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Homeless favoured over locals?

Grounded Barra ambulance helicopter raises more questions than answers

FEARS over changes to the island of Barra's air ambulance service were further fuelled after a public meeting on Monday night when its new Scottish Ambulance Service helicopter was grounded by bad weather.

A force 4/5 wind forced the EC135 aircraft and its personnel to remain on Barra overnight.

Scottish Ambulance Service changes to island air ambulance services come into effect next month, with Gama Aviation taking over the Barra contract.

Islanders are concerned the island will be solely reliant on the emergency helicopter rather than the fixed wing Islander aircraft that has been used for years.

After the meeting Comhairle nan Eilean Siar councillor Donald Manford said the grounding served to answer questions about its durability.

Large turnout

'The meeting was the largest turnout since the announcement that the air service was to be terminated, several years ago,' he said. 'It was a very good humoured meeting, but that did not alleviate the deep concern islanders have. I think that despite all their attempts to placate and assure us that the aircraft was adequate, its inability to take them back to their base answered the questions far better than they did.'

The meeting was attended by Scottish Air Ambulance personnel Sam Kennedy and Jim Kerse and a representative of Gama Aviation.

They were on their way back to the mainland as *The Oban Times* went to press and were unavailable for comment.

However, the service's press officer John Morton said they wanted to dispel any untruths which they felt were confusing the situation. He said the EC135 would deliver an enhanced service as it did not rely on the tides in order to land. The helipad was next to the hospital, saving patients a journey of 12-15 miles by road ambulance to the beach runway.

The helicopter was also one of the most advanced air ambulance aircraft in the world.

He said the Islander was not appropriate for a modern NHS and would not continue to meet appropriate Health and Safety standards.

He said Ministry of Defence and coastguard aircraft were not licensed by the Civil Aviation Authority as civil aircraft (as with the EC135 and Islander) and therefore could operate in much more extreme weather conditions.

The air ambulance service had always used Islander aircraft as a benchmark for emergencies in bad weather and this would continue to be the case.

Lochcarron's future in focus

First day of new shinty season

Thousand dollar beer can

VALUABLE antiques aren't always rare crystal, fine silver or rich mahogany, sometimes they can be a humble beer can.

But not just any old beer can - they have to have a picture of Oban Bay on them.

One is currently being auctioned on the internet and the price has topped \$1,000 and rising; well over £650 for a 45-year-old empty beer can.

Oban has inspired composers and artists alike and it is a picture taken from the North Pier, looking up past the distillery to McCaig's Tower that graces the Tennent's lager can that is considered the most valuable can in the world by collectors.

Tennents produced a range of picture beer cans in the 1960s.

The most famous was the 'lager lovelies', pictures of girls in scantily clad outfits which looked rather daring back then but wouldn't bat an eyelid today.

Ben Nevis

Before that the firm produced a series of Scottish beauty spots including Ben Nevis and the Braemar Gathering.

The can with the Oban picture, titled Oban Harbour, is the rarest and hence the most valuable.

Pre-rinse pull days the top had to be punched. If you are serious about collecting beer cans this is the one.

Not even Tennents itself has the complete collection in its archive and it has been described as the Holy Grail for beer can collectors.

Even the brewery itself has expressed surprise at the value.

American dealer David Harris from Missouri is auctioning the tin on e-bay, where it is described as being in remarkably good condition, with no rust but a slight scratch on the picture.

Collectors around the world have been in touch with him and bidding remains brisk.

Highland cinemas for sale

A DOUBLE feature went on sale this week when the cinemas in Oban and Fort William went on the market.

Under the group name of the Highland Discovery Centre Cinemas, the directors have placed the freehold option in the two-screen Oban cinema, incorporating the leasehold interest in the two-screen Fort William cinema, on the market as a trading going concern.

David Webster, the man behind the cinemas, says he and his colleagues have set out to do what they intended.

'My wife and I and two colleagues bought the old Phoenix Theatre in Oban 18 years ago and have spent £100,000 on it, transforming it into the Highland Theatre.

'The only reason we bought it was because we didn't want to see Oban lose its cinema.

'I'm pleased to say we succeeded; it is now the top, independent, two-screen cinemas in the UK.'

Along the way they also acquired the cinema in Fort William.

The four auditoria on offer have a capacity of 477 people and regularly bring to the Highlands all the latest blockbuster titles.

Christie and Co, of Edin-

burgh, is inviting offers in excess of £375,000 for the freehold interest in the Oban cinema and for the leasehold interest in the Fort William cinema.

Both cinemas are to be offered as one complete opportunity.

Christie and Co's clients have owned the Oban (Highland Theatre) cinema since the late 1980s and within the last couple of years acquired the leasehold interest of Fort William (Studio) Cinema, next to the Tourist Information Centre in Cameron Square.

Refurbished

The Oban cinema on George Street was completely refurbished in the late 1980s, when the main auditorium was also used as the Highlands and Islands venue for the famous *This is Scotland* stage and screen show, created by David Webster, that toured extensively in the UK for 30 years from the 1960s to 1980s. The cinema building can also be used as a conference centre.

Alan Goldie, associate director of Christie and Co, said: 'It is very rare for privately owned cinemas to be placed on the market and given the prominence of the twin locations. This is a unique opportunity for film enthusiasts to own and operate their own cinemas,

which trade successfully and profitably.

'Whilst the Fort William cinema will remain as a cinema under the lease arrangement, consideration may be given to other development opportunities with the Oban cinema, given its heritable status, the Scottish equivalent of the English freehold.

'It should be noted, however, that our clients are keen for both cinemas to retain their independence and to continue trading in the present format.'

After saving the cinema for Oban, David Webster wants to see it continue to thrive and grow and would hate to see it fall prey to developers interested in residential, commercial or hotel accommodation.

Argyll only has three cinemas left; Oban, the Studio in Dunoon and The Picture House in Campbeltown.

The Picture House is now run as a community business. It is the longest running cinema in Scotland and has received backing from Historic Scotland, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Argyll and Island Enterprise, as well as the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Manifold Trust and Pilgrim Trust. The cinema was facing closure in 1986 before the community business was formed.



The Hebridean Princess berths at Oban's North Pier, ready for another west coast cruising season.

Hebridean Princess sets sail for Royal year

THE Hebridean Princess has set sail on a Royal year with her first cruise from Oban last week.

The luxury cruise ship, classed as one of the finest in the world, will play host to HM The Queen this summer.

Apart from the occasional adventure further afield in the Norwegian fiords Hebridean Princess spends most of her time in Hebridean waters.

HM The Queen always enjoyed a Western Isles cruise on the now de-com-

missioned Royal Yacht Britannia every summer and this year will mark a return to that Royal tradition when the Royal family hires Hebridean Princess.

The ship has had some famous passengers over the years, including Sir Jackie

Stewart, film stars like Sir Sean Connery, and members of presidential families from the United States of America.

The company always remains tight-lipped about its VIP passengers.

The ship virtuals out of

Oban and many of the crew are from the West Highlands. Following her return from dry-dock in Great Yarmouth, the ship hosted its usual reception for local businesses before she set sail on her first cruise of the season on Thursday.

Stirling finally sets tax at second highest

AT THE third attempt, Stirling Council has finally set its council tax - now the second highest in Scotland.

Members agreed to approve the Labour administration's 4.5 per cent rise, taking its average Band D council tax to £1,280, but only after two budget meetings at which the Conservative opposition refused to play ball.

At the council's first meeting on February 9, the Conservative group of 10 walked out in protest at the suggested rise and cuts pro-

posed by their 11 Labour colleagues. This left the council without the quorum of 12 necessary to continue.

A further meeting on February 23 was also unable to go ahead because none of the Conservative group turned up.

Conservative councillor for Highland, which includes Killin, Crianlarich and Tyndrum, Tony Ffinch explained: 'The Conservative group was concerned about not only increases in the council tax but more importantly the cuts that

were going to be implemented. We were able to stop it going through twice but by March 11 the Scottish Executive would have stepped in and we would have been performing an illegal act.'

Discuss

He said that the Conservative group had wanted to sit down and discuss the budget with their Labour counterparts but were told that it was not open to negotiation.

'We had worked out that we could set a zero per cent

increase in council tax and at the same time increase savings by cutting out frankly what we considered to be slightly less than necessary administration functions such as a policy and research department.

'We didn't believe that we should be cutting the schools' budget in terms of staff.'

He said there were what seemed like little savings, like subsidies for creches, that were important to individuals.

'I met nobody at all that

complained about not having the tax set and generally opinion was 'keep it up because we think it is ridiculous', said Councillor Ffinch. He said that rural areas like his did not see as many services as in the towns, so it was a lot harder to accept any cuts. He added that there was no doubt that the settlements and ring-fenced funding from the Scottish Executive had not helped the situation.

The 4.5 per cent rise will see the average tax go up by £52 from £1,149.

Even the brewery itself has expressed surprise at the value.

American dealer David Harris from Missouri is auctioning the tin on e-bay, where it is described as being in remarkably good condition, with no rust but a slight scratch on the picture.

Collectors around the world have been in touch with him and bidding remains brisk.

Kranenburg Fine Arts

'Seasons' new works by **Ronnie Ford**

Preview Friday 10th March 2006 6pm - 9pm
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Meadow Reflections Acrylic 30cm x 30cm
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Other hours by appointment.

20 years for Oban Lions

OBAN and Lorn celebrates 20 years of the Lions Club in 2006.

Back in 1986 the club first began in the town and since then the members have arranged fun events for people to enjoy and raised plenty of money along the way for good causes both at home and overseas.

'We're part of Lions International, the largest service organisation in the world,' said Jim Edge.

Since then the club has organised annual bed races and tattoos, and at present is the guiding hand behind Charities Day and appearances during the summer season of Oban Pipe Band performing at McCaig's Tower.

'Over the years we must have raised £60,000 and that's a very conservative estimate,' said Mr Edge.

The Lions are holding a celebration dinner on March 20 at the Royal Hotel which is nearly sold out.

Mr Edge is a founder member of Oban and Lorn Lions Club as is this year's president, Derek Coates.



Tobermory's famous colourful seafront has had a dramatic makeover.

Tobermory landmark goes black

B IS FOR Balamory - and also for black.

One of the most iconic views in the West Highlands got a make-over this week when Robert MacLeod, proprietor of the Mishnish Hotel on Main Street, Tobermory, decided to paint it black. The end result looks a bit like a missing tooth in a beautiful smile.

Up until then the hotel was bright yellow and played its brilliant part in the famous harbour scene of coloured houses which is known the world over and back-dropped to the popular children's television programme *Balamory*.

Whether Spencer, the painter from Balamory, helped to give the popular

watering hole its new look remains to be seen. Mr MacLeod is carrying on a family tradition; it was his father Bobby, one time provost of Tobermory, who shocked everyone by painting the hotel pink over 40 years ago. Up until then the buildings had all been plain stone and dull. Others followed suit and the instantly recognisable scene of today was born.

With more premises around the bay choosing yellow, Mr MacLeod decided on a big change. He argues that black will be more practical and just as colourful with the building's polished brass and hanging baskets.

No tolls at Erskine Bridge

THE TOLL charge on the Erskine Bridge will be scrapped at the end of this month.

After March 31 motorists will no longer have to pay 60 pence to use the crossing over the Clyde from Renfrewshire to Dunbartonshire.

Transport minister Tavish Scott made the announcement in the Scottish Parliament last week.

'Construction costs have been met, although there are ongoing maintenance requirements,' he said.

'Removing the tolls would ease congestion, particularly through the Clyde Tunnel and the Clydeside Expressway.'

It is also hoped that ending the tolls will help to ease air pollution from cars in Glasgow as well.

The toll on the Skye Bridge was scrapped some time ago but the Forth Road and Tay bridges will still have tolls. The idea to increase the charge on the Forth Road Bridge to £4 from £1 at rush hour has been abandoned.

Mr Scott said each bridge had its own 'unique' circumstances and there could be no 'one-size-fits-all' approach to charges.

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Too little, too late as NHS Argyll and Clyde issue final annual report?

IT MIGHT be too little too late, but NHS Argyll and Clyde's final annual report says the authority has improved its financial performance in the last year.

Neil Campbell, chief executive of the soon-to-be-defunct health authority, said: 'Agreed saving targets were met and exceeded by over £4 million in 2004-2005.

'NHS Argyll and Clyde consistently spends a greater proportion of its allocated resources on direct patient care;

spending less than other boards on non-direct care services, such as management and administration.'

He said the authority was also achieving waiting time figures set by the Scottish Executive. 'As at March 2005, no inpatient/day case is waiting more than six months for treatment compared to 132 in March 2004 - meeting the Scottish Executive target nine months early.

'In addition the number of new outpatients waiting more

than 26 weeks has fallen by 83 per cent over the previous year, down from 1,688 to 294,' he said.

Partnerships with local authorities have succeeded in reducing delayed discharges, with only 99 patients being delayed more than six weeks at the end of April 2005 when the target was 131. 'Finally, with regard to the dissolution and integration of NHS Argyll and Clyde,' said Mr Campbell. 'After the minister's decision in May 2005

to consult on the dissolution of the board, we have placed great importance on continuing to work together to ensure that a way forward can be found that captures and builds on the excellent progress made over the past two years by the present management team.'

NHS Argyll and Clyde will be wound up on March 31 and Argyll and Bute will become part of NHS Highland and Clyde will become part of NHS Greater Glasgow.



Music lovers braved Saturday night's snow showers to attend a cèilidh organised by Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain at McTavish's Kitchen. Amongst the artistes performing were, from left, Sineag MacIntyre, Norrie MacIver, Catriona Watt, Calum Ross and Emma Law. Calum was Fear an Taighe for the evening's entertainment. (10am01)

Skye stance could be pivot in Gaelic school future

A DECISION on the future of a Skye primary school could prove pivotal for the future of Gaelic medium education in Scotland.

So believes a parent campaigning for Sleat Primary School to become a dedicated Gaelic medium primary school.

Murdo MacLeod is chairman of Comann nam Parant Shleite which wants to see the school designated a Gaelic medium school, in the face of objections from other parents in the area.

Last night (Wednesday) Murdo was to attend a Comunn nam Parant information evening at Sabhal Mor Ostaig due to be chaired by Duncan MacInnes of Sleat Community Trust.

A panel of educationists, and parents with first-hand experience of dedicated minority language schools in Scotland and elsewhere were expected to be there to discuss the need for and the benefits of such schools.

'This is a pivotal time for Gaelic medium education in Scotland,' said Murdo. 'The general thrust of our proposal is that Gaelic medium education is not being delivered in the true sense of the word.'

remain a welcoming community to all families that come.'

Neil firmly believes that once a decision is made to turn the school into a designated Gaelic medium one there will be no room for compromise.

He and other parents did not want to see Sleat become 'a quaint corner of Gaelic' or the school treated as an educational experiment.

Murdo sees another argument - that of the politics of language, a politics he says is yet to be fully and widely recognised.

all schoolchildren in Wales are taught through total Welsh immersion now where a generation ago they had to scrape and scabble for this,' said Murdo.

'People from England are taking their children across the border to schools in Wales because of the benefits enjoyed in speaking Welsh and English.'

Objectors believe a move to a dedicated Gaelic school would send shock waves throughout the region's economy, with some parents leaving so their children can be educated in English.

Neil said at the present time there were 17 houses for sale in Sleat.

'We feel now is the time the administration and the government take the next step. Logically, this is total immersion - totally dedicated Gaelic medium schools.'

Murdo, a language teacher at Sabhal Mor Ostaig in Sleat, says it is time for the Scottish Executive to take Gaelic medium education on to the next stage - total immersion - because the current system of partial immersion is not delivering.

Bord na Gaidhlig, set up to promote and advance Gaelic both culturally and linguistically, announced its pleasure that a move to convert Sleat into a dedicated Gaelic school was being considered by Highland Council at the request of Comunn nam Parant.

But it also says a mixed message is being sent about Gaelic medium education with different decisions being made.

Recently it expressed deep disappointment at a recommendation that the Gaelic medium unit at Lady Lovat Primary School, Morar, should move to Mallaig Primary School, rather than Lady Lovat becoming a dedicated Gaelic medium school.

The board hopes to talk soon to Highland Council to try to overturn the recommendation.

Glasgow

This mixed message does seem to be further exacerbated with a recently announced move towards having all-Gaelic schools in the Western Isles, and with the country's first Gaelic medium secondary school being established in Glasgow's west end this year a city already has a dedicated Gaelic medium primary school.

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We also stock a wide variety of other toys, such as jigsaws, Bob the Builder, Tractor Tom, Galt, Lego, baby and toddler toys, etc

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Highland Council Fostering and Adoption Service

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Social Work Services can pay £350 a week for his foster care.

If you have room in your life as well as your home contact Fiona MacDonald now on 01463 714165 to find out more or email fiona.macdonald3@highland.gov.uk
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fiona.macdonald3@highland.gov.uk

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Got a New Business?

Get to grips with Networking, Sales and Marketing!

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1.30pm Registration for a 2pm Start, 4.30pm Finish.
13th March at Scottish Association Marine Science, Dunstaffnage, Oban

To sign up, register via link:
www.hie.co.uk/start-a-business
Tel: 01546 602281

Iona hosts party as Bruce hits 90

NINETY is just a number as far as Isle of Iona's Bruce Wall is concerned but his friends on the island made sure that he had a party to celebrate his birthday.

'I didn't want a fuss but they threw a party and I enjoyed it,' said Bruce.



The tea-party was held at Findlay Ross on the island and more than 50 people attended.

Bruce firmly believes that you should keep yourself busy. He is a successful beekeeper and can still be found up on the roof if repairs are needed.

He lost his hens to mink and amongst his many birthday gifts will be some new chickens to arrive later in the season.

Originally from Birmingham, Bruce decided that he wanted a change from running his building and build-

ers' merchants business.

'The more I put into the business the more they clobbered me for income tax,' he said.

That was when he decided he wanted to live where he could see the waves breaking on the rocks and he and his wife Joyce settled on Iona.

His first challenge was to rebuild a burned-out house, then, in his 70s he built a new home from scratch.

Now a widower, Bruce and Joyce had three children and today there are six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bruce firmly believes that the discipline instilled in children of his generation along with the good food without any additives have helped him to keep fit and active.

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A spokesman at the area office said as far as he was aware there had been no representations sent to them although they were aware of opposition.

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Murdo's argument is that the area is dependent on the Gaelic language and that Gaelic has, in fact, brought about the repopulation of Sleat.

The Gaelic college was probably the biggest employer on the island now, he said.

Curiously, the college has remained quiet over the row on its doorstep.

Murdo remains baffled as to why the argument is such an emotive one. He says that with total immersion the children would become completely bilingual in Gaelic and English by primary 7.

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Neil said: 'We are not anti-Gaelic. Many of the children have Gaelic roots and speak it at home.'

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Murdo concluded: 'I am not anti-English language or anti-English people. It is just that the current model cannot deliver.'

'Retaining the situation is by definition discriminating against the rights of a Gaelic language child to have an experiential education in their own language.'

Inveraray drink-driver banned for 15 months

AN INVERARAY woman who had tried to 'drown her sorrows' following the death of her husband was found to be over the legal drink drive limit the following day.

Karen Mitzi Dando, was breathalysed routinely after being involved in an accident, which was not her fault, on the A85 at Achnacloish on December 19 last year.

She was found to be twice the legal alcohol limit.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Dando, aged 51, Drisshaig, Inveraray, had been 'dreadfully distressed' after the death of her husband four weeks earlier, following a long illness.

'She tried, in her own words, to 'drown her sorrows' in alcohol and that took place the evening before this unfortunate accident,' said defence agent David Watt.

'She did not appear drunk and the police didn't think she was until she failed the test,' he added.

She had not thought the alcohol would stay in her system that long, he added.

Losing her licence would present her with some difficulties as she lived six miles outside Inveraray the court heard.

Sheriff Douglas Small banned Dando, who pled guilty to drinking and driving, from driving for 15 months and fined her £400.

Tainuill man fined for careless driving

A TWENTY-year-old who pled guilty to careless driving has been fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Philip Colewell, Lonan Cottage, Glen Lonan, Tainuill, also pled guilty to having no MoT certificate for his car.

The court heard that witnesses driving east on Glencruitten Road had seen the accused coming towards them in BMW at speed around a left hand bend.

They stopped their vehicle but the accused had struggled to keep control, causing it to skid and mount the verge to avoid a collision.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said Colewell accepted that he had probably been going too fast for the road conditions but was aware that the other vehicle had stopped, thought he would be able to stop and had managed to avoid a collision.

Colewell had bought the car from his brother a month before and had been unaware that the MoT had expired a short time afterwards.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Colewell for careless driving and admonished for having no MoT but put five points on his licence.

Lady Lovat may face falling roll

AN MP has challenged Bord na Gaidhlig to act now over the future of the Gaelic medium unit at Lady Lovat Primary School, Morar.

The decision to move the unit to Mallaig Primary School has left Lady Lovat's future in jeopardy, claims Angus MacNeil, SNP spokesman for Gaelic.

In January, Lochaber Area Committee voted to transfer the Gaelic medium unit because of classroom limitations at Lady Lovat.

Of Lady Lovat's 50-pupil roll, 37 are enrolled in the Gaelic medium unit, with many coming from Mallaig.

Backward step

But Mr MacNeil said moving the unit was a backward step for the Gaelic language in the area.

'Why have they so abruptly done away with one of the real successes of Gaelic medium education in Scotland - it just does not make sense,' he said.

'Bord na Gaidhlig now has to be seen to be a body with teeth and request that the minister with responsibility for education act to alleviate any of the difficulties the council may have been having that has resulted in this very peculiar decision - in total contradiction of the wishes of the parents.'

Comann nam Parant Rathad nan Eilean, which represents parents of Gaelic medium pupils at Lady Lovat, welcomed the MP's statement.

A spokeswoman said: 'It

is the opinion of Comann nam Parant Rathad nan Eilean that the Highland Council's consultation process was not conducted in a proper manner from the outset and has resulted in an outcome with which we are very unhappy.

'We view this as a missed opportunity for Gaelic medium education and potentially disastrous for the future of the village school.'

Fears for the school's future are based on a falling school roll.

If the roll of English medium education pupils falls from its present roll of 13 to 11 or fewer, as is expected in the next four years, the fear is the school will close.

In response to Mr MacNeil's statement Bord na Gaidhlig chief executive Allan Campbell said: 'Figures recently published by the University of Strathclyde show a continued increase in the number of children in Gaelic medium education.

'The benefits of immersion education are well-established and it is important to continue to improve and build on the success of recent years.

'Bord na Gaidhlig looks forward to engaging with all interested parties in the forthcoming public consultation on a National Plan for Gaelic Development, and the National Strategy for Gaelic Education which will be a part of that plan.'



Bob MacCulloch and Charles Drummond start their slide show of old Oban. (09a001)

Old Oban comes to life

OLD OBAN came to life again on Friday evening at a slide show in aid of Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain.

Bob MacCulloch and Charles Drummond took the audience at the Free Church Hall from the late 1800s when Shore Street really was on the shore, through the ages, as Oban began to be built up and changed to the town it is today.

With commentary from Bob, everyone was able to see how the Oban of today fits into its past and which houses were demolished to make way for what roads and hotels.

There were even photos of the railway station when it was used as a venue for the Royal National Mod.

This was one of a number of event evenings over the winter that have been run by the Oban branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach to raise funds for the organisation.

The next one on March 31 will be a talk from Bill Innes about former parish priest Father Sidney McEwen, who had a beautiful tenor singing voice which he used to good effect by holding concerts to raise funds for the Catholic church.



You can email your Lorn news to lornlines@obantimes.co.uk

IF JANUARY was anything to go by then Oban is likely to have a relatively dry winter.

Total rainfall for the month was 133mm compared with the 237mm which fell during the same month in 2005. Over a 14-year period the average for January runs at 208mm. The wettest day of the month was the 19th when 20mm fell, slightly less than one inch. It was also the warmest day with the temperature peaking at 13C. The coldest day of the month occurred on the 30th when the thermometer failed to rise above four degrees. It also produced the coldest night with temperatures falling to minus 1C.

Throughout the month there were 16 rain-free days as compared to January of the previous year which produced only seven dry days.

The figures were collated, using sophisticated equipment, by a keen weather-watcher who lives in Dunollie Road.

ORGANISED by the local branch of Cancer Research, a whistle drive in Oban's Masonic Hall on Tuesday February 21, raised £185.

Winners were: ladies: 1 Morag Brown; 2 Isobel Groat; consolation - Eleanor Donnelly. Gents - 1 Sheila McKee, playing as gent; 2 Callum MacDougall; consolation - Ina Stewart, playing as gent.

The committee's next fund-raiser will be a coffee morning to be held in the Salvation Army Hall in Stevenson Street on Saturday April 29 from 10am until 12 noon.

The committee is confident this will be well supported.

GUEST speaker at a meeting of Oban and District Seniors Forum, held in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, on February 22, was Donna Forbes of Argyll and Bute Council's Social Work Department.

Ms Forbes, who is involved with outreach community work and is Oban-based, gave an excellent talk on the various alarm systems available through this department to those confined to their homes.

Automatically linked to the appropriate service, these will immediately alert the authorities to any problems in the home such as flooding or smoke and trigger an immediate response.

While a modest charge is imposed, some householders may qualify to benefit from the service free.

With many of the group's committee having had to demit office because of other commitments, the only remaining office bearer is Sam Leddy, Connell, who is working hard to make sure the organisation continues to act as a forum for the area's seniors.

SCHEDULED to make an appearance in the Corran Halls this spring are primary two pupils from Oban's Park Primary School.

They are to perform an action song at the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival at the end of April.

Lending a helping-hand during a litter pick-up in Dunollie in February were all the pupils from primary seven.

MEETING in the Regent Hotel on February 13, members of Oban Camera Club benefited from an illustrated talk on 'The Ten Commandments of Landscape Photography' given by distinguished



Sommelier Laurie Gray and Rotary Club president John Macfarlane discuss the finer points of a bottle of wine at the wine tasting dinner.

photographer Duncan MacEwan, Bridge of Weir. Vice president Jim Kirkpatrick, Oban, said: 'It was an outstanding talk which everyone thoroughly enjoyed.'

Guest speaker on February 20 was Roy Gibson from Ayr who screened 60 of his own colour prints which he used to demonstrate what was right and what was wrong in tackling certain subjects.

Monday February 27 found members assessing the results of the club's landscape-seascape competition, which was judged by Donny Smith from Dingwall, who was unfortunately not able to be present.

Results were: prints - 1 Steve Cross, Oban; 2 Nevin Blackwood, Oban; 3 John Douglas, Oban. Winner of the Gordon Sellars Trophy for the best print was Steve Cross. Slides - 1 Pete Hardy, Kilmore; 2 Angus MacKinnon, Oban; 3 Elaine MacKinnon, Oban. Mr Smith considered the winners all to be of equal merit and therefore placed them simply in order of preference.

The club is now looking forward to a visit on March 13 by Oban police officer Sergeant Neil Owen who will give a talk and slide show on the area's role during the Second World War.

Sergeant Owen is a member of the organisation which runs Oban's highly praised War and Peace Museum.

GUEST speaker at a meeting of the Cancer Support Group in Oban's Dunmar Court on February 22 was Ruth Moodie from the Oban Carers Centre in Quarry Road who gave an encouraging talk on the role of the centre and the support it can give to carers throughout the area.

Crucially this is emotional as well as practical. Additionally, respite care is available through Crossroads which operates from the same base.

AT THE February meeting of the Lorn and Mid Argyll Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, held at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, members and visitors enjoyed an illustrated talk entitled 'Fruitful Florida' by Lynne Farrell of Scottish Natural Heritage, Battleby.

She described the native flora and fauna, particularly within the national parks and reserves including the extensive wetlands of the Everglades, where one has to watch out for alligators.

In complete contrast are the gentle manatees, huge, slow-moving, whale-like herbivorous mammals found in tropical coastal waters and inlets.

