

**Tobermory  
High  
School**

# THS Press

**FREE**

**Sept  
2011**

## **Celebration of Achievement**

*Mr Gawthrop reports:*

Our Guest of Honour at the Celebration of Achievement, on Thursday 30 June 2011, was Magnus McFarlane-Barrow, OBE.

Mr McFarlane-Barrow is the founder of Mary's Meals, a local charity supported by the school, which provides meals for school children in some of the poorest parts of the world, including Malawi and Haiti.

Naomi Robertson, S6, presented Mr McFarlane-Barrow with a cheque for £773.10. The school has supported Mary's Meals since 2009, and so far we have raised a total of £1,224.95. For more information about Mary's Meals visit.

[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)



## **New pupils at THS**

*Mrs Durie reports:*



Tobermory High School welcomed four new P1 pupils in August, 2011. They have settled in well and are working very hard. All the girls say they really enjoy playing in the home corner.

Seven new children also began their learning experience in Pre-5, bringing the Pre-5 roll to fifteen.

### **Special points of interest:**

- ✓ P3/4 and P6/7 Argyll & Bute Beach Forum
- ✓ S5/6 UCAS trip
- ✓ S1/2 RME trip
- ✓ Eco-schools report
- ✓ Pre-5 'Myself'
- ✓ Local Mòd
- ✓ Rugby World Cup

## Mull and Iona Mòd 2011

### *P 5 and 6 pupils report on the local Mod*

On Friday 9<sup>th</sup> September, the Mull Mòd took place in the Aros Hall in Tobermory.

P5/6 walked down the Post Office Brae to the hall, where we got

changed into our fabulous costumes. We had to wait for three action songs before we could perform. When the time came we heard our parents chatting. It was nail biting but when we got on the stage we felt relaxed and happy. The clapping and cheering reassured us that we were good. Luckily no-one forgot their words. We came third and won £10.



After school our choir was singing in the hall, they came third equal. Holly MacLean, P5, came first in the solo competition. In the piping competition, Fraser Mitchell, P7, came first, Scott Paterson, S1, came second and Alexander Anderson, P7, came third. They had to pipe at the prize-winners' concert.

*Nina Anderson, P5, and Carla Williams, P5*



Friday 9th September was Mòd day and there was lots of excitement around town. Jude Gallagher, Robert Elwis and Holly MacLean went down to the hall at 9.25am to sing a Gaelic solo. Holly came first in her competition, Robert came second and Jude came third.

Soon our choir was ready to go on stage to perform. Most of us were nervous. At last it was our turn to sing, and none of us were nervous now. The name of our song is Balaich an Iasgaich, which means lads of the fishing.

At the end of all the songs we stayed to hear our score and what place we had come. The adjudicators were very pleased with all competitors and had lots of pleasant things to say. We found out that we came third and our total score was 89 in music and 87 in Gaelic.

*Jude Gallagher, P5,  
and Laura Dillon, P6*



### **P 1/2 at the Mòd**

We sang 'An Cailleach Beag Airidh' at the Mod and we had a great time. Our song was about a strange little woman who lived in a wood and guess what? She was washing big pants!! You can see us

holding up the big pants in our video, on the school website: [www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk)

The judges loved our song. They said our Gaelic was very good and our singing was delightful. We enjoyed singing so much we think we should have sung it twice.

## Saying Goodbye

*Mrs Mitchell reports:*

This year's Celebration of Achievement was especially poignant, as it marked the retirement of four of the school's staff: AFA Mr Colin Newton, History teacher Mr Gordon John, Depute Head Teacher Mr Bill Baird and, last but by no means least, our Head Teacher of sixteen years, Ms Jenny Des Fountain.

All four members of staff have made a significant contribution to the life and work of the school, and will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.

Mr Gordon Chalmers, Chair of the Parent Council, made fitting tributes to both Mr Baird and Ms Des Fountain at the Celebration of Achievement.

We wish them all well in their futures.



