



# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Travel disruption for islanders

ISLANDERS from Coll and Tiree making a last minute dash home for Christmas almost missed out after bad weather caused the cancellation of sailings to the islands last Saturday. The *MV Clansman* attempted to dock at both islands on two occasions before returning to Oban around eight hours after departure, leaving many islanders stranded in the town. Although travellers got to the islands the next day, the Christmas post is not expected to reach Coll until today (Thursday). One Coll islander said: 'Sometimes it is like being on a desert island.'

### Oban's wrong way round roundabout driver is charged

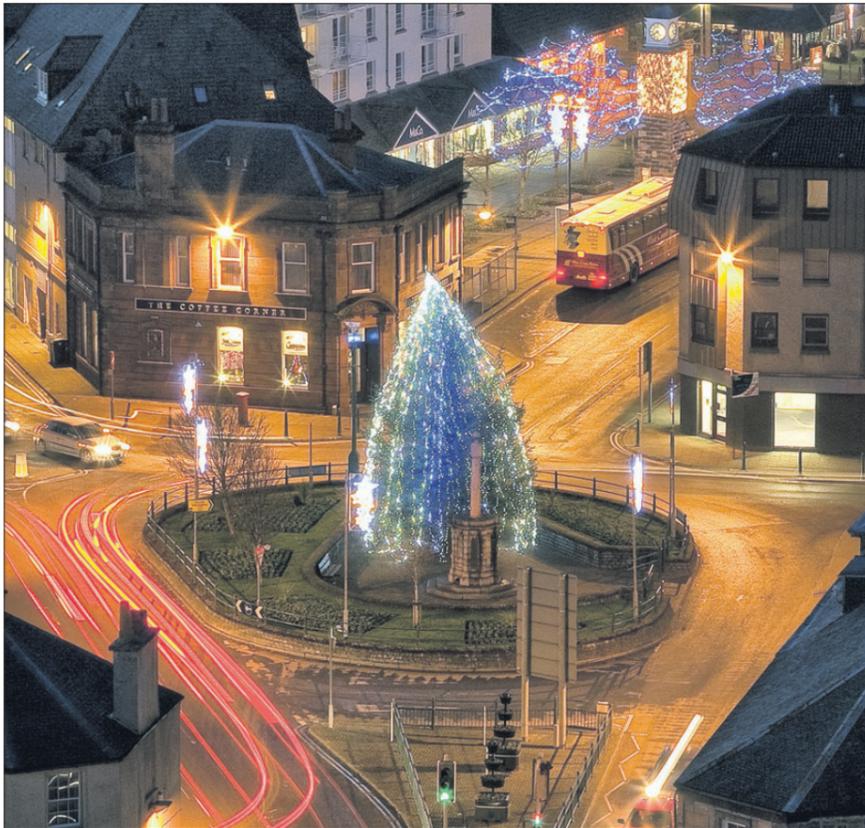
A DRIVER who committed a serious offence of road traffic offences last Saturday afternoon, including driving the wrong way around a roundabout, has been charged with careless driving. The 63-year-old man committed the offences on Albany Street, where he drove against the one-way system, and on Argyll Square and Soroba Road.

### Thieves target North Connel fuel

POLICE in Oban are seeking information on a theft of 800 litres of kerosene from an unlocked tank in Moss Road, North Connel. Anyone who noticed any unusual activity in the area, or who may have been offered heating oil from an unreliable source is urged to contact PC Stuart Johnston on 01631 510 500.

### Connel crash causes diversion

TRAFFIC was diverted around Shore Road in Connel after a teenage driver crashed and damaged a road sign on the A85 approaching Connel. The 17-year-old woman, who sustained no serious injuries, has been charged with careless driving as a result of the incident, which occurred around 9.20pm on Sunday.



The festive lights of Oban's Argyle Square shine through the unseasonably wet Christmas celebrations. Photo: Dennis Hardley Photography

### Neil will mark 50 years at special Hogmanay ceilidh

ONE OF Argyll's most famous accordionists, Neil Sinclair, will bring down the curtain on his 50th year of performing when he leads the Hogmanay celebrations in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls. The 64 year old is providing the music for the Family Hogmanay Party next week, which is expected to be a sell-out occasion. As *The Oban Times* went to press, would-be revelers were clamoring for the last few tickets. The Neil Sinclair Sound will be completed on Hogmanay by Neil's wife, Sheila, on keyboard and North Connel's Don MacAllister on fiddle. But while the expected 300 party guests will be enjoying the holiday season, Neil would much rather be working at Hogmanay, a shift he has become

familiar with over the past 50 years. 'If I have ever been off for Hogmanay, it is only on two or three occasions. I would rather be playing, because it has become a way of life for me.' The Connel accordion player had his first public performance at the age of 14 in Oban Masonic Hall, before turning professional with the Colin Campbell Highland Band in 1968. Over his career to date, Neil has played all around the world and considers the Philippines, Egypt and Brazil as highlights. However, his longest journey recently was last Saturday when he and his daughter, Sileas, tried to get to Tiree. The ferry left Oban at 6.30am and unsuccessfully tried to get into Coll and Tiree on two occasions before returning to Oban at 2.30pm.

### 'Huge concern' as Argyll population falls

FIGURES revealing Argyll and Bute as one of the few areas of Scotland to suffer a population decline are a 'huge concern'. The leader of the local authority, Roddy McCuish, made the statement after census results released last week showed the population of the county had dropped by more than 3,300 - nearly four per cent. Scotland's population, meanwhile, has increased to its highest ever level, 5,295,000. Argyll and Bute Council is already discussing how it can make savings of more than £40million over the next seven years, but confirmation of a reduced population could result in a drop in the block grant handed to the council from the Scottish Government. Mr McCuish said reversing the trend was one of the council's top priorities. He said: 'It's a huge concern and one we will do our best to address. 'If we're to address it we need to make sure Argyll is a great place to live and work. 'We already have great potential to build on our aquaculture, tourism and construction. We also have to make sure we are better connected, that the A82 and A83 are fit for purpose. We need to have better broadband. 'All these things have to be in place. We can only do that by working together across government regardless of political ties.' Dick Walsh, leader of the opposition, described the figures as 'disappointing'. He said: 'We need more young people and families to stay, live, work and settle in our area if we

are to arrest the decline. The public sector has been hit hard. 'Our council has shed some 400 full time jobs in recent years. With some £20million of cuts in expenditure from the council, this has a knock on effect. 'It will take hard work, further investment and innovation to rectify, but we are alert and up for the challenge. Plans take time and some of the current initiatives will help, but more needs to be done. 'Argyll and Bute is a fantastic place to live and to bring up a family. If we can improve on our house building, create more jobs then we are moving in the right direction. This will require joint thinking and action on the part of all public agencies and the private sectors. The council's executive

## Tiree school is one of the country's best

Argyll and Bute - ranked as one of the worst local authorities - claim tables are 'irrelevant'

IT IS one of Scotland's smallest and most remote secondary schools, yet Tiree High School has been ranked as one of the country's best. New school league tables revealed that the Hebridean school is the 21st best performing school in Scotland, despite Argyll and Bute Council being ranked as one of the worst performing local authorities. Not only is Tiree High the only school in the region to finish in the top 100, but its closest performing regional neighbour, Lochgilphead Joint Campus, was 103 places further down. However, the council has described the tables as misleading, pointing out the tables only take higher qualifications into account. The tables rank each school on

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by STEVEN FLANAGAN [sflanagan@obantimes](mailto:sflanagan@obantimes).

its performance at higher level, measured by the percentage of senior pupils passing higher between A-C grades. As of September 2011, Tiree High School had 39 secondary school pupils. Of those, 50 per cent passed three or more higher and a further 30 per cent with five or more. Lochgilphead Joint Campus had 506 secondary pupils. Of those sitting higher, 50 per cent achieved one or more higher, 30 per cent three or more and 14 per cent five or more. Hermitage Academy is the area's third-best performing

school, leading Tarbert Academy and Oban High School in fifth place in the regional table. Islay High School is Argyll's worst performing school. It had 213 pupils, but of those sitting higher 37 per cent passed one higher, nine per cent gained three or more and just four per cent passed five. As a region, Argyll and Bute ranked 24th of 32 local authorities, with just 10 per cent of pupils earning five or more higher. Some 45 per cent achieved one higher and 24 per cent three or more. By comparison, 69 per cent of students in the best performing area, East Renfrewshire, gained one higher, 52 per cent three or more and 32 per cent at least five. Cleland Sneddon, Argyll and Bute Council's executive director of community services, said: 'The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) results are only one aspect of attainment and such league table comparisons are largely irrelevant. 'Even across SCQF measures Argyll and Bute is generally above national average on most measures. For example, pre-appeal results for advance higher for Argyll and Bute were the highest ever for last year. 'Attainment needs to be considered more widely. Last year 1,306 pupils received alternative non-SCQF qualifications which were most suited to their career aspirations than just SCQF qualifications. 'These qualifications are of equal importance. As evidence of the impact of these alternative qualifications, Argyll and Bute pupils who left last year recorded the highest rate of positive destinations since this data was first collected at 89.8 per cent.'



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### 'Come to Oban' message goes on prime-time television

OBAN and Lorn could be set for an early tourist boom following a series of prime-time festive adverts on STV. Paid for by the Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) the 20 second advert features many of Oban's best assets, from its hillwalking and wildlife to even include *The Oban Times* famous footage of the 2011's fireworks fiasco. It also officially confirms Oban as Scotland's Seafood Capital, a title the OLTA had to justify to meet advertising guidelines. It will be shown throughout the festive schedule and has already aired during the Christmas episodes of Coronation Street and All Star Family Fortunes. OLTA chairwoman Linda Battison said: 'We hope it will drive more traffic to our [oban.org.uk](http://oban.org.uk) website, which in turn benefits all our members.'



### Lochgilphead woman is Lidl loot winner

A LOCHGILPHEAD woman is the lucky winner of *The Oban Times* competition for £500 worth of Lidl vouchers, courtesy of the Oban store. Laura Gray visited the store last week to receive her winnings from manager Alex MacLeod. She said: 'This came at a good time, my husband is self employed and got ill recently so these will come in handy. 'We're going away for Christmas so we'll wait until after then to spend the vouchers, I really like the look of the doughnuts in the bakery though so we'll be getting some of them. 'This is the second time Lidl have put vouchers up for grabs in *The Oban Times* and Mr MacLeod added: 'We have been in the town for eight years now and are proud to serve the community - we thought this would be a good way to mark that.'

Left - Laura receives her £500 of vouchers from Oban store manager Alex MacLeod. 16\_1521d101

## NEWLY RE-OPENED Glenorchy Lodge

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**MATHESONS**  
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**SALE**  
SALE STARTS  
Thursday 3rd January  
at 10 am  
See page 3 for further details

**Gaelic is good for your brain**

A NEW study into how speaking Gaelic can affect your brain function is to be carried out by scientists in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The research will investigate changes in brain functions among people who are fluent in English and Gaelic by using MRI scans. The study, which will require test subjects to speak Gaelic exclusively for about 40 days, aims to add to current scientific thinking that people who speak more than one language have better problem-solving skills and flexible thinking.

**Parking process starts in Argyll**

THE PROCESS of moving responsibility for parking enforcement from Strathclyde Police to Argyll and Bute Council has started. The move comes after the withdrawal of the traffic warden service by the police and would mean the council would be responsible for issuing parking tickets. It is hoped Decriminalised Parking Enforcement would be introduced in 2014, however, once in place it cannot be reversed.

**Shining report for Tarbert Academy**

TARBERT Academy has been given a shining report from Education Scotland after a recent inspection. The report says the school is very good at improving children and young people's education.

Throughout the school, from nursery to S6, the report has found all children and young people are well behaved, respectful and attentive. The strengths of the school include: Confident, well-behaved and articulate children and young people; high standards of attainment and achievement; caring and inclusive ethos which helps children and young people to achieve their best.

**'Not proven' may be removed**

A CONSULTATION on whether the 'not proven' verdict should be removed from court trials has been launched by the Scottish Government. The verdict is used in Scots law when a judge or jury does not have enough evidence to convict an accused person but remains unconvinced of their innocence. Scotland is the only country in the UK. The Scottish Government is also holding a consultation on whether the number of jurors required to pass a majority verdict should increase. A jury in Scotland can currently convict if a simple majority of eight jurors out of 15 agrees to pass a guilty verdict. New proposals would see this majority increased to nine or 10 jurors.

**Development plan out to consultation**

A DEVELOPMENT plan for Argyll and Bute for the next 10 years will go out to consultation in January. The Local Development Plan sets out how Argyll and Bute's land will be used over the next 10 years, with focus on creating sustainable jobs and realising new investment opportunities. Delivering new homes in the places people want to live and vital infrastructure such as roads and superfast broadband will also be included. The three month consultation opens in the third week of January 2013.



**Eye to eye with John Wallace**

**Reflections**

Christmas has passed and the family life can start getting back to normality. Whilst it's great to be with family and play with the children and grandchildren Christmas is also a time for reflection. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly our children grow. One minute they are babes in our arms utterly dependant on us, then there are the horrible teenage years and before you know it grandchildren materialise.

eye examinations for youngsters. For any child with an obvious squint a very early eye examination is essential to allow for the appropriate treatment.

Earlier this year I attended a meeting in Arizona where the world experts on the development of myopia gathered. The consensus of the meeting was myopia is preventable in many cases or can be minimised if active treatment is offered at an early stage. Unfortunately, the treatment currently on offer from the vast majority of eye care professionals i.e. spectacles, can actually encourage the development of myopia (short sightedness).

At Christmas we often over-indulge our children with very expensive presents which are soon forgotten about. Why not give your children the best present possible, and one that can last a lifetime... clear comfortable vision. NHS Scotland funds free eye examinations for children. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I remember watching in amazement my very young son start to take in the world around him. Finally I had living proof my university lecturers did know what they were talking about when they pontificated about the development of the human vision system. His wee eyes seemed to dart here there and everywhere as he absorbed the world about him. Today the experience is being repeated with my recently arrived grandson. Our knowledge of how the infant vision system develops has confirmed the importance of regular

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**New 'smart grid' link for Isle of Mull hydro project**

A HYDRO project on the Isle of Mull will not go ahead until at least 2013 after a new announcement about grid connections by the power company. This date for the scheme at Garmony is significantly earlier than previous dates given - beyond 2016 and up to 2020 - but those behind the project say they are 'disappointed' with the new announcement.

The new date is linked to plans by Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution (SHEPD) to introduce a new 'smart grid' system. The system has been trialled in Orkney where it was a success. It works by balancing energy flows - which allows more capacity to be freed up in the grid.

There will be more opportunity for small and medium sized electricity generators to connect to the network but connections would differ from the traditional method as they would be prevented from generating electricity when the grid is busy.

SHEPD anticipate that work to identify suitable zones will take several months. The company hopes to announce the potential zones in early summer 2013. Meanwhile, Mull and Iona Community Trust, the organisation backing the Garmony Hydro Scheme, are pressing ahead with preparations for the project.

With archaeological studies already carried out the trust is now looking to appoint a legal advisor to negotiate a lease and payback schedule for the land to be used. Moray Finch, general manager of Mull and Iona Community Trust, said: 'We're taking an optimistic view and we want to make sure that we haven't just got to start from scratch with everyone else once we get a connection. 'Studies are done we have to negotiate lease with the Forestry Commission now and we're getting on with it.'



Oban Times reader Catherine Murray is pictured with her great-grandchildren, Eva and Roan MacColl, at her 102nd birthday party in Eadar Glinn Residential Home. 16\_152birthday01

**Happy 102nd birthday to our oldest reader - or is she?**

A WOMAN who started working for the Post Office as a teenager and retired from the organisation at the age of 80 has celebrated her 102nd birthday. Catherine Murray, who is possibly *The Oban Times*' oldest reader, started work in the general Post Office in Oban's Albany Street when she left school, before moving to the Post Office in her native Connel.

She went on to work in Easdale, Iona and Glen Etive before running her own Post Office business in Dunbeg, which she sold on reaching retirement age. But she returned to Connel Post Office, aged 65, to assist Neil Sinclair and then Rosie Stevenson, the latter of whom brought a band of musicians from the village to Catherine's birthday celebrations in Eadar Glinn Residential Home on Saturday.

When asked what she enjoyed most about her time in the Post Office, the quick-witted Catherine replied: 'I liked giving out the pensions, because I knew that one day I would need one myself.' One of five children, Catherine was born and raised in Connel Shop, which was run by her father, Finlay MacSwan, and is now the village shop and Post Office in which she spent much of her working life.

She married the late Bill Murray in 1945 and had one daughter, Sarah Jackson. She now has two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. A former Red Cross and Meals on Wheels volunteer, Catherine is never without her weekly copy of *The Oban Times*, which she keeps in the front of her zimmer frame. 'I sold *The Oban Times* in the Post Office every week for years,' she added. 'So I have never missed an issue.'

**No offers for former Oban church and tourist centre**

NO OFFERS have been made to buy the former home of VisitScotland's Oban tourist information centre in Argyll Square. The building was vacated last May after sections of the ceiling fell onto the floor overnight. Nobody was hurt in the incident but the building was not deemed safe for the public, forcing its closure. With a repair estimated

at some £500,000, the decision was taken to sell rather than repair the building. The centre has since been moved into new premises on Oban's North Pier, underneath the Columba Hotel although VisitScotland staff still use the rear of the former St Columba's Church as its main office. Moves to sell have, however, proved difficult.

A spokesman for VisitScotland said: 'It's certainly a buyer's market at the moment and while there has been some fledgling interest we've had no firm offers. We are waiting for the right offer to come in. 'It is water-tight but the fact of the matter is the roof needs some attention and anyone coming in would have to cater for that.'

**Colonsay bar buy-out keeps the spirit flowing**

THE SPIRIT of Christmas is alive and well on Colonsay after the island's laird, Alex Howard and members of the community decided to prevent the hotel and bar from closing.

Mr Howard and a few friends saved the Colonsay Hotel by buying it when the previous owner closed it suddenly a few years ago but the bar was due to close this winter for the first time. But local development officer Donald MacNeill sealed a deal with the laird to allow the community to pay a nominal rent to temporarily take over the bar and around 20 volunteers help with bar shifts, cleaning and recycling. Colonsay also has its own micro brewery, which is supplying a variety of ales at bargain prices.

**Mull school transport problem solved**

THREE children on the Isle of Mull are now getting free and safe transport to school thanks to the actions of local councillors.

The children, who all attend school in Tobermory, were previously excluded from free school transport as they lived just under two miles from the school gates. But mother, Alison Robb, told *The Oban Times* it was not possible for her children, aged eight, 11 and 14, to walk to school as the family live on a stretch of road where cars drive particularly fast. She said: 'The previous owner of our house was told they didn't qualify for free transport but we live on a very busy road which the children would have had to walk along the side of as there is no pavement. They would be at constant risk.' An alternative path via Aros Park is available to the children but Alison says this comes with its own 'flaws' including the fact the children would have to leave home at 8am. And while driving is a possibility it simply adds

to the already congested school run in the morning and afternoon. She added: 'The council have seen sense - it would have been ridiculous for the children to walk. They agreed we had a good case. 'All three of my children are now going on the bus - the council came up with the right decision.' Gordon Chalmers, chairman of the parent council, spoke to the Argyll and Bute Council with Alison about the possible dangers of the children walking to school. He said: 'It was just not thinkable for the kids to be walking the route, the path cuts down at least a quarter of a mile into Aros Park. 'Roddy McCuish, the leader of the council, and Mary-Jean Devon, our local councillor, sorted this out for us. 'The council took a very good and quick, common sense approach and were happy to uplift the youngsters.'

**Oban at the heart of new X-box console**

GAMING and computing giant, Microsoft, is anticipated to put its new Xbox console - with the 'Oban' chip at its heart - into production by the end of the

month. It is thought the new console, code-named Kryptos, will be released next year. Rumours of the Oban chip, set to power the company's

new flagship console to replace the Xbox360, first emerged in January. The company has code-named new hardware after locations across the world.

**Argyll youth groups gain £100,000**

Young Start fund to assist projects in Oban, Islay and Jura

TWO GROUPS which support and provide activities for young people in Argyll have been awarded nearly £100,000 between them. The Young Start fund, which uses money from dormant bank accounts, awards grants of between £10,000 and £50,000 for projects lasting up to two years. Stramash, a social enterprise based in Oban, has received £49,973 for its two year Sail Oban project which will offer dinghy sailing to young people in areas of deprivation in and around Oban.

Up to 148 young people will benefit from the money which will fund a sailing development co-ordinator, equipment and overheads. Islay and Jura Youth Action also received £49,036 to develop a programme of activities for local young people. Approximately 100 youngsters aged eight to 18 will benefit from the project which will include social activities, trips, training opportunities, and a weekly youth club. This grant will pay for part-time project co-ordinator salary, sessional youth worker costs, venue hire, youth activities, training, and management costs. MSP for Argyll and Bute, Michael Russell, said: 'This is fantastic news, around 250 young people in Argyll and Bute will benefit from this funding. 'Young Start aims to offer opportunities which can allow young people to achieve their full potential, these projects will provide exactly that.' Carol Downie, chief executive of Youth Scotland, added: 'At Youth Scotland we believe in investing in the lives and futures

of young people. 'Through the opportunities provided by strong, resilient community-based youth work, young people develop the confidence and skills to allow them to flourish. 'This significant investment will help strengthen such projects, as well as supporting new initiatives to get off the ground.'

**Nursery awarded funding boost**

AN OBAN nursery has been awarded £2,000 from The Co-operative's Community Fund bringing the total for Argyll groups to £3,700. Soroba Young Family Group were given the money to put towards staffing costs for the facility. An allotment project on the Isle of Mull, run by Tobermory Endeavour, was also awarded £1,300 and the Mid Argyll Multiple Sclerosis Centre, in Lochgilphead, has been given £472 for aromatherapy sessions. Liz Armstrong, The Co-operative's membership officer for western Scotland, said: 'Because our members own the business, they get a share in any of the profits we make. 'It's a scheme we're very proud of, not only because it gives us the chance to thank members for shopping with us, but because so many people choose to give something back to local communities. 'There is over £300,000 available in Scotland each year from the Community Fund, and we welcome applications from local groups and projects for £100 to £2,000.'

**Consultation on Argyll and Bute Council budget is launched**

A CONSULTATION to see what residents think of Argyll and Bute Council's latest budget announcement has been launched. The council is looking to find out what people think about its spending and saving priorities over the coming year. As previously announced, the council is taking a long term approach to the budget process and has identified a need to save £6m each year for the next seven years. A decision on the budget will be taken in February including what services should be prioritised or where spending could be reduced. Find budget information at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/budgetconsultation2013.

The Community Fund, first established 15 years ago, is created by members of The Co-operative Group who elect to donate all, or part, of their twice-yearly dividend payments directly to the scheme. The funds are then shared with local community projects and groups across the country. Community Fund applications are available online at www.co-operative.coop/communityfund or by phoning 0844 262 4001.

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## Mull BID plan gets backing

PLANS to create a Business Improvement District (BID) for Mull, Iona and Ulva has been given the seal of approval by Argyll and Bute Council.

The plans were passed at a full meeting of the council last week, having previously been agreed by the Area Committee of Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The BID plan will now be finalised by the steering group and go out to ballot in February.

Neil Hutton, chairman of the steering group, said: 'The proposed BID for Mull and Iona will be, as far as we know, the first rural BID in the UK, the first island BID and the first to focus so directly on the visitor economy.'

Richard Nealon, vice chairman of the BID steering group, added: 'This is great news. We are all delighted the council is fully in support of the BID. The steering group is in the process of finalising the plan which will print in January. This will then be distributed along with ballot papers in February when the vote is planned to commence.'

If islanders vote in favour of the scheme, the BID programme would be visitor orientated, meaning the money raised would be used to boost the number of people coming to the islands, especially during quieter periods.

A BID would also look to raise the profile of the islands with things such as new festivals and increased marketing. It would see 436 businesses contributing and working together with a £128,500 annual budget.

Once the plan is finalised, ballot papers will be issued on February 6 2013 and are due back by March 21. If passed, the BID scheme would run for five years from April 2013 to 2018.

## Islay man shot friend in leg

AN ISLAY man had a pellet permanently lodged in his shin after a friend shot him in the leg.

Andrew Stevenson, 18, of 11 Charlotte Street, Port Ellen, was found guilty of assaulting the man and causing serious injury after shooting him with an air rifle at Bay View, Port Ellen, in September 14 this year.

Sentence on Stevenson was deferred until January for reports.

# Argyll development plan goes out to consultation

A THREE month public consultation on the proposed Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (LDP) will start in the third week of January.

### Facing challenges

The plan provides a clear vision of how Argyll and Bute's land will be used over the next 10 years in response to the key challenges facing our area such as population loss and climate

change. Its focus is on creating sustainable jobs and realising new investment opportunities, delivering new homes in the places people want to live and vital infrastructure such as roads and superfast broadband.

### Challenges

Chairman of the planning, protective services and licensing committee, councillor Sandy Taylor said: 'The proposed LDP includes a vision, key aims

and policy responses which are designed to address the challenges the communities of Argyll and Bute will face in the years ahead.

### Housing needs

'These include meeting all of our housing needs, reducing the need to travel, creating new job opportunities, retaining our essential services and looking after our outstanding natural and built environment and

delivering the many development opportunities contained within the plan.

'Only by having a successful economy can we grow our working population and keep and enhance the essential services and infrastructure we all need to maintain our quality of life.'

The proposed LDP has been developed after extensive consultation with more than a thousand stakeholders

over several years, including community councils, developers, land owners and private individuals.

### Published

Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Historic Scotland and Scottish Water will also be asked their view.

Following the consultation period any necessary changes will be made to the plan

before being approved by the council and sent on to Scottish Ministers.

Once the LDP has been examined by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter to address any unresolved objections the LDP will be published with any required modifications and then adopted by Argyll and Bute Council as its land use policy document in its role as planning authority.

## Local fisheries projects gain more than £300,000 in EC grants

FISHERIES projects throughout Argyll and Bute have been given £326,453 in grants by the European Fisheries Fund.

In the latest round of European Fisheries Fund (EFF) grants, eight recipients in the county have shared the grant, which aims to support business improvements and growth.

### Shellfish

These include £32,340 awarded to the Association of Shellfish Growers - based in Achnaolich, Connel - to ensure wider representation for the shellfish sector, such as promotion at European industry forums, which in turn will help boost Scottish production.

In Tarbert, the *MV Destiny* has been given £23,258 towards insulation of the fish hold cooling system, improving onboard safety and fish quality, as well as work to rewire and raise the wheelhouse, improving visibility for the skipper of the vessel.

An additional £15,051 of grant money has been granted to the fishing vessel *MFV Gleaner* of Campbeltown towards the purchase and installation of a new back-up generator and net retrieval system, which will improve crew safety.



Sixth year pupils gather at the start of the Oban High School Jingles. The annual Christmas dance, held last Wednesday, featured bands Gunna Sound and Chunks.

## Rescued crew arrested

THREE crewmen of an Irish fishing vessel, which went hard aground outside Campbeltown Loch early last Friday morning, have been arrested.

After a mayday call to the Coastguard, Campbeltown Lifeboat launched to its aid at 2.45am. The *Argent*, with four crew on board, hit rocks at Macrangan's Point, at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch, and was taking on water.

Inspector Tom Harper of Campbeltown Police Station confirmed three men had been arrested and reports will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

'Three men, aged 38, 46 and 53, were arrested in connection with alleged offence under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 in relation to their fitness to operate the vessel,' said Inspector Harper.

At the time of going to press, the *Argent* was still stuck fast on the rocks. The local harbour authority had deployed pollution booms and removed the remaining fuel from the vessel.

## Oban man jailed for 18 months after knocking victim unconscious

A THUG, who had to be pulled off his victim after knocking him unconscious, has been jailed for 18 months.

Robert Lopez, from Oban, pled guilty at Dumbarton Sheriff Court last Wednesday to assaulting a man at the Railway Pier in Oban by punching him unconscious on October 19 this year.

The court heard the 23-year old, who has previous convictions for assault, had gone to

Portugal to escape his reputation but on his return to Oban had been drinking heavily with his brother in a pub in the town.

### 'Red mist'

His brother left first and when Lopez left the pub he saw his brother fighting with the complainant.

Lopez ran over and split the fight up but the man bit him on the hand.

Defence agent Terry Galanagh said 'the red mist then

descended' and Lopez began punching his victim, knocking him to the floor and punching him unconscious.

Two of the victim's friends arrived and dragged Lopez off him.

Lopez then ran from the scene but was found by police officers in a nearby street with blood all over his clothes and his shirt in his hand.

Sheriff Tom McCartney jailed Lopez for 18 months.

## Campbeltown girl wins road safety calendar competition

A CAMPBELTOWN school pupil has been chosen as the winner of this year's Argyll and Bute Council road safety calendar competition.

Six-year-old Morgan Reid, a primary two pupil from Castlehill Primary School, was thrilled to be this year's winner.

Morgan's brightly coloured poster, which bears the message 'always play in a safe place', was selected as the overall winner by a panel of judges.

Morgan received a £50 voucher and the road safety classroom calendar trophy for her school.

## Police issue metal theft warning

LOCALS have been urged to be on their guard over the festive period with metal thefts increasing across the country.

Strathclyde Police's Safer Communities Department has warned metal theft is on the increase as the price of metals, such as copper, brass and lead has increased dramatically, making it lucrative and appealing to the thieves. Crimes reported in Argyll and Bute include theft of power cables, manhole covers and telecommunications cables.

Constable Stephen Black of the Safer Communities Department said: 'If you see or suspect any unusual activity, such as unmarked vans or persons walking around collecting metal from gardens call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or your local police office.'

## School alarm has been repaired

NEIGHBOURS of Oban High School should get some peace after a faulty alarm system was repaired.

The council was flooded with complaints last week when the alarm went off in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

A repair now seems to have been implemented after an inspection this week.

A council spokeswoman said: 'Council staff visited the school on Thursday to check the alarm system.'

'Some technical issues have now been resolved which will address the disruption experienced by neighbours. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.'

# MATHESONS

## midnight madness

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# Costs could rise under final ferry plan



## Fares may rise to reflect Road Equivalent Tariff (RET)

FERRY users could be facing a series of cost increases under measures announced in the Scottish Government's Final Ferries Plan.

**Ongoing 'formula'**  
An update to the Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) scheme will see fares to Coll, Tiree and Western Isles, increase by an average of 8.2 per cent, with some fares increasing as much as 10.6 per cent after the Scottish Government 'updated' the tariff to reflect the current equivalent costs of driving a car.

The tariff could be revised upwards in the future too, with transport minister Keith Brown stating the RET is an ongoing 'formula'. Extra income from any rises, however, would be used to alleviate the increases felt by commercial operators who on the isles that piloted RET moving back to the old discount scheme.

However, tickets for non-commercial traffic on routes not already included in RET should drop.

**Harbour charges**  
Meanwhile, transport minister Keith Brown refused to rule out extra harbour charges for those travelling by ferry after plans were outlined to make harbours and ports 'self-funding'.

The measures included revisiting future levels of fees charged by Caledonian and Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) to ensure the level of income generated 'wholly covers' maintenance costs.

Elsewhere, most ferry services will be retained or enhanced with extra sailings, while the Scottish Government said it would 'consider' on a case-by-case basis intervening to maintain lifeline services where private operators or local authorities are unable to do so.



Transport minister Keith Brown

Ferry services will not be unbundled, as revealed in *The Oban Times* in September.

Declaring he was 'very pleased' with the final plan, Mr Brown denied the document

was simply a 'wish-list' with the 2014 referendum in mind. 'We wouldn't be putting it forward if we didn't think our measures were sustainable,' he said. 'If we didn't say what we think

can be done we'd be accused of writing a wish-list. We've said we can do this in this timescale. We know further out there are big issues to deal with.

'This is not a wish list.'

**RET**  
On the changes to RET, he said: 'When we trialled RET we saw an increase in car traffic and that's what we wanted to see happen. Now, for those commercial operators having to go back to pre-RET charges [on Coll, Tiree and the Western Isles] all we're doing is softening the changes. 'For some the increase in costs would be more than 50 per cent. It's about closing that gap.'

Asked if the proposals to ensure ports are 'self-funding' will result in increases in charges for commercial and passenger traffic, Mr Brown said: 'If the income they get directly related to the harbour doesn't start to meet their running costs we

need to have a look at that. 'We'll do that on a case by case basis.'

Other measures outlined in the plan mean CalMac's current relief vessel, the *MY Isle of Arran*, will go into full time use, meaning there would be no dedicated relief ferry should one of the fleet break down.

Mr Brown admitted some services would have to be reduced in the event a relief vessel is required.

While there was a commitment to meet 'medium-term' goals within the term of the interim Clyde and Hebridean Ferry Services (CHFS) contract, long-term goals are all set for during the next full CHFS contact, which will go to tender in 2014.

Mr Brown admits the long term goals are 'less certain', saying the financing of those would have to be determined closer to the time.

## Morvern Lines

'THE PAST' is another country: they do things differently there.

So wrote L P Hartley in the prologue to his novel, 'The Go Between' (1953). Nothing stays the same for ever which is perhaps just as well, but when a man living in Lochaline has to drive to Inverness or Oban to buy a white shirt these days, one might be excused for wondering how far this community has actually advanced in the last 200 years.

Because of its good land, Morvern (85,369 acres) sustained a high population which peaked at 2,137 in 1831 (today it is around 325).

In 1794 it supported 14,000 sheep and 2,500 head of cattle but after the clearances the sheep increased to 29,000 and the cattle numbers fell to 690.

The White Glen (Glen Geall) was so productive it gave a living to some 300 people between Acharn and Clounlaid and was known as 'the Garden of Morvern'.

The village of Auliston, opposite Tobermory, consisted of 22 dwellings providing accommodation for 115 souls. Both these and other communities, were self-sufficient in everything including animal winter-feed, fuel and food.

Cattle markets and fairs were once held in a field close to the river at Acharn but were later transferred to Knock to make it easier for the Mull dealers who landed their beasts at nearby Ardness.

The last sale to take place at Knock was held on the third Monday of May, 1882. From these local markets the surplus stock was driven to the famous Falkirk Trysts through the Black Glen and across the Corran Narrows.

Cattle were often shod to prevent lameness. The time taken from Lochaline to Falkirk was usually three weeks. The canny Highland drovers went at a leisurely pace following remote tracks to escape toll dues on the main roads and to let stock feed themselves on the way to avoid arriving in an emaciated condition.

According to the local minister, who was responsible for recording such things, no less than 76 tradesmen lived in Morvern in 1843.

There were 15 tailors, 34 weavers, two blacksmiths, one shoemaker, four brogue-makers, three joiners, two wheelwrights, eight cowans (dry stone dykers), two boat carpenters, two coopers, three millers.

There were five grocery shops and a bakery in Lochaline and a chemist's shop between Ferenish and Drimmin.

Scattered about the parish were three 'comparatively respectable' public houses, 12 retailers of spirits and 12 dram-houses of 'inferior description' - the mind boggles! There were four separate mines producing coal, lead and copper and also six stone quarries. Stone from Morvern was used in the building of the Lismore lighthouse and Iona Abbey.

In 1822 there was a paddle-steamer - the 'Highlander' operating between the Clyde and the Sound of Mull making it possible for the public to travel twice-weekly to Glasgow from Lochaline in one day and in 1843 there was not one, but three ferries running between Morvern and Mull and two on Loch Sunart.

There used to be three meal mills in Morvern at Bunavullin, Savary and Acharn. The millers were paid in kind, getting a share for every boll of corn converted into meal. The miller's due was known as 'moltair' - a Gaelic word meaning dues or a fine.

