ambulance helicopter. The ambulance vehicle is based at the fire station in Luing and driven to the patient by air ambulance paramedics.

Once the patient has been treated and stabilised they are taken in the ambulance to the helipad for air transfer to hospital.

Agreement

Under an agreement with Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Service, local firefighters deploy the helicopter landing lights and ensure the ambulance is kept operational.

In the coming weeks an ambulance vehicle and

landing lights will also be introduced in Lismore, Gigha, Colonsay, Coll and Jura.

Pauline Howie, chief executive of the Scottish Ambulance Service, said: 'We have worked closely with the communities on these islands to develop a solution that will significantly improve access for patients and enhance the quality of service that we provide.'

Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

MO BHEANNACHD AIG UILLEAM AGUS CATRÌONA is iad air gealladh-pòsaidh a thoirt, agus gach soirbheachadh agus sonas dhaibh còmhla. Tha a' chàraid òg seo airson an slighe fhèin a stiùireadh agus thug iad ochd bliadhna a' suirghe mun d' rinn iad an co-dhùnadh. Ach cha leig an siostam leotha beatha àbhaisteach a dhèanamh còmhla!

Dh' fhaodadh gun tòisich am beatha phòsta aig ionad Feachd an Adhair an àiteigin, ach tha fhios aca le chèile gum bheil Catriona gu bhith fo shùil mhòr-shluagh an t-saoghail airson a' chuid eile de a beatha. Cha b' iongnadh ged a bhiodh boireannach òg ciallach sam bith a' gabhail ùine a' breithneachadh ach an robh i deònach a saorsa a thèigsinn chun na h-ìre sin.

Chan e a-mhàin gum bheil i gu bhith na h-ìomhaigh a thaobh fasain is maise, ach gu mì-fhortanach tha i cuideachd gu bhith na targaid ceannaire. Feumaidh iad le chèile dìon sònraichte gach uair den latha fad am beatha.

Tha cùisean eile cuideachd a' fàgail nach bi beatha phòsta àbhaisteach aig Uilleam is Catriona. Tha an dà theaghlach mothachail air suidheachadh na h-eaconamaidh is tha iad a' dèanamh cinnteach gum pàigh iad fhèin cosgaisean na bainnse is gun ach cosgaisean tèarainteachd a' tighinn às an sporan phoblach. Tha sin glè mhath, ach 's e frìnn na cùise, agus an rud a tha gam fàgail eadar-dhealaichte a-rithist nach eil cunnart sam bith gum bi gainnead orra a thaobh buidseat bainnse.

Cha robh cleachdadh aca air a' chòrr agus as an t-seadh sin, chan urrainn dhaibh a bhith mar mhòr-shluagh na dùthcha.

Ged a bhiodh miann aig Rìgh agus Banrigh a bhios air an Rìoghachd uaireigin, faotainn nas dlùithe air an t-sluagh, cha tèid aca air sin a dhèanamh. Dh' fheuch athair Uilleam sin bliadhnaichean air ais ann an cuideachd Splash agus Gloria ann am Bearnaraigh, ach an àite molaidd chaidh magadh air!

'S e frìnn na cùise gum bheil cofhurtachd beairteis a' ciallachadh nach urrainn tuigse cheart a bhith air bochdainn! Sin a dh' fhàg am Prìomhaire air a mhaslachadh leis na thuit am Morair Young agus Howard Flight; ach mar a thuit mi roimhe, 's e an dragh as motha gum bheil a' mhòr-chuid den Chaibineat beairteach agus a' riaghladh air mòr-chuid nach eil!

CONGRATULATIONS and best wishes to William and Catherine!

Any hopes of a 'normal' married life will be defeated by the insatiable curiosity of the world's media and permanent security risks.

The families will pay for the wedding but it is unlikely there will be any shortage in the budget, and this alone makes it more difficult for the young couple to get closer to the people.

Extreme wealth makes understanding of normal domestic fiscal pressures difficult. Thus David Cameron finds himself embarrassed by the comments of Lord Young and Howard Flight. But, as I have said before, it is more worrying to have a Cabinet of Members who are mostly millionaires, legislating for a community which are mostly not!

Ailean Caimbeul
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Green schemes are boiling up on Easdale

EASDALE residents are looking forward to a warmer future as the island's Green Streets projects come to fruition.

The latest information event and practical demonstration highlighted the benefits of a pellet-heating boiler.

At least one resident will have one such boiler installed to help keep their home warm during the winter.

Green Streets is a programme delivered by Scottish Gas to improve a community's energy supply and rating. Many of the households on the island have signed up to the project.

Keren Cafferty, chairwoman of the island's community trust Eilean Eisdeal, says being aware of energy consumption has made a difference to all those households who have signed up to be monitored. She said many people are now considering simpler methods by which their home can be heated - from better insulation to alternative forms of heating, such as the pellet system.

It is recognised that Easdale islanders, many of whom live in older properties, often spend



Beating the chill - Keren Cafferty, chairwoman of Easdale's community trust Eilean Eisdeal, shows residents the new pellet boiler. 07_t49easdale1

a higher than average amount of money heating their homes. That was one of the reasons Scottish Gas was keen to work with as many people on the island as possible to improve their energy rating.

A statement from Eilean Easdale confirmed that after listening to concerns from islanders the proposed wind turbine location

has been moved to south west of the stone skimming quarry and would be 105m from the nearest property.

The 6kw wind turbine will be funded by British Gas Green Streets and if approved by planners will produce electricity to help heat the community hall and provide a much needed revenue stream for the future.

Ferry service funding axed

A FERRY service on Mull has seen its funding withdrawn after passengers numbers plummeted.

Highland Council and Argyll and Bute Council are withdrawing support for the Sound of Mull passenger ferry from April next year.

The ferry operates between Laga Bay, Tobermory and Drimnin on Mondays and Fridays during the summer and Fridays only in the winter.

Argyll and Bute Council withdrew £6,000 of funding while Highland Council said it could not commit the £35,453 grant previously given to the service.

Passengers almost halved last year to 755. This equated to a subsidy of £46.96 per passenger.

The Oban Times was unable to contact the ferry operator, Sound of Mull Transport Group. It is not known if the service will be operated after April.

Solicitor appointed Gaelic centre boss

A SOLICITOR who grew up on Islay has been named the new manager of the island's Gaelic training centre.

Neil Iain Woodrow has been appointed to the role at Ionad Chaluim Chìle Ìle in Bowmore.

Following primary education at Keills and Bowmore, Neil completed his education at Bowmore Secondary School and Campbeltown Grammar School.

With an Honours degree in Public Law and a Professional Legal Practice Diploma, Neil worked in Lochgilphead, Oban and Rothesay before returning to Islay in 2007.

Neil, a Gaelic learner, said he was looking forward to his new role and was keen to continue his family's Gaelic tradition.

Kennacraig Pier contract awarded

A £3.44 million contract to upgrade Kennacraig Pier has been awarded to Graham Construction.

The project involves the construction of berthing to accommodate the new vessel MV Finlaggan, which is due in Scotland in April 2011.

Other work includes re-profiling the concrete fixed ramp and upgrading the fuelling system, the water supply to the pier, the terminal lighting and drainage. The work is due to begin on Monday, December 6, and is scheduled for completion by early summer 2011. One berth at the pier will be open at all times during the work ensuring continuity of the ferry service to Islay.

A public meeting to discuss the works programme will be held in the Templar Hall, Tarbert on December 9, at 7pm.

Tobermory Harbour Association plans community wind turbine for Mull and Iona

TOBERMORY Harbour Association (THA) is planning to oversee the construction of a community wind farm for the whole of Mull and Iona.

THA officials say a recent attempt by a private developer to site turbines on the Ross of Mull has shown that if the community does not act now there will be no capacity and no profits from the sale of electricity for the benefit of the community.

Brian Swinbanks of THA said: 'Profits could help our old folks to live in comfort, help our

young to stay and prosper and help our island infrastructure to be improved.

'Many other communities in the Highlands and Islands are already benefiting from profits generated from community owned wind turbines.

'Mull has only limited grid capacity to export power to the mainland; consequently THA is very worried that this grid capacity will be gifted to others outside our island. All the capacity should be used for the benefit of all of our community.'

The harbour association is a community company based in Tobermory run by a board of 17 volunteer directors.

It has successfully completed a number of major projects to provide facilities for everyone at Ledaig, Tobermory.

'All THA projects have brought considerable benefits to Tobermory and to the wider community.

'With this experience we feel we are in a strong position to bring this important project to our island,' said Mr Swinbanks.

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Drivers faced difficult conditions on the A83 near Inveraray. Picture: Kevin McGlynn.

Heavy snow brings misery to many but coast escapes winter white-out

RESIDENTS in Mid Argyll awoke to a winter wonderland on Sunday morning as a thick blanket of snow engulfed most areas.

By Sunday evening up to eight inches of snow had fallen in some parts causing several roads in the area to close.

But as residents in Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Ardfern and Inveraray battled to clear their garden paths of the 'white stuff', communities in Tarbert, Campbeltown and Oban hadn't seen a flake of snow.

The A816 Lochgilphead to Oban road had to close for a short time on Sunday after the Bealach near Ardfern became impassable.

The A83 was also treacherous with the Rest and Be Thankful closed on Sunday night to allow it to be gritted and ploughed. The A82 was also affected.

Another burst of snow on Monday night meant many roads were again severely affected with the council's gritting team working to capacity to ensure main routes were cleared.

Ashfield Primary School in Achnamara was closed on Monday



Coastal areas, including Oban, missed the worst of the winter weather. 08_049sun02

as staff were unable to reach the school. In other areas of Argyll, Strachur, Kilchrenan, Cardross and Luss primary schools were also closed on Monday.

All schools were able to reopen as normal on Tuesday.

Leonard McNeil, from Minard, said: 'I have lived here for over 20 years and I have never seen snow like it. There was a full eight inches in the back garden. I was speaking to a local farmer who

has lived here for 60 years and he said he has never seen snow like this in November. The snow has compressed today (Monday) but there is still a good six inches of snow lying in parts of Minard.'

The Met Office is predicting that the area will continue to see snow showers and low temperatures into the weekend.

❑ **Christmas shoppers stranded for 14 hours - see page 9.**

Urgent plea to save community council in Oban

THE FUTURE of Oban Community Council is hanging in the balance, after office bearers would only agree to take on positions for six months.

Remaining members made calls for Argyll and Bute Council to support the group and consider an early by-election.

The council's plight came to light when three members resigned at the group's AGM on Monday night.

Retiring chairwoman, Nicola Welsh, said it would be tragic if a town the size of Oban no longer had a community council.

'We don't have enough people and everyone here is worn out with it all,' she said.

'We need new members, but without promotion of the community council and

advertising of what we do or a by-election, I can not imagine how we will be able to attract new members.'

The retiring treasurer Duncan Martin said the group had almost £5,000 in the bank and were hoping for a further grant of £700 from the council. He said they had to keep the money as a fighting fund.

Argyll and Bute councillor Roddy McCuish said the time had come to use the fund, as they had a battle to improve awareness of the community council.

He continued: 'More than ever we need people on the community council to keep Argyll and Bute

Council informed about views. 'The community council is a conduit into the council.

'It is a necessary part of the whole system.

'I would urge new members to come forward and put themselves up for election.'

After some discussion, office bearers were elected, but only for a six-month period. Marri Malloy took on the position of chairwoman, Duncan Martin moved to the position of secretary and the new treasurer is Kenneth MacIntyre.

Chairwoman Marri Malloy agreed that an application for money would be made to Oban's Common Good Fund in a bid to appoint a consultant to improve the workings of the community council.

Airline's £250,000 plan to defy the winter weather

THE WEST coast's main airline operator, Loganair, is investing £250,000 in specialist equipment to help keep services running during the cold weather.

The company, which operates routes to Barra, Islay, Campbeltown and Tiree, has invested in de-icing equipment and training to help keep planes free of ice as temperatures plummet this winter.

New de-icing rigs will spray special fluid on vital parts of the aircraft, including wings, tail and the wind shield, helping to minimise disruption to flight schedules even if the temperatures dip below freezing.

Loganair's commercial director Jonathan Hinkles said: 'We recognise that customers depend on our services for a wide variety of reasons, whether it's for hospital visits, business travel or trips to see friends and relatives.'

'While we did well in dealing with the problems caused by the cold weather last year, we're keen to ensure that we're as prepared as possible for similar situations during the coming winter period.'

The de-icing rigs are stationed at airports in Inverness, Aberdeen and Southburgh and Shetland.

NHS boss's shock at drink deaths

NHS Highland's recently-appointed director of public health says she is shocked at the region's alcohol problems. Dr Margaret Somerville, who took on the role in February, said the rate of alcohol related deaths in the area was worse than she had expected.

Illnesses caused by alcohol, smoking and obesity cost NHS Highland £15m a year.

'State of emergency' as 13 people chase every job vacancy in Campbeltown

CAMPBELTOWN has been named the worst place in Scotland for getting a job, with more than 12 workers chasing each vacancy.

This prompted Conservative Jamie McGrigor MSP to hit out at the Scottish Government

for not moving fast enough over problems at Skykon and construction firm Rok, which was building an extension to the wind turbine tower manufacturer's factory at Machrihanish.

And when he raised the issue with ministers in the Scottish Parliament, he said: 'Nothing seems to happen; I'm trying to do my job and I get mushy, mellow words from them. It's a state of

emergency is some ways.'

The job figures were revealed in research by the GMB union on Monday, in a snapshot that analysed official unemployment and vacancy data across the UK for October 2010.

There were 14 unfilled jobs in Campbeltown and 180 men and women claiming unemployment benefit, a ratio of 12.9; the Scottish average was 3.9.

The figures highlighted the problems of remote rural communities in Scotland. The top four places on the Scottish list, the only ones in double figures, featured Wick, 12.8; Newton Stewart and Wigtown, 12; and Ullapool and Gairloch 10.9.

Yet the centre of Campbeltown would belie this; in recent months a number of new shops have opened and Tesco is planning a massive new store.

Jamie McGrigor was visiting Kintyre on Monday, with Councillor Donald Kelly, and said it was vital that problems surrounding Skykon and its finances were resolved as soon as possible; the firm has financial problems and has been in talks.

'I don't understand why it is taking so long to resolve the issue,' he said.

'We were promised 300 jobs and if that's not going to be, then it is going to be extremely serious.'

Bottles thrown during assault

AN OBAN man was fined £450 for assault when he appeared at the town's sheriff court. Roderick MacCormick, of 9 Morvern Hill, Oban, pled guilty to assaulting a man at Station Square, Oban and violently struggling with three police constables on May 3 this year. The court heard that 32-year-old MacCormick became aggressive when he was asked to pay for food at a burger van in the square. He then punched and threw bottles of sauce at his victim.

Defence agent Edward Thornton told the court that MacCormick, who is an electrical engineer, had acted 'out of character' and had been drunk at the time of the incident.

Assault victim required stitches

A MAN needed two stitches in his eyebrow and was left with a badly bruised eye and face after he was attacked on George Street, Oban Sheriff Court heard last Tuesday.

Procurator Fiscal David Glancy told the court the victim was taken to Lorn and Islands Hospital's accident and emergency department after Matthew Rippon repeatedly butted and punched him on the head at 2pm on May 16 this year. Defence agent Stephen MacLeod said that 20-year-old Rippon, had no animosity towards his victim and was very drunk at the time of the attack.

Rippon, of 21 Dalintober Drive, Oban, who pled guilty to the assault, was fined £200.

President Billy

AN ISLAY butcher has been elected president of the Scottish Federation of Meat Traders. Billy McFarlane, who runs the butchers shop in Bowmore, has lived on Islay for 36 years and has run his own shop since 1998.



Team Filter Feeders who took part in Movember are, back row from left: Colin Abernethy, James Ditchfield and Chris Bell. Front row from left: Andy Mogg, Jim Elliot and Tom Adams. Not pictured is Andy Olivier. 07_149mov01

Movember madness raises £1,000 for charity

STAFF and students at Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) in Dunstaffnage have raised more than £1,000 for prostate cancer charities by taking part in Movember.

The national fundraising campaign encourages men to be sponsored to grow a moustache for the month of November to raise awareness of prostate cancer and raise money for the charities.

On Tuesday, Team Filter Feeders from SAMS breached the £1,000 fundraising mark by holding a bake sale and encouraging some last-minute sponsor money from their colleagues. Team member Jim Elliot raised the most money on the day, which meant he had to have his legs waxed by beauty therapist Leanne Croarkin, much to the delight of his colleagues who had packed into the canteen to watch proceedings.

Jim, a technician at the marine

laboratory, said: 'I did Movember last year so I suggested a few of us should do it this year. Now that I have to get my legs waxed, I'm not sure it was such a good idea.'

'Joking aside, we have raised more than £1,000 and I didn't think it would become such a big event here at SAMS. Prostate cancer is the most common form of cancer in men, so it is fantastic to have raised so much money.'

The other members of Team Filter Feeders may not have escaped unscathed, however, as they attended a further fundraising event in Oban's Markie Dans on Tuesday night.

The team at SAMS is just one of many throughout the Highlands and Islands taking part in Movember this year.

About 450,000 men are registered as fundraisers on the official Movember website and are expected to exceed £23m.



Jim Elliot feels the pain as Leanne Croarkin begins waxing. 07_149mov02

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Protesters young and old wrapped up warm to make their feelings known outside the council meeting. 08_t49protestkilcreggan01

Drama as council backs consultations on school closures

TWENTY five schools are facing closure after councillors narrowly voted in favour of controversial plans to cut the number of rural primaries in Argyll and Bute.

After a day of high political drama at Kilmory Castle, members of Argyll and Bute Council voted 19-17 in favour of beginning a consultation process on their closure.

Following a three-week review of the proposals, ordered by councillors in early November, the only school removed from the original closure list was Isle of Luing Primary School because of the excessive time pupils would have to spend travelling to their new school.

During a mammoth seven-hour session only selected parent council representatives were allowed into the chamber to listen to the debate on the future of schools, while outside a large crowd left councillors in no doubt about their feelings on the closure proposals.

Council leader, Independent member Dick Walsh, urged colleagues to accept his motion to go to consultation.

'We are facing unprecedented challenges, unpopular decisions will have to be made. We are voting on whether we put this out to discussion and extensive

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

consultation.'

However, an amendment was put forward by deputy leader, the SNP's Robert MacIntyre, who said the proposals should be withdrawn and a new list prepared based on the journey times pupils would have to make and future school rolls.

Education executive officer Cleland Sneddon was almost drowned out by deafening chants of 'get Sneddon out' made by more than 200 parents and children waiting outside the council chamber.

Mr Sneddon, who came into post in May, said: 'I would like to address the claims that these documents are fundamentally flawed. It is not the case.'

'There is a distinction between disagreeing with the information in the documents and flaws. There is a difference of opinion over the factual statements in the document - that does not make them flawed.'

He said the council transported 3,600 pupils every day making 1.4 million journeys per year. He claimed it would be no different adding more pupils to this list. He said transporting

pupils was 'no different from the standard practice within this and many other councils'.

He claimed the council had 'benchmarked' all proposals against six other similar authorities in Scotland.

SNP councillor John Semple asked: 'Is the scale of what we are proposing in keeping with other areas? For instance, how many children are being affected?'

Mr Clelland was unable to answer.

It was later revealed 515 pupils would be affected by the proposals for school closures in Argyll and Bute.

Education spokesperson Isobel Strong, who was part of a group who set down the list of schools, was asked by councillors why she had made a u-turn.

She replied: 'I didn't realise how loud the protest would be. These school closures would be too radical.'

Independent Neil MacKay said he wanted to go to the community. Councillor Elaine Roberson agreed, as did Duncan MacIntyre who said: 'Consultation is not a process to be frightened of. This is a big issue, but we should not be scared of it.'

The general feeling during

the meeting put councillors in two camps: those who felt consultation was a process by which schools would be saved on their merit and those - including Independents Mary-Jean Devon and Gordon Chalmers and the SNP's Roddy McCuish, Donald MacDonald, Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh - who felt the documents put before the council were flawed, inaccurate and did not form a good basis by which good decisions should be made.

Lib Dem Ellen Morton said: 'This is a disgraceful way for councillors to behave. There are hard decisions to be made today and I see it as a breach of the councillors' code of conduct if people are not willing to make those decisions.'

'It is no use to say a big civil servant did it and ran away - the education spokesperson could have stopped this at any time. She chose not to.'

The vote saw 19 votes to adopt the motion for consultation against 17 to adopt the SNP amendment.

As names of councillors were read out, those who went with the motion were booed and hissed from the public gallery.

Police were on hand as councillors left Kilmory Castle to shouts of 'traitor'.

How your councillor voted:

For the motion to go out to consultation: Rory Colville, Robin Currie, Vivian Dance, Alison Hay, Daniel Kelly, David Kinniburgh, Duncan MacIntyre, Neil Mackay, Donald MacMillan, James MacQueen, Bruce Marshall, Gary Mulvaney, Andrew Nisbet, Al Reay, Dick Walsh, Ellen Morton, William Petrie, Elaine Robertson and Len Scoullar.

For the amendment to scrap the consultation proposals and draw up new recommendations: Donald Kelly, John Semple, Anne Horn, John McAlpine, Douglas Philand, Ron Simon, Alister MacAlister, Isobel Strong, Gordon Chalmers, Mary-Jean Devon, Roddie McCuish, Donald MacDonald, Donald McIntosh, George Freeman, James Robb, Alex McNaughton and Robert MacIntyre.

Proposals lead to divisive split among council leaders

THE RULING political alliance at Argyll and Bute Council was blown apart because of a divisive split on the issue of school closures.

Prior to last Thursday's meeting, the nine-strong SNP group along with three other alliance members walked out on the administration saying that school closure documents were flawed and raising doubts about the competence of the subsequent consultation process.

Robert MacIntyre, leader of the Scottish National Party group in Argyll and Bute, said: 'The SNP withdrew from the administration of Argyll and Bute Council because our nine councillors were not prepared to vote for a programme of school closures which would undermine all of rural Argyll, destroy many of our communities and wipe out many good schools.'

'The programme, however, was voted through by a margin of only two votes. It would have failed had the Liberals or the Tories refused to back it.'

'In fact, they were the most enthusiastic supporters of a set of proposals which are deeply flawed, based on highly questionable figures and now - after the Scottish government settlement with Scotland's councils announced in the SNP budget - completely unnecessary.'

'Council leader Dick Walsh, in particular, should have known better. He was at a meeting in Edinburgh last week that discussed the Scottish budget

deal with councils. 'He knows that the financial cut coming to Argyll and Bute is much smaller than expected. Instead he pressed ahead, hell bent on closures, even of a school in his own ward.'

Donald Kelly, of Argyll First, said: 'Despite losing the vote by a small majority, the objection to the motion is a victory for those local government politicians who are not willing to toe the party line for the sake of it.'

'The documents have been proven to be flawed and we were not willing to enter into consultation on that basis.'

'We stood strongly against an amendment that would simply take some schools off the list and argued for a full review of the schools on the list for closure. We managed to effectively argue that with the SNP group.'

'We will not be led down one party line. The consultation process has to be open and transparent.'

'We will continue to support all parents and children from all schools in the fight for rural communities.'

However, the Liberal Democrats hit back. Andrew Nisbet said: 'The Liberal Democrat opposition group on Argyll and Bute Council supported the administration's proposal to embark on 19 consultation exercises for 25 schools across Argyll and Bute.'

'For the Liberal Democrat group, the important factor is that the consultation process is

fair, open and transparent. That is the commitment the group has made since the start of this process and its position on that has not changed.'

Councillor Ellen Morton added: 'This is a very difficult situation for all councillors and I personally think it is very irresponsible of the SNP councillors to work on a proposal for years, creating enormous

upset for our communities and then walk away as though they had no responsibility for it.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon voted against her colleagues in the Alliance of Independent Councillors. She said: 'There is no way my conscience would have allowed me to wave through these consultations.'

'There are serious concerns about the proposal documents.'



A young campaigner with his placard in support of Achaleven Primary School in Connel. 08_t49protestachaleven01

SNP leader's attempt to placate furious protesters

BEFORE the Argyll and Bute Council meeting began, SNP group leader and deputy leader of the council Robert MacIntyre made a statement to the 200 plus parents and children waiting outside the council's chamber.

Explaining his party's change of position on the school closure proposals, he said: 'We want parents from rural schools to know we are supporting them.'

'Today, we have decided to bring forward a motion to withdraw the complete list of

school listed for possible amalgamation and return to the council early in the new year with a reduced list of schools.'

'We hope to find support amongst other members for this common sense approach.'



Save our schools - hundreds of protesters gathered at the council offices in Kilmory. 08_t49protestgroup01

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Driver cleared of assaulting his ex

A LOCHGILPHEAD man has been cleared of unclipping his partner's seatbelt and trying to push her from a moving car after a sheriff learned the woman did not go to the police until two years later.

Graeme McLennan, aged 39, of 19 Duntrune Place, Lochgilphead, was found not guilty at Oban Sheriff Court of assaulting Christine Humphreys during a car journey on Mull.

The couple, who have since separated, lived at Bentalla Crescent, Salen, Mull, at the time of the alleged incident on January 31 2007.

Ms Humphreys, 44, went to the police last year following a 'bitter' split from McLennan. She said they had argued and McLennan was taking her and the children to the ferry terminal at Craignure so they could leave the island.

McLennan, in his evidence, agreed that the couple had argued but said the assault did not take place. He said it was only after the couple had split up two years later and Ms Humphreys learned that he was seeing someone new that she went to the police.

He said: 'She found out I had a new partner and wasn't happy at all. She said 'I will have you for that' and I got a visit from the police six days later.'

Sheriff Eric Brown found McLennan not guilty.

CalMac named operator of year

FERRY operator Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) has won its second prestigious award of the year, after being named 'Public Transport Operator of the Year' at the Scottish Transport Awards in Glasgow.

The company, which operates 24 routes across the west coast of Scotland, was presented with the award by Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson MSP, at a ceremony in Glasgow. It is the first time it has been won by a ferry company.