Lynne's audience was encouraged to hear that these areas are well protected in Florida.

SOMMELIER Laurie Gray and the Regent Hotel combined to give the wine-tasting held recently in the hotel a distinctly pan-European flavour.

The event was hosted by Oban Rotary Club to raise funds for its African charities.

Each of the six courses was from a different country as were the wines. Laurie Gray gave a brief description of each wine explaining the country of origin and the grape used.

The meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the Rotarians, raised £1,125.

In his closing address, president John Macfarlane thanked everyone present for their attendance, Laurie Gray for his expert knowledge and the Regent Hotel and staff for ensuring the success of the evening.

Oban Tesco's imitation hand gun man given 60 days in jail

A MAN who said he bought a toy gun to scare birds away which were waking him early in the morning has been jailed at Oban Sheriff Court.

William Robertson, aged 47, whose address was given as care of Solas, Albany Street, Oban, was seen with the imitation hand gun in the car park of Tesco by a passer-by, who alerted staff at the store on February 9.

Staff followed Robertson, who went into the store and was seen to be concealing something in his pocket. 'Agitated' 'He seemed to be animated and agitated while in the store,' said Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most, 'and he appeared to be spooked when he realised he was being watched by [staff].'

Robertson then left and made his way across the car park towards High Street where witnesses saw what appeared to be a small dark-coloured pistol in his hand, which he pushed into his pocket. He was found by police on a bench with others at Glenshellach View and had the toy gun plus yellow plastic pellets.

Defence agent David MacNeill told the court on Monday that Robertson was being woken in the early hours of the morning by birds singing and had been unable to get to sleep so decided to get something to scare the birds away. 'He went to a local shop and purchased the toy gun for £2.50.

He had gone to Tesco to look for a friend and when the box wouldn't fit in his pocket, he had taken the 'gun' out and put the box in the bin. 'It is something of an anomaly that anyone can go into a shop and buy these guns but if you take it out of the box something of this nature can happen,' said Mr MacNeill, adding that his client hadn't intended to cause any distress to anyone.

Robertson pleaded guilty to breaching the peace by carrying the imitation hand gun into Tesco and causing fear and alarm to those who saw him. Sheriff Douglas Small said that, while he accepted the explanation, a number of people were 'extremely alarmed' at what they thought was a real gun he was carrying.

He sentenced Robertson to 60 days in prison, back-dated to February 10 when he was remanded in custody.



Firefighters tackle a tanker fire simulation as part of their training exercise at Oban.

Firefighters train at Oban's 'showcase' station

VOLUNTEER fire fighters from across Argyll and the islands attended the annual training seminar at Oban Fire Station on Saturday.

Oban's new fire station was purpose-built to provide a state-of-the-art training centre as well as a home for the town's resident fire-fighters.

The afternoon was spent carrying out practical training exercises using the smoke-filled training house and yard.

Highland Fuels once again donated one of its tankers for use in the exercise where firefighters practised using foam.

During the morning the lecture theatre was used for talks and tutorials on risk assessment, incident command, procedures for dealing with foam and asbestos

Causes gain gravel grant

THREE community projects in Argyll have quipped some grants for themselves thanks to the aggregate levy.

Rosie Burgess, convener of the project, said: 'We work with the local community to promote and protect the unique culture and heritage of the Ross of Mull. We are delighted that this grant will help us to create a permanent and sustainable home for our records, displays and future projects.'

Mull, Islay and Mid Argyll will all benefit from the money. The government introduced the aggregate levy where £1.60 is paid by quarry operators for each tonne of rock, gravel or sand they extract. This money is then shared by communities where quarrying has, or is still, taking place within five miles.

On Islay, the Bridgend Community Centre has been awarded £15,000 to place with work restoring a historic kitchen garden in the grounds of Islay House. Local volunteers produce organic fruit and vegetables for sale to Islay residents.

The levy was introduced in order to reduce the use of aggregates and encourage the use of alternatives to quarrying and help address the environmental costs.

Jack Adamson, chairman of the group, said: 'The grant funding will assist the group to establish the infrastructure for the much-needed Bridgend Kitchen Garden Project.'

In the latest round of grants £720,000 is being shared by projects across Scotland.

Jonad Eachdraidh an Rois Mhullach, the Ross of Mull Heritage Centre, has been awarded £23,000 which will be put towards the cost of refurbishing the former mill at Bunessan to create a permanent museum.

This will be in the old corn mill and Millbrae Cottage, a miller's house from the late 18th century, one of only six buildings left on the Ross which have the traditional rounded corners.

The finished museum will have a heritage library and research area, a small office and an open-air exhibition specialising in crofting and milling. The museum will also feature the unique geology of the Ross of Mull including the use of the distinctive granite on buildings throughout the world.

The group has a dedicated team of volunteer supporters who have already been actively involved in clearing the weeds from the garden and now with the grant funding support will be able to restore the garden from its derelict state to an accessible working community garden from which people with a wide range of abilities, ages and backgrounds can benefit.'

In Mid Argyll the recipient of the grant is the Kilmartin House Museum which will use its grant of £5,000 to develop further the existing audio-visual presentation which welcomes visitors to the museum.

Dalavich chalet plans protest

PLANS to build another 30 holiday cabins at the holiday chalet site in Dalavich has led to 20 letters of representation from members of the public.

Many of the letters are from people who already own cabins within the complex at Dalavich on Loch Awe, as well as a few local people, protesting about everything from trees being felled to loss of views from existing cabins.

There are already 44 chalets on the site, which was originally developed by the Forestry Commission, and the planning application comes from the present proprietors, Mr and Mrs Lyle.

A previous application to build more chalets lodged with Argyll and Bute Council was withdrawn in 2004.

Members of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of the council were due to discuss this latest application at yesterday's (Wednesday's) meeting, where it was recommended that it be approved subject to a 'discretionary' local hearing.

Objectors have raised concerns about drainage and flooding problems, the impact on habitats of the surrounding area, a lack of parking, the capacity of the Kilchrenan to Ford road to cope with extra traffic and infrastructure within the site being overstretched.

If the application goes through, the approval will come with a number of conditions involving landscaping, refuse collection and storage, upgrading the sewage treatment plant, repairing and upgrading the footpaths, flood mitigation and tree felling.

ASDA brings George to Oban in April

ASDA is bringing its range of clothing to Oban to help the Anthony Nolan Trust.

The Oban Friends of Anthony Nolan Trust have arranged for a fashion show of the George range of clothes through ASDA Dumbarton.

Volunteers will be modelling the clothes at a fashion show in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban, on April 23. There will also be opportunities to buy the clothes.

The group is currently putting the finishing touches to the fashion show and more details will be announced in *The Oban Times* nearer the time.

If you fancy something more strenuous then you can join a walk on the Great Glen Way on June 17 - 23. So far Carol Turnbull, Carol Harris, Agnes MacArthur and Irene Main are taking part and they welcome fellow walkers or sponsorship.

Lindsay MacCallum at the trust is in charges of places on the walk - telephone 01877 382149.

Early concert for fiddlers

A MONTH earlier than usual the Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society is holding its 62nd concert and fiddlers rally in the Corran Halls.

The event will be held on March 26 and the guest artists will be Oban fiddler Maurice Duncan and Mod Gold Medal winner Paul MacCallum.

In what will be a feast of traditional Scottish music, the programme will feature compositions by James Scott Skinner, Ian Powrie, Adam Rennie and Jimmy Shand.

The evening will get underway when conductor Daphne Campbell leads a rendition of the society's signature tune, *The Hills of Lorne*.

Bar steward assault leads to £250 fine

AN OBAN man who thought he was helping his brother out of trouble was fined at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday for assaulting a bar steward.

Simon McCulloch, 8F Scalpay Terrace, pled guilty to assaulting the steward at the Woodside Hotel, Tweeddale Street, Oban, on August 19 last year.

The court heard that McCulloch became involved when two people were being asked to leave the bar and punched the bar steward in the face.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said that McCulloch had been told his brother and girlfriend were in trouble and became concerned about what was going to happen when he saw them with two bar stewards.

He did not realise initially that his victim was a steward but thought he was part of an altercation and punched him. Sheriff Douglas Small fined McCulloch £250 and ordered him to pay £150 to his victim.

Bicycle marking this weekend

OBAN police will be holding a bicycle security marking session in Oban's Co-op car park this weekend.

In conjunction with Oban Crime Prevention Panel, the mobile policing unit will be in the car park from 10am to 12 noon on Saturday, March 11, so that anyone with an unmarked bicycle can bring it to be stamped with their home postcode.

This means that if the bike is stolen or lost, the proper owner can be easily traced.

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Duror father-of-two had indecent images of children on his computer

A DUROR father-of-two who had more than 3,000 images on his computer admitted taking and possessing indecent pictures of children but claimed he was interested in naturism.

Fort William Sheriff Court last week heard David Wilson, aged 41, pled guilty to taking or permitting indecent photographs of children to be taken and the possession of indecent photographs on his home computer on or between January 1 2003 to March 17 2004.

The images were found by Trading Standards officers who had seized Wilson's computer in 2003 because of an investigation into his collection of Elvis Presley discs

and tapes. In January 2005, Wilson, of 5 Abhainn Cottages, Duror, was fined £2,000 by Sheriff Douglas Small in Fort William Sheriff Court after admitting having more than 500 Elvis discs or tapes in his possession which breached trademark regulations as he copied albums.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'A number of images were found which raised concern. A warrant was sent to Northern Constabulary and I think it was fair to say there were about 3,000 images. The majority of the images were of the naturist type, from naturist sites.

'Some were found on floppy discs which means they had been taken from the internet and saved and others

were saved on the computer itself.' Ms Wylie said there were children in some of the images but the difficulty in the case was determining whether they were pictures which appealed to paedophiles.

She said of the accused: 'He wasn't interviewed until 2005. His position in general is that he does visit naturist sites and he would not dream of visiting paedophile sites. He did confirm to police that he was a naturist. His children were interviewed and no further charges were brought.'

Ken Sinclair, defending, said his client's prime interest was in naturism and he told Sheriff Desmond Leslie that

Wilson's job as a postman in Kinlochleven was uncertain because he had been suspended.

Before sentencing Wilson, Sheriff Leslie was shown 18 images seized from Wilson's computer. A consultant paediatrician had advised police that in his opinion the images were sexual in nature.

The sheriff said: 'If there was a scale that could be set from these photographs, the images that belong to you fall at the least end of that scale. It is entirely unacceptable that you continue in this conduct.'

Sheriff Leslie sentenced Wilson to one year's probation and placed him on the sex offenders' register.

Four taken to hospital after South Uist crash

FOUR people were taken to hospital after the car they were travelling in crashed in icy road conditions on Saturday March 4 on South Uist.

The accident happened in the early hours of Saturday morning on the A865 at Bornish on South Uist.

Police and ambulance attended after the vehicle came to rest partially submerged in a nearby unnamed lochan.

The four occupants of the car, all local, were taken to Uist and Barra Hospital where they were detained, but no life-threatening injuries were sustained.

Ski patrol rescues climber

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue team evacuated an injured climber at first light on Sunday morning after he sustained a broken ankle.

A report was received from a hillwalking couple on Saturday evening that they had come across two males on Aonach Beag, one of whom had fallen while climbing.

After assessing the hazardous weather conditions, a decision was made to carry out the evacuation of the injured climber at first light.

The climber was stretchered off the mountain with the help of the ski patrol and taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William. The climber has asked not to be named.

Enterprising expansion

SKYE and Lochalsh Enterprise (SALE) is set to expand to cover Wester Ross after 'a major organisational review'.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) has decided to scrap Ross and Cromarty Enterprise and has divided its area between two other enterprise companies. It means Wester Ross will now come under the jurisdiction of SALE while Easter Ross will be served by Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise.

Facelift for Lochaber High School

PLANS to fund a £10.2 million refurbishment of Lochaber High School were approved by Highland councillors last week.

The major facelift is scheduled to take place between 2007 and 2011 and follows the recently-completed science block upgrade.

The go-ahead follows detailed discussions between the council, the school and school board representatives over the past 18 months with advice provided by independent consultants. One of the elements in a recent critical report concerned the unsatisfactory state of the building.

Councillor Michael Foxley, chairman of the Lochaber area education committee, warmly welcomed the council's commitment to Lochaber High School.

He said: 'Today we have

agreed a four-year funding package for Lochaber high which demonstrates our strong commitment to the pupils and staff.

'We have worked closely with education officials to treble the previously planned investment and this will ensure the modern and high quality learning environment that our young people deserve.'

Benefits

'A huge amount of effort has gone into this project and I look forward to this investment in time and money producing the benefits that our community deserves.'

Councillor Andy Anderson, chairman of the council's education committee, said: 'The school was built to accommodate a roll of 1,800. Times have moved on and we are now planning to provide a 21st century environment for 900 pupils.

We have worked very closely with the school and the local community to take this project to fruition.'

The upgrade will involve a mix of new build, refurbishment and demolition which will significantly change the external view of the school, ensuring it can be recognised as a modern school building.

The new build will include a pupil entrance, library, music and administration departments, as well as significant changes to teaching spaces in the form of relocated technical rooms, home economics rooms, general classrooms and the upgrading of the physical education faculty.

The central courtyard will be opened up with a view direct to Ben Nevis through the demolition of the central three-storey building.



Mallaig Harbour was transformed into a winter wonderland last week.

Heaviest Mallaig snow fall for 40 years

FOR THE first time in 40 years, the fishing community of Mallaig has been enjoying a prolonged period of snow, with several inches lying on the harbour.

Mallaig harbourmaster Robert MacMillan said the last time snow of such depth fell in the harbour area was about 40 years ago.

However, Mr MacMillan said the roads around Mallaig and Morar were quickly cleared by BEAR (Scotland) and Highland Council and transport

services continued during the spell of wintry weather. Only 15 months ago the fishing community suffered devastation at its harbourside with the

January 11 storm which created havoc throughout Lochaber. This week things were coming back to normal with rain rather than snow being forecast.

Under threat care home staff praised

A COUNCIL care home for the elderly which is under threat of privatisation has received a positive report from the Care Commission.

Councillors at a meeting of Lochaber area committee of Highland Council this week heaped praise on staff at Invernevis House in Fort William.

The inspectors spoke to eight residents and four staff members.

The report found that the

service provided at Invernevis Day Care was of a high standard and while acknowledging an 'appropriate level of anxiety' at the uncertainty of future provision, the residents were pleased with the interesting and stimulating service provided.

The report concluded that staff were to be commended on the high quality care provided and that quality of

care and staff morale remained high during the period of negotiation and uncertainty over the home's future.

Councillor Olwyn Macdonald said: 'We should be very proud of this report and the work of the staff is very much appreciated. That's the reason this local authority home is thought so much of. We should be thanking the staff very much,

especially in the climate of change they are facing.'

Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'This highlights the danger that we are going to lose this in the tendering process.

'We could end up in a situation where we lose this quality of care. It's very difficult to put a price on this type of care.

'Members really need to approach this tender process with some care.'

However, councillor Neil Clark said: 'The same staff will be delivering the service if there is privatisation and it will be of the same high quality.'

Highland Council proposes to privatise Invernevis House along with six other care homes across the Highlands.

A decision on the plan is to be made by councillors at a full meeting of the council on May 4 2006.

Jobs to go at Lochaber volunteering company

REDUNDANCIES are to be made at Voluntary Action Lochaber following a financial review last month.

At the latest board meeting on February 22, company directors decided to seek advice on the financial position of the company with a view to restructuring the business.

The decision to restructure was made in the

light of cash-flow difficulties created largely by project grants from various sources being paid in arrears.

The financial review, which is still ongoing, has determined that a number of redundancies have to be made, with immediate effect. Voluntary Action Lochaber said in a statement it hoped restructuring would allow a

renegotiation of payment of these grants as well as a more effective operation of the business. The statement said: 'While the board regrets that it has had to take this step, it considers it a positive move to strengthen and allow the company to move forward for the foreseeable future. At the moment, Voluntary Action Lochaber continues to trade as previously.'

Flights disrupted as heavy snow closes runways

THE HIGHLANDS and islands were this week getting back to normal after heavy snowfalls caused four days of widespread disruption to flights and runways.

The severe weather had airport staff working overnight to clear runways at Campbeltown, Islay, Inverness, Kirkwall, Stornoway and Tiree.

They were all closed last Friday morning when heavy snow continued to fall, but the efforts of airport fire service staff ensured flights were able to get in and out later in the day. Inverness airport was

the worst hit, with fire staff working through the night last Tuesday Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday to keep the runway and aprons free.

Highlands and Islands Airports Limited, which administers the airports, liaised closely with airlines to ensure the minimum of disruption and airport fire service personnel were kept busy clearing runways and aprons of snow so planes could taxi in and out.

Inglis Lyon, HIAL managing director, said: 'The weather last week was ex-

treme and caused disruption, delays and cancellations of air services.

'The work of both our own staff and those of the airlines has been excellent and I would like to make special mention of our airport fire staff who have worked above and beyond the call of duty to keep runways open.'

The Meteorological Office said parts of northern Scotland last week saw overnight temperatures dropping to -15.3°C - colder than Moscow (-10°C) and Oslo (-14°C).

The lowest March tempera-

ture recorded in Scotland was -22.8°C at Logie Coldstone in 1958.

Although Highland airports were busy trying to get rid of snow, Nevis Range staff at Fort William were welcoming the heavy snowfalls.

On Monday the skiing centre reported excellent conditions on and off piste. At Glencoe the best skiing was on the upper slopes with Happy Valley and Main Basin offering the best snow.

However, with weather forecasters predicting milder temperatures, skiing could be short-lived.

Construction Excellence comes to Argyll

CONSTRUCTION Excellence recently hosted its second conference for everyone involved in the construction industry in Argyll and Bute.

The conference, held in Kilmory, Lochgilphead, included guest speakers and four themed workshops.

The first workshop examined investment programmes throughout Argyll and Bute, including planned work by local housing associations, the NHS and Argyll and Bute Council, the total value of which, between now and 2010/2011, is £241 million.

Proposed training provision for apprentices in Argyll and Bute was examined during the second workshop. Amongst the topics discussed

were the lack of female apprentices and the Argyll Construction Training Group. Much discussion ensued on the proposed construction skills centre in Lochgilphead, to be run by Argyll College, plans for which include offering up to SVQ level three in brickwork and joinery.

The third workshop was a case study of partnering on Gigha, exploring how the consortium is performing in the completion of new houses on the island.

Workshop four included an overview of renewable energy in Argyll, and what technologies have been brought into the area. This was followed by a discussion on the opportunities arising within the renewable energy sector.



Pictured at the Building For The Future conference held in Kilmory Castle recently are, from left, Jim Maitland of Maitland Construction; Peter McDonald of Fyne Initiatives; Gayle Stead of Argyll Community Housing Association; construction liaison officer Dianne Smith; Ailsa Clark of Fyne Futures; Claire Gibb of Argyll and Islands Enterprise; Steven Girvan of CITB Construction Skills. a09ccm01

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Fort William cinema for sale

FORT William's Studio Cinema has been put up for sale with its present owner selling it as a going concern.

Owner David Webster, of Highland Discovery Centre Cinemas, has placed the Fort William cinema and Oban's Highland Theatre cinema on the market for offers in excess of £375,000.

Mr Webster took over a seven-year lease of the Studio Cinema in Cameron Square in December 2004 from West Coast Cinema.

Mr Webster said: 'There is no skull-duggery. I feel it was neglected by its previous owners and we did a fair bit of work to it last year. Whoever takes over would automatically take over the lease.'

The two-screen Fort William cinema employs a manager and projectionist.

See page four for more on this story.

NEWSDESK
01631 568000

High Noon as 'gunslingers' head for Kinlochleven

IT WILL be 'High Noon' at Kinlochleven High School this month as the school stages an ambitious performance of a comedy western.

Pupils from the school will be performing the comedy western The Golden Nugget of Badcrow from Tuesday March 14 to Thursday March 16.

The two 'gunslingers', pupils Michael Gardiner and Grant MacKenzie, will star in the opening scenes of the comedy as they get involved in a duel with their head teacher Jim Sutherland, with the two 'gunslingers' coming out on top.

The western was written by John Batty, Peter Clough and Christopher West and produced by Iлона Munro. Curtain up is 7.30pm and tickets, priced £3 and £1.50 for students and OAPs, are on sale now from the school, telephone 01855 831273.

'Gunslingers' Michael Gardiner, left, and Grant MacKenzie with showgirls and other members of the cast.

Roadshow on track for Lochaber

A ROADSHOW is on its way to Lochaber to update council house tenants on the proposed transfer of council homes to a new housing association.

Tenants are also to receive a newsletter updating them on the proposed transfer of council houses to the not-for-profit Highland Housing Association (HHA). Information and ideas gathered from the roadshow are to be used to draw up the association's business plan, forming the basis of a proposal which tenants will have the chance to vote on later this year.

Angus Maclean, chairman of HHA, said: 'I believe that there are very strong arguments why transfer is good news for council tenants in the Highlands.

'We will be able to improve homes to a standard that the council could not afford.'

The roadshow will visit Kinlochleven and Ballachulish on March 16, Mallaig and Caol on March 17 and Fort William on March 20.

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Tarbert man jailed for four months and banned from driving for three years

A TARBERT man was jailed for four months at Oban Sheriff Court after pleading guilty to a number of offences, including assaulting a police officer.

Gerard Boyle, aged 47, of 3 Stable Cottages, Erines, admitted carrying out four offences after a trip to Oban on August 31 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most told the court that Boyle had been driving dangerously, at speed, with his car's lights off. He was also driving while unfit through drink or drugs and had been in possession of 111.9g of cannabis resin, all on the A816 at Kilmore.

Then, when he was taken to Oban Police Office in connection with those offences, he assaulted a police officer

and attempted to headbutt and kick him. Boyle came to the attention of the police when they saw him staggering towards his car when it was parked in Oban and then driving off.

The officers followed him for around three or four miles to Kilmore, where they saw his car's lights go off.

At that point they put on their own blue lights and the lights on Boyle's car came back on. They then saw his car weaving across the road onto the opposing carriageway.

Boyle eventually stopped his car and when it was searched by the officers they found the cannabis under the gearbox cover.

He was taken to Oban Police Office and was examined

by a doctor, who declared him unfit to drive through drink and/or drugs.

Defence agent David MacNeill said that Boyle, who cares constantly for his severely disabled 21-year-old son, had taken a rare day off and gone to Oban for Christmas shopping.

Mr MacNeill said: 'While he was there he met up with other people. Drink was taken and one thing led to another. 'He went to a party and intended to stay overnight but after an incident there he foolishly decided to make his way home.'

Mr MacNeill said that the cannabis resin was for Boyle's own use.

He added that Boyle was aware he could be facing jail but urged Sheriff Ronnie Watson to allow him to retain his liberty.

'I would invite you to see this as an aberration on the part of a man under great pressure who had one day off and stupidly decided to take to drink,' he said.

'If he was imprisoned the effect on his son would be extreme because he is extremely disabled and Boyle does everything for him.'

Jailing Boyle for a total of four months and banning him from driving for three years, Sheriff Watson said that he was unable to impose any alternative sentence in view of Boyle's behaviour and his criminal record.

Ferry company aims to fill 50 jobs

UP TO 50 jobs are being offered from Arran to Stornoway with Caledonian MacBrayne's subsidiary crew company.

The ferry company is gearing up for its summer services and the posts range from port assistants to senior catering ratings.

But the company has not had as good a response as it normally does.

Retail operations manager Drew Collier said: 'Traditionally we have recruited the main elements of our summer staff from local areas and we have been a bit surprised this year to see that the uptake has not been as quick as it has normally been.'

But the company hopes there will be enough people in the areas served by the ferries with an interest in sea-going jobs to fill the posts.

'The company is looking for people with basic sea-going qualifications and obviously we will be able to offer all the training and support necessary,' said Mr Collier.

Caledonian MacBrayne Crewing (Guernsey) Ltd is the subsidiary of CalMac that employs the crews for the ferries.



PSYBT regional chairman for Argyll and the Islands Murdo MacLeod; director of operations Ann Scott; newly-appointed regional manager Kate Norman and outgoing regional manager Arthur Barclay at the PSYBT Argyll and the Islands Annual Review, held last week in Inveraray. a10p9501

Youth trust highlights lack of affordable housing as major business barrier

THE ARGYLL and the Islands branch of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) held its annual review last week, at which regional chairman Murdo MacLeod bid farewell to outgoing regional manager Arthur Barclay.

Speaking at the meeting, held in the Swallow Argyll Hotel in Inveraray on Friday March 3, Mr MacLeod

thanked Mr Barclay for his hard work during his six years in the post, before welcoming Mr Barclay's successor, Kate Norman.

Miss Norman, who assumes her new role this month, has a background in marketing and arrives in Argyll from London. She told those present that she was looking forward to meeting local PSYBT panel members and helping

young people take their first steps in business.

Reporting on the previous year, Mr Barclay said that PSYBT had supported the launch of 12 businesses in Argyll and the Islands, less than the usual average of 18 per year. But he praised those which had started, including the successful Castle Stalker View cafe and gift shop near Appin and the Boathouse Cafe and Bar on Gigha.

When asked how many of the businesses supported by PSYBT enjoyed long-term sustainability, Mr Barclay estimated that around 53 per cent of businesses traded for three years or more, but suggested that although some businesses do cease to trade, some had been sold, whilst those who founded successful businesses were often headhunted by larger companies.

All those present at the meeting agreed that a shortage of affordable housing was the single biggest barrier preventing young people moving to Argyll and the Islands to work or set up their own businesses, a problem exacerbated by a shortage of available land for construction.

For more information on PSYBT Argyll and Islands, call 01546 606584.

Barra school could be saved by TV

A NEW lease of life may be on the way for a disused Western Isles school, with the possibility of it appearing on a popular television programme based on renovating old or ruined buildings.

The old primary school on Barra was visited recently by the makers of the programme *Restoration* to look at the premises and meet the local community to discuss the matter.

The series, which is shown on BBC Television, in recent years has featured Kinloch Castle on the Isle of Rum.

The school is being discussed as a restoration project and various ideas have been thrown into the pot, including a recording or arts studio.

The school is being considered for the Scottish round of the programme although no final decision has been made.

Apart from being a former

school the building and its environs have some significance for the islanders, being the venue in 1886 for the Napier Commission hearing evidence from the island's crofters.

The evidence helped to bring about the Crofting Act of that year. The school's surrounding stone wall covering an area of exactly one acre and was a rule for islanders to judge the likely size of their crofts.

The *Restoration* programme in recent years has covered several Scottish buildings which the public would like to see brought back to life.

Although Kinloch Castle was featured it was not the winner of that particular series.

However, it resulted in the Prince of Wales taking a personal interest in the castle's future, the result being a partnership development with plans to give it new life.

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Multi fuel

SEVERAL stoves and now some cars demonstrate how clever and adaptable they are by being able to use a range of different fuels.

Few will ever approach the cleverness of your body though; just consider the wide range of sometimes quite suspect substances that we consume at meal or snack times, or possibly just an in-between snack nibble!

Although some of these 'foods' may be tortured distortions from their original state, the fuel component of them can still be classified as proteins, carbohydrates or fats.

Proteins are structural things from which we make new bits of ourselves, such as replacing skin, muscles, liver or blood cells. Despite their usual bricks and mortar job, we can still burn proteins as fuel to generate energy if required.

Carbohydrates are the body's primary fuels, and we generally keep a ready supply of carbohydrate in our muscles and liver in the form of glycogen. This gives us instantly available supplies of fuel, but we can run these dry.

Marathon runners often refer to 'hitting the wall' at about 21 miles. This is when they run out of glycogen and suddenly have to start working harder to fuel their muscles.

Fats are used for some structural and protective purposes but in terms of fuel they are our long term storage. Because they are squirreled away in the cupboard under the stairs, and even once we get them out we have to convert them before we can burn them, the energy is not so readily available as with carbohydrates.

This is why the marathon runner's temptation to give up increases as they approach that wall.