One year the dues of the miller at Acharn from the farmers of the White Glen alone amounted to 40 bolls of meal which equates to a staggering 4,800 lbs in weight - further proof of the quality of the land and of the good husbandry of the time.



Mrs MacGregor and her daughter spinning and carding outside their cottage at Knock, Lochaline, in 1890 - eight years after the last cattle sale in the settlement

Morvern produced many fighting men over the generations. During the early 19th century Peninsular War no fewer than 30 men from the parish held commissions in the British Forces including Captain Jack Campbell RN from Liddesdale, who sailed as a lieutenant with Lord Nelson.

Iain Thornber

### Barra

BARRA will have a two vessel service during the winter of 2013/14, with the MV Isle of Arran deployed to run the route.

While the current winter timetable will apply during the annual four week refit period for the Arran, it will ensure more regular sailings next winter.

Sailings will increase to five a week.

From 2016 onwards, the Isle of Arran or its replacement will not be available on the Barra route. So the proposal for the new Oban-Craignure service during the summer period will see two vessels operate on the route. One of these vessels will be deployed during the winter timetable to Barra, Coll and Tiree to continue the increased service.

A new overarching policy for freight fares will be developed.

Jonathan Boyd, a live shellfisherman on Barra who previously expressed concern at the lack of winter sailings, said: 'An extra sailing is a step in the right direction.'

'The biggest concern is increases to fares and what increases there will be to commercial trips.'

'The fact they haven't identified exactly how much commercial fares will increase is a major concern.'

### Coll and Tiree

AS WITH Barra, the number of sailing days during the winter period will increase from four to five, with the timetable extended to six operating days per week.

Similarly, as the isles are on the same route, this will be facilitated by the MV Isle of Arran.

Long term proposals also reflect Barra. Coll community councillor Doug Young said: 'As a community council we discussed the extra sailing last week. The consensus was this would be beneficial.'

On the changes to RET, Doug said: 'Personally, I think we've done quite well out of RET.'

'The biggest consensus from the people I spoke to was that it mainly benefited visitors rather than locals.'

Tiree's Catriona MacLennan, who runs haulage firm MacLennan Motors which works between the isles, said: 'I don't believe for a minute RET has been good for the isles.'

'I just feel that as always with RET it's used as a pawn by the Scottish Government to mislead the local people to believe it's a good thing.'

### Lismore

THE GOVERNMENT has said it intends to work towards a single route from Port Appin to Point, the north end, which is the shorter of the two crossings.

The report has stated, however, that this

is a long-term proposal because of the improvements needed in infrastructure on Lismore and in Port Appin and no deadlines have been set.

Lismore Community Council secretary Mandie Currie said: 'Some people will definitely be frustrated there are no short or medium term improvements because this has been going on for a long time.'

'But some people have also given up because they think nothing is going to happen. It is not that they don't care, it is because the issue has lost its immediacy and the result of the ferries review has given nothing to change that.'

'On the plus side, others will be grateful that we will keep our two ferries in the meantime.'

### Islay

THE OUTCRY from the south end of the island at proposals in the draft ferries review to move sailings from Port Ellen to Port Askaig seems to have paid off, as the government has all but scrapped this idea.

Around three-quarters of Islay residents that responded to the consultation disagreed with this proposal, despite it being popular with Jura residents.

In order to balance the wishes of the south Islay communities with those of the Jurachs, the ferries review concluded to shift one service per week on a Saturday from Port Ellen to Port Askaig.

Alice Stewart, chairwoman of the Islay Ferry Users Group, said: 'I think Islay will be fairly happy with the decision not to remove sailings from Port Ellen because that caused a big stir in the south of the island.'

'What has really caused problems is the introduction of RET, which will mean more sailings are likely to be fully booked. As for islanders, we won't really benefit, as we have lost out multi-journey ticket system and the rise in fares will negate the minimal saving we get from RET.'

### Arran

AMONGST the ambitious Arran improvements are increasing the daily return crossings to Ardrossan from five to seven, introducing a late evening service at around 10pm and starting a two-year pilot service from Campbeltown to Ardrossan via Brodick, three times a week. The route will also operate two ferries between Ardrossan and Brodick in summer months.

Arran Ferry Committee chairman Ken Thorburn said: 'This is great news for Arran. Any opportunity to get more people onto this island has to be grasped with both hands.'

'But it is crucial that these new services have to be properly advertised to the travelling public.'

### Colonsay

AS A temporary step the government will introduce a summer service on a Saturday from Colonsay, via Islay, to Kennaclraig.

Medium term the current ro-ro vessel for the Small Isles, the Loch Nevis, is being reassigned to provide a dedicated vessel for the island all year round, increasing the number of sailing days from four to six during the winter time-table period and a seven day service during the summer.

Colonsay Community Council chairman Mike McNicholl said: 'We are delighted with the additional sailings and having a dedicated vessel, which will be very good for Colonsay during the winter months. However, we are concerned that the vehicle capacity of the Loch Nevis, which we believe is just 14 cars, will have a severe impact on island life and tourism during the peak periods of Easter and Summer.'

'Currently we regularly have 30 cars plus trailers with boats etc in June and July. The Community Council will hold a public meeting early in January to get see what our community thinks about this plan and how we should react.'

### Jura

ISLANDERS will receive free ferry travel from Jura to Islay if they are going to the mainland - if the Jura to Islay link is taken over by CalMac.

The free travel seems a positive move on the face of it but is not enough to appease frustrated islanders who expected more from the review.

Donald Ewen Darroch, vice-chairman of the island's community council, said: 'The free travel to the mainland will benefit some but the bulk of travel is only to Islay and we would have welcomed a reduction in fares instead.'

'There is nothing innovative in there to improve things for Jura.'

'We were hoping to see more on a direct link to the mainland and comment on our proposal to run the Islay to Jura ferry as a community enterprise.'

The review claims there was 'insufficient information to carry out a full needs-based assessment for Jura', a statement Mr Darroch described as 'silly'.

### Mull

OBAN to Craignure

PASSENGERS on the Oban to Craignure route are set to benefit from more sailings during winter with the MV Isle of Mull becoming the dedicated vessel for the route.

From 2016 there will be two vessels operating a longer day during summer, with the boat leaving Craignure at 7am and

returning from Oban at 10pm.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who lives on Mull, said: 'They listened to a fragile community and acted on it - it will do Mull good and I'm absolutely delighted.'

'I really welcome the promise of new vessels. We have been looking for an early sailing from Craignure so people could get to work on time in summer and winter.'

'I think the changes will be great. They will give people more options. Mull has suffered from a slump in tourism but this makes it more appealing to people to come to the island, they could come in the morning, spend a whole day here and go home at night.'

The review suggests chartering a vessel to keep up with demand on this route when RET rolls out.

### Fionnphort to Iona

THE SHORT crossing from Fionnphort to Iona will be improved with later service running in the evenings once a new berthing facility is built.

The new pier will be a long term measure - with no date currently set for construction - but when built it will allow services to operate until 8pm.

But the hope of a free crossing to Mull for island residents who are travelling to the mainland has not been included in the report - although Jura has gained this benefit.

Councillor Devon said she was 'disappointed' that Iona residents will continue to pay two fares and have 'not been given the same benefits as Jura'.

### Tobermory to Kilchoan

FEARS that the vehicle crossing on the Tobermory to Kilchoan route would be replaced with a passenger only ferry have been allayed as the Ferries Review confirmed the route would be retained at its current level of service.

Rosie Curtis, chairwoman of West Ardnamurchan Community Council, said: 'We're absolutely delighted, we thought there was going to be some changes but we're absolutely delighted.'

'We would have been going backward instead of forward - we were there 15 years ago. As a community we could see no sense in it. There was no savings as far as we were concerned, we just can't go back to that.'

'They need to look at the pricing on the ferry now, it could be used a lot more, especially in winter. The price is killing the ferry, changing that will be our next challenge but this has been a nice early Christmas present.'

### Fishnish to Lochaline

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# Chairwoman to take Argyll to top of tourism tree

THE NEW acting chairwoman of Argyll and the Isles Strategic Tourism Partnership (AISTP) has pledged the organisation will ensure the area is at the top of the tourism tree.

Local councillor Louise Glen-Lee recently took over from Calum Ross and hopes to drive the partnership forward to ensure the area's charms continue to attract large numbers of visitors.

She believes Argyll and the Isles' geography and history already puts it at an advantage.

She said: 'As a destination Argyll and the Isles has it all. We boast the Cradle of Scotland at Dunadd, thousands of pre-historic standing stones, 60 medieval castles, 25 inhabited islands, 32 clan seats and more than half of Scotland's coastline.

'Argyll and the Isles is a place where the people and the land are in harmony, where the vast majority of our homes are less than a mile from the sea and where people come together to

*"Argyll and the Isles is a place where the people and the land are in harmony."*

**Louise Glen-Lee, chairwoman AISTP**

offer visitors a welcome that is both unique and special.

'AISTP is a flagship organisation putting our area on the map. The partnership is recognised throughout Scotland for its ability to bring people together and its ambition to create awareness of an exceptional, extraordinary destination attracting visitors

from home and abroad.

'By bringing together industry, community, public bodies and exceptional individuals, it allows Argyll and the Isles to make its regional offer to be among the best in Europe.'

With the global economy continuing to struggle, she says challenging times do await.

She said: 'The next few years may see tough times in tourism, with destinations across the length and breadth of Scotland setting out their stalls to attract visitors.

'We need to make sure that Argyll and the Isles are at the top of everyone's list of what to do and see.

'The programme of nature, outdoor activities, heritage, culture and food and drink being offered and marketed by our partnership organisations is second to none, and we all need to get out and tell everyone just how much our region has to offer and how fantastic it is.'



Having taken over the reigns of the Oyster Inn and Glue Pot, Ritchie James and Nicola Beedie hope to turn the venue into a hub for the Connel community. 15.15oyster1

## New management team aim for Connel community hub

PLANS are afoot to turn a Connel hotel into the hub of the community as the new management team aim to put its stamp on the business.

Moving from Glasgow to take over at the Oyster Inn and Glue Pot is 29-year-old Ritchie James and partner Nicola Beedie, 27.

Having spent several years working in restaurants and hotels respectively, they are keen to apply their stamp to what has been a popular spot for visitors and locals.

While it is their first foray into Argyll, they've been overwhelmed with the welcome from locals.

Ritchie, a former politics student who most recently spent five years at Glasgow's Mussel Inn, said: 'We saw the position come up and thought we quite fancied it. It looked like a really good challenge. We're keen to get involved in the community. We're not just going to sit in the office - we want people to know us and vice versa. What we're keen to do is have the community involved with the place and we're looking forward to meeting everyone.'

Ritchie, originally from Leicester, revealed plans to refurbish the Oyster Inn restaurant early next year, with a new menu

already in place at the Glue Pot.

Native Aberdonian Nicola will hope to bring a clean contemporary look to the new restaurant, using her background in fashion and hospitality.

She said: 'Everyone we've met so far has been so friendly so we're really looking forward to it.' Ritchie added: 'We're hoping to come up with a date in January so we can host something and meet everyone. We're hoping to speak to local B&Bs, hotels and the different people in the community. The potential here is huge and we're keen to make sure this is a real hub for the community.'

### Police warning: no second chances with drink and drug driving

CENTRAL Scotland Police has warned motorists there will be no second chances for anyone caught drink or drug driving during the festive period.

The forces' head of road policing, Chief Inspector Brian Johnston, said: 'My advice to motorists is not to expect any warnings from officers should they be caught drink or drug driving. There will be a zero tolerance approach to this.

'They will be arrested and charged and can ultimately face a £5,000 fine, an automatic ban and their car could be seized.'

**Fort William man knocked out friend**

A FORT William man knocked his friend out with one punch during a drunken argument.

Nathan Munro, of 2 Argyll Terrace, pled guilty to assaulting the man on September 4 by punching him, causing him to fall and strike his head on the ground to his injury.

At Fort William Sheriff Court last week, Sheriff Noel McPartlin ordered Munro to be of good behaviour for one year.

### Councillors question Argyll court proposals

PROPOSALS to remove sheriff and jury trials from Argyll as part of a plan to shake up the Scottish Court Service (SCS) have been slammed by councillors.

Oban Sheriff Court currently handles these trials as well as all other court business not considered serious enough to be dealt with in the High Court.

But proposals in a recent consultation document suggested that on the mainland, 16 sheriff and jury centres would be created.

All sheriff and jury business and fatal accident inquiries that are currently held in Oban would be shifted to Dumbarton if the proposals go ahead. Campbelltown and Dunoon would also lose out on this court business.

But now councillors on the area committee for Oban, Lorn and the Isles have issued a response rejecting the proposals and urging the SCS to keep justice local.

Councillor Fred Hall, also Oban's former chief inspector of police, told *The Oban Times* the proposals would have a 'seriously negative impact' on the delivery of justice in the area.

He said: 'It could be argued that the proposed reduction of the justice functions in Oban Sheriff Court could lead to a full time procurator fiscal no longer being based in Oban.

'The presence of a procurator fiscal in Oban in terms of its positive impact on justice cannot be underestimated.

'The benefit to a local police force having the ability to consult a local procurator fiscal ensures a better delivery of justice.'

He added: 'The biggest flaw in these proposals is the assumption that it will streamline the delivery of justice and result in financial savings. It will in effect do the exact opposite.

'The cost of not running a court in Oban will result in a substantial increase in travel costs that will have to be paid out to prosecution witnesses and the legal aid bill for solicitors will increase due to additional time required for travelling and travel and subsistence costs.

The consultation on the proposals has now closed. Responses will be analysed and published on the SCS website. The final decision over court closures rests with the Scottish Parliament.

### Police called as patient wanders out of hospital

POLICE were called to aid a patient that walked out of Oban's Lorn and Isles Hospital recently, after she wandered into the town wearing nothing more than a gown.

Concerns were raised about the 29-year-old woman's wellbeing after locals spotted her walking along Soroba Road with no shoes on in pouring rain and near freezing temperatures.

Police were called shortly before 11am and, after more than half an hour, managed to persuade the woman, understood not to be from the local area, into a car to return to the hospital.

Police said she had left the hospital against the instructions of medical staff.

NHS Highland said staff numbers did not contribute to the situation.

A spokesman added: 'While NHS Highland cannot comment on individual cases due to patient confidentiality we always take the care of patients very seriously.

'If a patient does decide to leave the hospital then we cannot stop them unless they are in a locked ward and if we do decide to involve the police then that decision is not taken lightly.'

**Caol woman used fake £20 notes**

A CAOL woman used fake £20 notes to buy cigarettes and groceries from the local Co-op store on two occasions.

Haleigh Dilley, of 93 Blar Mhor Road, pled guilty to using notes which she knew to be counterfeit in the shop on November 24 and 25.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'She first claimed she was given £70 cashback, but later accepted she had taken them with her. She wouldn't tell police where she got them from.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined the unemployed 20-year-old £335 and ordered her to pay £40 compensation to the Co-op.

### Lorn Lines

AN OBAN man set to walk across the Sahara is holding a special fundraising ceilidh next month in aid of the Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS).

Alex Milligan will take on the searing heat of the desert for CHAS in February, but hopes to raise money with his Auld New Year's Night Ceilidh at the Royal Hotel on Saturday January 12.

Performing on the night will be talented local acts including Janet Fergusson, Ameila MacTaggart, Aaron Hossain, the Adele Gillies Highland Dancers and the Ceol An Aire Ceilidh Band.

Alex is still keen for any other acts to volunteer their services for the evening, with tickets including a plate of stovies.

Alex said: 'This is a great charity doing great things for the kids they help and they all need your support.

'The evening promises to be something special, a very interesting programme with some of the very best talent in the area.

'All proceeds from this function will go towards CHAS.'

Tickets are on sale now from the Royal Hotel and Webster of Oban in Stafford Street.

THE ROTARY Club of Oban is joining a worldwide campaign to raise money for the battle against polio, which is on the brink of eradication.

Since 1985 Rotary members in the UK have raised £19m for the fight against the disease, which has helped to bring the number of cases down by 99 per cent.

The result that polio is on the brink of being only the second disease to be completely eradicated. There are now only three countries in the world where polio is still endemic.

Polio is a crippling disease that can lead to limbs of the victim becoming limp and disfigured and, in some cases, can cause paralysis and even death.

Luckily, with a simple immunisation, children can be completely protected from this debilitating and potentially fatal disease.

The Rotary Club of Oban is now asking locals to work with them on this project and have placed collection trays throughout the area in shops, businesses and public buildings.



Katie MacPherson.



Jenna MacInnes.

TWO YOUNGSTERS from the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance have had particularly had a particularly successful 2012.

Oban girls Jenna MacInnes and Katie MacPherson will go into 2013 with their trophy cabinets bulging.

Jenna's highlight was winning the Pre-championship and National Trophies at the Scottish Dance Teachers Alliance (SDTA) Championship in Glasgow.

She was also the only dancer from Oban representing Argyll and Bute at the Area Finals at the Corran Halls as part of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Katie won both the local and open premier events for under-13s at the Argyllshire Gathering in Oban in August among her many achievements.

She most recently won the premier section of the sword dance at the Fort William Highland Dancing Championships.

A SEAL pup recovering at Oban Sea Life Sanctuary after being taken from a Kintyre beach has been named Zebby after a silent auction.

More than £2,000 was raised for the Merlin's Magic Wand charity through the auction at the Barcaldine sanctuary's recent fun day, with a bid of £100 winning the auction.

Zebby is making a steady recovery after being taken into the sanctuary a month ago.

Meanwhile, the Sea Life Sanctuary will hold a special free Burns Night celebration for over 60s on January 25.

Tickets for the event are free and will include food, drink and an evening of entertainment.

Due to anticipated demand, tickets will be distributed on a first-come first served basis.

For information or to reserve tickets, phone the sanctuary on 01631 720386.

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**Death crash driver was banned at time of accident**

A SPEAN Bridge man involved in a fatal crash with a motorcyclist was banned from driving at the time of the accident.

Duncan Stewart was just weeks away from getting his licence back when he collided with Charles Singleton during this year's Scottish Six Days Trial competition, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Stewart, 62, pled guilty to causing Mr Singleton's death by driving while disqualified and without insurance on the A82 at Achnabonane on May 8. Five members of Mr Singleton's family travelled from the south of England to be present at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Stewart's solicitor said: 'My client is very remorseful for being involved in this accident which led to Mr Singleton's death.'

Sheriff Noel McPartlin deferred sentencing until January 17 for reports and warned Stewart, of Karinya, Roy Bridge Road, he could face jail. He said: 'In order for the court to consider all options - including a custodial disposal - it is essential for a social work report to be prepared.'

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**LUING**

THE ISLE of Luing was awash with light on Wednesday December 12 as Pam and Sandy Shaip opened their house up and switched on the Christmas lights, raising hundreds of pounds in the process.

This year's event was again in aid of the Friends of Oban Hospice. Neighbours and friends were invited to make a donation to this important local charity.

With mulled wine and plenty of Pam's baking, this made a real start to the Christmas celebrations on the island. The total donated on the night was £530.

ANOTHER showstopper of a performance came from pupils of Luing Primary School as they amazed the audience in Cullipool Hall on Thursday December 13.

The youngsters opened by singing a selection of Christmas carols with accompaniment on their ukuleles.

They followed on with their Christmas play, 'A Right Royal Mess', which saw the King and Queen trying to marry off their daughter, with some very unsavoury characters rolling up to apply for the Princess' hand, the annoying wicked fairy and the temperamental castle chef.

There was also the poor minstrels who are yet to perform, the intimidating guards and the clever butlers. Happily the Princess and the court jester decide to marry and everyone lived happily ever after.

The audience donated generously to support ukulele lessons.

SIX BRAVE volunteers delivered more than 1,000 cards around the Isle of Luing on Saturday December 15 raising money for local charities as they went.

A total of £190 was raised for British Heart Foundation and Luing Playpark Committee through the 10p postage charge per card.

The team, led by Morag Mawson, is also planning a ceilidh on December 29, starting at 7pm in Cullipool Hall in aid of the British Heart Foundation.

citizens sat down in Plockton Hall for their annual dinner and dance. After an excellent meal and a visit from Santa Claus, dancing followed to the Glenelg Ceilidh Band.

Plockton Historical Society presented its final event of the year in Plockton Hall on November 22. Admission was free and more than 70 people attended to enjoy a social evening with 10 people presenting 'the history of Plockton in 10 objects'. Robert Kennedy presided.

The main water pipe in Cooper Street and Rhu is presently being reviewed due to several bursts in the past year. Work has started and will take several weeks.

Volunteers have cut down all the trees and bushes along side the main car park in Plockton.

An executive meeting of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council in Kyleakin Hall saw £605 awarded to Broadford Badminton Club, Kyleakin Indoor Bowling Club and Cullin Wheels, which was awarded a start-up grant. The next meeting is in Portree on March 18.

Villagers in Plockton are disappointed that Blythswood will no longer uplift large items and will only uplift from the container in Plockton Hall grounds.

Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club is making arrangements to celebrate its 80th year in 2013.

On December 1, Brian Irvine, ex-Aberdeen and Scotland football player, held a coaching course at Plockton all weather football pitch.

Plockton Harbour Association recently laid five new moorings opposite its pontoon at the end of Cooper Street and now has 17 moorings available for visiting yachts.

Plockton and Kyle Free Church's sale for missions abroad held in the Lighthouse Centre, Kyle raised £1,180.

Scottish Sea Farms has lodged an appeal against Highland Council's decision to refuse permission for a fish farm at Airigh-drishgaig in Loch Carron.

Plockton and District Community Council objected to the proposal.

**PLOCKTON**

AT THE AGM of the Lochalsh branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland in the Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle, Hector Morrison retired as vice president and Iain MacFadyen was elected in his place.

All other office-bearers were re-elected including secretary Charlie M MacRae who has now completed 25 years in the post and 50 years on the committee. Colin Branson and John Falconer were added to the committee.

The poppy collection for the Earl Haig Fund was £4350.04, slightly down on last year's record total. The branch aims to send out two newsletters next year to keep in contact with its 68 members.

Ninety-seven senior

**TAYNUILT**

A WHIST drive held in Taynuilt Village Hall has made £121 for the village's senior citizens' outings.

The card master was Leslie Servant, who oversaw the six-table competition on December 14.

The next competition will be on January 18 in aid of Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

Results  
Gents: 1 John Ross; 2 Dave Watson, Dalavich; 3 Brenda MacLean; 4 Stella Huntingford. Consolation prize, Cecilia Keenan; travelling prize, Leslie Servant.

Ladies: 1 Isobel Grout, Connel; 2 Alison Boyce; 3 Lily Wilson; 4 Seona Millar. Consolation prize, Elaine Boyce; travelling prize, Marina MacInnes.

# Youngsters on stage to tell the Christmas story and entertain with carol singing and concerts



Kilmuir Primary School and Sgoil Araich held a successful Christmas concert. Parents and the local community were entertained with a variety of acts - Nighean Bhuidhe Bhan agus na Tri Mathain being the headline act.



The congregation of the Church of the Visitation and Muckairn Parish Church got together to hold a Nativity Play. It began with carol singers holding torches and walking through Taynuilt to the village hall, where a packed audience joined in the carols. Then the entertainment began with Father Fraser, an angel, and the Rev Brookes, a clown, opening the festivities. There were also performances from Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and Ballet West. Right: The nativity play in Taynuilt Village Hall.

Left: Pupils at Macdiarmid Primary School on Skye presented 'Creepy Crawly Christmas' before the festive break. The musical show, which was a resounding success, tells of Wilfred - the slowest, silliest caterpillar in the school. When a star falls from the sky and lands on him, he decides to prove himself by discovering what this mystery object is and return it to where it came from. He meets a host of crazy creatures on his journey and learns about the true meaning of Christmas.



Children from Fort William Primary told the story of the birth of Jesus to an audience of parents and friends last week. The nativity play, called 'Children of the World', saw the youngsters dress up as different nationalities to show how Christmas can bring people together. Mary, Zara Struthers, and Joseph, Charlie MacHugh, are pictured with baby Jesus. 20\_15nativity01



Eigg islanders got a festive treat last Tuesday when Eigg Primary School pupils staged a play, written by themselves, very loosely based on the story of how the favourite carol Silent Night was composed. Not many people know the carol was written by Murdo MacLeod of Eigg, with bagpipe music composed by the great Eigg piper Donald McQuarrie. The performance was marked by some super singing, dancing and acting - and was voted by the islanders as the best yet. After the performance everyone enjoyed mulled wine and nibbles provided by the parent council.



Duror Primary School children performed their school nativity show 'C.H.R.I.S.T.M.A.S. spells Christmas' last Wednesday night.



Kyleakin Primary School staged its Christmas concert last week, with the highlight being 'Prickly Hay - A Nativity Hoedown', involving all pupils from P1-7. Class teacher Gayle Morrison said: 'The children all enjoyed the night and gave their best performance yet - not a single prompt was needed!'



The community-owned Dalmally phonebox was helping with the Christmas celebrations in the village when more than a dozen people helped to create this nativity scene. The volunteers, co-ordinated by Rev Liz Gibson, put together this lovely 'Knitvity Scene' on show for the Christmas period.

**LISMORE**

ISLANDERS were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Lillian Colthart of Stronacroibh and every sympathy is extended to her son David and his family.

AIR FÒRLADH (On Leave) is Gilliebride MacMillan's second CD and he visited Lismore on December 7 to perform songs from this collection as well as others he has collected in his extensive travels.

Gilliebride is from South Uist and is steeped in the Gaelic song of that island and has distinguished himself by winning both gold medals at the National Mod. He has an engaging stage manner and lyrical voice with quite a range and on the night was able assisted by Mhairi Hall, piano, Gillian Frame, fiddle, and Mike Bryan, guitar, who also played a set of lively instrumental numbers. Earlier in the day, Gilliebride had visited the school where he not only listened to children's singing but also sang to them and had them up dancing a highland fling.

THE MANY islanders who volunteer at the Heritage Centre were treated to a very tasty Christmas lunch as a thank you for all their hard work throughout the year.

Without this small army of willing workers the job of preserving and fostering the island's culture and heritage for the generations to come, would go undone.

Chairman of Comann Eachdraidh, Duncan Livingstone, began proceedings by thanking everyone present as well as those unable to attend and, after the meal, centre manager Nic Jones presented Margaret MacDonald with a thank you gift for her long service both as a founder of the Comann Eachdraidh in 1994 and a volunteer every season since. Margaret was modest in her acknowledgement of how much work she and the original members did to create the institution of today which has put Lismore on the cultural map.

Everyone there was aware of how important those early days were with endless the fund raising as well as the endless work associated with gathering together the collection the museum now houses.

LATER in the day bluettes, bruschettas and buns were all on the menu when Beth invited the women of Lismore to get together in the café for a 'wee night of chilling and chewing the fat'. The evening was greatly enhanced by the presence of the island choir conducted by Sarah Campbell who performed some quite complicated and wonderful Christmas music and then led everyone in carol singing. Beth provided the mulled wine, tassy canapés and sweet treats as well as tea and coffee.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ann and Colin MacLean Fleming on the birth of Ruairidh, a brother for Ealasaid and Alasdair.

**ISLAY**

A NEW project aims to bring together stories, images and films depicting the rich heritage of Kildalton and Oa.

South Islay Development held a launch day on December 1 in St Columba Hall, Port Ellen, to begin a new project for the area funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund 'All Our Stories'.

There was an excellent turnout for the launch day and Jane Carswell, co-ordinator of the Jura Lives oral history project, came to deliver a talk.

Jane's overview of the Jura project included the wider sphere of oral history, with suggestions of useful background reading. Jane discussed interviewing, recording and then analysing the data gathered and her experiences along the way. The two projects will be keeping in touch as the Kildalton and Oa Community Heritage Project gets started in earnest in the New Year.

The Jura Lives project is made possible by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Argyll and the Islands LEADER 2007-2013 programme and Isle of Jura Development Trust.

LOCUM minister for the linked parishes of Kilchoman, Portnahaven and Kilmey, the Reverend Alex Cairns, will conduct communion during Sunday service at Portnahaven Church December 30 at 10am.

Mr Cairns, with his wife Dorothy, will be staying in the manse in Port Charlotte until the end of January.

PORTNAHAVEN Guild will hold a Hogmanay Coffee Afternoon in the Rhinns Hall at 3pm. Everyone is invited to come along and enjoy coffee and mince pies.

BLIADHNA Mhath Ùr nuair a thigead e! Happy New Year when it comes! SC

**INVERLOCHY**

INVERLOCHY WRI members were treated to a sparkling talk on candle making by Mrs Nicola Muir at their November meeting. Nicola uses beeswax from bees which she and her husband Gregor keep.

After tea Nicola judged the two competitions. Candlestick: 1 Mrs May Webb; 2 Elizabeth Murray; 3 Cathie MacDonald. Children's mittens competition was won by Irene Pinkett; 2 Christine Anderson; 3 Elizabeth Murray.

President May Webb gave a vote of thanks to Nicola for a most interesting and informative talk. The December meeting saw the Inverloch ladies depart from their usual party night and had a superb lunch in the West End Hotel. Although there was no Santa, a nice pile of parcels appeared on a small corner table, which May distributed to all 20 ladies present. She then proposed a vote of thanks to the hotel staff for their wonderful service.

**WYVEX MEDIA**

**Photo of the Year competition**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

Our advertising deadlines over the festive period are:  
**Friday 28th December** (for issue dated 3rd January)  
**OUR OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED**  
and Tuesday 1st January & Wednesday 2nd January

**Man's body found at Fort William**

THE BODY of a man was recovered from the foreshore near Fort William on Monday morning. A member of the local police alerted police after spotting the partially submerged man next sea defences below the path between the Underwater Centre and Inverlochly just after 9am. Seven members of the local coastguard team brought the body from the low water mark to dry land at 11am.

The area was cordoned off as CID personnel carried out investigations.

Phil Wren, local coastguard sector manager said: 'We assisted as best we could. We recovered the body from the rock armour up quite a gradient and gave it to the undertaker at the top.'

He added: 'Very broadly speaking I would say he was between 30 and 40. None of my team recognised him, but that does not mean to say he was not local.'

A police spokesperson said on Monday afternoon: 'We are in the process of identifying who it might be and then we will have to identify the next of kin.'

She added: 'Enquiries are underway to establish the identity of the man and the circumstances of the death. If anyone has any information in relation to this, they are urged to contact Police at Fort William on 01397 702361.'

**Hogmanay ceilidh for Eigg islanders**

EIGG ISLANDERS are to bring in the New Year with a Hogmanay ceilidh in the community hall.

Gaelic group Diamh members Gabe MacVarish and Damian Helliwell, together with Brendan Greene, Murdo Cameron from Glenelg and Luke Daniels will be among those providing the music. Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust secretary Maggie Fyffe said: 'There will be a few folk coming over for it. I would expect there will be around 100 there.'

**Skye village cash**

A NEW village planned for south Skye has received a £3 million boost from the Scottish Government. The project is being taken forward jointly by Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the Armadale-based Clan Donald Trust.

**Arisaig date for glam rock fundraiser**

Father to perform again by public demand

AN ARISAIG father will once again don his finest 70's glam rock gear for a second fundraising performance for the three hospitals treating his young daughter.

Locals packed out the Astley Hall to see Robert 'Bodie' Bowman perform a number of David Bowie tracks dressed as Ziggy Stardust with local musician Steve Brown last month.

And public demand for a repeat means the pair will be taking to the stage in the village on Wednesday January 2.

Bodie told *The Oban Times* the

positive reaction to the gig had inspired them to perform again.

He said: 'It was an absolutely brilliant night, the kids had an absolute ball.'

'Everybody was in a really good mood.'

'It was supposed to be in Malplaig this time, but we had some parents asking if we could do it again in the village. I don't think there are that many kid-friendly events like this in the area.'

The concert raised more than £1,700, which added to proceeds from a 'Songs for Dawn' CD produced by the pair

earlier in the year means just over £8,000 has been raised for Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Kids and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

The three hospitals have treated Bodie's two year-old daughter Dawn since she was born with a host of health problems, including a cleft palate and meningitis.

Bodie said Dawn's condition was slowly improving but regular medical treatment was still required.

'There's been improvement, but it's really, really slow,' he said. 'It's going in the right direction but there's no leaps and bounds with her.'

'She was at a kids party in Fort William recently. She still can't walk, but she really enjoyed herself.'

Steve Brown, whose band Wonderland will also perform on the night, said: 'Hopefully we'll raise enough to top the £9,000 mark. The gig starts at 7pm with a kids disco and will include possibly the last ever performance from Bodie and Brown.'



Dawn with her mum Maryann Bowman and local district nurse Eilish MacLellan



Ben Nevis Bar staff Anne Cameron, manager, Rhona MacKenzie and Adam Ramsey get into the festive spirit at the Fort William Christmas Gathering with local kids Greig and Max Kelly 20\_f52fest01

**Gathering brings festive cheer to High Street**

THE FORT William Christmas Gathering brought festive cheer and a much-needed sales boost to High Street business last Thursday evening.

Hundreds thronged the thoroughfare to splash the cash in shops and bars with street entertainment providing a real sense of occasion.

Carol singing from Showstoppers, Music Shed and The Songbirds, traditional music

from Dierdre Beck and Hannah MacRae, a balance bike competition and a pipe band march all added to the festive buzz.

'Excellent'

Retailers and pubs did their bit by opening late and laying on special offers for shoppers – and were rewarded with extra custom.

Alistair Ness of The Granite House gift shop told *The Oban Times*: 'It was excellent in every respect – despite the weather.'

'We did get extra business in the evening – it was clear lots of people knew it was on and made the effort to come along and enjoy the atmosphere and to catch up on some late Christmas pressies.'

Organiser Billy Lamont paid tribute to all involved. He said on the event's Facebook page: 'A huge thanks to everyone who came along last night and made the Christmas Gathering such a great success.'

**Loch Alsh shellfish site could be biggest of its type in the world**

A HUGE colony of brightly coloured shellfish found in Loch Alsh could be the biggest in the world, it emerged this week.

Marine Scotland scientists say the population of flame shells covering a 75-hectare reef is likely to exceed 100 million.

Seabed mapping carried out during work to identify new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) confirmed the flame shell reef as the most extensive in the UK.

Dr Dan Harries of Heriot-Watt

University's School of Life Sciences carried out the survey on behalf of Marine Scotland.

'Important'

He said: 'We are delighted that in this instance we found not just occasional patches but a huge and thriving flame shell community extending right the way along the entrance narrows of Loch Alsh.'

'This is a wonderful discovery for all concerned.'

Richard Lochhead said: 'This important discovery may be the largest grouping of flame shells anywhere in the world.'

Scottish Natural Heritage, advisors to Ministers on potential MPA sites, are recommending the reef as a protected feature of an MPA proposal for the area.

The scallop-like flame shells have neon orange tentacles and group together on the sea bed, creating a living reef that supports hundreds of other species.

**Islander fined £500 after collision with woman cyclist**

AN ISLE of Eigg man crashed head on into a woman cyclist while driving home the morning after a wedding on the island.

Ewen Kirk came round a corner on the single-track road too fast to avoid hitting the cyclist, who was left badly injured in the ditch.

The victim was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness with her right shoulder fractured in three places, a broken right leg and numerous cuts to her face and legs.

Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'The

casualty is expected to make a full recovery.'

Kirk pled guilty to careless driving on the unclassified single-track road from Cleadale to the pier at the Galmisdale junction at around 7am on August 27.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined Kirk, of Lagurna, Cleadale, Isle of Eigg £500 and imposed six penalty points on his driving licence.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'Any penalty must be related to the culpability of the crime rather than the consequences.'

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**CÈILIDH NA BLIADHN' ÙIRE BEÒ HOGMANAY CÈILIDH LIVE**

From Achnagairn House, Kirkhill, by Beauly.