Phil Preston, managing director of CalMac, said: 'This latest award is particularly pleasing coming so soon after our Guardian and Observer Award.'

'Once again the hard work and dedication of all our staff on shore and afloat who strive daily to maintain these essential services to some of the remotest communities in Europe in some of the most hostile sea areas in Europe, has been recognised at the highest level.'

Jobs in tourism

FIGURES just released for tourism employment show that 13 per cent of people in Argyll and Bute are employed in the business.

The figures, from VisitScotland, also show there are more people employed in tourism in Argyll than are employed in Stirlingshire.

Duke unveils £6 million SAMS education block

A NEW education building at Dunstaffnage's Scottish Association for Marine Science, named after a leading Argyll scientist, has been given the Royal seal of approval at its official opening.

On Monday, HRH The Duke of Gloucester officially opened the new £6m Sheina Marshall Building, named after the Rothesay-born marine biologist who spent more than 50 years with the Scottish Marine Biological Association - now called SAMS - at Millport.

She was one of the first three women to be made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

The existing marine institute at SAMS, the largest private employer in North Argyll, was completed in 2004 and houses approximately 140 staff, but was custom-built for research.

SAMS' director Professor Laurence Mee said: 'To accommodate the rapidly growing number of students studying marine science courses, we needed this

REPORT
by EUAN PATERSON
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new facility. It provides undergraduate and postgraduate students and professionals on tailored professional development courses with the space to learn.

'Scotland's seas provide a major potential for developing a stronger marine-based economy. We have much of the necessary knowledge and there is willingness to engage but there is a significant skills gap.'

'We hope to attract up to 800 people to our courses by the middle of the decade. This outstanding new teaching facility is a critical step in implementing this strategy.'

Minister of Education Mike Russell was among the guests unable to make the opening because of the weekend snowfall, however, his speech was read out by SAMS Professor Axel Miller.



HRH The Duke of Gloucester talks to SAMS director Professor Laurence Mee and head of IT Steven Gontarek. 15_t49sams01

It outlined the importance of higher education in the Highlands.

Mr Russell also said: 'Scottish Higher education is famous throughout the world.'

'For more than 500 years Scotland has had a strong

and successful education tradition. Today we are building on this.'

The building, which was built by Barr Construction, was funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (£2.382m), the European Regional Development

Fund (£2.265m) and the Scottish Funding Council (£1.424m).

SAMS is one of 13 academic partners of the UHI Millennium Institute working towards the creation of a university of the Highlands and Islands.

Band bid fond farewell to a popular player

AFTER leading the procession at the switching on of the town's Christmas lights, Oban Pipe Band held an important ceremony of its own for a band stalwart.

George Campbell had been a popular player in the band for the past 20 years and also undertook the role of band secretary, organising many events the band has taken on over the years.

The current band line-up paid a special tribute to the piper on the occasion of his retirement from the band on November 20.

George said he had many happy memories of being in the band but his proudest was when the band won Grade 3A in the British

Championships at Hyde Park, London, in 1993 and in 2003 when they won the European Championships and became Champion of Champions.

He also took great pleasure from playing at the many community events, helping to support good causes in the area, and the social side of the band when a wee dram or two would be taken in good company in the band hall after playing at an event.

Pipe Major Euan Dewar, on behalf of the band members, thanked George for his service and support to the band and presented him with an inscribed sporran flask, as well as a bottle of something appropriate to fill it.



Pipe Major Euan Dewar presents George Campbell with an inscribed sporran flask.



The new Sheina Marshall Building at SAMS. 15_t49sams01



Dunbeg Primary School stacks up 44 shoeboxes full of gifts ready for collection by Blythwood Care. 16_dunbegshoe01

Christmas all wrapped up at Dunbeg school

PUPILS at Dunbeg Primary School have wrapped up 44 boxes for this year's Christmas shoebox appeal.

The pupils, from nursery through to primary seven, filled the shoeboxes for the Blythwood

Care charity, which provides Christmas presents for people who would not otherwise receive one. This is the eighth year in which the school has supported the charity with students and their families donating sweets, colouring pens,

books and toys to those less fortunate than themselves.

This year shoe boxes will be distributed to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, India, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

Lorn Lines

OBAN Photographic Club welcomed Philip Price of Loch Visions Photography School at Kilchrenan.

He had the task of judging the competition, Looking Up. From more than 50 entries, Philip gave constructive hints and tips on how to improve picture taking skills. An image of Fireworks Night by John Douglas was chosen as the best print, while the overall image selected and awarded the John Douglas Trophy, along with an Oban Photo Centre Gift voucher, was a beautiful image of a seagull in flight taken by Ronnie MacKillop.

The next regular Monday meeting is a Scottish Photographic Federation presentation of quality images from around Scotland. New members are welcome at the Regent Hotel - 7.45pm for 8pm.



OBAN High School raised more than £2,000 for Children in Need after senior pupils helped to organise a number of events to support the charity.

During the fifth and sixth periods on November 19, S6 pupils, dressed in their pyjamas, ran stalls and organised a soak the teacher and teacher auction.

The PE department set up a giant obstacle course and the school ceilidh band performed.



Peter Gibson, second left, with Nick Nairn and other Forth Valley College students.

A TAYNUILT student helped Scottish chef Nick Nairn open the new Forth Valley Royal Hospital Restaurant.

Peter Gibson, aged 18, was one of five hospitality students from Forth Valley College who attended the opening of the restaurant. The state-of-the-art development can accommodate 300 customers at a time and the students will have work experience placements through the restaurant.

Nick Nairn presented all the students with cookery books, before cutting a red ribbon and presenting the restaurant with a Healthy Eating award.



A NEW dance company of teenage girls will perform its first winter show in Oban tomorrow (Friday).

Lorn School of Dance will present 'Look Who's Dancing' at St Columba's Cathedral Hall.

The dancers, all girls aged 11-16 years, attend weekly after-school classes in ballet, jazz dance, street dance, choreography and costume design.

The girls will also showcase artistic talents, including live music and puppet theatre.

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Have you stood the test of time?

A COUPLE who have stood the test of time in their relationship are being called upon to star in a new television series. Producers of 'Going The Distance' will be filming their couples in Argyll as part of a new series learning about the secrets of a successful relationship. Rose Walton from Fresh One TV said: 'We are hoping to speak to confident, happy, loving couples from Argyll who might be able to let us in on their secrets to a great relationship. Maybe a couple whose relationship has stood the test of time, or are about to celebrate a big anniversary or have overcome incredible obstacles.' Contact Rose Walton on 0203 375 5134.

Flight agreement

HEBRIDEAN Air Services will continue the current Public Service Operator (PSO) flight service to Coll and Colonsay until March 31, 2011, Argyll and Bute Council has confirmed. Argyll and Bute Council is due to issue tenders for the PSO service in 2011.

Romantic ruin

LOCH Awe's Kilchurn Castle has been recognised among the top 10 most romantic ruins in the UK by BBC Countryfile Magazine. A panel of experts, including Countryfile presenter John Craven, chose the line-up. The winner is being decided by an online vote.

Crossroads marks tenth anniversary

REPORT
by EDEL KENEALY
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

FROM caring for the terminally ill and keeping an eye on new mums to looking after those with a disability, Crossroads has spent the last decade supporting the most vulnerable members of the north Argyll community.

Marking the charity's anniversary, officials looked back on their achievements and set out their aims for delivering support in an ever-changing landscape of social care.

Born out of a steering group established by Freda Marshall, the ethos of Crossroads has always been to provide emotional and practical support for vulnerable people, allowing them to live at home for longer and maintain a good quality of life.

'Assisting a person to maintain their independence is integral to what we do,' said Bette Hunter, manager at Crossroads. 'It adds to their quality of life, creates confidence and shows people that they can still achieve things for themselves.'

Crossroads currently has 12 care attendants, trained to level two and three in SVQ social care, who work tirelessly to achieve that aim. One such person is Anne Johnstone, senior care attendant. She said it is a



Elaine Robertson, Anne Johnstone, Bette Hunter and Lee Scott have been with Crossroads since it was established 10 years ago. 08_t46crossroads01

privilege to be welcomed into people's homes.

'The rewards of ensuring a person's dignity and independence are immeasurable,' she said. 'What is unique about our service is that we do not do tasks for people.'

'If someone has trouble getting groceries we can take them out and lift the goods from the top shelf in the supermarket, but we do not do the shopping for them. This shows people that they can achieve things with a little assistance.'

Whilst the charity, based on Albany Street, Oban,

is affiliated to the national Crossroads organisation it, like its clients, has maintained its own independence.

'We have adopted some national policies but we make decisions based on the needs of local people,' said Bette.

As more people remain at home, Crossroads aims to provide more respite for carers in 2011.

Bette said: 'Carers have a much heavier burden now than they have ever done.'

'Whilst care in the community is good, in that it allows people to live at

home for longer, it also adds to the responsibility of the carers in the home. We hope to ease that burden.'

Chairwoman Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'Crossroads has grown in strength and reputation over the last 10 years and as a member of the management committee I am very proud of what has been achieved. I thank Betty, Anne, Lee and all our care attendants for their loyalty, their caring approach and the quality of service they provide for our clients. I continue to hold up Crossroads as an exemplary organisation wherever I go.'

Views sought on new marine regions

PUBLIC views are being sought on the make-up of Scottish Marine Regions. A public consultation was launched by the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment Richard Lochhead and it is envisaged there will eventually be up to 12 marine regions created. Interested parties are being asked to consider three options for how these regions

should be shaped: physical characteristics of Firths and Islands; physical characteristics with further divisions in the west coast and modification of boundaries in the east coast to address the large size of some of the regions. The consultation will run until the end of February and can be accessed online at <http://scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/seamangement/regional/Consultation>.

A monster achievement by North Lorn adventurers

THE MULTIPLE Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Oban is £437 better off thanks to a team of athletics adventurers.

A team from the North Lorn area recently took part in The First Monster, a 120-kilometre duathlon around Loch Ness.

The event started at Inverness Stadium, down the Great Glen to Fort Augustus and then back north again.

The team, consisting of Charlie Bavington, North Connel; Clare Mattison and Carol Shellcock, Benderloch; and Alistair Chisholm, Inverness, completed the running and cycling event in about eight hours. Barcaldine's Sue Greenwood had

trained with the team but had to be replaced by Alistair only two weeks before the event after sustaining an injury.

The team delivered the money raised to the charity's base at Glencruitten when Carol told *The Oban Times*: 'We wanted to raise money for a local charity, as we did last year for Riding for the Disabled.'

'One of our previous team mates has a connection with the Multiple Sclerosis Centre in Oban so we decided this was the charity to back this year.'

On hand to receive the cash and cheques were Sandra Owens and Fiona Young, who thanked the team for their efforts.



Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre staff Sandra Owens, centre left, and Fiona Young, centre right, collect cash and cheques from fund-raisers Charlie Bavington and Carol Shellcock. 07_t49arms01

Scouts offer special delivery in the run up to Christmas

OBAN'S Scout Group has been busy preparing for Christmas by organising its 20th annual Scout Post.

The fund-raiser will see the Scouts deliver hundreds of cards around the Lorn area on December 11 and 12, with a final date for posting of December 8 at 4pm.

There are 11 post boxes throughout Oban and Dunbeg, where cards can be deposited for a donation of 20 pence each.

Scout leader Geoff Anderson said: 'The boys and girls will deliver to Oban and the surrounding area, as far as Kilmore and Dunbeg.'

'We will be working with Ardchattan Scouts, who will deliver in Connel, and north as far as Creagan and Bonawe.'

'Unfortunately we don't do as far as

Easdale or Taynuilt. People still give us cards for these places out of habit but we end up having to put a stamp on them ourselves.'

Scout Post boxes are in the following places: Lorn and Islands Hospital, Tesco, Co-op, Birchwood Filling Station, Albany Stores, Alba, Jackson Bros Butchers, Hannah's Newsagents, Dunollie Stores, Halfway Filling Station and Dunbeg Stores.

The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be card singing on December 18 in the Co-op from 10am to 11am and Tesco from 11am to noon.

Anyone interested in joining any of the groups can contact Geoff on 01631 566135.



Oban Beavers, Cubs and Scouts with the Scout Post boxes which will be distributed around Oban. 07_t49scout01

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New bid to boost tree planting

A NEW incentive has been launched to encourage owners of native woodlands on the Argyll islands to plant more trees.

The Rural Priorities element of the Scotland Rural Development Programme will see an additional 10 per cent added to grant support for woodland creation in the Argyll Islands Native Woodland Partnership area.

Syd House, for administrators of the Forestry Commission in Perth and Argyll, said: 'Maintaining and expanding the woodlands on the islands is important for opening up a whole range of economic, social and biodiversity benefits. Woodlands can sustain employment; produce food, timber and the wood fuel that can help reduce costs for farms and homes; as well as helping boost recreation and ecotourism.'

'This extra financial support will help the island economies to develop their local woodlands and help communities and businesses to tap into the wide range of economic and biodiversity benefits that appropriately located woodlands offer.'

'The additional funding will help to meet the costs of initial planting, fencing, gates and the establishment work that will help new woodlands to get established and to thrive.'

For more information in relation to the additional funding contact the Perth and Argyll Conservancy Office on 01738 442830.

Cash taken in Post Office raid

THIEVES threatened and attacked a 64-year-old worker at Strone Post Office, near Dunoon, before making off with a four-figure sum of cash.

Strathclyde Police are seeking witnesses to the robbery, which happened last Tuesday between 7.15am and 7.30am.

The male member of staff received a minor injury and was badly shaken as a result of the robbery.

Detective Sergeant Grant MacLeod, of Dunoon Police Office, said: 'The only description available of the two suspects at this time is that they were wearing dark-coloured clothing, however, police enquiries are ongoing to gather more information on those responsible.'

Anyone with information about the robbery should contact Dunoon Police Office on 01369 763000.

In October this year another small post office in Connel was targeted by a robber wielding an axe.

Legal hitch delays opening of Dalmally's £1 million centre

HOPES that Dalmally's new £1 million community centre would be opened ahead of schedule have been dashed by a legal complication.

While the building itself was mostly completed a month ago, a hiccup over the installation of sewerage and water works has prevented Dalmally Community Company from opening the doors ahead of its originally anticipated November 9 completion date.

The opening is now unlikely to take place for a few more weeks.

Chairman of the community company Kenny Black said he is disappointed that the 'only wrinkle in the project' has delayed it at this late stage.

He said: 'There is a legal issue that I rather wouldn't go into. We maybe should have anticipated it but we didn't.'

'It's a real shame that it happened, but it's not a big deal. There's a due process to go through though and it's in the hands of the lawyers.'

'It's very disappointing to have this delay given how it has gone so far. This has been the only wrinkle in the project.'

'This has been a really good project, from the design to the build. It's all gone so well, so this is nothing to get upset about.'

'I've been doing this project for the last 12 years - I can wait a few more weeks!'

Meanwhile, plans for a new multi-purpose sports field and shinty pitch adjacent to the community centre are gathering pace with news that SportScotland is to visit the site in the near future to advise on design, construction and funding.

Fund-raising has started locally and it's hoped that the facility will reflect the quality of the hall.

Mr Black said: 'SportScotland is very enthusiastic and I don't perceive any big roadblocks with this.'

'We've already moved some earth for the pitch when we were digging the foundations for the community centre, which in itself is a great foundation for the pitch.'

'If we had started without this building it would be a lot harder to progress. We don't have a cost yet. We have to get the professionals in to give us their advice first, then we'll take this forward next year.'



Cleanly shaven Eltell and John mourn the loss of their moustaches.
08_a49tashaf01

It's a very close shave at last for pair's facial hair

TWO MEN in Lochgilhead were celebrating 'Movember' with a twist this week as they shaved off their moustaches to raise money for charity.

Twenty-five years and 35 years in the making, John McCuish and Terrance Robertson had grown quite attached to their facial hair.

But as the men around them grew moustaches, goatees and beards throughout November to raise money for prostate cancer research, the men shaved theirs off to raise funds for local Macmillan nurses.

A crowd gathered at the Comm, on Lochnell Street, on Saturday as local hairdresser Hazel Hunter came to the pub armed with a pair of scissors, a comb and razor.

Terrence, or Eltell as he is known, was the first to face the razor blade

and, what he called his 'masterpiece moustache', which took 35 years to perfect, was gone in minutes.

John, who has sported a moustache for the last 25 years, lost his in an equally quick fashion.

The men, who are still accepting donations, hope to raise £1,000 for the new chemotherapy unit at Mid Argyll Community Hospital.

John said: 'The Macmillan nurses are very close to my heart. They were so supportive towards me when my wife was diagnosed with cancer; I could not have survived without them.'

The 12 men, from Lochgilhead and Dunoon, currently growing moustaches will have theirs shaved off in the Comm on December 11 - they are already looking forward to it.

Energy trust calls for re-think on 'flawed' community benefits

REPORT

by EUAN PATERSON
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

ISLAY Energy Trust (IET) has called for a change to the 'flawed' system of renewable energy developers paying a sum of cash to the communities affected by their projects.

At present, developers pay cash sums to communities where wind farms and other onshore developments are built.

However IET says the payments are tiny, compared with the overall value of projects.

Speaking at the trust's AGM last Friday in Bowmore, chairman Philip Maxwell said: 'We are strongly against the current practice in onshore wind, where the developer typically pays a sum to the affected community, although there is no obligation for them to do so.'

'The process sets up an inevitable conflict where the developer seeks to minimise the amount and the community seeks to maximise it.'

'There is generally no sustainable economic benefit since the funds are typically spent on short-term local matters or to replace funding 'lost' from elsewhere.'



The new IET board of directors pictured at the AGM.

'We would like to move the goal posts and talk about 'social investment', which has obvious positive connotations, rather than the discredited 'community benefit'.

In this context, investment means expenditure of financial and social capital leading to future yields of financial and social dividends.

Mr Maxwell pointed to IET's agreement with ScottishPower Renewables for the Sound of Islay Tidal Project as a benchmark on high quality

collaboration for the offshore renewable industries.

In addition to the business of electing new directors and approving the accounts at the AGM, there were reports on the trust's three current projects: The Tidal Project Climate Challenge Funded Carbon Savings project and the Argyll Renewables Communities, a consortium consisting of IET, Kintyre Energy Trust, South Kintyre and Tiree Community Development Trust.

Lindy MacLellan, manager

of the carbon savings project, said it had exceeded the target of 300 tonnes per annum of carbon savings from island households.

Members of IET's new board include Philip Maxwell, chairman, Jenni Minto, treasurer, Arthur Woodrow, Ian Stuart, Dr Malcolm Ogilvie, Islay MacEarchan, Kirsten Laurie, Gus Newman and George Dean.

Thanks were paid to retiring directors Ann Clarke and Callum Anderson.

Young photographers urged to focus on competition

YOUNG photographers in Argyll are being called upon to enter this year's Rotary Young Photographer Competition.

The theme for 2011 is 'Have

Some Pride - Keep Scotland Tidy', allowing a broad interpretation of subject matter.

Judges will be looking for imagination and style, as well

as technical merit, content and composition.

Categories

Photographs will be judged across three age group categories

- under 12 years, 12-15 years and 15-18 years.

Entries must be submitted to local rotary club branches before April 1 2011.

Santa drops in on Inveraray as town lights up for festive season

SANTA was the main attraction in Inveraray on Friday night as Royal burgh folk gathered to celebrate the switching on of the Christmas Lights for the first time.

Santa took time out of his busy schedule to meet Mid Argyll children, take some last minute additions to Christmas wish lists and hand out sweets to the boys and girls who came to see him.

Inveraray Primary School pupil Steven McKillop was especially lucky as he was selected to join Santa on the front green to turn on the lights.

Competition

Eleven-year-old Steven won the chance to spend time with Santa after he won a Christmas light design art competition at Inveraray Primary School.

Steven's reindeer design is now proudly hanging outside Inveraray Community Hall.

Visitors to the event were also treated to a special performance by Inveraray and District Pipe Band.



Inveraray Christmas Lights Committee member and event organiser Davie Scott tells Santa what he wants for Christmas.
08_a49inveraraylights01

Committee member Davie Scott said: 'The switch on has been a great success and I am pleased to see so many people turning out.'

'I have so many people and organisations to thank including

Jennifer Evans, The Pier Shop, The Arch Filling Station, Argyll and Bute Council, Inveraray Pipe Band, Mid Argyll Round Table, Howard Spicer, Alistair Galbraith and Gregor Cameron.'

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Difficult decisions

SO would you be happy with a fortnightly bin collection if it meant saving someone's job?

Or could you manage if the potholes in the roads were left to deepen just a little longer?

There is no way of sugar coating the fact that in one way or another, the council cuts which are coming will affect everyone in Argyll and Bute.

To some, they will cause a fairly minor irritation. For others, it is their livelihood that is at risk - more than 150 jobs could be lost.

Whichever way forward is chosen, it is vital that every option is given full consideration before next year's budget it set.

No-one is denying that it is anything but a difficult task and it is one not made any easier given the current political upheaval at Kilmory caused by the breakdown in the ruling alliance at last week's meeting into the proposed school closures.

GLASGOW LETTER

Ceol's Craic

Sell-Out

HOW OLD do you have to be to enjoy a nostalgic trip down memory lane?

Not very old if the age range of those present at the recent monthly meeting of Gaelic Club Ceol's Craic can be taken as an indicator.

The reason for the packed house was the re-issue of some of the finest recordings made by the MacDonald Sisters, the first Gaelic singing group in Scotland, who first burst on to the Gaelic singing scene in 1963 and had their last stage performance in 1977 as part of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Celebrations.

Although born in Darlington, the family returned to their native village of Shader on the west side of the island of Lewis and it was here they learned the songs which set the scene and allowed them to take their innovative Gaelic music to a wide audience.

Iain Carmichael had the pleasant task of introducing the sisters and like Na h-Oganaich, who in the past year issued a jazzed up wonderful version of their music, there was new accompaniment to their music, including Kathleen playing the flute.

There was sheer delight as the sisters sang a selection of songs from the new CD but if you want value for money make sure you get a copy, complete with its 26 tracks.

Providing the accompanying music were younger family members Alasdair Vann and Finlay MacDonald and later in the evening the audience was treated to songs from Lorraine Wilson, a club committee member, and Calum Ross before the stage was handed over to the Potential Strangers, fronted by Donald Ewan MacKinnon from Scalpay who writes much of the band's material in both Gaelic and English.

This was very much a nostalgic trip for many but it was also an example of what might be seen as the future for the Gaelic music scene in the city as it was supported by different age groups and by an audience who had their native roots from throughout the land and beyond.

Ceol's Craic will, of course, play an important part in Celtic Connections 2011 from Thursday, January 20, to Saturday, January 22, when on each evening, from 6pm onwards, there will be workshops, films, talks, live music and dancing exploring all aspects of Gaelic and other world traditions.

Book launch

CONTINUING with the theme of nostalgia, the third of Lorn MacIntyre's novels, based on the significant role played by the Gaels in Glasgow, was recently launched at the University of Glasgow. 'Maclays Days'

is a collection of short stories which capture the essence of the lives of the Hebridean Islanders in their new Glasgow environment. It will make an ideal stocking filler.

Celtic Connections

IT HAS just been announced that the living legend Tom Jones will perform his latest acclaimed album in its entirety in the Royal Concert Hall on Monday, January 17.

This is a tremendous coup for festival organisers and the concert will be part of the spiritual strand of gospel, roots and blues music.

Govan Heritage

HEART of Govan, a history of Govan's spiritual history, will be performed on Wednesday, December 8, at 7pm in Govan Old Parish Church, 866 Govan Road, by Fablevision and CRAN Theatre together with Hear Glasgow and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra.

Together with its industrial history, Govan has for centuries been a place of spiritual importance and this will be investigated through verse, song and music in the performance which will revive the heart of the area.

Diary dates

Thursday December 2: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Dinner, Glasgow Hilton Hotel, 7pm for 7.30pm.

Friday December 3: Glasgow Skye Association Annual Concert, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. Dance to follow in Glasgow University Union, 10pm-2am.

Saturday December 4: Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club Ceilidh Dance, Hillhead Sports Club, 8pm. Clann Gaidhlig Ceilidh, Auchenbach Centre, Barrhead, 7.30pm, featuring Govan Gaelic Choir.

Wednesday December 8: Govan Heritage - see above.

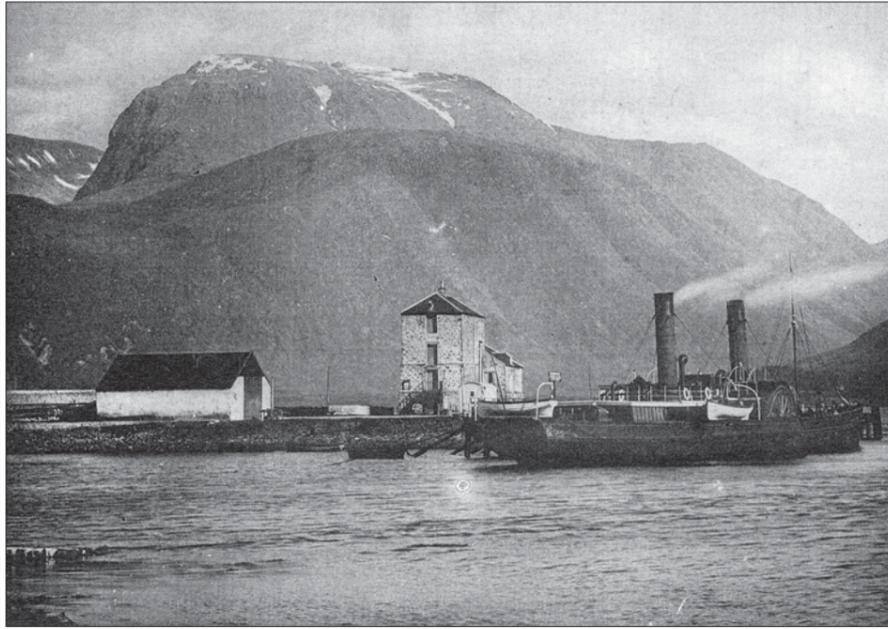
Thursday December 9: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Jez Lowes 'Geordies Winter Almanac Road Show'.