In order to persuade the body that it should burn up some fat we need to undertake some sustained activity that is of a moderate intensity, like walking.

The ongoing activity gives the body the hint that it will run out of carbohydrates at some point and the moderate demand lets the body know that it would have time to dig out the fat and convert it fast enough to supply the required energy.

If on the other hand the exercise is too intense, like a 100 metre sprint, the energy need is now and there isn't time to find the torch and go grovelling under the stairs.

Carbohydrates and fats are both clean burning fuels; the exhaust they produce is just water that we can use or flush out, and carbon dioxide that we then breathe out.

Proteins on the other hand are rather different. They contain nitrogen tied up in compounds that we can't breathe out.

Urea is the toxic ash produced when we burn proteins for fuel. This is then shipped to the kidneys where it has to be diluted to produce urine. One reason Hollywood starlets looked so thin and gaunt when they went on high protein diets was that they were dehydrated; their bodies had to sacrifice water to rid itself of urea.

While adequate protein is essential to good health, using it as your primary fuel turns you into a badly serviced old lorry belching out black smoke!

Andrew Pallas ND DO MRN
Osteopath and Naturopath
Oban Complementary Health Centre Tel: 01631 567054

Dalmally man told to be of good behaviour

SENTENCE has been deferred on a Dalmally man to allow him to be of good behaviour after he admitted throwing a sandal at his wife which injured her.

Arthur Donald appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week and pleaded guilty to the offence, which occurred on November 11 last year at the couple's then home at 32 Glenview, Dalmally.

Donald, aged 39, also admitted committing a breach of the peace at the same time.

Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most said that Donald had returned home drunk and started an argument with his wife about dishes in the kitchen.

As the argument continued, Donald, who was shouting and swearing, threw the sandal at his wife. It struck her on the head and caused a small cut.

Donald also admitted breaching a condition of his bail order by approaching his wife when he was forbidden to do so.

Defence agent David MacNeill said that the incident had arisen from the break-down of the couple's marriage.

He said that Donald's wife had accrued debts and used his credit cards without his knowledge.

Mr MacNeill added that

Donald had held down a job as a lorry driver for a number of years and hoped to start a new job in the near future.

Sheriff Ronnie Watson deferred sentence until August 22 for Donald to show he could be of good behaviour.

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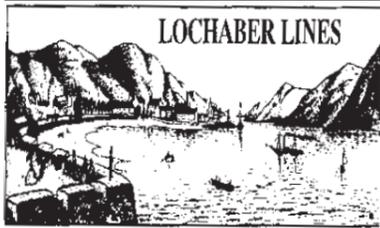
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IT'S ALWAYS nice to hear of a local boy doing well and Johnny Cameron from Achnacarry appears to be doing very well according to reports in financial sections of national newspapers.

Johnny, second son of the late Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, is head of the Royal Bank of Scotland's corporate markets division and has recently been appointed to the group board. The bank has reported annual pre-tax profits of nearly £8 billion and Johnny's division has contributed just over £5 billion of that figure.

Johnny, whose late father was a non-executive director of the bank, can be expected to be rewarded with almost £5 million this year in pay, bonus and share options. We know where our first call will be to get new strips for the Clan Cameron shinty team.

WE HAD a wee smile when reading an advertisement in a weekly tabloid.

It stated: 'The Royal Dornoch Golf Club, the classic links championship course, is rated 15th in the world's top courses. On it and the Struie golf courses golfers are challenged to create 'shorts' and play by feel and instinct.' This conjured up a picture for us of very slow play on the course with golfers sitting cross-legged around the greens whilst an officious secretary commands 'get your needle and thread out and start tailoring'. Of course the challenge to make an extra pair of shorts makes sense should a player get a hole-in-one. Boom, boom!

ARDNAMURCHAN Camanachd's debut in the shinty leagues in this the first official season of summer shinty was thwarted by the snow at Drumnadrochit but we wish them every good fortune when their season gets underway.

It's good to see the game taking off on the peninsula and the enthusiasm of the youngsters allied to the experience of the likes of Lochaline's John Nudds should stand them in good stead. We look forward to the day when they appear in a televised final.

The club's name might prove a tongue-twister for the commentator and, better still, if ex-Kilmallie and Glengarry ladies player Elaine Wink is in their ranks. Just imagine the description of the dribbling and passing movement: 'Nudds, Nudds, Wink, Wink!'

Sticking with shinty, what a great ambassador for the game Fort William captain Gary Innes was when giving a live interview on Radio Scotland last Saturday evening.

No 'over the moons', 'sick as a parrot' or 'the boys done good' as Gary answered questions in a fluent and articulate manner tempered with modesty. A lot of professional sportsmen could have learned from Gary.

We can't mention sticks and balls without congratulating the lads of Lochaber High School's under-18 hockey team whose tremendous achievement in winning the Scottish Schools' Cup will surely be marked by a civic reception. In becoming only the second state school to lift the trophy, the lads beat more privileged schools such as Strathallan, Robert Gordon's and George Watson's. The chips on our shoulders, carefully nurtured over the years, have receded somewhat. Well done, lads!

Homeless favoured over locals

LOCAL people in rural communities in Lochaber are being refused housing in favour of homeless people it was claimed this week.

A meeting this week of Highland Council's Lochaber area committee heard that in three years time local people in small villages in Lochaber will not be able to access local affordable housing.

Ardnamurchan councillor Dr Michael Foxley told the meeting: 'Fifty per cent of housing stock is going to homeless people. This will rise to 80 to 90 per cent in the next three years.'

'It is very difficult for someone to access a house unless they are homeless.'

Councillor Foxley asked for a local 'letting initiative'

to be set up to address the issue. He said: 'We need information about a local letting initiative to give emphasis to local people in housing need because in three to four years time the chance of getting a house will be close to zero, despite the level of building going on.'

Mallaig and Small Isles councillor Charles King said: 'The difficulty arises where, in a remote area, only one house comes up and a homeless person gets it.'

Parachuted 'It seems that these people have been parachuted in and that is what causes local difficulties.'

Councillor Foxley added: 'It affects the land supply. In the past local landowners

released land for housing for local people. If they see it's not going to that category they are not going to release more land.'

Lochaber housing manager Tina Luxton said: 'The difficulty we have is we cannot create a local lettings initiative that excludes people.'

'We have to have clear objectives and need to demonstrate what problems we are trying to overcome.'

'If people have demonstrable housing need they will be given a house above someone else. A local lettings initiative can't be used to exclude people from accessing local housing.' Councillors are to meet Lochaber Housing Association about the issue next month.



Left to right: pupils Claire Delaney, Rebecca MacDougall, Fiona McIntyre, James Tangney and Sam Kane with the book vouchers they received for working as a focus group. (10car01)

Young people look to careers

AFTER the input of Lochaber school pupils, 2,000 copies of a booklet detailing career opportunities in Lochaber are set to roll off the printers.

Drew Ross, a senior adviser with Careers Scotland, has been working on compiling *Lochaber Market Information* for a number of months.

Drew said it was essential that young people from the area were able to offer their thoughts on what was available career-wise and he spent time with fourth-year pupils at Lochaber High School who acted as his focus group.

He said: 'I showed them the cover last week but they

said they were sick of pictures of mountains so it's being changed.'

Drew said tourism was obviously going to be the major employer in an area which has Ben Nevis as its backdrop. However, he said the existence of exciting and expanding companies such as computer games firm Genuine Games in Lochaber proved opportunities were there.

He added that the graduate scheme run by Lochaber Enterprise and the numbers of apprenticeships taken up by youngsters were also encouraging.

The booklet will be available throughout Lochaber.

Jail for Corpach cousins after Glenuig assault

TWO CORPACH cousins, already jailed for other offences, were sentenced to a total of two-and-a-half years' in jail after admitting seriously assaulting a man at a party in Glenuig.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week how Adam Watson and Malcolm Watson had seriously assaulted Paul Usher, an oil industry worker from near Edinburgh, at a party at Church Cottages, Glenuig, on November 27 2005.

Adam Watson, aged 18, of 71 Kilmallie Road, was already serving six years in Polmont Young Offenders' Institution for a serious assault.

His cousin Malcolm Watson, aged 19, of 11 Glebe Park, was also serving six months detention in Polmont for 'other matters' and was due to be released on March 15.

Adam Watson's defence agent Ken Sinclair said his client was appealing his six year sentence.

David MacNeill, defending Malcolm Watson, said his client was attending Lochaber Council of Alcohol and had been going to the local addictions clinic and the community mental health nurse before his imprisonment.

Mr MacNeill said his

client had admitted his guilt to the police on the second day after the assault.

He added that he had said he had been promised a roofer's apprenticeship by a local company on his release.

Sheriff Desmond Leslie said the assault on Mr Usher was entirely unprovoked and told Adam Watson he had 'a propensity for violence'.

Sheriff Leslie sentenced him to serve 18 months imprisonment. Malcolm Watson was sentenced to a year's detention and Sheriff Leslie told him it had been a 'brutal and unprovoked' assault.

Invergarry woman faces ASBO ruling

AN INVERGARRY woman is facing an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) after being found guilty of a breach of the peace at Fort William Sheriff Court.

Alison Kerr, aged 35, whose address was given in court as 133 Firhill, Allness, was found guilty of disorderly conduct, shouting and swearing and uttering threats of violence to neighbours on January 31 this year at 17 Garry Crescent, Invergarry.

Deferring sentence on Kerr, Sheriff Robert Vaughan said the attention of a social enquiry report

should be directed towards imposing an ASBO.

Kerr had already signed an Acceptable Behaviour Contract with Highland Council on January 20, which she has now breached.

Neighbour Arlene MacDiarmid told the court she had heard shouting and screaming coming from Kerr's house at around 5.30pm.

Mrs MacDiarmid said: 'She was shouting and screaming that she was going to 'kill the MacDiarmids, she was going to have us'.'

Rhona Heddle, a 43-year-old carer, said: 'I heard a lot of shouting and swearing. Alison said she was going to 'have me'.'

Giving evidence Alison Kerr said that both crown witnesses were 'liars'.

Kerr's defence agent Iain Innes said: 'The neighbours

had an agenda to get Alison Kerr out of Invergarry and to see the back of her.'

However Sheriff Vaughan said: 'I am not prepared to hold that the witnesses were in any conspiracies. 'There were threats, neighbours were alarmed and frightened.'

Oil stolen from Caol tanks

OWNERS of oil tanks are being asked by police to ensure that security devices are fitted following reports of thefts of oil from tanks in Caol Industrial Estate.

Any suspicious activity seen around oil tanks should be reported to police immediately. In another incident, sometime between February 24 and 27, a 1,200 watt generator was stolen from a caravan beside Lochailort Post Office.

Good news for customers at Argyll Furniture Store

FOR 12 years the Argyll Furniture Store has been providing excellent service to the people of Argyll and the islands.

Good quality furniture, keenly priced and delivered to your door has been the philosophy of this successful business.

Mr Arshad and his team have built up a loyal customer base over the years.

Right now the Breadalbane Street-based store is celebrating adding a major extension to its premises plus a refitting of the store.

'The extra storage capacity means we can offer customers more and an even speedier delivery,' said Mr Arshad.

The store is packed with furniture offering a range of styles to suit all types of homes, from contemporary to traditional, town or country.

The first floor is packed with beds of all sizes and styles, bedroom furniture and rugs.

There is also a number of dining table and chair sets on display.

On the ground floor it is amazing how many different types of sofas chairs and match suits they have managed to get on display; customers are truly spoilt for choice.

There are also storage units, display cabinets television and media storage units, bookcases and mirrors on show.

On the two floors of Argyll Furniture Store you can furnish your home at a price to suit any budget, large or small.

You'll see the Argyllshire Furniture Store van travelling as far north as Kinlochleven, down into mid Argyll and all round Lorn as deliveries are made to satisfied customers.

For island customers Mr Arshad liaises with local hauliers to make deliveries.

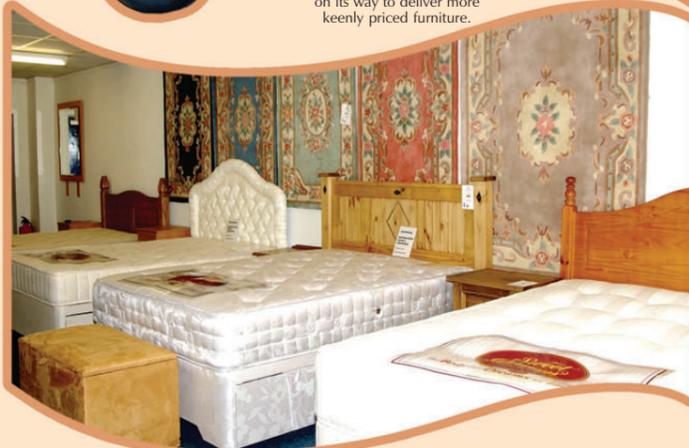
Low cost finance is also available through the store. For friendly, helpful advice and service, a wide selection of well-priced furniture and beds, you really should go along to the new look store at Breadalbane Street and say hello.



The store room extension to the store on Breadalbane Street means more choice for customers.



Look out for the Argyll Furniture Store van, on its way to deliver more keenly priced furniture.



Good quality beds and rugs have always been a popular feature of the store.



The store also has a good range of dining room furniture.



The ground floor of Argyll Furniture Store is packed with suites; you'll be spoilt for choice.



Mr Arshad and his team are always ready to help and advise.

LOOK AT OBAN



I'm still here, says councillor

RUMOURS of his departure from public office are greatly exaggerated, said Soroba's larger-than-life councillor, Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, on Monday.

Last week he told a meeting of the Soroba Area Development Group that he intended to stand down from the position of chairman of the group.

'At no time did I ever say I was going to resign as a councillor,' said Councillor McIntosh.

The upset began at a

meeting of the development group where Councillor McIntosh told members who had gathered to discuss progress on the community centre for Soroba, amongst other things, that he felt he had no alternative but to resign from the post as its chairman.

'There had been a lot of uncomplimentary things said behind my back' said Councillor McIntosh.

'Since then I have had people coming up to me in the street and phone calls

from people believing I was resigning from the actual Argyll and Bute Council.

'I am still a councillor and I haven't resigned and have no intention of resigning from the council.'

He has also been overwhelmed by the number of people who have written, emailed and telephoned urging him to stay as chairman of the Soroba Area Development Group.

'I am still considering my position as far as that is concerned,' he said.

The very eligible Miss Stoddart of Oban

AMONGST the many awards she has won behind the wheel, Oban's motorsport star Susie Stoddart now has another claim to fame this week.

A national men's magazine, FHM has declared her to be 'the 25th most eligible woman in the UK'.

This season will see Susie debut with the AMG-Mercedes C-Class cars in the DTM in the 2006 season. And according to the 'lads' mag' FHM: 'Formula One is probably as many as sport gets but that will



Susie Stoddart

She has already driven in Formula Three.'

Susie beat well-known beauties like Jade Jagger, Sophie Anderton, Charlotte Church, model Erin O'Connor and Dr Who star Billy Piper in the list.

Susie's dad John told *The Oban Times* this week that Susie will be back behind the wheel for test work at Brands Hatch.

John and Susie's mother Sally, plus brother David, will be watching her at the start of the DTM season in Dusseldorf.

St Columba's kids dig *All that Jazz*

TOES were tapping and fingers were snapping at Glasgow Royal Concert Hall when 10 primary seven pupils from St Columba's Primary School, Oban, went to *All That Jazz*.

This was one of the Children's Classic Concerts organised by Christopher Bell, who also conducted the orchestra involved.

The children were treated to a wide variety of jazz music, learning about tempo and rhythm.

There was even a group of dancers demonstrating how to do an authentic Charleston.

'The children had a great time and they were enthusiastic about the different styles of music,' said head teacher

Pauline Carson. 'Being a jazz fan myself, I felt it was a great introduction to this particular musical style.'

'Everyone really enjoyed themselves.'

The aim of the concert was to promote children's interest in music and broaden their listening experience.

St Columba's Primary School received the concert tickets free as part of a rural Schools initiative, although the majority of the children attending the jazz concert were from the immediate Glasgow area.

In the week previous to the concert, the pupils of St Columba's school had taken part in a fantastic music workshop led by a member of the Junior Orchestra in preparation for their visit to Glasgow.

Town celebrates opening double



Fiona MacCallum, centre, Oban library's longest-serving member of staff, was presented with a lovely plant by Sue Nicholson after she cut the ribbon to open the new premises. Sue and Fiona are pictured with Councillor Robin Banks. (100801)

New library is larger and on the level

OBAN library opened its doors at its new premises in Albany Street for the first time last Thursday (March 2).

Fiona MacCallum, the longest-serving member of staff, was given the honour of cutting the ribbon to declare the library officially

open after Councillor Robin Banks made a speech welcoming those who had turned out for the occasion.

The library moved from its previous home in the Corran Halls, where it had been since 1965, when the former Job Centre building became available.

The new premises offer a more accessible and spacious library for customers in Oban and beyond.

Ground level

One of the main attractions of the building was that it is at ground level, eliminating the need for the elderly or disabled to nego-

tiate a stairway before they can get to the books.

The new library also offers a dedicated 'quiet room' for people who wish to study, carry out research or do their homework in peace. A room has also been set aside to include a microfilm reader and

printer, a massive plus for the library's many visitors who are researching their family history.

The new layout also allows staff to supervise and assist members of the public who wish to use the information technology equipment.

Woman's screams heard by police

AN OBAN man has been ordered to prove he can be of good behaviour after pleading guilty to assaulting his partner.

Sentence was deferred for three months on 25-year-old Peter McCuish after he admitted carrying out the offence in the flat he shared with his partner in Stevenson Street on November 11 last year.

McCuish also admitted committing a breach of the peace and resisting arrest on the same date.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that police were called to the flat and heard a woman's screams coming from within.

They eventually managed to gain entry to the flat and found McCuish's partner sitting on the floor.

She had bruising on her face and her nose was bleeding.

McCuish, whose address was given in court for bail purposes as 13 Columba Court, Dunollie, was arrested but tried to resist the officers.

Defence agent David MacNeill said that the couple had been out drinking on the night in question and an argument developed between them when they got home, which he said had been instigated by McCuish's partner.

He said that McCuish remembers little of the incident because he had been so drunk at the time.

He described McCuish as a hard-working young man who holds down a regular job in the fishing industry.

Deferring sentence until May 30 for McCuish to be of good behaviour, Sheriff Ronnie Watson ordered him to save at least £500 by that date in advance of any compensation order being imposed by the court at that time.

Sentence deferred in breach case

SENTENCE has been deferred for a woman who committed a breach of the peace in an Oban guest house to be of good behaviour.

Appearing before Oban Sheriff Court last week, 45-year-old Susan Williams, a resident at Glenview Guest House in Soroba Road, admitted carrying out the offence at that address on July 26 last year.

Sheriff Ronnie Watson deferred sentence until August 22 to allow Williams to demonstrate that she could stay out of trouble.



First through the door at War and Peace

OBAN's War and Peace Museum opened its doors to the public for the first time in its new home in the former *Oban Times* building on the Corran Esplanade on Saturday morning and looked forward to becoming one of the west coast's top tourist attractions.

An official opening ceremony is scheduled to

take place later this month but, on Saturday, the doors opened for business promptly at 10am and the watchkeepers were on hand to talk to visitors and show them the unique collection of local war memorabilia and artifacts they have accumulated over the years.

The first visitors to the museum's new centre

were Alan Hall of Dumbarton and Sheila Campbell of Glasgow, who were taking a winter weekend break in Oban.

They were escorted around the displays by watchkeeper Charlie Geddes, above left, and they became the first people to sign the visitors' book in the museum's new home. (10war01).

New enhanced bus service between
Oban - Dunbeg
 approx every 30 minutes and
Oban - Dunstaffnage - Barcaldine
 approx every 60 minutes throughout
 the day Mondays to Saturdays.
Commencing Mon. 13th March 2006

405
 Glengallan Road - Barcaldine and Appin
 Stopping at Supermarkets
 Rail Station - Dunbeg - Dunstaffnage - Connel - Nth Connel - Benderloch

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 Argyll and Bute Public Transport Helpline 01546 604360
 or log on to www.westcoastmotors.co.uk
 or www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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GEORGE STREET - OBAN

7.30 DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAY-2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE
'THE SUPERBLY PRODUCED JOHNNY CASH STORY'
WALK THE LINE 12A

6.30 and 8.30 DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAY - 2.15 SATURDAY
HEATH LEDGER and SIENNA MILLER shine in
Casanova 12A

STUDIO CINEMA 01397 705095
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

5.45 DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAY-2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE
HILARIOUS TWIST TO THE TALE OF A CHICKEN
CHICKEN LITTLE U

7.30 EVENINGS ONLY, INCLUDING SUNDAY
STEVEN SPIELBERG'S REMORSELESS THRILLER
MUNICH 15

7.00 DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAY - 2.15 SATURDAY MATINEE
STEVE MARTIN IN THE INTER-FAMILY COMEDY
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 PG

At the Cinema

CHICKEN LITTLE
Screen One - U Certificate
81 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
5.45 Daily, including Sunday - 2.30 Saturday Matinee

In a hilarious twist to the classic tale of a little chicken (voiced by **Zach Braff**), **Chicken Little** is great for children and highly amusing for mums and dads.

Directed by **Mark Dindal**, this cartoon movie is very much in the **Madagascar** style - coming from the great **Walt Disney Studios**.

MUNICH
Screen One
15 Certificate
134 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
7.30 evenings only, including Sunday.

Steven Spielberg's remorseless thriller **MUNICH** takes on board many vital and intractable issues and is certainly a highly recommended not-to-be-missed screen shocker.

We follow the story of Mossad agent **Avner Kaufman (Eric Bana)** who is assigned with a four-man hit team to Europe, to find and eliminate a team of ruthless killers. His clear orders are: "Assassinate this terrorist group".

CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
Screen Two - PG Certificate
90 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
7.00 Daily, including Sunday - 2.15 Saturday Matinee

The Bakers are back with a vengeance, with **STEVE MARTIN** starring in the sequel to his 2003 movie success, this time under the direction of **ADAM SHANKMAN** (Director of **The Pacifier**). This time the Bakers are toe-to-toe with another clan in an ultimate inter-family battle.

The entire **CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN** Original Cast comes together again, including **Bonnie Hunt, Hilary Duff, Tom Welling** and **Piper Perabo**. They are joined in turn by the new family, headed by **Eugene Levy**, with an adventure that has more laughs and action than ever before and if you enjoyed the original, you will enjoy this outing.

A festival of drama for a shoestring budget

WHERE can you get an evening of live entertainment for as little as £3.50 or five nights for £14.50? At the 2006 Lorn Drama Festival which will be held at the Corran Halls, Monday to Friday, March 13-17 at 7:30pm.

During the week, 14 one-act plays will be performed by drama groups from all over Argyll; Duror in the north, Dalmally in the east, Campbeltown in the south and all points in between.

There will also be a variety of stories told on the first night by Margaret Baughen from Taynuilt.

The clubs are putting the finishing touches to their plays for what promises to be five nights of pure entertainment and competitive spirit.

Over the course of the week you will see drama, fantasy, farce, costume drama and comedy.

The winners of the Campbeltown Festival, Fynesside, and the runners-up, Lochgilphead, will be competing in what promises to be the best festival yet.

All the plays are assessed by a professional adjudicator and this year sees the return of Lynda Henderson from Furnace.

She last judged the Lorn Festival in 2003 when she delighted audience and teams alike with her constructive criticism of acting and stage design. In fact she was the highlight of the evening and every bit as entertaining as the teams. She will keep her scoring secret until the last night when she will announce the winners of the nine trophies.

The festival committee is indebted to its generous sponsors, Scottish Power, Oban FM and the programme advertisers. The clubs are grateful for help with royalties and travelling costs from many local businesses which are acknowledged in the programme which can be collected free from the Corran Halls.

Festival running order
Monday 13th: Ann Watt, chairwoman; Margaret Baughen, storyteller. Park Primary School Duror and Kentallen Drama Group.
Tuesday 14th: Rev Jeff McCormick, chairman; Benderloch and North Connell Drama Club (Juniors/Youth) Fynesside Drama Club Appin Drama Group 'A' Team.
Wednesday 15th: Vivienne Dobbie, chairwoman; Lochgilphead Drama Club 'G' Team Appin Drama Group 'B' Team Dalmally and Lochawe Drama Club.
Thursday 16th: Margaret Maxwell, chairwoman; Taynuilt and District Dramatic Society (Juniors) Appin WRI Drama Group Lochgilphead Drama Group 'J' Team.
Friday 17th: Andrew MacIntyre, chairwoman; Carradale Drama Club Accent Juniors Accent Players

Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272

The Lunar Eclipse, suggests that if you have been battling under trying circumstances, perhaps linked to heavy responsibilities or your work, the time may be to act, to protect yourself and most of all your health. Of course, it is easy to say such things, but try not to disregard how much your psychological well-being can feed into body and soul. A friend can be a big support. For more, please call me.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 273

Time can be one of the most valuable of commodities these days, not least because no one seems to possess very much of the stuff. Yet you may need to prioritise, especially with regard to certain interests, hobbies or involvements. Quite frankly, others could very easily get the wrong end of your stick, so you need to create the space to keep important players in your loop. For more, please call me.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 274

With Venus moving deeper into a much more open and hopeful part of your scope, this can be good for relationships, but the Lunar Eclipse suggests that some of the fundamentals in your world can require juggling. A dash for success may well be reaping benefits, but there are your personal needs to consider and potentially, those of who you live with, or your family members. For more, please call me.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) 09111 767 275

With Mercury still whizzing backwards, trickery, subterfuge and down right mix-ups, are all entirely possible and with the Eclipse emphasising the need for care in your communications sector, if you are contemplating signing legally binding documents or even verbally agreeing to something, be aware that ramifications can come from this in the future. Seek advice if need be. For more, please call me.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 276

Someone may try to renege on something this week, or it could be that you have a change of heart about something of a joint nature. While this may cause initial ripples of frustration, in the fullness of time you may be relieved that things turned out like this. You could also have a reminder falling onto the doormat but one you may not be particularly pleased to receive. For more, please call me.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 277

If your relationships, or one in particular, are progressing smoothly, this is a week, then things can pick up quite a bit more momentum. However, as easily, the opposite can be true. The need to get your side of equation across can be very strong, but being able to listen well, is what will turn any tie around. If not, the grass really could seem greener elsewhere. For more, please call me.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 278

If you feel that you are being taken for granted, one situation could reach boiling point. And yet what can hearten you enormously this week, is slinky Venus penetrating deeper into the most charismatic of sectors. Whatever the strains, there can be other, much more pleasing diversions which can help to make your heart soar. New starts are possible, you can be in demand. For more, please call me.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 23) 09111 767 279

Everybody can seem to want a slice of you and you could thrive on all the attention, or will you? Another part of you may be happier to take your foot off the accelerator and seek out some time and space. Your home life links, or improving the decorative order of your abode can still be areas where you can truly gain solace. Some Scorpios may even soon flourish the paint brushes. For more, please call me.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280

A big change in your life role, or of someone close from the Venus getting a bigger toehold in Aquarius. This can lead to a revival in your romantic fortunes and socially too, your star will increasingly be in the Ascendant. But there could be a financial matter which still requires grappling with. You may need to keep your wits about you - especially if someone owes you cash. For more, please call me.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281

Perhaps part of the problem this week, will in fact turn out to be the solution. Such is the level of energy around you, you could find yourself being overwhelmed. Yet the good thing, is that if you have a clear idea about what you want to do, you can make a compelling case for this. Most pleasingly, your cash-flow continues to revive. Yet a piece of equipment may need replacing. For more, please call me.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282

Whatever life throws up, you can take great solace from the Venus getting a bigger toehold in Aquarius. This can lead to a revival in your romantic fortunes and socially too, your star will increasingly be in the Ascendant. But there could be a financial matter which still requires grappling with. You may need to keep your wits about you - especially if someone owes you cash. For more, please call me.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283

You may well have embarked on a brave new course, but now you are set to come to a stalling post, one where you will be able to evaluate just how well you have done. However, if your perspective, has become a little inward, someone may let you know that they expect more. A parting of the ways is possible in a weak association, yet you could yearn for an old flame or will one be in touch? For more, please call me.