*Pupils perform a song from the school show, 'Olivia'*



*Primary and secondary pipers at the Celebration of Achievement*

## Pre-5 in August

*Miss MacLean reports:*

Pre 5 are starting our new topic on 'Myself', and Coel's dad came in to tell us all about our bodies. He is a doctor and his name is Dr David Chapman. He told us how we can stay healthy and brought in some bones from a real skeleton for us to see.



## Rugby World Cup

*Miss Horne reports:*

Nearly seventy pupils (and a few staff) met in the canteen to watch the Scotland-Georgia World Cup match live. A few dedicated fans were there before 8.30am. Aside from the enjoyment of a Scotland win, there was another side to the game. S1 in particular were watching to improve their literacy skills. Bacon rolls were sold at half-time to raise funds for the World Hunger Fund which is linked to the Rugby World Cup.



During the match a reading of the poem 'If' by Rudyard Kipling was shown. This was filmed at Garmony during Isle of Mull Rugby Club training and featured lots of players, many of them current and former pupils, as well as Mr Makeham and Mr Allan Wright, Scottish Rugby Development officer, who joined us to watch the match, along with Emma Roxburgh. Afterwards, S1 considered not only the skills they had used in watching the match (everything from listening to interpreting body language to knowing when bias and persuasion were used) but also what skills they would use when playing rugby (communication and listening being top of the list). Afterwards S1 had rugby training and a mini tournament, led by Allan and Emma, where they put some of these skills into action.

A big thank you to everyone at the Isle of Mull Rugby Club and to Allan and Emma for joining us for the event - you can see the performance of 'If' on the school website:



[www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk)

## Eco Schools

*Mr Lowe reports:*

The term is off to a busy start for our Eco-Schools committee who are busy preparing for our first Green Flag inspection at the start of November. We have identified a number of areas around the school grounds that we would like to improve but we need your help!

We are looking for donations of old garden tools, pots, bulbs and plants (particularly herbs). It is hoped that the produce we grow in school can be used by the ladies in the kitchen when preparing our meals.

A litter pick is planned for the end of September and our composting efforts are well underway. We are also hoping to start recycling plastics within the school. If you are able to help by donating items to get our gardening project underway please contact Mr Lowe via the school office: 01688302062 or [enquiries@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk)



## UCAS trip

*Mr Coyle and S5/6 pupils report on their visit to a Higher Education fair in Lochgilphead:*



On Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> of September, 19 senior pupils headed down to Lochgilphead for the Higher Education convention organised by Skills Development Scotland. The convention provided an opportunity for the pupils to discuss and explore their plans and ideas with a wide range of representatives from universities, colleges and professional organisations.



I found colleges and universities that I didn't even know existed that offered my course and got loads of open days to go to. Definitely worth it.

*Katy Montgomery S6*

The trip was really informative and I got all the info booklets. It was good to speak to the college people about courses directly. I also enjoyed looking around at a different school.

*Calum Bennett S6*

As well as being great fun and getting our two classes to mix a bit better, the UCAS trip got me to look at courses and universities that I had not considered before. The representatives also gave useful and detailed information about the entry requirements.

*Ana Raposo, S5*

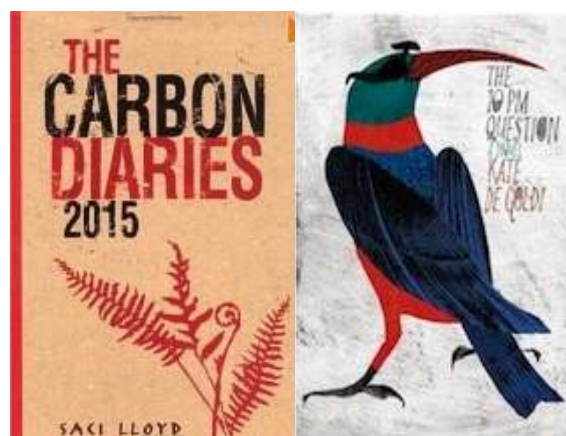
## Edinburgh Book Festival

*Laura Penny, S3, reports:*

On Tuesday 23 August, four S3 pupils went on a trip to the Edinburgh Book Festival. We caught the early ferry, but when we arrived in Edinburgh there was nowhere to park in the park-and-ride car park, so we had to find a different one.