Friday December 10: Clydebanks and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick, 7.30pm.

Saturday December 11: Glasgow Skye Association Children's Party, Renfield Centre, Bath Street, 2.30pm. Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Howwood Village Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

GUNNA Sound will be playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with Ballochmyle on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be Deoch'n Dorus on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Telephone: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



View of Ben Nevis from Corpach

Colin Armstrong of Coventry submitted this week's flashback photograph which features a view of Ben Nevis from Corpach. It was taken from an Oban Souvenir Album Mr Armstrong has in his collection of Scottish books. The album was produced by D MacKay, Queen's Park Place, George Street, Oban, book Bible, stationery and photograph warehouse. We invite readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Stewart's Folly?

Sir,
Further to your recent article regarding Glencoe Hospital, common sense has prevailed, so far, and no-one is putting forward sufficient cash to allow this 'white elephant' to progress.

Anyone with any experience of visitor centres knows the projected visitor numbers are hugely over-inflated and the whole project unsustainable and badly thought through.

There's good reason Ballachulish Community Council - one of the most forward looking and active in Lochaber - wouldn't support or have anything to do with this scheme.

As many have said before, it's all about one man's desire to have control of the building and the land.

Double the allotted time has almost passed, so let's open it up to some sensible development plans and not leave it to decay for another year, incurring more costs on whoever eventually takes it over.

Oban has McCaig's, let's now allow Glencoe to have Stewart's Folly.

If anyone from NHS Highland is reading this, or indeed The Scottish Office, Highlands and Islands Enterprise or The Heritage Lottery, give your cash to a project with a chance of success. Give your cash to a project that actually has a majority of locals backing it. Funding has never been tougher to come by than now, spend it wisely, more wisely than on this white elephant.

Stewart Borland, Glencoe.

Does council care about safety of our children?

Sir,
There is no doubt rural primary schools are important for many reasons in the overall socio-economic health of the communities which they serve. Many are gems of quality

educational achievement with the best teacher/pupil ratios in the land.

Most of the reasons for school closures being invented by Argyll and Bute council could be put forward separately at a different time from now and would be given some consideration and perhaps credence by those parents most affected.

Right now the 'reasons' are clearly excuses when the only object of the whole exercise is to save money. If only for that disingenuous attempt by those who spend more effort in watching their own backs than caring for the safety of our children, we should condemn this sham.

On the weekend of November 20 and 21, a family member had to take hasty evasive action on our single track roads when met by councillors attempting to outdo the rally stage times on the Ulva Ferry to Dervaig route. His partner and small child were in the car. He is an experienced, 20 plus years driver on Mull roads. It was clear that those whom he met were neither competent or caring and had only the 'bogey' 45 minutes to beat.

On Sunday morning, I drove the minibus from Lochbuie to Salen carrying some pupils and parents and performing the stops at one minute for each.

As a clean record driver on Mull roads for 46 years, I drove at a safe but reasonable pace for the road conditions. No-one who knows me would call me a slow driver. The time taken was one hour. To do this journey in 15 minutes less would be dangerous and undoubtedly sick making for wee passengers. Let's see if our council cares.

Iain Morrison, by email.

Stramash leading the way

Sir,
I am deeply disappointed McCaig should use his column to undermine the excellent work of a local charity.

The information he gave in his column last week is incorrect. He refers to Stramash as 'one of those leisure pursuits companies which survive on local authority hand-outs' and recommends that 'leisure grants' should be scrapped. Stramash has never been in receipt of a 'leisure grant' and does not receive any grant funding from any local authority.

Stramash is a local charity that has worked with more than 1,000 local young people in the past year, helping their personal, social and educational development.

In addition, Stramash has created 15 new jobs within the past year, including eight apprenticeships for local young people. Stramash is helping establish Oban and Argyll as an adventure tourism destination, attracting much needed economic benefits to the area.

Stramash is proud to have attracted more than £500,000 in inward investment into Argyll over a three year period.

Far from surviving on local authority hand-outs, Stramash is a leading example of a local charity working with local people for local benefit at a time when this is desperately needed.

We would like to extend an invitation to McCaig to come and see our work first-hand so that he can see the real positive impact we are having.

Niall Urquhart, Chief Executive, Stramash Social Enterprise.

Oban Armistice Parade

Sir,
I refer to the letter in *The Oban Times* on Thursday November 18 from Chris Rydings regarding Oban Armistice Parade.

Firstly, I would also like, on behalf of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee, to thank the Royal British Legion in Oban for the wonderful job they have done over the years. They have ensured that we continue to remember those whose sacrifices meant that we continue to live in the freedom that we take for granted.

I would like to reassure readers that the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee will make sure this tradition will continue.

I am greatly encouraged by the response already shown by our community and the Area Committee will organise a meeting early in the next year to talk about

how we take next year's parade forward.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite all interested parties to this meeting. We will, of course, advertise the date of the meeting nearer the time.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, Chairman, Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee.

Tiree split over wind farm

Sir,
Your front page article on November 18, regarding the wind farm off the coast of Tiree is somewhat misleading.

No Tiree Array is a small new group and is in no way representative of the island's 'small population'.

The majority of the indigenous population is waiting to hear exact proposals from Scottish Power Renewables before coming to any conclusion on the impact this will have on the island.

Some feel the development will bring a lot of benefits to health amenities, improved housing, education, transport, upgrading of roads, leisure amenities and the potential creation of jobs - all of which are badly needed.

Others are worried that the impact on culture, fishing, tourism and the peaceful lifestyle will ruin the island.

We have been told that once the necessary permissions are given the project will go ahead regardless of local opinion. Nothing we say or do will put a stop to it.

Bearing this in mind, all residents on the island should be rallying together to ensure Tiree gets the maximum benefit from the wind farm.

Oban is seeing this as a potential 'boom time'. Should Tiree not have the same attitude?

M Macarthur, Isle of Tiree.

Malayan Balsam

Sir,
I am very concerned about the huge increase in Malayan Balsam growing in north and south Lorn.

This foreign invader has spread like wild fire and no one seems to be taking any action to eradicate it.

It wreaks havoc on native and wild plants and flowers and can grow up to six feet in one season.

Someone, somewhere must be responsible for stopping it from spreading further.

Action is needed now, not next year or the year after. By then it will be too late. **Alex Cameron, Dunbeg.**

A view from the tower

by McCaig

New building opened despite weather

AS MOST of Scotland was in the clutches of severe frost and piles of snow, a number of principal guests due to open the Sheina Marshall building at the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) complex at Dunstaffnage couldn't get there.

Those who made it, including HRH the Duke of Gloucester who officially opened the building, were astonished that this corner of Argyll was bathed in warm sunshine.

However, since he had come from Aberdeen in a helicopter he admitted he was well aware why so many had not been able to make it.

The opening of this major teaching facility for marine science has been a long-time objective of the SAMS board and that of its SMBA predecessor who knew the seas around the world are the last unexplored wildernesses around.

But there are always new disciplines coming on stream to provide new avenues of research. In addition, this requires more scientists and more people to teach them and steer their research.

A great career for the future

THE PRINCIPAL speakers who made the ceremony were Michael Gibson, chairman of SAMS' Board of Directors; James Fraser, Principal of the University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute and Professor Laurence Mee, SAMS' Director at Dunstaffnage.

All stressed what enormous challenges and opportunities there are now and in the future for marine science and for fascinating research and teaching of the skills to go hand in hand with it.

Mr Gibson confirmed that SAMS at Dunstaffnage is now the largest private employer in North Argyll and is one of the few which is continuing to expand in this time of recession.

In his speech, the Scottish Minister of Education and Lifelong Learning Mike Russell, who couldn't be there as he was snow-bound and had his speech read for him, also stressed what an opportunity there was for Oban and the surrounding area to further its area of academic and scientific interest by supporting SAMS in every way possible.

Another speaker who was also stuck in the snow was Professor Mary Bowness, whose speech on the role of women in science was also read. She emphasised what opportunities there are for women now compared to those that were around for those such as Sheina Macalister Marshall, after whom the new building is named.

Dr Marshall was one of the first women to be made a Fellow of the Royal Society - the ultimate accolade for a scientist - and

spent a major portion of her working and researching life at Millport where SAMS - then the SMBA - had its laboratory. Retired scientist Harry Powell, who worked with her there before he came to Dunstaffnage, told me she was a real pioneer in her field of human research and that naming the new building after her was 'absolutely right'.

A matter of principle

COUNCILLORS who voted to close primary schools - and in some parts of Scotland senior secondaries as well - very often find that when they next come to face their electorate a higher than usual percentage of the poll ends their local government careers, some permanently.

It will be interesting to see how many of those who now form the coalition on Argyll and Bute Council will be seeking re-election in 2012.

And don't think the passage of 18 months is nearly sufficient for those who live in rural areas to forget who voted to close 'our school' despite all the representations we made and the research we did to prove that 'our school' was a necessary part of the community!

The strange bedfellows who voted for the motion - to proceed with the necessary consultation of the closure of almost 30 primary schools - conveniently forgot that many of them for a decade or more have paid lip service to Highlands and Islands Enterprise's fundamental principle of 'developing age-balanced communities'.

To do that it is necessary for a community to have at least a primary school within it or close to it.

Don't get me wrong, I recognise that where there are two small schools within a reasonable distance of each other there is an argument for a merger. But even then, as I pointed out last week, young families do move to islands, such as Kerrera, and expect a school to be provided when their offspring reach the age of three.

This seems to be the norm now. Even though the official starting age is five, there is a demand for educational facilities to be provided, particularly on islands.

Councils suddenly find themselves faced with petitions signed not only by parents and islanders but by a growing number who think that those who live on islands should have a primary school there.

Notice that this time round there is not even a whisper of closing Tiree High School despite the enormous expense of keeping it open, but how come, Mid Argyll can have two senior secondary schools less than 20 miles apart and no one suggests rationalising that situation.

McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Local buy-out of Glencoe Hospital fails

Building to go to highest bidder

GLENCOE Hospital looks set to go on the open market on Christmas Eve after would-be buyers South Lochaber Community Company (SLCC) failed to come up with the asking price.

The charitable group had initially been given until June 7 to find the required £450,000, when NHS Highland agreed to grant SLCC trustees a further six months to secure funding.

The board noted at the time there was 'no automatic right of extension' under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, which allows potential community buyers six months from the initial community vote to conclude missives.

In a Highland Council-run postal ballot of South Lochaber residents on December 7 last year, SLCC won 58 per cent community support for its scheme to develop the hospital for community enterprises.

Balachulish Community Council figured among local sceptics before the vote and ran a vociferous high-profile anti-SLCC campaign claiming the plan would be 'a money pit'.

SLCC countered to say the hospital, which has been boarded up since March 2009, could become a hub of community activity.

But now NHS Highland appears ready to cast the net wider to find a buyer and cash in what is becoming a deteriorating asset.

Board members will consider a report next Tuesday recommending the hospital be put up for sale. It states: 'The missives will

EXCLUSIVE
REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
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not be concluded by this date (December 23, 2010), and it should be noted that no formal offer has yet been submitted by the community group. In line with the decision of the June board, there will be no further extension to the time allowed for the community group to settle missives and the property will be placed on the open market after December 23.

'This action does not preclude the South Lochaber Community Group from making an appropriate offer, but allows the board to advertise the property and consider/progress offers from other purchasers.

An NHS spokesperson said: 'There are costs involved in keeping the building weatherproof and secure and as long as we own this building it is costing us money.'

SLCC trustee Donald Stewart told *The Oban Times*: 'To expect a small community in these economic times to raise the kind of money they are asking for is nonsense.'

'Argyll County Council bought the building in 1949 and it was given at no cost to the NHS in 1950.'

Asked what SLCC's next steps would be if no extension was granted, Mr Stewart said: 'The community has no option but to walk away from it as it has no funds. That is regrettable, considering all the work that has been put in.'



ANDREW and Angela Henderson of Lismore Crescent in Oban were among those marooned on the blizzard-hit A82 on Sunday.

Andrew, 54, a manager with new Ennstone Thistle owners Breedon Aggregates, and Angela, 49, were returning north from a visit to Angela's relatives in Galloway when they were caught in the six-mile tailback south of Tarbet.

The couple decided to risk taking to the road after radio traffic bulletins on Sunday afternoon advised the A82 was difficult but passable, with a long delay south of Tarbet. Angela said: 'They should have stopped us at Balloch. It is an absolute disgrace. We have been led into a trap, into a very, very bad hazard. The road is diabolical - we have not seen a gritter or anything.'

Road Patrol Inspector Paul Riley, of Strathclyde Police, told *The Oban Times* even snowploughs and gritters had got stuck, and the priority then became one of ensuring motorists' safety by clearing the road of cars as quickly as possible.

Snow traps daytrippers for 14 hours

A CHRISTMAS shopping bus trip for a Fort William mother and daughter turned into a 14-hour nightmare after they were trapped along with hundreds of other West Highland people on the snowbound A82 at Loch Lomondside on Sunday.

Vera Ritchie, from Riverside Park, Lochside, and daughter Jackie MacLeod, from Alma Road, boarded the 11am Fort William-Glasgow Citylink service looking forward to a day in the city.

But the blizzard hit at Crianlarich and by 1pm they had only reached Tarbet.

Six hours and three miles later they were resigned to bedding down either on the bus or in a Glasgow hotel - until they spotted the delayed Citylink bus to Portree crawling up from the south.

Vera, 70, and Jackie, 45, who teaches at Lochaber High School, asked the driver if they could 'jump ship' to the Lochaber-bound coach. After a short trudge across the snowy roadway the frustrated shoppers took their seats in the warmth.

'This has been some journey,' Vera told *The Oban Times* on the bus at 9.30pm.

'We were four hours stuck at Tarbet. We heard it was a jackknifed lorry. It was a fantastic feeling when we saw the bus coming the other

EXCLUSIVE
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STEPHEN NORRIS
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way. I don't think anybody in their wildest dream could have done anything in the conditions - but maybe they should have closed the road earlier. Our drivers were exceptional. The one in our bus coming down had us in stitches at times with his Glasgow humour.'

The bus eventually got through blizzards north of Tyndrum to reach Fort William at 1am.

Another passenger, Broadford woman Michelle Cotter, 33, who works at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on Skye, said later: 'I would like to thank driver Wullie Rogan, who did a great job keeping our spirits up and getting us safely to Fort William, and the Dunbartonshire police

who gave out water and chocolate.'

Police estimated 500 northbound cars were stuck between Inverbeg and Tarbet from early afternoon.

The scene on the crawler lane three miles south of Tarbet was one of mayhem at 7pm as marooned drivers heading north - including this *Oban Times* reporter - got out to push skidding Luss-bound cars to the top of the incline.

Earlier advice on the radio, from police and Transport Scotland had varied, with the A82 north closed at Arden, opened again, then closed once more in both directions as conditions worsened.

Traffic cops and road crews worked throughout the night to clear traffic to allow snowploughs through.

By 10.30pm the queue finally began crawling north, past abandoned cars littering the roadsides. The Tarbet Hotel, its lights blazing, looked like a cross between Glasgow Airport and a refuge centre.

Police at the junction with the A83 confirmed the road to Crianlarich was passable and waved drivers through.

Crianlarich was snowbound and a blizzard raged until the Kingshouse Hotel, but by Ballachulish the snow had gone.

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Stay safe on the roads this winter - see page 17

Fort designer in running for award

A FORT William designer has been shortlisted for this year's Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Jolomo Awards taking place in Oban next month.

The awards were launched in March 2008 with the help of a £10,000 donation from Argyll artist John Lowrie Morrison to inspire more young people with arts and crafts backgrounds to set up their own businesses.

Edinburgh-based fashion designer Judith Clark, who is originally from Fort William is one of the seven shortlisted for the £3,000 prize. The winner will be announced at Jolomo's Kranenburg Gallery in Oban next Thursday.

Visitor refuses to pay 'unenforceable' parking ticket

A REGULAR visitor to Oban is refusing to pay a parking ticket issued at the Co-operative's car park on Soroba Road as he doesn't believe it's enforceable.

Ralph Cox has been coming to Oban for 15 years and now splits his time equally between his home in Derby and the caravan he owns at Bridge of Awe.

But his previous stint in Oban just weeks ago was soured when he returned to Derby to find an 'Enforcement Notice' through his letter box from Civil Enforcement Ltd.

The notice alleged that he had overstayed a three hour limit by 15 minutes at the car park, and was liable to pay £90 within 28 days, reduced to £45 if paid within 14 days.

A red font in upper case then states: 'Failure to pay the amount

due within 28 days of the issue date, will result in Civil Enforcement Ltd forwarding your account to a debt recovery agency and you will incur additional costs.'

The document went on to state that photographic proof was available, if he sent a £10 cheque to the company 'stating your PCN Number on the back.'

Ralph said: 'I'm normally very careful about parking in Oban because there are problems there and when we park at the Co-operative we do shop there.'

'The first reaction you have to the notice is, "I need to pay this quickly," because if I don't it could cost even more and I might end up in court. I am worried that this is a con though.'

'They use the acronym PCN for parking charge notice. Councils use PCN to mean Penalty Charge

Notice which is an official parking ticket. That could be confusing.

'I don't think we overstayed either.'

However, it seems that use of the word 'enforcement' in the correspondence is misleading.

Guy Anker, the news editor of consumer advice website moneysavingexpert.com, said: 'If you get an unfair ticket on private land don't automatically pay it. These fines are the new Wild West, and whether the cowboys do it at supermarkets, retail parks, hospitals or housing estates, they're often unenforceable.'

'Charges levied by such firms are often exorbitant and far outweigh any supposed 'offence' so much so that the government is now cracking down on operators.'

A spokeswoman for the Co-operative said: 'Parking

restrictions at our Soroba Road store were introduced as a response to complaints from customers who had difficulty parking. A significant number of drivers were abusing our car park by parking for lengthy periods, and even all day.'

'We believe the vast majority of our customers are in favour of the parking restrictions, which allow them to park and to shop.'

'Civil Enforcement Limited operates the car park at our Soroba Road store on behalf of The Co-operative. It is a legitimate car park operator and is a member of the British Parking Association (BPA).'

Complicating matters is the issue of signage car park. While there are yellow signs mounted

approximately seven foot high on lampposts warning of a three hour limit, most of the wording is small print and not immediately noticeable or readable from distance.

Four official Co-operative signs are posted at eye level in the car park, three of which are on the wall of the supermarket on the main access route. However, these signs were incomplete at the time of the alleged parking violation and did not state what the parking restriction was. The four signs were amended by the Co-operative to include a time limit following contact from *The Oban Times*.

That, said Mr Cox, was confusing. He said: 'I suspect most people would tend to take more notice of official Co-op signs anyway.'

'I will ignore the notice and see what happens.'

Harris Tweed on catwalk

HARRIS Tweed Hebrides' gala event in the Blythswood Square Hotel in Glasgow last Thursday proved a winner.

The catwalk show featured work by leading designers and received a great response from guests. Held to celebrate the Shawbost-based company's third birthday, the show, produced by Harris Tweed Hebrides creative director Mark Hogarth, featured international models and dancers from Scottish Ballet. Fort William's Judy Clark was among the designers.

Lochaber Camanachd awards night success

ABOUT 150 people enjoyed a highly successful and entertaining Lochaber Camanachd awards night in the Ben Nevis Hotel on Saturday night.

Guest speaker for the evening was long-time club stalwart Billy MacLachlan, who regaled his audience with tales and anecdotes on the shinty club's long history.

Trophy winners included joint under-14 players of the year Barry MacDonald and Shane Latto; Neil MacDonald, senior player of the year; Finlay Nicolson, second team player of the year; Rosie Flannigan, most improved player; and Kirsty Delaney, women player of the year. Callum Macdonald and Brennan Macdonald were voted joint under-17 player of the year.

Coach Michael Delaney told *The Oban Times* the evening had again proved a great success. 'It was a fantastic night, well organised by Donnie MacRae. It was a great celebration of our season,' he said.



Lochaber Camanachd trophy winners Barry Macdonald, Neil Macdonald, Finlay Nicolson, Rosie Flannigan, Kirsty Delaney, Callum Macdonald and Brennan Macdonald at the awards night. Not pictured is joint under-14 player of the year Shane Latto.

Police files

INDUSTRIAL premises in Spean Bridge were broken into sometime between 5.30pm on Wednesday November 17 and 7.30pm on Thursday November 18.

□□□

A BUILDING site at Lochside, was entered and damage was caused to a JCB excavator between 4.30pm on Friday November 19 and 8.15am on Saturday November 20.

□ Anyone with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.



PHOTOS & VIDEO PLUS BREAKING NEWS

This week on www.obantimes.co.uk

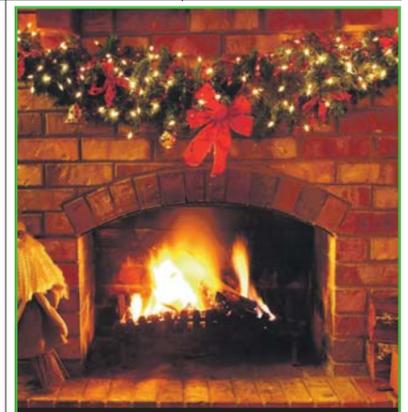
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Visits mark new bid to tackle violence in the home

NORTHERN Constabulary officers are to visit previous domestic abuse offenders under the latest phase of a Scotland-wide campaign to tackle violence in the home.

Offenders will be warned 'a robust approach' will be taken against any further offending behaviour and warning letters will also be issued to anyone taken into custody for a domestic abuse related offence.

Scottish Women's Aid welcomed the move, saying it would improve protection and ensure access to support services for women and children experiencing domestic abuse.

Party-goer punched police officer

A FORT William party-goer punched a police officer in the face during a night out to celebrate his 50th birthday.

Ian Philip, 50, of 84 Lundavra Road, pled guilty to assaulting a police constable by brandishing his fists at him and punching him on the face to his injury on High Street, Fort William on October 2.

Philip was outside a pub just before midnight and took exception to the officer telling a group of girls to go home, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

He raised his fists to the constable then punched him in the right eye as he was being handcuffed. Philip was arrested and spent three days in custody following the attack.

Fining Philip £240 Sheriff John Rafferty said: 'You have reached the age of 50 without causing anyone any problems and you have already spent time in custody.'

Cyclist's delight at hospital visit from South Uist ex-pat

SKYE round the world cyclist John Gilbertson had an extra special visitor in hospital last week - thanks to *The Oban Times*.

John, who is recovering slowly in the Biru Ward at the Princess Alexandra Hospital in Brisbane after a fall from his bike three weeks ago, has had his children travelling from Sydney, New Zealand and Scotland to visit him - but was taken completely by surprise when Rod MacIntyre walked through the ward door.

Rod, originally from Kilpheder in South Uist and now living and working in Brisbane, heard about John's accident from his sister Anne and her husband Robin Baker.

The couple, from Northwich in Cheshire, had read the story in *The Oban Times* and suggested to Rod that he might want to pay John a visit as he stayed near the hospital.

Rod didn't need to be asked twice and dropped in on John to wish him a speedy recovery while sharing a few anecdotes from the Hebrides. Rod found John in good spirits and looking forward to getting back in the saddle, Anne told *The Oban Times*.

'He hopes to carry on with his Cycle4Skye

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

as soon as the doctors at the hospital give him permission to leave,' Anne said. John, a director at Isle of Skye Smokehouse in Broadford, left Skye on July 2 and arrived in Australia via France, Italy, Dubai, Sri Lanka and Thailand, receiving donations from Skye exiles along the way. At Byron Bay in northern New South Wales he hit a pothole and was thrown from his bike, sustaining broken ribs, spine and neck damage and a severe head injury.

John has already raised thousands of pounds for Crossroads Skye and Macmillan Cancer Support through his Cycle4Skye initiative. Kyleakin Connections and Broadford and Strath Community Company are also beneficiaries.

A hospital spokesperson said John was undergoing brain injury rehabilitation and was unable to say when John would be discharged. 'He is improving,' the spokesperson said.



Rod visits John in Brisbane's Princess Alexandra Hospital after hearing of his accident through *The Oban Times*.

Kyleakin laughs along with Snow White and eight dwarfs

KYLEAKIN Connections performed 'Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs' last weekend to a full house at Kyleakin Hall.

Bad weather meant Saturday's performance had to be cancelled, but Friday night's show was a sure-fire winner. Two further performances are planned in February and March.

Written by Charlene Macleod, who also directed, and Carol Mackay - both of whom work for Skye and Lochalsh Association for Disability - the fairy tale saw eight dwarfs and many local references which contributed to the hilarious antics of the cast. Ewen MacLure as the dwarf 'Charmer' and the Prince, Jenny Beaton as Snow White and Meryl Kennedy - who also made the magnificent costumes - as The Evil Queen were all 'wonderful', said Charlene.

David MacRae and Lachie John MacDonald were 'fantastic' in their various roles - Grumpy and Doc, Aggie and Kim, and Davidina and Lachie Jean, while Anne Porter narrated the script perfectly.

'The whole cast gave a dazzling performance,' Charlene said.



Would you take an apple from this woman? Kyleakin Connections' panto 'Snow White and the Eight Dwarfs' was a big hit.

Bike stars to return for tenth world cup

GLOBAL stars on the mountain bike circuit will return to Lochaber for the tenth birthday of the award-winning Fort William UCI Mountain Bike World Cup on June 4-5 2011.

West Highland racers Joe Barnes from Fort William and Ben Cathro and Chris Hutchens from Benderloch could feature in the line-up.

Last year's event attracted more than 400 riders from 35 different countries and a record 18,000 spectators.

Crack-down on litter louts continues

AN ANTI-LITTER purge by Highland Council is to be extended in the New Year after 26 people were issued with £50 fixed penalty notices during a two-week operation last month stung - mostly for dropping cigarette butts.