For your detailed forecast call your number above. Calls cost 60p per minute at all times. Visit - www.patrickarundell.com

Excitingly made and superbly acted, this is a movie that is a tribute to Johnny Cash - his life and his songs. Directed by James Mangold and starring Joaquin Phoenix, Reese Witherspoon, Robert Patrick, Ginnifer Goodwin and Dallas Roberts, the great Twentieth Century Fox Studios have managed to successfully capture the traumas and triumphs of an outstanding performer.

CASANOVA
Screen Two - 12A Certificate - 112 Minutes (Under-12's admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)

OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
6.30 and 8.30 Daily, including Sunday 2.15 Saturday Matinee

Set in Venice in the 18th century, the great lover **Casanova (Heath Ledger)** is told that he must find a wife or be banished from the floating city for ever. He sets off to woo a virgin, only to fall hard for feisty feminist **Francesca (Sienna Miller)** following a challenge to a duel by her brother.

A stylish romp that is fun to enjoy, **Casanova** undoubtedly charms and seduces, particularly thanks to **Sienna's** beauty and **Heath's** outstanding charisma.

St. Patrick's
WITH GUINNESS PROMOTIONS
Friday 17th March
IRISH DISHES
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START THE 'CRAIC' WITH A FREE GLASS OF GUINNESS
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

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The Oban Times & West Highland Times
What's On Guide

Friday 10th March
Cash for Kids, Gala Dinner, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, 7.30pm

13, 14, 15, 16, and 17th March
Lorn Drama Festival, Corran Halls, 7.30pm

Wednesday 15th March
SAMS Open Evening, Dunstaffnage Marine Lab, 5.30 - 9pm.

Sunday 19th March
Orienteering at Atlantis Leisure, 11am - 12 noon

Wednesday 22nd March
Nether Lorn Piping Recital by pipers from Argyll, Argyllshire Gathering Halls, 7.30pm

Saturday 25th March
Fiddlers Rally, Corran Halls

Saturday 25th March
MK Jewellery launch new catalogue, Oyster Inn, Connel 8pm

Tuesday 28th March
Traditional Highland Folk Tales, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm.

Saturday 1st April
Smokie in Concert Corran Halls 7.30pm

Saturday 22nd April
Singing Kettle, Corran Halls, Oban, 2pm

Sunday 7th May
ABCD 10K race starting from the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital at 1pm

Sunday 28th May
Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon. Entry form from Atlantis Leisure

TO BE INCLUDED IN The Oban Times WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000



Argyll provided two stops on the UK tour of the hit American group The Drifters. They performed in Oban on Friday night, and packed the Corran Halls, before leaving the following day to appear at Dunoon. Even though their tour is run to a tight schedule the band members, from left, James Hamilton, Leroy Jones, Jazz Cherry and Colin Roy found time to visit Oban Fm and enjoy a walk around the town in the winter sunshine.

Walk with Macmillan

THEY'VE already got us drinking coffee and now they want us to lace up our boots and get walking.

Macmillan Cancer Relief's new UK-wide fundraising event is **Walk Wonders**, supported by npower.

The idea is that just as everyone hosts a Macmillan coffee morning they now would like people to host a spring-time walk on the weekend of May 19 - 21.

Evelyn Nicoll, the fundraising manager of Macmillan in Argyll and Bute said: 'Many of those people affected by cancer rely on Macmillan's expert care and emotional support and we hope that Walk Wonders will help Macmillan raise over £1 million across the UK so that we can reach all those both locally and nationally who urgently need our services.'

forthcoming events

Friday 28th April at 8.00 pm. Helensburgh and District Highland Association CEILIDH/DANCE: Piper- Bruce Shearlaw Singers - Ann-Bone MacLean Sheona Rostant & Duncan McDonald Violin-Cameron Bone Chair Person - to be advised Band - Hector McFadyen>Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Friday 26th May AGM at 7.00pm Helensburgh and District Highland Association DANCE at 8.00pm. Band -Willie Paterson. Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Friday 30th June at 8.00pm Helensburgh and District Highland Association DANCE: Band - Donnie & Diane Contact John Wilson Tel 01389841208

Saturday 25th March Oban & Lorn Strathspey & Reel Society, Fiddlers Rally' Corran Halls, Oban

Tuesday 4th April Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Thursday 27th April - Sunday 30th April Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

Thursday 27th April - Bonhams - Valuers and Auctioneers, McTavish's Kitchens, Oban, at 7.30pm. Further details nearer the date

Sunday 7th May ABCD 10k race starting from Lorn & Islands District General Hospital at 1 pm

Tuesday 9th May Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Thursday 27th and Sunday 28th May Loch Fyne Food Fair, Clachan, Cairndow, Loch Fyne

Saturday 30th May - Annual Local Biodiversity Conference, Craignure Hotel, Isle of Mull

Tuesday 6th June Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th July Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 8th August Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 5th September Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 10th October Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 7th November Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 5th December Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Craignish annual 'boat jumble' raises £692 for hall funds

NOW in its eighth year, Craignish Boat Jumble and Car Boot sale is an established event in the calendar.

The new village hall, in Ardfem proved to be an ideal venue and when the doors opened at 10.30am last Sunday, there was already a long queue of bargain hunters waiting in the bright sun.

With 15 'boaty' and eight 'non boaty' stalls, plus a few cars out in the car park, there were plenty of bargains to be had and customers could be seen leaving the hall clutching all sorts of wonderful bits including sails, fenders, lengths of rope, fishing gear and tools, not to mention various indeterminate items which will, surely, 'come in useful some day'.

Run this year by the village hall committee, the format of the day remained unchanged from previous years, with soup and rolls available to fortify the bargain hunters and a raffle to add a touch of excitement.

The committee would like to thank all those who helped and also those who donated prizes to the raffle. A total of £692 was raised for hall funds.

In association with **COMMUNITY Noticeboard** CGL PRINTING OFFICE SUPPLIES

Entry Forms for 23rd Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival OBAN 27 - 30 April 2006 Available from 'Oban Music' or phone 01631 710 787 www.obanfestival.org

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
Encaustic Type Art Workshop with artist Chris Edgar 18th & 19th March 10 - 4pm For further information, booking & diary of events contact 01546 510 278 www.kilmartin.org

Oban War & Peace Museum
OPEN DAILY 10am - 4pm (Closed Sunday and Monday until Easter) Old Oban Times Building Corran Esplanade (next to Regent Hotel)

OBAN ART SOCIETY
Talk Illustration & Calligraphy By Lady Avril Watson-Stewart Glencruitten Church Hall (Main Hall) Oban Friday 10th March 7.30pm

Nether Lorn Piping Society
MARCH RECITAL by Pipers from Argyll Wednesday 22nd March at 7.30pm Argyllshire Gathering Halls, Oban Adults - £3 Children - Free

SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR MARINE SCIENCE
Open Evening 2006 Wednesday 15th March 1730-2100 Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory

GLENCRUITTEN RESIDENTS
Presents **OLD OBAN** With Bob MacCulloch & Charlie Drummond **OBAN RUGBY CLUB** 7.30pm Friday 10th March ALL WELCOME

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
BROCHS Euan MacKie Saturday 18th March Port Appin Hall 7.30pm ALL WELCOME!

ANTIQUEs with David Murray (no valuations) a fund raising event in aid of HOME-START LORN Thursday 16th March 7.30pm Argyllshire Gathering Halls Tickets £5 For more information Telephone 01631 566749

Ceilidh Dance in aid of the Anthony Nolan Trust Music by Skerryvore Saturday 11th March, 2006 at 8pm Hillhead Sports Club, Hughenden Rd, Glasgow Entry by ticket only, £10 (including buffet) Raffle prizes For last remaining tickets and info contact Elaine: info@andeanthony.org.uk Phone 07818 660 775

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD Telephone: 01631 568000

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £11.85 (plus VAT) This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page Please ask for details

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED CONTACT 01631 568000

LEISURE TIMES

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Flower club hosts annual dinner



Oban Flower Club held its annual dinner floral demonstration at McTavish's, Oban, last Thursday. This year's demonstration was given by Alan Beattie from County Tyrone. Alan is pictured with the flower club's secretary Fiona MacPhee, left, and outgoing chairwoman Kathleen Black. The club is looking for a new chairperson and anyone interested should get in touch with Kathleen. 11010101

An Comunn Gaidhealach appoints new chief executive this week

CALUM Iain MacLeod became the new chief executive of An Comunn Gaidhealach on Monday. Mr MacLeod, from Ness, Lewis joined An Comunn from Gaelic Media Services where he spent 12 years as administrator. He is also a former councillor with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar. One of Mr MacLeod's first duties as the new chief executive will be to meet members at the organisation's annual general meeting which takes place in the Argyll Hotel, Dunoon, tomorrow (Friday). An Comunn Gaidhealach, which oversees the organi-

sation of the Royal National Mod, Scotland's premier festival of Gaelic language, music and culture currently has approximately 2,500 members worldwide with branches throughout the UK and abroad. The organisation has staff located in offices in Oban, Inverness and Stornoway and also produces An Gaidheal Ur, the world's only all-Gaelic newspaper which has a print run of 37,500 copies and which will celebrate its 100th edition this month. Mr MacLeod said: 'An Comunn Gaidhealach continues to play a major role in the promotion and development of the

Gaelic language and culture and has done so since 1891 at community, national and international level. 'There are undoubtedly a number of challenges and opportunities ahead of the organisation in the months

and years to come and I intend to make sure that we will be able to meet those challenges and take advantage of these opportunities as they arise.' Following a hugely successful Mod 2005 in the Western Isles, Dunoon will stage this year's Royal National Mod from Friday October 13 until Saturday October 21 with the event expected to attract thousands of visitors from throughout the UK and overseas.

Getting ready to party on St Patricks Day, Friday March 17

THE PUB: O'Donnell's Irish Pub on Breadalbane Street, Oban. Everything you would expect from a Pub run in the Irish Style. THE ALE: A friendly hostelry serving a good pint of the 'Black Stuff', not to mention a decent glass of wine. THE ATMOSPHERE: There is always good 'craic' to be had around the bar in the earlier part of the evening, with the pace picking up as the evening goes on, and the pints go down. THE DECOR: Traditional, with lots of low beams and dark wood. Easy access to the bar. Lots of sitting and standing space, plus a stomping area for when the music picks up later in the night. LIVE MUSIC: In keeping with its Irish tradition, O'Donnell's is famous for being a live music venue above all, with bands coming from all over the world

to play there. O'Donnell's has always been a popular venue for up and coming bands. Anyone remember 'Gunn' or the 'Supernaturals'? Both regular O'Donnell's bands who made it to the big time. SPECIAL EVENTS: March is a special time with the St Patricks Celebrations focussing on O'Donnell's as the only Irish Pub in Argyll. This year is no exception, with the party starting on Friday 17, right through the weekend. The celebrations are sponsored by Guinness with lots of prizes and give-aways to be had. FOOD: O'Donnell's is famous for its good fresh food, fresh local mussels, oysters, langoustines - and that's just for starters! A St. Patrick's Special Menu with a real flavour of Irish dishes will be on offer throughout the weekend. Booking is advisable. The party starts now!



Smokie LIVE IN CONCERT
Smokie are once again back on tour in the UK. Performing all their greatest hits, including, Living Next Door to Alice, I'll Meet You At Midnight and Don't Play Your Rock 'n' Roll To Me
Saturday 1st April
CORRAN HALLS 7.30pm
Tickets: £18.50/£16.50
Available from Corran Halls Box Office Tel: 01631 567 333

Loch Eck Orienteers
Atlantis Leisure Centre, Oban
Sunday 19th March 2006
Starts 11am - 12noon £2.00 junior / £2.50 senior
2 courses including street score
More information at www.ecko.org.uk
What is Orienteering?
Orienteering is an exciting, challenging adventure sport, which involves competitive navigation, usually in woodland, open hillside or parkland. Each competitor uses a map to choose their own way to find the red and white flags at the sites indicated by red circles on their map. Orienteering offers courses well suited to all ages. Orienteers need to be as fit as any other athlete, however, for many people orienteering is just a fun, outdoor sport that takes them to different areas of the countryside. Participants can choose to run or walk, and length and difficulty of courses can be chosen to suit each individual. To start all you need is a pair of trainers or all-terrain shoes, outdoor clothes and a sense of adventure. Beginners are welcome and instruction is provided by club members
Club Contact: Ross Lilley: 01866 822475

ARGYLL BEATS CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE
10K FUN RUN
Shorter Run for Children
SUNDAY 7TH MAY 2006 - 1pm
Starting from Lorn & Islands District General Hospital, Oban
A FUN RUN FOR ALL AGES
T shirt & medal for all participants
APPLY NOW FOR 8 WEEK TRAINING GUIDE - YOU CAN DO IT!!
Send completed application form along with £5 entry fee (£1 for school children) to: Miss Pauline Ogilvie, Lorn & Islands DG Hospital, Oban marked ABCD FUN RUN (Cheques to be made payable to ABCD.)
Application Forms available from: The Print Shop, Urban Summits, Oban Sports Centre, Oban High School PE Dept, Outside Edge, Atlantis Leisure & Hospital Reception.

Discover what's going on in marine science...
SAMS OPEN EVENING
Wednesday 15 March
1730 - 2100
Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory

SWALLOW HOTELS
Mothers Day
SUNDAY MARCH 26th
WHY NOT COME TO THE SWALLOW REGENT HOTEL FOR LUNCH AND MUSIC WITH DENIS HARDLEY 'Ragtime' 'Blues' 'Old English'
PRAWN & APPLE SALAD
North Atlantic prawns and sliced apple
HAWAIIAN COCKTAIL
Mixed Caribbean fruit served in its own juices
MUSHROOM GLEN ALEXANDER
Mushrooms sautéed in garlic butter, white wine and cream, topped with cheddar cheese and served with garlic bread
CREAM OF CHICKEN SOUP
Served with a freshly baked roll
BRAISED STEAK
Tender highland steak in an onion and red wine gravy
BREADED BREAD OF CHICKEN
Stuffed with chilli and cream cheese
BAKED SALMON
Scottish salmon served with a minted crust
PENNE PASTA
With olives, sweet peppers, pesto and fresh basil served under glazed mozzarella. Served with garlic bread
ABOVE MAIN COURSES SERVED WITH CHEF'S SELECTION OF SEASONABLE VEGETABLES AND POTATOES
APPLE & CINNAMON PIE
With creamy custard
BAILEY & WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESE CAKE
VANILLA ICE CREAM
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10K RACE
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Sunday 7 May, 2006
at 1 p.m.
Starting from Lorn and Islands Hospital
Entry: £5 Adults and £1 Children
Application Forms from Ward B at the hospital or from sports shops and other venues in Oban

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Come on kids, send a message to Mum for Mothers Day show her how much she means to you
A To Mum Happy Mothers Day Lots Of Love Always Amy xx
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Your Message Will Appear in The Oban Times on Thursday 23rd March
Deadline Monday 20 March

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This is a special year for Clunie Group Ltd as it celebrates 21 years in business. The company has grown from a small family-run copy-shop to a major print and office supplies business with a work force in four different locations across the region and a massive client base but the key to its success has never changed: **people working together in the local community.**

It all began in 1985 when Roy Clunie could see there was a gap in the local business market and opened **The Print Shop** with his wife Liz and parents Evelyn and the late David Clunie.

The firm back then had one other employee, Sheena Rogers, who is still with the business today.

And since then Roy and his team have grown what has become one of the Argyll business community's greatest successes.

Today **Clunie Group Ltd, CGL**, employs 27 people and has its head office, showroom and print works at Lochside Street, Oban, and showroom stores at The Travel Centre, **Fort William**, and East King Street, **Helensburgh**.

GROWTH

'Over the years growth has been both incremental and by acquisition,' said Roy.

Along the way the firm has bought Hugh MacDonald Ltd an old Oban firm, which could trace its start back to 1829 by the father of the man who founded The Oban Times.

CGL also bought Bill Forrester and Co, which used to operate on the North Pier, Oban, and then Nevis Office Supplies of Fort William.

The latest acquisition for the **CGL** portfolio was **Sign and Design**, which has its workshop and studio at **Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban**.

TECHNOLOGY

Along the way Roy Clunie has never been afraid to invest in the latest technology for his firm's design and print capability. 'Since we began we've been through four generations of typesetting technology,' said Roy.

'We have never been frightened or scared to invest in new technology and move with the times. It is the dynamism that has been the fun part of the journey; when you are afraid to embrace the latest technology and change that's when you should retire.'

Not that Roy is planning to retire, but his job at **CGL** has changed.

MANAGING DIRECTOR

He is now group chairman and has passed the day-to-day responsibilities for running the company to Phil Brien, who has been appointed managing director.

Such is the professionalism, quality and skill of **CGL** that customers from that first year of business are still with them today. Some of those customers have grown in parallel alongside

CGL so that today the firm takes care of the print needs of firms like a national

restaurant chain with 30 businesses across the UK and a major hotel chain.

PEOPLE

Managing director Phil Brien said: 'The heart of our business is its people. I believe fully in, and am committed to, the training and development of people.'

The team at **CGL** includes Brian McMillan, customer service and IT manager for showroom stores; Steve Murphy, operations manager, design and print, and Karen Forrester, finance manager. In addition Campbell Cameron has been appointed key accounts manager and will

take on the sales role formerly conducted by Jim Edge who retires in September. Karen Nelson is the firm's production and estimating manager for design and print.

CHAIRMAN

Roy's role as chairman will see him retain contact with the group's major customers and work with the board to develop strategy and new business.

Alongside his role as chairman he will be working as an independent consultant concentrating on social enterprise and the voluntary sector.

Roy's strong links to community projects are well-known.

As well as building a major local business he is the current chairman and a founding director

of Oban Community Enterprise Ltd, the community company known as **Atlantis Leisure**. He is also a founding director of **Hope to Oban, H₂O**, the Christian charity behind the dynamic and innovative youth work now being done with young people in Oban.

AND THE NEXT 21 YEARS?

With the new showroom store in **Helensburgh**; with the addition of the **Sign and Design** business; with a spend of over **£132,000** in print equipment in the last 6 months; all are major investments that will ensure that the dynamism and growth of **CGL** continues in the next 21 years which in turn will keep **CGL** as the leading supplier to business throughout the West Highlands and Lomond area.



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Colonsay

Your correspondent is Andrew MacGregor

Air service timetable meeting

A WELL-ATTENDED community meeting was held on February 7, under the auspices of Colonsay Community Council, to discuss draft timetables for the forthcoming air service proposed by Argyll and Bute Council.

Three versions - basic, intermediate and enhanced - had been submitted.

The meeting was unanimous that the basic version was not acceptable to islanders.

Disappointment was voiced that the service was not on a six-day-a week basis as islanders had understood this was to have been the case from earlier meetings with Argyll and Bute Council.

The enhanced timetable was considered the best option, though even here there was scope for increased number of flights by better use of aircraft.

The main points raised were:
 □ No real possibility of flying to Oban in the morning and returning the same evening by ferry. This would allow for prolonged shopping in Oban. Services on Wednesday or Friday morning would allow this, at least in summer.

□ Would there be any concessionary air fares?

□ When would details of connecting public transport at Connell be made available?

□ What will happen if the number of secondary school children on Colonsay or Coll exceeds eight. At present there are six from Colonsay and this is expected to increase to seven in August 2006 and to eight in August 2007. If any new families moved to Colonsay the number could exceed eight.

□ At what point will seats on school flights be released to the general public?

It was also agreed that if the enhanced service can not be implemented on cost grounds, there needs to be an early school flight on Monday mornings for school children if necessary, with Coll and Colonsay flights on alternate weeks with Sunday flights on the other weeks.

Good news on crofts

LATER in the week the island heard that the community purchase of 90 acres of croft land had been completed and that plans to create new crofts on Colonsay could now go ahead.

This is good news as it



Crossroads Fun Club celebrates five years

Crossroads Fun Club members celebrated the group's fifth anniversary last Wednesday with a party at Atlantis Leisure, where the club meets every Wednesday evening. Around 10 young people from Oban and Lorn attend the club, where they take part in exercises coached by Atlantis Leisure staff. It is an opportunity for the youngsters, who have learning disabilities, to assert their independence. The club is funded by Argyll and Bute Council. Members celebrated with party food from the café and a birthday cake with candles. 1104un01

offers a chance for current islanders to acquire crofts and for new families to be attracted to the island.

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359



Piping

SOUTH WEST Ross Piping Society recently held a recital in the Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle.

There was a large crowd to listen to pupils of piping instructor Niall Stewart and everyone enjoyed the evening.

Dr John Adamson, Kyle, was chairman.

Community council

PLOCKTON and District Community Council met recently in Plockton Hall. Among the items discussed were:

Planning applications: Plans for two houses on the site of the former Free Presbyterian Church have been passed and work is expected to start in April.

Negotiations are taking place between the National Trust for Scotland and Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association with regard to the purchase of the Burnside housing site, where it is hoped 24 houses will be built. The community council had written to Scottish Water several months ago for an update regarding the water supply for the Burnside houses but there had been no reply.

The planning application for the alteration of 12 Harbour Street to form a hairdressing salon and shop has been deferred with the

community council requesting a site visit.

Plans for a brewery at Bank Street were withdrawn, but will be resubmitted as will plans for a house behind the Haven.

Plockton pontoon: Tenders have been accepted and work should start soon.

Roads: The community council has submitted a list to the roads manager for attention.

Plockton bus service: No reply had been received from Rapsons, the bus service operator, to the community council's request to have the bus turn at the primary school instead of Plockton Station.

Plockton car park garages: The National Trust for Scotland held a public meeting to discuss plans for the garages. The consensus was that the garages and toilets should be demolished and be replaced by a visitor point incorporating new toilets.

Fireworks: Following concerns expressed about the adverse effects which may be caused to pets when fireworks are set off without prior warning, it was agreed that a public notice should be displayed warning of fireworks.

Dog fouling: As this was a big problem in Plockton, with several dogs roaming free, a letter will be sent to every house requesting co-operation in preventing this public nuisance and reporting offenders.

Litter: As this is still a problem between the village and Plockton High School, a letter is to be sent to the school board.

Graham House: Councillor Biz Campbell asked the community council to support her campaign to prevent the closure of Graham House.

Village Officer Scheme: The community council hopes that more funding will be available this year. A decision should have been made by now by the Highland Council area manager.

Schoolhouse at Cean-An-

Uib: Plockton High School asked the community council to support its efforts to retain the one remaining schoolhouse which Highland Council was planning to sell off. The house is in urgent need of refurbishment.

National Trust for Scotland: Iain Turnbull told the meeting that a section of the Duncreagh Path is to be tidied up in May, which may result in its closure for a week. He also said there were plans to develop a practical course for Plockton High School students.

Part-time village speed limit: This was still not in operation despite signs being put up several months ago. Plans for an extra streetlight at Rhu were progressing.

Next meeting: Wednesday March 22.

Plockton weather

IN JANUARY 2006, rainfall in Plockton was 4.8 inches, which compared favourably with January 2005 - 10.75 inches - and January 2004 - 10.5 inches. Following December 2005's 2.75 inches, it has been a fairly dry winter so far. Coldest day of the winter so far was January 31 when -4°C was recorded. The warmest day in January was 13°C.

Celebration

CHRISTIAN Outlook on Lochalsh (COOL) recently held its fourth annual celebration of thanksgiving in Auctertyre School.

Guest speaker was the Rev Ian Cathcart, Anstruther Church of Scotland.

All churches from Lochcarron to Glenelg and South Skye support COOL and they had input at the service.

An update of the work of COOL was given and refreshments were served after the service.

There are now 12 very enthusiastic guides, all of

whom made their promise in a candle-lit ceremony on the same evening.

As well as the promise ceremony, other activities this term have included arts and crafts, cooking, themed fancy dress party, first aid session and a 'mother and daughter' evening.

The Guides meet in Killin Church Hall on Wednesdays from 7.30 - 9pm.

For more information contact Linda Bradle 01567 830301.

Glencoe

Your correspondent is Ros MacDonald: 01855 811490

Glencoe and Glenetive Community Council

THE COMMUNITY council met recently and among the issues discussed were:

Planning: The subject of Mrs C Thomson's garden building was raised. It was asked if it was a house or chalet. Planning authorities are to be contacted.

Environment: Alistair MacDonald reported that Mr Stewart, Invercoe, had complained that tree branches were being dumped near the Invercoe road at Nursery Cottages.

War memorial: Alistair MacDonald had volunteered to carry out work on the proposed fence at the memorial. Dave Smith asked why he was prepared to work for no payment. The reply was that he would rather carry out the work personally than have an outside agency do it.

Police representative: It was agreed by council members that it was sufficient to seek police advice if and when it was required from the local police station.

Community company: Dave Smith deputised for chairman Caroline Walker, the community council representative. It was reported that five tenders had been sent out for the proposed footpath feasibility study. The tenders had been opened at the Highland Council office, resulting in Neil Donaldson, consulting engineer, being awarded the tender. It was agreed that a public consultation should take place in March or April.

Environment group: Alison Davey, Lochaber Environment Group, has left to work as conservation officer at Ben Nevis. It was agreed to send a gift and thank you letter for all her help.

Health service: Concern was raised about the health service as one elderly Glencoe resident had no

Field club

MICHAEL Scott was unable to give his talk at Achmore recently so James Merryweather kindly agreed to step in with his talk entitled 'Ross! What are they doing to our countryside?'

Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster 01567 820298

Taymouth Castle Golf Course

THE COMPANY behind the £74 million development of the 450 acre estate and Taymouth Castle into a unique resort has announced that it expects the upgraded golf course to be the best conditioned course in Europe.

The layout of James Braid - the original designer of the 1930s will be kept - but it will be slightly longer, with improved drainage and upgraded greens.

Work will start in April so the course will be closed to all players at the end of March for up to two years.

Taymouth Group Limited is also restoring all the principal rooms, building new properties and opening a state-of-the-art health spa.

Proposed outdoor activities will include river and loch fishing, as well as golf.

It is hoped the complex will be open by spring 2008.

1st Killin Guides

THE NEWLY re-formed 1st Killin Guides, run by Linda Bradley with Isla Craig as assistant guide, were presented with their unit registration certificate by Division Commissioner Sheila Rogier.

There are now 12 very enthusiastic guides, all of

whom made their promise in a candle-lit ceremony on the same evening.

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Rowan Club

APPIN Rowan Club was recently joined by 25 members of Connell Etive Club.

They were welcomed by Chrissie Malone and both organisations went on to enjoy a ceilidh. The main contributions were songs by Ami MacDonald, Moira Thomson and Jack Gandy. There were violin selections from Rhona May Lawrie and Jack Scorgie played favourites on his accordion. Margaret Massey proposed a vote of thanks and everyone enjoyed afternoon tea.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Glencoe senior citizens

THE RECENT whist drive winners were as follows:

Ladies, 1 Isobel Robertson; 2 Jessie Bryson; travelling, Isobel Robertson; consolation, Sheila MacDonald, Gents, 1 Alistair MacMillan; 2, Iain MacCormick; travelling, Jane Lobs, playing as gent; consolation, Kenneth Wigston.

Vietnam trip

FLORA Doogan of Glencoe hopes to spend her gap year in Vietnam teaching English to Vietnamese children.

Flora is concentrating on her exams first, then she hopes to fund-raise for her trip, which will cost £3,000.

Appin

Your correspondent is: David Craig 01631 730227

Whist drive

A WHIST drive was held in Appin Hall recently in aid of the North Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match.

Seventeen tables were in play. Allan MacKenzie was card master and Carrie MacPherson handed out the prizes to the following: Ladies, 1 Jessie MacKenzie; 2 Christine Jackson; consolation Jean Breckenridge; travelling prize Diana MacDonald, Gents, 1 Barbra Carmichael; 2 Peter Cameron; consolation Bertie Lawrie; travelling Donald Campbell. An excellent raffle was also drawn.