Join Derek 'Pluto' Murray, Kirsteen MacDonald and a host of musical talent including Mànrán, Duncan Chisholm, Hamish Napier, Kathleen MacInnes, Rona Lightfoot and Dingwall Gaelic Choir.

11.30f/11.30pm

Also LIVE on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and www.bbc.co.uk/alba

Diardaoin 27 Dùbhlachd  
Thursday 27 December  
**HEBRIDEAN CELTIC FESTIVAL - MÀNÀN**  
Join Mànrán on stage as they make a triumphant return to Stornoway.  
8.10f/8.10pm

**CUIRM @ CELTIC: CHICAGO**  
Kathleen MacInnes hosts a concert from the Harris Theatre, Chicago, with a cast including Julie Fowles, Session A9 and Admiral Fallow.  
8.55f/8.55pm

**AIR AN RATHAD ON THE ROAD**  
Join Fiona, Murray and Calum Iain as they take to the road.  
10f/10pm

Dihaoine 28 Dùbhlachd  
Friday 28 December  
**NA TRADS 2012 MG ALBA SCOTS TRAD MUSIC AWARDS 2012**  
Highlights from Na Trads 2012, held in Fort William.  
9f/9pm

Disathairne 29 Dùbhlachd  
Saturday 29 December  
**HEBRIDEAN CELTIC FESTIVAL - THE PROCLAIMERS**  
Join Craig and Charlie at HebCelt 2012.  
9f/9pm

**BELLADRUN 2012: CRIDHE TARTAN**  
Fiona Mackenzie introduces highlights from Belladrum 2012.  
10f/10pm

Là na Sàbaid 30 Dùbhlachd  
Sunday 30 December  
**MÒD 2012: MÒD NA CLOINNE**  
The best of the Children's Mod from the 109th Royal National Mod in Dunoon.  
8f/8pm

Oidhche Challainn  
New Year's Eve  
**BARBARA DICKSON**  
Profile of Barbara Dickson with guests including Billy Connelly and Rab Noakes.  
9.30f/9.30pm

**CEÒL DANNSA**  
John Carmichael presents a sensational evening of Scottish Country Dance Music.  
10.30f/10.30pm

Là na Bliadhnn' Ùire  
New Year's Day  
**AN DROCHAD THE BRIDGE RISING**  
The story of the campaign against the tolls on the Skye Bridge which pitted plucky Scottish islanders against the might of the Government and the Bank of America.  
8.05f/8.05pm

**MACHAIRAZZI**  
Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Machair, the first ever Gaelic soap.  
9.05f/9.05pm

Diardaoin 3 Faoilleach  
Thursday 3 January  
**MÒD 2012: MÒD NAN CÒISIREAN**  
The Senior Choir competitions from the Dunoon Mod.  
8.55f/8.55pm

Disathairne 5 Faoilleach  
Saturday 5 January  
**PHILOMENA BEGLEY: 50 YEARS OF MUSIC**  
A special concert and a window on the life of the Queen of Country music.  
10f/10pm

**Spòrs air BBC ALBA**

Disathairne 29 Dùbhlachd  
Saturday 29 December  
**BEÒ/LIVE RUGBY - 1872 CUP**  
Edinburgh v Glasgow.  
4f/4pm

**FOOTBALL**  
Hibernian v Celtic.  
6f/6pm

Diciadain 2 Faoilleach  
Wednesday 2 January  
**BEÒ/LIVE FOOTBALL**  
Ross County v Inverness CT.  
3f/3pm

Dihaoine 4 Faoilleach  
Friday 4 January  
**BEÒ/LIVE RUGBY**  
Edinburgh v Leinster.  
7.30f/7.30pm

# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Energy giants and small shopkeepers need to encourage public support

WHILE many retailers may have had a slightly better Christmas sales experience than anticipated there is little doubt that the local high street is in for a difficult few months.

Support from local communities will filter through to maintain footfall but if the retail sector in many of the smaller villages and towns is to have a longer term future it will require a more innovative approach to marketing than simply being there with an open door.

Increasing sales volumes by maintaining customer loyalty is clearly not at the heart of the energy companies' marketing strategies as they imposed pre-winter price rises in time to catch the peak of the domestic heating season. So much for all the pre-privatisation talk of a competitive environment.

The five main energy suppliers will flag up that they require increased profit margins to combat the high cost of 'green energy' taxes imposed by a government which remains firmly focused on obtaining the majority of its energy supply from renewables.

By the time this anticipated surge of renewable power will be available to the consumer there will be sectors of the public who cannot afford to use it, sectors who have moved on to alternative sources of cheaper heating, and, perhaps, several of the current energy suppliers who have gone to the wall - bringing us full circle to a non-competitive market place.

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Phil's Christmas Songbook

Having had great success with his show in 2011, held in the City Halls, Phil and friends returned to Glasgow last week to the Old Fruitmarket to help Glaswegians forget the tribulations of getting ready for Christmas by providing a night of fun and music.

The Christmas theme was set from the beginning of the evening when the guest brass players, all members of the Armed Forces, played some popular Christmas carols prior to being joined on stage by the other artists who showed that they were very much up for a relaxed evening developing an excellent rapport with the audience and with each other from the start.

Eddi Reader, for example, had to put up with much banter about her 'fairy' dress but it was all in good spirit and much enjoyed by the audience.

With Phil and Eddi on stage were Karen Matheson, John McCusker, Kris Drever, Ian Carr and Kevin McGuire all excellent performers and on this occasion in fine form. The show contained much variety with Eddie, Karen and Kris providing the main vocals, with some new songs while others were well known. Karen provided the Gaelic input with a rendering of Leanaibh an Aigh being particularly moving.

The singing was interspersed with instrumental items which showcased the versatility, with all providing backing vocals, and expertise of each of the artists.

A particular characteristic of this show, which would play in Edinburgh's Queen's Hall for the following two evenings, was that even at a time when there is so much talk about recession the audience were able to sit back and even join in as there was some community singing as well.

A few weeks ago Phil Cunningham played in the Royal Concert Hall together with Aly Bain and the Scottish National Orchestra and he described the event as an 'intimate concert with 2,000 people'.

This concert did not have such a large audience but it was

certainly intimate thanks to the artists who enjoyed themselves just as much as those who came along to listen.

Hopefully it will now be a permanent fixture on the Glasgow entertainment calendar.

### Projects

#### promoting Gaelic

If you are interested in receiving some support to encourage the use of Gaelic in your area Bord na Gaidhlig's funding scheme, Taic Freumhan Coimhearsnachd, is now open for new applications.

The funds are available for projects which will encourage and increase the learning and usage of Gaelic within communities in keeping with the priority areas outlined in the National Gaelic Language Plan 2012-2017.

Applications must be made by 5pm on Friday, February 8, 2013. More information is available by post or email by contacting 01463 225454 or tabhartas@gaidhlig.org.uk.

### Gaelic quiz

PLEASE note that the Gaelic Quiz will change in 2013 from the 3rd Wednesday to the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the Park Bar at 7.30pm.

This means that the first quiz will be held on January 15 and it will be a bilingual quiz with both Scots and Irish Gaelic. Entry per participant is £2 and after the fun of the quiz there will be an opportunity to sing or play music for those who wish.

### Pub scene

Nicky McMichan will be playing in the Park Bar on both Friday and Saturday evening with Trail West playing there on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and Penny Dogs on Saturday.

Best Wishes for 2013 to all our readers and many thanks to all who provided information for this column during the past year.

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

## 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.

## PRESS POLICY

WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

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

# Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB  
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### No car park at Rockfield please

Sir, Traders and BID4Oban are condemning Oban to continued traffic misery by arguing that the Rockfield School site be turned into a car park - re Old school may become new homes - *The Oban Times*, December 20, 2012.

Far better would be to build a multi-storey car park on the existing park that is adjacent to The Corran Halls. This would encourage at least a fraction of motorists to park their cars on the north side of town, where most traffic enters, rather than bring them down George Street. This, in turn, would have the added health value of getting people to walk and, as importantly, get them to pass down George Street on foot, to the benefit of the traders along this neglected part of town.

This is a win-win for all, canny traders included, and leaves the Rockfield site for housing people rather than stacking parked cars!

### The future of old Rockfield School

Sir, ACHA has been fully supportive of BID4Oban's achievements and the business community's commitment to take Oban forward. However, we respectfully disagree that the provision of another car park for the town should take precedence over desperately needed affordable housing for Oban's people.

Currently there are three council car parks in the vicinity of the Corran Halls, one in Tweedale Street, one in Lochavullin Road, one behind the Municipal Buildings, one at the North Pier, one at Atlantis Leisure and there also would appear to be an allowance by the town's major retailers for members of the public to park at their facilities for periods of time as long as they purchase something. I do my shopping in Oban on a Saturday and I have never had a difficulty, even in the height of summer, in parking in the council car park in Tweedale Street, which is right next to the old Rockfield School.

Contrast that with the huge demand for affordable housing in the town. Currently there are 604 applicants on the housing waiting list for Oban. Since 2008 access to mortgage finance has virtually collapsed so there are now many applicants added to the waiting list who previously would have had an option to buy. Through my work I do speak to businessmen and women on a regular basis throughout Argyll and jobs and housing are regular themes that are raised with me. The building of affordable housing deals with both of these issues which give twin benefits to the business community; namely jobs in construction and homes for their employees.

In the week that John Swinney MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth, has announced an additional £50million for the provision of affordable housing it would be remiss of ACHA not to explore with Argyll and Bute Council the possibility of building desperately needed homes on the old Rockfield site.

Alastair MacGregor, Chief Executive

### Work on A82 at Glen Righ

Sir, With regards to the editorial in last week's edition I would like to re-assure your readers that the Forestry Commission will not be leaving bare, tree-free slopes at Glen Righ once our works are complete.

Our intention is to replace the conifers with native broadleaved trees, like birch and hazel, which over the longer term will help stabilise the steep slopes. This will help to maintain the long term safety of A82 road users, and will enhance the visual appeal and character of the Great Glen route.

As we noted in our reply to your front page article, we are more than happy to arrange tours of the site for community groups, members and other parties who are interested in finding out the details and the facts of the work we are carrying out.

Alex MacLeod, A82 Project Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland

### Year of Natural Scotland

Sir, Mike Story is a decent chap but his defence of the non attendance of any of our senior representatives at the recent Year of Natural Scotland event in Perth is pretty weak and his bottom line amounts to the fact that no senior community representatives attended.

It appears though that there were lots of tourism meetings about the event but no one seems to know anything about this. And if I don't, as the most knowledgeable and visible person on tourism and the environment matters over the last thirty years, then there has to be something very amiss.

David Woodhouse, Mull

### Raising a glass to CalMac

Sir, May I publicly thank Mr David Taylor of Caledonian MacBrayne for very kindly reversing the order of call of the Clansman on the Boxing day run to Tiree and Coll so that my daughter could have a festive couple of days with her family.

My apologies to those destined for Coll for whom this alteration may have meant extra time at sea and my compliments to anyone Tiree bound whose sea journey was shortened.

Everyone in Caledonian MacBrayne performs miracles all year for us folk living out west and they have thoughtfully decided my heart this Christmas.

I am now a humbug free zone. Good yuletide to all,

Peter 'Ebenezer' Isaacson, Isle of Coll

### Dewar Report article

Sir, I thank you for publishing my article concerning the Dewar Report into Medical Attendance on the Highlands and Islands - *The Oban Times*, December 13th.

May I use your column to correct two significant errors in the article?

Firstly, a typing error suggested that Dr Roger MacNiven was MOH for Argyll whereas it was Dr Roger MacNeill, a fascinating man born the youngest of 11 children of Angus MacNeill on Colonsay in 1853 he watched his mother, Margaret Smith, die a lingering death on the island which had no medical attendance at the time thus determining him to become a doctor and an outstanding one at that. He was fully supported by the Laird of Colonsay (no relation) who graduated in Medicine in 1814 and was chair of Scotland's Board of Supervision from 1845 to 1868. The second error was my assertion that Baroness Ray Michie was the granddaughter of PM Campbell Bannerman, which my friend Dr Roddy MacLeod feels would have been difficult as he died in Downing Street without children. He is reputed to have died saying, "this is not the end of me!" - a true politician! Ray's father, Johnny Bannerman, was her political inspiration. He was a well loved Highlander, a lifelong Liberal who fought deprivation and unemployment in the Highlands and entered Parliament as Baron Bannerman of Kildalton in December 1967 before dying in 1969.

He also wrote Mairi's wedding (the Lewis Bridal Song) for his friend Mary Macniven of Islay for the 1935 Mod.

He won many rugby caps and was president of the SRU and was a successful farmer. I apologise if the Campbell Bannerman misinformation has caused any distress or embarrassment.

Dr Iain McNicol, Port Appin

### Killin commercial pharmacy debate

Sir, Dr Brian Keighley - *The Oban Times*, December 13 - is correct to highlight the level of opposition to the proposal to open a commercial pharmacy in Killin, and withdraw the prescribing status of the local GP practice, which covers an extensive area, and has been in place for over 60 years.

A public meeting to discuss

this issue in November 2012 overwhelmingly rejected the proposal; to date over 1,000 signatures have been collected opposing the proposal. I understand a representative of the proposed commercial operator was invited to come to that meeting but declined to attend or, if represented anonymously, did not speak - which doesn't appear to auger well for community participation.

More importantly, however, Forth Valley Health Board needs to listen attentively and sympathetically - particularly those appointed members (who are not elected by the public) who will consider this proposal.

The MP for Stirling, Anne McGuire, has kindly written to me to say she will do all she can to ensure the Board is aware of the strength of feeling on this issue. The MSP, Bruce Crawford, has already indicated his opposition to the proposal.

Moreover, Forth Valley Health Board needs not just to listen to local opinion but to conduct the debate with transparency so we all know who said what, the arguments put forward and the manner in which members voted. Will the board give that assurance now?

Everyone involved hopes the Killin practice can continue to prescribe, and care for its patients in the exemplary manner it has done for so long over the years.

Too often in the past, rural communities in Scotland have been pushed around by those who think they 'know' what is best for them. Wise heads should ensure this does not happen in this case because the issue at stake here has wider confidence, rural development and political implications - which will not go away.

If it works, why mend it?  
Ian Wotherspoon, Edinburgh

### Pipe up

Sir, We are keen to encourage schools in your area to take part in the first Scottish Schools Pipe Band Championships, which are due to take place on March 10 next year at Broughton High School in Edinburgh. The idea of the competition is to provide an event for established and new bands to compete in what should be an inspiring event.

The championship is being run with the blessing of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association but is not one of their official events. The association has also kindly agreed to waive its rules on membership to allow young players registered with a non-school band to play for their school at this competition. Already over 20 schools from across the country have signed up to take part in this new initiative, which will become an annual event. We would like schools with even just four pipers on their roll to consider participating in what will be an enjoyable and rewarding day.

More details can be found at [www.scottishschoolspipebandchampionships.com](http://www.scottishschoolspipebandchampionships.com). Every school needs a pipe band.

### Well done to pupils of Oban High

Sir, We are sure we speak for everyone who was privileged to attend the Pensioners' Treat at Oban High School on Tuesday December 18, when we put on public record through your letters' column our appreciation of the excellence and commitment of the young musicians performing there on Tuesday, as well as that of the staff who have brought them to this level of excellence.

Equally impressive were the youngsters from the Food Technology Department who fed and served us so unobtrusively. Oban should surely be proud on this showing to have a high school of this quality!

A & D Graham, Oban

### Mini-budget good for Argyll and Bute

Sir, The recent mini-budget brought good news for Argyll and Bute. The January fuel duty increase

has been scrapped and the Scottish Government has been given an extra £394 million for capital investment in Scotland.

This is more money than the Scottish Government asked for in the Spring, so there is now no excuse for the SNP Government not going ahead with projects in Argyll and Bute such as a permanent solution to the landslides at the Rest and Be Thankful.

I say to the SNP, you've got the money, stop the dithering, get on with the job at the Rest and Be Thankful.

Alan Reid MP

### A McDonald's for Oban?

Sir, I was hoping someone could tell me why there are such objections to having a McDonalds restaurant in Oban?

There is space on the industrial areas and they cater for different customers than the usual fish and chip shops.

It would create badly needed jobs for young people - and burgers and fries at a cheap price.

The restaurant surroundings are always kept clean and tidy and they are fun places for an occasional treat for youngsters - and us oldest!

Brenda Fallon, North Connel

### Practice-a-thon in Lochaber

Sir, I am writing to encourage dance and music teachers across the Lochaber area to help their students by supporting Practice-a-thon - a UK-wide fundraising campaign run by CLIC Sargent, the UK's leading cancer charity for children and young people.

This is the 10th year of Practice-a-thon, and over the last nine years schools and groups from across the UK have raised over £900,000 for CLIC Sargent through music, song and dance - and had a great time doing it.

Now is the time to get involved by organising concerts in the Lochaber area as a way of having fun with music and song and fundraising at the same time. Every day 10 children and young people are told they have cancer, and diagnosis usually comes as a shock. Treatment normally starts straightaway and can last up to three years.

For more information or to register your own event with Practice-a-thon - just visit [www.clicsargent.org.uk/practicea-thon](http://www.clicsargent.org.uk/practicea-thon) or call 0845 120 6340

Peter Logie, CLIC Sargent

### Blythwood says thanks

Sir, Can I through the columns of *The Oban Times* convey our grateful thanks to all who took the time and effort to aid Blythwood Care's 2012 shoe box appeal?

We were very humbled to see the tremendous response in quantity and quality of the boxes as well as the monetary donations sent to us from throughout Lochaber considering the demands on everyone's finances this year.

After screening for customs by the support group in Fort William, around 800 shoeboxes were sent to Deephaven in Evanston to be loaded on to pallets, shrink-wrapped and then loaded on to trucks bound for Romania. All the boxes were safely delivered to children and needy adults in Romania last week where conditions are very cold and wintry.

Rest assured that each and every box would have been received with great joy and thankfulness as it would have been the only Christmas gift that many would have received.

Through the Blythwood organisation a total to date of 112,270 shoe boxes were sent by truck to Albania, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Kosovo, Ukraine, Bulgaria and Moldova all from Scotland, England and Northern Ireland. More boxes are scheduled to leave this country any day soon.

Blythwood Care are so grateful to everyone for making up such beautiful boxes and making this venture the successful enterprise it is each year.

With sincere best wish for 2013.

Kenny and Barbara Matheson Blythwood Care Lochaber Corpach



Beachd Ailein  
Ailean Caimbeul

THA MI 'N DÒCHAS gun robh Nollaig shona thoilichte agaibh uile agus ma bha sibh am measg teaghlach is deagh charaidean, bha sibh da-rìribh fortanach.

Ged a tha e daonnan math a bhith a' toirt seachad agus a' faotainn thiodhlacan aig am na Nollaige, saoidh mi gun aontach a' mhòr-chuid gur e am dhan chloinn a th' ann gu sònraichte. Chan eil dad nas tlachdmhoire na bhith a' coimhead òigridh a' stialladh pharsailean às a chèile feuch dè a' fhuair iad! Agus ged a tha mi 's dòcha a' cosnadh inbhe Srooge, feumaidh mi a ràdh gun saoil mi gum bheil mòran chloinne a' faotainn umhìr is gum bheil cunnart ann gum bi iad neo-ar-thaingeil, is nach eil iad a' cur luach air na th' aca. Tha mòran dhuibh a' faotainn dhèideagan is thiodhlacan eile gu math tric tron bhliadhna agus ri linn sin chan eil eil na Nollaige 's dòcha cho sònraichte dhaibh 's a bha e dha ginealaichean a chaidh romhpa! Ach chan eil mi dol a dhèanamh an còrr cràmhan, 's e am na Nollaige a th' ann!

'S fhiach cuideachd cuimhneachadh gum bheil bochdainn againn anns an dùthaich seo fhathast agus 's e masladh ubha-sach a tha sin anns an latha sam bheil sinn beò! Gun teagamh, tha suidheachadh eaconamach na dùthaigh agus an t-saoghail ann an duilgheadas, ach theistean ri 'm faighneachd agus ri 'm freagairt a thaobh moralachd chuid de na rudan air am bheil maoin poblach ga chaitheamh nuair a tha daoine agus an cuid cloinne le fuachd is acras! 'S e smuain dhèidhinn a th' ann aig am sam bith, ach aig am seò den bhliadhna tha e buileach mi-chofhurtail agus bu chòir dhan a h-uile duine nas urrainn dhaibh a dhèanamh gus cobhair a thoirt dha feadhainn a tha a' fulang!

Ach ma tha beagan spòrs a dhith oirbh aig am seò, faodaidh sibh cleas a chluich far am bheil sibh a' beachdachadh air dè an seòrsa tiodhlac a dh'iarraidh sibh a thoirt dha daoine àraid. Leithid Daibhidh Camshron... 'S dòcha dealbh de Ed Milliband neo eachdraidh-beatha Mhagaigh! Agus dè ma dheidhinn Ailig Salmond? Theagamh gum biodh àite-fuirich air mhàl anns a' Bhruisair airson bliadhna no dhà feumail, le cùisean cho mi-shoilleir a thaobh ballrachd Alba neo-eisimeileach anns an Aonadh Eòrpaich!

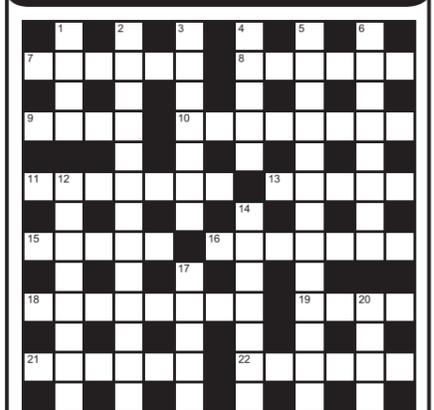
Mo bheannachd aig muinntir sgìre na Pàirce ann an Leòdhas a fhuair deagh thiodhlac Nollaig le co-dhùndh cùrach nach urrainn dhan Uachdaran Barry Lomas am bacadh bhò thagrachd gus an oighreachd a cheannach fùghdarras reachdas fearann na h-Alba. Fìor cheum air adhart!

I HOPE you had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and that you were able to spend in the good company of family or friends, and that you enjoyed giving and receiving gifts.

Congratulations to the people of the Park Estate in Lewis on their Christmas present with news that their landlord lost his court appeal against his tenants' right to buy their land!

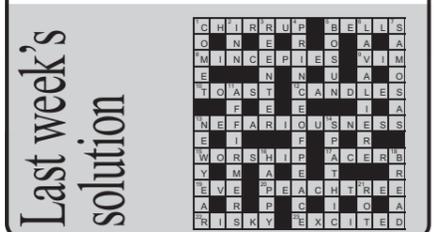
Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD



- Across
- 7 Reach octogenarian status (6)
  - 8 Relation born of parents' siblings (6)
  - 9 Loved one (4)
  - 10 An unfavourable balance of currency (5,3)
  - 11 Herbage (7)
  - 13 The horizontal axis of a two-dimensional Cartesian coordinate system. (1-4)
  - 15 Hot dish (5)
  - 16 Skull (7)
  - 18 Said in prayer (4,4)
  - 19 Adjoin (4)
  - 21 Edge (6)
  - 22 Illicit cigarette (6)

- Down
- 1 Soft wood (4)
  - 2 Sounds like a sharp bone (8,5)
  - 3 Puzzle (7)
  - 4 Shoo away (5)
  - 5 Too old for work (13)
  - 6 Italian dish (8)
  - 12 One who teaches (8)
  - 14 Swiss cheese (7)
  - 17 Dog stones? (5)
  - 20 Brought into play (4)



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

# COMING SOON YOUR SAY



# YOUR SAY



You asked us to ask **Sally Loudon**, chief executive of Argyll and Bute Council the following:

*IF Scottish Water agrees to adopt an upgraded Bridge of Orchy water supply, will the council pay the improvement costs to be rid of this problem once and for all?*  
**John Kerr, Glen Orchy**

**IT'S TOO** early to say as there are on-going discussions with the community in Bridge of Orchy. At a meeting held on November 28 2012 it was agreed the council will continue to keep in touch with Scottish Water.

*HAVING studied the primary schools lunch menu in the Argyll and Bute region, do you think further improvements can be made in this area so the council exceeds the minimum standards required and not just meets it?*  
**Trev Phillips, Stourbridge**

**THE council will be making no further comment on this matter.**

*CAN you please explain why the council has had the option to spend £6.9 million on the waterfront development in Oban yet, as confirmed by Robert Pollock, this opportunity has not been taken?*  
**Neil MacIntyre, Oban**

**OBAN CHORD** has a funding allocation of £6.9 million and it is recognised there is a strong desire to see action on the ground in the town.

On October 30 2012, the Oban CHORD Project Board approved a package of projects to be taken forward, and work has begun on developing these projects.

A North Pier Quarter will be created by improving the area around the North Pier and Stafford Street. In addition, the general environment around Queens Park Place and George Street will be improved, as will traffic management in the town centre.

These projects will improve the experience of both visitors and residents.

Consideration is also being given to improving the experience of visitors using the range of transport in Oban's town centre. CHORD investment will also be made to support the BID4Oban plans and a CHORD Project Manager will be appointed - based in Oban to look after the various projects getting underway and co-ordinate with partners both locally and nationally.

Other projects for CHORD funding will be identified in due course.

*AS A business owner, I want to know when the A83 is going to be fixed once and for all? What is the council doing to help sort out this fiasco?*  
**Keith Ballantyne, Tainuilt**

**THE A83** is looked after by the Scottish Government and we are pushing for a permanent fail safe solution to help keep the road open at The Rest and Be Thankful even when bad weather hits the area. The temporary alternative route will now be available at the end of January.

Argyll and Bute Council regularly takes part in the A83 taskforce group meetings and is working hard to make sure our main arterial route is strengthened. It is a priority for the council to get this sorted out as we recognise the impact it is having on people and businesses across the area.

*WHEN do you plan to issue a public apology to the Payne family?*  
**Jaylah Priest, USA**

**THE council will be making no further comment on this matter.**



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

## Mull Lines

**COASTGUARDS** on the Isle of Mull have received medals and certificates in recognition of their hard work and dedication.

During a recent visit, Peter Dymong, chief coastguard, and Richard Martin, head of operations, presented a long service medal and valedictory certificates to coastguards on the island. Left to right: Jim Traynor, David MacKie, James Henderson, Richard Martin, Neil MacInnes, Peter Dymong, Bill Speirs, coastal safety manager, Mike Swift, Martin Keivers and Alick Livingston.



**TEN CHALETS** to be used by people visiting the Isle of Mull on holiday could be created in Craignure.

Crerar Hotels, the company which own the Isle of Mull Hotel, has applied for permission to build 10 'self-catering holiday lodges with associated access road, pathways and infrastructure'.

If planning permission is granted the new

chalets will be built next to the existing hotel in Craignure.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said: 'The application is live and pending determination. The target date for it is December 23. Consultation responses have all been received. No objections have been submitted by third parties.'



**OLDER** residents in Salen on the Isle of Mull were treated to a Christmas lunch by the village's branch of the SWRI.

The annual event was as successful as ever. Alison Willis, of Salen SWRI, said: 'Sixty people sat down to enjoy a lovely meal prepared by Catherine MacIver and her helpers. Following the meal, entertainment was provided by Ann MacDonald and her young fiddlers and Sarah and Sandy MacAulay. A wonderful time was had by everyone and the lunch was a really good start to the Christmas festivities.'

**CLASSES** to help you learn how to save the life of a loved one if they fall ill will be coming to Mull next year.

Heart Start, a basic emergency life support scheme, is aimed at those who want to learn first aid to assist casualties before emergency services arrive.

Angela McNeil, co-ordinator of the programme, said: 'People on Mull are very remote and it can take a while for an ambulance to get to them or to get a GP.'

'This course will make sure that at least they know what to do to help the person survive until more professional assistance arrives.'

The classes will teach what to do when someone is choking or bleeding severely and how to recognise a heart attack and deal with chest pain and cardiac arrest.

It will also teach you how to deal with an unconscious casualty, including the recovery position, in the hope that basic treatment will give people a better chance of survival and help keep them alive until an ambulance crew arrives.

Angela will be visiting Mull in March. If you wish to arrange a free of charge place on a course contact her at [angela.mcneil@ggc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:angela.mcneil@ggc.scot.nhs.uk).

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

**FESTIVE** preparations haven't stopped keen photographers submitting entries to our Photo of the Year competition.

Spectacular images taken across the west coast and its islands have blown away our judges, who once again present the best pictures this week has to offer.

As usual, you can vote for your favourite by sending a text to 88010 using the keyword POY followed by the code below your favourite photograph.

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

Alternatively, complete the voting form attached. Photocopies will not be accepted.

To submit your own photographs for the competition, log on to our website at [www.obantimes.co.uk/poy](http://www.obantimes.co.uk/poy).

Please note that photographs must be large enough to print.



Linda Anderson Kerr, Oban: A spring walk through Puck's Glen. T52lindaanderson-kerr1no



Lucy Thornhill, Oban: Sunset from Pulpit Hill, Oban. T52lucythornhill1no

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



Adam Brown, Oban: A view of Bonnie Oban Bay taken from the Isle of Kerrera at the end of Summer 2012. T52adambrown1no



Gemma Willan, Carradale 52: Sunrise over Arran. T52gemmawillan1no 020



David MacMillan, Oban: Dunollie Castle. T52davidmacmillan1no



Alasdair Bennett, Campbeltown: The shot is of the Carradale Water estuary in Kintyre looking south east to the Kilbrannan Sound with Arran in the distance. T52alasdairbennett1no



Michael Reilly, Campbeltown: Taken on Arran. T52michaelreilly1no



JD Douglas, Oban: Stag in Glencoe. T52jddouglas1no

**WYVEX MEDIA**  
**Photo of the Year competition**

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

Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. For full details and terms and conditions please see above.

Photo.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Telephone.....  
Email.....  
Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HP  
Entries to be in by 12 noon Friday 8th February 2013.  
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted.

OT

Youth wind band for national finals

LOCHABER High School Senior Wind Band has been invited to compete in the Scottish Concert Bands Festival national finals. The 40-strong ensemble, conducted by Mark Reynolds, won through at the recent Inverness heat where they were awarded a gold plus certificate. They will compete against bands from other schools at Perth Concert Hall on Saturday, March 23.

Onich pensioner denies driving charges

AN ONICH pensioner has denied crashing his car in Glencoe after losing control. David O'Neil, of Muireisk, pled not guilty to dangerous driving on the A82 at Glen Etive on July 20. The 80 year-old is accused of losing control of his car, crossing the road, striking a

verge and rolling over, causing another car to take evasive action. O'Neil also pled not guilty to overtaking a van and pulling back in sharply, causing the van to brake hard. He is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 11.

Council encourages safe footwear

HIGHLAND Council and NHS Highland are urging people to buy snow and ice grippers for their footwear to help prevent injury from slips and falls.

Footways are being gritted as required Monday to Saturday from 6am to 6pm. On Sundays and public holidays, the cover is between 7am and 12noon.

Main urban shopping centres have top priority, main urban footways serving schools, hospitals and minor shopping areas second, and other footways as resources permit, third.

Three assisted off Ben Nevis

THREE people were directed off Ben Nevis in darkness by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team last Wednesday night. The group got into difficulties when man in his forties experienced medical problems with his leg while abseiling down the

mountain. All were escorted off the mountain safe and well. Climbers are reminded to allow for shorter hours of daylight at this time of year, with darkness closing in during mid afternoon.

£37 million rates relief for Highlands

APPROXIMATELY £37 million of rates relief have been awarded in the Highlands since the introduction of the Small Business Bonus Scheme in 2008.

Enterprise Minister Fergus Ewing revealed the figures during a visit to The Drawing Room in Inverness. Almost half of all business properties in the Highlands - 48.5 per cent - benefit under the scheme, said Mr Ewing.

Banavie man fined over cocaine charges

A BANAVIE man caught in possession of cocaine on two separate occasions has been fined £350. Allan MacMaster, of Kamas, Lower Banavie, admitted having 1.1 grams of the class A drug on Ardgor Road on December 18.

The 20 year-old previously pled guilty to possessing 0.7 grams of cocaine on Belford Road on November 4. The drugs has a combined street value of just over £100, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Four times limit driver given seven year ban and has car seized

A FORT William man was caught behind the wheel while more than four times the legal alcohol limit. Kevin Leahy was banned from driving for seven years

and had his BMW car seized by police. It was his fourth driving related conviction. Leahy, who admitted the drink-drive charge and to having no insurance, was drinking

in a Fort William pub on October 20, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. But he was spotted on CCTV walking to his car and attempting to drive to his home at 4

Achariach, Claggan Road. Appearing from custody, Leahy was also given one year of supervision by social workers and ordered to attend the domestic abuse perpetrators

program after two separate incidents involving his partner. The 39 year-old pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on October 25. On November 30, Leahy

also admitted to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at his partner. Sheriff Noel McPartlin also fined Leahy £800.



The 'international' class at Fort William RC Primary School 20\_522tmay01

Fort William's young 'international brigade'

THERE'S a real 'international brigade' at Fort William RC Primary School these days - and pupils celebrated their European heritage by sending Christmas parcels to relations in different countries of the EU. Using recycled plastic bags and boxes, P3-

4 Gaelic medium children dispatched the presents in the week before the holidays.

Christmas customs

Among the pupils involved were Aine O'Rua, whose dad comes from Ireland, Aidan Nielsen, whose dad is Danish, Fina

MacFarlane, whose mum hails from Germany and Fran Narveaz, who has Spanish parentage.

The class also learned about all the different Christmas customs in European countries.

Lochaber foresters rewarded

TWO FOREST Enterprise Scotland employees from Lochaber have been admitted as professional members to the Institute of Chartered Foresters after examinations last month.

Kate Tuer, from Ballachulish, and Henry Dobson, from Banavie, both work from the district office at Torlundy. Lochaber district manager Kevin Peace told The Oban Times: 'It is fantastic that they have both gained chartered status because it increases their professional standing in the world of forestry.'

Kate is also the only new entrant awarded a distinction by the assessment committee.

Pupils help British Heart Foundation

A GROUP of first year pupils from Lochaber High School presented Lisa Stafford of the British Heart Foundation with a cheque for £400.

The funds were raised earlier in the year when the annual 'High School Hike' amassed a magnificent £8,000.

Most of the money raised goes towards supporting extra-curricular activities in the school but each year 10 per cent is donated to charity.

This year, the school's pupil councils decided to split the donation between the British Heart Foundation to help with the purchase of defibrillators for the local area, and 'November' to raise awareness and helping the treatment of male cancers.

Fisherman had vodka up his jumper

A MALLAIG fisherman attempted to steal a bottle of vodka from a Fort William supermarket by hiding it up his jumper.

Appearing from custody, Lithuanian national Eric Osipovs pled guilty to shoplifting from the supermarket on December 18.

The 32 year-old was seen on CCTV and stopped by staff before he left the store.

Osipovs, whose address was given as the Mallaig Fisherman's Mission, was fined £100 by Sheriff Noel McPartlin.

Islanders 'routinely ripped off' claim Citizens Advice

A CITIZENS Advice Scotland report has found islanders are being 'routinely ripped off' - with unfair surcharges on deliveries averaging £18.60.

Complaints were received about 534 companies, of whom almost two thirds imposed extra charges or wouldn't deliver to the Scottish islands. The CAS findings have been passed to Trading Standards for investigation.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan, who has campaigned against the surcharges, said companies are making needless charges on small parcels which could easily be put in the post.

Understanding

He said: 'What is most frustrating is that, in most of these cases, companies refused to allow delivery by Royal Mail rather than by courier, even for small items.

'Either companies don't understand that the Royal Mail charges the same to deliver to Bernera as they do to Birmingham, or they are locked into contracts with couriers which prevent the Royal Mail being used.

'Either way a number of national companies need to heed the message contained in this report and start treating their island customers fairly.'