On occasion the council enforcement team met 'some hostility' when issuing the fines in Fort William, Dingwall and Inverness - but continued with their zero tolerance approach.

Transport, environmental and community services committee chairman, Councillor John Laing said: 'We spend £2.5 million per year on litter picking. With less litter to pick, we can divert our staff into other more productive duties.'

Woman denies poor driving led to pedestrian being knocked down

A FORT William woman has denied knocking down and injuring a pedestrian through her poor driving on a Caol street.

Lindsay Scott, aged 36, of 41 Blar Mhor Road, denies driving without due care and attention and without reasonable consideration for other road users on Ardgour Road on October 22, colliding with a man and knocking him to the ground, injuring him.

The trial is due to be held at Fort William Sheriff Court on January 27.

Clarification sought on cold weather payments for Morvern households

CROMARTY, Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch Lib Dem Scottish Parliament candidate Alan MacRae is seeking clarification over the entitlement of Morvern homes for cold weather payments.

The UK Government has fixed the rate of payment at £25 per week in very cold weather, but Mr MacRae wants to ensure residents falling under Morvern's new PA80 postcode don't lose out.

He said: 'I hope the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) will be able to clarify what approach is being taken and confirm that Morvern residents do still qualify for payments despite the anomaly which appears to exist in the regulations.'

Mr MacRae is advising residents yet to receive a payment to contact MP Charles Kennedy, who is raising the matter with the DWP.

Company Profile - The Gold Shop



Appin girl Claire Hutchison is the new manager at The Gold Shop. 07_149gold01-03

IT'S PARTY season as we welcome the festive part of the year and The Gold Shop in Oban has everything you need to look stylish, at an affordable price.

Having started out selling antiques, the shop, in Stafford Street opposite the distillery, now stocks beautiful handbags, jewellery, diamante jewellery, tiaras and watches to suit you - and there is a familiar face behind the counter to help!

The Birkenhead-based company Amethyst Bullion has recently employed Appin girl Claire Hutchison as manager and the 23-year-old fashion management graduate has made sure the shop is bursting at the seams with the latest accessories.

Claire, who now lives in Oban, said: 'We have a lot of new stock in ahead of the party season, mainly costume and fashion jewellery, and I know people will want to look good for all those office parties coming up and the school Jingles dance.'

'I think some people might think that our stock will be too expensive but it's actually very affordable.'

Despite the move into fashion accessories, Claire stressed the shop still buys gold, silver and platinum items. 'That's what we are here for after all,' she added.

Many people have taken advantage of the shop to make cash from unwanted or broken jewellery, chains and other similar items.

Mark Holland from Amethyst Bullion said: 'We are a small, family-owned company who deliver a discreet and fair-pricing service to anyone who has spare gold or silver in any condition.'

'We are happy for people to bring their items into the shop to get a valuation. All our staff are trained gold valuers.'

'It's a win-win situation When people have old jewellery lying around the house not doing anything then it is not worth a tuppence to them.'

'But it might be the very thing that someone else is looking for.'

The Gold Shop operates a 'buy back' service, meaning customers can opt to buy back an item after a period of time and at an agreed price. The item can be bought back in instalments.

And Claire can also help organise a gold party for you and your friends. If The Gold Shop buys more than £750 worth of gold at the party, you get 10 per cent commission.

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Caring Doreen wins council award



Highland Council leader Michael Foxley presents Doreen with her award.

A CARE at home officer from Acharacle has received a commendation at Highland Council's annual Quality Awards ceremony held at Inverness for her outstanding service to the communities she serves.

Doreen Wallens, who is based at the council's residential care home at Dalnavor, Strontian, covers thousands of miles each year providing care at home in the villages of Ardgour, Lochaline and Strontian, Ardnarnachan.

She was commended by Sunart Community Council and received her award from council leader Councillor Michael Foxley.

Sunart Community Council secretary Alan Thomson said: 'Doreen's commitment to the care of vulnerable people in our remote communities is truly inspirational. Her level of dedication stands out like a beacon.'

Other Lochaber successes were the Routes West Project, which won the Contributing to the Economy section. Led by the chief executive's service, the project set out to regenerate Fort William Town Centre and create a new end point to the West Highland Way.

The council's TEC services won Innovation of the Year for their use of a floating pier during refurbishment of Nether Lochaber slipway to the Corran Ferry.

Also receiving awards for being commended by their community council for special recognition were snowplough operators Iain MacLeod, Charlie MacKinnon and Simon Miles from Minginish on Skye.

Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochbair celebrate St Andrew's Day

Children of Sgoil Araich Braigh Lochbair (Brae Lochaber Gaelic nursery) celebrated 'Latha Naomh Anndra' / St Andrew's Day with national costumes, Gaelic songs and dancing and a snack of haggis neeps and tatties. The Gaelic medium nursery, which provides Highland Council-funded Gaelic medium pre-school education to three and four year-olds has been given a grade of five or 'very good' for all aspects reviewed in a recent Care Commission inspection.



Old Lochaber cine film footage launched on DVD

REMARKABLE footage of Lochaber and its people from days gone by will be launched in a new DVD format on Saturday. The films, made by George Scott, MBE, AFC, who was an engineer at the British Aluminium Factory in Fort William from 1945 to 1956, were originally donated to the West Highland Museum (WHM) as six reels of Super 8 cine film in May 1997. They include footage of the unveiling of the Commando Memorial, two Lochaber Gatherings, Operation Benfire, a Loch Linnhe Swim, Inverloch Flower Show, a BA football match and a BA Staff Dance, which was held in the Grand Hotel. Everyone is welcome to attend the launch in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church Hall at 2.30pm, which will be hosted by WHM's Mairi Mooney and Ian Abernethy. Tea and coffee will be served afterwards. The new DVD will be on sale, with all proceeds going to support the museum.

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Free insulation scheme launched

MORE than 7,000 homes in Argyll will be offered free or discounted insulation to help residents save money and energy.

In a scheme, launched by Home Energy Scotland, eligible households will be offered cavity wall and loft insulation at a special price, or even free of charge, depending on the household circumstances.

And loft top-up insulation will be free of charge to households with 60mm or more existing insulation, irrespective of the size of the loft.

All homes in the area can get specialist advice from Home Energy assessors who will explain how to keep homes warm over the winter.

New plan to safeguard habitats

A NEW plan for maintaining and improving habitats in Argyll and Bute has been launched.

The revised Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) focuses on threatened habitats and species by applying the ecosystem approach - a policy that ensures cohesive conservation activities.

Support for Fairtrade goods continues to grow

REPORT
by LOUISE LEE
llee@obantimes.co.uk

PEOPLE of Oban and Lorn celebrated a sustained commitment to Fairtrade goods and business with the launch of a new directory and website.

However, organisers of the group want people to think about the origin and global context of the products they buy this Christmas and beyond.

Addressing the Fairtrade directory and website launch, chairman Rev Murdoch MacKenzie said: 'We are continuing to work towards areas that can name themselves as Fairtrade towns and islands.'

'This year Lismore is working towards its status. There is some outstanding work going on in Oban and beyond.'

'Launching the directory and website will give people more information about where they can get



A good crowd turned out to launch the Fairtrade website at the Co-Op Superstore in Oban. 07_149fairtrade1

products. We are thankful to the many business who have supported our work including the Co-op store in Oban.

'There are a growing number of work places,

guesthouses and retailers who offer Fairtrade. I hope this continues to grow,' he said.

The Lord Lieutenant of Argyll and Bute, Kenneth MacKinnon, said he was

privileged to officially launch the website.

He said: 'The chairman and committee do an outstanding job of keeping Fairtrade on the agenda. I am sure the directory and brochure will ensure its continued success.'

For a copy of the directory contact Murdoch on 01631 710550 or visit the website at www.obanfairtrade.org.uk.

Mull Lines

MULL Eagle Diary: With temperatures below freezing for much of the week, the eagles of Mull will be taking advantage of any carrion on the hill.

Some carcasses can attract several eagles at one time. Both golden and white-tailed will feed off the same animal, although each will take turns.

Despite its smaller size, the golden eagles rule the roost and the sea eagles will usually wait patiently until the golden have had their fill.

There are occasional disputes but they are quickly settled. The risks of injury are too high to prolong a battle and there's usually enough to go round. The sea eagles are a social species - as far as eagles go.

Whilst the golden will retreat to a well-known but secluded roost for the night, perhaps near their mates, the sea eagles will often congregate in communal roosts.

Immature birds especially will gather together in these mini-youth clubs and we have seen groups of up to ten birds in one wood at dusk. It's a good place to meet and learn social skills from other youngsters and they may occasionally 'pair' up for a short while.

These 'buddies' may stay together for several days or weeks. Occasionally it's where they meet and pair up for life - maybe a bit like our own youth clubs!

For now at Loch Frisa, Skye and Frisa have their roost to themselves although they get visited occasionally during the day by wandering youngsters. Their female chick from 2009, Heather, still shows up sometimes and they are very tolerant towards her. This might change as they start preparing their nest for 2011.

Why not come and see them for yourself by booking a special winter trip to the eagle hide? Call 07920 817362.



A FINAL reminder that Mull Railway is to host one last day's timetabling before the line is dismantled for good.

The Craignure to Torosay Castle service has been in operation for 26 years, but directors decided to call it a day after the castle, the tourist attraction at the end of the line, was put up for sale.

For one final day the locomotives will pull passengers to Torosay where they will be able to enjoy the castle gardens.

A special deal for passengers has been arranged with Caledonian MacBrayne Ferries making it £10 for adults and £5 for children to travel on the ferry and then the train on Saturday December 4.

The first train will depart from Craignure at 11am and the last train will leave at 3pm.



MEMBERS of Mull churches met two Guatemalan women to hear about life in the South American country.

John Bartholomew, who heard the ladies speak at a World Share event on the island, said: 'The women came to share the plight of Third World countries and particularly of those living on the rubbish dumps of Guatemala. To see the reality portrayed in their slide show brought home to us the enormity of these dumps and the horror of humanity never escaping their boundaries.'

The women explained that a charity - Latina America - has outreach houses in the dump area and two schools to educate older children and adults.

People on Mull are being urged to consider supporting the work of the charity and perhaps an individual child.

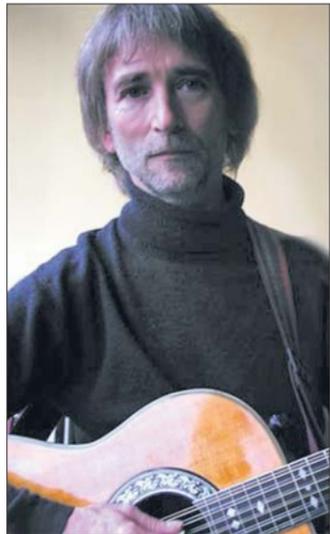


A STONEMASON from Iona Abbey has been judged apprentice of the year.

Shona Walker was previously deputy manager at the Historic Scotland building before changing career path and becoming a stonemason apprentice. She won the award in early November.

Shona is the first woman to win the award.

Music and dance to celebrate St Andrew's Day



St Andrew's night was celebrated in style on Easdale at an official prize-winners party night organised to celebrate the island's Puffer Bar being named Community Pub of the Year 2011 by the Scottish Licensed Trade Awards. Alasdair Robertson and friends topped the bill.



Children at Smarties Nursery learned all about Scottish culture as they celebrated St Andrew's Day on Tuesday. Oban High School pupils Angus MacColl, Kyle Orr and Kirsty MacLean taught the children about traditional Scottish music and dance before they were served a typical Scots lunch. 08_148smarties01



Founding member and former president of Inveraray Burns Club Jim McMillan handed over the past president's jewel to recently elected president Michael Kidd. Members of the club gathered at the Argyll Hotel in Inveraray on Saturday evening to celebrate Michael's new role and St Andrew's Day. Attendees were treated to dinner, followed by a toast by the Reverend Louis Bezoudehuit and performances by Fyne Folk singers and piper Laura McMillan. 08_a49burns01



Snow and a power cut failed to dampen spirits at a successful St Andrew's celebration ceilidh in Roy Bridge village hall on Friday night. A small but enthusiastic audience braved a snowy and very cold evening to enjoy the exciting young musical talent from the Fèis Lochabair and Fèis Latharna ceilidh trails. The second group, from the Oban area, included Lochgilphead and one member who had travelled over especially from Lewis. A power cut in the second half in no way deterred the youngsters, who joined forces to provide a stunning display of musicianship and instrumental skills. Guest artiste for the evening was Gaelic singer Margaret MacLellan Ford.



About 300 children from 10 primary schools in Oban and Lorn took part in the annual St Andrew's Day Dance in Atlantis Leisure. Oban's Sue Porter, representing the Lorn branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society, visited the primary schools ahead of the event and was there on the day, along with some of her colleagues, to lead the dances. The event was organised in conjunction with Active Schools. 07_149country01

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My Village

Tarbert

Dan Johnson was born in Tarbert in 1924 but left his home on the shores of Loch Fyne when he went to war in 1942. Despite living in France, Belgium, Wales and England over 30 years he longed to return to the place where he 'knows everyone'. He tells *The Oban Times* there have been a lot of changes in the village in the last 86 years.



Tarbert village sits on the shores of Loch Fyne. 06_a49tarb04

What makes the village special?
The people of Tarbert are what make it special to me. My roots are here and I know everyone. Here the people enjoy a dram - we like to get to know people over a wee dram and discuss things. People here are very friendly and helpful to each other. We are congenial folk.

Does Tarbert have an interesting history?
There is a lot of history surrounding Tarbert Castle, which is currently undergoing a conservation programme. Robert the Bruce stayed at the castle in 1306 when he passed through Kintyre in his flight to Rathlin.

He also used the castle in 1314 as a base to confront the chiefs of the Western Isles who were acting as allies of England. The village also has a historical relationship with the Merchant Navy with many of the local fishermen lending their expertise to the armed forces. When people make their living from the sea they can provide expert knowledge. I think the village has produced many naval skippers and marine engineers.



The War Memorial is a special place for Dan as he left Tarbert in 1942 to serve with the armed forces in World War II. 06_a49tarb03

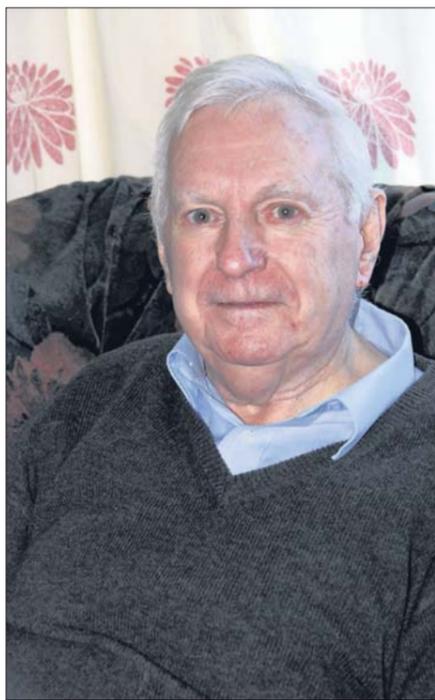
How important is Tarbert to the Mid Argyll area? What can it offer that another village cannot?
As the main fishing harbour on Loch Fyne Tarbert's fishing heritage is unique - it is part of our ethos. I come from a long line of fishermen; my father, grandfather and great grandfather were all Tarbert fishermen, as was my mother's father. The industry remains important today not just to the men on the boats but also to the local economy, although the type of fishing has changed. Herring was the big catch of the day in the past but it is now prawns and shellfish.

How would you describe the village to someone who has never been there?
It is a picturesque fishing village on the shores of Loch Fyne.

The scenery is beautiful, with views across the loch and the hills nearby. Situated in Mid Argyll it is in a particularly good place for touring, with Oban some miles north and the Kintyre Trail to the south.

There are great trails and walks to do, sight seeing, bird watching and the harbour means it's a great place for sailing. It really is altogether a charming place.

Were you born in Tarbert and how long have you lived there?
I was born in Tarbert in 1924 and lived here until I was 18 when I left to serve in the army - that was November 1942. I lived in Ardennes in France for a number of years where I worked in the army's office for war graves. I later went back to university, to the University of Wales, as a mature student and studied English, Latin and French. I had been longing to return to Tarbert and, by chance, I saw an advertisement for a French teacher at Tarbert Academy in a newspaper in London. So some 30 years



Dan Johnson. 06_a49tarb01

after leaving I came home and have remained here ever since.

How much has the village changed since you were a child?
I have seen a lot of changes over the years. More of the young people are leaving but there are a lot of new faces in the village with people coming to live here to enjoy a quieter way of life.

And many of the newcomers have done a lot for the village with the work that has been done in and around the village hall and castle.

The amenities and level of health care has improved generally. We now have a dental surgery and optician in the village. In my day the local doctor pulled out my tooth in the back room of the local

chemist - I still remember the pain.

Do you have a favourite place or building in the village?
My favourite place in Tarbert is the fishing quay - we are a fishing village, it is what defines us.

I enjoy seeing the fishermen return with their catch. The atmosphere at the quay and the banter between the fishermen is typical of Tarbert people - that is what makes us who we are. I also like to sit in the cemetery at the top of the hill and look out across Tarbert and Loch Fyne. I look at the local family names on the gravestones and it is touching to think of the families that have lived here for generations.

What is your favourite time of year in Tarbert?
I prefer the springtime when the days are getting longer and lighter. It is an up lifting time of year when the flowers are blooming; I like to see the bluebells and primroses springing up. The worst time of the year is certainly winter when it is dark, cold and there are only a few hours of daylight.

Is there anybody famous from the village?
Sir Donald McAllister, the first chairman of the British Medical Association, was from Tarbert. He was born just about a mile away in Glenfalloch. He was also the principal of Glasgow University and a professor.

What are the challenges facing Tarbert and how could it be improved?
The biggest challenge facing Tarbert is keeping the young people here. Being a small village the youngsters, who have a lot more opportunities than those of my generation, often want to leave the village for further education and job opportunities. Before people were expected to stay and follow their father on to the fishing boats but it's very different now. I think that is typical of many Highland villages. I would also like to see more affordable housing for young couples and families starting out in life. The price of housing in the area is extortionate and we need to see that change to ensure young people stay in the village.



One of Dan's favourite places is the fish quay where he can look out at all the boats in the harbour. 06_a49tarb02

My roots are here and I know everyone. Here the people enjoy a dram - we like to get to know people over a wee dram and discuss things. People here are very friendly and helpful to each other. We are congenial folk.

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25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday November 28, 1985



Oban Lifeboat Crew receive award for Shemara Rescue

THE FOUR-MAN crew of the Oban Lifeboat have received a special award for outstanding seamanship shown when they rescued eight seamen from a wrecked ship off the Sound of Mull.

They were the coxswain of the lifeboat, Mr Patrick MacLean, and his three part-time crew members - Mr David Graham, a shop keeper; Mr William Forteith, director of a catering firm, and Mr Michael Robertson, a solicitor.

The men were among several sea heroes and yachting personalities to receive the premier Silk Cut Nautical Awards, at a ceremony at the Savoy Hotel.

The 33-foot lifeboat, Ann Ritchie, was called out in the early hours of January 31 when the fishing vessel Shemara became stranded on Lady's Rock, near the entrance to the sound of Mull.

Battling through heavy seas and galeforce winds, the lifeboat was

threatened with going aground itself as it approached the stricken fishing boat - and the approach was made even more hazardous by the many other rocks in the area.

Once he had decided on the safest channel, Coxswain MacLean had to make 15 or 16 runs to the wrecked boat, which was wedged firmly on the rock and listing dangerously 40 degrees to port.

Commenting on the rescue, the divisional inspector of Lifeboats for Scotland, Tony Course, said: 'Coxswain MacLean displayed great judgement in his assessment of the casualty's situation. He handled his lifeboat in a most competent manner to achieve a rescue in difficult and shallow conditions.'

Ferries' future must be made secure

PLANS being drawn up today are vital for the future of Cal-Mac's ferry services into the next century - according to John MacKay, MP for Argyll and Bute.

Mr MacKay was talking about Cal-

Mac's present consideration of ordering a replacement boat to work out of Oban. The Halcrow Fox report has outlined a number of different options.

At a meeting with Colin Paterson, chief executive of Cal-Mac Mr MacKay stated his views on the continuation of the Colonsay to Oban link, the need for a large enough ship on the Oban to Mull run, and for a timetable giving a service similar to the present one.

Mr MacKay said: 'While Cal-Mac have not yet made final decisions on their future plans it is clear to me that they appreciate the strength of feeling on Colonsay about the link with Oban and are making their plans accordingly. I was pleased to hear that they were looking at a large vessel, which would be well able to cope with the increasing traffic on the Mull run.'

'While their plans are still at the discussion stage I was encouraged at the positive way in which Cal-Mac were attempting to meet the principal demands of the islands. I was also pleased to learn that Mr Paterson was visiting the various islands to discuss the plans as they affect each island.'

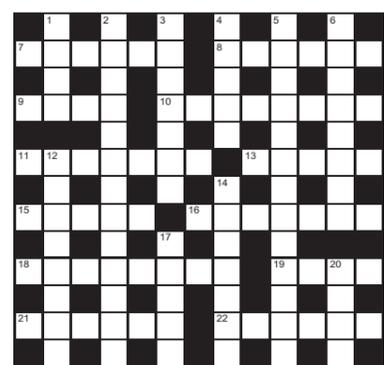
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- 7 Fireside (6)
- 8 Warm up again (6)
- 9 Can't get any cheaper! (4)
- 10 Old events at the cinema (8)
- 11 Three-dimensional scene (7)
- 13 One for the fairy to take (5)
- 15 The class that looks down (5)
- 16 Bladed naval weapon (7)
- 18 Game to grapple with (8)
- 19 Heavy, durable furniture wood (4)
- 21 Vendor (6)
- 22 Slight (6)

Down

- 1 Support (4)
- 2 Not able to be recovered (13)
- 3 Basic distinctive units of speech (7)
- 4 Seafood (5)
- 5 After heating and cooling, shape cannot be changed (13)
- 6 Money put on goods (5,3)
- 12 Made an impression (8)
- 14 Plants used in hanging baskets (7)
- 17 Cancel (5)
- 20 Area of land (4)



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The Ballet West outreach pupils with Mickey and Minnie Mouse.

Dream trip to Disneyland for ballet group

DREAMS really did come true at Disneyland for an Argyll ballet company when its outreach students walked away with several prizes at a recent international dance competition held in the Paris resort.

The group of 28 excited young dancers, aged 5 to 16, from Taynuilt's Ballet West, took part in the annual European Festival of Dance and Performing Arts (EFDPA) competition.

They returned home with three gold medals, as well as a second and a third place in other categories.

Outreach teachers Kelly McCole and Amanda Sloss

said: 'We are extremely proud of our young students. They work really hard all year round and deserved these great results.'

'We're pleased to have been able to give our keen young dancers this opportunity to travel to another country, compete against dancers from a variety of countries and realise how competent they are.'

The EFDPA has become a recognised international event, with many groups from Europe and as far afield as Cyprus, Israel and Canada taking part.

The young dancers were able to take part in some

innovative Disney Performing Arts workshops each morning before their competitions.

Workshops were run by internationally renowned choreographer Ian Mills who has worked with Kylie Minogue, Boyzone and many other groups.

Workshops were also run by Flawless, runners-up in Britain's Got Talent, which added considerably to the whole experience.

Ballet West results:
Baby Stars Ballet Group: 1 - Fort William students Ami Robertson, Mya Horn, Kaiya Clarke, Alex Souter and Natasha Runcieman.
Junior Ballet: 1 - Fort

William students Caitlin Robertson, Rose Goddard, Amy Campbell, Morgan MacDonald and Samantha Runcieman.
Senior Ballet: 2 - Fort William/Taynuilt students Erin Robertson, Elise Arnott, Alice Currie, Emily Steele, Caitlin Laybourne and Yomira Barton.
Solo Section: 1 - Isabella Swietlicki.
Variety group: 3 - Oban/Taynuilt students Caitlin Taylor, Maeve Hannigan, Amy Johnston, Amy Johnston, Meroula Hondrou, Angel Shaw, Rachel Crossan-Hopkins, Laura Grout, Carys Rimmer.

Leisure reporter

Louise Lee

llee@obantimes.co.uk 01631 568023



Annalise's dance delight



Annalise Bateman was the youngest member of the belly dance troupe that performed at the Atlantis Leisure Dance Show on November 13. The other dancers were Joyce Kirkham, Elaine Walton, Anna Bateman, Valerie Black and Isolde McKay. Bellydancing classes are on Wednesdays at 8pm.

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Every Thursday > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Ceilidh Night free entry
Friday 3 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Country and Western Party Night
Friday 3 December > Markie Dances	Tim O'Connor
Saturday 4 December > Markie Dances	Tim O'Connor
Sunday 5 December > Markie Dances	Chris Suckle
Friday 10 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Gunna Sound (with DJs)
Friday 10 December > Markie Dances	IASG (STUART & ANGUS)
Saturday 11 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Dodgy Ground (with DJs)
Saturday 11 December > Markie Dances	Declan
Friday 17 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Skerryvore Opening Show (check website)
Friday 17 December > Skipinnish Ceilidh House	Skerryvore Late Show (check website)

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OBAN & LORN TOURISM ASSOCIATION



Emma Law, as Jack's brother Archie, and Pauline Cameron, as our hero Jack, will be entertaining audiences at the Corran Halls. 15_t49panto07



From left are Cinders, Megan MacLeod, the princess, Jenny Livingstone, and Firefly, played by Lauren Stewart. 15_t49panto05

It's panto time in Oban...oh yes it is!

Jack and the Beanstalk takes to the stage

IT'S panto time...oh yes it is! And this year it's Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club's turn to raise a laugh or two with its production of Jack and the Beanstalk.

Four performances of the laughter-packed show will be staged at the Corran Halls next week, the evening performances on Thursday December 9 to Saturday December 11, plus a matinee on the Saturday.

Director Linda Robb said it was the first time the club had staged Jack and the Beanstalk. This version has been written by Alan McHugh, who writes for

the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

So what is in store for audiences? 'The best panto cow they have ever seen in their lives!' said Linda.