People travelled to the whist from Oban and Fort William and £400 was raised, which will go a long way to help run the ploughing match being held on Saturday March 18 at Dunolliebeg Farm, near Oban, by kind permission of Mr A MacLeod.

Caution

DURING recent gales, signs were put up at each end of Scalpay bridge warning motorists they crossed the bridge at their own risk.

Barcaldine works towards green flag

BARCALDINE Primary School is working towards gaining its Eco green flag.

As part of this project the school invited the Employability Team to help with heavy outside work.

To date the team has made the school a noticeboard, scooter shed, bird tables, small animal box and planters. The pupil council applied to Fusions for a grant for a new toy shed and playground games.

New style 'GG' concert planned

GLASGOW Gaelic Musical Association - the 'GG' - is experimenting for its annual concert in Patrickburgh Halls on Friday March 10.

Angus Ferguson, GG president, said: 'Patrickburgh Halls have recently been refurbished and they provide us with an excellent venue, especially as this year we plan to use a 'cabaret' style, which will give the whole evening a

less formal feel. We used a cabaret format at our West End Festival event last June and we thought it worked very well. This more informal style is much less stage-bound and lets us make more imaginative use of the venue.'

In addition to the choir, the concert will feature soloists and instrumentalists including Joannie Morrison, Amanda Millen, Alasdair MacArthur

and Duncan Macdonald. GG conductor Kenneth Thomson said: 'We're particularly pleased with the depth and quality of talented soloists at this year's concert and I'm even more heartened by the fact that they're all current members of the choir.'

The concert starts at 8pm and tickets, priced £6, are available from choir members or at the door on the night.

Around the Rurals

Glenorchy

PRESIDENT Valerie O'Brien welcomed seven members to the February meeting of the Glenorchy branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) in the church hall, Dalmally.

She introduced the guest speaker, Dr A Swan, who talked about time spent in New Zealand.

The climate was hot and sunny and any rain showers soon stopped.

The people were generally healthy because of a good diet and outdoor life.

There is a £10 charge to see a GP in New Zealand as well as charges for medication.

Dr Swan had worked with members of the two main gangs of New Zealand, many of whom had no education or normality and jointly owned the women gang members.

There was a lot of constructive work with child care and education.

Earthquake drills were carried out regularly and the scenery was stunning.

Dr Swan managed to see the hot springs, 28 wineries and spent the millennium on a beach.

After tea, Dr Swan judged the competitions as follows: Victoria Sponge,

1 Valerie O'Brien; 2 Pat Melville; 3 Helen Gibson. As many words as possible from 'congratulations': 1 Sandra Boardman, 756; 2 Valerie O'Brien, 746; 3 Helen Gibson, 483.

Kilmore

THE FEBRUARY meeting of the Kilmore and District branch of the SWRI was held in Kilmore Hall.

President Catriona Stuart welcomed 21 ladies to the meeting which, after business was dealt with, took the form of a corners evening.

The institute drew on its own talents as all the demonstrators were members. Irene MacDougall's 'pinflair' decorations were striking and May Petrie showed how to hand spin.

Isabel Smith's delicate needlepoint proved popular and Rhoda Thomas provided many examples of the versatility of crochet.

Everyone was free to look, listen and try as they pleased and it proved to be an enjoyable and informative evening.

Sona Campbell proposed the vote of thanks. Competition, Valentine card: 1 Celia Currie.



Disco fun for Taynuilt pupils

Taynuilt Primary School pupils enjoyed a fun evening of dancing, competitions, snacks and games at their Valentine disco. The event, held in the village hall, was organised by the Parent Teacher Association and music was provided free of charge by Douglas Baird. Well done to competition winners Harry Mobey, Sophie Carswell, Callum Hunter, Bethany Ferguson, Anja Powell, Christopher MacKenzie, Amy Boyce, Connor MacNeil, Mark Reid, Alice MacNeil, Lauren Harris, Becky Wilson, Isla Hannigan, Poppy Honeyman and Johnathan MacKenzie.

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GLASGOW LETTER

'Was he a bonny bairn?'

NOWADAYS a music lesson in school is very much hands on.

Pupils learn to play the recorder or the keyboard, a very different setting to days gone by when music in school meant singing and perhaps even more singing.

And so it was in Hyndland Senior Secondary School back in the early 1960s when I can well recall the tune of Mairi's Wedding being hammered out on the piano and the pupils lustily singing the words.

What I did not know then, of course, was that one of the bonny bairns may even have been sitting in the room next door.

The song was composed to celebrate the wedding of Mary C MacNiven from Portnahaven in Islay and Captain John Campbell from Glendale in Skye, who set up home in the Broomhill area, and son Iain, one of the bonny bairns mentioned in the song, and a fellow former pupil of Hyndland, was this year's chairman of the 144th Annual Gathering of the Glasgow Islay Association held in the recently refurbished Patrickburgh Halls.

Mind you it would be quite difficult to say if he might have been bonny or not as he is now bearded and rather thin on top!

What we do know is that he has gone far since those early school days.

He studied at Glasgow University - I remember enjoying his company over the staple student lunch of pie, beans and chips on many occasions - and from there he worked in several locations, including Washington DC where he met his wife Frances.

At his present post at the Bethlehem and Maudsley Hospital in London he has reached the status of professor, researching and teaching the causes of mental illness and as they would say in Glasgow 'the boy has done good'.

Iain's address at the gathering, and his anecdotes throughout the evening, emphasised the changes that have taken place in Islay and worldwide and the need to respond to those changes.

In particular he referred back to the 'good old days' asking the question if they really were so good now that we have hindsight.

To mark the occasion a presentation was graciously made to both Iain and his wife Frances by Sarah Thompson, grand-daughter of vice president Alasdair Carmichael and his wife Fiona.

That was the evening set up and what an excellent concert it was.

Lively selections from Islay pipers - how pleasing it was to see youngsters Lindsay MacArthur and Sandy McLellan joining Pipe Major Andrew McCowan and Piper Duncan Heads - got the evening off to a rousing start and we were then treated to a feast of music.

The singers were Alison Rapson, Morag MacKay, who also sang Mairi's Wedding, Archie MacLean and Iain MacPherson and together they provided a programme which was as excellent in quality as it was in variety.

It was not too varied, however, to cause any problems to accompanist Norma MacDougall who exhibited her usual skills.

As a further bonus we had Fergie MacDonald and his band playing 40 years after Fergie made his debut at a Glasgow Islay annual gathering.

Mind you, there must have been some doubts as to whether or not he would be there because at 11.30am he was still in Inverness appearing live on BBC Radio nan Gàidheal's Mire ri Moir. No problem to Fergie though as he even returned home to Acharacle before making the Glasgow journey despite the extremely adverse weather conditions.

If we enjoy turning the clock back then listening to Fergie once more does just that and what a treat it was.

Once finished at the concert

it was off to Oran Mor for Fergie where he thrilled the dancers until the small hours of the morning.

All in all, a most successful night for the Glasgow Islay Association as it heads towards its 150th celebrations in six years.

Ceilidh success

THE GLASGOW branch of An Comunn's family ceilidh was a most enjoyable evening.

Music was provided by Colin MacDonald and his band with contributions from Rachel Deans and the children of the Bun Sgoil in Glasgow.

Although the attendance was not as high as might have been expected, this was an extremely satisfactory introduction to ceilidh dancing for the children present.

Also enjoying ceilidh dancing on the same evening, to Hector MacFadyen and his band, were members and friends of Clydebank Highlander's Association at their annual dinner ceilidh.

Once again the recipe of good food, quality music and good company ensured the success of the evening.

Choir concerts

THIS weekend both the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GG) and the Stirling Gaelic Choirs, senior and junior, are holding their annual concerts.

The GG concert will be in Partickburgh Hall on Friday at 8pm and will include soloists from the choir. This year's event will take a less formal than usual style as it will be presented in cabaret style.

Meanwhile, the following evening, the Stirling choir will have as their guests, in Victoria Hall, Dunblane at 7.30pm, James Graham and Mairi MacDonald.

At his present post at the Bethlehem and Maudsley Hospital in London he has reached the status of professor, researching and teaching the causes of mental illness and as they would say in Glasgow 'the boy has done good'.

Iain's address at the gathering, and his anecdotes throughout the evening, emphasised the changes that have taken place in Islay and worldwide and the need to respond to those changes.

In particular he referred back to the 'good old days' asking the question if they really were so good now that we have hindsight.

To mark the occasion a presentation was graciously made to both Iain and his wife Frances by Sarah Thompson, grand-daughter of vice president Alasdair Carmichael and his wife Fiona.

That was the evening set up and what an excellent concert it was.

Lively selections from Islay pipers - how pleasing it was to see youngsters Lindsay MacArthur and Sandy McLellan joining Pipe Major Andrew McCowan and Piper Duncan Heads - got the evening off to a rousing start and we were then treated to a feast of music.

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Kinlochleven football fans head for Wembley

Isobel Cameron, nee Cassidy, sent us this week's flashback photograph which shows a group of football supporters from Kinlochleven ready to depart for Wembley for the international football match between England and Scotland in the late 1940s. Pictured are: in front of bus door way, Michael Pelman, Charlie Keenan and Jimmy MacLean, farmer. In front of bus, Bill Cook, Bob MacLaren, Andrew MacQuilken, Alastair Glenday, Lachie MacColl, Bobby Cassidy, Colin Williamson, Jackie Nicol, Donnie MacAngus, David Wilson, Geo Thompson, unknown, Iain Robertson, Ekie Robertson, Dod Black, Jim Black, in far background, Jimmy Smith, Billy Moyes, Donnie Jack, Bill Drysdale and Willie MacIntosh. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, 'Flashback' Photo, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name and address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

Letters to the Editor

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Mull children miss out on fun fair

Sir, Already the result of parking charges in Tobermory are being felt by our children.

For several years the fun fair has come to Tobermory and the children on the island have benefited from entertainment normally only found on the mainland.

Now this is to finish because Argyll and Bute Council has decided to reduce the area allocated to the fair and increase the price charged.

Those running the fair treated their stay in Tobermory as a holiday and have made little profit recently. The increase in the charges now mean they will make a loss and they have cancelled their visit.

So the council will end up with no revenue at all from the fair.

This appears as sensible as having a three-hour waiting limit for the disabled at Craignure. This means that the disabled will be unable to leave their vehicles and travel to Oban within the time allowed.

The council is supposed to provide a service, for which we pay dearly. I think it's about time they started to perform like the professionals they should be, and put us, their customers, first.

Steve Barlow, community council parking sub-committee, Tobermory.

Council move not fair

Sir, The annual fair will not be coming to Tobermory on the Isle of Mull this year.

Argyll and Bute Council has decided to restrict the space available and to increase Ledaig car park charges, making the visit uneconomic.

So an entertainment that children on the island look forward to each year has ceased and the council has lost the revenue they used to get.

More important though is the erosion of another piece of island tradition without any consultation with those most affected.

Does this council have any concept of how to serve the communities they

represent? What happened to sustainable community strategies.

David Millibrand urges government to foster communities, but Argyll and Bute apparently isn't listening.

In the rush to milk more cash from the motorist through the imposition of car parking charges, our council is squeezing our fragile community, already on the edge, literally and metaphorically.

New parking restrictions at Craignure now mean there is a three-hour waiting limit for the disabled bay.

It takes longer than that to go to Oban and back to do the shopping. Think about it! We wish the council had.

So there we have it, children and disabled, both groups affected by a bureaucracy that appears insensitive to local needs.

Richard West, Tobermory Endeavour, a development trust company.

No logic in parking time limit

Sir, What is the logic behind Argyll and Bute Council limiting disabled badge holders to three hours waiting time at the newly established pay and display car park beside the toilets at Craignure, Isle of Mull?

Also, why hide the signs warning of the time limit at the back of the parking area.

Do the powers that be believe that three hours for a disabled driver is enough time to go to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban for an appointment.

At least garages will reap the benefit as disabled drivers increase the likelihood of needing their cars repaired because they will have to reverse into the bays as reversing onto the main road is not permitted. A P Proud, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.

Soroba development group

Sir, I have no wish to see Councillor Donald McIntosh resign as chairman of Soroba Area Development Group as there is no doubt in my mind he has done sterling work over the years.

I was pleased with the outcome of the meeting

The balance relates to funding for other Scottish Executive initiatives including educational psychologists and quality improvement officers, anti-social behaviour measures and youth justice.

In addition to being aware of this funding for a

considerable period of time, the council has also been aware of the purpose of the funding and the commitments associated with it. In essence there is no 'free' funding included within the £4.58m to help support further expenditure in terms of free personal care.

I feel it is also important readers are aware that the council's budget for home care, children's, elderly and free care residential placements has increased by six per cent from its 2005/06 level.

Allan Macaskill, Leader, Argyll and Bute Council.

Teaching website view

Sir, I write in response to your March 2 article regarding the use of the website ratemyteachers.co.uk by pupils of Oban High School.

I am disappointed Rector of Oban High School Linda Kirkwood was quoted in a newspaper about what she thinks of pupils using ratemyteachers.co.uk.

Although she is using her right to freedom of speech, she is attempting to deny us, the students, our right to both freedom of speech and freedom to protest.

I would like to point out to Oban Times' readers that this website is not just a way to criticise teachers. In general, the comments and ratings made by pupils are complimentary and in praise of teachers. For example, one member of staff is said to be 'the best thing that has happened to Oban High School in a long time'.

If that isn't praise I don't know what is.

In the cases where criticisms have been made, perhaps it is a signal to the staff members concerned that they need to change their teaching practices.

Catrina Davies, Vice Captain, Oban High School.

Amazing result

Sir, What an amazing result for Oban High School's sixth-year pupil Kyle Lockhart, encouraged by Oban FM, to raise £3,029 to support Alzheimer sufferers and their carers in Oban and Lorn.

The supper, ceilidh and dance held at McTavish's Kitchens on February 25 was sold out thanks to sponsorship by six local businesses and McTavish's Kitchens, with a really encouraging turnout of young people inspired by Kyle on Oban FM.

Kyle hopes to go on and take a degree in media studies at university - he couldn't have a better reference than this from Oban FM, from our local

people who enjoyed the evening so much and from our branch which has been given so much to help sufferers and their carers.

Our committee recruits voluntary carers and raises funds to support people who have dementia and their carers in the community.

We support people in their own homes and also give carers time to themselves.

The latest development was art classes by a specially trained tutor. These have proved very helpful indeed for those interested in art. They do, however, require ongoing funding.

Our committee would like to specially thank Kyle Lockhart and Oban FM for such an outstanding contribution towards improving the quality of life of Alzheimer sufferers and their carers in Oban and Lorn.

We would also like to thank the hard working Oban FM band, Duncan Forgievie for being a wonderful compere, Oban High School Gaelic Choir and Pipe Band, Oban's Line Dancers, Atomic Piseag and Rhona and Cameron Wilkie and Carrie Robertson who danced.

Thanks also go to the many local businesses who stocked the tombola stall and the raffle and those who did so much hard work on the evening: Alan McKechnie, Tina Robertson, Ian Simmonds and Pamela Lockhart with Maureen Robertson manning the tombola stall with her friends together with Roseann MacLean and Elaine Madej from social work.

Henry Woodman, honorary secretary, Oban and Lorn branch, Alzheimer Scotland.

new Tory philosophy as espoused by David Cameron.

But, there's no easy ride for that 'wonderboy' here in Scotland.

First, the Scottish party members wiped out a huge swathe of potential support when they elected 77-year-old Bill Walker as a vice chairman. Mr Walker was part of the team that rid Scotland of any Tory MPs by their ineptitude and appears so far to the evangelical right that he makes Genghis Khan look like a member of the Tribune Group.

Next, the current leader and deputy leader of the party in Scotland showed a divergence of opinion at last weekend's conference with Annabel Goldie seeking the middle ground and Murdoch Fraser talking about alliances with the SNP to gain power!

What's in a name? THERE has been such brouhaha about where Argyll and Bute should be put once NHS Argyll and Clyde is abolished at the end of this month that I had never really thought about altering the name of NHS Highland to describe where we have now found a 'home'.

But someone, somewhere has got so hot under the collar about the loss of Argyll from the title of an NHS trust that NHS Highland has decided to consult publicly as to whether we want to be swallowed up or to have a change of name to reflect our new location.

Personally, I'm quite happy to be under the aegis of NHS Highland but if I have to go along with the nit-pickers I'll support NHS Argyll and Highland.

Those who want this title will have to vote for it by telling NHS Highland at its headquarters in Inverness that this is what they want. Closing date for so doing: March 24.

Try vinegar and brown paper

ALL OF us who have roundly criticised the design and expense of building those 'upturned boats down Holyrood way' smirked knowingly when one of the many beams in the roof of the Scottish Parliament building came loose last week and hung like the sword of Damocles over the Tory benches.

Now it appears design engineers warned early on in the construction that this could well happen but their views were ignored.

However, what's a few more million pounds, on top of the £430 million already spent, to put it right? They say it's just 'snagging'. When I was last there the canopy over the front of it seemed to be held on to the main building by scaffolding!

McCaig

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG

That long week

IF LABOUR Premier of yesteryear Harold Wilson goes down in history for nothing else - and that would be unfair to his achievements - it must be for the phrase 'a week's a long time in politics'.

Each of the major parties at Edinburgh and Westminster would undoubtedly agree with him as the political chickens have certainly been coming home to roost in a big way.

There used to be a marvellous musical hall act by a lady who called herself Mrs Mills. Her namesake in the current government, trading under her maiden name Tessa Jowell, has not been out of the news headlines as her husband - now estranged - seems to have been indulging in financial activities that certainly could not be described as New Labour, more Old Tory.

Indeed, those in his wife's political party would, under normal circumstances, severely castigate the Tories, rather in the fashion of the late Sir Edward Heath did as far as the late Tiny Rowland was concerned when he talked about the 'unacceptable face of capitalism'.

However, a friend in the city tells me he did 'nothing wrong technically' but certainly, given his politics and his claims to be a Tony croun, he acted unethically. Even in the city, there would be few, if any, who would admit to receiving a 'gift' of £350,000 without giving an explanation as to why the donor was so generous.

While Mr Blair cringes at such antics but is loyal to a lieutenant who has been loyal to him but will eventually have to resign as her excuse that she 'didn't ken' wears so thin that she is left with no alternative, up in Edinburgh the Scottish Executive is also under siege because of the Shirley McKie case.

It was the late Lord Butler, better known as 'RAB' who entitled his biography: 'Politics - The Art of the Possible' and justified it. As I said last week, if there is nothing to hide about the alleged fingerprint why not let a judicial inquiry go ahead to show that justice was and has been done as far as everyone involved in this sorry escapade that has caused so much angst to so many people.

Among the opposition too

THE LIBERAL Democrats chose a new leader and Sir Menzies Campbell - better known as 'Ming' - has upset half his party already with what is described as a 'lurch to the right'.

Just what he is proposing to do with the Royal Mail - if Labour allows him - doesn't bode well for rural areas throughout Britain where the party is particularly strong but could be vulnerable to the

That long week

new Tory philosophy as espoused by David Cameron. But, there's no easy ride for that 'wonderboy' here in Scotland.

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McCaig

DE THA DOL?

A' Siubhal an t-Saoghail

DH' FHÀG dithis dhe na h-oghaichean againn - na twins - an sgoil as t-samhradh. Mar a tha cho fasanta leis an òigridh anns an latha th'ann bha iad a' dol a ghabhail gap-year, a' siubhal an t-saoghail, mas dreachadh iad dhan oilthigh.

Bha iad a' dol a New Zealand, a dh' Astràilia, a dh' Afraga, a dh' Àisia, dhan Roinn Eòrpa; càite nach robh iad a' dol agus an dùil an dùthaich seo fhàgail aig deireadh an fhoghair. Ach an toiseach dh' fheumadh iad airgid a chosnadh. Bha mi gan comhairleachadh sùil a thoirt air map cuideachd ach cha robh iad a' faicinn feum sam bith air a-sin.

Thòisich iad ri obair ann an taigh-òsda anns a' bhaile bheag againn fhèin. Chòrd e uamhasach math riutha ach mas do phàig iad airson leasachadh-ighnean agus leasachadh-fuill agus solais-àrd is solais-ìosal, cha robh sgillinn anns a' bhanc. Cha b' urrainn dhaibh falbh as t-fhoghair, ach bheireadh iad dheth an turas chun na Bliadh'n Ùire. Cha robh pàigheadh gu leòr anns an taigh-òsda; fhuair iad ceud dràibhidh le chèile; cheannaich seanair càr dhaibh; fhuair iad obair ann an bùtha-fasain ann an Glaschu le barrachd pàighidh agus tuilleadh buairidh agus astar trì fichead mìle ann agus às gach latha, gun ghuth air càintean airson paradach far nach robh còir aca agus a bhith a' dol na bu luaithe na bha còir aca. Nuair a thàinig a' Bhliadh'n Ùir, cha robh sgillinn anns a' bhanc. Dh' fhuair iad an turas a

chuir dheth chun na Càisg agus tilleadh a dh' obair dhan taigh-òsda seach gun robh peatrail cho daoir. Bha mamaidh is dadaidh air rabhadh a thoirt dha na càirden gu lèir gun airgid a thoirt dhaibh seach nach deànadh iad ach a chosg. Bhiòdh e na b' fheumaile dhaibh nuair a thairgeadh e dhaibh thall thairis agus co dhùid dh' fheumadh iad ionnsachadh nach b' urrainn dhaibh a-h-uile rud a bha iad ag iarraidh fhaighinn.

Uill, tha an saoghail aca air seargadh gu mòr agus, tha an càirden uile taingeil. Tha iad fhèin agus càirden òg eile air tìocaidean Euro-Star a cheannach agus tha iad a' togail orra aig deireadh na mìos. Bha iad ag innse dhomh far an robh iad a' dol. Thuir t'è aca, 'Tha sin a' dol dhan Ròimh an toiseach air a' phlèan agus an uair sin air an tràan gu Barcelona agus gu Paris agus gu Morocco.' 'Chan eil sinn a' dol gu Morocco. Tha Morocco ann an Afraga. Tha thu a' ciallachadh Monaco.' O mo chearach. Tha min dòchas gun còrd an turas riutha ach sinn a bhios taingeil an latha thilleas iad.

Phrases A' siubhal an t-saoghail - travelling the world. Mar a tha cho fasanta leis an òigridh anns an latha th'ann-as is so fashonable with youngsters these days. Càite nach robh iad a' dol - where were they not going. Cha robh iad a' faicinn feum sam bith air a-sin - they saw no need for that. Sinn a bhithes taingeil an latha thilleas iad - we will be thankful the day they return.

Criosaidh Dick.

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Challenges ahead

A SENIOR Highlands and Islands Enterprise executive has claimed that bird flu is inevitable and will cause 10 per cent of the population, mainly young people, to die.

Maitland Hyslop, chief executive of Ross and Cromarty Enterprise (RACE), was speaking at the jobs seminar in Lochcarron Village Hall which was held to discuss how employment could be attracted to the area.

Mr Hyslop was talking about the challenges facing communities on the west coast when he made his comments about bird flu.

The chief executive went on to warn the audience that the steam train would be returning to the Highlands once the oil in the North Sea ran out and farmers would have to use horses for harvesting because they wouldn't have any fuel available.

He said: 'Transport costs are going to go up. In my lifetime they will never come down. In 60 years' time the oil will run out and we will have to go harvesting with horses. It is going to happen.'

Mr Hyslop called for old methods of harvesting and ploughing to be recorded now so the community will not lose the old skills for when they are needed in the future.

Mr Hyslop was appointed chief executive last August. Meanwhile an 'organisational review' is set to see Ross and Cromarty Enterprise merged later in the year. The plans, revealed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, will see half of the RACE area including Wester Ross, swallowed up by Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise with the administration head-quarters in Portree.



Leading firefighter Calum Morrison, second left, with firefighters Duncan Ross, Vicki Stonebridge, John Strang and Scott Davidson in front of Lochcarron's new fire station. Sub Officer Sandy Catto, leading firefighter Olly Preston and firefighters John Hodges and Dave Castle were missing from the photocall. PHOTO

Doors open on new fire station

A FORMAL opening of Lochcarron's new fire station is to take place next month with former auxiliary firefighters from the village to attend the special guests.

Not only did Highlands and Islands Fire Brigade change its name last year to Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue but a number of auxiliary units on the west coast became retained units.

Lochcarron's fire and rescue crew is one of the retained units and it covers a large area from Achmore up to Achnasheen and Torridon.

A new fire station was built in the village last year to replace the unit's old fire shed.

But there was anger within the community when the new station was unable to open last November because it didn't have a water supply.

Scottish Water was demanding a pressure testing certificate and a chlorination certificate before it

connected the water supply. But the fire station without water is now connected.

Leading firefighter Calum Morrison said the station's official opening would be an opportunity for locals who were involved in the auxiliary units down the years to come along and have a good look at the station.

Leading firefighter Morrison said becoming a retained fire unit as opposed to an auxiliary unit had seen a lot more training and work required of the firefighters.

The unit's successful '100 per cent No Excuses' campaign saw Lochcarron become the first village in the UK to have smoke alarms fitted in every single house.

He said: 'There is lots more training for us. We are here two-and-a-half hours once a week and have to have 120 hours of training per year completed by the end of April. We thought we had put in our hours from the smoke alarm campaign!'

Alarm bells ringing in Lochcarron

A DRAMATICALLY shrinking school roll and a plunging birth rate has set alarm bells ringing in Lochcarron and its surrounding villages.

The past, present and future of the area was on the agenda at a 'community sit down' in Lochcarron Village Hall.

The jobs seminar was organised by Lochcarron and District Business Association in tandem with Highland Council to address the lack of job and housing opportunities in the area.

The jobs boom brought to the area by the 2,000 workers employed at the Kishorn Yard between 1975 and 1987 are now a distant memory, while fish farming, forestry and agriculture have all experienced turbulent periods and are now operating in a vastly different market climate.

Like the rest of the west coast, the problem of permanent jobs and housing for its young adults is at the top of the agenda for Lochcarron, Strath-

Permanent jobs and housing for young adults top of agenda

centralising council departments was also affecting the area.

Mr Hyslop said: 'Agriculture has underpinned a lot of what is going on in this area. If we look at what has happened we see a shift. Council services have shifted to Inverness so they are not living here. Fishing has changed to niche markets. The population is also old and new. We haven't got any 18 to 20 year-olds.'

The chief executive believes the needs of the different sections of the community need to be

addressed, in particular people who have moved into the area and the indigenous population.

He said 'These two different groups of people have different aspirations and wants. There are different demands for people who come in, to the people who were living here originally.'

Mr Hyslop added: 'The economy is changing from an old, embedded economy to a new challenged and fairly unstable economy. The danger is the instability in the area. To remove that is one of the main problems. We need to address the instability.'

Lochcarron firefighter Duncan Ross spelled out the scale of the housing problem to *The Oban Times*. He said: 'When you drive out of Lochcarron on a Monday morning you meet at least 20 trades vans travelling into the place from Inverness. You just can't afford houses here.'

River Carron fishing revival key to hooking more visitors

WINSTON Churchill once remarked that golf was 'a good walk spoiled' so what would he make of the claim that angling has become the new golf?

Well fish and lots of them could hold the key to hooking visitors from all over Europe to a west coast river which has had new life breathed into it.

The River Carron, which flows for around 16 miles through Wester Ross, is once more home for salmon and sea trout after some bleak years when fish became virtually non-existent in the river.

The ambitious River Carron Project has seen £150,000 of wild salmon and sea trout stocks released into the water in an attempt to reverse the situation in 1999 when the lowest ever recorded catch of salmon and sea trout was made.

A paltry five salmon and one solitary sea trout was caught in an *annus horribilis* for the Carron.

Bob Kindness of the Seaford Centre in Kishorn has been involved in the restocking.

Bob moved to the area in 1991 and says he was disappointed to find a real lack of fish in the Carron.