Once we had got the bus to central Edinburgh we went and watched some of the street theatre. It was really busy.

After we had wandered around a bit we went and saw the players. They were really good. We had dinner and watched some more street theatre before heading to Stirling Youth Hostel.



In the morning we went back to Edinburgh and went to the book festival. We listened to Kate de Goldi and Saci Lloyd talk about their books: 'The 10pm Question' and 'Carbon Diaries.' They told us how they came up with the plots and how parts of the book are based on real life. After lunch we came back to the festival to listen to Steve Barlow and Steve Skidmore talk about their books. This talk was more interactive and was really fun.

All in all we had a great time and learned a lot.

## Argyll & Bute Beach Forum

*Mrs Carmichael and P3/4 report:*

The Argyll and Bute Beach Forum organised a Mull schools event focusing on marine issues on Mull. Primary 3/4 and Primary 6/7 learned so much from the various workshops about the problems we have with litter on our beaches and how we can keep our seas safe for the animals living there. They also enjoyed touching different sea creatures and then acting like them in the drama class.



On Tuesday 6 September we went to Craignure for a recycling workshop day and the best thing was the drama. I had to pretend that I was all sorts of fun things and my favourite was being a puffer fish.

*Evan Chapman, P4*

I went fishing for litter and I caught the car wheel. I felt very proud of myself because nobody else caught that.

*Bobby Gunn, P3*



On 6 September I went to a GRAB day at Craignure Hall. GRAB stands for Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute. We went on a shark and ray egg case hunt and got soaked. On the egg case hunt we also saw an otter.

*Grace Talbot, P4*



## Porridge tasting

*Graeme Roeleveld, P6, and Fergus Reade, P6, report :*

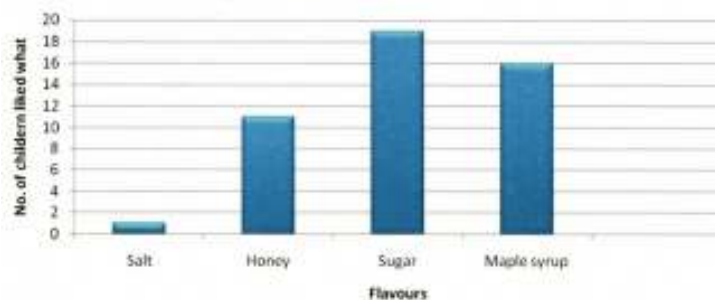
On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011, P6/7 made porridge. We tried it with sugar, honey, maple syrup and even salt. Sugar was the most popular flavour, though maple syrup was also really good. Honey was tasty, but salt was absolutely disgusting!

We made porridge because of our topic, the Highland Clearances and during that time they ate porridge. To make the porridge we had to measure out the right amount of milk and oats. We cooked it in a talking microwave. We measured the milk out in millilitres.

There was a competition between oats because we were using two different types of oats: the normal oats, and Scotts "So-Easy" oats. The normal oats won because they made less gooey and also sweeter porridge.

Our porridge making idea was fun and ended up in the best porridge I've had in a while!

Porridge Experiment  
What did we like best?



*Graph by Rebecca Clark, P7*



## RME day

*Miss Horn reports:*

S1/2 set off on their RME visit to Oban on what turned out to be the only sunny and dry day of the week; we were truly blessed! All looked very colourful and smart in their hoodies (staff and pupils), and we were noticed by a lot of people who stopped to chat and ask what we were doing. Work began on the ferry where the aims of the day were discussed - to find the similarities and differences between the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland.