All the ingredients for a night of traditional panto fun are present and correct. Our hero Jack is played by Pauline Cameron, while Emma Law takes the part of Jack's brother, Archie.

Douglas McKenzie is the evil baddie Ab Fab, while George Hamilton dons frock, wig and make up as the dame.

We have a king and queen - Jack Degnan and Susan Forrest - a princess,

Jenny Livingstone, and fairies Firefly (Lauren Stewart) and Cinders (Megan MacLeod).

Linda said the group had been hard at work preparing for the show since September. Tonight, Thursday, the cast meets up with the dancers and extras for a run through at the Corran Halls and the finishing touches will be added at dress rehearsals next week.

Tickets are available priced £10 for adults, £7 concessions.

Family tickets - two adults and two children - are available priced £28 from the Corran Halls.



Jack Degnan plays the King in Jack and the Beanstalk. 15_t49panto06

Eye to eye with John Wallace

Adult reading problems

I HAVE been banging the drum recently for children suffering from 'visual stress' and having significant reading problems. As I learn more on a daily basis about the effects of visual stress I am discovering large numbers of adults who are affected by reading problems. They range from mild discomfort when reading through to adult illiteracy. What saddens me is both the numbers of adults involved but also the fact this is a hidden problem which is never discussed.

Last week I was examining a patient whom I felt should be able to read better than she was during the examination. When I undertook some preliminary tests for visual stress she scored a very positive result. We started talking about reading problems and, lo and behold, she told me she had been diagnosed as dyslexic many years ago but was embarrassed and never discussed this with anyone. She also mentioned her brother was severely dyslexic and, despite being very intelligent, he considered himself a poor achiever and had virtually zero self esteem. He felt dwarfed by his sister's success and while he too worked in the family business, he was virtually invisible to customers and anyone outside the business.

When I manage to persuade a patient to discuss their reading problems, they frequently tell me they have had regular eye examinations and have always been told their eyes were healthy and when they needed spectacles their problems would be solved. Invariably for this group of patients suffering from visual stress their problems were not solved by 'normal' spectacles.

I have to hold my hands up and say for very many years I too failed to recognise the depth of this problem, both in terms of the numbers involved and also of the mental anguish suffered by these patients.

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Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 8th December at 8.00pm
Guest Artists From Bridge of Earn Steven Carcary Trio Supporting players most welcome

Lorn School of Dance 'Look who's dancing!' Dance Show
Friday 3rd December 7.30pm
St Columba's Hall, Oban
All welcome
Tickets £3, concessions £1.50 at the door

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Seil Craft Fair Seil Island Hall
Sunday 5th December 11am - 4pm.
Many craft stalls to suit all Christmas present needs, light lunches, teas, coffees and home baking.
Organised by Easdale Primary School and Seil Hall Recreation and Amenities Group

Varied programme at Taynuilt show

A VARIED and impressive array of talent greeted the audience at a ceilidh in Taynuilt, organised by the Cruachan branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach. Mòd gold medallists Jean MacKay and Kerrie Finlay sang a number of beautiful solos and duets while Mòd silver medallist Philip Todd delighted the audience with his selection of solos. Davy Paterson, of the Meur Chruachain branch, said: 'It certainly speaks volumes for the Taynuilt ceilidhs when three such talented singers are willing to travel huge distances to appear at a winter ceilidh here.'

Piper Euan MacCrimmon had started the proceedings with a selection of tunes and afterwards provided a piping accompaniment for the two impressive Toni Russell dancers, Kirsty and Rachel Campbell. Talented accordionist Robert Robertson got toes tapping in the audience with an enjoyable selection of tunes while the popular Maurice Duncan showed why he is regarded as one of the top fiddlers in Scotland. Fear an taighe for the evening was Cameron Fletcher who kept proceedings flowing along smoothly and amused the audience with several jokes.

Tune in as Callum takes the floor

A MULL musician with more than six decades of playing experience will 'take the floor' on BBC Radio Scotland this weekend. Callum MacLean, from Tobermory, will feature in Robbie Shepherd's Take the Floor programme, which starts at 7pm on Saturday. The 76-year-old lead accordionist travelled to Glasgow to record music for the show, and is joined by Dierdre Adamson, from Forfar, on second accordion, Marie Fielding, from Falkirk, on violin, Aberdeenshire's Dennis Morrison on piano, Neil MacMillan on double bass and Steven MacInnes, from Tobermory, on drums. 'Dierdre and I have done a lot of records together and in the past we have played concerts together,' said Callum, who has been playing the accordion for the past 67 years. 'For this programme, we went down to Glasgow and recorded 43 minutes of music, mostly all Scottish tunes.'

Oban store raises charity cash

STAFF at Pets at Home in Oban are celebrating after raising more than £1,500 for its charity - Support Adoption For Pets. The fund-raising efforts were part of a national Pets at Home campaign, through which the company's 267 stores raised £62,077. The money raised will be used to help promote and encourage the re-homing of pets, support animal welfare organisations and encourage responsible pet ownership. Oban store manager Cara Bald said: 'We've been holding our national fund-raising weeks twice a year for the last couple of years as they've proven to be a great way to increase awareness of pet adoption and raise money for Support Adoption For Pets. The money will be used to support local rescues and re-homing centres which are working hard to find new loving homes for pets within the community.'

Youngsters Moonwalk their way to £300



Two Argyll schools have raised £300 after pupils took part in a sponsored 'active expressions' dance workshop. Every child at Park and Barcaldine primaries took part in the event for the Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland charity. The workshops the children took part in were 'Work out and beat it' and 'Hip hop our heart'. The children said the highlight of the day was learning how to 'moonwalk'.

Pupils add a festive splash to cathedral

REPORT
by EDEL KENEALY
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

AN EXHIBITION of Christmas card pictures, created by children across Oban and Lorn, has gone on display. The artwork, by primary school children as part of the Rotary Club of Oban's Christmas card design competition, is currently on display at Oban's St John's Cathedral.

More than 300 children from Park, Rockfield, Lochnell, Easdale, Taynuilt and Ardchattan primaries entered the competition. Pictures that received a commended, highly commended and first prize award are featured in the exhibition.

The competition was divided into two categories - primary one to three and primary four to seven - with representatives from Home Start Lorn selecting the winners.



Home Start's Aileen Binner presented Lochnell Primary School pupils Sam Rowley, Sandy Bovington, Shannon MacDonald, Flora MacDonald, Katy Fitton, and Sophie Green with their certificates on Monday. 08_t48certificate01

Park Primary's Drew Elkerton and Abi MacIntyre, of Lochnell Primary School, lifted the overall award for the primary one to three competition.

Primary four pupil Daniel Baird, from Taynuilt, and Shannon MacDonald of

Lochnell's primary seven class won the primary four to seven category.

Aileen Binner, co-ordinator at Home Start Lorn, presented pupils at Lochnell Primary School with their certificates. She told them: 'The pictures on display make the cathedral

look really magical so you should all be really proud of all of your hard work.'

Winners of the Christmas card competition rode with Santa in his sleigh during the Grand Parade in Oban on Saturday before turning on the Christmas lights.



Prints go on display

MORE than 100 prints were shown at the second annual Print Exhibition and Sale held recently at the studio of artist Jenny Pery, pictured left.

Featuring dry point etchings and colourgraphs, most were reproduced on a 60-year-old Harry Rocher press owned by Jenny, who also has a studio in Devon. A renowned author as well as an artist, Jenny is currently writing her 19th book of monographs on painters. Wood engravings were hand-printed by members of Appin Art Group.

Volunteers sought for new cancer group



A new Lochaber fund-raising group is looking for volunteers and committee members following its launch last month. Chairman of the Lochaber Together for Cancer Research UK group Adam Ramsey said its first planned event would be a pink fund-raising night at Caol Community Centre on Friday December 10. Local people interested in being involved can contact info@lochabertogether.co.uk.



Notes and Quotes

with Campbell Cameron

White Knights and other tales

CATRIONA MacKay and Chris Stout played the Corran Halls recently - with the Muth productions team fronting the event.

MacKay and Stout are a large part of Fiddlers Bid, the dynamic Shetland band. And it shows. The duo, whose new album White Knights is out now, also played An Tobar on the tour that is taking them as far south as Hemel Hempstead.

Now together for 15 years, the marriage is a great success and the blend of clarsach and fiddle is sublime. Stout on the fiddle has challenges with a bow - but that does not distract, it only leads to a seam of joking and stories from the pair. We did lock up our horses that night though!

The great thing about a night at the opera is to learn a little about the diva. Both MacKay and Stout are willing to share and we hear stories of world tours and lost days in places as far flung as Sweden and Hong Kong.

'Roddy Sinclair' is a great fiddle tune created by Stout after reading a crime novel by Ann Cleaves that gave the album its name. The hero is a flamboyant fiddler with an extrovert playing style - just like Stout!

MacKay can do things with a harp that we just wonder at - she creates sounds as gentle as a stream and as ferocious as a storm. Each one enchants.

It's a great album - and they say you will get three years touring out of a good one. On the road now - and the show from White Knights is well worth flagging down.

Going with the Floe

FRESH from supporting Ultravox on tour, The Floe appeared recently at The Victory Hall, Benderloch.

The Essex girls gave us a great run through their catalogue of heart tugging emotive songs. Sarah Springett sings with a real passion and more than a sense of drama - her dusky vocals only serving to keep the audience hanging on the words of her self-penned lyrics.

On keyboards, Liz Townsend is a mistress - in the sense of a master of her art - and they smouldered together! Songs of love and angst took the place of tales of Navy press gangs and scenery to die for on Mull that support act Iain Thomson sings so well about.

Thomson brings a new life to the tradition - a real contemporary edge. His solo act is a treat and his guitar and piano hold the audience spellbound.

Walter's heading west

CALIFORNIAN Walter Strauss tells me he is coming to the west for a series of concerts in the spring. He is described as 'a many-layered, multi-textured, one-man folk festival' by Maverick Magazine. You heard it first here!

Remembering Oban

THE RED Hot Chilli Pipers have launched the new album 'Music for the Kilted Generation' to great reviews. The rock pipers have promised to remember Oban and the west in next year's summer tour. Champion piper Kevin MacDonald told me: 'The Oban audience are always up for it!' Too true!

Coast along to Inverness

SOUTHAMPTON-based band Coast launch their new single 'The Beat of You' at the beginning of December. The song is co-written by Iain Bayne, the drummer with Runrig, and features his drumming. The magical fiddle of Duncan Chisholm is also on show. It is another stunner from the band that stopped the show at the Danish Tonder Festival in August. Coast plays live at the Inverness Ironworks tomorrow, December 3.

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2004 Suzuki Alto GL, 1.1 Ltr, Silver, 5Dr 21500 miles	£2675
2001 Vauxhall Corsa Comfort, 1Ltr, Blue, 3Dr, 18655 miles	£2595 SOLD
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ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
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09 Renault Koleos Dyn Dci 4WD, black, 13,000 miles	£15,995
58 Peugeot 308 S HDi 107 Estate, grey, 5,600 miles	£10,995
08 Renault Megane Sport Tourer Dyn Dci 130 auto, black, 21,000 miles	£8,950
08 Renault Twingo Dyn 1.2, 3dr, black, 17,500 miles	£6,550
57 Honda Civic SE Vtec, 1.8, 5Dr, Silver, 44,000 miles	£8,995
07 Renault Megane Senic Exp, DCI 86, Silver, 46000	£6,750
07 Renault Megane Extreme 1.4, 5Dr, Hatchback, Silver, 18000,	£5,650
07 Renault Laguna Sport Tourer, Dci 150, 38,000miles	£8,500
06 Renault Modus Dyn, black, 22,000 miles	£5,550
54 Rover 45 1.8 auto, grey, 31,000 miles	£3,350
04 Ford Focus Flight, 1.6, 5Dr, Grey, 70,000 miles	£3,250
04 Ford Ka Style, 3dr, blue, 42,000 miles	£2,650
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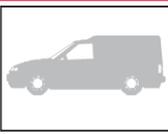


4 years old, Tax 31/1/11, 7 months MOT, Mileage 58,621

Tel: 07798931511 (after 6pm)

£7,900

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2003, white, 1.9 diesel, 12 months MOT, recent timing belt and service, excellent condition throughout.

Telephone: 07919 004390 or 01586 550478

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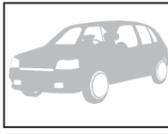
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Telephone: 01631 720425

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2007 reg Diesel Under 40,000 miles

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Drive SAFELY this winter!



DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!



ALCOHOL in the blood stream depresses the nervous system and as a result it slows down the body's reflexes. The more alcohol consumed, the more the depressant effect. This, however, is not the whole picture. Alcohol also affects a number of other abilities.

Firstly, it affects judgement, making a person's ability to judge speed, distance and angle, very distorted. This can be lethal in heavy or fast traffic where you must judge the speed and possible manoeuvres of other road users.

Secondly, there is its effect on co-ordination. It seriously impairs the actions of hands, arms, legs and eyes. Under the influence of alcohol, simply controlling the car accurately can become very difficult. Unfortunately, it also impairs the ability to realise these shortcomings so someone under the influence is never aware of their danger.

Alcohol also dulls alertness and watchfulness, causing vision to

become blurred, unsteady and reaction times to slow down. Drivers take longer to react to events.

A driver can become careless, impulsive and erratic or may be tempted to speed and take unwise risks after an intake of alcohol, and again may not recognise these symptoms.

It is essential to remember that the effect of alcohol is not simply a matter of doubling the effect by doubling the intake. Its effects are exponential which means, double the intake and triple the effect.

You must also bear in mind that the body takes approximately one hour to process one unit of alcohol. If you take half a pint of bitter, a standard pub measure of spirits or a small glass of wine to each represent one unit, you can calculate how long after drinking alcohol you can legally be fit to drive.

It's not an exact science but it could be a useful guide on the morning after when rather more people than you might imagine, are

caught 'over the limit' on their way to work.

But again it isn't as simple as that. In spite of laid down limits for alcohol consumption, it has been shown beyond any doubt, that the effects on individuals of the same amount of alcohol can vary from day to day, depending on their state of health, degree of tiredness, digestion, mood, and other, less quantifiable contributory factors such as levels of stress.

Its effect is also governed by the individual's weight, height, sex and age, and with women, on the time of the month. Certain drugs and medications also enhance the effect of alcohol on the body. So it is impossible to assess accurately in advance, how much alcohol is actually safe. For this reason, some countries actually ban alcohol altogether for drivers.

The fact is, there is nothing you can consume that will alleviate the effect of alcohol until the body has processed it, so this Christmas, be sensible. Don't drink and drive!

THE AA's Paul Leather will be one of an army of patrol officers out and about to keep motorists on the road during the winter months.

The 34-year-old became one of the AA's youngsters ever patrol officers when he joined the organisation aged 18 - following in his family's footsteps as both his father and grandfather were mechanics.

Here, Paul offers winter driving tips to help get you and your car safely through the coming months.

essential because the deeper tread will be more effective at clearing water.

Batteries
Modern batteries have many advantages, but if allowed to discharge, they will take a long time to recharge fully - they suffer at this time of year particularly in cars that do short journeys on cold mornings. You'll either need to make a regular long journey with minimal use of the car's electrical items or arrange to trickle-charge the battery.

Engine
Modern engines don't need tucking-up with a blanket on cold nights but this can help if it's an old car. Make sure you hang something from the steering wheel to remind you, though

- a call to the fire brigade isn't the ideal start to the day! Depress the clutch when starting a cold engine - this disconnects the engine from the gearbox so there's less drag.

Screenwash
Keep it topped up and use a proper additive at the right concentration - don't use washing up liquid though as it will foam horribly and doesn't have the same low freezing point. Many garages sell sachets or small bottles of screenwash for pennies.

Bodywork
Wash the car frequently to get rid of the salt and dirt that builds up over the winter. Check for stone chips too as rust forms very quickly in the cold,

damp weather. Replace any missing wheel trims promptly to minimise corrosion to the wheel bolts, which can seize, making removal of the wheel even more difficult.

Fuel
I usually keep my car fairly full in the cold months, as you never know when you might get caught up in an accident or foul weather. At least you'll be able to run the engine and keep warm but you must make sure the exhaust's clear of snow otherwise fumes can get into the car.

Windows
To keep the windscreen from misting up, soak a cloth in pure washing up liquid then let it dry. Now wipe this cloth on the inside of the windows and it will

stop them misting up - go on, try it in the bathroom, it works! If your windows have misted up, use the air-con as well as the heater - it's not just for summer and helps to dry the air. Don't use water to defrost the windows - hot water can crack the screen and will just re-freeze as it cools, either on the screen or on the ground where you're standing, which could have painful consequences! Thinking about frosty mornings, a squirt of WD40 in the locks will stop them freezing.

Before you go
We see many AA members who view their car as their coat and therefore, don't think to carry enough outer clothing. Take a warm coat, gloves and hat in case the weather or the car catches you out. If you

do get stuck, you'll be very pleased if you packed chocolate, water and a hot drink too. Always carry a fully-charged mobile and take some old bits of carpet and a shovel to clear snow, in case you get stuck.

On the road
On colder days be particularly careful on tree-lined roads - the trees prevent the sun's warmth from reaching the road, which may still be icy when all around has thawed.

In fog, I usually drive with the window down and the radio off - often you can hear problems like cars ahead going over bumps at low speed before you see them. On snow and ice just do everything very slowly because it can go wrong very quickly.

OBAN EXPRESS
ARRIVE ALIVE.....
DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE
7 Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG
Tel: 01631 563745 Fax: 01631 563424
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Encompass Counselling & Support
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DRIVING IN WINTER
Whenever possible avoid driving on snow or ice.
However, if you really must make the journey
• tell someone where you are going and when you hope to arrive
• listen to news and weather broadcasts
• reduce your speed
• increase the gap between you and the vehicle in front
• Use dipped headlights when visibility is reduced
• avoid harsh braking and acceleration
• keep your vehicle well ventilated to avoid feeling drowsy
• if caught in a snowdrift remain in vehicle unless shelter is nearby - let help come to you. Do not run your engine to keep warm unless you are sure the exhaust can vent.

PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE
• have a full service before winter starts - have anti-freeze tested
• check tyres regularly - tread condition & inflation pressures
• check lights regularly - must be working and clean, consider fitting fog lights
• windscreen - keep clean and washer bottle filled with screenwash

Always carry emergency equipment during the winter months.
In the Boot: Tow rope, spare bulbs, spare fuel, shovel, spare wheel, jack & tools, hazard warning triangle
In the Car: de-icing can, first aid kit, torch, car blanket, wellington boots, phone, hi-vis jacket

SNOW CLEARING
During the winter period Argyll and Bute Council will endeavour to keep our roads and footways free of snow and ice. Trained operatives and managers from Development and Infrastructure Services will be on standby from the beginning of November until the middle of April. This workforce can be backed up by an additional eighty operatives with further resources capable of being called upon when necessary.

There are over 10,000 tonnes of rock salt held in stores strategically located around Argyll and Bute together with thirtythree gritting and ploughing vehicles. Senior employees monitor weather reports which are regularly updated by the Weather Service Provider, MeteoGroup UK and any relevant information on road and weather conditions is passed to Strathclyde Police and Traffic Scotland control rooms.

On Priority 1 routes gritting operations will normally be carried between 6am and 10pm but additional treatments will be made during the overnight period as required.

Priority 2 routes will also be treated between 6am and 5pm with additional reactive treatments as required until 10pm but overnight treatments will only be made when conditions are extreme.

Priority 3 School or Service Bus routes will be treated similar to Priority 2 but only in advance of scheduled journey days and times.

Priority 4 routes will normally only be treated during normal working hours as resources become available from other routes and only when hazards persist.

DRIVING IN WINTER ALWAYS INVOLVES THE RISK OF AN ICY ROAD SURFACE - EVEN AFTER GRITTING OR SNOW PLOUGHING YOU MUST TAKE GREAT CARE AT ALL TIMES - DRIVE SENSIBLY
DRIVE safe
IN ARGYLL AND BUTE
ENSURE ALL ICE IS CLEARED FROM ALL GLASS BEFORE DRIVING, YOU WILL BE COMMITTING AN OFFENCE IF YOU DON'T.

Drive Safe is a Community Planning Partnership initiative

CRASH! BANG! WALLOP! OH! WHAT A PICTURE!

Any amount of alcohol or drugs will effect your driving.
Please be safe - don't drink or use drugs and drive.

Enjoy the festive season safely!



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The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 AND THE ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947 THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (PULPIT ROCK IMPROVEMENT) COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2010

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred by the above mentioned Acts, on the Eighteenth day of November 2010, prepared the above mentioned Compulsory Purchase Order which affects the land described in the Schedule hereto, for the purpose of improving the A82 Dalnottar - Inverness Trunk Road at Pulpit Rock.

The Order is about to be made and comes into operation only if made. If the Order is made, a conveyance registered in implement of the Order may vary or extinguish rights to enforce real burdens and servitudes affecting the land. Copies of the Order with the relevant map may be inspected Monday - Friday during normal business hours, from 25 November to 17 December 2010 at:

- Transport Scotland, 9th Floor, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF;
- Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch G83 8EG;
- Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RT; and
- Ardlui Hotel, Ardlui, Loch Lomond G83 7EB, Monday - Friday between 10.00 - 18.00 hours.

Any objections to the Order must be made in writing stating the title of the Order and the grounds of objection to the Director of Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Transport Scotland, Design Team 1, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF. Any such objection must be received on or before 17 December 2010.

A C MCLAUGHLIN
A member of staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects,
58 Port Dundas Road, Buchanan House, Glasgow G4 0HF.
18 November 2010.

SCHEDULE

The plot references and areas referred to below correspond to those given in the Schedule and the map annexed to "the A82 Trunk Road (Pulpit Rock Improvement) Compulsory Purchase Order 2010".

Plot No	Land in the County of Dumbarton.
1	Land lying to the south east of the Pulpit Rock Monument and west of the existing Trunk Road
2	Land forming the solum of the existing Trunk Road lying to the east and north east of the Pulpit Rock Monument.
3 & 4	Land and loch bed lying to the east and north east of the Pulpit Rock Monument and east of the existing Trunk Road.
5, 6 & 7	Land lying to the north east of the Pulpit Rock Monument and west of the existing Trunk Road.

FINLAY, ROSS LIMITED
(In Receivership)
Registered Number: SC041985
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 67 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of BDO LLP, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX on 16 December 2010 at 10.15am for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

A form of proxy is available which, if to be used at the meeting, must be completed in accordance with the guidance notes provided thereon and lodged at BDO LLP, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX before the meeting.
Dated 26 November 2010
James B Stephen, Joint Receiver

ROSS, MACFADYEN (HONA) LIMITED
(In Receivership)
Registered Number: SC51675
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 67 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of BDO LLP, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX on 16 December 2010 at 10.45am for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

A form of proxy is available which, if to be used at the meeting, must be completed in accordance with the guidance notes provided thereon and lodged at BDO LLP, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX before the meeting.
Dated 26 November 2010
James B Stephen, Joint Receiver

FINLAY, ROSS (HONA) LIMITED
(In Receivership)
Registered Number: SC45702
Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 67 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the unsecured creditors of the above-named Company will be held at the offices of BDO LLP, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX on 16 December 2010 at 10.45am for the purpose of having a report laid before the meeting and of hearing any explanation that may be given by the Receivers. Creditors whose claims are wholly secured are not entitled to attend or be represented.

A form of proxy is available which, if to be used at the meeting, must be completed in accordance with the guidance notes provided thereon and lodged at BDO LLP, 4 Atlantic Quay, 70 York Street, Glasgow, G2 8JX before the meeting.
Dated 26 November 2010
James B Stephen, Joint Receiver

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft
1/2 43 & Part 45 Banavie, Kilmallie
Direction dated 25 November 2010 granted to Dr Moira R Milne as Executrix of the late Robert W M Bisset. Area ext to 0.227 ha.
Conditions: 1. The land is used for a house site. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Case Number: 4.86.23773

1/2 43 & Part 45 Banavie, Kilmallie
Direction dated 25 November 2010 granted to Dr Moira R Milne as Executrix of the late Robert W M Bisset. Area ext to 0.204 ha.
Conditions: 1. The land is used for a house site. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Case Number: 4.86.23770

The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows.

To add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at BBUSL, GLEN MOR, FORT ANGUSTUS, PH35 4HN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at SCOTTISH TRAFFIC AREA OFFICE, Hillcross House, 398 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

HARBOURS ACT 1964 (AS AMENDED)
PROPOSED CALEDONIAN MARITIME ASSETS (PORT ELLEN) HARBOUR REVISION ORDER 2010[X]

1. Notice is hereby given that Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited ("the Company") has applied to the Scottish Ministers to make a Harbour Revision Order under section 14 of the Harbours Act 1964 ("the 1964 Act").

2. The objects of the proposed order are to empower the Company to construct and maintain works in Loch Leodamas and on adjacent land at Port Ellen in the district of Argyll and Bute at the Company's ferry harbour. The works will substantially upgrade the existing facilities and comprise land reclamation; a new jetty and linkspan; a new terminal building for passenger and baggage handling; sales areas, management offices, staff welfare facilities and storage areas; a new building for ticketing and check-in facilities for passenger and freight vehicles; hard standing for the parking of vehicles and a solid faced quay wall (including berths for vessels) enclosing and reclaiming land to be surfaced and used as a general quayside working space.

3. The Scottish Ministers have by letter dated 23 June 2010 informed the Company that they have decided in accordance with paragraph 4 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act that the application relates to a project which falls within Annex II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (as amended by Council Directives 97/11/EC and 2003/55/EC) ("the Directive"); but whose characteristics do not require that it should be made subject to an environmental assessment. Accordingly, the Scottish Ministers have directed that an environmental statement is not required.

4. Paragraph 16 of Schedule 3 to the 1964 Act (which requires information to be supplied concerning a project which is likely to have significant effects on the environment in Great Britain and in another European Economic Area State) does not apply to the application.