Looking back at old catch records from one year in the 1950s, catches of 614 sea trout, of which 50 fish were over 50lbs, and numerous

salmon were noted. Bob said: 'We can't find fish like that on the west coast any more. That is the quality of fishing high spending anglers are looking to fish. In the 1990s five or six fish were caught through the season.'

Bob hopes the restocking of the Carron could be the catalyst for attracting more visitors.

He said: 'When it comes down to angling we are competing against the rest of the world. People now go angling overseas to places like Russia, Iceland and Alaska. We could do with getting some of them back to the west coast but the fishing quality has to be very good.'

Spending

'It [angling] has almost taken over from golf. Fishing encourages people with big spending power into the area.'

Broodstocks of wild trout and salmon have been released into the Carron at various stages of their growth.

Bob said: 'We have managed to get a run of sea trout and we have quite a dramatic rise in salmon. It certainly seems to be working well. In 2004, 141 salmon were caught and in 2005 it was 166.'

'It is quite a dramatic improvement.'

An area management agreement is now in place



Lochcarron trio Ruth Shillaker, Freya Cushnie and Ciaran Stark and Applecross's Kirsten Glover in Inverness with the other young athletes.

Trio on track to success

THE PERFORMANCES of three promising young Lochcarron athletes saw them picked to spend a day being coached by a Scottish Olympic sprinter.

Ian Mackie from Dunfermline reached the 100 metre semi-finals at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics and was on hand to pass on tips to 11 budding youngsters at a coaching day in Inverness. Ian became a 400m runner in 2003 after changing his running style because of a catalogue of injuries and he only retired from athletics last summer.

The coaching course was aimed at children who don't get the chance to take part in high quality athletics training because they live in rural areas.

Sprints, hurdles, long jump and shot putt were some of the disciplines undertaken by Lochcarron Primary School pupils Ruth Shillaker, Freya Cushnie and Ciaran Stark

as well as Kirsten Glover from Applecross. Places on the course were limited and Lochalsh active schools co-ordinator Donnie Wood, who accompanied the pupils to Inverness, said they were selected because of their ability.

Donnie said: 'They were excellent and I'd go as far as to say they were probably the most talented there. They were good at all the events but if I had to say Freya was great at long jump, along with Ruth.'

'Kirsten was great at the hurdles and Ciaran was great at the sprints. All of them showed so much enthusiasm and really took on board what the coaches and athletes were telling them. It was good for them to get a chance to meet up with other youngsters from Lochalsh and Skye and the Highlands. Hopefully it will inspire them to keep up with the athletics and keep aiming high.'

No answers - just more questions

A LOCHCARRON community councillor expressed her disappointment that the jobs seminar did not offer any real answers to the perennial problems in the Highlands of housing and employment.

Helen Murchison, chairwoman of Lochcarron Community Council, believed the seminar *Employment in Wester Ross* only offered more questions but no answers.

Mrs Murchison said: 'It gave us a chance to examine the difficulties in the area but the local business people got no answers.'

Mrs Murchison said housing was at the root of the problems facing the area and this had been the case for a number of years.

She said: 'I have heard it so often. The fish farm companies said for years they couldn't get the right people to come because there was no housing so it is not a new thing.'

Ross and Cromarty Enterprise chief executive Maitland Hyslop suggested at the seminar that more could be done to bring events to Lochcarron and its surrounding districts in an effort to kickstart the local economy.

But Mrs Murchison did not believe occasional events were the answer and would rather see priority given to housing in the area and industrial units for businesses. 'That [events] won't create jobs. It may be icing on the cake but it is not about jobs,' she said.

However Kristine MacKenzie of the Lochcarron and District Business Association believed the seminar was a big step forward for the area as real concerns about the two main problems facing the Highlands were debated.

Ms MacKenzie said: 'I think it was a good idea inviting us to take a step forward but it is a chicken and egg situation. Without houses you can't get jobs and there is a lack of good jobs.'

Ms MacKenzie said the number of people coming to retire to Wester Ross is contributing to a real shortage of affordable housing for the area's young people.

She said: 'I remember in the 1970s when the school roll was around 140 pupils. But we are now facing a school roll of 30 pupils in five years' time.'

'It is a wake up call and we really need to do something.'

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 423

ACROSS

- Welsh rugby union player who played 53 consecutive internationals from 1967-78 (6,7)
- The basic SI unit of mass (8)
- Sir Allen, publisher and founder of Penguin Books (4)
- See 15 Down
- Wife of Don Juan in Spanish legend (6)
- Former name for an area of the Mediterranean now occupied by Syria, Lebanon and Israel (6)
- Early stage of life (6)
- and 21 Down: Egyptian seaport at the N. end of the Suez Canal (4,4)
- Extinct elephant-like mammal common in Pliocene times (8)
- Portuguese dancer and singer associated with headgear laden with tropical fruits (6,7)

DOWN

- Second lowest adult male voice (8)
- A married Spanish woman (6)
- Trouitlike fish such as *Salvelinus alpinus* (4)
- George Eliot novel featuring Hetty Sorrel (4,4)
- Mr. Havel, playwright who became president of the Czech Republic (6)
- Park Test cricket venue in Auckland, New Zealand (4)
- Metal element, symbol Sb (8)
- Joshua, English portrait painter whose works include Mrs. Siddons (8)
- and 10 Across: 1978 film by Ingmar Bergman, his first to feature Ingrid Bergman (6,6)
- City in India, scene of a chemical accident in 1984 (6)
- Test cricket ground in Adelaide, Australia (4)
- See 18 Across

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- Nursery tale character (3,6,4)
- Acknowledged (8)
- Sell (4)
- Fondle (6)
- Exchange (6)
- Lethargy (6)
- Rouse (6)
- Nil (4)
- Recall (8)
- Impartial (13)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

- Inclination (8)
- Mourn (6)
- Revised (4)
- Uneatable (8)
- Tremble (6)
- Midday (4)
- Astound (8)
- Earnest request (8)
- Instigate (6)
- Adhesive (6)
- Way out (4)
- Chief (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Evel; 8 Oberhausen; 9 Idomeno; 10 Cage; 12 Bridge; 14 Ts'uan; 15 Loyola; 17 Miller; 18 Leah; 19 Turandot; 21 Roadrunner; 22 Miles

Down: 2 Van Der Rohe; 3 Loom; 4 Rennie; 5 Throat; 6 Muscatel; 7 Kneec; 11 Guadeloupe; 13 Drogheda; 16 Arthur; 17 Moreno; 18 Lark; 20 N or M?

QUICK - Across: 1 Rash; 8 Inimitable; 9 High-spot; 10 Drum; 12 Single; 14 Normal; 15 Harass; 17 Bursar; 18 Mend; 19 Domicile; 21 Vituperate; 22 Wage.

Down: 2 Annihilate; 3 High; 4 Simple; 5 Listen; 6 Wanderer; 7 Deem; 11 Unavailing; 13 Grandeur; 16 Sudden; 17 Bemoan; 18 Move; 20 Chew.

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The Oban Times Thursday March 14 1986

New ferry goes into dock after steering problem

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne's new £5.5 million ferry the *Hebridean Isles* has gone to dock on the Clyde to undergo modifications to her stern.

The ship's owners are not satisfied with her performance while she is going astern in a 'light ship condition'.

It is expected that 60 tonnes of ballast will be put into her stern to bring her further into the water.

Colin Paterson, CalMac chief executive, said it was quite normal to have a minor modification.

Mr Paterson said: 'There is no problem when she is full or even when she has a trailer on board but on the odd occasion that she is travelling light the problem is manifest.'

He added that apart from the modifications the vessel was 'absolutely first class'.

'We are just putting a little more ballast into her stern. It is a problem which we want corrected and Cochran, shipbuilders of Selby in Yorkshire, has agreed,' he said.

Mr Paterson confirmed that Cochran would pay the modification bill which is expected to be around £25,000.

Service

CalMac wants the *Hebridean Isles* to be back on service on the Oban to Mull run in time for Easter. She was built to replace the *Hebrides*, which ran for the past 21 years.

CalMac's last three ferries have been built in English yards and the Ferguson Ailsa Yard in Glasgow is appealing to the company to award it an offer for a roll-off ferry for the

Oban to Mull route due to go to contract next month.

Mr Paterson said: 'There is nothing we would like more than to order the next ship from the Clyde but the price has to be right.'

Union fight against Kinlochleven redundancies

A PACKAGE of 60 redundancies at the British Aluminium Company's Kinlochleven smelter, has hit strong union opposition.

Mel MacAskill, chairman of the Kinlochleven branch of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU), which has 120 members out of the 218 employees, said: 'The TGWU members at Kinlochleven are disgusted by the British Alcan proposal to shed by redundancy 68 employees when we take into consideration the excellent effort put in by all employees in the past two years to make the aluminium smelter at Kinlochleven a profit making concern.'

The union chairman added: 'We realise for those workers close to retirement the voluntary redundancy scheme could be very attractive.'

'But we also realise that the majority of those going would be younger employees with families to support which would not only be a devastating blow for those families but for the community as a whole.'

Future

George Haggart of British Alcan said: 'The company believes that Kinlochleven can have a long-term future and is examining a £1.25 million investment plan together with a programme of manning reduction and work restructuring.'

Conference to hear sea urchins challenge oysters in 'love' league

SEA urchins are to oust oysters in the aphrodisiac stakes, delegates to an Edinburgh conference will hear this month.

Sea urchins, one of a new range of world farmed species, are being credited with more than other sea creatures when it comes to aphrodisiac qualities.

The Aquaculture Today

2006 conference will be told that sea urchins have hidden depths, including a wide appeal for those with love on their minds.

Already in Japan, they are a sought after 'love' food, consumed raw as a type of sushi.

Now Scottish salmon farmers plan to bring some oriental love tips to the UK

consumer by harvesting tens of thousands of urchins.

Feeding

This prickly marine sea-food lives happily alongside farmed salmon, feeding on leftovers and cleaning algae from the sides of cages.

So extending sea urchin rearing to existing fish

farms would not only be potentially a commercial winner but would serve a practical purpose.

Aquaculture Today conference spokesman Bob Kennedy said: 'Sea urchins special qualities sheds new light on a species which will benefit from fish farming techniques, given that in a wild fish context sea urchins are under threat due to over fishing.'

Delicacy

To date, sea urchins have become an unlikely delicacy on the world's most exclusive menus in the finest restaurants from Paris to New York.

According to research specialists at the Scottish Association for Marine Sci-

ence, Dunstaffnage, near Oban, the UK consumer will be enjoying the 'smoky sea' flavour of sea urchins very soon.

Wild stocks of sea urchins are seriously depleted because of increasing demand for this popular seafood - sea urchin roe is now a luxury product.

Sea urchins will be one of

several fish farmed species put under the commercial microscope at the March event.

Aquaculture Today 2006 will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa, March 28-30 and is expected to attract an international delegation of leading names in commercial fish farming.



New brand for new energy

A NEW brand to represent the renewable energy sector in the Highlands and Islands has been launched.

HI-energy has been designed for all those involved in the renewable energy sector, from local authorities to community energy forums to industry.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise is behind the branding which was designed by Tayburn in conjunction with branding consultant Jean Ramsay Smith.

Jean said: 'The development of the renewable energy sector offers significant opportunities to build on the region's extensive natural resources.

'By co-ordinating our marketing and communication messages and speaking with a single voice, we have the potential to create a much bigger impact within a competitive market place and we can make sure that the area is recognised and understood as a dynamic region determined to beat the forefront of the UK renewable energy sector.'

Individual companies and organisations or community groups in the Highlands and Islands will be able to use the brand free, a copy of which can be obtained by contacting Anna Allan on renewables@hient.co.uk or 01463 244350.



Master Distiller Jim McEwan noses Bruachladdich's 'perilous whisky'.

Perilous whisky distilled at Bruachladdich

THE ANCIENT art of quadruple distilling malt whisky has been revived by an Islay distillery.

Usquebaugh-baul or perilous whisky has been distilled at Bruichladdich on Islay, replicating a similar whisky recorded more than 300 years ago by legendary traveller Martin Martin.

He wrote in a whisky tasting note: '...the first taste affects all members of the body: two spoonfuls of this last liquor is a sufficient dose and if any man should exceed this, it would presently stop his breath and endanger his life.'

In 1695 the spirit would have been drunks straight from the still and there are two theories as to why it would have been quadruple distilled.

The first is that the more it is distilled the purer the alcohol becomes and alcohol was used to extract active agents from plants for medicinal use. The purer the alcohol the better the extraction.

The second is that distilling three or four times reduced the risk of an impure spirit, the drinking of which could lead to blindness - hence the saying blind drunk.

Last week's quadruple distilled spirit at Bruichladdich was overseen by Master Distiller Jim McEwan, whose tasting note on the new spirit read: 'It must be very similar to the whisky tasted by Martin all those years ago.

'On entry the flavour is cool, fizzy, citrus - lemon and honey, then the taste of soft gooseberry and pear syrup evolve as it glides across the palette, with cereal and toasted muffins in the slipstream.

'There is no evidence of the power at this stage because the viscosity is almost like glycerine, however, as it engages the taste receptors at the back of the tongue, it really hits the booster button and an amazing heat floods deep into the chest.'

The spirit first 'ran' from the stills at 92 per cent then went down to 88 per cent and will make an average of about 89-90 per cent ABV (alcohol by volume).

Fifty-four American oak casks have been filled with the spirit for maturation and it will lose strength as it ages but when it is judged ready to drink by Mr McEwan it will be bottled on Islay at the strength deemed appropriate at the time.

With such a high alcohol content, this whisky could be matured into its 70th year.

Bruachladdich Distillery was bought in December 2000 by wine merchant and Bruichladdich fan Mark Reynier, together with a group of private investors.

After renovations it started producing whisky again in May 2001, which is bottled on Islay at the island's only bottling hall, and the distillery has won a number of awards since.

Jobs to go at HIE

THE HIGHLANDS and Islands Enterprise (HIE) network is merging three local enterprise companies (LEC) into two to improve its service to customers and the agency's efficiency and effectiveness.

And although new posts will be created, more than 40 jobs are to go in the next two years.

The changes have been expected since HIE launched its new strategy for the area, A Smart, Successful Highlands and Islands, in June last year.

It is the most significant review of the network's structures since the organisation was established 15 years ago.

Careers Scotland localities in these areas will also merge, in line with LEC boundaries.

The boundaries of the seven other LECs and localities will remain unchanged. However, all LECs will be renamed under unified branding, similar to that introduced by HIE Moray last year.

Around 25 new posts will be created but, overall, the network's staffing level is set to decrease.

HIE plans to reduce staffing to around 515 full-time equivalent posts from 555 through staff turnover but voluntary severance may be considered in some cases.

As many as possible of the 25 new posts will be based outwith Inverness, with an overall increase in the number of staff based in the islands.

agenda. It focuses not only on consolidating the upturn large parts of our area have experienced in recent years, but also on striving to ensure that over the next 20 years businesses, people and places throughout the Highlands and Islands gain sustainable benefit from the economic, political, and environmental changes sweeping the world in the early years of 21st Century.'

Consultation

Chief executive Sandy Cumming said: 'We carried out extensive consultation before embarking on this process of significant change and we do so confident in the knowledge that we have widespread support from our stakeholders both within and outwith the HIE network.'

'At the heart of what we are doing is a desire to truly unify the operations of the network, to ensure that we are equally effective in every area in which we operate and that we offer the same excellent level of service to every customer, wherever they may be.'

'Our commitment to dispersing jobs and increasing the number of network posts based in the islands is the clearest possible statement of intent we can make that while we work towards unification, we are not about centralisation.'

Reduction

The most visible change will be a reduction in the number of HIE's local enterprise companies (LECs) from 10 to nine.

One new LEC will serve the area currently covered by Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise (INBSE), plus Easter Ross and the Black Isle.

The second will serve the area currently covered by Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise (SALE) and include Wester Ross.

The present Ross and Cromarty Enterprise (RACE) office in Invergordon will remain, under a new name, as part of the merged LEC arrange-

Integrated

Careers Scotland (CS) services in the Highlands and Islands will become more closely integrated with the HIE network.

Detailed financial plans for the organisational changes are being developed. The current estimate is of a one-off investment of between £2-3million.

It is estimated the changes will result in annual savings of £1.3million in running costs.

HIE chairman William Roe said: 'In our strategy we set out an ambitious



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Loch Fyne name now largest in seafood in UK

LOCH FYNE Restaurants is now the largest seafood restaurant group in the UK, with 24 units inspired by the original Loch Fyne Oyster restaurant in Mid Argyll.

The group has now been presented with the Enterprise Investment Scheme Association's award for Best EIS Exit of 2005 after a cash offer for the company of £22 million was completed in December 2005 giving EIS investors a significant return on their investment.



Jim Edge holds the 'key' to CGL's success.

Win the key of the CGL draw

AS PART of its 21st anniversary celebrations CGL is delighted to invite business account holders to enter a monthly prize draw leading to a big prize draw in February 2007.

Each month from February this year, one account is being drawn at random and presented with the month's prize and a key.

At the end of the year the 12 lucky key-holders will be entered into the big prize draw where they will find out which key unlocks the main prize of office furniture to the value of £2,100.

As well as this CGL will donate £500 to the local charity of the winners own's choice.

For further information please contact Jim Edge at CGL on 01631 565485

Re-organisation lacks purpose and bite, says Highland MSP

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Jim Mather has criticised the proposed re-organisation of Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE), saying it lacks an objective people can understand.

The Shadow Enterprise Minister said: 'While I share HIE's desire for increased effectiveness and I welcome any refocusing of resources and any decentralisation of jobs, I am also aware that such reorganisations rarely deliver any significant improvement.'

He said he wanted to see increased economic development and a resultant increase in the number people living and working in the Highlands and Islands but did not believe the Smart Successful Scot-

land initiative would deliver that objective.

'Indeed, this reorganisation lacks a quantified objective that people can understand and jointly work towards.

'That is simply not good enough,' he said.

'We must expect our economic development agency to adopt the strategies and tactics that have worked elsewhere: especially when Scotland lacks genuine economic powers.

'That means we should not be satisfied until HIE sets meaningful targets, gets the buy in of all local stakeholders and ensures that steps are taken to level the economic playing field in favour of the Highlands and islands,' he said.

AQUACULTURE TODAY 2006 EDINBURGH

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Aquaculture Today 2006 is being held at Edinburgh's five star Sheraton Hotel & Spa from March 28-30 and is set to be one of the most influential events of its kind held in the UK.

The 2006 conference builds on the achievement of last year's pioneering event with speakers from the UK, Europe and beyond already lined up to participate.

The conference addresses key issues facing the fish farming sector in a useful and varied programme comprising formal presentations, discussion sessions, networking, exhibits and a special awards dinner. Delegates will hear from leading industry figures on:

- World Markets
- Fish Health
- Innovation
- Species Development.

The conference will be officially opened with a keynote speech from Lord Lindsay of Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) on March 29.

Fish Farmer At the Aquaculture Today Gala Dinner, the first Fish Farmer 'Fit for the Future' award will be presented for outstanding achievement in the fish-farming sector. In addition, finalists in a new industry-backed awards scheme from the Crown Estate, which recognises innovation and best practice in salmon farming, will be announced.

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Fair trade plea to retailers

RETAILERS are being urged to support Fairtrade Fortnight which started on Monday.

Many shops are already running special promotions and moves have been made to make Oban a Fairtrade town.

Shoppers are being asked to make a difference by buying products which have been bought for a fair price from sources in the



Thomas comes to Taynuilt

THOMAS the Tank Engine fans, of all ages, will be flocking to Taynuilt this Saturday as Susan McKechnie turns her successful internet business into a walk-in shop.

Thomasrocks began when Susan's own two children, Harry, aged five and Lars, four, became big fans.

'I got fed up paying the prices you have to pay and thought if I could source it myself then I could sell it to other parents at lower prices. It has just grown and the last year has been fantastic,' she said.

As a result of the internet business's success since it was set up 18 months ago, www.thomasrocks.com, she ran out of room in her home for all the stock and decided it was time to

branch out into a shop.

'I just started out with the ordinary stuff and people kept telephoning up for different things. I found people were phoning and saying they had seen something in the States and started importing from America.'

Susan, who lives in Taynuilt with her family, has taken over the premises next to Graham's Grocers in Taynuilt's Main Street and turned it into a Thomas fan's dreamland.

Beware parents, if your child is mad about Thomas and you take them to Thomasrocks, you'll be there for some time while they browse through wooden, plastic and metal versions of every engine and character that has ever

been produced in the Thomas range.

Not only that there are extra sets like a chocolate factory or honey depot that are imported especially from America.

As well as the engines, everything from socks to paddling pools and bicycles to beakers is in stock and, if it is not, a brochure is on hand from which to order toys.

Susan plans to have birthday and Christmas clubs and lists, which will mean parents can choose a number of items and friends or family go in and choose an item from that list to buy.

For those not keen on Thomas, the shop will be stocking other toys from makers such as Galt, V-Tech and Lego and many of the items.

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RICS

Farmhouse, two cottages and granary conversion at Ledaig form ideal business opportunity

SOUTH Ledaig Farm offers enormously flexible accommodation combined with a highly profitable letting business on a delightful site overlooking the Lynn of Lom.

Over-all the subjects incorporate a farmhouse and two cottages plus a range of outbuildings with substantial letting potential.

On the one hand the property takes in exhilarating views across the sea to Lismore while on the other, Ben Cruachan, the area's highest mountain, stands clear and sharp across the Moss of Achnacree.

Currently run as a thriving bed-and-breakfast establishment with the added benefit of separate owner accommodation if required, the farmhouse and cottages, which are in good order throughout, date back to the nineteenth century. All have benefited from a range of recent improvements and modernisation and the sale includes all furniture, carpets, curtains, napery, crockery, kitchen equipment and white goods.

An extract of relevant business accounts will be made available to genuine potential purchasers. The subjects include the three-bedroom farmhouse, a converted granary containing three bedrooms, two two-bedroom holiday cottages, and a residential caravan plus a range of outbuildings. A large garden surrounds the property the grounds of which extend to approximately three acres.

Estate agents MacPhee and Partners, Oban, who are handling the sale, have set a guide price of £620,000.

The farmhouse contains a front vestibule, L-shaped hallway with laminate floor, an office with walls panelled in plywood, a servery kitchen, main kitchen, dining room/tea room, and second dining room/tea room. Coombed ceilings feature in the servery kitchen which hosts white wood-trimmed floor and wall units with oak-effect work surfaces. Steps lead to the main kitchen which has a window to the side. The wood-lined ceilings are coombed and the oak-effect floor and wall units are offset by black granite-effect work surfaces. Sophisticated equipment includes a County-Chef eight burner gas



South Ledaig Farm... established bed and breakfast

range with double oven, a Samsung larder fridge-freezer with water dispenser and a Zanussi larder fridge-freezer. There is also a Bosch dishwasher. A rear door leads to a lower level laundry room with storage and laundry equipment.

Both of the two dining-room/tea rooms look out to the front and have laminate flooring and open fires with wooden mantle surround. Cupboard space is generous.

Typical of the twin holiday cottages is Cruachan which comprises a hallway, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms and a stylish bathroom. Again laminate flooring is prominent and both cottages are extremely well appointed.

A 34-foot Atlas Applause residential caravan offers twin master bedrooms and triple guest room with a wide-door shower room, lounge and kitchen. It is situated within its own pleasant environment to the south of the main properties.

Useful outbuildings include a barn/workshop/store extending to around 48 feet while the attached lean-to wood store and botly add a further 47 feet. A small burn runs through the garden to the rear with an ornamental rocky located on its bank. Driveway and courtyard are gravelled supplying ample parking.

The garden and policies extend to around three acres and include a large lawn area to the side of the granary bordered by mature trees and shrubs. A front garden is enclosed by a wall. There is a charming seating area for guests to the rear of the farm house.

Alexander DAWSON ISLE OF TIREE



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ARDTUR CROFT, PORT APPIN, ARGYLL
 A superb former croft house enjoying stunning views across the neighbouring fields towards Loch Linnhe and the mountains of Kingairloch and Morvern beyond. The property has been sympathetically modernised and extended and the tastefully presented accommodation on one floor comprises: Porch, hallway, kitchen/ dining room with parlour, lovely triple aspect lounge, four bedrooms (one with en suite facilities and another with private facilities) family bathroom, kitchenette/utility room. The property benefits from oil fired and storage heating. Good sized garden grounds, which have been well laid out to make the most of the location and the views, including an attractive, south- easterly facing paved courtyard, decking and seating areas and a timber summerhouse. Driveway and parking.
Offers over £380,000

PRIME BUILDING PLOT, PONY PARK, LETTERWALTON, BENDERLOCH, ARGYLL

This well positioned building plot, extending to approximately 1395m sq, enjoys views towards Loch Creran and the Appin Hills beyond. It is nicely situated in a very desirable location, amongst a small community of attractive, newly built properties, only a short distance from the A828 Oban to Fort William road. The plot has been prepared, the services are available nearby, and detailed planning consent and building warrant are in place for the erection of one dwelling house.
Offers over £115,000

CARNA, DUNOLLIE ROAD, OBAN, ARGYLL

Two-bedroom apartment situated on the ground floor of an attractive stone villa situated on Dunollie Road, enjoying sea views from the front. Located at the northern approach to the town centre and a short level walk to the shops on George Street. It would benefit from some internal upgrading but it has attractive cornice work, high ceilings and good accommodation that could be adapted to suit the purchaser's needs. It comprises: vestibule, hallway, sitting room, kitchen, bathroom and two bedrooms. Small front garden, shared rear drying green and shared external store.
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FOR SALE TWO-BEDROOM TOP-FLOOR FLAT KERRERA TERRACE, OBAN
 In good decorative order
Offers over £80,000
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GLASDRUM DEVELOPMENT FORT WILLIAM
 Three to six-bedroom houses built to individual requirements
 Excellent views • Close to town centre
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TO LET SPACIOUS TWO-BEDROOM FLAT Killiechonan, by Spean Bridge
 Open Fire • Scenic Rural Location
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 33 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6DJ
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ROOM TO LET
 Large house Shared one or two others
 Huge garden by the sea
 Six miles south of Oban
 Car essential
 Telephone
01631 562070

PROPERTY TO LET Immaculate One-Bedroom FURNISHED FLAT in Town Centre
 Non-smokers, only £400 p.c.m. (plus bills)
 References and deposit required
 Telephone
07769 687 515

TOBERONCHY ISLE OF LUING
 Unfurnished let £430 p.c.m.
 Situated at the edge of the village overlooking the sound of Shuna
 Modern four-bedroom house, new kitchen, large garden, excellent primary school/shop
 Ferry every half hour 30 minutes to Oban
 Telephone: 01852 314234
 E-mail: cadzow@luingcattle.fsnet.co.uk

OBAN FLAT TO LET
 Central location One bedroom Fully furnished Deposit £500
Rent £420 p.c.m.
 No D.S.S.
 Available March 20, 2006
 Telephone
07830 386044

PROPERTY TO LET Immaculate Two-Bedroom FURNISHED FLAT OBAN
 Suit professional couple
£450 p.c.m.
 Telephone
01631 720 461

ARDINAMIR ISLE OF LUING
 £700 p.c.m.
 Traditional farmhouse with stunning views across the bay, looking up Loch Melford
 Four bedrooms, two bathrooms, large family kitchen, good sized garden
 Excellent primary school/shop, ferry every half hour, 30 minutes to Oban
 Telephone: 01852 314234
 E-mail: cadzow@luingcattle.fsnet.co.uk

BUILDING A NEW HOUSE?
 FIND OUT ABOUT OUR RANGE OF QUALITY TIMBER-FRAME HOMES

CHOICE OF HOUSE TYPES AVAILABLE IN EITHER KIT FORM OR PURPOSE-DESIGNED FOR YOUR OWN SITE DETAILS FROM

R. E. CAMPBELL (JOINERY) LTD

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RECRUITMENT

DUNSTAFFNAGE

Accounts Assistant

Dunstaffnage Marina and the Wide Mouthed Frog, have considerable expansion plans on hand, and need an experienced accounts person, lively and enthusiastic to join our capable team, you will be fully computer literate and conversant with Sage, Excel and Word.