Senior pupils at Banavie Primary danced, sang and played games at their Christmas party. The school's hall was a hive of activity for the afternoon as they youngsters enjoyed one of their final school days before the festive break. The winners of a frenetic parcel competition are pictured with their prizes 20\_522banavie01

Taxi driver fined £200 after running over passenger

A FORT William taxi driver accidentally reversed into one of his passengers after dropping her off on Bank Street.

Alexander Livingstone pled guilty to careless driving by reversing when it was unsafe to do so on the hilly street.

The 59 year-old also admitted failing to give his name and address to the woman after the September 10 incident.

Livingstone, of 20 Inverloch Court, was fined £200 and given five penalty points.

New Year message from Councillor Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber

AS PROVOST of Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy prosperous New Year to all Oban Times readers.

Coping well

Considering Europe is gripped in the midst of the worst financial crisis in living memory, I believe Lochaber is coping well.

With the Blar Mor development well under way, bringing large supermarket choice to Lochaber, a new police station and ambulance station, it is estimated that £50 million will be spent here.

£30 million is about to be spent bringing our primary schools up to modern community hub standards in a 'spend to save' programme, as well as £12 million due in April 2013 to



Provost Allan Henderson is confident about 2013 20\_522allan01

complete the High school.

This taken with the £90 million spent by Rio Tinto on grading their hydropower system, BSW's new build on the old paper mill site, Marine Harvest's proposal to extend by including filleting lines and their new £12,000,000 smolt farm at Lochailort, along with the proposed £800,000,000 Choire Ghlais power storage scheme, surely shows that our major companies have faith in Lochaber and we can look forward with confidence.

Investment

These projects will bring employment for up to the next six years. The investment in marinas in Lochaline and Mallaig has borne fruit this year, with increased use of all our yachting facilities.

The completion of the new build at the West End of town is also welcomed. These new tenancies along with the proposal to visually enhance some of the unoccupied premises should give the town centre a better image.

Community initiatives at Kilmallie Hall, Caol Community Centre and Kilmallie Shinty Club have enhanced the leisure facilities for all our inhabitants in Lochaber.

It would have been nice to land the hoped for all-weather facility on the Blar, but unfortunately we could not convince everyone in the merit of this. However, Lochaber High school will benefit from the £500,000 of community funding that was earmarked for this project, by replacing the

failing old 1G pitch with a G3 one.

The council will also be continuing to lobby for the upgrade of the A82, focusing on Inverman to Tarbet.

We have been extremely fortunate with the weather this summer, which has certainly helped what could have been a very difficult tourist season, with both the Olympic events and the World Cup.

Ben Nevis, the West Highland Way, the Great Glen Way, Nevis Range and the Harry Potter/Jacobite steam train continue to attract valued tourists.

In all, this has been a really good year, with a lot to look forward to in 2013. Lochaber is truly a great place to live and work in.

Warning over 'legal highs'

'We hope that our young people will exercise good sense over the festive season'

HIGHLAND Council has circulated guidance to secondary school pupils and parents on the dangers of so-called 'legal highs'.

All 29 secondary school head teachers have received a fact sheet to share with pupils explaining what legal high drugs are and their potentially harmful side effects.

The advice also highlights 'the extreme danger' of mixing any drugs, including alcohol.

The move comes after a 12 year-old boy was hospitalised following an incident in Nairn.

Northern Constabulary recently issued warnings to youngsters and parents to be aware of legal high substances with names including Black Mamba Max, Blue cheese, Max Revolution and Red Dragon.

Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland confirmed the fact sheet had been circulated to the guidance department.

He told The Oban Times: 'Undoubtedly these substances are within the community and are being used in the community. I am not aware of it being an issue within the school at all.'

He added: 'Drug awareness education is a big part of our social education programme and the use of so-called legal highs is a concern for all parents.'

'We hope that our young people will exercise good sense over the festive season.'

Councillor Alasdair Christie, chairman of the adult and children's committee, said: 'Because legal high drugs are so new, and because they are changing all the time, very little is known about them.'

'By widely circulating the fact sheet to schools, youth workers, and young people it is hoped that this will contribute to reducing harmful behaviour over the festive period and beyond.'



Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland is urging young people to use 'good sense'

REPORT BY STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Inspector Tom Ogilvie of Northern Constabulary said: 'Legal' does not mean safe. The dangers of these so-called 'legal highs' are unknown and mixing them with another drug or alcohol, can result in even more severe consequences. 'We would strongly advise anyone against consuming any unknown substances and would urge anyone suffering from adverse effects to seek immediate medical attention.'

Deborah Stewart, coordinator with the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership said the group is mounting a preventing overdose campaign over the festive period.

She added: 'It is important that young people are aware that these products - despite being labelled as legal - are not safe.'

Legal high users have reported include nose bleeds, heart palpitations, changes in behaviour or personality, severe confusion, nausea and vomiting, anxiety and sleeplessness. Some legal highs can also cause psychosis and dependency.

Advertisement for Fish Farmer magazine, featuring a 'Subscribe Now!' banner, the magazine cover, and contact information for the UK only at £75.00.

Advertisement for Oban Times digital edition, titled 'Relax and enjoy Your local news from wherever you are', highlighting features like user-friendly viewing and search.

Large advertisement for Scottish Field 2013 calendars, with the text 'OUT NOW!' and 'Scottish Field 2013 calendars'. It includes an order online link and a phone number.

Advertisement for Krisp Print, showing various colored ink cartridges and a rainbow graphic. It lists services like Design, Copy, and Print, and provides contact details for a hassle-free service throughout Argyll.

**Teenager ordered to be of good behaviour**

A CAOL teenager who left his friend needing hospital treatment after an argument about alcohol got out of hand has been ordered to be of good behaviour for six months. Arran Watson, of 7 Alexander Square, pled guilty to assaulting the 23-year-old man by punching and kicking him on the head and body to his injury. The incident occurred on Glenkingie Street in the village on November 9. Fort William Sheriff Court heard the man had agreed to buy alcohol for Watson, but refused to give him change. After being beaten up, the victim was taken to hospital with severe bruising and grazing on his back and around his eyes and forehead.

**Man admonished**

A FORT William man who admitted pushing two women has been admonished after six months of good behaviour. Arturs Puce, aged 28, of 1 Mull Court, pled guilty to assaulting the woman in his house on July 5.

**Fined for pushing police officer**

A FORT William teenager been fined £65 for pushing a police officer on the chest. Bradley Cameron, 54 Riverside Park, Lochside, pled guilty to assaulting the officer outside the Nevis Centre in the early hours of December 15. Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 17-year-old spent a night in custody after the incident.

**Woman denies failing to give breath specimen**

AN ARDGOUR woman has denied failing to give a breath specimen to police after being suspected of drink driving. Lorna Kennedy, of Tigh na Sealgar, 4 Clovullin, was stopped by police on Achintore Road in the early hours of Saturday December 8, and was taken to the police station where she did not give a sample of breath.

The 22-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on January 31.



Cute cubs: Bubble and Squeak will spend at least a year at the International Otter Survival Fund at Broadford before being released back into the wild.

**Otter rescue centre welcomes young Bubble and Squeak**

TWO EIGHT-WEEK old otter cubs have arrived at an Isle of Skye rescue centre after being found abandoned in England.

Bubble and Squeak are currently making excellent progress at the International Otter Survival Fund's (IOSF) base at Broadford.

The tiny female cubs were saved after they were heard crying in a garden in the Lake District.

Wisely, the person who found them left them alone to see if their mother would return but after two days there was still no sign of her.

The furry duo were taken to the Aquarium of the Lakes on Lake Windermere for a few

days before being transferred to the IOSF's cub unit in Broadford. Bubble was found to have a sore paw - but staff report the injury is healing and both youngsters are feeding well. Janet Wildgoose of IOSF said the fate of the cubs' mother was unknown, but it was likely she had been killed. She told *The Oban Times*: 'Their mum could have been hit with a car, anything - we just don't know.'

'The cubs will be with us for at least a year. We hope to release them, probably back where they came from, in the spring of 2014.'

She added: 'They are both doing very well.'

**Sex offender on register**

A CAOL man has been placed on the sex offenders register after admitting possessing 53 indecent pictures of children - some as young as three - on his computer.

Cathel Gillanders, aged 45, pled guilty to possessing images on a laptop, a hand held computer and four USB memory sticks and saving the images to his hard drive between January 26 and May 13 2010.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard one of the images was at level five, the most serious end of the scale, with the majority at the least serious level. Offshore worker Gillanders,

of 4 Erracht Drive, came under suspicion after communicating with a man whose email address was 'known to police' as a potential source of child pornography.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said Gillanders' family members also had access to the laptop, but that Gillanders' account was password protected.

Forensic analysis of electronic equipment showed Gillanders had deleted a small number of the pictures, but others had been sorted into files.

Bail was continued until February 11 for reports.

**Three men to stand trial accused of birthday party assault**

THREE men are to stand trial accused of assaulting two men and a woman during a fracas at a Fort William birthday party. Brothers Ian Roy, 28, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan, and Frazer Roy, 25, of 38 Blaberryhill Road, Whitburn, are accused of repeatedly punching and kicking Dennis Roy on the head and body

to his injury. The pair previously admitted a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest. But further police inquiries into the incident at the BA Club on November 3 resulted in more charges. Fraser Roy is also accused of headbutting

Callum Duncan and repeatedly striking him on the head and body to his injury.

**Injury**  
A third man, Derek Cumming, of 22 The Avenue, Whitburn, denies punching both Dennis Roy and Callum Duncan on the face to their injury. The 43-year-old is also accused of

punching Sharon Cameron on the face, knocking her to the ground and kicking her on the face to her injury.

The three men are due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 11, with a preliminary hearing set for January 30.

**Scallop fisherman banned from driving and fined after crash**

A MALLAIG scallop fisherman has been banned from driving for 15 months and fined £600 after failing to give breath specimens to police.

Damien MacDonald was suspected of drink driving after

crashing his work van into a railway bridge near Glenfinnan on the A830 at around 3am on Saturday December 8.

Officers who arrived on the scene said the 29-year-old appeared 'highly intoxicated'.

Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'He could barely stand, he smelled of alcohol and he was slurring his words.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said MacDonald, of 11 Cameron

Avenue, had been drinking earlier in the night.

He said: 'He went home and fell asleep.'

'He woke up in the middle of the night and decided to drive to Fort William.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'It was highly irresponsible of you to drive your vehicle at this time.'

'It's clear from the accounts that you were in no fit condition to be driving.'

**Firefighters strike while iron is hot**

**Home visit team swing into action**

FORT William firefighters have set up a 'hot strike' team in Lochaber to visit higher risk households and offer smoke alarms to vulnerable people.

The initiative, the brainchild of Lochaber group manager Pat McElhinney at the Fort William district office, involves two retained firefighters targeting properties that have had fires and fire alarms in the last 12 months, together with surrounding addresses.

Groups receiving advice are people living on their own - including single parents, low income families, people living with mental and/or physical impairment, smokers, people with alcohol and/or drugs issues and the over 60s.

Mr McElhinney highlighted the case of a young Caol woman, who suffered severe burns to her body after setting fire to her nightie and dressing gown with a tea light on December 12.

The hot strike team swung into action the next day by visiting nearby properties to raise awareness and help protect other members of the community.

Mr McElhinney warned candles and flammable materials were a potentially dangerous

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

combination. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Tea lights in the home were the cause of the incident. Please place them above waist height, out the reach of children and in a proper holder. Please be vigilant this Christmas and lets all enjoy the festive period in the best way - safe.'

Home visits, said Mr McElhinney, will not take long but the information and advice that is given could save a life.

**Visit**  
He said: 'I would like everyone in the community to look at the list of high risk groups named and provide at least one person they know who would benefit from a visit from our hot strike team.'

'We are here to help and support the community and I would like the team to complete as many visits before the end of April as they can.'

Anyone wishing a home safety check should contact the Fort William district office on 01397 707670.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service is currently evaluating the initiative.



Hot strike team: Chris Findlay, left, and Alex Campbell, right, with Pat McElhinney.

# Business

**DEAN STOVE CENTRE**

Please note we will be open on Saturday 29th December 10am - 2pm then we are closed until Monday 7th January 2013.

We offer:

- Professional installation, survey and fitting service
- Stove spares and accessories
- Chimney liners and cowls
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We can even custom build your own log store to your own requirements

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Castle Stalker View, Appin

**We are OPEN**

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Thu 27th Dec - Mon 31st Dec  
AND 2nd, 3rd & 4th Jan 2013  
10am - 4pm  
Food served all day

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We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our valued customers for their trade in 2012 and look forward to cooking for them again in 2013

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FESTIVE OPENING HOURS:  
Open Daily until Sunday 7th January 2013 from 11am until close with food served from noon to 9pm. January WEEKENDS only through to February half term hols.

HOGMANAY PARTY - dinner, live music, midnight bonfire and fireworks, late licence. Table bookings essential.

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Open as usual except Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Years Day and 2nd January

Mot's, Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales  
Unit 6, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban.  
Tel: 01631 566502/566470

**What's On at Markie Dans**

FRIDAY 28th 11AM - 2AM - Tim Oconnor - 2am closing time

SATURDAY 29th 11AM-2AM - Tim Oconnor - 2am closing time

SUNDAY 30th 11AM - 2AM - End of year Quiz then Disco afterwards - 2am closing time

MONDAY 31st 11AM - 3AM - New years Disco with DJ Stevo - 3am closing time

TUESDAY 1st 12PM - 3AM - Chris Suckle - 3am closing time

Markie Dan's, Victoria Green, Corran Esplanade, Oban  
Tel: 01631 564448

**Prepare for winter at your local Jewson**

Opening Hours are as follows;  
27th December 8am -12pm  
28th December 8am -12pm  
29th December 8am- 12pm  
Closed 30th & 31st December, 1st & 2nd January

Open as Usual from 3rd January 2013 from 7.30am-5pm

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Live music throughout the festive season from 9pm

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# Review of the Year 2012

The Oban Times  
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

MAY

## UBC Group in administration

SOUTH UIST construction firm UBC Group, formerly Uist Builders (Construction) Limited, has gone into administration, threatening the jobs of its 277 employees across Scotland.

Zolfo Cooper has been appointed administrators for the building and civil engineering firm which has offices in Daliburgh, Stornoway, Inverness, Glasgow and Tayside. Storas Uibhist chairman Huw Francis said: 'They've been a good employer over the years and it's going to be a big blow to lose those jobs from the island. It's difficult economic times just now and these things can't be helped.'

## Ardnamurchan health care in crisis

PRIMARY medical care in Ardnamurchan, Moidart and Sunart is facing an unprecedented crisis after the two GPs announced they are to quit.

Dr Rob Colebrook and Dr Simon Topham, partners in Acharacle Medical Practice, have confirmed they plan to step down on August 31. Practice manager Julie Colebrook has also resigned from her position.

As well as the GP surgery, the two doctors provided emergency out-of-hours care for much of west Lochaber until late last year when they informed NHS Highland they wished to cease providing cover out of normal hours.

The partners said the decision to leave had been 'extremely difficult', but after working day and night for nearly four years felt the demands were too great.



Ballachulish girl Lyndsay Michie was shortlisted for top chef award.

## Ballachulish girl in top chef awards

A FORMER Kinlochleven High School pupil is off to Wembley Stadium - after reaching the final three in the apprentice chef category at the Craft Guild of Chef awards.

Lyndsay Michie, from Ballachulish, has been working at Michel Roux Junior's Le Gavroche restaurant in London for the past two years after impressing the Michelin-starred TV chef with her skills.

Lyndsey, 19, said: 'The awards are a fantastic way to pay tribute to chefs from across the industry and I can't wait for Wembley!'



Danny McMaster swam out to save a young Oban boy from drowning.

## Oban man saves 'lilo' five-year old

A YOUNG Oban man became the hero of the day at the end of May as he saved a five-year-old boy from being swept out to sea on a lilo.

In sea conditions described as 'a recipe for disaster', with a strong offshore breeze and out-going tide, the inflatable had drifted 200 metres out to sea from the shore at Ganavan Sands.

As worried onlookers phoned the coastguard, storeman Danny McMaster, who had clocked off from work early to enjoy the sunshine at Ganavan, swam out to save young Oban boy John Scott.



The Leverburgh volunteers celebrate the arrival of the new boat.

## Leverburgh celebrates new lifeboat

RESIDENTS on the Isle of Harris celebrated the port of Leverburgh becoming home to Scotland's newest lifeboat station.

Hundreds of people came to the pier to see the arrival of the RNLI all-weather lifeboat 'Lifetime Care'.

The station is being run on a 12-month trial basis after locals raised

concerns about an increase in marine traffic and the length of time required for a lifeboat to arrive from either of the nearest stations at Barra or Stornoway.

It is estimated that the Leverburgh volunteers could be called out up to 10 times a year to help people and vessels in distress.

## Mallaig celebrates opening of new £950,000 pontoons

LARGE crowds gathered at Mallaig Harbour to celebrate the official opening of the port's new £950,000 yachting pontoons.

The facility, which was completed last September, comprises of berthing for up to 48 yachts with water and electricity services available.

Officials from Donegal County Council, whose Sail West project has helped fund the new marina, attended the celebrations along with representatives of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and Highland Council. Sail West chairman Garry Martin was assisted by local schoolchildren Shannon Cameron and Cian MacVarish to cut the ribbon to officially open the new facility.



## Henson boosts Lochaber Rural Education Trust charity night

LOCHABER Rural Education Trust (LRET) raised more than £9,000 at a charity dinner with celebrity guest speaker and BBC Countryfile presenter Adam Henson.

Mr Henson's entertaining and motivating talk on his passion for farming and preserving rural culture was well received by 165 guests at Caol Community Centre.

Showing expertise as an auctioneer, Mr Henson also cleared all 30 donated lots to raise £2,500 towards the total.

His dancing talent was on display too as he kicked his heels at the ceilidh dance which followed.

LRET trustee Isabel Campbell said: 'It was a fantastic night.'



Lochaber Rural Education Trust trustees Don Michie, Isabel Campbell, Rev Donald MacQuarrie, Linda Cambell and Michael Foxley, guests Pat MacQuarrie, centre, Lawrence MacEwen of Muck (behind) and Provost of Lochaber Allan Henderson, second right, share a photocall with Adam Henson, third left. 20\_120adam01



One of the WW2 mortar rounds found on the Singing Sands.

## Bomb disposal on Singing sands

DOZENS of World War II mortar rounds were uncovered and blown up by specialist Navy bomb disposal teams on a beach in north Ardnamurchan.

The exercise over dunes at Kentra near Ardtoe, known locally as the Singing Sands, took place over five days.

The operation followed a similar exercise on January 24 when a specialist team from Faslane exploded 14 mortars discovered by Salen coastguard team member Tom Jackson.

Winter storms in December redistributed huge amounts of sand along the scenic beach, exposing shells used during training manoeuvres for the 1944 D-Day landings in Normandy.

## Sleat's spring fair

BUN SGOIL Shlèite enjoyed a rare day of sunshine for its annual spring fair.

With great support by the community, parents and local business, those attending the event had plenty to enjoy from the bakery stall, pony rides, face painting, beat the goalie and - for the first time ever - a Junior MasterChef challenge.

Judged by Sleat's own 'Mary Berry', Carol 'Cake' Currie, the competition drew a mouthwatering array of entries, leaving Carol 'delighted and amazed' by the quality of desserts.



Junior Masterchef judge Carol Currie about to sample one of the winning entries.



Kyle fire crew presented cash to three good causes at Kyle Fire Station after raising an incredible £3,000 at dances, ceilidhs and an annual raft race. The cheque handover saw Macmillan Cancer Support, Crossroads Care and the Special Care Baby Unit at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness each receive £1,000. Crew manager Michael Henderson said: 'A big thank you to all that supported these events.'

## New council leader at Argyll and Bute

ARGYLL and Bute Council leader Roddy McCuish took the reins following May's elections and promised to be 'open and transparent' as he outlined his plans to improve living standards across the county.

Roddy told *The Oban Times* he wanted to elevate the county's roads from some of the worst in the country to some of the best and education would also receive greater focus under the new alliance's proposals.

He said: 'Everything we have been asked to do are things that would make life better for everybody across Argyll and Bute.'

'Often, most of these things don't have a cost implication. We have a strong plan to work towards everything we outlined in our manifesto.'



## Festival of the Sea highlights

HUNDREDS of people took advantage of the good weather to enjoy the first days of the Festival of the Sea in the middle of May.

Open days at the Northern Lighthouse Board and Oban Sailing Club were among the highlights with the warm conditions providing the perfect opportunity for families to see for themselves how some of most easily recognised residents of Oban's bay operate.

Sisters Alex and Edie Elliot even found out what it would be like to skip the Northern Lighthouse Board's *Pole Star* on Saturday, guided by chief officer Neil MacLean.



## The Oban Times Bonnie Baby of 2012

THE OBAN Times Bonnie Baby of 2012 was announced at the start of May with this year's lucky winner Abbey Prosser from Oban.

Mum Denise Maccoll said she was delighted Abbey had won after a 'scary and emotional' start to the year.

'When I found out she had won I just screamed with excitement. I didn't know what to say,' said Denise.

'The family are all delighted she won after what she has been through and it is a nice story for us to tell her when she is older. We want to thank everyone who voted for Abbey.'



## Success in the sun for Highlands and Islands Music Festival

THE SUN shone on some bright stars of the future at the 29th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The festival attracted competitors from around the country but some of the highlights came from Argyll. The choreography competition in the Corran Halls attracted a good crowd.



Some of the many dancers at the 29th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.



## Mull soldier aims to recruit others

Above - Young Mull man Declan Taylor, 20, returned from his duties with the Territorial Army in Afghanistan and took on the job of recruiting others. The young private had escaped a few close calls on his six-month tour of duty with the TA where he was attached to 3 SCOTS, Black Watch. He said: 'I was nervous to start with but got used to it although I had a few close calls when I was there. The day we arrived my laptop got shot. I was just away to watch a DVD but there was a bullet right through it.'

Right - Children in Taynuilt waved a sad goodbye to their much loved lollipop man as he retired in May. The pupils put on a special concert for Willie Campbell, who had been at the school for a total of 37 years, spending the first 17 as a janitor. Mr Campbell said he was a 'wee bit sad' to be leaving but had his golf and gardening to keep him busy.



# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Review of the Year 2012



## Clan Maclean marches 1,000 strong to the gates Duart Castle

LATE June marked a happy occasion at Duart Castle on Mull as over 1,000 members of the Clan Maclean came together for a centenary gathering.

The day began with a march up to the gates of the castle, led by the Mull and Iona Pipe Band, before Robin Maclean of Ardgour invited the assembled clansmen to 'call on the chief'.

Sir Lachlan welcomed the clan to Duart and thanked them for coming on the centenary of the original celebration of the castle being returned to Maclean ownership.

He told the assembled crowd he appreciated them travelling from all over the world to be at Duart for the occasion.

'My father wrote once that the sea that washes on the rocks below my window is the same sea that washes on the beaches or the rocks below where you live,' he said.

## Lochgilthead schoolgirl's blog hits worldwide headlines

HOLLYWOOD came knocking at the door of a Lochgilthead family after a blog about school dinners hit the global headlines in June this year.

Lochgilthead Joint Campus pupil, Martha Payne, made waves across the world at the when Argyll and Bute Council tried to stop the nine-year-old's NeverSeconds blog by confiscating her camera.

There was worldwide outrage as thousands of followers turned to millions in the wake of the row, forcing the authority to make a dramatic u-turn and give Martha her camera back.

It has also drawn the attention to script-writers and production companies, keen to turn the tale into a saga for the silver screen.

Dad Dave has been overwhelmed by the response. 'It is absolutely crazy,' he said. 'It's been a lot of work. The blog is getting more than 1,000 emails an hour. We've had about 10 calls from American media groups looking at film and TV.'

'To be fair, we're trying to keep Martha out of the limelight, but you can't stop it all.'



## Mallaig pensioner awarded MBE



Jessie Corson was awarded an MBE for Mallaig community work

A MALLAIG pensioner's years of dedication to her local community have been rewarded with an MBE.

And Jessie Corson almost turned down the award through modesty after being given news she would be in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Jessie, who lives in Fank Brae with husband Bobby, said: 'I thought I was going to say 'no'. I have been very embarrassed for the last few days.'

'I don't think I'm doing anything special - I think everybody should be doing something for a small community.'

## Steam train sets fire to 100 acres near Morar

FIRE CHIEFS are demanding crisis talks with Network Rail and steam train operators after wildfires cindered moorland along the Fort William to Mallaig line.

A huge blaze blackened over 100 acres near Morar on June 4 and a second fire broke out at Corpach the next day.

Up to 30 retained firefighters from Fort William, Acharacle, Mallaig and Spean Bridge were deployed to tackle the fires.

## Loch Duich pipers

LOCHALSH'S annual junior piping competition on the shores of Loch Duich on June 9 again attracted a good entry of young players keen to take home the silverware.

The Eilean Donan Piping Competition in Dornie saw no fewer than 18 players take part in the beginners' chanter.

Main prizewinners were Martin MacRae from Kyleakin Primary, who won the overall B-Grade Piping and Cameron Sharp from Plockton, who won the overall A-Grade.

Owen Jack from Loch Duich Primary won the B-Grade chanter, while Lucy Martin from Kyle Primary won the A-Grade. Judges were Karen MacLean from Inverinate and John Don MacKenzie from Dornie.

## Huge cruise ship visits Fort William



The Ocean Countess dwarfs the Corran Ferry as she sails through the narrows on Monday morning.



## Parents furious as talented teachers as released

FURIOUS parents in Skye and Lochaber have accused Highland Council not giving talented trainee teachers the chance to apply for permanent posts.

Kilmuir and Lady Lovat primaries are among dozens of schools with a probationer teacher who have excelled - but will be replaced by new probationers after the summer holidays.

Lady Lovat will lose P1-P3 teacher Gemma Stevenson, from nearby Arisaig and who is getting married in two weeks.

Kilmuir, meanwhile, will say goodbye to English medium teacher Donald MacDonald, a native of Skye and a Gaelic speaker.

Parent councils at the two-teacher schools say both probationers are 'outstanding' and deserve the chance to continue their work.



Innes MacQueen played a stirring lament as Luings jubilee beacon burned. t23luing1no

## Jubilee beacons burn throughout the west

JUBILEE beacons lit up the skies throughout the west coast of Scotland as fires burned from Ben Cruachan to Dunoon early in June.

Organisers ranged from individuals to community councils, rescue groups and even round tables.

Flames were seen in Oban, on Mull, out towards Coll, Tiree, Jura and Islay while Luings put on a musical lament by a sole piper as their beacon burned.



## St Columba's primary pupils make lunch for the Queen

JUNE also saw a right Royal occasion for pupils of an Oban primary school. Youngsters from St Columba's Primary School visited Buckingham Palace and Clarence House as they helped to prepare lunch for HM the Queen.

The eight primary seven pupils travelled to London with head teacher Sarah Jane MacSween and teachers Imogen McKenna and Pamela Lockhart after winning the Cook for the Queen competition, organised as part Her Majesty's diamond jubilee celebrations.

Pupil Jack Forgivee charmed Her Majesty by explaining the pupils made lavender shortbread, because the Queen 'looked lovely in lavender'.



Faye MacKinnon, left, and Laura Robertson were among the winners at the annual Mòd Lochabair Mòd chairman Charlie MacColl was delighted with the entry of more than 100 children across all competitions. 20\_f24mod05.

## New family settle on Rum



THE ISLE of Rum Community Trust's newest crofting family are settling in well in their new island home.

The Goddards - mum Nic, dad Andy and children Scarlett and Davies, originally from Sussex, chose the Isle of Rum after wandering the country looking for their ideal home.

Nic told *The Oban Times*: 'This is an amazing place to raise our children, make our home and create a living for ourselves.'

'Within a very short time we already feel part of the community and very much at home.'

## JUNE

### Dunstaffnage round house find is a first for Scotland

JUNE saw an archaeological find near Oban that was the first of its kind in Scotland. Dr Clare Ellis, of Argyll Archaeology, had been working at the site of a housing development at Dunstaffnage when she uncovered six round houses.

The round houses are about 4,000 to 5,000 years old but the features called ring ditches inside these houses that are perhaps the most significant and have certainly drawn the most attention.

Dr Ellis said: 'The general consensus with ring ditches is that they are outside the house and created by animals wearing down the ground.'

'But these are in the interior and there is no way they could be produced by animals. It looks like some kind of cellarage. This has never been seen before and it is really exciting.'

### Duart claymore is stolen from Mull



A claymore from the castle similar to the stolen item.

NOT ALL events in June were quite so happy, an appeal was launched by a clan chief on the Isle of Mull for the return of a historic item stolen from his castle.

Sir Lachlan Maclean of Duart Castle noticed a claymore had been stolen when a security check of the castle was carried out early in the month.

Sir Lachlan, the 28th chief of the Clan Maclean told *The Oban Times*: 'All of us at Duart are very saddened by the recent theft of the claymore from the castle's banqueting hall.'

'Every summer we are delighted to welcome visitors and Macleans from all over the world to our clan home.'

'It is very sad that one act of theft has taken away a part of the castle's history which we will no longer be able to share with our visitors in the future.'

### Strong turnout at Mòd Aird nam Murchan



KAYLEIGH Morrison of Bunscoil Malaig (Mallaig Primary School) was among the winners at Mòd Aird nam Murchan in Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan (Ardnamurchan High School) and Arainn Shuaincirt (The Sunart Centre) in Strontian on June 15.

The event attracted the usual strong turnout from across Lochaber, with competitors drawn from the five Ardnamurchan primary schools, Mallaig, Tobermory and Ardscoil Aird nam Murchan itself.

Parents and teachers watched on as more than 130 children took to the stage.

Competitions included Gaelic choir and soloing singing, action song, Gaelic poetry recital, conversational Gaelic as well as music competitions, such as fiddle and clarsach playing.

### Scalpay school closure marked with ceilidh

SCALPAY Community Centre hosted an evening ceilidh on June 15 to mark the closing of Scalpay School and the move to Sir E Scott School in Tarbert on Harris.

Many with connections to the school, past and present, attended.

Scalpay head teacher Aileen Macsween said the event provided a wonderful opportunity for folk to meet and reminisce in the midst of the sadness of the school closure.

# Review of the Year 2012

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

**JULY**

**Uist wool company gains £90,000 grant for Grimsay**

A NORTH Uist wool-making company is celebrating after being awarded a £90,000 grant to build a new spinning mill on Grimsay.

Uist Wool was granted the funds by LEADER Innes Gail programme. The award follows a £50,000 grant from the committee's sustainable development committee.

The money will go towards mill construction and start-up costs, with work expected to start later this year with the first yarns ready in summer 2013.

Uist Wool committee member Dana MacPhee said: 'We can now get ahead with securing planning permission for the mill, confirming a timetable for building work and the all important installation of the machinery.'

**No reform of Crown Estate angers Highlands**

THE UK Government this week binned MPs' radical proposals to reform the Crown Estate, provoking a storm of protest from the West Highlands and islands.

Hopes had been high the coalition government would back a Scottish Affairs Committee report that Scotland's communities should assume control of Crown Estate assets, which include half the country's coast and almost all its seabed.

Instead, the Crown Estate is to revamp its operations by setting up a Scottish management board, with its Scottish Commissioner as chair.

Minor concessions include transferring control of oyster and mussel fishing in Scottish waters to 'suitable bodies'.

In a Treasury report published on July 10, the Government said it was 'not persuaded' on devolution of the Crown Estate to Scotland, stating existing arrangements 'should be retained as a matter of public interest'.

Former Highland Council leader Michael Foxley described the news as 'utterly appalling'.



Fort Augustus fiddler Rona Cooper celebrated her 21st birthday at the summer feis 20. f30feis03

**Fort Augustus celebrates 10th Feis**

FÈIS GLEANN Albainn marked its 10th annual summer feis at Kilchuim Academy in Fort Augustus with a birthday celebration.

Fiddle tutor Rona Cooper turned 21 on July 19 during the event - and spent much of her big day handing on her skills to eager youngsters.

Rona, who was born and brought up in the village, is herself a product of the feisean movement and attended the first ever summer feis back in 2003 at the age of 11.

The talented Edinburgh-based musician said: 'There's a whole lot of young musicians coming through, which is really nice because I can think back to when I was at that stage.'

Co-organiser Tracey MacCallum added: 'The feis is so important to traditional music, the Gaelic movement and our history and heritage.'



From front, Glengarry children Evie Kocjan-Briggs, Eleanor Littlewood, Joseph Kocjan-Briggs and Lucy Bloom are impressed by the crofting display 20. f30garry01



**Hart wins at Arisaig Games**

David Hart of Fort William, pictured putting the 22lb shot, was best local heavy athlete at Arisaig Highland Games on July 25.

The games committee and a small army of volunteers cast anxious eyes to the skies but fears of rain proved groundless as bright and sunny conditions prevailed.

Ranald Alexander MacDonald, 24th Chief of Clanranald, sons Ranald Angus and Andrew Ivor and their families led the parade onto the field at Trigh Farm.

Fear an taigh, Arisaig-born man William MacLennan, provided spectators with expert and informative commentary.

Mod gold medalist Margaret MacLellan (Ford) from Mingarry in Moirdart drew warm applause for a beautiful rendition of the Gaelic air Oran Arasaig, written by Moirdart tailor John MacIntyre.

**School staff retire after 100 years of combined service at Fort William**

FORT WILLIAM RC Primary School waved farewell to three longstanding members of staff.

At a packed end of term assembly, teachers Anne Sutherland and Moira Campbell, together with school cleaner Marie Kennedy were showered with gifts, flowers, cards and good wishes on their retirement. The teachers have each served 37 years at the school and Marie 29 - a combined total of 103 years.

An emotional Anne said: 'We have so many happy memories of our time working at St Mary's. It's a great wee school.'



Goodbye St Mary's! Anne Sutherland, Marie Kennedy and Moira Campbell have given over 100 years combined service to the school 20. f27retira01

**Sun shines on West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports**

The Curtis family from Kilchoan scooped an armful of trophies at West Ardnamurchan Show and Sports on July 20 after their Blackface sheep impressed the judges.

Local crofter Rosie, with children Megan, Allan and Chloe, claimed the overall champion sheep title and several other cups.

The event yet again struck it lucky with the weather as hundreds enjoyed a day out in Kilchoan.

Show and sports chairman Gus MacLean said: 'Once again the day allowed exiles to come home and catch up on news, families to mix and take part in the varied events, and visitors to enjoy West Highland hospitality in glorious surroundings.'

**Flower festival in Glengarry**

A FOUR-DAY flower festival in Glengarry Parish Church of Scotland came to an end on July 22 amid rave reviews from locals and visitors.

The donations-only exhibition comprised 21 beautifully composed flower displays around the church interior, sited to make best use of sunlight flooding through the windows.

Under the general theme of 'with these hands' eight arrangements celebrated 'giving' and the work of charities such as the British Heart Foundation Water for Africa and Highland Hospice.

Helper Belle Henderson told *The Oban Times*: 'The festival has brought people together from throughout the whole community - it is a real community effort.'



Stewart Barr thought he was seeing things after coming home to find Blondie in his garden.

**Stewart finds big Blondie waiting for him**

A BENDERLOCH man got the fright of his life after finding a 10ft Blondie sitting in his garden at 3am on July 1.

Stewart Barr returned to his Tralee home in the early hours of Sunday morning to find a large seal sitting in his drive, with a broken flipper.

Little did he know the bulky fibreglass model made its way to his house all the way from the front of the Sea Life Sanctuary, over three and a half miles away.

Thankfully, he didn't have a heart of glass and he managed to compose himself enough to call dad Peter, who immediately recognised it as Blondie, the 10ft by 4ft mascot that usually lives outside Barcaldine's Sea Life Sanctuary over three and a half miles away.