5. A copy of the draft Order, the letter dated 23 June 2010 and the deposited plans, sections and elevations which accompanied the application may be inspected at all reasonable hours until the expiry of the forty-two days period specified in paragraph 7 of this notice at the offices of the Company at Municipal Buildings, Fore Street, Port Glasgow PA14 5EQ, at the Pier, Port Ellen, Isle of Islay PA42 7DW and at the offices of the undementioned solicitors and parliamentary agents.

6. Any person requiring further information concerning the proposed works should apply in writing for that information to either one of those offices quoting reference "Proposed Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 2010[X]".

7. Any person desiring to make to the Scottish Ministers an objection or representation concerning the application should write to Jane Rousguy, Transport Scotland, Aviation, Ports, Freight & Canals Division, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ or e-mail: harbourorders@scotland.gsi.gov.uk within forty-two days from the date at the foot of this notice quoting reference "Proposed Caledonian Maritime Assets (Port Ellen) Harbour Revision Order 2010[X]" and specifying the grounds of their objection or representation and giving an address to which correspondence relating to the objection or representation may be sent.

8. If an objection to the application is made and not withdrawn the Scottish Ministers may, before making their decision, (i) cause an inquiry to be held, or (ii) give to the objector an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by them.

Dated 25 November 2010
Eversheds LLP
One Wood Street, London EC2V 7WS
Solicitors and Parliamentary Agents

Oban Camanachd Club
AGM
at the Corran Halls, Oban, on Friday 10th December 2010 at 7.30pm
All Welcome

Oban Index 2011 Correction
Please note that under the Useful Numbers section the correct telephone number for Oban Airport should be 01631 710 910.

Ennstone Thistle
Please note that Ennstone Thistle is now trading under a new name of **Breedon Aggregates Scotland Limited** 01631 565128.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACCOUNTS (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS, 1985

NOTICE is hereby given that the certified Accounts of Argyll and Bute Council for the year to 31st March, 2010 together with the Audit Certificate, is available for public inspection during ordinary business hours at the undementioned main offices and libraries of the Council.

The annual accounts can also be viewed on the Argyll & Bute Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
Copies of the Annual Accounts will be available to any interested persons on application to the Head of Strategic Finance, Argyll & Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Sally Loudon, Chief Executive

Offices of the Council:
Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead; Burnet Building, Campbeltown; Dalriada House, Lochgilphead; Hill Street, Dunoon; Albany Street, Oban; Eaglesham House, Rothesay; Scotcourt House, 45 West Princes Street, Helensburgh; Jamieson Street, Bowmore; Bredaibane Street, Tobermory; Crossapol, Tiree (restricted hours).

Libraries of the Council:
Lochgilphead Library, Manse Brae, Argyll Street, Dunoon; Aqualorium, Campbeltown; Albany Street, Oban; Moat Centre, Rothesay; Barnmore Road, Tarbert; West King Street, Helensburgh; Main Street, Carradoss; Primary School, Rosneath; Highland Avenue, Sandbank.

N.B. Please check with individual libraries for opening hours

OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in the McCaig Suite, Corran Halls, Oban, on Wednesday 8th December 2010 at 10.30am.
Members of the public are welcome to attend.
Any enquiries should be directed to: Kenneth Macdonald, Area Manager - Customer Services (Tel. 01631 567902).

PLANNING TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 23/12/2010

- Ref No: 10/01753/PP
Applicant: Mr James Campbell
Proposal: Partial change of use of dwellinghouse to residential flat
Site Address: Largside Longside Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5JU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/01849/MFF
Applicant: The Scottish Salmon Company
Proposal: Addition of feed barge to existing fish farm site.
Site Address: Fish Farm Site To East Of Inch Kenneth Loch Na Keal Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salch
- Ref No: 10/01851/PP
Applicant: Lorn Chisholm
Proposal: Alterations and extension to dwellinghouse and erection of detached double garage.
Site Address: Glenmore Glenmore Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PG
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/01881/PP
Applicant: The Waterfront Company
Proposal: Proposed Closing in of First Floor Balcony
Site Address: The Waterfront Restaurant Railway Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LV
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/01923/PPP
Applicant: Miss Helen Brown
Proposal: Site for the erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 1 Land South Of Macaulay's Cottage Kilmory Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Tainuill
- Ref No: 10/01924/PPP
Applicant: Miss Helen Brown
Proposal: Site for the erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 2 Land South Of Macaulay's Cottage Kilmory Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill
- Ref No: 10/01953/PP
Applicant: The Colmille Trust
Proposal: Formation of two windows in gable elevation
Site Address: Onoc A Chalmain Isle Of Iona Argyll And Bute PA76 6SP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Iona
- Ref No: 10/01954/PP
Applicant: Mr Alasdair MacKinnon
Proposal: Erection of two storey extension to the rear of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Seaview 3 Sandiaig Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XQ
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

- Ref No: 10/01972/LIB
Applicant: Sarah MacGillivray
Proposal: Installation of stairlifts to internal stairwell.
Site Address: Argyll Mansions 44 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Listed Building/Conservation Advert

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (ROUTE C46, DERVAIG-AROS BRIDGE ROAD) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT EXTENSION) AND (DERVAIG PRIMARY SCHOOL) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order extending the existing 30mph Speed Limit on the Dervaig-Aros Bridge Road (C46) and introducing a part-time 20mph Speed Limit adjacent to Dervaig Primary School. Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Route C46, Dervaig-Aros Bridge Road) (30mph Speed Limit Extension) and (Dervaig Primary School) (Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit) Order 2010", together with plans and a statement of reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:

- (i) Dervaig Post Office, Dervaig, Isle of Mull;
- (ii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Bredaibane Street, Tobermory;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposal should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Governance and Law, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 24th December 2010.

Sandy Macgarrig, Executive Director, 1A Manse Brae, LOCHGILPHEAD PA31 8RD

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; online at www.highland.gov.uk and, where given, the alternative location(s).

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

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/04674/PIP	Site 85m North West of Upper Tall Pine Croft Upper Inverroy Bridge PH31 4AQ	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/04650/FUL	Rock Face Grey Mares Tail Waterfall Kinlochleven	Proposed Via Ferratta (fixed wire climb route)	Kinlochleven Service Point (14 days)
10/04663/MSC	Sealasdair Achasnich Kilchoan Acharacle PH36 4LN	Erection of house with attached flat	Acharacle Service Point (14 days)

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS
ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

69% of the business community read the regional press

Regional Press

SABHAL MOR OSTAIG
Ionad Nàiseanta Canan is Cultar na Gàidhlig

Manaidsear nan Cùrsaichean Goirid (Làn-ùine)

c. £30,000

The Sabhal Mòr Ostaig a' sireadh Mhanaidsear airson prògram nan Cùrsaichean Goirid a stiùireadh.

Bidh na cùrsaichean goirid a' ruith tron t-Samhradh, aig àm na Càisge agus aig amannan eile den bhliadhna mar a bhios ionchaidh. Bidhear a' tabhann chùrsaichean Gàidhlig, ciùil agus cultair aig iomadh ìre gu còrr is 900 oileanach gach bliadhna.

Bidh sibh fileanta sa Ghàidhlig le sàr sgilean eadar-phearsanta agus rianachd. Bidh sibh comasach air a bhith ag obair ann an àrainneachd air leth trang agus luchd-obrach a stiùireadh.

Ceann-là: 17 Dùbhlachd
(Agallamhan tràth sa Bhliadh' Ùr)

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+44 (0)1471 888301 jobair@smo.uhi.ac.uk
Sleite, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, Alba IV44 8RQ

UHI Millennium Institute

Bidh gaibh ri dhol tro sgrùdadh Disclosure Scotland. Tha co-ionannachd aig crìche Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Tha Sabhal Mòr Ostaig na charthannas clàraichte an Alba SC002578

KNOX W&J KNOX

Workboat Crew Required

W & J Knox Ltd, trading as Knox Marine, wish to recruit suitably experienced crew to work onboard their 24m workboat vessel.

The vessel will be based in the Oban area but will undertake duties anywhere around the coast of the UK so candidates should be prepared to be flexible in their working hours.

Candidates should ideally have previous experience of working onboard workboats but more importantly should be practical and willing to learn and adapt to new skills.

Salary will be negotiable and dependant on experience.

A full clean driving licence is also required.

If you feel that you have the experience and commitment to apply for this position then please apply in writing enclosing an up to date CV including details of any marine related training certificates to:

Dave Hutchens, Marine Director, Knox Marine, W&J Knox Ltd, PO Box 1, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire, KA25 7GY
Closing date for applications is Friday 10th December 2010

JOB SEARCH

Experienced joiner with full driving licence and CSCS AWD CI SPS cards, seeks employment.

Any jobs considered.

Telephone 07917 182428

The ARK hairdressing Co Ltd

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Young Enthusiastic and Fashion Conscious Hairdressing Assistant required.

If you would like a career in hairdressing contact Andrea or Kate on 01631 566998 or pop in to the Salon.

West Coast Tool & Plant Hire, OBAN Requires Depot Manager

Area/Depot: Oban, Argyll

Managerial and customer service experience essential, with a good knowledge of hire equipment/products and the local area. Full driving license required.

Apply in writing marked "vacancy" to:
Darran Mellish, West Coast Tool And Plant Hire, Glenburn Road, Ardrishaig, Argyll, PA30 8EU
Mob: 07887 610080 or email to Darran@westcoastplanthire.co.uk
Application Closing Date: Wednesday 15 December 2010

ACHA
Argyll community housing association

Customer Services Assistant Oban

Temporary contract to 30th June 2011
35 hours per week
Salary Grade 7 (£15,399 to £17,111) per annum

To apply visit our website at www.acha.co.uk; Tel 01546 604095 or email recruitment@acha.co.uk

Closing Date: 12 noon on Wednesday 15th December 2010

Interviews for these posts will be held on Wednesday 22nd December 2010

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Whole Croft
Silvercraigs, Glassary
Advance of Purchase Direction dated 23 November 2010 granted to John Graham.
Conditions: 1. Purchase within 5 years. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of purchase. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.
Case Number: 4.87.24414

The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

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Skye and Lochalsh Lines

POST OFFICE Ltd has announced temporary arrangements to secure future access to Post Office services in Kyleakin.

The village has been without a service since the outreach branch operating from Castle Moil restaurant and gift shop ceased business on November 4, due to operational reasons beyond Post Office Ltd's control.

A temporary hosted service will operate from the former Camerons Shop, some 250 yards from the former premises, on Thursday December 16.

The service will continue to be provided by the subpostmistress from Broadford Post Office branch and will run for seven hours per week, on a Tuesday and Thursday between 9.30am and 1.30pm.

Field change advisor Kenny Lamont apologised to customers for any inconvenience this may cause and said 'every effort' is being made to find a solution that will provide services in the longer term.

He added: 'The provision of a Post Office service to our customers in the local community is of paramount importance and we continue to work hard to find a long term solution to providing a Post Office service in Kyleakin as soon as possible.'

Anyone with any comments or concerns about the temporary service can write to Kenny Lamont, C/o Post Office Ltd, National Consultation Team, PO Box 2060, Watford, WD18 8ZW.



THE RECENT open day organised by Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative on local social and economic initiatives attracted 'a steady flow' of people, say organisers.

The November 20 event in the Talla Duisdeil (Duisdale Hall) heard community researcher Andrew Prendergast, who has been hired by CDI to identify local people's aspirations for Sleat, present findings from his ongoing survey.

Also present was Morven Taylor from the Highland Small Communities Housing Trust who had a display and explained the possible options available for affordable local housing.

Following the community's purchase of the Allt Duisdale reservoir, proposals for a small-scale hydroelectricity scheme were discussed.

The hydroscheme could generate between 25-30kwh and provide a regular source of income for new community projects.

There was also a small charity cafe being run, the proceeds of which went to CDI. People were asked to fill in a questionnaire about a cafe-shop and what services they'd like it to provide.

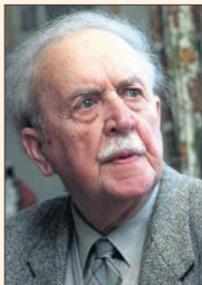
Local crofters set up stalls selling produce including vegetables, eggs, beef and lamb. Stall fees contributed almost £90 was raised from these stalls towards Initiative funds.

Those attending also viewed a large-scale map to allow people to imagine how Camuscross and Duisdale could develop in years to come.

CDI director Graeme MacKenzie told *The Oban Times*: 'All in all it was a very worthwhile event.'



GAELIC secondary school pupils are being given the chance to take part in a poetry competition to mark the forthcoming 100th anniversary of the birth of the famous Raasay Gaelic poet Sorley MacLean.



Gaelic bard Sorley MacLean: competition in his honour

The competition, organised by the Sorley MacLean Trust with support from Comunn na Gàidhlig, could see the youngsters' best entries published alongside some of the most well-known poets in the Celtic world.

Entrants must submit one piece of new Gaelic poetry on any topic. Style and length are optional and the competition is open to both fluent Gaelic speakers and Gaelic learners.

First three prizes of £100, £80 and £60 are up for grabs and the winning entry will be published in a book of poetry being commissioned to mark the anniversary of the great poet's birth.

Each entrant will also receive one of Sorley's books of poetry: *O Choille gu Bearradh (From Wood to Ridge)* or *Dàin do Eimhir (Poems to Eimhir)*.

Trust chairman, the Rev Archie Black, said: 'One of the objectives of the Trust is to highlight Sorley MacLean's life and work, and we are especially keen to do this

among young people. It's also an objective to encourage new Gaelic writers and poets and we hope this competition will encourage young Gaels to use and improve their writing skills.'

Entries must be submitted by Friday, January 14, 2011. They should be posted to: Comunn na Gàidhlig, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ; marked 'Sorley MacLean Poetry Competition', and include a note giving the writer's name and school.

An electronic version should also be submitted by email to oifis@cnag.org.uk marked 'Sorley MacLean Poetry Competition' and giving the writer's name and school.



Inverlochty eco-committee celebrates winning their green flag with classmates, staff and Councillor Brian Murphy. 10_f49inver01

Inverlochty Primary School celebrates green flag

INVERLOCHTY Primary is celebrating after becoming the latest Lochaber school to win a coveted Eco Schools Scotland green flag.

The award came following three years of hard work by pupils and staff to incorporate environmental studies and sustainability into the school ethos.

Eco schools inspectors had no hesitation in recommending a green flag for Inverlochty.

P4/5 pupil Johnnie Foster said: 'It

feels fabulous to have won our green flag. The impact on the school has been spectacular - it has become much more eco-friendly now compared to what it used to be.'

Classmates Brett MacMillan and Jody Standen told *The Oban Times* about some of the eco activities and projects pupils had been doing.

Those included a 'Seed to Supper' project with Lochaber Rural Education Trust, building their own eco and

sensory garden, a 'go for it' cycle to school week, building a greenhouse from bottles and adopting land in Glen Nevis to look after and tidy.

TEC services vice chairman Councillor Brian Murphy joined the children for the flag unveiling. He said: 'The eco committee showed me what they have been doing. I was very impressed with their enthusiasm and knowledge of the subjects and their commitment to the project.'

SNH defends mink programme

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar have hit back at claims by the Taxpayers Alliance that money spent on eradicating mink in the Western Isles has been 'wasted'.

The project, which has been running since 2001 and cost over £4m, has cleared around 1,500 mink from the Western Isles.

But at least 500 animals are still preying on local birdlife - despite the huge cash and manpower investment. Some some 7,500 traps are checked daily and any mink caught are shot on sight

before being frozen and transported to the Food and Environment Research Agency in York for analysis.

The TA claimed the scheme had largely failed because mink were still present in large numbers - with taxpayers still picking up the tab.

Support

But SNH says he programme has widespread public support - and longterm benefits to bird populations, crofters, fish farmers and sporting managers far outweigh the cost of killing the alien predators.

Chairman of the council's sustainable development committee, Archie Campbell said: 'The Comhairle is highly supportive of the mink eradication programme which is designed to protect the local environment and the indigenous bird population, both of which are important factors in attracting tourists to the islands.'

'Perhaps if the Taxpayers' Alliance would visit for themselves we could properly brief them on the benefits of the project and explain how it boosts the local economy.'

Residents urged to keep paths and pavements clear

A HIGHLAND councillor is urging residents and business owners to help keep paths and pavements free of snow and ice after winter arrived with a vengeance last week.

TEC services chairman John Laing said Highland Council staff were often very busy treating priority routes.

He said: 'It may take time for them to come to local roads. Residents can play their part by clearing their pavements. It will help the local community and will be very helpful to the more vulnerable members of the community.'

Councillors briefed on Marine Harvest's expansion plans

LOCHABER councillors have been briefed on Marine Harvest's plans to expand their operations at Lochailort.

At a business meeting in Lochber House in Fort William, members heard how the move had attracted 'significant investment' from the parent company in Norway and was seen as a very positive step.

The company's £13m proposal for a fish farm capable of producing six salmon smolts is expected to go before Ross, Skye and Lochaber councillors on December 14.

Cash boost for local community groups

LOCHABER councillors have provided cash assistance to two local groups from their discretionary budget.

Spean Bridge, Roy Bridge and Achnacarry Community Council received £400 towards the cost of a village get-together scheme and OAPs Christmas party, while Glen Spean and Great Glen Tourism Marketing Group was granted £400 to help maintain and water village planters and hanging baskets.

Timber fuel could be shipped in to Corpach

DEVELOPERS proposing to build a £70m biomass energy plant at Corpach have raised the possibility of bringing in some of the 267,000 tonnes of timber fuel needed annually by sea.

Local residents had raised concerns at public exhibitions in the Moorings Hotel, at Banavie, and Treslaig Hall that Peel Energy's power station plan would see between 40 and 60 extra timber lorry shipments along the A82 daily.

But development manager Jonathan Burley told *The Oban Times* an 'important element' of their scheme was to take full advantage of the harbour location to bring in fuel by sea - the key to this being able to load up the ships in the first place which would deliver the fuel.

He said: 'Initiatives like Great Glen Shipping's harvesting project round Loch Etive has shown how this can be done and during the life of the biomass plant these are the sort of initiatives we would be delighted to get involved with.'

'Having said that, in consultation with Transport Scotland, we have found that there is sufficient capacity on the road network to take the additional traffic.'

'From our recent local consultation events, we know that some local people are sceptical about this.'

'We understand these concerns but we hope we have been able to reassure

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

people on this point. In assessing potential traffic numbers, we have erred on the side of caution by assuming that all timber would arrive by road and we have, therefore, estimated that 40 deliveries would be required on an average day. This is in order that we don't promise something to the local community about using ships that we then can't deliver.'

Mr Burley was unable to specify where the timber required would be sourced from, stating only that Peel had held 'detailed discussions' on their scheme with the Forestry Commission and the Scottish Government.

Benefits
He added: 'The project offers excellent benefits which will assist the regeneration of the area, that is, the creation of jobs and generation of renewable electricity, particularly because the plant is sized appropriately to the long term, locally available, fuel resource and has a real prospect of supplying heat to local businesses. The latter is very important in the context of meeting Scottish Government's renewable heat targets and maximising the value from using wood fuel.'

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RRP £24.00



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RRP £5.65



£12.95

SAVE £5.80
DVB INSTINCT EDT 30ML SET
VALUE £18.75



£59.99

SAVE £80.00
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WAS £139.99



£9.99

SAVE £5.00
VIDAL SASSOON DRYER 2000W
WAS £14.99



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16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN

Primary pupils get their ice-skates on



Pupils at Glencoe and Duror primary schools enjoyed an afternoon ice-skating at the Nevis Centre last Friday.

Thirty five pupils were able to skate for reduced prices thanks to a special offer from the Nevis Centre.

Head teacher Marylin Macdonald told *The Oban Times*: 'It been fantastic, a great day.'

'They've all been working together and enjoying themselves. It's the first time most of them have been ice-skating.' 10_f49skate01

OT

Painter walks free after jury returns not proven verdict

A CORPACH painter and decorator accused of a serious assault on another man has walked free from court after a jury ruled there was not enough evidence to convict him.

Colin Ross, of 6 Montrose Mansions, denied placing Brian Stewart in a headlock and repeatedly punching him on the face and head to his severe injury and permanent impairment at Dubh MacDonald Place, Inverloch, on September 13 last year.

Mr Stewart, aged 21, claimed Ross grabbed him in a headlock before battering his face. He was detained overnight in Belford Hospital and underwent surgery a week later.

But Ross, 42, told Fort William Sheriff Court it was Mr Stewart who approached him and 'squared-up' to him and he had acted in self-defence. After deliberating for nearly three hours, the 15-person jury returned a majority verdict of not proven. Turning to the defendant, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You are free to leave the dock.'

Man accused of washing friend's bloodstained clothing

A FORT William man has denied perverting the course of justice by washing his friend's bloodstained clothes after an assault.

Gavin Maxtone, aged 28, of 7 Pinegrove Court, pled not guilty to assisting a man to wash his clothing and footwear by putting them in a washing machine and providing him with clean clothes, knowing he had been involved in an assault. Fort William Sheriff Court heard the alleged incident took place in Maxtone's home on August 12. The trial will be held on December 10.

Power plan sparks demand for more community benefits

A MORVERN estate has unveiled plans for a third hydroelectricity plant on rivers running through its land - sparking demands from the local community for help with their own renewable schemes.

Ardtornish estate has lodged an application with Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee for an 800-kilowatt run of river scheme at Uilleann in Gleann Geal, on the River Aline.

The estate already operates a 657kw plant on the Rannoch River, built in 1996, and has a 700kw station under construction on the same watercourse. Once that project is completed in spring next year, work will start on upgrading the 1996 plant from a run of river to a dam storage scheme, doubling its generating capacity to 1,300kw.

The River Aline proposal, if passed, will get under way once the upgraded plant comes on stream.

The expansion plan is supported by massive government subsidies designed to boost electricity generation from renewable sources.

Morvern Community Council (MCC) chairman Iain Thorber told *The Oban Times* MCC and the local community development Uilleann house, where a company had approached Ardtornish Estate about obtaining land in lieu of a

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

community benefit for small wind turbines and other renewable schemes - with no tangible results so far.

'The community council would like to have discussions with the developer first of all about the benefit to the local community because there has been none coming to us yet,' he said.

Estate director Hugh Raven, when pressed on the community benefit issue, told *The Oban Times*: 'We are still discussing that with Highland Council, Councillor Michael Foxley, [area manager] Dot Ferguson and the community council for our existing scheme and the one currently under construction. The issue of community benefit will be resolved during the planning process.'

Decision

Estate manager Angus Robertson expects a planning decision by next spring and said the pipeline access route would double up as a future timber extraction road.

The flow on three burns would be captured and carried in a buried pipeline through conifer plantation to a powerhouse behind Uilleann house, where a direct grid connection would export power out up Morvern's White Glen.



Lochaline: coastal location and mountainous terrain makes it ideal for wind and hydropower schemes.

Photo courtesy of Iain Thorber

He said: 'Combined with our existing and scheduled contracts for new hydro, and the planned house-building programme at Achabeag, this may well represent the largest-ever private sector cash investment in the parish of Morvern.'

'We're also hoping to start work shortly on investigating other renewable energy potential in the area, including working with the local community on possible

schemes near the village of Lochaline.'

Mr Thorber said the concept of acquiring land from a developer for this renewable power scheme was 'unique' and was something other Lochaber 'may wish to consider' during the present financial climate.

He added: 'We are keen to investigate this with Highland Council and Ardtornish Estate in respect

of their existing renewable projects.'

'We have been aware for a very long time how rich Morvern is in potential renewable energy sites.'

'We appreciate the advantages hydro, wind and tidal generators could bring to those who live and work in the community through employment and regular benefit payments.'

'The Forestry Commission have recently announced

that if several hydro electric schemes they are considering building in conjunction with Ardtornish Estate near Lochaline go ahead, they will make a community benefit payment of £5,000 per MW per year.'

Hardship

'We welcome this especially following the recent closure of the Lochaline Silica Sand Mine and the hardship which the loss of 11 full time jobs has brought to the area.'

Newly acquired records go on show as Lochaber Archive Centre hosts open day

LOCHABER Archive Centre is holding an open day at its base in West Highland College, Fort William, on December 8.

Newly acquired family papers, photographs, plans and other records, as well as church records, school records and other records relating to the administrative and social history of Lochaber from the 18th century onwards will be on display. The free event runs from 10am to 6.30pm.

Drunk woman gave husband driving lessons

A CORPACH woman has been banned from driving for a year and fined £180 after admitting being drunk whilst giving her husband driving lessons.

Diane MacKinnon, of 9 Drumfada Terrace, pled

guilty to being in charge of a car whilst more than four times the legal limit on the A830 in Corpach on September 22.

Defence solicitor Niall MacBeth told Fort William Sheriff Court MacKinnon,

52, had been supervising her learner driver husband, who has held a provisional licence for 10 years.

Drinking heavily

Mr MacBeth said: 'She had been drinking heavily the night before and she had

a glass of wine at lunchtime.' Sentencing MacKinnon, Sheriff John Rafferty said: 'I take into account the exceptionally high reading. I also take into account that you've held your licence since 1980.'

Mallaig man denies speeding at 100mph

A MALLAIG man has denied driving at 100mph in a 60mph zone in Lochaber.

Anthony Kenning, aged 50, of Ard Na Mara, pled not guilty to breaking the speed limit on the A82 near White Corries, Rannoch Moor, Glencoe on March 15. The trial is due to be held at Fort William Sheriff Court on January 27.

Sustainable development meeting

ARDTORNISH Estate director Hugh Raven will address Lochaber Environmental Group in Fort William tomorrow on sustainable development.

The meeting, at the An Drochaid centre, Claggan Road, begins at 4pm.

Mr Raven recently stepped down as director of the Soil Association in Scotland and is one of two Scottish members of the UK Sustainable Development Commission.

Assault denied

THE TRIAL of a man accused of a serious assault in Fort William is due to be held on February 4.

David MacKinnon, aged 28, of 2-2 617 Duke Street, Glasgow, denies assaulting a man by repeatedly punching him on the head and body, knocking him to the ground and repeatedly kicking him on the head and body all to his severe injury.