Call Neil McLoughlan commercial manager on 07776 242 291

The National Trust for Scotland

This national charity requires a **SEASONAL RECEPTIONIST** at Arduaine Garden near Kilmelford from 1st April to 1st October inclusive, Friday, Saturday and Sunday only. If you enjoy meeting the public and would like to be involved with this beautiful garden please phone Maurice Wilkins on 01852 200366, anytime.

Relief Boat Skipper(s)

For 12 person Dive/Tourist Boat(s) CAI 3/4
 Must have suitable experience and qualifications. Would suit active retired person as experienced crew man overseas diving and passengers.
 Please write to Puffin Dive Centre, Port Gallanach, Oban, PA34 4QH or email: admin@puffin.org.uk

HARVESTER OPERATOR REQUIRED
 also **SKYLINE WINCH TEAM**
 TEL: Duncan Gillies 07747 016900

DOMESTIC ASSISTANT
 £5.70 per hour (Under Review)
 Fixed term for 1 Year
 Ref: 051a/2328 37.5 hours per week (5 posts)
 Ref: 051a/2329 18.75 hours per week
 These posts will be filled from a combination of full, part time and bank staff.
 You will be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of ward, department, residential and office accommodation. You will be reliable and able to work with a minimum of supervision as part of a busy team. You will be required to be neat and tidy and produce high standards.
PORTER
 £5.70 per hour (Under Review)
 Fixed term for 1 Year
 Ref: 051a/2171 15 hours per week
 Ref: 051a/2172 37.5 hours per week
 You will be responsible for providing a full range of portering services within the Lochgilphead Hospital Campus. You will be reliable and able to work with a minimum supervision as part of a busy team. A willingness to work flexibly and do overtime (with notice) is essential. A full clean driving licence is required.
 For all posts, experience is not essential, as training will be given.
 All posts are based within Lochgilphead Hospitals, for further information please contact the Hotel Services Department on 01546 602323.
 For an application pack, quoting appropriate reference, please contact our Recruitment Team on our 24 hour answer service by calling 0141 314 0425 or email: recruitment.line@achb.scot.nhs.uk
 Closing date for all posts 27th March 2006.
 For a full list of current vacancies visit www.nhs.scot.nhs.uk

I'm responsible for leading a team and protecting natural resources.

We call it **responsible retail**. You can call it a career that you feel good about.

Oban Store Manager
 £26,771 - £31,658

Leading your own store, you'll inject your personality and fresh-thinking into a business that's recognised for its honesty and fairness. As well as rewarding you with a generous salary and benefits package, we'll build on your two years' retail experience with career-focused training.

To apply, please send your CV and a covering letter, quoting reference 2403/Amc, to: recruitadmin@co-op.co.uk or send it to Charlotte Brough, HR Department, The Co-operative Group, PO Box 53, New Century House, Manchester M60 4ES.
 Closing date: 24 March 2006.
 www.co-op.co.uk

Scottish Hydro Electric

Have you got the **ENERGY** for sales?

DEPUTY MANAGER OBAN

Basic Salary from £13,283

EXCELLENT EARNING POTENTIAL FOR TOP PERFORMERS

To apply, please call our recruitment team on 01738 456833 to request an application form, quoting reference RET/06/05.

Then get switched on... Join one of the largest energy companies in the UK as a Deputy Manager and realise your true potential. As part of our retail team you will sell all the latest brands and technology on the high street, as well as motivate our retail sales advisors. If you have the drive and enthusiasm to succeed and a passion for delivering excellent customer service, we have the career for you. Previous experience in a supervisory capacity will be an advantage.

In return, we can offer:

- Excellent earning potential
- Full training
- Generous annual leave entitlement
- Company pension scheme
- Share incentive scheme

GLENLYON, PERTHSHIRE COUPLE REQUIRED
 for HOUSEKEEPING and CARETAKER/HANDYMAN DUTIES on 5000 acre Highland estate
Two-Bedroom Modern Cottage available
 Part-time positions but additional work available on the estate and with neighbours
 For further details contact **Edwin Thompson, LLP 76 Overhaugh Street Galashiels, TD1 1DP**
 E-mail: galashiels@edwin-thompson.co.uk

Barcaldine House
 Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SG

Mature, conscientious and enthusiastic help required in an historic house taking paying guests
 Varied and interesting role with house-keeping, simple cooking, laundry and customer service - training will be given. Initially seasonal contract, but may lead to permanent position. Two bedroom furnished cottage plus salary.
 Please E-mail for job spec. Applications by E-mail or in writing only - enquiries@barcaldinehouse.co.uk

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

RECRUITMENT

DIAGEO

Something worth savouring.

Distillery/Maltings Process Operator – Islay

£Excellent + Benefits

From The Classic Malts Selection, Johnnie Walker, and J&B to Guinness and Smirnoff, Diageo is the name behind some of the world's most popular premium drinks brands. Our success is thanks to our unique blend of talented people, unrivalled brands, inspiring culture and rich heritage.

Our Islay Group, Lagavulin & Caol Ila distilleries and Port Ellen maltings, is responsible for producing single malt Scotch whisky and malted barley as well as blending whiskies for brands including Johnnie Walker. The position is based at Caol Ila distillery but the job will require you to work for periods of time at any of our three Islay sites. You'll report to the Operations Manager but will have sole responsibility for controlling the malting and whisky production processes on your shift. Ensuring quality, efficiency, energy and cost targets are met, you'll also make environmental and Health & Safety compliance a top priority.

Previous Scotch whisky industry experience is desirable though not essential, as full training will be given. General knowledge of Health & Safety is a must as is the self-sufficiency to work on your own. Excellent problem diagnosis and problem solving skills are a prerequisite for this post.

An excellent rewards package and the opportunity for career progression are on offer to the right person.

To apply, please visit www.diageo-careers.com then click on 'Search All Jobs Now' and type in reference 6284BR in the search field 'Keyword' and click on 'Search'. Alternatively, send your CV and covering letter to Steve McGingie, Senior Site Manager, Port Ellen Maltings, Port Ellen, Islay PA42 7AJ. Closing date: 17th March 2006.

Diageo is an equal opportunities employer.

The Oban Hospice Ltd

Administrative Assistant

The Oban Hospice will be opening for Day Patients in May 2006 and is now seeking an individual with 'small office experience' to assist with the administration and clerical work. They will be self-employed and available for 5 (fully flexible) hours a week. They will be expected to work mainly from home but will need to attend the hospice for a short period each Monday. Microsoft Office experience is required and they should have their own PC.

A fee of between £6 and £10 per hour is offered dependent on experience.

Please contact 07789941408 for further information and an Application Form. Closing date 23rd March with Interviews on 17th April.

ESTATE WORKS (2)

required to restore/maintain estate near Lochgilphead

Accom, 4x4 provided

Experience/references required

Apply, preferably in writing, to

Rosalie Gibb,
61 North Castle Street, Edinburgh, EH2 3LJ
OR
Rosalie.Gibb@caledoniantrust.com

REMBRAND
TIMBER LIMITED

www.rembbrand-timber.com

SALES PERSON

We currently require a sales person for our busy Oban Branch. The successful candidate will be required to deal with customers over the phone and in person, process orders, solve problems and ensure the smooth running of the office.

Experience of selling in the timber or building supplies marketplace is essential.

Oban depot has just newly opened and is looking to grow its business through a dedicated approach to our core customers. We will also look for growth in our DIY, Home-building and renovation centre.

2006 should be a busy and prosperous year for Rembrand Timber and its staff. If you think you have what we are looking for please apply in writing to:

George Low Jr.
Rembrand Timber Ltd.
Glenshellach Industrial Est./Bus Park
Oban, PA34 4HG

Education, Culture & Sport
Cleaning Operative

Onich, £41.48 per wk, 7 hrs per wk

Enthusiastic and motivated, you will clean designated areas in St Bride's Primary to ensure a clean and hygienic condition, maintain and deep clean all hard and soft floors as well as other duties required by your Supervisor. Our annualised pay system includes payment for annual leave and public holidays.

Informal enquiries to John or Marjory, tel (01397) 707365. Ref: L/33/06 (Closing date: 24 March 2006)

Transport, Environmental & Community
Harbour Assistant

Uig, £225.72 per wk plus Shift Allowance

You will assist the Harbour Master in harbour operations at Uig and other harbours and their environs including the operation and maintenance of plant and machinery, assisting in the direction of vessel movements and provision of services. You should have least two years' relevant experience in a marine environment and/or in the operation and maintenance plant and machinery.

Informal enquiries to Neil Simpson, tel (01571) 844800. Ref: D/67/06 (Closing date: 31 March 2006)

Application packs are available from our website or by telephoning, quoting relevant reference: Ref: L/33/06 - tel (01397) 707365 Ref: D/67/06 - TEC Services, tel (01571) 844800. www.highland.gov.uk/jobs

FIREFIGHTER
Tiree Airport

Salary £15,394 to £19,243 pro rata

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS AIRPORTS LTD

Highlands and Islands Airports Limited are responsible for the management and operation of ten airports across the North of Scotland and the Islands, providing vital social, business and welfare links.

A vacancy will shortly arise for a part-time Fire-fighter based at Tiree Airport. Applications are invited from both men and women who must be aged 21 or over and should demonstrate the ability to pass the Company's Medical/Fitness Standards.

Successful applicants will be required to attend the Fire Training College, Teesside, to undertake a six-week fully residential Initial Fire-fighter course. Applicants will also undertake further training courses, locally, to achieve the Fire-fighter competence level.

A full and current driving licence is essential. An LGV licence is desirable, however full training will be given.

Part-time hours are currently 32 hours per week Monday to Saturday. Fire Service personnel are required to be "on call" for which additional payment is made. Due to the requirement for 'on call' working applicants should preferably live locally or be prepared to relocate if successful. There may be a requirement to provide Flight Information Service Officer duties for which training would be provided.

Please note our normal retirement age for fire-fighters is 60.

Airport Fire Service staff will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check for security clearance.

Should you be interested please apply for an application form no later than Monday 13 March. Closing date for completed application forms - Thursday 16 March 2006.

Human Resource Department
Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd
Head Office, Inverness Airport
Inverness IV2 7JB
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS AIRPORTS LTD - 10 AIRPORTS, ONE VISION

Tel: 01667 462445
Fax: 01667 464209
Email: recruitment@hial.co.uk
www.hial.co.uk

WANT TO MAKE 2006 YOUR YEAR
THEN JOIN OUR WORLD OF SALES

Due to an ever increasing demand for our products we are currently expanding our direct sales force.

- ▲ Good rates of commission paid
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- ▲ Two sales conventions a year
- ▲ No experience needed as full training is given
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- ▲ 100% discounts
- ▲ Family orientated and ethical company

Sounds good then call us today and you too can join a sales force with agents who have been part of our team for over 30 years.

0845 330 8530
Quoting Ref. HPS017

Secretary

Full time or part time

A versatile secretary/PA required for a busy office in Tarbert. The applicant must have good communication skills, be computer literate and have initiative, drive and enthusiasm. Duties include accounts, (experience with sage accounting), typing, filing and developing new projects.

Please apply in writing with C.V to

J Robin Dixon
School Road
Tarbert PA29 6UL
Or by email to jrobindixon@hotmail.com

Ardfern Yacht Centre

Vacancies exist for
BOATBUILDERS

in our busy team, maintaining, improving and repairing wooden and fibreglass yachts

Pay rate related to experience

Please apply with details of skills and experience to:

David Wilkie, Ardfern Yacht Centre Ltd, Ardfern,
by Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8QN
Tel: 01852 500247 Fax: 01852 500624
E-mail: david@ardfernyacht.co.uk

THE BARN
LERAGS

FULL-TIME FRIENDLY
BAR PERSON
needed

Mostly day shifts
Good conditions and pay
Telephone Karen on
01631 564618

CLEANER / CARER

Required for elderly disabled man, near Oban High School.

£7 per hour
3 hours a week
which can be arranged to fit in with existing commitments.

Tel: (01631) 569300
quoting ref. OBN 3730

Part time
childminder/
mother's help
required.

April to Sept.
To look after 2
children aged 5 & 6.

Tel: 01631 562425

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ASSISTANT
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to assist with
Slipping-Rigging,
Launching,
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General Boatyard
& Marina Duties.

For further details Tel. Jim Berry,
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KIMBERLEY HOTEL
OBAN

requires for the coming season
(April to October)

TWO HOUSEKEEPING STAFF

For further details contact Walter Bachler
on
01631 571115
or E-mail
info@kimberley-hotel.com

Regent

STAFF VACANCIES

FULL TIME and PART TIME available

Opening in April 2006 Regent is a store incorporating Casual and Formal Menswear on the Ground Floor and the dedicated Kilt Department on the First Floor for kilts sales, accessories and Kilt Hire. An independent Barbers Shop will be located at Basement Level.

We require enthusiastic and experienced sales people with a proven track record in customer service to join us and help develop the business.

Please apply in writing enclosing full CV to:

Mr Joseph MacColl
Regent Menswear
1 Viewforth
High Street
Fort William
PH33 6AT

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Stirling Council

www.stirling.gov.uk/jobs

Environment Services
Catering and Cleaning

Cleaning Assistant* £5.5314 per hour
Ref ENV200

Crairlarich Nursery
5 hours per week, Monday-Friday, 42 week contract

Required to provide a high standard of cleaning in line with service quality standards, you may be required to work as part of a team reporting to a Chargehand or on your own reporting to a Mobile Area Co-ordinator, possessing the ability to use your own initiative

Work experience is not essential as full training to British Institute of Cleaning Science, Cleaning Operative Proficiency Certificate level 1 will be provided to the successful candidates.

Catering Supervisor* £5.9138 per hour
Ref ENV201

Killin Primary School
25 hours per week

We are looking for an experienced individual to be responsible for the day to day operation of this busy Catering Unit.

You will be responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective service for our customers. Duties will include all aspects of food preparation, production and service; administration, supervision of staff, Food Hygiene, Health & Safety, customer care and stock control. Experience of large scale catering is essential and previous supervisory experience would be an advantage as well as good organisational skills.

Completion of a recognised Certificate in Elementary Food Hygiene and Health and Safety is essential. Intermediate Food Hygiene is desirable and City and Guilds 7061/2 or equivalent would also be advantageous.

01786 442693 (voicebank) envhr@stirling.gov.uk

*The successful applicant will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.
CVs not accepted. Closing date Friday 24 March 2006.

For all Application Packs: call or email (see details above, quoting ref).

OBAN SKIP HIRE LTD

Torrans Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel 01631 566370 Fax 01631 565758

A vacancy has arisen for an additional LGV
Driver for our Skip Hire Division.

We would be pleased to hear from candidates who hold a current clean LGV Licence.

Please forward a CV to The Personnel Manager at the above address.

West Highland
Gas Ltd

Torrans Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4PL
Tel 01631 564050 Fax 01631 566500

A vacancy has arisen at our Oban Head Office for an experienced Clerical/Accounts Person.

We would be pleased to hear from candidates who can demonstrate an accurate and conscientious approach to their work.

The job is very customer orientated and a good telephone manner is essential. Telesales experience may be an advantage.

A competitive salary is offered for the right candidate.

Please forward a CV to The Personnel Manager at the above address.

The Oban Times
Oban Office, Crannog Lane
Cleaner required

for open plan modern office.

Flexible hours to be discussed at interview.
Minimum 6 hours over four nights
Monday to Thursday plus some home ironing.
Weekend work also required from time to time.

Rate £7.00 per hour.
References essential.

For further details, please apply to:
Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer,
The Oban Times Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB.
Tel: 01631 568000

REMEMBER
DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS
MONDAY 4PM

The Oban Times
Tel: 01631 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk

PAN FISH

Pan Fish Scotland Ltd, part of the Pan Fish Group, is currently seeking highly motivated individuals, who are looking for a challenging career and wish to join a winning team.

HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER (Ref: HSOS01)

The HR Department is looking for a Health and Safety Officer to cover its Scottish Operations; from the Cowal Peninsula in the south to Cape Wrath in the north.

Ideal candidates would possess at least three years experience in health and safety, hold a NEBOSH (or equivalent) qualification and be completely conversant in risk assessment and risk reduction methods.

A key part of the role is that of an educator; therefore good communication skills are vital. Candidates must have the ability to present information to all areas of the business and at the appropriate levels.

FRESHWATER SITE MANAGER (Ref: SMLN1)

The Production Department is looking for a Site Manager, for its Loch Ness freshwater cage site based at Dores, at the north end of Loch Ness. The successful candidate will also function as an integral member of the management team within the freshwater production department. Ideally, candidates will be experienced in automated feeding and computerised feed management systems, have extensive experience within the fish farming industry and can demonstrate knowledge of best practice. Previous freshwater experience is desirable although not essential.

Candidates must also be able to demonstrate leadership and organisational skills and have the ability to react positively to a challenging environment and production strategy.

SENIOR MARINE OPERATIVE (Ref: KASMO1)

The North Marine Production Regions is looking for an enthusiastic, experienced fish farmer to take responsibility for all marine farming activities at one of its sites in the Loch Melfort area. Ideally, candidates will be experienced in automated feeding systems and associated feedback equipment, although not essential as extensive training will be offered. Consideration will be given for applicants who can demonstrate the management qualities desirable to the post. Relevant certificates for day-to-day operations including boat handling and the use of forklift trucks, as well as a full UK driving licence, are also required. Normal hours of work, overtime and weekend rotas apply.

If you are interested in playing a significant part in our future, apply in writing, enclosing an up-to-date CV and quoting the appropriate reference to:

Mr R. Ferguson, Health and Safety Manager,
Pan Fish Scotland Ltd, Ardinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH
Closing date for applicants - 15 March 2006

JOINERS
REQUIRED

FOR WORKS IN OBAN AREA

Book-in / Price work
Joiners to have experience in
metal stud & ceiling works

Apply to F Brown Plc
Telephone: 01389 759911

CAMKEN
CONTRACTORS
LIMITED

13b Annat Industrial
Estate
Corrach
Fort William

JCB 3CX
OPERATOR
required

Must have CITB card
and driving licence
Please apply by phoning
01397 772225

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RESERVATIONS CLERK

Highland Heritage Coach Tours Ltd
Require Reservations Staff for their busy Administration Office.
Keyboard skills essential along with a pleasant telephone manner.
Training will be given. Full time position, must be flexible.
Shift work includes weekends and evenings. Live-in or out.
Please apply in writing with a current C.V to:
Ms Jackie Colman, Office Supervisor
Highland Heritage Centre Ltd, Central Admin Office,
Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AY
Tel:- 01838 200393

Work you can believe in.

CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counselling to over 4,000 people daily. At Ronachan House in Clachan we care for people with alcohol and drug dependency problems.

Addiction Worker

38.5 hours • £15,828 - £18,320 (qualification bar applies) • Clachan

Qualified to a minimum of SVQ in Care or equivalent, and with experience in addictions work and care planning, you will deliver a specialist Group Therapy provision for clients attending on both a residential and day care basis, ensuring everyone has access to the facilities and support they need.

Support Therapy Worker

38.5 hours • £14,328 - £15,401 • Clachan

You'll liaise closely with our Addictions Workers to provide a support service to the therapeutic team, responding effectively to the general needs of our clients. You'll be qualified to at least SVQ in Care or equivalent with previous experience in addictions work.

The above two posts work on a shift basis, including overnight sleep-in duties for which an additional payment of £26 is paid.

Applicants for these posts are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos. This requirement is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003.

Support Worker/Cook

38.5 hours • £14,328 - £15,401 • Clachan

This is about more than preparing meals, as you'll be part of a team that's making a real difference to people's lives. As well as planning menus, preparing budgets and controlling stock, you'll teach our clients cooking and food hygiene skills.

As we do our work in Christ's name, you must be in sympathy with and supportive of Christian Ethos.

These posts are subject to enhanced disclosure.

Make a difference in life - call 01880 740252 or email ronachan@crossreach.org.uk for an application form. Closing date: 23 March 2006. Church of Scotland Social Care Council www.crossreach.org.uk



ScottishPower

energy wholesale

Cruachan Power Station

Cruachan Power Station Visitor Centre attracts over 60,000 visitors each year. Tours into the mountain are every half hour, within the centre we have a gift shop, picnic area and cafeteria.

Seasonal Vacancies

Key requirements of the posts will be a friendly outgoing nature and the ability to work closely as part of a small team.

Receptionist/Shop Assistant

(Ref: EW-V022-06) (minimum 3 days per week)

The main duties of the role are greeting the public on arrival at the visitor centre providing information and answering questions from the public.

Catering Staff

(Ref: EW-V023-06)

The main duties of the role are preparing and serving food.

Due to the nature of these posts, all candidates will be screened by Disclosure Scotland.

If you have any enquiries regarding either of these posts, please contact Elaine Rodger, Cruachan Power Station on 01866 822618.

If you believe that your skills and attributes match our requirements, and you would like to be considered for these positions, please apply in writing to elaine.rodger@scottishpower.com or Elaine Rodger, Visitor Centre, Cruachan Power Station, Lochawe, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AN.

Closing date for all applications is Friday 17 March 2006.

ScottishPower Generation is an Equal Opportunities Employer

A different place

Are you an engineer with an eye for detail?

Electrical/Lift and Crane Engineer Surveyors

Locations: West Coast/Argyle region

Salaries: £27,000 - £30,000 plus final salary non-contributory pension, including excellent flexible benefits package.

The closing date for applications is 23 March 2006.

We do not accept unsolicited CVs from recruitment agencies.

When it comes to inspection and risk services, Zurich is recognised as a leading force. Our commitment to a high level of customer service means we now have vacancies for Electrical and Lift and Crane Engineer Surveyors. This rewarding role will give you the opportunity to further your engineering career with a company that believes in teamwork, shared responsibility and continuous development.

As an Engineer Surveyor you'll carry out inspections and produce reports on plant in your area of expertise.

The role also involves scheduling relevant inspections efficiently and effectively, submitting statistics to reduce overdue inspections, consultancy work, providing data and statistics for review meetings, investigating and preparing reports on plant breakdowns.

To be successful, you'll require a thorough knowledge of relevant plant and its legislation. You will have completed an engineering apprenticeship or equivalent and have at least five years' subsequent experience. You will also be an Incorporated Engineer or fulfil the qualification requirements of NCSIB NCSB (HNC or equivalent).

If you're interested in using your engineering skills to help us deliver a superb service to our customers, we'd like to hear from you. To apply, please email your CV to phill.clark@uk.zurich.com. Alternatively please fax 01793 506730, or write to Phill Clark, Zurich Resource Centre, Zurich Financial Services, UKLC, Station Road, Swindon SN1 1EL.

If you'd like to know more, please call 01793 504050 or visit www.zurich.co.uk/careers.



As users of the disability symbol, we guarantee to interview all disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria for the vacancy.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



Early Years and Family Support Worker*

£16,515 - £20,169 Drummore Educational Development Centre, Oban 35 hours per week

You will work with community groups, service leaders and voluntary organisations in the development of local child care strategies, providing support and guidance to registered providers of day care.

An HNC in Childcare and Education or SVQ111 Early Years Care and Education or equivalent professional qualification is essential as is a valid driving licence. You must also have experience of working in a childcare setting and good communication skills both verbal and written. Knowledge of the Care Commission, pre-school education and a willingness to work with a variety of childcare providers and local authority staff are desirable, as are a PDA in Childcare and Education and a knowledge of current Scottish Executive initiatives ie Surestart and Childcare Strategy. Ref: CSE31110.

Clerical Assistant* (Temporary)

£9,945 - £14,220

Campbeltown

You will be part of a team providing high quality clerical and administrative support to the Kintyre Team in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Department. Your main duties will include the preparation of home help wages, typing, dealing with incoming calls and filing.

You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) or equivalent qualifications/experience. You must also have experience of Microsoft Word and Excel and experience of preparation of wages, minute taking and working in an office environment would be preferred. Good communication skills both written and verbal are essential. Ref: CSC02012.

For a recruitment pack call 01586 553536.

Clerical Assistant

£9,945 - £14,220

Kilmory, Lochgilphead

You will provide high quality clerical and administrative support in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Department and in a manner which will ensure that the customers of the Department receive the highest standard of service.

You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) to include English or equivalent qualifications/experience. You must be IT literate with some knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Access whilst good communication skills including a good telephone manner are preferred. Ref: CSA01038.

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

ETF Supervisor (Temporary for 1 year)

£269.93 per week plus 33% outcome related bonus

Campbeltown

This is a new post within the Employability Team. You will be responsible for a range of work tasks involving groups of the long-term unemployed in a "sheltered" workshop environment. This environment is designed to enable the long-term unemployed to gain skills that will prepare them for the world of work in a range of disciplines. It will also enable personal development in areas of confidence building, aspiration and those social skills required to enter sustainable long-term employment.

You must have experience of working in a range of differing environments and knowledge of customer groups. You must be a team worker with good communication skills and the ability to work on your own initiative. Computer skills are desirable and you must have a valid driving licence. Ref: DSE02041T.

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604225.

Home Help*

Variable location

Isles of Iona and Mull

£6,290.3 per hour

Are you interested in caring for older people? Can you adapt and respond to the changing needs of individual clients in their own homes? We are looking for enthusiastic, flexible people to join our home care team in Mull.

You should have experience of working with older or disabled people. You will be expected to undertake a combination of domestic and personal tasks therefore good general physical fitness is important. A valid driving licence and access to transport would be an advantage. You may be expected to work shifts during unsocial hours for which appropriate enhancements will be paid. Ref: CS06257/CS06237.

For a recruitment pack call 01631 563068.

*Applicants should note that this is an EXCEPTED POST, i.e. a post to which the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975, as amended, applies. Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting. Closing date 24th March 2006.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.



Oban Distillery Visitor Centre has vacancies for Part Time Seasonal Guides

Oban Distillery Visitor Centre is a five star Scottish Tourist Board attraction, and the home of the Oban 14 year old West Highland Malt Whisky.

We are seeking confident individuals to provide a high quality customer service and present the whisky making process through guided distillery tours. Ability to work within a team is essential and a flexible approach is required, as weekend and evening work is an integral part of the role.

Ideally, applicants should have a passion for customer service and hospitality, good communication and presentation skills, retail experience and selling abilities.

Closing date for applications: Friday 17th March 2006 Starting April and finishing October 2006

Diageo is an equal opportunities employer

Apply with full C.V. and covering letter to:
Carol Bennett
Brand Home Manager
Oban Distillery
Stafford Street
Oban
Argyll
PA34 5NH
Telephone:
01631 572005

DRIVER/WORKSHOP ASSISTANT

for delivering of small plant and equipment
Must have full clean licence (C+E)
Telephone (01546) 606838

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Argyll & the Islands Rural Business Ring
www.ringargyll.co.uk

ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT

The Argyll and the Islands Rural Business Ring is a co-operative providing services which enable members to improve the performance of their businesses through:

- Reducing costs
- Improving efficiency, and
- Providing commercial opportunities for members.

The ring is currently establishing an administration office in Campbeltown and there is an opportunity for a Part time Administration Assistant to help with all aspects of this growing business. The successful applicant is likely to have good IT, communication and organisational skills and be able to work as part of a small team. An attractive salary package is available in line with skills and experience.

To apply, send a letter of application with a current CV to the Ring manager: Colin Cameron, AIRBR Office, Rhoin Farm, Campbeltown, PA28 6NT, or e-mail: colin@ringargyll.co.uk
Closing date for applications: Wednesday 17th March 2006

PUBLIC NOTICES

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

COMHAIRLE NAN EILEAN SIAR in conjunction with CRAIGFORTH CONSULTANCY are carrying out a POSTAL SURVEY to gain information on the HOUSING NEEDS of the WESTERN ISLES population.

SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRES will be sent at random to 6500 addresses throughout the Islands during the week beginning 13 March 2006.