In Oban we headed straight to Glencruitten Church where we were met by the Reverend Dugald Cameron who told the group all about the church building but more importantly about the Church as a community of people. The students then had time to have a good look around the church and speak to the organist, the session clerk and Peggy MacPheson who was able to give us some of the information in Gaelic. Some demonstrated their skills on the organ and piano, whilst many headed straight to the pulpit to give us all a sermon. We then headed from this more traditional church building to a modern church building at Corran Esplanade. Here one of the highlights was the stained glass window and pupils were very adept at interpreting the symbolism depicted within it.



Lastly we visited St Columba's Roman Catholic cathedral where we were met by Father James MacNeil. Father James answered all of the pupils' many questions - all of us now know the contents of every cathedral cupboard and what every chair is for, but also know about the importance of music and the significance of various parts of the cathedral and were beginning to pick up similarities and differences in these two branches of Christianity. After allowing pupils the run of the cathedral so they could have a good look around, Father James took us into the vestry and showed pupils the different robes he wears for different occasions, again explaining the symbolism of various colours and allowing pupils to contrast a priest's robes with a minister's robes.



As we waited on the ferry back pupils took the time to reflect on their learning and it was clear that all, staff as well as pupils, had learned a lot from their visit and our thanks go to everyone in the Oban churches who made the visit possible but especially to Reverend Dugald and Father James for giving us so much of their time.



## Head teacher's letter

**D**ear Parent,

Welcome to the first THS Press of the new year. As you will see it has been a very busy start to the term with children across the school being involved in many diverse and exciting activities. Overall the pupils are settling in well to their new classes and working hard.

Our SQA exam results were very positive with many subjects achieving pass rates above that of the national average. This has allowed our senior students to pursue their desired routes to Higher and Further education and to the world of work. We wish all our leavers well as they move on from Tobermory High School.

We would also like to remind parents at this time of the Cashless Catering system. There is a link on the school website, [www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk](http://www.tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk) (parent information) or you can go directly to <http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk> (select 'Pay it'). This allows you to pay for your child's cafeteria food electronically and to keep a check on their balance. Please be aware there have been price rises in the cafeteria and details of these can also be found on the school website.

Staffing news: Congratulations to Mr Moses Wekwete who will be moving on to a new post at Oban High School in the Autumn. All other staffing arrangements remain as published in June 2011. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Mr Gawthrop for primary matters, Mrs Mitchell for issues concerning S3, S4 & S5 and Mr Coyle for S1, S2 & S6.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to our Open Morning on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Further information confirming details of this event will follow in a letter.

*Janice Mitchell and Richard Gawthrop*

**Acting Head Teachers**

[Janice.mitchell@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk](mailto:Janice.mitchell@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk)

[Richard.gawthrop@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk](mailto:Richard.gawthrop@tobermory.argyll-bute.sch.uk)

## Disco Fever

Primary 5/6 organised a school disco for primary pupils. Pupils bought tickets for the dance, and home baking was sold at the disco. P5/6 raised a total of £286.52 for school funds.

## Diary Dates

### October

Wed 5	Open Day: 9.30 - 12. Visitors welcome.
Fri 7	Staff development day: no school for pupils
8-23	October holiday
Mon 24	Pupils return to school
Mon 24	7pm Parent Council meeting
Fri 28	Primary and S1 Hallowe'en parties

### November

1-3	S1 ACE trip
Mon 7	Primary parents' evening 6-9pm
Tues 8	Primary parents' evening 1-6pm
Wed 16	Secondary parents' evening 4.30-7pm
Mon 21	Secondary parents' evening 4.30-7pm
Mon 21	7pm Parent Council meeting

## School hoodies



Secondary pupils are enjoying their new hoodies, in the extended range of colours that was offered at the end of last term.

French Navy and Heather Gray hoodies in sizes S, M and L are available from the school office, price £15. The school tie is also in stock, price £3.50.

The full range of eight colours and all sizes (from XS to XXL) will be offered again in December 2011.