Fort William Sheriff Court was told the alleged incident happened on a public footpath from Fassifern Road to Monzie Square on Thursday August 12.

Bunkhouse for sale

CORRAN Bunkhouse and the proprietor's detached house have been put up for sale.

The asking price for the properties, situated at the Corran Ferry, is £695,000. Agents are Colliers International, Glasgow.

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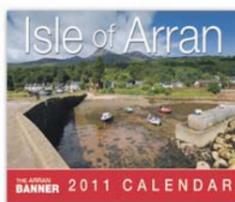


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Lochaber High School Class of '92 got together again for their reunion dance in Caol Community Centre recently. The partygoers, now aged around 30, travelled from far and wide for the social.

Four generations celebrate Morvern man's birthday



Four generations of the Ives family met up for a family lunch at The Old Bridge Inn, Aviemore, recently to celebrate the 90th birthday of 'Chubby' Ives, Castle Cottage, Morvern.

Standing behind Chubby is son Charles from Insch, Aberdeenshire, and to the right is grandson Ross holding great-grandson Andrew, aged two, while four-year-old brother Cameron leans on his great-grandpa. Ross and his family travelled from Farnborough, Hampshire. Chubby's daughter-in-law Jill, grand-daughter Kirsty, Ross's wife Debi and Jill's parents Betty and Eoin Gardiner from Ayr also joined in the celebrations.

Road rage punch on 60-year-old costs driver £450

A MAN punched a 60-year-old fellow motorist in the face during a road rage row at the busy Lochybridge roundabout near Fort William.

Craig Fyfe, of 12 Ross Street, Tain, lost the rag when John Broadley overtook him and several other vehicles coming into town from Spean Bridge on the A82.

Fyfe, aged 32, admitted assaulting Mr Broadley by punching him on the face to his injury on May 21.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard both men stopped after the overtaking manoeuvre and started arguing.

REPORT by RICHARD HADDOCK fort@obantimes.co.uk

as Fyfe continued his rant in front of the car. It was then that Fyfe punched the 60-year-old in the face, smashing his glasses and damaging two of his teeth.

Pulled over later by police, Fyfe said he thought Mr Broadley had been driving dangerously and intended 'just to push him with the palm of his hand'.

Fining Fyfe £450, Sheriff John Rafferty said: 'People who get involved with road rage and hitting 60-year-old men would normally be looking at a prison sentence. It is with some hesitation I'm going to fine you.'

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NFUS presidential team to change in February

THE PRESIDENTIAL team for National Farmer's Union Scotland (NFUS) will change in February as serving president Jim McLaren stands down.

The offices for president and vice president are now open for nominations.

Any NFUS member can be nominated for election, providing they are proposed and seconded by NFUS members.

The election will take place at the NFUS Council meeting on Tuesday February 15, 2011 at the Fairmont Hotel, St Andrews, following the AGM and annual dinner the previous day.

Those wishing to compete for these positions should contact NFUS chief executive James Withers to obtain a proposal form, which must then be signed and returned to him by Friday December 18.

Applecross crofters celebrate

Long and complicated land re-jig finally completed

A PARTY from the Crofters Commission comprising Convener Drew Ratter and staff members Christina MacInnes and Jackie Forsyth drove to Applecross recently to celebrate the completion of a long and complicated land re-organisation.

Historically the croft land in the Camusterrach township was held in runrig, with individual crofters holding different pieces of land throughout the township.

This meant fragmentation to the extent that one park of under a hectare comprised of 18 separate pieces of croft land, frozen when runrig stopped being an active system of managing the land.

Commission staff spent a lot of time over an extended period discussing the best future layout for the crofts with the crofters concerned to give a more manageable arrangement of the croft land.

This was also discussed with the landlord, who was very supportive throughout. The

proposed re-organisation was presented to the convener and commissioners and the scheme was submitted to the Scottish Ministers, along with a supportive statement of the commission's views.

A plan showing the proposed new areas that each croft would be allocated was adopted and the re-allocated areas pegged out by the drawing office in May.

Tribute

Mr Ratter said: 'I would like to pay tribute to everyone involved in this project, remembering as I do the many similar efforts over the years, and all over the crofting counties - some successful, some markedly less so.'

'If I was singling anybody out here, it would have to be Murdo MacRae, grazings clerk, who has put in a huge amount of work on this, and Archie MacLellan, the factor, who has been tremendously supportive all the way through.'



The Crofters Commission team celebrate in Applecross.



There was strong trade at the last Fort William sale of the year.

Last Fort William sale of the year meets strong trade

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 63 store cattle, 35 Over 30 Month cattle and 1090 sheep of all classes at Fort William last Friday when the season ended on a high with all classes meeting a strong enquiry.

Bullocks averaged 138p and sold to 178.3p per kg for a 244kg Simmental cross from Market Stance, Fort Augustus, and £605 for a 432kg Limousin cross from the same home.

Heifers averaged 141.3p and sold to 215.1p per kg for a 186kg Shorthorn cross from 5/6 Bohuntin, Roy Bridge, and £730 for a 519kg Aberdeen Angus from 11A Carnoch, Glencoe.

Over 30 Month cows averaged 81.7p and sold to 101.4p per kg for an

814kg Charolais cross from Burnbank, Glencoe, and £835 for an 825kg Aberdeen Angus from 6 Scotstown, Strontian.

Over 30 Month bulls sold to 68.4p per kg and £525 for a Limousin from Traigh Farm, Arisaig. Over 30 Month bullocks averaged 110.6p and sold to 119.5p per kg for a 456kg Limousin cross from 5/6 Bohuntin and £635 for a 595kg Shorthorn cross also from 5/6 Bohuntin. Lambs averaged £32.27 per head and sold to £60 for a Cross from Ardnamurchan Estates, Acharacle, while ewes sold to £50.50 for Mules from Balmaglaster, Spean Bridge.

Feeding sheep sold to £48 for a Cross from Keil Farm, Ardgour.

Kintyre and District Ayrshire Breeders Club holds annual heifer competition

KINTYRE and District Ayrshire Breeders Club recently held its annual heifer competition.

The judge, Russell Gray from Langside Farm, Kirkfieldbank, Lanark, inspected and placed four teams of heifers. In the evening, a dinner and prize giving took place in the Ardsheil Hotel, Campbeltown, during which Mr Gray congratulated exhibitors on the standard of stock he had viewed during the day.

Prizes: Parkers Cup, heifer teams: 1 J M Cameron, Gartvaigh; 2 W Ralston, East Drumlemble; 3 J&M Barr, Clochkeil. Kintyre Farmers Cup, individual heifer: 1 J&M Barr, Clochkeil; 2 JM Cameron, Gartvaigh; 3 W Ralston, East Drumlemble. James and Sons Quaich, progeny group: 1 Gartvaigh, West Mossiel Athos; 2 East Drumlemble, E Drumlemble Jupiter; 3 Machribeg, Carnell Dunn Deal. Mother and daughter Quaich: 1 and 2 J M Cameron, Gartvaigh; 3 W Ralston, East Drumlemble. John Barr memorial Tray, butterfat and protein: 1 and 2 W Ralston, East Drumlemble.

Island community market passes 10,000 milestone

THE COMMUNITY run Lewis and Harris Auction Mart has sold more than 10,000 sheep this year.

The record statistic was broken at the Steinish mart's final sale of the year which doubled up as an early Christmas show and sale.

Overall champion was Sandy Maclean of Callanish, Lewis with a 520kg Limousin cross bullock which sold for £760 to WJ Macdonald Butchers.

The top heifer was a 520kg Limousin cross from Messrs Anderson of Arivruaich which sold for £800.

Top lambs

The top pen of lambs was Texel crosses from Ann Mackay of Eorodale, Ness, that later made £105, selling to Charles Macleod Butchers with the reserve ticket going to Cross lambs from Murray Macleod, Swainbost, which fetched £80.

Prime sheep trade rises at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 4885 prime sheep including 3738 lambs averaging 159.5p/kg (+5.9p/wk) and 1142 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Beltex lambs from Luckenburn sold to £85.50, with Suffolk crosses from South Flanders to £84.50.

Head of Balglass sold Texels to £81.50, while Letham sold Charollais

to £76.50. Dunruhan sold Blackface lambs to £61. High Machrimore sold Suffolks to 173p per kilo, while Daldorn (Mule) Dippen, and Daldorn (Blackface) sold to 166p per kilo. Dippen also sold Charollais to 161p. Texel ewes from Bolfracks sold to £99, with West Quarter selling Cheviots to £84.50.

Texel lambs sell to £76 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 2,608 sheep of all classes at Dingwall last Thursday when all classes sold to satisfactory rates.

Lambs averaged £40.73 and sold to £76 for a Texel from Wester Moy, Urray.

Ewes averaged £46.55 and sold to

£80 for Texels from Wester Moy. Gimmers averaged £47.29 and sold to £75 for a Suffolk from Whitebog, Rosemarkie. Rams sold to £100 for a Charollais from 1 Newmore, Muir of Ord. Feeding sheep sold to £49 for a Cheviot wedder from Raasay Home Farm, Isle of Raasay.

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PERSONALS

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Ian M Tindall Wishes to thank everyone who attended and contributed to his 90th birthday party on Saturday 27th November 2010. Thanks for all the cards, presents and the donations to Parkinson's Disease U.K. the sum of £156 was raised. Thank you all very much again.

LOAD WANTED Van travelling from Brighton to Oban on Sunday 19th December. If you have anything requiring collection anywhere en route, telephone 01631 564578 with details and to obtain a price for delivery.

Lamont McGillivray would like to thank family and friends for attending his 21st birthday party and for the lovely gifts and cards. Achuaran, Lismore.

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BIRTH



DOUGLAS

Robbie and Eilidh (née MacInnes) are delighted to announce the birth of their son Lewis Robert Douglas on November 23, 2010, grandson of Catherine MacInnes, Oban and Gilbert MacInnes, Skye and Bob Douglas, Oban. Grateful thanks to Oban and Paisley Maternity Unit.

ENGAGEMENT



McDADE - HENDERSON

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement on November 18, 2010 of Caroline, daughter of Francis and Marian McDade to James, son of Alex and Patricia Henderson. They are planning their wedding for 2011.

DEATHS

ABERNETHY - Catherine McGregor. At Glasgow Royal Infirmary, on Friday November 26, 2010, after an illness borne with dignity, Catherine (Kitty) nee Cameron, aged 78 years, retired Nursing Officer, Monklands Hospital, latterly of Argyll, beloved wife of the late John and much respected mother of Peter and Duncan, mother-in-law to Caroline and grandmother of John. Sadly missed by many. Funeral Service was held today, December 2, at Clydebank Crematorium, North Dalnottar.

BUDGE - Peacefully after a long illness on Thursday, November 25, 2010 at the Belford Hospital, Frances Budge, beloved wife of Billy, sister to Jack and Peter, mum to Francine and David, much loved granny and auntie. Will be sadly missed by family, friends and carers. She had a heart of gold.

COX - Nicholas Thomas Martin suddenly on November 19, 2010, aged 54 in his home in Glasgow. The younger son of Johanna and the late Professor Richard Cox, Duiskey, Fort William, brother of Christopher, Elisabeth, Susanne and the late Andrea, cousins, nephews and friends. Service at Maryhill Crematorium, Glasgow at 3pm on December 6 (St Nicholas Day). Family flowers only please. We love you and will miss you so much.

MACDONALD - Suddenly on Sunday, November 28, 2010, in Leighton Hospital, Nantwich, Marac, beloved wife of the late Michael, devoted mother of Angus, Dugald, Flora and Neil, much loved gran of Callum, Katie, Brennan, Barry, Kirsty and Findlay and dearly loved sister of Ann. Sorely missed by all her family R.I.P.

MACINNES - Suddenly at home with her family and friends on her 60th Birthday, November 28, 2010, Ina, beloved wife of Roddy, much loved mum of Kevan and Fiona, mother-in-law of Claire and Brian and loving granny of Brian, Ewan and Ellie. Sorely missed.

MACLEOD - (Oban/Dingwall) Peacefully, on Tuesday, November 30, 2010, at Highview House Nursing Home, Inverness. Capt. John Nicolson MacLeod aged 81 years of 11 Burns Crescent, Dingwall, formerly of 111 George Street, Oban. Funeral service from the Church of Scotland, Castle Street, Dingwall on Wednesday December 8 at 1p.m., thereafter interment at Fodderty Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Donations, if so desired may be given at the service, for Chest, Heart and Stroke Association and R.N.L.I. Lodge Fingal No. 318 Funeral Lodge for John MacLeod to be held in Masonic Lodge, Dingwall, on Wednesday, December 8, at 12 noon. Arrangements by D.Gunn, Funeral Home, Dingwall.

McNEILL - Duncan Ronald (Isle of Colonsay) peacefully at Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow, on Tuesday, November 23, 2010, formerly Dunbartonshire Constabulary, much loved husband of Sylvia, dear father of Elspeth, Gilbert and Nicol and dotting granddad of Eleanor.

NICOL - Peacefully after a short illness bravely fought, on Tuesday November 23, 2010 at the Intensive Care Unit, Southern General Hospital, Glasgow. Gavin William Nicol, beloved son of Eleanor and the late Melville Nicol, much loved by Eleanor's partner James

Birt and daughter Chloe. A much loved Grandson, Nephew, Cousin and Friend. "A beautiful smile on a beautiful face, forever in our hearts"

TINNEY - Michael died peacefully at St Margaret's Hospice, Taunton on November 25, 2010 aged 79. Deeply loved by his family, Jessmay (nee Gillespie of Kinlochleven), Sarah, Alan, Sam and Isobel. A service of Thanksgiving will be held at St George's Church, Edington on Wednesday December 8 at 12 noon. Family flowers only but donations if wished to the Beacon Centre, Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton. All enquiries to Forsey and Son, Funeral Directors, 28 High Street, Butleigh, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 8SY Tel: 01458 850654.

WYNANS - Floris died peacefully in his sleep at home on Thursday 24 November, he will be sadly missed by his sons Derek and Jochem, all his family members and all those who knew him.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BARRIE - Marion and family wish to express their thanks to all family, friends and neighbours for the many cards, letters, telephone calls and floral tributes received following the sad loss of Davie. Sincere thanks for Crossroads, Tweeddale Practice and staff of Belford Hospital for their compassionate care, also John McLellan & Co. for the caring, dignified way they handled the funeral arrangements. Special thanks to Rev. Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service and to the staff of the West End Hotel for the excellent funeral tea. Forever in our thoughts Your loving family. - Lesley, David, Donny, Holly, Kimberley and Cheyenne.

MACDOUGALL - Colin Rowan. Someone kissed our tears away today when we were feeling sad. We were not feeling quite ourselves. Our day had been so bad. We felt a warmth brush by us. That quickly dried our tears. A gentle, kind and loving touch. That seemed to hold us near. Immediately we felt so much better. And the day seemed brighter too. I guess that's just the way we feel. When we have thoughts of you. Forever in our hearts. Your loving family. - Lesley, David, Donny, Holly, Kimberley and Cheyenne.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Duncan, who died December 5, 2009. A son I loved so much. I never asked for miracles, But today just one would do. To see the front door open, And see you walking through. Love Mum xx

DUFFY - The family of the late Andrew Duffy would like to thank all for their kindness, help and support during this sad time.

HARVEY - Eileen and Craig Duncan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their lovely cards, phone calls and flowers. Thanks to the Oban Ambulance crew for their professional care and attention, the staff of Ward C for their kindness shown to Anne during her short stay, to Hamish Hoey & Son for their professionalism and sensitive support in arranging the funeral and Fr Donald MacKay and all who attended the church and graveside.

McNICOL - The family of the late Kathleen McNicol would like to thank the people of Appin for their support over the last few days, weeks and years as a long life came to a peaceful end. Thanks to everyone who made the funeral so comforting, especially the Rev Dr Roderick Campbell, Freddie McKenzie, Duncan Gunn, Gavin Davidson and the ladies who provided such a wonderful tea. Over £550 was collected for The Red Cross. Special thanks to all the medical and nursing support over the years and to the Strabbe/Triominoes crowd and particular thanks to the wonderful home carers whose unending care will never be forgotten.

WILSON - The family of the late John Wilson, Taynuilt, would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the kindness and expressions of sympathy shown. Also a huge thank you to the staff of Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital for the care and kindness shown. To Hamish Hoey and Son for their help and support and to the Reverend Robert Brookes for his comforting words and service. A retiring collection raised £400.83 which will be divided between the British Heart Foundation and Ward B.

MEMORIAMS

BUCHANAN - In fond memory of our dear sister and auntie Nan, who died on December 6, 2009. Always in our thoughts. - Jessie, John and family.

GILLIES - In loving memory of Graeme, who died on December 3, 2006. It broke our hearts to lose you. But you did not go alone. For part of us went with you. The day God took you home. - With love Dad, Mam, Scott and Sarah, Kevin and Ross.

KERR - Cherished forever, the memories of my dearly loved husband, John, who died December 1, 2004. RIP. If tears could build a stairway. And memories a lane. I'd walk right up to heaven. And bring you home again. - His sorrowing wife, Mary, Fort William.

MACDOUGALL - Colin Rowan. Someone kissed our tears away today when we were feeling sad. We were not feeling quite ourselves. Our day had been so bad. We felt a warmth brush by us. That quickly dried our tears. A gentle, kind and loving touch. That seemed to hold us near. Immediately we felt so much better. And the day seemed brighter too. I guess that's just the way we feel. When we have thoughts of you. Forever in our hearts. Your loving family. - Lesley, David, Donny, Holly, Kimberley and Cheyenne.

MACDOUGALL - Colin Rowan. Forever in our thoughts. Always in our hearts. Love you now and forever. - Mum and Bob.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Duncan, who died December 5, 2009. A son I loved so much. I never asked for miracles, But today just one would do. To see the front door open, And see you walking through. Love Mum xx

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of Duncan, who died December 5, 2009. A son I loved so much. I never asked for miracles, But today just one would do. To see the front door open, And see you walking through. Love Mum xx

If tears could build a stairway. And memories a lane. I'd walk right up to Heaven. And bring you home again. Always in our hearts. Love John, Marilyn, Trina, Zander and boys xx

Special memories silently kept. Of a nephew I loved and will never forget. Love Kate xx

A smile for all, a heart of gold. One of the best this world could hold. Forever in our hearts. Love Teen, Johnny, Claire and Martin xx

MACINTOSH - In loving memory of my dear wife and mother Morag, who died on November 27, 1979. Always remembered. Inserted by her husband and family. Isle of Barra.

MACKAY - In loving memory of a dearest husband and stepfather, Alasdair, sadly taken away on December 5, 2009, aged 73 years. Gone but never forgotten. - Janet, Cameron and Margaret.

MACKAY - In loving memory of a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle Alasdair who passed away December 5, 2009. Also loved ones gone before. Memories are a gift to treasure. Ours of you will last forever. - From Moira, Willie and family.

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of our dear mum, mother-in-law, granny and great-granny Mary Stewart who passed away on December 4, 2008. Loved and remembered always. - From all the family.

MACQUEEN - In loving memory of our dear dad Colin, who was lost at sea November 30, 1990. Love and miss you everyday. - Yvonne, Richard and Michael.

MICHIE - Precious memories of our dear mum, gran and GG, Liz, who passed away December 2, 2009. Gone but never forgotten. - From all the family.

MICHIE - In loving memory of our dear sister and sister in law, Liz, who died December 2, 2009. Loved and remembered always. - Families in Fort William and AIness. **TIMMS** - Precious memories of a dear mum and loving nana Sheena who passed away November 30, 1971. Also remembering all other loved ones. Beautiful memories treasured forever of happy days we spent together. - Love Catharine, Lachie and family

Tots learn more about those who help us



The children at Happy House Christian Pre-School, in Oban, have been learning about the 'people who help us'. They visited the town's fire and police stations to find out more.



Rose Gibson, front left, with her son-in-law Peter Wilson, daughter Joy Wilson and Peter's parents Alex and Betty Wilson.

Couple honoured by university

ISLAY resident Rose Gibson celebrated the success of her daughter Joy Wilson, who was awarded a joint honorary degree from Heriot-Watt University, along with her husband Peter. Joy was retiring

after 20 years as the university's secretary and Mrs Gibson, from School Street, Bowmore, was accompanied by the ceremony by Mr Wilson's parents, Alex and Betty. Peter Wilson was also awarded a doctorate of the university in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development and to the success of Heriot-Watt University through his 20-year period of service as secretary of the university.

Sunday School is re-established

A TAYNUILT woman has re-established the Sunday School at the village's Muckairn Parish Church, which has been out of action

for several years. The Muckairn Funday School was started by a group of parents led by Margo Cox, who moved to the village three years ago. The new group, which started after the summer holidays, had 18 children at its first session and meets each Sunday at 11.30am.

Warm welcome for Rev Linda

A NEW minister for the Church of Scotland on the Ross of Mull and Iona is looking forward to the great potential of the post.

Linda Pollock, a former church worker in mission and discipleship in children's ministry, said she had long been attracted by the vacancy but waited until the time was right to apply. Rev Pollock said: 'As soon as the post came up 18 months ago I thought

that I wanted to be part of. I have attended my first session meeting and I have to say it was the best of my career. I have been warmly and enthusiastically welcomed to the area.'

'When I looked at the parish and its great potential it became clear that there are thriving communities to minister to, including a growing number of children and young people. I realised that this was something

Denise appointed youth officer



Denise Roberts, of Craig Lodge, Dalmally, was appointed first youth officer for the Argyll and Isles Roman Catholic Diocese at a ceremony in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. To mark the occasion Ms Roberts was presented with a medal by Bishop Joseph Thos.

WEDDINGS



MACIVER - ZINGG
Lindsay Jane MacIver, only daughter of Elizabeth and the late Duncan MacIver of Tobermory and Daniel Zingg only son of Werner and Beni Zingg Switzerland were married on 6th August, 2010 at Tobermory Parish Church followed by a reception at Glengorm Castle. The ceremony was conducted by The Rev Angus William Duncan. Photography by Ewan Baxter

GRADUATIONS



Brian Marden graduated from Forth Valley College with a Diploma in Higher Education in Adult Literacies. He is currently working for Argyll and Bute Council within the Adult Education Department

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

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Sunday 5 December 2010
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
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www.lorncf.org.uk

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
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Sung Eucharist 10.15
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Kilbrandon Kirk
No Service
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 10.00

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Mull holds first winter Sports Hall Athletics competition

Sixty-eight athletes compete at Tobermory High School

ATHLETES from the Bunessan-based Mull Harriers Athletics Club won four of the individual titles at this year's Mull contest of Sports Hall Athletics.

Sixty-eight young athletes competed in the event last Saturday in Tobermory High School.

The Mull event was the first of the local area competitions in Argyll this winter promoted by Mid Argyll Athletic Club.

Mull Harrier Jigme Jones dominated in the boys' under-7 age group for Bunessan primary with four outright wins and he shared first place in the remaining two events.

David Cameron was another champion for Bunessan winning the under-11 category. David won the high jump, triple jump and speed bounce finishing five points clear of Fraser Mitchell from Tobermory who won the four-lap race and javelin.

Katie Edmundson completed a hat-trick of overall wins for Bunessan in the morning session. Competing in the under-9 age group she won three events outright and tied for first in another two events. Katie excelled in the standing triple jump with 4.52metres and exceeded the Argyll Age standard and not too far behind the Argyll age record.

Daisy Williams was the fourth overall winner from the Ross of Mull succeeding in the under-13 age group in the afternoon session. Daisy won five of the seven events with a fine all-round performance. Her best events were the standing long and triple jumps recording 2.16metres and 6.03metres.

Recording

Runner-up Charlotte Peacock from Tobermory won the four-lap race and speed bounce recording 76 jumps in 30seconds.

There was a double success for the Barlow family from Tobermory with Ella winning the under-11 age group, not far ahead of Sarah Gibbons from Salen, and younger brother Thomas winning the under-9 championship, well clear of Iain Ralston from Salen.

Ella won four events in a very competitive age group excelling in the speed bounce, vertical jump and four-lap race. Thomas went one better than his sister winning five events, including a 13-metre javelin throw.

ATHLETICS

Sophie Ralston, from Salen, was the under-7 champion, finishing just ahead of Amy Brown, also Salen Primary.

Sophie recorded an impressive 31.5seconds in winning the four-lap race over three seconds ahead of second place. Sophie also excelled in the vertical jump, exceeding the Argyll age standard.

Keir Carmichael was a pupil at Tobermory primary up until last May when his family moved to Renfrewshire and the Carmichael family made a special trip back to Mull in order that Keir and younger sister Brodie could take part in this annual competition.

Maximum

It was worthwhile for Keir as he scored maximum points in the under-13 age group winning all seven events. He was the outstanding athlete in the afternoon session, reaching up to 56cm in the vertical jump. This was only three centimetres below the Argyll age record. The younger Ross MacCrone from Tobermory Primary was runner-up to Keir with a good all-round display.

The entry in the under-15 and under-17 age groups was disappointing but the standard was high. One of the best marks was recorded by under-15 champion, Cullen McClymont from Craignure, in the four-lap time trial with an amazing 22.3seconds.

Under-15 girl champion Sian Henderson, from Salen, excelled in the standing long jump with 2.21metres and in the same competition Natalie McDowall from Tobermory won the shot putt throwing 7.38metres. Stuart Tomison from Torloisk was the under-17 winner. Stuart is a former Scottish schools medallist in the high jump and it was in this event he recorded his best mark of the day, clearing 1.60metres from a short approach.

Bunessan Primary won the schools trophy for the first time scoring 86.5 points ahead of Tobermory on 73 and Salen Primary third on 63.5points.

Successful athletes from the Mull competition will now be invited to compete in the Argyll Final to be held at Atlantis Leisure in Oban on February 12. The Argyll Final starts at 1pm with entries taken from noon.



Julia Heap, winner of the RYA Community Award for Lifetime Commitment, hard at work.