**Portree primary are top of the class**

PORTREE Primary School is top of the class after winning the sporting initiative or partnership category at the UK TES School Awards 2012.

Representatives from the school travelled down to London for the gala lunch in the Park Lane Hilton on July 6.

Portree won the accolade for its outstanding approach to health, fitness and sport as a core part of its curriculum.

Headteacher John Finlayson stepped up to the stage to receive the award from host, comedian and TV presenter Rob Brydon.

Mr Finlayson told *The Oban Times*: 'I think this is a recognition of all the support we get at the school from parents, coaches and the business community.'



The Morvern Belly Dancers wowed the crowds at Morvern Games 20. f29morvern13

**Belly dancers spice-up Morvern Games day**

A BIT of oriental magic lit up Knock Park at Lochaline July 14 when the local belly-dancing group spiced up Morvern Games with a performance full of grace and poise.

Five women, led by Clare Holohan, danced three graceful routines in front of hundreds of spectators - with an old carpet for a stage.

The group's inaugural public appearance was in the marquee last year, but popular demand and perfect weather meant the girls could perform outdoors in the sunshine.

The seductive spectacle provided a perfect counterpoint to the grunting strongmen competing in the heavy events.

Local man Johnny Scouler returned home to be Games Chief for the highly successful day.



Lewis girl Laura MacLennan is Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI student of 2011-12.

**Laura is top Gaelic student of the year**

NATIVE Gaelic speaker Laura MacLennan has been named Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI student of the year.

Laura, from Lewis, was commended for her outstanding course work and passion for Gaelic while studying at the south Skye college.

The 21 year-old, who grew up in Barvas, has completed her final year of her BA (Hons) Gaelic and media studies degree.

**Roads washed away as heavy rain hits Mull**

RAIN wreaked havoc in Mull in July as flash flooding destroyed bridges, caused landslides and left tourists stranded.

The rain left a gaping hole in the road between Knock and the A849 junction where three bridges were also downed.

Police confirmed a group of 13 people, including a child, were stranded on the B8035 south of Salen as their cars were stuck between the devastated bridges.

The tourists were rescued by private boat owners from the Benmore and Ledmore Estates as former road engineer, Kaz Bailey, raced to the scene.



The floods left devastation on Mull's roads. Picture by Nancy Franklin.



Jean with her eight month old great grandson Flynn. 16. 127jean01

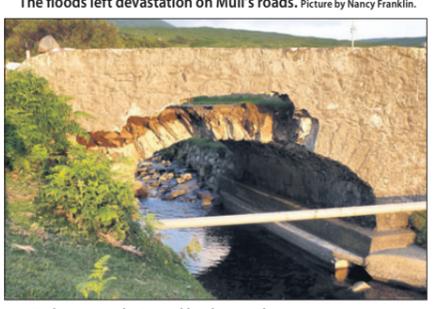
**Oban lady celebrates her 105th birthday**

IT WAS a big celebration for one special Oban lady as family and friends gathered at the start of July for her 105th birthday.

Jean Campbell welcomed family from around the world, including eight-month-old great grandson Flynn, for her birthday celebrations in Lynn Court.

She said: 'I don't know what the secret of a long life is, everything keeps you going, there are interesting people and I love the kids.'

'For your latter years I think Lynn Court is a very nice place to stay, I feel fine, I'm quite happy.'



Bridges were destroyed by the weather. Picture by Nancy Franklin.

**Princess Anne officially opens Isle of Coll hall**

MORE than 300 people crammed into Coll's new £2.5million hall, An Cridhe, to celebrate its opening in July, with Princess Anne lauding the islanders' efforts.

Officially opening the hall, the Princess Royal spoke of her admiration for the community in securing funding equivalent to more than £11,000 per resident to build the Arinagour facility.

'She told islanders that they should make sure they 'enjoy' the new building - the name of which is Gaelic for 'The Heart' which will play host to concerts, sports, theatre and education as the island's new community hub.

She said: 'It is hugely impressive as a building and as a way of bringing more people to Coll. They can enjoy their time here even more than they did before. It is, above all though, a place for you to use. That's the critical factor.'

Princess Anne is pictured before officially opening the building. 15. 125ancridhe1



Oban High School Pipe Band took to the field. 16. 130mull25

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

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Regional Press closer to home

# Christmas Party Nights



Homebase Oban had 41 staff members and partners on its Christmas night out at The Creel on Saturday night. 16\_152party09



The members of Spotlight Musical Theatre Group spent most of the night on the dancefloor at the Royal Hotel. 16\_152party07



Workers from Appin, representing R S MacColl and Son and S E Carmichael, and their guests enjoyed a night out at The Steakhouse last Saturday. 16\_152party01



Oban and Lorn District Hospital Ward A ladies danced the night away in the Royal Hotel. 16\_151party04

Below - Staff from child health and Oban and Lorn District Hospital celebrated their Christmas night out in the Royal Hotel. 16\_151party07



A group of friends with 'BT connections' enjoy a party night at the Royal Hotel. 16\_152party04



Left - Pictured on their staff night out at the Royal Hotel are the Oban High School dinner ladies. 16\_152party06

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Staff from Kilbowie Outdoor Centre had their Christmas night out on Saturday in the Royal Hotel. 16\_152party05



Above - The ladies from the Knitting Bee partied Friday night away at the Columba Hotel. 16\_151party03



Left - The Hector McFadyen Ceilidh Band provided the music for the work parties at the Royal Hotel on Saturday night. 16\_152party08

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# Your guide to Independent Schools

A world of opportunity and adventure for your child.

"Life is wonderful at Strathallan, and I have made so many friends. Most of the pupils board so it makes a huge difference to the atmosphere of the School and there is never a dull moment as we have so much to do academically as well as sport, music and activities."



## At home in school

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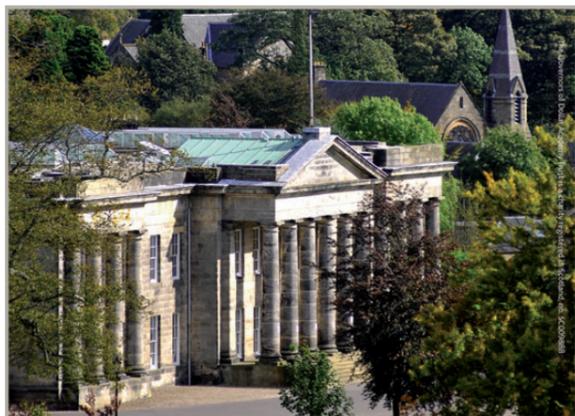
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10 Stafford Street, Helensburgh  
[www.lomond-school.org](http://www.lomond-school.org)

Lomond School is one of Scotland's most modern and progressive independent schools. Situated in Helensburgh on the edge of the Loch Lomond National Park, it was founded in 1977 building on the traditions of two previous independent schools in the town. Helensburgh has excellent road and rail links with the West Highlands and is only 35 minutes from Glasgow airport.

Facilities at the school are first class. A notable feature has been extensive investment in ICT and other facilities to enhance the learning environment. The school prides itself on its 'extra curricular provision with outstanding opportunities in sport, music/drama and outdoor education. In October 2009 a £3.5 million Sports Hall was opened. Exam results are outstanding with pupils in S5 performing at almost four times the national average for Higher passes and five times the Argyll and Bute average.

Boarding at Lomond is unique with Scotland's first coeducational boarding house opening its doors in 2003. Boys and girls are housed on separate floors with a communal ground floor with a variety of social spaces. Boys and girls living on the same site is a positive feature that has attracted families pleased that siblings can share the experience of boarding school living in the same building.

Boarders at Lomond come from many parts of Scotland. The school has long associations with the Highlands and Islands through its' bursaries in traditional music. Other means tested financial assistance may be available. Headmaster Simon Mills would be pleased to welcome families wishing to visit the school in the coming months.



## Entrance tests for 2013 admissions

Saturday 26th January, 2013

One of Scotland's leading independent schools, Dollar Academy welcomes girls and boys aged five to eighteen.

Bursaries are available. For full details of these, and for more information regarding entrance tests, please contact [registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk](mailto:registrar@dollaracademy.org.uk)

Excellence and opportunity  
Dollar Academy, Clackmannanshire, FK14 7DU



Dollar Academy is a 5-18 school, accepting both boys and girls as day pupils or boarders. The school is set in beautiful grounds, at the heart of the attractive country town of Dollar in Central Scotland, easily accessed by routes from the north and west.

Transition is easy for new pupils joining at any stage;

Dollar Academy follows the Scottish curriculum, with senior pupils studying towards Scottish Highers and Advanced Highers. Rated as one of the best academic schools in Scotland, pupils go on from Dollar to study at leading universities both in Scotland and around the world.

The strengths of this school lie in high-quality teaching, a wide range of subject choices and exceptional opportunities for participation and excellence in sport, music and the arts. Pupils can choose from over seventy different clubs and activities. Together with the excellent resources and facilities available, this enables the provision of a unique educational experience for every pupil.

Dollar Academy specialises in bringing out the best in young people. Dollar pupils have a reputation for combining a quiet confidence with enthusiasm and ambition. They are well balanced and down-to-earth: the school is very proud of their achievements.



## Questions to consider about independence



Choosing an independent school for your children's education is a big step so it's important to know the right questions to ask.

Scottish Council of Independent Schools (SCIS) gives information, advice and guidance about choosing an independent school. For more information, visit [scis.org.uk/for-parents](http://scis.org.uk/for-parents)

Call 0131 556 2316 for a copy of our free Guide, Questions to Consider.



Scan this QR code to view the website on your mobile phone.

### Questions to consider when visiting an independent school

Visiting a school is the only way to gain a true sense of what's on offer. Appointments can be made throughout term time by contacting the School's Admissions Secretary or Registrar.

#### What are your first impressions of pupils and staff?

Do pupils look happy? Are they friendly and courteous? Is their appearance smart? How do they interact with staff and visitors? You should receive a warm, friendly welcome from a senior member of staff who shows a genuine interest in your child's needs and abilities.

#### What about the curriculum and co-curriculum?

Is the curriculum broad? What outdoor activities are on offer? What proportion of pupils study sciences, languages and the arts? How are pupils prepared for university entrance?

#### Are the exam results consistently good?

Ask about leaver destinations and the proportion of pupils who secure a place at their first choice of university.

#### What is the pupil : teacher ratio?

Pupil : teacher ratios give a more accurate indicator than average class sizes. Be mindful that the learning environment in independent schools is purposeful and children are usually well behaved and keen to learn.

#### How is good conduct and discipline maintained?

How are any problems resolved? Does the school foster a "partnership" with parents, to ensure that there is a consistent approach at home and school?

#### How does the school keep parents informed about children's progress?

Ask how the school will communicate with you about your child's progress.

#### At boarding schools, what are the bedrooms and living spaces like?

Are the bedrooms warm and comfortable? Ask what activities are offered at evenings and weekends. What are the arrangements for seeing parents or guardians? For more information visit [www.scis.org.uk](http://www.scis.org.uk)

## their future starts here

Boarding & Day  
Boys & Girls aged 9 to 18

Scholarship Dates:  
Junior (P5-S1)  
Saturday 26th January 2013  
Senior (Year 9/S2)  
Monday 25th -  
Wednesday 27th February 2013



For more information or to register please contact  
Felicity Legge T: 01738 812546  
E: [admissions@strathallan.co.uk](mailto:admissions@strathallan.co.uk)

[www.strathallan.co.uk](http://www.strathallan.co.uk)  
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### Freedom and Success

Students at Bridge of Earn's Kilgraston School again achieved outstanding success in the 2012 SQA examinations.

Kilgraston, Scotland's largest girls' boarding school and the UK's Independent School of the Year in 2011, continues its long run of academic success.

Kilgraston has an impressive record of placing its pupils in the top universities throughout Scotland and the UK, with over 70% obtaining places in Russell group universities in 2012. Results are well above national averages, particularly in languages and science.

Pastoral care is at the centre of school life. Guided by the goals of the Sacred Heart, it is a community welcoming all faiths and one which cares for every individual. The school seeks to inspire all its girls to become caring, capable and confident young women. Volunteering in the community has developed strong local links and belonging to an international network of schools has broadened their outlook.

In recent years Kilgraston has invested heavily in its facilities, including a new swimming pool, all-weather hockey pitch and sports hall. This year sees the construction of a dedicated science centre and a new sixth form centre.

With hockey, tennis and swimming academies and its own equestrian centre, Kilgraston offers a life beyond the classroom. Outward bound expeditions develop leadership skills and music and drama offer opportunities to develop confidence.

Kilgraston is a busy, happy community preparing girls to become young women who can shape the future.

The school offers bursaries and scholarships. Scholarship papers are taken on Saturday 2nd February 2013.

## Scholarship examinations: 2nd February

Academic - Art - Music - Sport



KILGRASTON  
Kilgraston, Bridge of Earn, Perth PH2 9EG  
Telephone: 01738 812257 Fax: 01738 813460  
email: [heads@kilgraston.com](mailto:heads@kilgraston.com)  
[www.kilgraston.com](http://www.kilgraston.com)  
Kilgraston School Trust is a charity. Scottish Charity Number SC029664



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- The value-added in the academic is remarkable
- A nurturing school with high quality pastoral care
- Over 20 sports and 30 co-curricular activities on offer for all abilities

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See website for full details

A Boarding and Day School for Boys aged 8-18  
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\* Sunday Times Parent Power  
Merchiston Castle School, Colinton Road, Edinburgh, EH13 0PU, Scotland. Tel. 0131 312 2200  
Recognised by the Inland Revenue as a Charity, number SC016580

Merchiston is unique in Scotland as a boys' boarding school with day pupils within it. Set in 100 acres of beautiful parkland, and only four miles from the centre of Edinburgh, pupils benefit from the city's rich cultural opportunities.

Merchiston Juniors caters for boys aged 8-12; teaching of the youngest boys takes place in a dedicated modern building, whilst older boys are taught in the specialist Senior school facilities. Around 70% of boys board full-time, but many younger boys take advantage of the flexible boarding packages for Juniors.

Sixth Formers enjoy the comforts of a purpose-built boarding house. Sixth Form takes boys through their A levels and prepares them for the gradual progression to university.

Merchiston has effective approaches to develop each pupil's personal achievements and boasts an impressive record of helping boys excel far beyond their expected results at GCSE and A level. However, the excellence extends beyond exam results.

- Both the U16 and the U18 teams reached the finals of the Brewin Dolphin Scottish Schools Cup; the U16s came out on top in their final winning 10-5 against Strathallan.
- The U13 Tennis Team reached the UK Finals of the AEGON Schools Team Tennis competition, finishing third overall.
- The School has achieved a flush of four 'Excellent' ratings in the recent Care Inspectorate Inspection.
- 12 boys took part in the British Physics Olympiad competition, in which the level is above the standard required for an A\* at A level. Two boys achieved Gold, two achieved Silver, two more gained Bronze awards and six pupils received Commendations.
- There has been great success in the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge, with pupils gaining: 13 Gold, 11 Silver and 9 Bronze Awards. Pupil William achieved a near-perfect 120 points, placing him in the top 50 in the UK!



# Isle of Iona celebrate winning food retailer's festive party pack

ISLANDERS on Iona have been getting in the festive spirit after winning a party pack and vouchers from The Co-operative Food.

### Party for 50

Joanne MacInnes entered the food retailer's competition open to community groups from across the country, to win a party pack full of

seasonal essentials.

Filled with enough crackers, papers plates, cups, balloons, napkins and tablecloths for 50 people, the packs also contain £100 of vouchers to spend at The Co-operative Food on Christmas treats and nibbles.

Joanne said: 'Being a small island, we reckoned that this would stretch

to more than one Christmas party. In the end, the prize supported our Iona Playgroup party - which is open to all - and our ladies festive 'Feel Good' evening.

### Film

'The playgroup party saw children, adults and friends gather for party food, a short Christmas film, party

games and dancing.

'The ladies first ever 'Feel Good' involved taster treatments by Catriona from Tobermory, product samples, party food and a great prize draw which was supported by The Ranald Hotel, Melfort Village, Iona Craft Shop and Isle of Mull Hotel Spa amongst others.

'Both events were a huge success and raised over £200 towards Iona Village Hall funds.'

Pat Butler, from Mealdarroch, Tarbert, was also a winner in the competition, using the prize to help elderly people living in Tarbert.

Helen Nunn, head of marketing at The Co-operative Food, said: 'Both

these parties really stood out to our judging panel, who thought they showed that the Christmas spirit is alive and well in Argyll.'

The Co-operative Food provided a £10,000 festive fund to support 100 community groups make sure their Christmas parties go with a bang this year.

## Lorry leaves shopping behind at Dalmally

A LORRY-LOAD of shopping was sent flying across the road in the village of Dalmally after the contents of a delivery lorry fell onto the A85 on Monday morning.

At 4.55am police in Oban received reports of spill milk and squashed tomatoes on the road, among other items.

Scotland Transerv was called upon to clear the road, which was passable with care throughout.

## Oban water getting back to normal

TAP WATER for homes in and around Oban should be back to normal 'very shortly'.

Scottish Water said it is still carrying out repairs on an ozone generator at the Tullich Water Treatment Works at the south of the town following a failure earlier this month caused water turn have a sour taste and yellow colour.

Some properties have already returned to a normal supply, but the operator says the yellow tap water is still safe to drink.

Meanwhile, work to upgrade water pipes in Benderloch has been completed, while areas of the Glencruitten area of Oban were dug up again last week following recent upgrade work.

Scottish Water said the extra work is 'snagging' and added: 'We apologise for any inconvenience to customers in these areas and thank them for their patience and understanding.'

## Air traffic increases throughout Highlands

A BOOMING energy sector and increased demand for Glasgow trips helped passenger numbers at Highlands and Islands Airports (HIAL) leap by 10 per cent last month.

Figures from the regional airport operator show it carried 101,701 passengers last month, a 10.5 per cent increase on the previous year.

The biggest increase was seen in Sumburgh, with a 50.6 per cent jump, although additional demand for Glasgow services produced jumps of 33.7 per cent for Campbeltown, 9.4 per cent for Islay and 6.1 per cent for Tiree. Barra's traffic also increased by 22.2 per cent.

Only two airports suffered a dip, Benbecula's with a 4.1 per cent drop and Stornoway with a 5.3 per cent drop.

Inglis Lyon, managing director of HIAL, said: 'These are especially strong growth figures, particularly given the time of year and prevailing economic climate.'

## Charges follow Oban street fight

TWO MEN have been charged for fighting in Oban's Stevenson Street in the early hours of Sunday morning.

The men, aged 22 and 23 were arrested and charged.

# Skye air survey off to flying start

91 per cent of 800 say they would fly

OVER 800 responses have been received so far for a survey assessing the potential of air services for Skye, reports Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Initial findings so far include:

91 per cent of people say they would be likely or very likely to use air services if introduced.

Over 90 per cent either agreed or strongly agreed that air services would help reduce the perception of Skye as being remote.

Over 90 per cent either agreed or strongly agreed that air links would be important for helping to sustain Skye's economy as a whole.

Glasgow International and Edinburgh airports were cited as being the most attractive, with 48 per cent of people likely to use services to these airports.

Business, family and leisure were the most important reasons for air services - though the need for

connections to other onward connections was also regarded as vital.

Over 90 per cent would be likely or very likely to use an air service on Mondays and Fridays, with other week days still likely or very likely to be used by at least 75 per cent of people.

HIE and Highland Council appointed RDC Aviation to conduct the independent research. Its questions are primarily aimed at businesses but the survey is also seeking views from others with an interest. Its findings will help assess demand, determine which destinations could be most viable and the potential frequency of flights.

Final submissions are being invited over the holiday period as the survey will close mid-January. The report will conclude early in 2013.

The survey can be found at <http://www.rdcaviation.com/survey/skye/>.



Scott Dempster said he was 'delighted' to see his aunt Caroline marry Gordon at their birthday bash in Inveraray. 06\_a50wedding01

## Birthday surprise for North Connel man

A YOUNG man got the surprise of his life this month when his 21st birthday dinner turned into a family wedding.

Scott Dempster, who shares his birthday with twin aunts Lorraine MacEachern and Caroline Campbell, turned up to his birthday meal to see a registrar announce his aunt

Caroline was to be married in a matter of minutes.

### Secret

Caroline, who turned 50 on Scott's 21st birthday, arranged the birthday bash for the three family members but kept her plans to a wedding a secret.

Caroline, who runs the Stables Restaurant in Lochgilphead with her

sister Lorraine, married Dalavich man Gordon Gauld before the family meal at The George Hotel in Inveraray.

Explaining they had been planning to marry for a long time, Caroline said: 'The date wasn't important to us, it was the fact that it was a family event.'

'It was perfect for us. As soon as Gordon said his speech it was back to a birthday party. We didn't want a big fuss or our families having a lot of expense.'

Scott, from North Connel, said: 'I was so shocked.'

If I had of known, I would have worn a tie.'



BID4Oban chairman John Forteith, centre, welcomes new manager Nic Jones, left, and events manager Mike Rowell, right. 15\_152bid41

## New Bid4Oban manager ready for action

Five-year vision to be driven by the new BID4Oban board

'THE hard work starts now.' That was the message from new BID4Oban manager Nic Jones from the complete management team was established.

Mr Jones took up his new position last week, with Mike Rowell due to start as the company's new events manager on January 6.

An administrator is also set to be

appointed this week, confirming the team of three that will take forward the five-year vision to be driven by the new BID4Oban board.

BID4Oban chairman, John Forteith, welcomed the new management team and said he was confident the right people were in place to improve Oban's trading environment and long-term

prospects. He said: 'There's a lot to do in a short period of time.'

'We've had a great start with our new shop frontage scheme, with applications already rolling in.'

'Now we need to all work together to get the best we can for Oban.'

Mike, who will be responsible for co-ordinating the town's events calendar

and assisting event organisers, said: 'We're looking to build up Oban as a place to be. We want to bring more people into the town, particularly in the shoulder seasons.'

Nic said: 'It is exciting. This is about different agencies and bodies sitting down and realising that we have to work together for the benefit of us all.'

# The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES 20 years ago

Thursday December 24 1992



A home of her own for Christmas - the most precious present that baby Rachel Anderson, pictured with her mother Rosalyn and brother Simon, could wish for.

## The best Christmas present ever - a home

BABY Rachel Anderson already has the best Christmas present she could have hoped for - a place she can call home.

The six-month-old, whose homeless plight was highlighted in *The Oban Times* earlier this year, will be hanging up her stocking in her family's new flat, in Colonsay Terrace, Oban.

During the summer and autumn, the Andersons, who became homeless in May, feared Rachel might have to spend her first Christmas in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

On September 21 they

were allocated a flat, which is now full of festive cheer.

After Rachel, her parents Simon, a 32-year-old diver, and Rosalyn, 24, along with her little brother Simon, became homeless they spent the summer and autumn moving from one bed and breakfast establishment to another - a very unsettling experience for the two infants.

Rosalyn said: 'Simon has got his own room now and he is not so bad tempered.'

'Rachel is much happier, she doesn't have colic or anything.'

'She just sits and smiles all the time.'

## Ganavan playing field holds the key to the future of shinty in Oban claims supporters

A CHANGE of grazing arrangements at Pennyfuir Farm, Oban, has placed a question mark over the future availability of the playing field at Ganavan, which many believe to be crucial to the future of shinty in the town.

The pitch is used extensively, particularly by junior, juvenile and school shinty teams in the area, and its loss would be a severe blow to local clubs.

The problem appears to

have arisen because of a new arrangement over the grazing rights. Under the terms of a lease entered into some years ago, Argyll and Bute District Council is entitled to the use of an area of ground at Ganavan for sports purposes.

Over the years the original fence which protected the pitch has almost completely disappeared. Since the previous sheep posed no threat this was not a problem but with the introduction of cat-

tle the situation has changed completely. Cattle can make a pitch unplayable within a few hours.

David Hamilton, who helps run Oban Celtic Shinty Club's reserve team said the situation was very worrying and highlighted Oban's desperate need for another pitch.

He added: 'If Ganavan were to remain unavailable, it would be a disaster for junior and juvenile shinty in Oban.'



Ready to collect her spectacles - Rena Souten.

## A woman with a vision of hope

AN OBAN optometrist has a vision - one which will help the starving in under-developed Central African countries to see properly.

Rena Souten, who works at John Wallace Optometrist, hopes to collect thousands of pairs of unwanted spectacles.

These will be distributed by Vision Aid Overseas, the charity dedicated to providing eyecare for people in poor countries where there are few opticians.

When asked what had motivated her to become involved in the appeal, Ms Souten cited the case of one man with nine children, who couldn't see across a room. His family was starving.

After being given a pair of spectacles, the man was able to go to work and feed his family.



Ballachulish panto fun Pictured during rehearsals for the pantomime Peter Pan at Ballachulish are Tam McClymont, Drew McFarlane-Slack, Catriona Seago and Carol McDonald.



## The Oban Times gives cash to charities

THE OBAN Times spread a little bit of festive cheer this week when the company made donations totalling £500 shared between the Royal Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to children (RSSPCC) and the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA).

It was decided that instead of sending out Christmas cards to other businesses *The Oban Times* would make donations to worthy Scottish charities, with all the money being used within the West Highlands.

## Santa visits Fort William



Santa with two pupils of St Mary's Primary School, Fort William, at the recent open day held there.

# Christmas Party Nights



Staff from R A Clement Associates started off their Christmas celebrations in style last Friday afternoon as they gathered at the Rowantree Hotel for their annual party. 16\_t52clements01



Staff from Oban's Manor House Hotel celebrated their Christmas night out at the Creel. 16\_t51party12



Staff and students from the university department at SAMS Dunstaffnage enjoyed their Christmas night out in style at Paparazzi. 16\_t51party01



Above - Willie Evans and Rae Boyd from the Northern Lighthouse Board in Oban had a great time at the town's Royal Hotel. 16\_t51party05



Clydesdale Bank Oban staff enjoyed their Christmas night out at the Royal Hotel. 16\_t51party08

Below - Oban Distillery workers celebrated their Christmas night out at the Columba Hotel. 16\_t51party02



The Atlantis Leisure Christmas night out went with a bang at the Oban Bay Hotel. 16\_t51party09



Left - Oban Tesco dairy staff got their own 'snowstorm' last Saturday at their works party at The Steakhouse, Oban. 16\_t52party03

Right - The Factory Shop ladies from Oban partied the night away at The Creel. 16\_t51party11



Staff from Ward B of the hospital in Oban felt like dancing at the Oban Bay Hotel. 16\_t51party10



Lots more party pictures in your Oban Times next week



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## Taynuilt Hotel aims to relaunch as a 'gastronomic destination'

THE CENTURIES-old Taynuilt Hotel could be transformed into a 'gastronomic destination' in the coming months as an ambitious young chef takes ownership of the old inn.

### Renovation

John McNulty jnr, from Tayvallich, is embarking on a major renovation programme, during

which only the public bar will remain open.

The 23-year-old aims to reinvent the hotel as a first-class rural retreat for great food and drink.

'The emphasis will be on the food, we want the hotel to be a gastronomic destination,' said John.

John, who trained as a chef in

Glasgow and developed his career under Heston Blumenthal's sous chef Emily Watkins, added: 'The way I would describe it is traditional fare, using as much local ingredients as we can, anything and everything. There will be seafood and game and we are going to have a bar menu as well, with proper pub grub and snacks.'

Explaining the rooms would be renovated over time, John said three rooms would be completely renovated by March, with the remainder upgraded with the profits from the hotel in the future.

With the hotel kitchen, restaurant and accommodation already closed, John said he planned to relaunch the hotel in March 2013.

Hoping the hotel will provide good employment opportunities in the future, John said he is working with a skeleton staff at the moment but that would expand as the hotel gradually opens more rooms and facilities.

John returned to Argyll from England with his partner Rachel and nine-week-old daughter, Isla.

## Screen Machine kicks into 2013 with big film tour

FILM lovers in the west coast will get the chance to see some of the year's biggest movie such as the new 007 flick Skyfall and The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey when the Screen Machine kicks off 2013 with a four-week January tour.

The mobile cinema will visit Fort William, Strontian and Lochaline in Lochaber before travelling south to Tobermory, Craignure, Lochgilhead, Port Ellen, Tarbert Loch Fyne, Tighnabruich, Gigha, Millport and Brodick.

As well as the newest Bond film and the Tolkien adaptation, audiences will also be able to see Ang Lee's Life of Pi. Based on the prize-winning book by Yann Martel, the movie is expected to fair well at this year's Oscars.

Younger audiences will be able to enjoy the animation Paranorman, a comedy about a young boy who can see ghosts.

Ron Inglis, chief executive of Regional Screen Scotland, which runs the Screen Machine, said: 'We have seen tremendous support from audiences throughout the area in 2012 and could be looking at our most successful year to date. We hope audiences will continue enjoy Screen Machine during 2013.'

## Skye Bridge tolls documentary for New Year's Day

THE EPIC story of how campaigners won a titanic battle against the Skye Bridge tolls will be recounted in an hour-long BBC Alba documentary on New Year's Day.

An Drochaid/The Bridge Rising, a funny, bittersweet tale of passion, ego, and multi-million financial deals, will be told through the first-hand testimony of some of those who took part.

Many of the key players, from protesters to politicians, toll-collector to engineer, civil servant to police, give their testimony.

One, Skye police sergeant Dennis Hyndman - who arrested his non-toll paying neighbours - was a secret supporter of the anti-toll campaign.

He said: 'If I hadn't been a police officer I would have been down there protesting along with the rest of them.'

The Skye Bridge was the UK's first Private Finance Initiative, making an estimated £33m for the Bank of America.

The bridge tollbooths were removed in January 2004 after 10 years of protest and hundreds of arrests in what was one of the longest-running uprisings in modern Scottish history.

## Councillors dig deep for Caol Christmas party

LOCHABER councillors have agreed to contribute £300 from their discretionary budget to Caol Regeneration Company for a children's Christmas Party.

The council's TEC services were pledged £5,000 to brighten up Fort William's Middle Street and High Street with 'feature lighting'.

Elsewhere, it was agreed to hold a youth civic reception in recognition of the outstanding achievements by young people in Lochaber on March 27.

## Santa drops in at Arduanie Garden

SANTA couldn't resist dropping into Arduanie Garden again this year to meet local children and hand out presents and sweets.

He was a little inconvenienced by the lack of snow, but managed to get in successfully once more and said how much he enjoyed returning to this lovely garden and tasting the mulled wine and mince pies - he did get through quite a lot.

He ho-ho-hopes to come back next year and asked that all the volunteers and staff be thanked for helping to make his visit a success.



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Some of the dancers who took part in the Sinclair School of Dance concert

## Dancers entertain at Connel Village Hall

A CAPACITY audience of 110 watched a Highland dancing concert from the Sinclair School of Dance in Connel Village Hall.

The concert, on December 4, was choreographed by dancing teacher Isla (Sinclair) Munro.

The dances performed repre-

sented attractions to be seen, areas to visit and transport in Scotland, with 28 dancers taking part.

### Brave

Isla said: 'The concert was inspired by the VisitScotland advert that is shown at the beginning of the movie Brave, hence the name

of the concert, VisitScotland.

'The concert was followed by exam results presentations and the grades achieved were excellent.'

The 28 students performed the following dances at the concert: Brave, The Ghosts of Glenbogle (from the TV Series Monarch of

the Glen), Bluebells of Scotland, Edinburgh Tattoo, Inveraray (Para Handy's New Whistle), Glencoe, Stirling, The Waverley and the Flying Scotsman.

A raffle held in aid of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival raised £138.

## Taynuilt carol singers raise cash for Yorkhill

Taynuilt carol singers raised £160 in just two hours last Tuesday by singing around the village. The singers, who enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies afterwards, were delighted with the sum, which will be donated to Yorkhill Children's Hospice. Organiser Davy Paterson thanked everyone who took part or donated towards this worthy cause.



The Taynuilt carol singers meet in the village's clubhouse.

## Natural history group hears of Lichens in Lochaber

LOCHABER Natural History Society (LNHS) enjoyed a fascinating talk on 'Lichens in Lochaber' from local lichenologists Anna Griffith and Andy Acton at their latest meeting.

There are more species of lichen in Britain - around 1900 - than there are of vascular plants. Of these, some 1600 are found in Scotland. Not only are these often-overlooked organisms a local speciality - many are found nowhere else in the world.

Some lichens only grow in Lochaber and therefore have an international responsibility for ensuring that these populations continue to live here.

Lichens, formed through an association between a fungus and an alga, come in many shapes and forms and live in almost all habitats.

They uses include food and shelter for other creatures while some

have medicinal properties. They are also an indicator of air quality and once were widely used in the production of dyes.

Some of the local leafy tree lungworts and the orange crustose lichens found on rocky shores are readily recognised, if we were just to pay a little more attention whilst out and about.

Some rare and interesting species grow right on the tops of our mountains, where little else can be found, but the real jewels in the crown are the lichen communities that grow in the 'Atlantic Rainforest' along the western seaboard.

The warm, moist climate along with clean air and comparatively little interference provides ideal conditions for lichens to grow, particularly in our oak woodlands, remnant patches of Caledonian pine and hazel woods.

A number of internationally important species found locally

were illustrated. These have often been given catchy English names to help identification.

The Yellow speckle-belly, for example along with its rarer cousin, the Norwegian speckle-belly, grow in local oakwoods. Goblin Lights were first discovered in crevasses on Ben Nevis.

Last winter a party of naturalists led by Andy and Anna went hunting for 'blackberries and custard' in hazelwoods near Duror, and were successful in finding one of the largest extant colonies in the world. As with all species, however, some lichens, particularly the more-specialised, are under threat. Climate change, pollution, forestry, inappropriate livestock husbandry and development all pose a threat.

Fortunately with a bit of careful planning, much can be done to mitigate the effects of developments such as hydro-schemes

that are becoming increasingly common in the area.

Andy showed how avoidance of key trees and areas of habitat can easily be achieved, given the right co-operation. Lack of knowledge about what lichens are present and their habitat preferences is often a limiting factor. However, a survey in potentially sensitive areas such as woody ravines often favoured for hydro schemes, can do much to help prevent problems. Experts from other countries are apparently amazed to see the abundance and diversity of lichens in Lochaber, so it would be criminal if we allowed this to disappear.

LNHS meets at 7.30pm in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William generally on the third Monday of each month throughout the winter, and all are welcome. The next meeting on January 21 is a talk on breeding Common Scoters by Mark Hancock of RSPB.



## Lochaber business sector meets for lunch

Left - From left, Willie Duncan and John MacLellan of the Nevis Centre, Christine MacColl of ClydeBoyd and Liam Browning of Great Glen Shipping were among 80 Fort William Chamber of Commerce members and guests attending a Christmas lunch in The Moorings Hotel, Banavie on December 20. Chairman Donald Hind told the gathering that chamber membership had just signed up its 100th member, Fort William butcher Tom Wynne. Guest speaker was BID4Oban chairman Graham MacQueen, who gave an illuminating talk on progress made in improving Oban's business district. 20\_152business01

**Oban Phoenix Cinema**

**The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey**  
Thursday 27th Dec - 13:00, 16:30, 20:00  
Friday 28th Dec - 16:00, 20:00  
Saturday 29th Dec - 14:00, 17:30, 21:00  
Sunday 30th Dec - 13:30, 17:00, 20:30  
Monday 31st Dec - 14:00, 18:00  
Wednesday 2nd Jan - 16:00, 20:00  
Thursday 3rd Jan - 16:00, 20:00

**Brave (PG)**  
Saturday 29th Dec - 12:00  
Sunday 30th Dec - 11:30

All the staff at Oban Phoenix would like to wish all our customers a very happy New Year. We have had a fantastic 2012 and look forward to having you visit us in 2013!

Tel: 01631 569905 www.obanphoenix.com 08719 025752

**The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey**  
The adventure of 'The Hobbit' follows the journey of title character Bilbo Baggins, who is swept into an epic quest to reclaim the lost Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor from the fearsome dragon Smaug. Ian McKellen returns as Gandalf the Grey, the character he played in 'The Lord of the Rings' trilogy, and Martin Freeman, who won a BAFTA TV Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in the BBC series 'Sherlock', takes on the central role of Bilbo Baggins. Also reprising their roles from 'The Lord of the Rings' movies are: Cate Blanchett as Galadriel; Orlando Bloom as Legolas; Ian Holm as the elder Bilbo; Christopher Lee as Saruman; Hugo Weaving as Elrond; Elijah Wood as Frodo; and Andy Serkis as Gollum. The must-see film of 2012!

**Brave (PG)**  
With the New Year fast approaching we thought what better way to celebrate our next chapter than with the film that started it all for the Phoenix, our very own Scottish fairy tale, Brave! Determined to make her own path in life, Princess Merida defies a custom that brings chaos to her kingdom. Granted one wish, Merida must rely on her bravery and her archery skills to undo a beastly curse. Be sure to book in advance as we predict another sell-out!

**what's on guide**

Thursday 27th December > Trail West  
Markie Duns

Friday 28th December > Tim Oconnor  
Markie Duns 2am Closing time

Saturday 29th December > Tim Oconnor  
Markie Duns 2am Closing time

Sunday 30th December > End of year Quiz  
Markie Duns then Disco - 2am Closing time

Monday 31st December > New years Disco  
Markie Duns with DJ Stevo - 3am closing time

Tuesday 1st January > Chris Suckle  
Markie Duns 3am closing time

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2004, Renault Megane 1.9 Diesel, 71,000 miles, black .....£2,475

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www.highland.gov.uk

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM, PH53 6EL and online at http://wam.highland.gov.uk

Written comments should be made to the EPC at the contact details below within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description
12/04506/PIP	Land 180M North East of Glasnacardoch Lodge Mallaig	Erection of 18 houses (amendment to 10/04529/PIP)
12/04564/FUL	Achnalea, Ardgor Fort William	Demolition of house & erection of new house
12/04708/FUL	Craigewan, Old Banavie Road, Banavie, Fort William	Continued use of chalet

Time period for comments is 21days (extended period to account for office closure) ePlanning Centre, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, INVERNESS IV3 5NX  
Email: eplanning@highland.gov.uk

**CROFTING COMMISSION COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD DECROFTING APPLICATIONS**

Applicant, Croft, Extent/Purpose, Case number  
Mr D F Berry  
1 Vaul, Tiree  
0.087 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.41617

Mrs A Lawson  
Ailster Annie's Croft, Colonsay  
0.092 ha - Site for a dwelling house  
4.86.40810

Comments can be made to the Crofting Commission by any member of the crofting community within the locality of the land, within 28 days of the date of this newspaper.

Crofting Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk

Comann nam Parant an Obain agus Latharna  
**AGM**  
Wednesday 9 January 2013 at 10.30am  
Oban Primary Campus Meeting Room

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**Argyll Bute COUNCIL**

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR OBAN, LORN AND THE ISLES.**

Oban and Lorn Mainland.  
All refuse and recycling collection dates from 25 December 2012 will be moved back by one day, i.e. 25 to 26, 26 to 27, 27 to 28 and 28 to 29 Dec.  
All dates from 1 January 2013 again will be moved back by one day i.e. 1 to 2, 2 to 3, 3 to 4 and 4 to 5 Jan.  
Moleigh Civic Amenity and Recycling Site will be closed on 1st/2nd January

**Mull**  
Recycling run due on 25-12-12 will be instead be carried out on Saturday 29-12-12  
Domestic + commercial refuse run due on 01-01-13 will instead be carried out on 02-01-13  
Glenorm Waste and Recycling Site will be closed on 25th/26th December and 1st/2nd January

**Lismore**  
Collection due on 2nd Jan will instead be carried out on 3 Jan  
Tiree  
Tuesday 1st Jan collections will instead be carried out on the Monday 31st Dec  
Coll and Colonsay - no change to service  
Information on all refuse collection services are available from Argyll and Bute website or your local Council office

**PLANNING**

These applications listed below together with other related documents may be inspected between 09:00 -17:00hrs Monday to Friday at Municipal Buildings Albany Street Oban PA34 4AW, at the alternative locations detailed below or by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Written comments for the following list of applications should be made to the above address within 21 days of this advert. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/01349/PP	Erection of timber bike store/workshop	Kilbowie Residential Education Centre Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PE	Oban Area Office
12/01774/PPP	Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse and installation of septic tank	6 Heipoll Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TY	Tiree Area Office
12/02578/PP	Amended house position of plot 2, re-location and amended chalet design of plots 22 and 24 (previously approved under planning permission reference 08/01640/DET) to new plots 2a and 4a and additional new plots 5a and 37	Dalavich Chalet Park Dalavich Argyll and Bute	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/02621/PP	Erection of replacement conservatory.	Corton-Briley Bridge Of Awe Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1HT	Sub Post Office Taynuilt
12/02675/PP	Exploratory drilling of up to 30 sites over a period of 3 years for mineral deposit identification.	Lagalochan Forest Kilmelford Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Kilmelford
12/02702/PP	Erection of 20 bed bunkhouse and associated works (amended proposal relative to planning permission reference 08/01363/DET)	Land North West Of Craignure Inn Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute	Sub Post Office Craignure
12/02717/PP	Modification of existing planning permission reference 10/00671/PP (Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and garages) incorporating amendment of house type and location on Plot B and change of garage on Plot A to workshop and stores and amendment to vehicular access serving both plots and pumping station (part retrospective)	Plot A Swallow Craig Glenmore Road Oban Argyll And Bute	Oban Area Office
12/02734/PP	Alterations and extension	1 Port Ramsay Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UN	Sub Post Office Lismore
12/02764/PP	Change of use of land for siting of 2 storage containers	Willow View Community Care Centre Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SB	Oban Area Office

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

Refval	Proposal	Site Address	Location of Plans
12/02735/LIB	Alterations, extension and internal alterations	1 Port Ramsay Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UN	Sub Post Office Lismore

Argyll and Bute council encourages planning applications to be made on-line through The Scottish Government website: https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk

The Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed during normal office hours at Planning and Regulatory Services, Whitegates Office Whitegates Road Lochgilphead PA31 8SY.

A weekly list of applications can be viewed at the above address and at all Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the Council receives is considered a public document and will be published on our website. Anonymous or marked confidential correspondence will not be considered.

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A valid full driving licence is essential. Closing date for applications is Friday 11 January 2013. Interested applicants should send their CV with cover letter by email or post to: Mrs Linda Thorburn, AKVA group Scotland Limited, 36F Shore Street, Inverness, IV1 1NF  
Tel: 01463 221444  
Email: lthorburn@akvagroup.com

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**DEVELOPMENT COLL**  
Adhartas Le sheille

**LOTTERY FUNDED**

**Three senior roles - 1 year contract with scope to be extended - Isle of Coll**

**Post 1: Development Manager - full time - up to £27,000**

You will be the most senior staff member reporting to the Chair and responsible for the development, marketing and financial performance of our new community centre (An Cridhe) and Coll Bunkhouse. You will:

- Have a flair for marketing services and generating income
- Be experienced in events management, leisure and tourism or facilities management
- Able to carry out business and financial forecasting
- Have a background in economic or social regeneration.

**Post 2: Operations Manager (Finance and Learning) - a 20 hour post - up to £25,000 prorata**

Reporting to the Development Manager, you will have a key service development and delivery role for our new community centre (An Cridhe) and Coll Bunkhouse, and will be:

- Experienced in book-keeping or financial management including reporting to the Board
- Able to manage formal and informal learning programmes.

**Post 3: Operations Manager (Facilities and Services) - a 20 hour post - up to £25,000 prorata**

Reporting to the Development Manager, you will have a key service development and delivery role for our new community centre (An Cridhe) and Coll Bunkhouse, and will:

- Be an experienced organiser of facilities and services to the public including visitors
- Have a flair for the development of operational policies and procedures
- Be able to carry out projects including training volunteers and the development of feedback data for monitoring services.

Applications **on line only**: email; Lavinia Maclean Bristol; lavinia@developmentcoll.co.uk for the application pack including the three job descriptions.

**CLOSING DATE: 8th January 2013 at 5pm**

**Interview date on Coll - 16th January for all posts (free accommodation is available if it is necessary to stay on Coll overnight)**

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**PERSONALS**

Elsbeth MacKenzie, The Woosack, Fort William  
*Thank you to all the wonderful people who cared for me after my accident in the summer and for all the visitors, encouraging cards and flowers.*  
Thank you to all my family - you are just A1.  
**HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON**

**Thank You Monika for 40 fantastic years**  
Thank you for our three fine sons, Matthew, Lorne and Gordon, and, with a little help from our lovely daughter in law Rebecca, our two gorgeous grandsons Louis and Oliver.  
You are the best wife on the planet and my best friend.  
The last 40 years have been hard work and a lot of fun and I look forward to the years ahead with more than a little anticipation.  
**Lots of love Ian (and your growing family)**

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DEATHS

**CLARK** - Peacefully and with dignity on December 22, 2012 at the Beatson Hospital after a long illness bravely fought with her typical great spirit, Kirsteen (Kirsty), beloved wife of the late Graham, 5 High Street, Oban, a devoted mother to Alison, mother-in-law to Rhuaridh and adored granny to Katie and Coll. A much loved sister, aunt and friend. An inspiration to us all. Funeral service to be arranged. Family flowers only. Retrial collection for Cancer Research and Macmillan Nurses.

**DAVIDSON** - Peacefully at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on December 22, 2012. Annie (nee Hughes) in her 88th year. Beloved wife of the late Reverend David, dearly loved mum of Alan, Islay and Christine, much loved Granny of Paul, Martin, Jenny, Karen, Kayleigh and Iain. Funeral service at Round Church, Bowmore, Islay at 1pm on Friday December 28 and thereafter to Kilnoughton cemetery. Family flowers only, donations to IDEAS and Alzheimers association. Many thanks to the home carers on Islay, IDEAs group and nurses at Islay hospital and to all the staff at Lynn of Lorne for their patience and care. Sadly missed but fondly remembered.

**MACKINNON** - Margaret (Maggie), aged 92 years, of Glenbeg, Ardnamurchan, passed away suddenly, but peacefully at Raigmor Hospital on Thursday, December 20, 2012 after a short illness. A much loved sister and aunt to the family and friend to many. The funeral will be held at Ardnamurchan Parish Church on Monday, 31 December at 2pm and interment at the New Kilchoan Graveyard.

**MACRAE** - Peacefully at Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish on December 22, 2012. Bella, beloved wife of the late Donald MacRae and devoted mother to Duncan and Peggie, mother-in-law to Ali and Martin and loved grandmother to Neil, Katie, Rhona and Hannah. Requiem Mass in St Mary's, Fort William at 10.15am on Friday, December 28 and thereafter at Roshven, Lochailort. Donations if desired may be given at the church door in aid of Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish.

**MAITLAND** - Peacefully at RAH Paisley on December 23, 2012, after a long painful illness bravely borne James (Jimmy) beloved husband of Teeny, loving dad of Marie and Ross, much loved father-in-law of Jim and Claire and adored shenair of James, Isla and Ben. An Oban character who will be sorely missed. Funeral service will be held at Oban Parish Church on Saturday, December 29, 2012 at 11am.

**SOMMERVILLE** - Anne Margaret, loving wife of Cameron, mother of Lesley, Craig, Alan and much loved granny to Lauren, Joanna, Gregory, Neeve, Ailsa, Ewan and Eleanor, passed away December 17, 2012 at Belford Hospital, Fort William. Anne a warm, strong and loving woman, touched everyone she met. She was one of a kind and will be greatly missed. Private family cremation at Falkirk Crematorium.

**TERRIS** - Curstan (nee Black). Gently at home at Portlea, Oban on December 20, 2012, with her daughters, Curstan in her 90th year, died. Daughter of Donald and Barbara Black (of Oban and Kerrera), sister of Catherine, Isobel and Nancy, wife of John, mother of Barbara and Jane, granny of Robbie, Shonnet and Ross. A long happy life well spent, loving and beloved. Funeral at the Free High Church, Oban, on Friday 28, at 1pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir and the Royal Hotel. All friends warmly invited.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**  
**MACDONALD** - Alda, Christine, Liz, Caroline and John would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, kindness and cards following the sudden loss of Hector. We would also like to thank Hamish Hoey & Son and Brander Lodge staff for their assistance at this sad time. Special thanks to Mike for the comforting service. Thank you all.

**MACLARTY** - Irene, Gordon and family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and support received during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to Dr Ewing and staff of the Red Practice for their help and kindness, also to Doctors and staff of Ward 23B, Ninewells Hospital for their exceptional care of Alex and family during his time there. Grateful thanks to Mr Jim Begg for his kind and comforting services, to Mr John Cameron for his uplifting tribute. Thanks also to Ally and all the staff at James McEwan for their help with funeral arrangements and to all those who paid their last respects at the church, cemetery and Crieff Hydro making it a fitting celebration of Alex's life and donating so generously £795.53 to Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland.

MEMORIALS

**BIRRELL** - Treasured memories of Al, a much loved dad, who passed away on December 26, 2010. Dad, I feel a warmth around me, like your presence is so near. I close my eyes and visualise your face when you were here, I think of all the times we spent together, they are locked inside my heart. As long as I have those memories, we will never be apart. Even though we can't talk anymore, your voice is always there, because every night before I sleep I have you in my prayer. All my love, today and always.

- Lisa and D.I xxx  
**CAMPBELL** - Remembering Liz who died so suddenly on December 26, 1998. Remembered every day.

- Love Simmo x.  
**GRAHAM** - 28/12/10. In loving memory of our mother Mary, brother Peter, and grandmother Isabella. If we could have one lifetime wish, One dream that would come true, We'd pray to God with all our hearts.

For yesterday and you. Much love Mary, David & Cheryl xxxxxx  
**JAMIESON** - In memory of my friend Helen, who passed away on December 28, 1999. Always remembered.

- Inserted by Marleen.  
**LAMONT** - In loving memory of my dear Willie who passed away suddenly on New Years Eve 2005. Always in our thoughts.

- Mary  
**MACCALLUM** - In loving memory of a very dear mother and grandmother, Henrietta MacCallum (Babs), who died December 30, 2010. Sadly missed

- Roberta, Stephen and Robert.

Always in our hearts.  
**MACCALLUM** - In loving memory of Jackie a dear husband, father and grandfather, who passed away on December 9, 1993. Always in our hearts.

- Jessie and family.  
**MACKENZIE** - In loving memory of our dear sister and aunt, Marjory, who passed away on December 29, 2011. Always loved and forever in our thoughts.

Sadly missed.  
- Mary, Helen, Dorothy, Julie and family.

**MACNICOL** - In loving memory of my mother Catherine, who died on January 1, 1973, at Bridge of Earn also my grand-aunt Mina (Topsy) MacKenzie, who died at P.R.I. on December 3, 1981 and my cousin Nancy Craik, who died on October 30, 1992, (all from Dalmally) and Flora MacCallum, who died on November 9, 2002, a very dear friend and all other families gone before and after these dates. Ach Buidheachas do'n ti is air air son nath beatha, mhaireannach, s'an gaol ah thug sibh ghònsa. Bithidh rinn sòlasach dailann. God pray for them and all ones gone before and after.

- Inserted by Seumas, son, grand-nephew, cousin and friend, Perth.  
**MACPHAIL** - Treasured memories of a dear husband, dad and 'Shesh' John, Ardmay, Tiree, who passed away December, 26, 2004 and loved ones gone before and after.

Those special years will not return  
When we were all together  
But with the love that's in my heart  
You'll be with me forever.

- Jean, Tiree.  
Many a lonely heartache  
Many a silent tear  
But always a beautiful memory  
Of one we loved so dear.

- May, Irene and families, Oban and Tiree.  
**MACTAGGART** - In loving memory of my dear wife Ella, who died December 28, 1986. Loved and always remembered.

- Duncan.  
**MCLEAN** - In loving memory of sister-in-law Eilidh McLean died 27, 2011. Always in my thoughts.

- Love Ronald McLean Senior.  
**MUNN** - In loving memory of Mary Ann, a much loved mother, mother-in-law and granny, who died at her home on December 28, 2008. Always in our thoughts  
Loved and remembered today and always.

- Neil and Mairi-Anne. Happy memories of granny.  
- Kieran, Kyle and Ryan.  
**ROBERTSON** - Remembering a dear mam Katie, who passed away December 29, 1996. A little tribute small and tender  
Just to say we always remember.  
Miss you always.  
- Mary and Arthur.

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All welcome

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Holy Eucharist.....09.30

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Thought for the Week

A Happy New Year

WHEN I was young, Christmas Day was an ordinary working day in Scotland, but New Year was a major holiday. Today, we celebrate both as holidays, but I wonder whether we are losing some of the traditions associated with New Year in particular.

One I remember is that alcohol was consumed before the bells - you can imagine the look I get when I mention that to the younger generation! New Year is a time to look back (open the door to let the 'old year' out!) and a time to look forward.

In his first Christmas broadcast of the Second World War, the King quoted these lines - which I share with you as a blessing for the year ahead: I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I might tread safely into the unknown'. And he replied, 'Go out into

the darkness, and put your hand into the hand of God, And that will be for you better than a light and safer than a known way'.

The Revd Norman D MacCallum (Retired)



Children from Happy House nursery performed their festive play, Away in a Manger during a service at Oban's Congregational Church recently.

New minister ordained in Ardgor

REV MAIRI Perkins was ordained and appointed to the Church of Scotland linked parishes of Ardgor, Strontian and Morvern, where she will be working with the parish minister, Rev Donald McCorkindale. Mairi is married to Tony and has two stepchildren, Christopher and Elizabeth, and a 16 year-old son Eoghan. Tony and Eoghan have walked every step of her journey with her, giving unconditional support and encouragement throughout her training.

Mairi trained at Kings College Aberdeen University and has had placements in Fort William, Benderloch and the linked parishes of Ardgor, Strontian and Morvern. The ordination service on Friday, December 7 led by Rev Malcolm Kinnear, Moderator of the Presbytery, was enjoyed by many with the church in Ardgor full of colleagues, friends and family. Gifts were presented including a cassock from the linked parishes, and a wonderful buffet followed.



Obituary

Marion Wynne 1923-2012

When Marion Wynne, a proud Londoner, travelled up the West Highland Line to Fort William to meet her new in-laws for the first time, it was a journey that would change many lives. Her early life in Tooting, where she was born in 1923, had been marred by the deaths of both her parents. Marion and her two siblings were taken in and brought up by an aunt, who provided her with an excellent role model. Having survived the Blitz, she met Ian Wynne, son of legendary Lochaber fiddler and butcher Lachie Wynne and his wife Margaret, in Plymouth, where he served in the Royal Navy. Marion was in the Wrens during the war and worked in positions involving highly sensitive intelligence for several years. The couple married in England shortly after the war ended in 1945. They returned to Fort William to set up home and her gentle nature and pragmatic approach



Marion Wynne: a proud Londoner who took Lochaber to her heart.

ret, Thomas, Anne, Rosemary, Helen, Marion and Gillian. The family took the reins of the butcher's business, opened a shop at Oban and thrived, becoming well-known Highland characters, famed for their hospitality and welcome of an impromptu social gathering. It was a rule of these gatherings, where the house piano took centre stage, that the night ended with the song 'Maybe It's Because I'm a Londoner', in honour of Marion. Their home, the converted school house St Andrew's East, on Fassfern Road behind Fort William town centre, was the scene of many a legendary tale. Marion was the softly spoken but strong matriarch of the Wynne family who could often be seen, along with various family members, behind the counter at Ian Wynne and Sons over the years. Her son, Thomas, now runs the family butchers, which was opened in 1924.

Her sister, Nell Wilmott, also moved to the area, expanding the family once more and acting as a much-loved aunt and great aunt to her many nieces and nephews. Marion is survived by her brother, John, 93, who lives in Battle, East Sussex. She also leaves 25 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Her legacy is the strong moral compass and an entrenched family loyalty which spans all the generations that came after her. She was a devout Catholic and took great joy in attending Mass celebrated by her brother-in-law and dear friend, Monsignor Thomas Wynne. Marion, who was 89, passed away peacefully at the family home on Saturday, December 8, with all of her children and Monsignor Wynne by her side. Her funeral was held at St Mary's Church, the Wynne family local church in Belford Road, Fort William.



Inner Wheel's coffee cash for Hope Kitchen

Oban Inner Wheel Club member Marian Montgomery held a coffee morning at her home in Taynuilt. The sum of £405 was raised and donated to Hope Kitchen. The club thanked all members who donated baking and the many friends who attended.



Oban church choir spreads Christmas carol joy

CAROL singers were out in force bringing Christmas spirit to Oban residents as they were led in song by members of the church choir in the area. The enthusiastic group are pictured in Gibraltar Street, led by members of the choir of Kilmore and Oban, but supplemented by members of other Oban churches. A collection was taken on behalf of HOPE to Oban who provided warm sustenance to the volunteers at the end of their stint. Picture by Alex Clark

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**Aonach Mor hill race to be held on New Year's Day**

**ATHLETICS**

LOCHABER Athletic Club runners will shake off the festive cobwebs by tackling a gruelling hill race up Aonach Mor on New Year's Day.

Around 120 competitors are expected to take part in the annual event, which sees the runners climb 600 metres up the mountain in just four kilometres.

All runners will get soup and a roll after the race, as well as being taken back down to the bottom station on the gondola.

Davie Rodgers currently holds the race record after reaching the Snowgoose Restaurant in 22 minutes and 42 seconds in 2006.

The race starts at 11am at Nevis Range ski centre car park with entry forms available at www.lochaberac.co.uk

Meanwhile, the club held the annual Cruim Leacain Hill Race yesterday, with runners tackling a 10k course from the starting point at Torlundy.

**Alleycats are ten pin bowling top dogs**

**TEN PIN BOWLING**

AFTER three weeks of play in the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre Alleycats lead with 15 points.

Rotavators, Splitheads and Fairway Fillies are all level in second place on 10 points.

The top scratch and handicap game of the week went to Tommy McKnight of Alleycats with 179 scratch, 238 handicap.

Other scores of note were a 177 from Sean MacPherson, Splitheads, 174 from Bill Clark, British Legion, and 172 from Ron Gretton, Rotavators.

Top scratch two game series was by Tony Whitlocke of Alleycats with 332 whilst John Doherty, Rotavators, rolled the top two game handicap series with 430.

The best team game of the week was 562 scratch, 828 handicap by Rotavators who also rolled the top team two game series with 1,107 scratch, 1,639 handicap, the latter being the season's highest so far.

**Fort William FC £600 lottery jackpot shared**

**LOTTERY**

THREE lucky winners shared a £600 jackpot in Fort William FC's lotto draw this week. A Crellin, M Cameron and D McDonald each receive £200.

The next draw will take place on the Sunday, January 6 and the jackpot will be £100.

**Lights go out on Fort's home game**



Out of commission: the floodlight at Claggan Park was damaged by storms overnight 20. f52lights01

FORT WILLIAM FC had yet another home match called off on Saturday – but this time the flood-prone playing surface was not to blame.

The pitch passed an inspection on Saturday morning with flying colours despite steady rain - but severe overnight gales had damaged one of the floodlight towers and the game against Clachnacuddin was postponed for health and safety reasons.

One pylon near the clubhouse was wrecked as retaining bolts snapped in 70mph winds and the lighting came free.

**Ground Level**

Club officials aided by local helpers brought the array safely down to ground level. Former chairman John Wattssman told The Oban Times: 'It was swaying about in the wind. It's a shame, because the park was playable, no doubt about it.'

**Selection problems for trip to Clach**

'With what's available to me, we'll be doing well just to get a team on the pitch'

REPORT BY RICHARD HADDOCK rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

**FOOTBALL**

FORT William manager Danny Conlon is facing another selection headache for this weekend's trip to Clachnacuddin with a number of key first team players injured or suspended.

Conlon told The Oban Times he was still struggling to get a match day squad together for the Inverness trip, with defender Farquhar MacRae the latest injury victim after hurting his foot at work.

Conlon said: 'We initially thought we had done more damage, but it looks like he's broken his toe and got some bruising on his foot. Farquhar was supposed to be the replacement for Andy Martin, and Darren Duncan was Farquhar's replacement and he's suspended.'

'With what's available to me, we'll be doing well just to get a team on the pitch, anything else

would be a bonus. It's a really difficult place to go, they beat us heavily up there last season.'

Conlon said captain Andy Martin's recovery from a serious accident at work was going slowly but surely.

'He's got the plaster off and he's doing some physio, but he's been told not to lift anything until about March. I think we'd be very, very lucky to see him again this season.'

The game against Clach last Saturday was called off after one of the Claggan Park floodlights was damaged by high winds.

Conlon said: 'We were all geared up to go, and the park was playable. It's a bit of a blow - we've not played a game for weeks. But it's a health and safety issue.'

The game was due to see the teams play for the annual Simon Shields Memorial Trophy. Simon



Danny Conlon: team selection problems ahead of Saturday's fixture at Clachnacuddin

20. f52danny01

played for the Fort for three years as well as Clach before passing away last year at the age of 23.

'I don't know whether we'll play for it up there instead, or if we'll wait until the rearranged fixture, which will probably be a mid-week in March.'

**Hardy souls brave wind and rain in Wheelers Christmas handicap**

**CYCLING**

A FEW hardy souls braved the windswept, rain-lashed conditions to take part in the West Highland Wheelers Xmas handicap in Glen Nevis on Sunday.

Cory Muir and Ben Corner sprinted for the line to take equal first spot in a photo finish. Gavin Linfield was the first adult home, just in front of Roddy Wells.

Club stalwart Andy Rogers said after the race: 'It was good to see a few folk returning to have some fun, including Stephen Cant and Jane Bruce.'

**Fortunately**

'All those who took part managed to munch a mince pie and grab a coffee at the finish, fortunately just as a patch of blue sky crossed Braveheart car park.'

'Thanks to Ruari Watt of the Forestry Commission.'

The Wheelers are next out on Sunday for an intriguing lap-based event from Nevis Range car park.

**Results (Finish Time):** Cory Muir and Ben Corner 34:41 (short course); Gregor Muir and Graeme Corner 34:44 (short course); Gavin Linfield 46:00; Roddy Wells 46:39;

John Shirley 47:12; Stephen Cant 47:39; Lachlan Blair 48:40; Brian Barbour 48:46; Alastair MacLennan 50:03; Sile Morris 54:30; Marian Austin; 54:42; Ruairidh Cant 54:44; Jane Bruce 61:52; Lindsay Barr 70:30.

Corrected time: John Shirley 34:12; Gavin Linfield 35:00; Roddy Wells 35:39; Lachlan Blair 36:10; Alastair MacLennan

38:33; Brian Barbour 38:46; Stephen Cant 41:09; Sile Morris 48:00; Marian Austin 49:12; Ruairidh Cant 51:14; Jane Bruce 57:52; Lindsay Barr 66:00; Cory Muir and Ben Corner 34:41 (short course); Gregor Muir and Graeme Corner 34:44 (short course).



From left, Cory Muir and Ben Corner with their dads Graeme and Gregor jostle for position at the start of the short course race 20. f52wheelers01

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Oban Camanachd with the South Division One trophy. 07. 135obancamtrophy01

**Successful season for Oban Camanachd**

OBAN Camanachd congratulated four individual award winners from the club in what was a successful season all round.

At the recent annual meeting in the Royal Hotel, the club noted the achievements of members in the previous season's Marine Harvest Shinty Awards: Under-14 coach of the year, Ian Hay; South Division Two coach of the year, Tony Howlett; South Division One player of the year, Daniel Cameron; and South Division Two player of the year, Chris MacMillan.

There was also collective success for the club's teams at every level, not least the senior team's return to the premier league at the first time of asking, an unbeaten league record and a run to the final of the Macaulay Cup final.

Interim first team coach, Angus 'Gusie' Campbell was voted into the position permanently for the 2013 season.

Lochside Rovers won South Division Two at a canter and will be guided through South Division One next season by Christopher Ecclestone.

Under the direction of senior players Daniel Cameron and Ian 'Scally' MacMillan, the under-17s retained the McQuiston

**SHINTY**

Cup, defeating rivals Oban Celtic 3-1 in an entertaining final.

The under-14s won the south championship in style, remaining unbeaten during a season that culminated in winning the Ken MacMaster Trophy. In the final against the much fancied Newtonmore, Oban Camanachd's youngsters came from behind to win 5-3 after extra time.

One of the few disappointments for the club was a heavy defeat for the senior team in the final of the Macaulay Cup, a competition that had seen Camanachd defeat premier league sides Inveraray and Bute on their way to the final.

Office bearers for the coming season were elected as follows: president - Tony Howlett; vice president - Alan Dunning; secretary - Christine Lind; treasurer - Fiona Livingstone; first team manager - Angus Campbell; second team manager - Christopher Ecclestone, assisted by Andrew Pearson and Diarmid MacMillan; under-17s manager - Daniel Cameron; under-14s manager - Ian Hay; child protection officer - Mari Dunning.

**WEEK TWO of two**

**Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition**

**WIN £950**

**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.

**Easy to enter**  
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon, Friday 28th December, 2012.  
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.

**To allow for the festive holidays Spot the Ball will run for 2 weeks.**

**The deadline for entries is 12noon, Friday 28th December, 2012.**

**Winners will be announced in the issue dated Thursday 3rd January, 2013**

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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## Oban Lorne fear fixture pile-up

OBAN Lorne fear a fixture build up, caused by numerous postponed fixtures, could derail their quest for the RBS West Division Three title.

On November 3 Oban Lorne secured a last-gasp victory over league leaders Loch Lomond at Glencruitten to narrow the gap at the top of the league.

But in the 10 weeks since, the men in green have failed in their attempts to play a single fixture, because of adverse weather conditions.

With only six league games played so far, Lorne will have a busy schedule in the New Year with 12 league fixtures remaining and a potential run in the RBS Bowl competition, all before the sevens season starts at the beginning of May.

Oban Lorne coach Corrie Louw said: 'Frustratingly, six matches have been postponed over a 10-week period, which has put the buffers on a promising league campaign.'

'With tough games coming up away from home to the likes of Mull, Arran and Loch Lomond it will be crucial for us to get back playing every week.'

Oban Lorne have made a fairly comfortable start to the season in 2012 - the club's 50th anniversary year.

A resounding 34-3 win over rivals Mull on the club's anniversary day was followed up with a 27-21 win at Millbrae and a 32-19 win over Isle of Arran at Glencruitten.

With all going well Oban fell to their first defeat of the season in Uddingston, going down by 27-12.

That defeat in October spurred the side onto a bonus point victory in Paisley the week before a last-minute Craig Wright penalty secured victory against then unbeaten Loch Lomond.

Going into 2013 the team sit third in the table on 24 points but have two games in hand on Arran and Loch Lomond, who occupy the top two places.

With an important West Bowl quarter final game coming up on January 5 in Birkmyre, coach Louw and captain Robin MacQueen will be hoping that the team can shake off any potential rustiness and regain the early season form that could see the team promoted back to West Division Two.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Rugby Football Club has been granted £2,333.33 from The Sportsman's Charity to help fund Allan Wright's position as rugby development officer for the county.



Dee Bradbury of Argyll and Bute RFC and rugby development officer Allan Wright, centre, receive a cheque from Kenny Brown, Glasgow Warriors' regional development manager.

### Saints at home to Postal United

FOOTBALL

SAINTS return to Scottish Amateur League Premier Division action on Saturday January 5 with a tough home game against last season's league winners Postal United. The game will take place at Glencruitten at 2pm.

The club was saddened to hear of the death of Jimmy Maitland, father of Ross, who has been a Saints player for many years.

The sympathy of everybody at Oban Saints goes to the Maitland family at this sad time.

A challenge match scheduled to be played on Saturday by the club has been called off as a mark of respect.

### Top sports coaches line up for Oban visit

COACHING

Two of the UK's most respected sports coach mentors are heading to Argyll and Bute in February 2013.

Kevin Giles, a former coach to Olympic athletes, and Scottish rugby hero Tony Stanger will be in Oban for a Coach Academy, as part of Argyll and Bute Council's Coaching Champions programme between February 1 - 3.



The prizewinners from this year's Oban Otters gala. 15\_149otters1

### Oban Otters pick up their prizes

THIS year's Oban Otters gala was boosted by a significant number of entries.

The competition, held on November 26, was preceded by a small pool gala on November 15.

The gala caters for all abilities and age groups with events for widths, lengths and squad swimmers. It also serves as a chance for swimmers to showcase their hard work over the year and celebrate their achievements.

A presentation of prizes was also held afterwards in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Coach Jillian Gibson said: 'All achievements are testament to the hard work and dedication of our large team of volunteer teachers, poolside helpers and committee members.'

### Basketball tournament held at Atlantis Leisure

BASKETBALL

AROUND 140 high school pupils from around Argyll competed in the fifth annual Argyll and Bute Basketball Tournament in Oban - the largest entry yet.

Although Oban hosted the competition in Atlantis Leisure, home court advantage failed to materialise as Hermitage Academy won both the boys and girls junior tournaments, while Tobermory High won the senior girls tournament and Dunoon Grammar won the boys equivalent.

The competition, organised by Active Schools, was open to boys and girls in S1 - 6.

Teams are split into S1 - 3 girls and boys and S4 - 6 girls and boys and teams compete cross-court in their age group in round robin matches.

Owing to the large number of entries in the boys sections

organisers held semi-finals as well as full court finals for the two girls and two boys teams.

Active Schools co-ordinator Jillian Gibson said: 'This tournament began five years ago when we, as Active Schools co-ordinators, realised there was a lot of extra curricular basketball going on throughout the authority and not many chances to compete.'

'This was the biggest number of entries we've ever had, with several schools entering more than one team in each category - proving the popularity of basketball the region.'

This year teams from Oban High, Tobermory High, Lochgilhead High, Islay High, Hermitage Academy and Dunoon Grammar all competed.

## Successful start to the season for Oban Saints squad

OBAN SAINTS have had an excellent start to the Scottish Amateur League season, playing 17 friendly, league and cup games, winning 16 and losing only one. This is an excellent record in any standard of football.

The season started off for Saints with the annual Keyline Cup Tournament with Hearts, Dundee United, St Johnstone, Hamilton Accies and Alloa providing the opposition with Hearts winning the competition in an excellent day of football.

This was followed by three good performances in pre-season friendly games against Westerlands, East Kilbride and Greenock. Saints defeated Westerlands 5-1; East Kilbride 5-0 and Greenock 2-0.

#### Campaign

The first competitive game of the new campaign was against Lochgilhead Red Star in the Centenary Cup, resulting in a 3-1 win with Craig MacEwan (2) and Lewis Cameron finding the net.

Next up was a trip to Tarbert in another Centenary Cup tie with the Oban side winning a close game 3-2 thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan, Myles

McAuley and Ross Maitland. The last game in the Centenary Cup section was away to Gourock Thistle with Craig MacEwan and Mattie Rippon on target in a 2-1 win.

The first league game of the season saw the Oban side travel to Duntocher to take on St Joseph's, returning home with all three points thanks to a Craig MacEwan goal.

The Oban boys were on the road again on Saturday 15 September when they took on Busby in the quarter final of the Centenary Cup. They had to play most of the game with ten men



Donald Campbell

after Marc MacCallum got sent off, but an injury time goal from Jamie Graham was good enough to see them through.