Top award for North Argyll yachtswoman

YACHTING

A NORTH Argyll woman is to receive one of the Royal Yachting Association's most prestigious honours - Community Award for Lifetime Commitment.

Julia Heap, from Ardentallen, a member of Royal Highland Yacht Club for more than 30 years, was named the recipient of the award last Thursday as part of a UK wide awards programme.

Julia was selected as a winner for her work in organising and promoting West Highland Yachting Week (WHYW).

Runs Smoothly

Having taken over from her father as secretary and treasurer to the event in 1978 Julia has ensured the regatta runs smoothly and efficiently with an upbeat team atmosphere across the committee boats. This has seen entries to the competition grow from 56 to 150.

Irene Murray, commodore of Royal Highland Yacht Club, nominated Julia

for the award. She said: 'I cannot think of anyone who deserves it more - Julia typifies a very small number of dedicated people in the sailing world without whom regattas such as WHYW simply would not be possible.'

Julia said: 'I am most flattered at being nominated for this award, and appreciate the honour. However, I would wish to stress that this is a team effort, and I couldn't manage the task without the support of an enthusiastic chairman and committee.'

In particular, we have a superb race team all of whom give up a week or more of their valuable holidays in order to join our team as volunteers.'

'I have always enjoyed the task,' she added: 'It is a truly enjoyable and rewarding job.'

Atlantis Leisure Indoor League

FOOTBALL

Results: Carpet Fitters 10, Scottish Sea Farms 1; Dunollie 3, Hydro 3; RM Builders 4, Atlantis 13; Oban High School 4, Oban Times 5.

	P	W	L	Pts
Oban Times	2	2	0	6
Carpet Fitters	2	2	0	6
Dunollie	2	1	1	4
Atlantis Leisure	2	1	1	3
RM Builders	2	1	1	3
Hydro	2	0	1	1
Oban High School	2	0	2	0
Scottish Sea Farms	2	0	2	0

Islay Golf Club Winter League

GOLF

WINTER League played on November 21: 1 Neil Carmichael 39pts; 2 Alistair MacMillan 39pts; 3 Ruairidh MacIntyre 38pts. Cts 69.

Oban Saints youth results and fixtures

FOOTBALL

LAST weekend's fixtures between Westerton United v Under 13s; Under 14s v Seafar Villa and East Kilbride v Under 15s were all postponed due to the weather.

Fixtures scheduled for this weekend, weather permitting are: Under 13s no game; Under 14s v Seafar Villa; East Kilbride v Under 15s; Largs Colts v Under 16s.

Oban Pool League

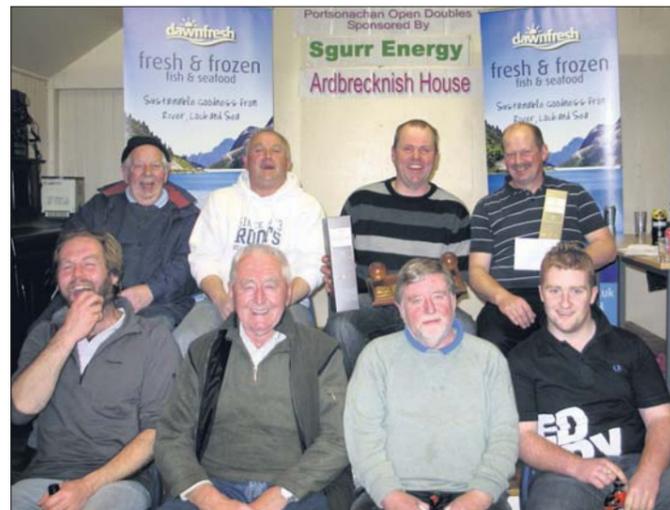
POOL

	P	W	L	Pts
Lancaster A	6	6	0	12
The Kelvin	7	6	1	12
Lancaster B	7	6	1	12
The Lochnell	6	4	2	8
Cellar Bar	6	3	3	6
The Claredon	7	3	4	6
Markie Dans A	6	3	3	6
Golf Club	6	2	4	4
The Lochavullin	7	1	6	2
The Harbour	6	1	5	2
Markie Dans B	6	0	6	0

A DRAW will be made today (Thursday) in the Cellar Bar for the cup fixtures to be played in week nine.

Results: Kelvin 3, Cellar 6; Lancaster B 6, Markie Dans B 3; Markie Dans A 2, Lancaster A 7; Golf Club 7, Claredon 2; Lochnell 8, Lochavullin 1.

Fixtures: Claredon v Lochnell; Lancaster A v Golf Club; Markie Dans B v Markie Dans A; Cellar v Lancaster B; Harbour v Kelvin.



Players at this year's Open Doubles competition in Portsonachan.

Portsonachan Open Doubles

PORTSONACHAN Carpet Bowling Club held their annual Open Doubles last Saturday when local pair Robert Wilson and Paul Cook won for the second time.

Runners up were Willie and Jock of Cairnbaan Bowling Club. The Dalmlally pair of

Bobby Johnson partnering Scot Gibson and local father and son pairing of Ian and George MacPherson were the losing semi-finalists.

The evening was conducted in a very friendly atmosphere and Portsonachan Bowling Club thanked their very generous sponsors, Dawn

CARPET BOWLS

Fresh, Sgurr Energy and Ardbrecknish House, without whom this event would not be possible.

The club also thanked the competitors who travelled from Ford and Dalmlally on such an inhospitable night.

Tobermory High School takes part in Play Badminton Carnival

PUPILS from Tobermory High School on the Isle of Mull joined more than 3,000 other children from across Scotland at the annual Bank of Scotland Play Badminton Carnival.

Coaching

The event, in Glasgow's Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena, was held last Friday and those in attendance participated in two-hour sessions, taking part in a range of activities and receiving coaching in the basics of the game from

BADMINTON

expert Badminton Scotland coaches and sports students.

The children were also given the opportunity to indulge in a bit of fun when they challenged their coaches to a game of badminton as well as taking part in a fitness challenge, competing for the fastest times for the opportunity to win badminton rackets donated by Yonex, and T-shirts and water bottles donated by the Bank of Scotland.



Pupils from Tobermory High School at Glasgow's Kelvin Hall for the Bank of Scotland Play Badminton Carnival.

Lochaber runners tackle Beinn Lora

WHILE the rest of the country were struggling to get around last weekend the going for Lochaber AC runners on Beinn Lora was pretty good. The hill was clear of snow and a hard frost to firm up the large boggy sections near the summit.

Some 69 runners turned up with only one DNF. Last year's winner Alex Johnson complained of being 'unfit' but still produced a good run to win again well clear of second placed John Binnie, who was first M40.

Third after an outstanding run was Callum Fraser, who was second to the top but dropped a place on the descent.

Callum is only 14 and was running 'unofficially' as the lower age limit is 16 - so definitely a talent in the making.

ATHLETICS

Another blinding run came from Nicola Meekin, coming in just behind Donald Paterson in fifth overall, smashing her own record down to 29.57.

Second lady was Sarah Ward, who is getting faster all the time, while third was Nix Forster who was also first F40. Brian Campbell was fastest M50, just edging out regular face on the hill running scene Davie Duncan. Nancy Kennedy took F50 honours while Mike Tighe with 37.57 was the fastest M60.

Next Lochaber AC winter league race is at Duror. Check the Lochaber AC website for further information.

Football fixtures and referees

PREMIER Division - Cambria v Oban Saints, referee Gordon Hay.

Premier Division One - Kings Park Rangers v Campbeltown Pupils 'A' - referee Alan Lamb.

Premier Division Two - Dunoon v Shawlands, referee Ian Smith; Tarbert v Port Glasgow OBU, referee Jimmy Lister.

Division One - Duncanrig FP 'B' v Lochgilhead Red Star, referee Derek Milton.

Division Three - Campbeltown Pupils 'B' have no game.

All matches are scheduled to kick-off at 2pm, weather permitting.



Lochaber schoolchildren line up before their tournament in the Nevis Centre.

Shinty skills on display at Nevis Centre tournament

AROUND 50 Lochaber primary pupils sharpened up their shinty skills at a mini-tournament in the Nevis Centre last Friday night.

The youngsters, drawn from Banavie, Inverloch, Caol, Fort William, Upper Achintore, Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primaries, were split into two sections, P3 and under and P5 and under.

Lochaber coaching committee secretary, Michelle McNeil told *The Oban Times* the

SHINTY

evening had been 'quite competitive'.

'Upper Achintore and Fort William amalgamated their team and competed well, according to their coaches. I think overall that Banavie were the strongest team on the night,' she said.

'The event was a great way of promoting shinty to children and to make sure they keep fit and active in the winter months.'



New training tops presented to Oban Saints Under 13s

Oban Saints' under-13s took delivery of a set of training tops, bought following a fundraising penalty shoot-out. The team strips and coaches' tops are sponsored by Oban Electrical Services but the club organised a sponsored penalty shoot-out and asked people to guess how many they would score in 20 minutes. They scored 91, and raised £1,300 for the new tops. The team are coached by Gus MacPherson, Jimmy Jackson, Mark Welsh and Gordon Munro. 07_149saints01

Future looks rosy for Lochaber Camanachd

LOCHABER Camanachd may have missed promotion to the premier division by a whisker - but the future of the Spean Bridge club looks rosy after their under-17 team almost swept the boards last season.

The talented youngsters - several of whom play in the first team - claimed four trophies and a barrowload of plaudits from around the country for their attacking brand of shinty.

The Lochaber juniors won the London Shield, beating Skye Camanachd on penalties after a 1-1 thriller at Beaulieu; the MacTavish Juvenile Cup courtesy of a 4-2 win over Glenurquhart at Bught Park; The Macaulay Association National under-17 trophy through a 4-0

REPORT
by STEPHEN NORRIS

thumping of Kingussie at Oban and the Fife Council Cup when Lochaber players helped the North Select beat the South Select 10-1 in the inter-district challenge match at Kingussie.

The team only just missed out on a fifth trophy, the Inverness Sixes, when they lost out 0-1 to Beaulieu at Inverness.

Coach Michael Delaney was full of praise for the style and verve his young team showed in scooping the silverware.

'In league and cup competitions last season we scored 40 goals and conceded only eight,' he told The Oban Times at the photocall on the snowy Spean Bridge pitch.

SHINTY

'The present team is probably the best we have had for a long time - we won three trophies last season and three this season, and we had four boys playing in the North-South game, which we won as well.

'With the talent we have here, I really think we can start kicking on as a club in three or four years time. We are quite lucky in that we have some boys playing at senior level already.

'It is quite an achievement for the boys to do what they have done this season. It's great that they have got into the habit of winning - and it's something we want to keep going.'



Shinty kings: Lochaber under-17 team show off their haul of trophies in the snow at Spean Bridge.

Keith game looks very doubtful

FOOTBALL

THE DEEP freeze looks almost certain to wipe out the Highland League football card again on Saturday after all fixturers fell victim to snow and ice last weekend.

Fort William had switched their game against Buckie from Claggan Park in an attempt to beat the weather, but the move failed after Buckie was carpeted by the white stuff.

Keith are the visitors to Fort William on Saturday, but the pitch is rock hard under a light dusting of snow and with sub zero temperatures forecast to continue the game needs a weather miracle to go ahead.

Two teams have maximum points

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER FOUR weeks of the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling leagues at the Nevis Centre, two teams still have maximum points.

Alleycats - who beat the Likely Lads 5-0, now edge out Council - who beat Rotavators 5-0. Underdogs remain in third place just one point behind after beating Ardtoe 5-0.

Alleycats still lead the handicap division with maximum points closely followed by Underdogs only one point behind. Council are now in third place following a 5-0 defeat on handicap to Rotavators.

Brian Stewart (Council) still holds the top scratch average after four weeks with 148 followed by Pam Weller (Alleycats) - the top lady - with 144.

Tight at the top of indoor league

FOOTBALL

THINGS have tightened up at the top of the Ali Young Winter League in the Nevis Centre after Achintore FC dished out a 2-0 drubbing to leaders Livercaol, whose lead has been cut to two points.

Goon Squad took advantage of the leaders' slip to stay in second courtesy of a 2-0 win over Ballachulish, while All Trades edged out HW Energy 2-1 in a close encounter to stay third.

Lochaber Leisure kept in the title hunt with a narrow 2-1 victory over NGTW, while Funky Five beat Caol by the odd goal in five.

Crazy Crofter scored a comfortable 3-0 win over Pogon, who remain pointless at the foot of the table.



Lochaber High School senior boys' basketball team.

Basketball boys are back in the zone

LOCHABER High School senior boys' basketball team are back in the zone this season - despite losing several key players.

The team was not expected to come close to matching the success of last season, when they reached the Highland Schools final.

But the opening fixtures of the campaign has seen the emergence of some exciting new talents - suggesting the new team may even have the ability to surpass the achievements of last year.

Lochaber began with an away match against Fortrose Academy in a match-up where their chances were

rated as slim. After going behind early and trailing by seven points at half time, the Lochaber boys rallied and produced a stunning 20-point overhaul to eventually take the match 47-34.

Key to the victory was a rock solid defensive performance by the whole team which was led from the back by the strength and blocking exploits of Neill Bo Findlayson and Michael Murphy.

Lochaber's next met Alness at home - a game the boys were eagerly anticipating as their inaugural home fixture in the pristine and state-of-the-art new games hall

at L.H.S. Nervous energy was apparent in front of the home crowd but encouraged by their recent victory, the Lochaber boys took an early lead and never looked back, eventually triumphing 49-26.

Architects of the comfortable win manner were George Mallison and Ryan Murphy, who took a staggering 43 points between them and at times looked entirely unplayable for the opposition defence, their pairing developing into a formidable scoring partnership which will be key to the continued success of the team.

BASKETBALL

It's a great start - but Lochaber High School English teacher and basketball coach Jamie Currie isn't getting carried away.

He said: 'Those on the peripheries of last year's successful team have blossomed into some really special talents. Above all though, this year we have a group of boys with a great work ethic who give everything on the court from start to finish. They are the best bunch of lads I could hope to work with and they are a pleasure to coach.'

Lochaber High School stay top of the league

FOOTBALL

LOCHABER High School under-13 football consolidated their position at the top of the Highland Schools' league with a thumping 7-2 win over rivals Millburn Academy last Wednesday.

Lewis MacLean made the most of his game with the 'A' team by scoring with a great finish, while Ronan Cameron had an outstanding game in defence.

The team's brilliant form has not gone unnoticed by coaches from other schools this season, who have frequently commented on Lochaber's footballing quality and general attitude to the game.

The talented youngsters still remain undefeated and have a 100 per cent record - despite playing some of the more fancied schools in the race for the title.

Lochaber sit on top with 18 points from six games with Millburn in second on 13 points from seven games.

Results so far:
Inverness R.A 1, Lochaber HS 8; Lochaber HS 9, Fortrose Academy 2; Dingwall Academy 3, Lochaber HS 6; Ullapool HS 1, Lochaber HS 3; Charleston Academy 4, Lochaber HS 6; Millburn Academy 2, Lochaber HS 7.

Coach Kenny McIntyre told *The Oban Times*: 'Many of the players have contributed goals - Sean Lieder the captain, Donny MacRae, Nico Scally and Innes Blackhall. Thomas Kennedy has been outstanding in midfield and Owen Cairns has consistently been the star turn in defence.'

The team is scheduled to play Fortrose Academy and Alness Academy in a 'double-header' away on Saturday to complete all their away fixtures. A win against Alness would put Lochaber clear at the top of the league.



Lochaber High School under-13s: top of Highland Schools' league.

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

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 reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

WIN
£1350

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

I enclose £1 (note) 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.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
A Scott, Airidh Cruachain, Taynuilt and F Winton, Quarry Road, Oban

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Saints league game called off

FOOTBALL

THE Oban Saints premier division league match against Cambria due to be played at the Strathclyde University Playing Fields, Stepps, was called off on Saturday morning after a pitch inspection found the ground to be frozen solid and covered with snow. The match has been re-scheduled for this Saturday at the same venue with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is Gordon Hay.

Manager Iain Jackson was disappointed that the game fell victim to the weather and unless there is a rapid thaw it looks as though the game could be off again this weekend.

If the game is called off the Oban side are trying to arrange a friendly match against Tarbert on the 3g pitch at Oban High School. Tarbert are due to be at home to Port Glasgow OBU, but the game is in doubt due to a frozen pitch.

Saints club secretary David Buchanan said a final decision could not be made until both the games involving Tarbert and Saints were officially called off, which would not be until Friday at the earliest.

If the game takes place in Oban the kick off will probably be 1pm.

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	8	5	2	1	26	12	17
Kilpatrick	7	5	1	1	17	11	16
Greenock HSP	7	4	2	1	12	9	14
St Josephs	7	4	0	3	13	17	12
Arkleston	4	2	1	1	11	9	7
Thorn Athletic	6	2	1	3	10	14	7
Aikenhead	4	1	2	1	8	5	5
Castlemilk	6	1	1	4	7	14	4
Inverclyde	6	0	2	4	10	17	2
Cambria	5	0	0	5	3	9	0

Over-35s League

FOOTBALL

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Taynuilt	3	3	0	0	9
Triallists	2	2	0	0	6
Teachers	3	1	1	1	4
Seil	1	1	0	0	3
Hydro	2	1	0	1	3
Emergency	3	1	0	2	3
West Coast Massive	2	0	1	1	1
Owen Sails	1	0	0	1	0
Spartak	1	0	0	1	0
Clan Trees	2	0	0	2	0

Results: Emergency 1, Seil 6; Hydro 11, Spartak 5; Taynuilt 9, West Coast Massive 6; Clan Trees 2, Triallists 9; Emergency 2, Teachers 6

SAFL to take a festive break

FOOTBALL

THE Scottish Amateur Football League will be taking a Christmas and New Year break.

The last fixtures will be played on December 11, resuming again on January 8.



Fraser McGlone in action.

Fraser wins British Series

MOUNTAIN BIKING

ARGYLL downhill mountain bike rider Fraser McGlone sealed victory in the British Downhill Series with a win in the final round of the championship in Wales.

Fraser came into the race leading the youth category and a solid result would see him take the title in the village of Caersws at the fifth and final round of the event. But his sights were set far higher and the youngster, who lives near Appin, set a blistering race run, which not only blew away the competition in his category, but also placed him seventh overall in Britain.

Fraser said: 'I was feeling really confident in practice and I knew I could do well on the track. I pushed it

really hard and walked away with the win. I'm just buzzing now!'

The result rounds off a stellar year for Fraser, who was joined by elite class rider Ben Cathro in Wales.

Stormed

Ben was leading the top category until world cup podium finisher Marc Beaumont stormed across the line force the Benderloch man into second.

Ben came into the final round sitting mid-pack in the Elite class after missing a couple of series races because of race commitments abroad.

'I wasn't in contention for the series so I just wanted to smash out a good result at the last race of the year,'

said Ben. After qualifying in ninth a frustrated Ben knew he could make up a lot of time and on his race run sprinted into the finish to post the fastest time. Rider after rider failed to beat his time until Marc Beaumont's run towards the end of the competition.

Ben added: 'I gave my race run everything so I'm really pleased with second. I need to say a massive thanks to Robin and Andy at Energie Health and Fitness club for helping me with training and recovery on my shoulder.'

The boys will now start the hard winter's training and look forward to next year.

Otters' farewell to coach

SWIMMING

OBAN Otters brought its 35th season to a close on Monday with its annual prizegiving.

A total of 16 trophies were handed out at the end-of-season event in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

As well as marking the achievements of its swimmers, former club coach Andy Ward was presented with an award, having taught swimmers for the past 10 years.

Andy, who finished coaching in October this year, said: 'It is a fantastic feeling when you see kids who, at the beginning, couldn't get into the small pool but are now competing at national level.'

It has been a busy winter season for Oban Otters as its swimmers competed in three competitions across the country within a week.

On November 6 and 7 swimmers from the club competed the North Ayrshire

Graded Meet at Auchenhavrie Leisure Centre.

Seven swimmers took home 32 medals and many bettered their seeded times, with Isla Duncan, Abby MacTaggart, Patrick MacKinnon and Aidan McCuish all recording 'too fast' times after exceeding their seeded times. Abby, Isla Clare MacKinnon and Shannon Reynolds swam two relays 200m individual medley and 200m freestyle, winning gold in both.

The Kingston Swim Meet on November 7 gave some of the club's younger swimmers a chance to compete. They were: Evie Workman, Grace Thompson, Rachel Campbell, Fiona McLean, Shaun MacTaggart, Emma Thompson, Caitlin Workman, Calum McBurnie and Lorna Thompson.

Rachel won her backstroke race and Fiona, Calum and Evie posted times that were 'too fast', meaning they far

exceeded their projected swim times.

Otters were also one of 16 clubs that competed at the Alloa Graded Meet on October 30 and 31 at The Peak, Stirling Sports Village.

Eight swimmers from the club took part and had a great weekend, especially Sam Dairon and Patrick MacKinnon, who won medals.

Oban Otters trophy winners: MacLean Cup - Ella MacKechnie; Mackay Cup - Sam Coates; Spence Shield - Eve Beaton; Hutchison Cup - Jack Fletcher; Achnacreebeg Trophy - Robyn MacGregor; Larchfield Trophy - James MacIntyre; MacKinnon Cup - Evie Workman; Bank of Scotland Cup - Sean Silcock; Tyndrum Cup - Fiona McLean; Intermediate Shield - Clare MacKinnon; Gateway Cup - Isla Duncan; Hannah's Shield - Connor MacNeil; Fortieith Cup - Shannon Reynolds; Hunter Cup - Patrick MacKinnon; Beaver Timber Shields - Shannon Reynolds and Patrick MacKinnon.

Winners of the small pool gala were Eilidh Lawson and Marcus Lane.

First residential football camp to be held in Oban

FOOTBALL

YOUNG people are being offered the chance to sample the life of a full-time youth footballer.

Argyll and Bute Council's football development team is planning a first-ever residential football camp to give young players aged nine-16 an insight into the daily life of a young star.

The camp is planned for July 25-29 next year and will be held in Oban. The participants will stay at the Oban High School hostel, and use the Oban 3G all weather pitch as well as the nearby Mossfield and Glen Grass pitches.

The capacity of the residential course is 45, and a further 20 will be able to take part on a non-residential basis.

Details have been sent out to everyone on the council's football development database, as well as local clubs. Interest is already being shown in signing up.

Councillor Neil Mackay, Argyll and Bute's spokesperson for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Sport, said it was a fantastic opportunity

EXAMPLE PLAYER ITINERARY -

8.30am -	Breakfast and team meeting
10.00am -	Coaching Session - individual technique
12.30pm -	Lunch
2.00pm -	Coaching Session - Small Sided Games
3.00pm -	Coaching Session - Patterns of Play
4.00pm -	Coaching Session
5.00pm -	Rest and Relaxation time
5.30pm -	Dinner
6.30pm -	Diet and Nutrition workshop
7.00pm -	AJAX Tournament
9.00pm -	Evening Activity
10.00pm -	Rest
10.30pm -	Lights Out

Please note: this is just an example of a day within the weeks programme which may be subject to change.

for budding players.

'Participants will live the life of professional footballers for five days, immersing themselves in the game as they take their skills to the next level,' he added.

'The council, in association with the Scottish Football Association, will have a team of highly qualified and experienced coaches on hand to work with the players to maximise their ability and develop their technique,

through training methods similar to the ones used by many professional teams worldwide.

'The camp is open to any young person aged between 9-16 from all corners of Argyll and Bute.

'We expect it to be extremely popular, so I would urge anyone who thinks they might like to take part to get in touch with our football development officer to register their interest.'

In addition to improving participants' football ability, the players will also have an introduction to sports science including fitness testing, nutritional and hydration advice, sports psychology and lifestyle management as well as doing the day to day chores expected of a full time player.

The cost of the camp is £200 for residential places (including all meals, swimming trip, kit etc) and £150 for non-residential places (including all meals, swimming trip, kit etc). It is anticipated that most of the non-residential places will be filled by young people from Oban and the surrounding area.

There will be different payment options for the course, including monthly or weekly payments. However, each place must be fully paid before the course starts.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the programme should contact the council's football development officer Martin Rae at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk



Oban Otters prizewinners with former coach Andy Ward. 07_t49ott01

the weather

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NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Thursday
Sunny.

Winds light north easterly.
Temperatures -4°C to -6°C

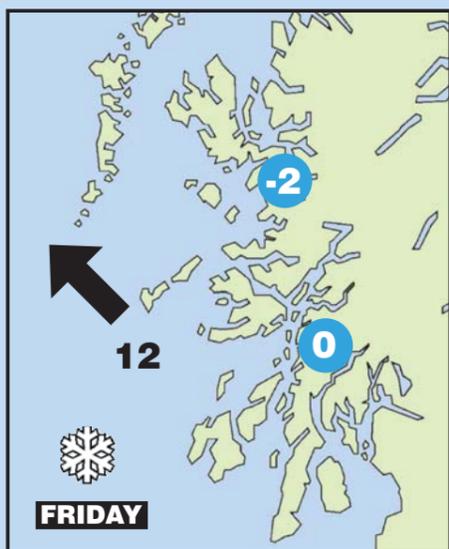
Friday

Light snow showers.
Winds moderate south, south easterly.
Temperatures -2°C to 0°C.

Weekend Outlook

Light snow.
Winds light east, south easterly.
Temperatures -6°C to 1°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above



Tides

Sponsored by
NANCY BLACK Ships' Chandler

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, December 2, 2010
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	02.51 3.3 08.33 1.3 15.05 3.6 21.28 1.3	
Fri	03.38 3.6 09.34 1.1 15.53 3.8 22.15 1.2	
Sat	04.19 3.8 10.28 1.0 16.35 3.9 22.58 1.1	
Sun	04.59 3.9 11.17 1.0 17.15 3.9 23.39 1.0	
Mon	05.38 4.1 12.03 1.0 17.53 3.9 *** **	
Tues	00.20 1.0 06.17 4.1 12.47 1.1 18.30 3.8	
Wed	01.00 1.0 06.56 4.1 13.29 1.2 19.06 3.7	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30



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