Next on the agenda was the Centenary Cup semi final against Inverclyde at Glencruitten, but the men from Greenock had no answer to a rampant Saints outfit who won their way through to the final in a 5-0 stroll thanks to goals from Donald Campbell (2), Marc MacCallum, Craig MacEwan and Eddie Swift.

#### Scratched

Saints were due to play Bishopton United in the first round of the Scottish Cup on Saturday October 6, but the opposition scratched so the local team received a bye into the second round against Crosslands United.

Crosslands were sent crashing out of the competition 4-1 thanks to goals from Donald Campbell, Mattie Rippon and a double from Lewis Cameron.

Saints suffered their only defeat of the season so far when they lost 2-1 in the league to bogey team Thorn Athletic. On target that day was Donald Campbell. Saints have never beaten the Johnstone side in six attempts.

Finnart were the visitors to Glencruitten in a league game the following Saturday, but the Glasgow side travelled back down the A85 on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline. Saints marksmen were Ross Maitland, Donald Campbell, Alex Craik and Willie Gemmill.

The Oban side were then back on Scottish Cup duty when they travelled to take on Hamilton FP in the third round on the impressive 4G surface at Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds. The players took to the surface like ducks to water recording an impressive 5-3 win over their Caledonian League opponents. A hat-trick from Donald Campbell and one each from Craig MacEwan and Paul Kerr put paid to Hamilton's Scottish Cup campaign.

#### Worthwhile

A long journey to Ayrshire to take on Mauchline United in the first round of the West of Scotland Cup was next on the agenda, but the trip was made all worthwhile after a Donald Campbell double gave the Oban side a 2-0 victory.

The second round of the West Cup was played the following Saturday at Glencruitten and

goals from Myles McAuley and Donald Campbell gave the home team a narrow 2-1 win over top Central Scottish League team



Craig MacEwan

Eastfield. The fourth round of the Scottish Cup took place on Saturday, December 1 with Lethian and Edinburgh Premier Division league leaders Sandys the opposition. The game had to be switched to the 3G pitch at Oban High School as Glencruitten was frozen. The temperatures rose a bit during this game as the local side were pushed all the way by their Edinburgh opponents, but thankfully goals from Eddie Swift and Willie Gemmill were enough to see Saints progress to

the fifth round draw. The final game before the festive break was against Port Glasgow OBU in the first round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy and goals from Ross Maitland, Willie Gemmill, Craig MacEwan and Lewis Cameron saw Saints ease through to the second round.

Saints manager Iain Jackson said: 'I'm absolutely delighted with the commitment and attitude of the players. They've all worked really hard, we get an excellent turnout at training and we're playing some good football into the bargain, but we won't be getting complacent as there is a long way to go and fortunes can change very quickly at this level of the game.'

'We're already in the Centenary Cup final and I don't see why we can't do well in the other cup competitions - Scottish, West and Jimmy Marshall as well as having a real go at winning the Premier Division league title again.'

'One major problem could be a backlog of fixtures at the end of the season but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it.'

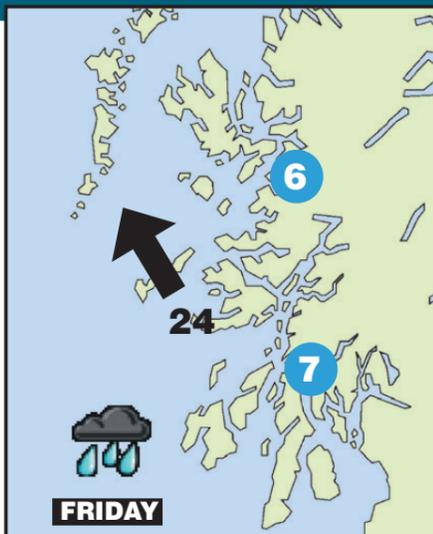
### Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds light, north easterly  
Temperatures 1C to 5°C

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds strong, south south easterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain  
**Outlook** Winds south south easterly  
Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



### Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 27, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.51 3.7 11.35 1.5 17.19 3.8 23.27 1.2	
Fri	05.29 3.8 12.08 1.4 17.56 3.9 *** **	
Sat	00.05 1.1 06.06 3.9 12.42 1.4 18.32 3.9	
Sun	00.41 1.1 06.40 3.9 13.16 1.4 19.05 3.9	
Mon	01.15 1.1 07.13 3.9 13.50 1.4 19.36 3.8	
Tues	01.47 1.1 07.44 3.9 14.19 1.5 20.06 3.7	
Wed	02.19 1.2 08.16 3.8 14.46 1.6 20.40 3.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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# **The following pages are from the Fort William (Northern) Edition of The Oban Times.**

The Oban Times prints two editions of the paper. There is the main edition as well as the Fort William (Northern) Edition.

Sometimes pages that appear in the Fort William edition do not appear in the main edition (and vice versa).

As an electronic subscriber you get the main edition plus the pages that appear in the Northern edition.



# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 8127

Thursday 27 December, 2012

[www.obantimes.co.uk](http://www.obantimes.co.uk)

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**FORT WILLIAM & LOCHABER EDITION**

## Man's body found at Fort William

THE BODY of a man was recovered from the foreshore near Fort William on Monday morning. A member of the public alerted police after spotting the partially submerged man next sea defences below the path between the Underwater Centre and Inverlochly just after 9am. Seven members of the local coastguard team brought the body from the low water mark to dry land at 11am.

The area was cordoned off as CID personnel carried out investigations.

Phil Wren, local coastguard sector manager said: 'We assisted as best we could. We recovered the body from the rock armour up quite a gradient and gave it to the undertaker at the top.'

He added: 'Very broadly speaking I would say he was between 30 and 40. None of my team recognised him, but that does not mean to say he was not local.'

A police spokesperson said on Monday afternoon: 'We are in the process of identifying who it might be and then we will have to identify the next of kin.'

She added: 'Enquiries are underway to establish the identity of the man and the circumstances of the death. If anyone has any information in relation to this, they are urged to contact Police at Fort William on 01397 702361.'

## Hogmanay ceilidh for Eigg islanders

EIGG ISLANDERS are to bring in the New Year with a Hogmanay ceilidh in the community hall.

Gaelic group Dìamh members Gabe MacVarish and Damian Helliwell, together with Brendan Greene, Murdo Cameron from Glenelg and Luke Daniels will be among those providing the music. Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust secretary Maggie Fyffe said: 'There will be a few folk coming over for it. I would expect there will be around 100 there.'

## Skye village cash

A NEW village planned for south Skye has received a £3 million boost from the Scottish Government. The project is being taken forward jointly by Gaelic college Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and the Armadale-based Clan Donald Trust.

## Arisaig date for glam rock fundraiser

Father to perform again by public demand

AN ARISAIG father will once again don his finest 70's glam rock gear for a second fundraising performance for the three hospitals treating his young daughter.

Locals packed out the Astley Hall to see Robert 'Bodie' Bowman perform a number of David Bowie tracks dressed as Ziggy Stardust with local musician Steve Brown last month.

And public demand for a repeat means the pair will be taking to the stage in the village on Wednesday January 2.

Bodie told *The Oban Times* the

positive reaction to the gig had inspired them to perform again.

He said: 'It was an absolutely brilliant night, the kids had an absolute ball.'

'Everybody was in a really good mood. It was supposed to be in Mallaig this time, but we had some parents asking if we could do it again in the village. I don't think there are that many kid-friendly events like this in the area.'

The concert raised more than £1,700, which added to proceeds from a 'Songs for Dawn' CD produced by the pair

earlier in the year means just over £8,000 has been raised for Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Kids and Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

The three hospitals have treated Bodie's two year-old daughter Dawn since she was born with a host of health problems, including a cleft palate and meningitis.

Bodie said Dawn's condition was slowly improving but regular medical treatment was still required.

'There's been improvement, but it's really, really slow,' he said. 'It's going in the right direction but there's no leaps and bounds with her.'

'She was at a kids party in Fort William recently. She still can't walk, but she really enjoyed herself.'

Steve Brown, whose band Wonderland will also perform on the night, said: 'Hopefully we'll raise enough to top the £9,000 mark. The gig starts at 7pm with a kids disco and will include possibly the last ever performance from Bodie and Brown.'



Dawn with her mum Maryann Bowman and local district nurse Eilish MacLellan



Ben Nevis Bar staff Anne Cameron, manager, Rhona MacKenzie and Adam Ramsey get into the festive spirit at the Fort William Christmas Gathering with local kids Greig and Max Kelly

## Gathering brings festive cheer to High Street

THE FORT William Christmas Gathering brought festive cheer and a much-needed sales boost to High Street business last Thursday evening.

Hundreds thronged the thoroughfare to splash the cash in shops and bars with street entertainment providing a real sense of occasion.

Carol singing from Showstoppers, Music Shed and The Songbirds, traditional music

from Dierdre Beck and Hannah MacRae, a balance bike competition and a pipe band march all added to the festive buzz.

'Excellent' Retailers and pubs did their bit by opening late and laying on special offers for shoppers – and were rewarded with extra custom.

Alistair Ness of The Granite House gift shop told *The Oban Times*: 'It was excellent in every respect – despite the weather.'

'We did get extra business in the evening – it was clear lots of people knew it was on and made the effort to come along and enjoy the atmosphere and to catch up on some late Christmas presses.'

Organiser Billy Lamont paid tribute to all involved. He said on the event's Facebook page: 'A huge thanks to everyone who came along last night and made the Christmas Gathering such a great success.'

## Loch Alsh shellfish site could be biggest of its type in the world

A HUGE colony of brightly coloured shellfish found in Loch Alsh could be the biggest in the world, it emerged this week.

Marine Scotland scientists say the population of flame shells covering a 75-hectare reef is likely to exceed 100 million.

Seabed mapping carried out during work to identify new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) confirmed the flame shell reef as the most extensive in the UK.

Dr Dan Harries of Heriot-Watt

University's School of Life Sciences carried out the survey on behalf of Marine Scotland.

'Important' He said: 'We are delighted that in this instance we found not just occasional patches but a huge and thriving flame shell community extending right the way along the entrance narrows of Loch Alsh.'

'This is a wonderful discovery for all concerned.'

Environment Secretary

Richard Lochhead said: 'This important discovery may be the largest grouping of flame shells anywhere in the world,' Scottish Natural Heritage, advisors to Ministers on potential MPA sites, are recommending the reef as a protected feature of an MPA proposal for the area.

The scallop-like flame shells have neon orange tentacles and group together on the sea bed, creating a living reef that supports hundreds of other species.

## Islander fined £500 after collision with woman cyclist

AN ISLE of Eigg man crashed head on into a woman cyclist while driving home the morning after a wedding on the island.

Ewen Kirk came round a corner on the single-track road too fast to avoid hitting the cyclist, who was left badly injured in the ditch.

The victim was airlifted to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness with her right shoulder fractured in three places, a broken right leg and numerous cuts to her face and legs.

Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'The

casualty is expected to make a full recovery.'

Kirk pled guilty to careless driving on the unclassified single-track road from Cleadale to the pier at the Galmisdale junction at around 7am on August 27.

Sheriff Noel McPartlin fined Kirk, of Lagurna, Cleadale, Isle of Eigg £500 and imposed six penalty points on his driving licence.

Sheriff McPartlin said: 'Any penalty must be related to the culpability of the crime rather than the consequences.'

## Lack of space means Mallaig to lose dental service in March

Planned surgery move to Arisaig loses funding

MALLAIG is to lose its dental service at the start of March after cutbacks by NHS Scotland.

M&S Dental Care patients will now have to travel to Fort William, although the NHS will provide a two-day per week service in the village aimed at locals who have difficulty making the journey.

Dentist Gregor Muir, who has been working in Mallaig for the past three and a half years, told *The Oban Times* NHS funding for a planned surgery move to Arisaig had been moved to other areas in Scotland which have a more urgent need for new dentists.

The move was needed after a

change in regulations meant Mallaig Health Centre was no longer suitable for M&S's four-day per week service.

Mr Muir, who also runs M&S Dental Care in Fort William, said he was 'guttled' to be leaving the town.

He said: 'We are finding it increasingly difficult to provide dentistry in the clinic in Mallaig due to the lack of space.'

'It has been a pleasure to provide the service in Mallaig and I look forward to seeing you all in the main practice in Fort William.'

NHS Highland's Lochaber district manager Joanna Hynd said:

'We regret that M&S Dental Care are having to withdraw their services from Mallaig but understand their reasons. We will closely monitor the situation and see how well the new arrangements work out.'

'In addition we will provide an out-reach service from our salaried dental service based in Fort William. This will be a limited service which will operate from the Mallaig Health Centre.'

'This service will be prioritised for those who are not able to travel to Fort William, for instance people with disabilities or other health issues.'

## Kylerhea Narrows project gains £15 million of European renewable funding

PROPOSALS for a tidal turbine array in the Kylerhea Narrows have received £15 million of European renewable energy funding.

The £44 million SeaGen Kylerhea scheme envisages four two-megawatt turbines between Skye and the mainland.

Glenelg and Arnisdale Development Trust (GADT) is hoping for a major stake in the project. Consultants are currently investigating the feasibility of that and will report back to the Scottish Government next month.

GADT Chairman Mike Francis told *The Oban Times*: 'It's good news because it means the project is moving forward again.'

## Screen Machine Scotland's Mobile Cinema

Fort William Fri 4 – Mon 7 January  
Strontian Tue 8  
Lochaline Wed 9

See [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) for screening details



### The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey

(12A) 169 mins. Martin Freeman is Bilbo Baggins in Peter Jackson's fantastical tale of a quest to reclaim the lost treasure of the Dwarf Kingdom of Erebor.

**Skyfall** (12A) 143 mins. Daniel Craig, Ralph Fiennes, Javier Bardem, Judi Dench, Naomie Harris. Is this the best 'Bond' film ever?

**ParaNorman** (PG) 92 min. An animated gem from the makers of *Coraline*. Young ghoulisher Norman must take on ghouls, zombies and grown-ups in order to save his town from a centuries-old curse.

Book in advance at: [www.screenmachine.co.uk](http://www.screenmachine.co.uk) or phone 0871 902 5750. Tickets also at the cinema 30 mins before screenings. £7.00 Adults. Concessions £5.50. 3D +£1.50



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Youth wind band for national finals

LOCHABER High School Senior Wind Band has been invited to compete in the Scottish Concert Bands Festival national finals. The 40-strong ensemble, conducted by Mark Reynolds, won through at the recent Inverness heat where they were awarded a gold plus certificate. They will compete against bands from other schools at Perth Concert Hall on Saturday, March 23.

Onich pensioner denies driving charges

AN ONICH pensioner has denied crashing his car in Glencoe after losing control. David O'Neil, of Muireisk, pled not guilty to dangerous driving on the A82 at Glen Etive on July 20. The 80 year-old is accused of losing control of his car, crossing the road, striking a

verge and rolling over, causing another car to take evasive action. O'Neil also pled not guilty to overtaking a van and pulling back in sharply, causing the van to brake hard. He is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 11.

Council encourages safe footwear

HIGHLAND Council and NHS Highland are urging people to buy snow and ice grippers for their footwear to help prevent injury from slips and falls.

Footways are being gritted as required Monday to Saturday from 6am to 6pm. On Sundays and public holidays, the cover is between 7am and 12noon.

Main urban shopping centres have top priority, main urban footways serving schools, hospitals and minor shopping areas second, and other footways as resources permit, third.

Three assisted off Ben Nevis

THREE people were directed off Ben Nevis in darkness by the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team last Wednesday night. The group got into difficulties when man in his forties experienced medical problems with his leg while abseiling down the

mountain. All were escorted off the mountain safe and well. Climbers are reminded to allow for shorter hours of daylight at this time of year, with darkness closing in during mid afternoon.

£37 million rates relief for Highlands

APPROXIMATELY £37 million of rates relief have been awarded in the Highlands since the introduction of the Small Business Bonus Scheme in 2008.

Enterprise Minister Fergus Ewing revealed the figures during a visit to The Drawing Room in Inverness. Almost half of all business properties in the Highlands - 48.5 per cent - benefit under the scheme, said Mr Ewing.

Banavie man fined over cocaine charges

A BANAVIE man caught in possession of cocaine on two separate occasions has been fined £350. Allan MacMaster, of Kamas, Lower Banavie, admitted having 1.1 grams of the class A drug on Ardour Road on December 18.

The 20 year-old previously pled guilty to possessing 0.7 grams of cocaine on Belford Road on November 4. The drugs has a combined street value of just over £100, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Four times limit driver given seven year ban and has car seized

A FORT William man was caught behind the wheel more than four times the legal alcohol limit. Kevin Leahy was banned from driving for seven years

and had his BMW car seized by police. It was his fourth driving related conviction. Leahy, who admitted the drink-drive charge and to having no insurance, was drinking

in a Fort William pub on October 20, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. But he was spotted on CCTV walking to his car and attempting to drive to his home at 4

Achariach, Claggan Road. Appearing from custody, Leahy was also given one year of supervision by social workers and ordered to attend the domestic abuse perpetrators

program after two separate incidents involving his partner. The 39 year-old pled guilty to behaving in a threatening and abusive manner on October 25. On November 30, Leahy

also admitted to behaving in a threatening or abusive manner by shouting and swearing at his partner. Sheriff Noel McPartlin also fined Leahy £800.



The 'international' class at Fort William RC Primary School 20\_1522mary01

Fort William's young 'international brigade'

THERE'S a real 'international brigade' at Fort William RC Primary School these days - and pupils celebrated their European heritage by sending Christmas parcels to relations in different countries of the EU. Using recycled plastic bags and boxes, P3-

4 Gaelic medium children dispatched the presents in the week before the holidays. Christmas customs

Among the pupils involved were Aine O'Rua, whose dad comes from Ireland, Aidan Nielsen, whose dad is Danish, Fina

MacFarlane, whose mum hails from Germany and Fran Narveaz, who has Spanish parentage. The class also learned about all the different Christmas customs in European countries.

Lochaber foresters rewarded

TWO FOREST Enterprise Scotland employees from Lochaber have been admitted as professional members to the Institute of Chartered Foresters after examinations last month. Kate Tuer, from Ballachulish, and Henry Dobson, from Banavie, both work from the district office at Torlundy. Lochaber district manager Kevin Peace told The Oban Times: 'It is fantastic that they have both gained chartered status because it increases their professional standing in the world of forestry.'

Pupils help British Heart Foundation

A GROUP of first year pupils from Lochaber High School presented Lisa Stafford of the British Heart Foundation with a cheque for £400. The funds were raised earlier in the year when the annual 'High School Hike' amassed a magnificent £8,000. Most of the money raised goes towards supporting extra-curricular activities in the school but each year 10 per cent is donated to charity. This year, the school's pupil councils decided to split the donation between the British Heart Foundation to help with the purchase of defibrillators for the local area, and 'November' to raise awareness and helping the treatment of male cancers.

Fisherman had vodka up his jumper

A MALLAIG fisherman attempted to steal a bottle of vodka from a Fort William supermarket by hiding it up his jumper. Appearing from custody, Lithuanian national Ericas Osipovs pled guilty to shoplifting from the supermarket on December 18. The 32 year-old was seen on CCTV and stopped by staff before he left the store. Osipovs, whose address was given as the Mallaig Fisherman's Mission, was fined £100 by Sheriff Noel McPartlin.

Islanders 'routinely ripped off' claim Citizens Advice

A CITIZENS Advice Scotland report has found islanders are being 'routinely ripped off' - with unfair surcharges on deliveries averaging £18.60. Complaints were received about 534 companies, of whom almost two thirds imposed extra charges or wouldn't deliver to the Scottish islands. The CAS findings have been passed to Trading Standards for investigation.

Western Isles MSP Alasdair Allan, who has campaigned against the surcharges, said companies are making needless charges on small parcels which could easily be put in the post. Understanding He said: 'What is most frustrating is that, in most of these cases, companies refused to allow delivery by Royal Mail rather than by courier, even for small items. 'Either companies don't understand that the Royal Mail charges the same to deliver to Bernera as they do to Birmingham, or they are locked into contracts with couriers which prevent the Royal Mail being used. 'Either way a number of national companies need to heed the message contained in this report and start treating their island customers fairly.'

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Taxi driver fined £200 after running over passenger

A FORT William taxi driver accidentally reversed into one of his passengers after dropping her off on Bank Street. Alexander Livingstone pled guilty to careless driving by reversing when it was unsafe to do so on the hilly street. The 59 year-old also admitted failing to give his name and address to the woman after the September 10 incident. Livingstone, of 20 Inverloch Court, was fined £200 and given five penalty points.



Senior pupils at Banavie Primary danced, sang and played games at their Christmas party. The school's hall was a hive of activity for the afternoon as they youngsters enjoyed one of their final school days before the festive break. The winners of a frenetic pass the parcel competition are pictured with their prizes 20\_1522banavie01

New Year message from Councillor Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber

AS PROVOST of Lochaber, the Outdoor Capital of the UK, I would like to take this opportunity to wish a happy prosperous New Year to all Oban Times readers. Coping well Considering Europe is gripped in the midst of the worst financial crisis in living memory, I believe Lochaber is coping well. With the Blar Mor development well under way, bringing large supermarket choice to Lochaber, a new police station and ambulance station, it is estimated that £50 million will be spent here. £30 million is about to be spent bringing our primary schools up to modern community hub standards in a 'spend to save' programme, as well as £12 million due in April 2013 to complete the High school. This taken with the £90 million spent by Rio Tinto up grading their hydropower system, BSW's new build on the old paper mill site, Marine Harvest's proposal to extend by including filleting lines and their new £12,000,000 small farm at Lochailort, along with the proposed £800,000,000 Choire Ghlais power storage scheme, surely shows that our major companies have faith in Lochaber and we can look forward with confidence. Investment These projects will bring employment for up to the next six years. The investment in marinas in Lochaline and Mallaig has borne fruit this year, with increased use of all our yachting facilities. The completion of the new build at the West End of town is also welcomed. These new tenancies along with the proposal to visually enhance some of the unoccupied premises should give the town centre a better image. Community initiatives at Kilmallie Hall, Caol Community Centre and Kilmallie Shinty Club have enhanced the leisure facilities for all our inhabitants in Lochaber. It would have been nice to land the hoped for all-weather facility on the Blar, but unfortunately we could not convince everyone in the merit of this. However, Lochaber High school will benefit from the £500,000 of community funding that was earmarked for this project, by replacing the failing old 1G pitch with a G3 one. The council will also be continuing to lobby for the upgrade of the A82, focusing on Inverarman to Tarbet. We have been extremely fortunate with the weather this summer, which has certainly helped what could have been a very difficult tourist season, with both the Olympic events and the World Cup. Ben Nevis, the West Highland Way, the Great Glen Way, Nevis Range and the Harry Potter/Jacobite steam train continue to attract valued tourists. In all, this has been a really good year, with a lot to look forward to in 2013. Lochaber is truly a great place to live and work in.



Provost Allan Henderson is confident about 2013 20\_1522allan01



Eye to eye with John Wallace

Reflections

Christmas has passed and the family life can start getting back to normality. Whilst it's great to be with family and play with the children and grandchildren Christmas is also a time for reflection. It never ceases to amaze me how quickly our children grow. One minute they are babes in our arms utterly dependant on us, then there are the horrible teenage years and before you know it grandchildren materialise. I remember watching in amazement my very young son start to take in the world around him. Finally I had living proof my university lecturers did know what they were talking about when they pontificated about the development of the human vision system. His wee eyes seemed to dart here there and everywhere as he absorbed the world about him. Today the experience is being repeated with my recently arrived grandson. Our knowledge of how the infant vision system develops has confirmed the importance of regular eye examinations for youngsters. For any child with an obvious squint a very early eye examination is essential to allow for the appropriate treatment. Earlier this year I attended a meeting in Arizona where the world experts on the development of myopia gathered. The consensus of the meeting was myopia is preventable in many cases or can be minimised if active treatment is offered at an early stage. Unfortunately, the treatment currently on offer from the vast majority of eye care professionals i.e. spectacles, can actually encourage the development of myopia (short sightedness). At Christmas we often over-indulge our children with very expensive presents which are soon forgotten about. Why not give your children the best present possible, and one that can last a lifetime... clear comfortable vision. NHS Scotland funds free eye examinations for children. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP Wallace Optometrists The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic 11/12 Argyll Square, Oban Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES) www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Advertisement for James Smith & Company (Connell) Ltd. featuring a house image and contact information: 7E Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: 01631 564955. Services include New Build, Extensions, Renovations, Design and Fit Kitchens and Bathrooms, Plumbing, Heating, Electrical Work.

Advertisement for the digital edition of the Oban Times, showing a tablet displaying the newspaper and a keyboard. Text: 'Our digital edition is a real page turner. www.obantimes.co.uk/digital'

**Teenager ordered to be of good behaviour**

A CAOL teenager who left his friend needing hospital treatment after an argument about alcohol got out of hand has been ordered to be of good behaviour for six months. Arran Watson, of 7 Alexander Square, pled guilty to assaulting the 23-year-old man by punching and kicking him on the head and body to his injury. The incident occurred on Glenkingie Street in the village on November 9. Fort William Sheriff Court heard the man had agreed to buy alcohol for Watson, but refused to give him change. After being beaten up, the victim was taken to hospital with severe bruising and grazing on his back and around his eyes and forehead.

**Man admonished**

A FORT William man who admitted pushing two women has been admonished after six months of good behaviour. Arturs Puce, aged 28, of 1 Mull Court, pled guilty to assaulting the woman in his house on July 5.

**Fined for pushing police officer**

A FORT William teenager been fined £65 for pushing a police officer on the chest. Bradley Cameron, 54 Riverside Park, Lochyside, pled guilty to assaulting the officer outside the Nevis Centre in the early hours of December 15. Fort William Sheriff Court heard the 17-year-old spent a night in custody after the incident.

**Woman denies failing to give breath specimen**

AN ARDGOUR woman has denied failing to give a breath specimen to police after being suspected of drink driving. Lorna Kennedy, of Tigh na Sealgair, 4 Clovullin, was stopped by police on Achintore Road in the early hours of Saturday December 8, and was taken to the police station where she did not give a sample of breath.

The 22-year-old is due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on January 31.



Cute cubs: Bubble and Squeak will spend at least a year at the International Otter Survival Fund at Broadford before being released back into the wild.

**Otter rescue centre welcomes young Bubble and Squeak**

TWO EIGHT-WEEK old otter cubs have arrived at an Isle of Skye rescue centre after being found abandoned in England.

Bubble and Squeak are currently making excellent progress at the International Otter Survival Fund's (IOSF) base at Broadford.

The tiny female cubs were saved after they were heard crying in a garden in the Lake District.

Wisely, the person who found them left them alone to see if their mother would return but after two days there was still no sign of her.

The furry duo were taken to the Aquarium of the Lakes on Lake Windermere for a few

days before being transferred to the IOSF's cub unit in Broadford. Bubble was found to have a sore paw - but staff report the injury is healing and both youngsters are feeding well. Janet Wildgoose of IOSF said the fate of the cubs' mother was unknown, but it was likely she had been killed. She told *The Oban Times*: 'Their mum could have been hit with a car, anything - we just don't know.'

'The cubs will be with us for at least a year. We hope to release them, probably back where they came from, in the spring of 2014.'

She added: 'They are both doing very well.'

**Sex offender on register**

A CAOL man has been placed on the sex offenders register after admitting possessing 53 indecent pictures of children - some as young as three - on his computer.

Cathel Gillanders, aged 45, pled guilty to possessing images on a laptop, a hand held computer and four USB memory sticks and saving the images to his hard drive between January 26 and May 13 2010.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard one of the images was at level five, the most serious end of the scale, with the majority at the least serious level.

Offshore worker Gillanders,

of 4 Erracht Drive, came under suspicion after communicating with a man whose email address was 'known to police' as a potential source of child pornography.

Fiscal Alison Wylie said Gillanders' family members also had access to the laptop, but that Gillanders' account was password protected.

Forensic analysis of electronic equipment showed Gillanders had deleted a small number of the pictures, but others had been sorted into files.

Bail was continued and sentence was deferred until February 11 for reports.

**Three men to stand trial accused of birthday party assault**

THREE men are to stand trial accused of assaulting two men and a woman during a fracas at a Fort William birthday party.

Brothers Ian Roy, 28, of 59 Carn Dearg, Claggan, and Frazer Roy, 25, of 38 Blaeberryhill Road, Whitburn, are accused of repeatedly punching and kicking Dennis Roy on the head and body

to his injury. The pair previously admitted a total of seven charges of assault, threatening and abusive behaviour, damaging property and resisting arrest.

But further police inquiries into the incident at the BA Club on November 3 resulted in more charges. Fraser Roy is also accused of headbutting

Callum Duncan and repeatedly striking him on the head and body to his injury.

**Injury**

A third man, Derek Cumming, of 22 The Avenue, Whitburn, denies punching both Dennis Roy and Callum Duncan on the face to their injury.

The 43-year-old is also accused of

punching Sharon Cameron on the face, knocking her to the ground and kicking her on the face to her injury.

The three men are due to stand trial at Fort William Sheriff Court on February 11, with a preliminary hearing set for January 30.

**Scallop fisherman banned from driving and fined after crash**

A MALLAIG scallop fisherman has been banned from driving for 15 months and fined £600 after failing to give breath specimens to police.

Damien MacDonald was suspected of drink driving after

crashing his work van into a railway bridge near Glenfinnan on the A830 at around 3am on Saturday December 8.

Officers who arrived on the scene said the 29-year-old appeared 'highly intoxicated'.

Fiscal Alison Wylie told Fort William Sheriff Court: 'He could barely stand, he smelled of alcohol and he was slurring his words.'

Defending, Hamish Melrose said MacDonald, of 11 Cameron

Avenue, had been drinking earlier in the night.

He said: 'He went home and fell asleep.'

'He woke up in the middle of the night and decided to drive to Fort William.'

Sentencing, Sheriff Noel McPartlin said: 'It was highly irresponsible of you to drive your vehicle at this time.'

'It's clear from the accounts that you were in no fit condition to be driving.'

**Firefighters strike while iron is hot**

**Home visit team swing into action**

FORT William firefighters have set up a 'hot strike' team in Lochaber to visit higher risk households and offer smoke alarms to vulnerable people.

The initiative, the brainchild of Lochaber group manager Pat McElhinney at the Fort William district office, involves two retained firefighters targeting properties that have had fires and fire alarms in the last 12 months, together with surrounding addresses.

Groups receiving advice are people living on their own - including single parents, low income families, people living with mental and/or physical impairment, smokers, people with alcohol and/or drugs issues and the over 60s.

Mr McElhinney highlighted the case of a young Caol woman, who suffered severe burns to her body after setting fire to her nightie and dressing gown with a tea light on December 12.

The hot strike team swung into action the next day by visiting nearby properties to raise awareness and help protect other members of the community.

Mr McElhinney warned candles and flammable materials were a potentially dangerous

By STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

combination. He told *The Oban Times*: 'Tea lights in the home were the cause of the incident. Please place them above waist height, out the reach of children and in a proper holder. Please be vigilant this Christmas and lets all enjoy the festive period in the best way - safe.'

Home visits, said Mr McElhinney, will not take long but the information and advice that is given could save a life.

**Visit**

He said: 'I would like everyone in the community to look at the list of high risk groups named and provide at least one person they know who would benefit from a visit from our hot strike team.'

'We are here to help and support the community and I would like the team to complete as many visits before the end of April as they can.'

Anyone wishing a home safety check should contact the Fort William district office on 01397 707670.

Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service is currently evaluating the initiative.



Hot strike team: Chris Findlay, left, and Alex Campbell, right, with Pat McElhinney.

# MATHESONS

## midnight madness

# SALE

Mathesons Midnight Madness Sale starts at 10am on Thursday 3rd January. The store will be open until MIDNIGHT on the Thursday to give you plenty of time to grab a **Bargain**. There are lots and lots of **Bargains** that you just cannot refuse. There are some really special **Early Bird** bargains and some end of range items at fantastic prices. Discounts are available on all ranges across the store including Carpets, Curtains, Beds, Dining and Lounge furniture, Sofas etc so you can completely furnish your home at **Sale** prices.

**Early Bird Bargains**

**Free tea coffee and cloutie dumpling**

**SALE STARTS**

Thursday 3rd January at 10 am and continues through to **MIDNIGHT**

Thereafter open Monday - Saturday 9am - 5.30pm

**Fantastic savings on**

- **CARPETS**
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**Tweedmill, Soroba Rd, Oban, Argyll**  
Tel: 565195

**Travel disruption for islanders**

ISLANDERS from Coll and Tiree making a last minute dash home for Christmas almost missed out after bad weather caused the cancellation of sailings to the islands last Saturday. The *MV Clansman* attempted to dock at both islands on two occasions before returning to Oban around eight hours after departure, leaving many islanders stranded in the town. Although travellers got to the islands the next day, the Christmas post is not expected to reach Coll until today (Thursday). One Coll islander said: 'Sometimes it is like being on a desert island.'

**Oban's wrong way round roundabout driver is charged**

A DRIVER who committed a serious offence of road traffic offences last Saturday afternoon, including driving the wrong way around a roundabout, has been charged with careless driving. The 63-year-old man committed the offences on Albany Street, where he drove against the one-way system, and on Argyll Square and Soroba Road.

**Thieves target North Connel fuel**

POLICE in Oban are seeking information on a theft of 800 litres of kerosene from an unlocked tank in Moss Road, North Connel. Anyone who noticed any unusual activity in the area, or who may have been offered heating oil from an unreliable source is urged to contact PC Stuart Johnston on 01631 510 500.

**Connel crash causes diversion**

TRAFFIC was diverted around Shore Road in Connel after a teenage driver crashed and damaged a road sign on the A85 approaching Connel. The 17-year-old woman, who sustained no serious injuries, has been charged with careless driving as a result of the incident, which occurred around 9.20pm on Sunday.

**NEWSDESK**  
01397 703003



The festive lights of Oban's Argyll Square shine through the unseasonably wet Christmas celebrations. Photo: Dennis Hardley Photography

**Neil will mark 50 years at special Hogmanay ceilidh**

ONE OF Argyll's most famous accordionists, Neil Sinclair, will bring down the curtain on his 50th year of performing when he leads the Hogmanay celebrations in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls. The 64 year old is providing the music for the Family Hogmanay Party next week, which is expected to be a sell-out occasion. As *The Oban Times* went to press, would-be revelers were clamoring for the last few tickets. The Neil Sinclair Sound will be completed on Hogmanay by Neil's wife, Sheila, on keyboard and North Connel's Don MacAllister on fiddle. But while the expected 300 party guests will be enjoying the holiday season, Neil would much rather be working at Hogmanay, a shift he has become

familiar with over the past 50 years. 'If I have ever been off for Hogmanay, it is only on two or three occasions. I would rather be playing, because it has become a way of life for me.' The Connel accordion player had his first public performance at the age of 14 in Oban Masonic Hall, before turning professional with the Colin Campbell Highland Band in 1968. Over his career to date, Neil has played all around the world and considers the Philippines, Egypt and Brazil as highlights. However, his longest journey recently was last Saturday when he and his daughter, Sileas, tried to get to Tiree. The ferry left Oban at 6.30am and unsuccessfully tried to get into Coll and Tiree on two occasions before returning to Oban at 2.30pm.

**'Huge concern' as Argyll population falls**

FIGURES revealing Argyll and Bute as one of the few areas of Scotland to suffer a population decline are a 'huge concern'. The leader of the local authority, Roddy McCuish, made the statement after census results released last week showed the population of the county had dropped by more than 3,300 - nearly four per cent. Scotland's population, meanwhile, has increased to its highest ever level, 5,295,000. Argyll and Bute Council is already discussing how it can make savings of more than £40million over the next seven years, but confirmation of a reduced population could result in a drop in the block grant handed to the council from the Scottish Government. Mr McCuish said reversing the trend was one of the coun-

cil's top priorities. He said: 'It's a huge concern and one we will do our best to address. 'If we're to address it we need to make sure Argyll is a great place to live and work. 'We already have great potential to build on our aquaculture, tourism and construction. We also have to make sure we are better connected, that the A82 and A83 are fit for purpose. We need to have better broadband. 'All these things have to be in place. We can only do that by working together across government regardless of political ties.' Dick Walsh, leader of the opposition, described the figures as 'disappointing'. He said: 'We need more young people and families to stay, live, work and settle in our area if we

are to arrest the decline. The public sector has been hit hard. 'Our council has shed some 400 full time jobs in recent years. With some £20million of cuts in expenditure from the council, this has a knock on effect. 'It will take hard work, further investment and innovation to rectify, but we are alert and up for the challenge. Plans take time and some of the current initiatives will help, but more needs to be done. 'Argyll and Bute is a fantastic place to live and to bring up a family. If we can improve on our house building, create more jobs then we are moving in the right direction. This will require joint thinking and action on the part of all, public agencies and the private sectors.' The council's executive

director of development and infrastructure services, Sandy MacTaggart, said: 'The council fully recognises the projected population trends facing our communities and is taking several steps to address this, including working closely with our partners, such as Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Enterprise and the private sector to make a positive difference. 'A key focus for the council is the retention of young people in Argyll and Bute, giving them access to training, education and employment opportunities. 'The council has invested and will continue to invest in key areas of infrastructure. We are also pushing to secure the digital infrastructure of the area which the Argyll and Bute economy and communities will need in future years.'

**Tiree school is one of the country's best**

Argyll and Bute - ranked as one of the worst local authorities - claim tables are 'irrelevant'

IT IS one of Scotland's smallest and most remote secondary schools, yet Tiree High School has been ranked as one of the country's best. New school league tables revealed that the Hebridean school is the 21st best performing school in Scotland, despite Argyll and Bute Council being ranked as one of the worst performing local authorities. Not only is Tiree High the only school in the region to finish in the top 100, but its closest performing regional neighbour, Lochgilphead Joint Campus, was 103 places further down. However, the council has described the tables as misleading, pointing out the tables only take higher qualifications into account. The tables rank each school on

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEVEN FLANAGAN sflanagan@obantimes. its performance at higher level, measured by the percentage of senior pupils passing higher between A-C grades. As of September 2011, Tiree High School had 39 secondary school pupils. Of those, 50 per cent passed three or more higher and a further 30 per cent with five or more. Lochgilphead Joint Campus had 506 secondary pupils. Of those sitting higher, 50 per cent achieved one or more higher, 30 per cent three or more and 14 per cent five or more. Hermitage Academy is the area's third-best performing

school, leading Tarbert Academy and Oban High School in fifth place in the regional table. Slay High School is Argyll's worst performing school. It had 213 pupils, but of those sitting higher 37 per cent passed one higher, nine per cent gained three or more and just four per cent passed five. As a region, Argyll and Bute ranked 24th of 32 local authorities, with just 10 per cent of pupils earning five or more higher. Some 45 per cent achieved one higher and 24 per cent three or more. By comparison, 69 per cent of students in the best performing area, East Renfrewshire, gained one higher, 32 per cent three or more and 32 per cent at least five. Cleland Sneddon, Argyll and Bute Council's executive director of community services, said: 'The Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework (SCQF) results are only one aspect of attainment and such league table comparisons are largely irrelevant. 'Even across SCQF measures Argyll and Bute is generally above national average on most measures. For example, pre-appearance results for advance higher for Argyll and Bute were the highest ever for last year. 'Attainment needs to be considered more widely. Last year 1,306 pupils received alternative non-SCQF qualifications which were most suited to their career aspirations than just SCQF qualifications. 'These qualifications are of equal importance. As evidence of the impact of these alternative qualifications, Argyll and Bute pupils who left last year recorded the highest rate of positive destinations since this data was first collected at 89.8 per cent.'

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**CÈILIDH NA BLIADHN' ÙIRE BEÒ HOGMANAY CÈILIDH LIVE**

From Achnagairn House, Kirkhill, by Beauly. Join Derek 'Pluto' Murray, Kirsteen MacDonald and a host of musical talent including Mànrán, Duncan Chisholm, Hamish Napier, Kathleen MacInnes, Rona Lightfoot and Dingwall Gaelic Choir.

11.30f/11.30pm

Also LIVE on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal and www.bbc.co.uk/alba

Diardaoin 27 Dùbhlachd Thursday 27 December  
**HEBRIDEAN CELTIC FESTIVAL - MÀNRRAN**  
Join Mànrán on stage as they make a triumphant return to Stornoway. 8.10f/8.10pm

**CUIRM Ì CELTIC: CHICAGO**  
Kathleen MacInnes hosts a concert from the Harris Theatre, Chicago, with a cast including Julie Fowles, Session A9 and Admiral Fallow. 8.55f/8.55pm

**AIR AN RATHAD ON THE ROAD**  
Join Fiona, Murray and Calum Iain as they take to the road. 10f/10pm

Dihaoine 28 Dùbhlachd Friday 28 December  
**NA TRADS 2012 MG ALBA SCOTS TRAD MUSIC AWARDS 2012**  
Highlights from Na Trads 2012, held in Fort William. 9f/9pm

Disathairne 29 Dùbhlachd Saturday 29 December  
**HEBRIDEAN CELTIC FESTIVAL - THE PROCLAIMERS**  
Join Craig and Charlie at HebCelt 2012. 9f/9pm

**BELLADRUM 2012: CRIDHE TARTAN**  
Fiona Mackenzie introduces highlights from Belladrum 2012. 10f/10pm

Là na Sàbaid 30 Dùbhlachd Sunday 30 December  
**MÒD 2012: MÒD NA CLOINNE**  
The best of the Children's Mod from the 109th Royal National Mod in Dunoon. 8f/8pm

Oidhche Challainn New Year's Eve  
**BARBARA DICKSON**  
Profile of Barbara Dickson with guests including Billy Connelly and Rab Noakes. 9.30f/9.30pm

**CEÒL DANNSA**  
John Carmichael presents a sensational evening of Scottish Country Dance Music. 10.30f/10.30pm

Là na Bliadhnn' Ùire New Year's Day  
**AN DROCHAD THE BRIDGE RISING**  
The story of the campaign against the tolls on the Skye Bridge which pitted plucky Scottish islanders against the might of the Government and the Bank of America. 8.05f/8.05pm

**MACHAIRAZZI**  
Celebrating the 20th anniversary of Machair, the first ever Gaelic soap. 9.05f/9.05pm

Diardaoin 3 Faoilleach Thursday 3 January  
**MÒD 2012: MÒD NAN CÒISIREAN**  
The Senior Choir competitions from the Dunoon Mod. 8.55f/8.55pm

Disathairne 5 Faoilleach Saturday 5 January  
**PHILOMENA BEGLEY: 50 YEARS OF MUSIC**  
A special concert and a window on the life of the Queen of Country music. 10f/10pm

**Spòrs air BBC ALBA**

Disathairne 29 Dùbhlachd Saturday 29 December  
**BEÒ/LIVE RUGBY - 1872 CUP**  
Edinburgh v Glasgow. 4f/4pm

**FOOTBALL**  
Hibernian v Celtic. 6f/6pm

Diciadain 2 Faoilleach Wednesday 2 January  
**BEÒ/LIVE FOOTBALL**  
Ross County v Inverness CT. 3f/3pm

Dihaoine 4 Faoilleach Friday 4 January  
**BEÒ/LIVE RUGBY**  
Edinburgh v Leinster. 7.30f/7.30pm



## Mull BID plan gets backing

PLANS to create a Business Improvement District (BID) for Mull, Iona and Ulva has been given the seal of approval by Argyll and Bute Council.

The plans were passed at a full meeting of the council last week, having previously been agreed by the Area Committee of Oban, Lorn and the Isles.

The BID plan will now be finalised by the steering group and go out to ballot in February. Neil Hutton, chairman of the steering group, said: "The proposed BID for Mull and Iona will be, as far as we know, the first rural BID in the UK, the first island BID and the first to focus so directly on the visitor economy."

Richard Nealon, vice chairman of the BID steering group, added: "This is great news. We are all delighted the council is fully in support of the BID. The steering group is in the process of finalising the plan which will print in January. This will then be distributed along with ballot papers in February when the vote is planned to commence."

If islanders vote in favour of the scheme, the BID programme would be visitor orientated, meaning the money raised would be used to boost the number of people coming to the islands, especially during quieter periods. A BID would also look to raise the profile of the islands with things such as new festivals and increased marketing. It would see 436 businesses contributing and working together with a £128,500 annual budget.

Once the plan is finalised, ballot papers will be issued on February 6 2013 and are due back by March 21. If passed, the BID scheme would run for five years from April 2013 to 2018.

## Islay man shot friend in leg

AN ISLAY man had a pellet permanently lodged in his shin after a friend shot him in the leg.

Andrew Stevenson, 18, of 11 Charlotte Street, Port Ellen, was found guilty of assaulting the man and causing serious injury after shooting him with an air rifle at Bay View, Port Ellen, in September 14 this year.

Sentence on Stevenson was deferred until January for reports.

# Argyll development plan goes out to consultation

A THREE month public consultation on the proposed Argyll and Bute Local Development Plan (LDP) will start in the third week of January.

### Facing challenges

The plan provides a clear vision of how Argyll and Bute's land will be used over the next 10 years in response to the key challenges facing our area such as population loss and climate

change. Its focus is on creating sustainable jobs and realising new investment opportunities, delivering new homes in the places people want to live and vital infrastructure such as roads and superfast broadband.

### Challenges

Chairman of the planning, protective services and licensing committee, councillor Sandy Taylor said: "The proposed LDP includes a vision, key aims

and policy responses which are designed to address the challenges the communities of Argyll and Bute will face in the years ahead.

### Housing needs

"These include meeting all of our housing needs, reducing the need to travel, creating new job opportunities, retaining our essential services and looking after our outstanding natural and built environment and

delivering the many development opportunities contained within the plan.

"Only by having a successful economy can we grow our working population and keep and enhance the essential services and infrastructure we all need to maintain our quality of life."

The proposed LDP has been developed after extensive consultation with more than a thousand stakeholders

over several years, including community councils, developers, land owners and private individuals.

### Published

Scottish Natural Heritage, The Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Historic Scotland and Scottish Water will also be asked their view.

Following the consultation period any necessary changes will be made to the plan

before being approved by the council and sent on to Scottish Ministers.

Once the LDP has been examined by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter to address any unresolved objections the LDP will be published with any required modifications and then adopted by Argyll and Bute Council as its land use policy document in its role as planning authority.

## Local fisheries projects gain more than £300,000 in EC grants

FISHERIES projects throughout Argyll and Bute have been given £326,453 in grants by the European Fisheries Fund.

In the latest round of European Fisheries Fund (EFF) grants, eight recipients in the county have shared the grant, which aims to support business improvements and growth.

### Shellfish

These include £32,340 awarded to the Association of Shellfish Growers - based in Achnaoloch, Connel - to ensure wider representation for the shellfish sector, such as promotion at European industry forums, which in turn will help boost Scottish production.

In Tarbert, the *MY Destiny* has been given £23,258 towards insulation of the fish hold cooling system, improving onboard safety and fish quality, as well as work to rewire and raise the wheelhouse, improving visibility for the skipper of the vessel.

An additional £15,051 of grant money has been granted to the fishing vessel *MFV Gleaner* of Campbeltown towards the purchase and installation of a new back-up generator and net retrieval system, which will improve crew safety.



Sixth year pupils gather at the start of the Oban High School Jingles. The annual Christmas dance, held last Wednesday, featured bands Gunna Sound and Chunks.

## Rescued crew arrested

THREE crewmen of an Irish fishing vessel, which went hard aground outside Campbeltown Loch early last Friday morning, have been arrested.

After a mayday call to the Coastguard, Campbeltown Lifeboat launched to its aid at 2.45am. The *Argent*, with four crew on board, hit rocks at Macrangan's Point, at the mouth of Campbeltown Loch, and was taking on water.

Inspector Tom Harper of Campbeltown Police Station confirmed three men had been arrested and reports will be sent to the procurator fiscal.

"Three men, aged 38, 46 and 53, were arrested in connection with alleged offence under the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 in relation to their fitness to operate the vessel," said Inspector Harper.

At the time of going to press, the *Argent* was still stuck fast on the rocks. The local harbour authority had deployed pollution booms and removed the remaining fuel from the vessel.

## Oban man jailed for 18 months after knocking victim unconscious

A THUG, who had to be pulled off his victim after knocking him unconscious, has been jailed for 18 months.

Robert Lopez, from Oban, pled guilty at Dumbaron Sheriff Court last Wednesday to assaulting a man at the Railway Pier in Oban by punching him unconscious on October 19 this year.

The court heard the 23-year-old, who has previous convictions for assault, had gone to

Portugal to escape his reputation but on his return to Oban had been drinking heavily with his brother in a pub in the town.

### 'Red mist'

His brother left first and when Lopez left the pub he saw his brother fighting with the complainant.

Lopez ran over and split the fight up but the man bit him on the hand.

Defence agent Terry Galanagh said 'the red mist then

descended' and Lopez began punching his victim, knocking him to the floor and punching him unconscious.

Two of the victim's friends arrived and dragged Lopez off him.

Lopez then ran from the scene but was found by police officers in a nearby street with blood all over his clothes and his shirt in his hand.

Sheriff Tom McCartney jailed Lopez for 18 months.

## Campbeltown girl wins road safety calendar competition

A CAMPBELTOWN school pupil has been chosen as the winner of this year's Argyll and Bute Council road safety calendar competition.

Six-year-old Morgan Reid, a primary two pupil from Castlehill Primary School, was thrilled to be this year's winner.

Morgan's brightly coloured poster, which bears the message 'always play in a safe place', was selected as the overall winner by a panel of judges.

Morgan received a £50 voucher and the road safety classroom calendar trophy for her school.

## Police issue metal theft warning

LOCALS have been urged to be on their guard over the festive period with metal thefts increasing across the country.

Strathclyde Police's Safer Communities Department has warned metal theft is on the increase as the price of metals, such as copper, brass and lead has increased dramatically, making it lucrative and appealing to the thieves. Crimes reported in Argyll and Bute include theft of power cables, manhole covers and telecommunications cables.

Constable Stephen Black of the Safer Communities Department said: "If you see or suspect any unusual activity, such as unmarked vans or persons walking around collecting metal from gardens call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or your local police office."

## School alarm has been repaired

NEIGHBOURS of Oban High School should get some peace after a faulty alarm system was repaired.

The council was flooded with complaints last week when the alarm went off in the early hours of Tuesday morning.

A repair now seems to have been implemented after an inspection this week.

A council spokeswoman said: "Council staff visited the school on Thursday to check the alarm system."

"Some technical issues have now been resolved which will address the disruption experienced by neighbours. We apologise for any inconvenience caused."

# Business



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**FRIDAY 28th 11AM - 2AM** - Tim Oconnor - 2am closing time

**SATURDAY 29th 11AM-2AM** - Tim Oconnor - 2am closing time

**SUNDAY 30th 11AM - 2AM** - End of year Quiz then Disco afterwards - 2am closing time

**MONDAY 31st 11AM - 3AM** - New Years Disco with DJ Stevo - 3am closing time

**TUESDAY 1st 12PM - 3AM** - Chris Suckle - 3am closing time

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# Oban Lorne fear fixture pile-up

OBAN LORNE fear a fixture build up, caused by numerous postponed fixtures, could derail their quest for the RBS West Division Three title.

On November 3 Oban Lorne secured a last-gasp victory over league leaders Loch Lomond at Glencruitten to narrow the gap at the top of the league.

But in the 10 weeks since, the men in green have failed in their attempts to play a single fixture, because of adverse weather conditions.

With only six league games played so far, Lorne will have a busy schedule in the New Year with 12 league fixtures remaining and a potential run in the RBS Bowl competition, all before the seven season starts at the beginning of May.

Oban Lorne coach Corrie Louw said: "Frustratingly, six matches have been postponed over a 10-week period, which has put the buffers on a promising league campaign."

"With tough games coming up away from home to the likes of Mull, Arran and Loch Lomond it will be crucial for us to get back playing every week."

Oban Lorne have made a fairly comfortable start to the season in 2012 - the club's 50th anniversary year.

A resounding 34-3 win over rivals Mull on the club's anniversary day was followed up with a 27-21 win at Millbrae and a 32-19 win over Isle of Arran at Glencruitten.

With all going well Oban fell to their first defeat of the season in Uddingston, going down by 27-12.

That defeat in October spurred the side onto a bonus point victory in Paisley the week before a last-minute Craig Wright penalty secured victory against then unbeaten Loch Lomond.

Going into 2013 the team sit third in the table on 24 points but have two games in hand on Arran and Loch Lomond, who occupy the top two places.

With an important West Bowl quarter final game coming up on January 5 in Birkmyre, coach Louw and captain Robin MacQueen will be hoping that the team can shake off any potential rustiness and regain the early season form that could see the team promoted back to West Division Two.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Rugby Football Club has been granted £2,333.33 from The Sportsman's Charity to help fund Allan Wright's position as rugby development officer for the county.



Dee Bradbury of Argyll and Bute RFC and rugby development officer Allan Wright, centre, receive a cheque from Kenny Brown, Glasgow Warriors' regional development manager.

## Saints at home to Postal United

### FOOTBALL

SAINTS return to Scottish Amateur League Premier Division action on Saturday January 5 with a tough home game against last season's league winners Postal United. The game will take place at Glencruitten at 2pm.

The club was saddened to hear of the death of Jimmy Maitland, father of Ross, who has been a Saints player for many years.

The sympathy of everybody at Oban Saints goes to the Maitland family at this sad time.

A challenge match scheduled to be played on Saturday by the club has been called off as a mark of respect.

## Top sports coaches line up for Oban visit

### COACHING

Two of the UK's most respected sports coach mentors are heading to Argyll and Bute in February 2013.

Kelvin Giles, a former coach to Olympic athletes, and Scottish rugby hero Tony Stanger will be in Oban for a Coach Academy, as part of Argyll and Bute Council's Coaching Champions programme between February 1-3.



The prizewinners from this year's Oban Otters gala. 15\_149otters1

## Oban Otters pick up their prizes

THIS year's Oban Otters gala was boosted by a significant number of entries.

The competition, held on November 26, was preceded by a small pool gala on November 15.

The gala caters for all abilities and age groups with events for widths, lengths and squad swimmers. It also serves as a chance for swimmers to showcase their hard work over the year and celebrate their achievements.

A presentation of prizes was also held afterwards in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Coach Jillian Gibson said: "All achievements are testament to the hard work and dedication of our large team of volunteer teachers, poolside helpers and committee members."

### SWIMMING

If anyone would like to get involved with Oban Otters, contact obanotters@aol.com

Results: Small Polo Galas - Innes Fraser and Lee MacCush; MacLean Cup - Beth MacDonald and Abi MacIntyre; MacKay Cup - Finlay McLuckie; Spence Shield - Hannah Teape; Hutchison Cup - Sam Coates; Achnacreebeag Trophy - Caitlin Workman; Larchfield Trophy - Jordan MacKay; MacKinnon Cup - Evie Turner; Columba Hotel Trophy - Ella MacKeechie; Mc Craeken Cup - Fergus MacLachlan; Bank of Scotland Cup - Hugo Stah; Intermediate Shield - Eve Beaton; Iona Shop Cup - Jack Fletcher; Gateway Cup - Fiona MacLean; Hannah's Shield - James MacIntyre; Forteth Cup - Clare MacKinnon; Hunter Cup - Patrick MacKinnon.

## Basketball tournament held at Atlantis Leisure

### BASKETBALL

AROUND 140 high school pupils from around Argyll competed in the fifth annual Argyll and Bute Basketball Tournament in Oban - the largest entry yet.

Although Oban hosted the competition in Atlantis Leisure, home court advantage failed to materialise as Hermitage Academy won both the boys and girls junior tournaments, while Tobermory High won the senior girls tournament and Dunoon Grammar won the boys equivalent.

The competition, organised by Active Schools, was open to boys and girls in S1 - 6.

Teams are split into S1 - 3 girls and boys and S4 - 6 girls and boys and teams compete cross-court in their age group in round robin matches.

Owing to the large number of entries in the boys sections

organisers held semi-finals as well as full court finals for the two girls and two boys teams.

Active Schools co-ordinator Jillian Gibson said: "This tournament began five years ago when we, as Active Schools co-ordinators, realised there was a lot of extra curricular basketball going on throughout the authority and not many chances to compete."

"This was the biggest number of entries we've ever had, with several schools entering more than one team in each category - proving the popularity of basketball the region."

This year teams from Oban High, Tobermory High, Lochgilphead High, Islay High, Hermitage Academy and Dunoon Grammar all competed.



The team from Tobermory High School that won the senior girls section. 1526bba11

## Successful start to the season for Oban Saints squad

OBAN SAINTS have had an excellent start to the Scottish Amateur League season, playing 17 friendly, league and cup games, winning 16 and losing only one. This is an excellent record in any standard of football.

The season started off for Saints with the annual Keyline Cup Tournament with Hearts, Dundee United, St Johnstone, Hamilton Accies and Alloa providing the opposition with Hearts winning the competition in an excellent day of football.

This was followed by three good performances in pre-season friendly games against Westerlands, East Kilbride and Greenock. Saints defeated Westerlands 5-1; East Kilbride 5-0 and Greenock 2-0.

### Campaign

The first competitive game of the new campaign was against Lochgilphead Red Star in the Centenary Cup, resulting in a 3-1 win with Craig MacEwan (2) and Lewis Cameron finding the net.

Next up was a trip to Tarbert in another Centenary Cup tie with the Oban side winning a close game 3-2 thanks to goals from Craig MacEwan, Myles

McAuley and Ross Maitland.

The last game in the Centenary Cup section was away to Gourcock Thistle with Craig MacEwan and Mattie Rippon on target in a 2-1 win.

The first league game of the season saw the Oban side travel to Duntocher to take on St Joseph's, returning home with all three points thanks to a Craig MacEwan goal.

The Oban boys were on the road again on Saturday 15 September when they took on Busby in the quarter final of the Centenary Cup. They had to play most of the game with ten men



Donald Campbell

after Marc MacCallum got sent off, but an injury time goal from Jamie Graham was good enough to see them through.

Next on the agenda was the Centenary Cup semi final against Inverclyde at Glencruitten, but the men from Greenock had no answer to a rampant Saints outfit who won their way through to the final in a 5-0 stroll thanks to goals from Donald Campbell (2), Marc MacCallum, Craig MacEwan and Eddie Swift.

### Scratched

Saints were due to play Bishopton United in the first round of the Scottish Cup on Saturday October 6, but the opposition scratched so the local team received a bye into the second round against Crosslands United.

Crosslands were sent crashing out of the competition 4-1 thanks to goals from Donald Campbell, Mattie Rippon and a double from Lewis Cameron.

Saints suffered their only defeat of the season so far when they lost 2-1 in the league to bogey team Thorn Athletic. On target that day was Donald Campbell. Saints have never beaten the Johnstone side in six attempts.

Finnart were the visitors to Glencruitten in a league game the following Saturday, but the Glasgow side travelled back down the A85 on the wrong end of a 4-1 scoreline. Saints marksmen were Ross Maitland, Donald Campbell, Alex Craik and Willie Gemmell.

The Oban side were then back on Scottish Cup duty when they travelled to take on Hamilton FP in the third round on the impressive 4G surface at Hamilton Palace Sports Grounds. The players took to the surface like ducks to water recording an impressive 5-3 win over their Caledonian League opponents. A hat-trick from Donald Campbell and one each from Craig MacEwan and Paul Kerr put paid to Hamilton's Scottish Cup campaign.

### Worthwhile

A long journey to Ayrshire to take on Mauchline United in the first round of the West of Scotland Cup was next on the agenda, but the trip was made all worthwhile after a Donald Campbell double gave the Oban side a 2-0 victory.

The second round of the West Cup was played the following Saturday at Glencruitten and

goals from Myles McAuley and Donald Campbell gave the home team a narrow 2-1 win over top Central Scottish League team



Craig MacEwan

Eastfield. The fourth round of the Scottish Cup took place on Saturday, December 1 with Letham and Edinburgh Premier Division league leaders Sandys the opposition. The game had to be switched to the 3G pitch at Oban High School as Glencruitten was frozen. The temperatures rose a bit during this game as the local side were pushed all the way by their Edinburgh opponents, but thankfully goals from Eddie Swift and Willie Gemmell were enough to see Saints progress to

### FOOTBALL

the fifth round draw.

The final game before the festive break was against Port Glasgow OBU in the first round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy and goals from Ross Maitland, Willie Gemmell, Craig MacEwan and Lewis Cameron saw Saints ease through to the second round.

Saints manager Iain Jackson said: "I'm absolutely delighted with the commitment and attitude of the players. They've all worked really hard, we get an excellent turnout at training and we're playing some good football into the bargain, but we won't be getting complacent as there is a long way to go and fortunes can change very quickly at this level of the game."

"We're already in the Centenary Cup final and I don't see why we can't do well in the other cup competitions - Scottish, West and Jimmy Marshall as well as having a real go at winning the Premier Division league title again."

"One major problem could be a backlog of fixtures at the end of the season but we'll cross that bridge when we come to it."



Oban Camanachd with the South Division One trophy. 07\_135obancamtrophy01

## Successful season for Oban Camanachd

OBAN CAMANACHD congratulated four individual award winners from the club in what was a successful season all round.

At the recent annual meeting in the Royal Hotel, the club noted the achievements of members in the previous season's Marine Harvest Shinty Awards: Under-14 coach of the year, Ian Hay; South Division Two coach of the year, Tony Howlett; South Division One player of the year, Daniel Cameron; and South Division Two player of the year, Chris MacMillan.

There was also collective success for the club's teams at every level, not least the senior team's return to the premier league at the first time of asking, an unbeaten league record and a run to the final of the Macaulay Cup final.

Interim first team coach, Angus 'Gusie' Campbell was voted into the position permanently for the 2013 season.

Lochside Rovers won South Division Two at a canter and will be guided through South Division One next season by Christopher Ecclestone.

Under the direction of senior players Daniel Cameron and Ian 'Scally' MacMillan, the under-17s retained the McQuiston

### SHINTY

Cup, defeating rivals Oban Celtic 3-1 in an entertaining final.

The under-14s won the south championship in style, remaining unbeaten during a season that culminated in winning the Ken MacMaster Trophy. In the final against the much fancied Newtonmore, Oban Camanachd's youngsters came from behind to win 5-3 after extra time.

One of the few disappointments for the club was a heavy defeat for the senior team in the final of the Macaulay Cup, a competition that had seen Camanachd defeat premier league sides Inveraray and Bute on their way to the final.

Office bearers for the coming season were elected as follows: president - Tony Howlett; vice president - Alan Dunning; secretary - Christine Lind; treasurer - Fiona Livingston; first team manager - Angus Campbell; second team manager - Christopher Ecclestone, assisted by Andrew Pearson and Diarmid MacMillan; under-17s manager - Daniel Cameron; under-14s manager - Ian Hay; child protection officer - Mari Dunning.

**WEEK TWO of two**

# Spot the SHINTY BALL

## Competition

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon, Friday 28th December, 2012.

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**

# £950

**To allow for the festive holidays Spot the Ball will run for 2 weeks.**

**The deadline for entries is 12noon, Friday 28th December, 2012.**

**Winners will be announced in the issue dated Thursday 3rd January, 2013**

I enclose £1 for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules. How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1. Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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## Aonach Mor hill race to be held on New Year's Day

ATHLETICS

LOCHABER Athletic Club runners will shake off the festive cobwebs by tackling a gruelling hill race up Aonach Mor on New Year's Day.

Around 120 competitors are expected to take part in the annual event, which sees the runners climb 600 metres up the mountain in just four kilometres.

All runners will get soup and a roll after the race, as well as being taken back down to the bottom station on the gondola.

Davie Rodgers currently holds the race record after reaching the Snowgoose Restaurant in 22 minutes and 42 seconds in 2006.

The race starts at 11am at Nevis Range ski centre car park with entry forms available at [www.lochaberac.co.uk](http://www.lochaberac.co.uk)

Meanwhile, The club held the annual Cruim Leacain Hill Race yesterday, with runners tackling a 10k course from the starting point at Torlundy.

## Alleycats are ten pin bowling top dogs

TEN PIN BOWLING

AFTER three weeks of play in the Lochaber Building Supplies 10 pin bowling league at the Nevis Centre Alleycats lead with 15 points.

Rotavators, Splitheads and Fairway Fillies are all level in second place on 10 points.

The top scratch and handicap game of the week went to Tommy McKnight of Alleycats with 179 scratch, 238 handicap.

Other scores of note were a 177 from Sean MacPherson, Splitheads, 174 from Bill Clark, British Legion, and 172 from Ron Gretton, Rotavators.

Top scratch two game series was by Tony Whitelocke of Alleycats with 332 whilst John Doherty, Rotavators, rolled the top two game handicap series with 430.

The best team game of the week was 562 scratch, 828 handicap by Rotavators who also rolled the top team two game series with 1,107 scratch, 1,639 handicap, the latter being the season's highest so far.

## Fort William FC £600 lottery jackpot shared

LOTTERY

THREE lucky winners shared a £600 jackpot in Fort William FC's lotto draw this week. A Crellin, M Cameron and D McDonald each receive £200.

The next draw will take place on the Sunday, January 6 and the jackpot will be £100.

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# Lights go out on Fort's home game



Out of commission: the floodlight at Claggan Park was damaged by storms overnight 20\_52lights01

FORT WILLIAM FC had yet another home match called off on Saturday – but this time the flood-prone playing surface was not to blame.

The pitch passed an inspection on Saturday morning with flying colours despite steady rain - but severe overnight gales had damaged one of the floodlight towers and the game against Clachnacuddin was postponed for health and safety reasons.

One pylon near the clubhouse was wrecked as retaining bolts snapped in 70mph winds and the lighting came free.

Ground Level

Club officials aided by local helpers brought the array safely down to ground level. Former chairman John Wattman told The Oban Times: 'It was swaying about in the wind. It's a shame, because the park was playable, no doubt about it.'

# Selection problems for trip to Clach

'With what's available to me, we'll be doing well just to get a team on the pitch'

REPORT BY

RICHARD HADDOCK  
rhaddock@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William manager Danny Conlon is facing another selection headache for this weekend's trip to Clachnacuddin with a number of key first team players injured or suspended.

Conlon told The Oban Times he was still struggling to get a match day squad together for the Inverness trip, with defender Farquhar MacRae the latest injury victim after hurting his foot at work.

Conlon said: 'We initially thought we had done more damage, but it looks like he's broken his toe and got some bruising on his foot. Farquhar was supposed to be the replacement for Andy Martin, and Darren Duncan was Farquhar's replacement and he's suspended.'

'With what's available to me, we'll be doing well just to get a team on the pitch, anything else

FOOTBALL

would be a bonus. It's a really difficult place to go, they beat us heavily up there last season.'

Conlon said captain Andy Martin's recovery from a serious accident at work was going slowly but surely.

'He's got the plaster off and he's doing some physio, but he's been told not to lift anything until about March. I think we'd be very, very lucky to see him again this season.'

The game against Clach last Saturday was called off after one of the Claggan Park floodlights was damaged by high winds.

Conlon said: 'We were all geared up to go, and the park was playable. It's a bit of a blow - we've not played a game for weeks. But it's a health and safety issue.'

The game was due to see the teams play for the annual Simon Shields Memorial Trophy. Simon



Danny Conlon: team selection problems ahead of Saturday's fixture at Clachnacuddin 20\_52danny01

played for the Fort for three years as well as Clach before passing away last year at the age of 23.

'I don't know whether we'll play for it up there instead, or if we'll wait until the rearranged fixture, which will probably be a mid-week in March.'

# Hardy souls brave wind and rain in Wheelers Christmas handicap

CYCLING

A FEW hardy souls braved the windswept, rain-lashed conditions to take part in the West Highland Wheelers Xmas handicap in Glen Nevis on Sunday.

Cory Muir and Ben Corner sprinted for the line to take equal first spot in a photo finish. Gavin Linfield was the first adult home, just in front of Roddy Wells.

Club stalwart Andy Rogers said after the race: 'It was good to see a few folk returning to have some fun, including Stephen Cant and Jane Bruce.'

Fortunately

'All those who took part managed to munch a mince pie and grab a coffee at the finish, fortunately just as a patch of blue sky crossed Braveheart car park.'

'Thanks to Ruairi Watt of the Forestry Commission.'

The Wheelers are next out on Sunday for an intriguing lap-based event from Nevis Range car park.

Results (Finish Time): Cory Muir and Ben Corner 34:41 (short course); Gregor Muir and Graeme Corner 34:44 (short course); Gavin Linfield 46:00; Roddy Wells 46:39;

John Shirley 47:12; Stephen Cant 47:39; Lachlan Blair 48:40; Brian Barbour 48:46; Alastair MacLennan 50:03; Sile Morris; 54:30; Marian Austin; 54:42; Ruairidh Cant 54:44; Jane Bruce 61:52; Lindsay Barr 70:30.

Corrected time: John Shirley 34:12; Gavin Linfield 35:00; Roddy Wells 35:39; Lachlan Blair 36:10; Alastair MacLennan

38:33; Brian Barbour 38:46; Stephen Cant 41:09; Sile Morris 48:00; Marian Austin 49:12; Ruairidh Cant 51:14; Jane Bruce 57:52; Lindsay Barr 66:00; Cory Muir and Ben Corner 34:41 (short course); Gregor Muir and Graeme Corner 34:44 (short course).



From left, Cory Muir and Ben Corner with their dads Graeme and Gregor jostle for position at the start of the short course race 20\_52wheelers01

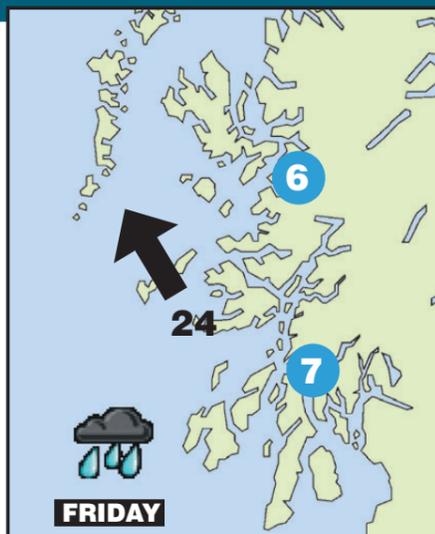
## Weather

**Thursday** Cloudy  
Winds light, north easterly  
Temperatures 1C to 5°C

**Friday** Heavy rain  
Winds strong, south south easterly  
Temperatures 6°C to 7°C.

**Weekend** Heavy rain  
**Outlook** Winds south south easterly  
Temperatures 5°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States  
Oban to Barra/South Uist Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree Moderate  
Kennacraig to Islay Moderate



## Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, December 27, 2012** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	04.51 3.7 11.35 1.5 17.19 3.8 23.27 1.2	
Fri	05.29 3.8 12.08 1.4 17.56 3.9 *** **	
Sat	00.05 1.1 06.06 3.9 12.42 1.4 18.32 3.9	
Sun	00.41 1.1 06.40 3.9 13.16 1.4 19.05 3.9	
Mon	01.15 1.1 07.13 3.9 13.50 1.4 19.36 3.8	
Tues	01.47 1.1 07.44 3.9 14.19 1.5 20.06 3.7	
Wed	02.19 1.2 08.16 3.8 14.46 1.6 20.40 3.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Portree	+0.55
Campbeltown	-5.30	Tobermory	+0.16
Crinan	-0.47	Dover	+5.30
Islay Port Ellen	2.00		
Lochboisdale	+0.30		
Mallaig	+0.25		

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