If your household receives a questionnaire, please take time to complete and return it to CRAIGFORTH CONSULTANCY.

The results will be crucial to forward planning for housing and housing related services in the Islands in the next 5 - 10 years.

Craigforth Consultancy will treat all responses in strict confidence and will not provide individual household information to the Comhairle or anyone else.

If you wish to discuss the questionnaire or require more information before completing it, please contact:-

ISOBEL MACKENZIE
Housing Department, CNES
on 01851 705312
or
ANDREW WHITE
Department for Sustainable Communities, CNES
on 01851 709322

SURGERY

GEORGE LYON MSP

6.00pm - 8.00pm
Monday 13 March 2006
St Moluag's Centre,
Croft Avenue, Oban

For appointments please telephone
(01700) 500 222

ENNSTONE THISTLE

Public Notice

Please note that we will be carrying out small blasts at Banavie Quarry, Fort William, on Friday March 10 at 1.30pm.

INVITATION

Friends of Oban Hospice

Annual General Meeting

Church Centre Undercroft
Glencluiten Road, Oban
7.30pm
Wednesday 29 March 2006

MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

The AGM of the Oban and District Branch will be held in the Lecture Room of the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban on Tuesday 28th March 2006 at 7.30pm. All are welcome

OASYS

New Opportunities AGM

Glencluiten Church Hall
28th March 2006 at 7p.m
Open to all

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS BEST READ PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD SEEN BY MORE THAN *40,000 READERS EACH WEEK (* Source JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC Audit)



GREENPOWER (CARRAIG GHEAL) LTD

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT)(SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000**

Notice is hereby given that GreenPower (Carraig Gheal) Ltd (whose Registered Office is at 15 Gladstone Place, Stirling, FK) applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate a wind farm at Carraig Gheal (Grid Reference 197022E 720568N), near Taynuilt, Argyll. The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 60MW. This is an advertisement to confirm that an Erratum, "Viewpoint Audit and Entec Response to Comments on the Visualisations", has been submitted in relation to application for consent.

GreenPower (Carraig Gheal) Ltd has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the Erratum together with a copy of the Amended Environmental Statement discussing the Company proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, is available for inspection free of charge during normal opening hours at:

Argyll & Bute Council Headquarters, Kilmory, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT
Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Argyll & Bute Council Office, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR
Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm

Oban Library, Corran Halls Oban PA34 5AB
Monday: 10am - 1pm ; 2pm - 7pm
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: 10am - 1pm ; 2pm - 7pm
Thursday: 10am - 1pm ; 2pm - 6pm
Friday: 10am - 1pm ; 2pm - 5pm
10am - 1pm

The Erratum document can also be viewed at the Scottish Executive Library at Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

Copies of the Erratum may be obtained from GreenPower (Carraig Gheal) Ltd, The e-Centre, Coopers Way, Alloa, FK10 3LP (tel: 01259 272158), at a charge of £100 per hard copy.

Any objections or representations to the application should be made in writing to The Scottish Executive, Consents and Emergency Planning Unit, 2nd Floor, Meridian Court, 5 Cadogan Street, Glasgow, G2 6AT or email energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for support or objection, not later than 28th March 2006. It should be noted that under Freedom of Information Legislation, representations will be issued to the relevant planning authority in full, on the Scottish Executive website and to anyone else who requests copies unless individuals request otherwise.

Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
Statutory Review of Local Government Electoral Arrangements
Stirling Council Area

Notice is hereby given today, 9 March 2006, that the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland has submitted the report to the Scottish Ministers recommending the division of Stirling Council area into 7 wards for the election of Councillors.

A copy of the Commission's report and illustrative maps showing the ward boundaries may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of Stirling Council from 9 March 2006 as follows:

Stirling Council Offices, Viewforth, Stirling;

and also at the following locations:

Stirling Local Office, Municipal Buildings, Corn Exchange Road, Stirling;
Aberfoyle Local Office, Trossachs Discovery Centre, Main Street, Aberfoyle;
Balfour Local Office, 32 Buchanan Street, Balfour;
Bannockburn Local Office, 6 New Road, Bannockburn;
Callander Local Office, South Church Street, Callander;
Cornton Local Office, Johnston Avenue, Cornton;
Cowie Local Office, The Old Schoolhouse, Cowie;
Dunblane Local Office, Burgh Chambers, Dunblane;
Fallin Local Office, 6-8 The Square, Fallin;
Killin Local Office, Benvue, Craignavie Road, Killin;
Raplach Local Office, 2 Woodside Road, Raplach;
St Ninians Local Office, 37 Modan Road, St Ninians.

A copy of this notice, the Commission's report and illustrative maps are available for viewing, or downloading free of charge on the Commission's web site at www.lgbc-scotland.gov.uk

It should be noted that under the provisions of section 17(2) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Scottish Ministers may not make an Order giving effect to the proposals contained in the Commission's report, either as submitted to them or with modifications, until after the expiry of 6 weeks from 9 March 2006, that being the date arranged for the formal submission of the report.

R Smith
Secretary
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
3 Drumsheugh Gardens
Edinburgh
EH3 7QJ



Let's talk tourism.

If you're in the tourism business, you'll know there's a lot to talk about. Join VisitScotland Chief Executive Philip Riddle and Area Director James Fraser at one of these informative 'talking tourism' events in Oban or Mull:

Oban
Tuesday 15 March
at 7.30 p.m.
Argyllshire Gathering Function
Suites, Breadalbane Street

Isle of Mull
Wednesday 16 March
at 10 a.m.
Torosay Castle,
Craignure

This is your chance to hear first hand how VisitScotland plans to grow tourism by 50% by 2015. It's also an opportunity to put your questions direct to those at the top of Scotland's biggest industry.

If you have a tourism business and you are interested in attending either event, please call to book your place on 01786 445 222 or e-mail barbara.rogers@visitscotland.com.

talkingtourism on tour

CROTTERS COMMISSION
UGHADARAS NAN CROITLARAN

Mrs Morag Cameron is applying to decroft part of the croft at Ardoo, 165 Kenra, Ardnamurchan & Sunart extending to 0.70 ha for the purpose of providing the site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: C/4583.

Mr and Mrs N Peole are applying to decroft the site of the existing croft-house, formerly pertaining to croft 120 Achnaha, Sanna, Ardnamurchan, extending to 0.047 ha which was leased in 1974 under Section 18 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1955. Ref: C/12523.

Gordon Fraser MacIntyre is applying to decroft part of the croft at 15 North Bellachulish, Kilmallie extending to 0.069 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: C/19093.

Colin J Campbell is applying to decroft part of the croft at 64 & 65 Banavie, Kilmallie extending to 0.132 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: C/3471.

If you consider that the decrofting of these areas will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3ED by 27 March 2006 quoting the appropriate reference. Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account on this occasion.

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000



www.obantimes.co.uk

LODGE ST MODAN (No. 985)

REGULAR MEETING
to be held on
March 15, 2006
at 7.45 p.m.

E.C. Degree : AOCB
Rehearsal to be held on
Sunday 12 March
at 7.30 p.m.

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Tel: 01631 568000



www.obantimes.co.uk

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Mr J Smith The Ice Factor, Old Carbon Factory, Kinlochleven 06/00055/LBCL0	Installation of Traditional Doors (Retrospective)	Kinlochleven Post Office Listed Building (21 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Lochaber Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Ft William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022. E-Mail planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

SHIRA WIND LIMITED

**ELECTRICITY ACT 1989
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
THE ELECTRICITY WORKS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2000**

Notice is hereby given that Shira Wind Limited, (whose Registered Office is at 302 St Vincent Street, Glasgow, G2 5RZ) has applied to the Scottish Ministers for consent to construct and operate a wind farm at Shira, near Dalmaily, Argyll & Bute (Grid Reference NN1722). The installed capacity of the proposed generating station would be up to 79MW.

Shira Wind Limited has also applied for a direction under Section 57(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 that planning permission for the development be deemed to be granted.

A copy of the application, with a plan showing the land to which it relates, together with a copy of the Environmental Statement discussing the Company's proposals in more detail and presenting an analysis of the environmental implications, are available for inspection, free of charge, during normal office hours at:

Dalmaily Post Office	Argyll and Bute Council	Natural Power Consultants Ltd,
Main Road Dalmaily PA33 1AX	Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 5AR	The Green House Forrest Estate Dalry Castle Douglas DG7 3XS

The Environmental Statement can also be viewed at the Scottish Executive Library at Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH11 3XD.

Copies of the Environmental Statement may be obtained from Natural Power Consultants Limited (tel: 016444 430008) at a charge of £200 hard copy and £10 on CD, whilst stocks last. Copies of a short Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge.

Any objections or representations to the application should be made in writing to The Scottish Executive, Energy Consents Unit, 2nd Floor, Meridian Court, 5 Cadogan Street, Glasgow, G2 6AT, (energyconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk) identifying the proposal and specifying the grounds for objection, not later than **Tuesday 18th April 2006**. These representations to the Scottish Executive will be copied in full to the planning authority.

All representations received will be published in full on the Scottish Executive website at the end of this consultation period unless the individual requests otherwise.

Oban Times Oban Times Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

The Highland Council
Pre-school Enrolment Notice
Funded Pre-school Places 2006/2007

All children born between 1 March 2002 and 28 February 2004 are entitled to a funded pre-school place during the session 2006/2007.

Enrolments will be accepted week commencing Monday 20th March 2006 for all funded pre-school places.

If you wish to enrol your child for a place please contact your local Primary School, Playgroup or Nursery for information on registered centres in your area and the enrolment procedure.

Gaelic Medium provision is available in certain areas: please contact Highland Council Childcare Information Service for details.

Information is available from:
Highland Council Childcare Information Service
on 0845 6011345 or email
childcareinformation@highland.gov.uk

Information Leaflets are also available from Highland Council Service Points

Please Note: Remember to take your child's birth certificate with you when you go to enrol.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute Council

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN OUTDOOR ACCESS?

Argyll and Bute Council is now recruiting for members of the Argyll and Bute Local Access Forum. This is your chance to help shape the development and management of outdoor access in Argyll and Bute. Applications for membership are sought by the 3rd April 2006.

For further details and an application pack please contact the Development Projects section at Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead PA31 8RT or Tel: 01546 604137 or visit: www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Russ Craig Haulage Limited, trading as Russ Craig Haulage Limited, of Shiaran, North Ballachulish, PH33 6SA, is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep six goods vehicles and eight trailers at Site 9, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Owners or Occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, J Floor, Argyle House, Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute Council

PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 06/00428/DET
Applicant: Kate MacRae
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Plot 3 Land North Of Forestry Houses Sallachy Aros Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00422/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs T Mellor
Proposal: Erection of Single Storey Extension
Site Address: Hawthorn Cottage, Salen Isle Of Mull PA27 6JB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00392/DET
Applicant: Waterfront Co Ltd
Proposal: Alterations to Public Bar and Part Change of Use from Office to Public Bar
Site Address: The Waterfront Railway Pier Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LW
Location of Plans: Lorn Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00420/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs A Taylor
Proposal: Erection of Extension to Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Chalet Beag Dalmaily Argyll And Bute PA33 1AA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmaily
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00394/DET
Applicant: Alasdair MacMillan
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse (Revised Design to that Approved Under 03/00212/DET)
Site Address: Plot 2 Site Adjacent To Glenaege Glenerrutran Tobar Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00373/OUT
Applicant: John S Macphail
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Little Erray Raeric Road Tobarory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobarory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00367/DET
Applicant: Argyll, Lomond And The Islands Energy Agency Ltd
Proposal: Erection of Wind Anemometer Mast - Temporary Period of 2 Years
Site Address: Moleigh Coup Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4SD
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00403/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs Alexander Black
Proposal: Erection of New Dwellinghouse, Installation of Septic Tank and Formation of New Shared Access
Site Address: Land East Of Ledaga House, Benderloch Oban Argyll PA37 1RT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaga
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00417/DET
Applicant: J Duffy Esq
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Land North West Of Tigh-Na-Mara Dervaig Tobarory Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00417/DET
Applicant: J Duffy Esq
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Land North West Of Tigh-Na-Mara Dervaig Tobarory Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Development in Conservation Area 21 Days
- Ref No: 06/00402/LIB
Applicant: Derek Lyall
Proposal: Alterations to Dwellinghouse (Installation of Rooflight)
Site Address: Fuchsia Cottage 12 Easdale Island Oban Argyll PA34 4TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day
- Ref No: 06/00344/DET
Applicant: The Hon. M And Mrs C Shaw
Proposal: Alterations and Extensions
Site Address: 15 Balvicar Isle Of Seal Argyll And Bute PA34 4TF
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00419/DET
Applicant: Mr + Mrs M Campbell
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Plot 2, Loran Plot, Barran Caltum Barran Kilmory Oban
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00404/DET
Applicant: Emma Leigh Murtagh
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Caravan Bellachroy Hotel Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00404/DET
Applicant: Emma Leigh Murtagh
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Caravan Bellachroy Hotel Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
S60 Setting of Listed Bldg Ad - 21 Days

● Ref No: 06/00404/DET
Applicant: Emma Leigh Murtagh
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Caravan Bellachroy Hotel Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
S60 Setting of Listed Bldg Ad - 21 Days

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 06/00417/DET
Applicant: J Duffy Esq
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Land North West Of Tigh-Na-Mara Dervaig Tobarory Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig
Potential departure from Policy HO7 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS) (LORN) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2006

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order introducing a Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit on a section of the B845 adjacent to Ardchattan Primary School and a section of the B844 adjacent to Easdale Primary School as part of a road safety initiative.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed, "THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS, LORN) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER 2006", together with a Plan, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- (i) Easdale Post Office, 13 Ellenbeich, Easdale, Argyll;
- (ii) Bonawe Sub Post Office, 25 Kenmore Cottage, Bonawe, Argyll;
- (iii) Operational Services, Kilmory House, Oban, Argyll;
- (iv) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 31st March 2006.

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS, OBAN) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order introducing a Part-Time 20mph Speed Limit on the roads adjacent to Oban High School as part of a road safety initiative at schools in the Council area.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed, "THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS ADJACENT TO SCHOOLS, OBAN) (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006", together with a Plan, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- (i) Operational Services, Kilmory House, Oban, Argyll;
- (ii) Corporate Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 31st March 2006.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL
TEC SERVICES
STREET LIGHTING, ILLUMINATED ROAD SIGNS AND TRAFFIC SIGNAL
COLUMN ERECTION & CABLE LAYING TENDER 2006/2009

Experienced contractors wishing to be considered for the select list of Tenders for the above works should apply in writing to the Lighting & Communications Manager, Council Buildings, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX, not later than Friday 17th March 2006. (Fax 01463 702606).

Oban Times Oban Times
PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

To book this space contact Trevor Cole at The Oban Times on 01631 568000

The Oban Times MOTORING

To book this space contact Trevor Cole at The Oban Times on 01631 568000

RENAULT FIRST TO OFFER ONLINE SERVICE BOOKING IN THE UK

Servicing your vehicle is an essential part of ensuring your car or van stays in tip-top condition. Now, the process couldn't be easier with Renault being the first manufacturer in the UK to introduce a new hassle-free Service Booking Online facility which allows customers to book vehicle servicing with their preferred Renault dealer and obtain quotes online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Renault's new Service Booking Online enables customers to:

- Check which service their vehicle is due
- Book a service
- Book a specific workshop time slot with their

local Renault dealer

- Request pick-up and delivery of their vehicle if required
- Request a courtesy car
- Confirm the cost of the next service for their specific model and version
- View each component of the service, priced and visible online
- Request additional repair work to be carried out if necessary
- Book an MOT (if the vehicle is over three years old)
- Confirm the cost of the MOT
- Print booking details and receive an email confirmation

The convenient service is simple to use and only

takes a few minutes to register. Customers log on to the dedicated website, www.service.renault.co.uk, where they choose a log in, secure password and enter their details. A choice of nearby Renault dealers is presented for the customer to choose their preferred dealer themselves. After completing their vehicle details such as registration number, current and annual mileage, whether the vehicle is a company car, Service Booking Online will return a confirmation of the vehicle and what version it is and advise when the customer's next service is due. If there is more than one Renault

vehicle in the family, customers can add these vehicles too. Selisik Ergin, Director, Services & Quality, Renault UK, said, "As the inventor of such innovations as the MPV segment with the Espace and Scenic and the V10 engine in Formula 1, it stands to reason that Renault should be the first manufacturer in the UK to offer online service booking. "Maintaining your vehicle by sticking to the manufacturer's servicing schedule is crucial and Renault's convenient Service Booking Online makes this necessary even simpler and more accessible than ever for

customers. It also offers increased choice and the cost of the customer's service or repairs are completely visible and clear on screen for them to see". Mick Moore, Director, Customer Management, Renault UK, added,

"The introduction of Service Booking Online allows us to offer our customers a hassle-free facility which also demonstrates our continued commitment to providing the highest standard of quality and service for our customers".

SGI Stewart's Garage

Japanese and 4x4 import specialists
Our vehicles are sourced directly from an importer with direct links to Japan - NOT from UK auction sites. They are of the highest quality and condition, usually with many non-standard extras. Meaning they are excellent value for money!

Toyota Hilux Surf 2.4 Td Manual 1993 £5500



Just arrived in the country and on its way to us. 2.4 turbo diesel, manual gearbox, central locking, air conditioning, still to be registered. Mileage 98000km (61000m)

CAR OF THE MONTH

A FURTHER SELECTION OF OUR QUALITY USED VEHICLES

1994M Mitsubishi RVR 2.0 Petrol 4wd auto 61,000 miles, c/control, e/windows, alloys, privacy glass, bull bars, spots, etc £3,695

1994L Mitsubishi Delica 2.4 Td 4wd auto 30,000 miles, 7 seat mpv, c/control, e/windows, side curtains, etc £4,895

1994M Mitsubishi Pajero 2.8Td 4wd auto 72,500 miles, 7 seats, sun roof, alloys, bull bars, spots, e/windows, c/locking, privacy glass £6,595

1994M Mitsubishi RVR 2.0 petrol 4wd auto 72,500 miles, air con, c/locking, e/windows, sliding rear door, immobiliser, roof bars £2,995

2004(53) Ford Fiesta Ghia 1.4 28,000 miles, full leather trim, CD player, remote c/locking, e/windows, dual air bags, service history £5,995

If there is a particular make or model you are looking for, we will make every effort to find it for you.

50 Wellington Street, Dunoon PA23 7LA
Tel: 01369 706053 Fax: 01369 705212
Email: sales@stewarts-garage.com
www.stewarts-garage.com

QUALITY USED LAND ROVERS



THE LAND ROVER EXPERIENCE FROM LIX TOLL

02 (02) DISCOVERY II COMMERCIAL Td5 5 door. Zambesi silver, tow pack £12,945+VAT

02 (02) DEFENDER 90 Td5 Hard top, Caledonian blue, tow pack, 2002 model £9,975+VAT

01 (51) DEFENDER Td5 Hard top, Caledonian blue, tow pack, low mileage £10,275+VAT

00 (X) DISCOVERY II GS Td5 5 door 7 seat. Oslo blue, rad/cas, alloys, a/c, tow pack £12,750 inc

00 (W) DEFENDER 90 Td5 Hard top. Tow pack, choice of two, in Rutland red or Coniston green .. £9,349+VAT

98 (R) DISCOVERY COMMERCIAL 300 Tdi, 3 door, Oslo blue, tow pack, low miles £7,695+VAT

98 (R) DEFENDER 90 Tdi Hard top. Coniston green. Tow pack and electrics £6,895+VAT

97 (R) DEFENDER 110 Tdi Hard top. Coniston green. Tow pack and electrics £6,975+VAT

97 (R) DEFENDER 90 Tdi Truck cab pick up. Aries blue. IW canopy, tow pack and electrics £6,375+VAT

96 (N) DEFENDER 90 Tdi Truck cab pick up. Coniston green. Tow pack and electrics £5,795+VAT

LixToll GARAGE
01567 810280
KILLIN, PERTSHIRE, FK21 8RB
E-mail: sales@lix-toll.com
www.lix-toll.com

With the arrival of the '06' plate, it's first come first served on packages second-to-none.

New Polo from £7495.

Solutions 3-year, 30000 miles Personal Contract Plan example for Polo E 1.2 3-door 64 PS.	
35 monthly payments of	£9900
Customer advance payment/deposit	£1749.46
Optional final payment (incl fee)	£3,750.00
On-the-road retail cash price*	£8,110.00
Amount of credit	£6,360.54
Total amount payable	£8,964.46

Typical 5.8% APR

Golf from £11,995.

*Climatic semi-automatic air conditioning
4-speaker radio/CD player
Electronic stabilisation programme
6 airbags
Remote central locking

Model shown includes metallic paint and 'Hockenheim' alloys: £12,975.

New Jetta from £14,635.

*Toronto alloys
Rain and dusk sensors
Climatic semi-automatic air conditioning
Auto-dimming rear-view mirror
Curtain airbags

Model shown is Jetta SE 1.6 FSI with metallic paint: £15,960.

Hawco

Ardgour Road, Caol, Fort William. Telephone: 01397 700 900.
www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk
Licenced credit brokers.

*23p per mile charged for mileage travelled in excess of the contracted mileage if you return the vehicle. Further charges subject to mileage and condition if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. An offer of finance depends on certain conditions. Available to over 18s in the UK only. Details correct at time of going to press. We reserve the right to vary or withdraw offer at any time. Offer available until March 31st, 2006. Subject to vehicle availability. *On-the-road retail cash price includes VAT, 12-months' road fund licence, first registration fee, number plates and delivery.
Official fuel consumption for the Volkswagen range in mpg (litres/100km): urban 49.6 (5.7) - 13.3 (21.2); extra urban 68.9 (4.1) - 24.4 (11.6); combined 61.4 (4.6) - 19.1 (14.8). CO₂ emissions: 355 - 124g/km.

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RENAULT Scotland's most established Renault dealer

If only all used cars were as reliable as ours!

These are just a small selection of cars currently in our showrooms

USED CARS

53 RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1.9DCI GREEN 26,000	P.O.A.
03 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HDI20 SILVER	£7250
RENAULT CLIO EXP 1.2 3-DOOR, SILVER, 25,000	P.O.A.
52 DAEWOO MATIZSE SILVER 17,000	£3000
52 RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYN SPORT H/B 24000	£7750
03 FORD FOCUS 1.6LX 5DR BLUE, 18000	£6950
02 RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 DYN SILVER 31000	£6500
51 PEUGEOT 307GLX 5-DOOR, SILVER, 58,000	P.O.A.
01 RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIQUE 1.6 SILVER 45,000	£5750
V AUDI A3 1.6 AUTO - WHITE	£5250
5 HUNDAI COUPE 2.0 RED	£4950

ESTATE CARS

02 PEUGEOT 306 MERIDIAN 1.9D BLUE 12000	£6850
M AUDI 80 RED	£2250

VANS & PICK-UPS

RENAULT MASTER DIESEL
RENAULT KANGOO DIESEL
51 NISSAN VANETTE

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

W. D. Semple
APPROVED RENAULT DEALER
www.wdsemple.com

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Lochgilphhead - Highbank Park.
Tel: 01546 606767

ACCREDITED MOTABILITY DEALER
Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

New and Pre-Registered Renaults ready for immediate delivery. Here's just a small sample:

Pre-registered Renault Clio Extreme. with delivery mileage only From £7995

Pre-registered Renault Scenic with delivery mileage only From £14,750

Pre-registered Renault Megane with delivery mileage only From £12,750

PEUGEOT

DON'T DREAM. DRIVE

LION USED CARS

2005/54 Peugeot 407 S HDI Saloon 8000 miles	£13,795
2004/54 Peugeot 206 S 1.1 3 door PAS etc 11,000 miles	£6,650
2004/04 Peugeot 206 SW HDI 90 Estate 14,000 miles	£8,500
2003/03 Peugeot 206 LX 1.1 3 dr PAS etc 10,000 miles	£5,495
2002/02 Peugeot 406 LX HDI 110 Saloon PAS etc 36,000 miles	£6,995
2001/51 Peugeot Partner Combi M.P.V. 22,000 miles	£4,995
1999 V Peugeot 406 LX HDI 90 Estate PAS etc Metallic	£4,995

DUE THIS WEEK

2003/03 Peugeot 307 Rapier HDI 90 PAS C/L Metallic 29,000 miles
2002/02 Vauxhall Astra Turbo Diesel Estate PAS etc Metallic
1999 T Volvo V70 XLT Estate PAS C/L etc metallic
2000/X Landrover Freelander T/Diesel 4 3dr Metallic

COMMERCIALS

2001/51 Vauxhall Movano 2.5 Diesel Van PAS etc Very tidy
1999 V Peugeot Partner 1.9 Diesel Van
1998 R Ford Escort 1.8 Diesel Van

DEMONSTRATORS

2005/55 Peugeot 307 XSI HDI 136 5dr 5,000 miles	£15,995
2005/05 Peugeot 1007 1.6 Auto Electric Sliding Doors PAS A/C Alloys metallic 3,000 miles	£10,995

ALL THIS AND MORE AT

CAMPBELTOWN MOTOR COMPANY
BURNSIDE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN Tel: 01586 551144

PEARSON SUZUKI
WEMYSS BAY www.pearsoncars.com
SUZUKI AWARD WINNERS 3 YEARS RUNNING
Put us to the test. You've nothing to lose.

NEW SUZUKI ALTO

Range features include:
Power-assisted steering. Front electric windows. Central door locking. Dual airbags. 1.1 litre fuel injection.
£2499 (inc road tax) ON THE ROAD - NO HIDDEN CHARGES

SUZUKI SWIFT

Range features include:
Power assisted steering. Front electric Windows. Central door locking. Dual airbags. Air con. Alloys 3 DOOR: £7599 on the road
5 DOOR: from £7899 on the road

NEW SUZUKI GRAND VITARA 5DR

Range features include:
Front electric windows. PAS. Central locking. Air conditioning. Driver's airbag. Radio/CD player. Tinted glass. Roof bars. Alloys. ABS.
2.0i 5 door from £15649 on the road
1.9 DDI 5 door from £16995 on the road

CAR OF THE WEEK

04 JAGUAR X-TYPE 2.0 TD SPORT ESTATE
Black, black leather, 17" alloys, roof rails, 1 owner, 20,000 miles, stunning
SALE PRICE £17,495 (Save £500)

PREMIER USED CARS

02 MERCEDES CLK230 KOMP CONVERTIBLE AUTO
Silver, grey leather, blue hood, new 17" AMG alloys, too many options to list. STUNNING
SALE PRICE £18,795 (Save £1,000)

03 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 CONVERTIBLE
Turquoise, black cloth, alloys, demo + 1 owner, 6,000 miles, as new
SALE PRICE £9,995 (Save £500)

05 VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 LIFE 5-door
Metallic Silver, grey trim, power steering, full electrics, only 1,900 miles, as new
SALE PRICE £8,995 (Save £500)

52 AUDI TT COUPE (180) QUATTRO
Avis silver, grey leather, 18" 9-spoke alloys, 1 owner, 35,000 miles, stunning. SALE PRICE £17,495 (Save £500)

54 VAUXHALL ZAFIRA 1.6 LIFE 7 SEATER
Met blue, black cloth, air con, full electrics, 11,000 miles, great family car, check price SALE PRICE £8,795 (Save £1,000)

04 SUZUKI XL7 2.7 AUTO 5 SEATER
Silver, grey cloth, alloys, air con, full electrics, 1 owner, great order, very scarce SALE PRICE £11,995 (Save £1,000)

04 PEUGEOT 307 2.0 HDI SW
Silver, grey cloth, alloys, air con, CD radio, 1 owner, totally immaculate
SALE PRICE £8,995 (Save £500)

53 SUZUKI JIMNY 1.3 MODE 3 DOOR
Silver, leather trim, alloys, CD radio, full electrics, power steering, 15,000 miles SALE PRICE £5,795 (Save £400)

Y VW BEETLE 2.0 3 DOOR
Met blue, 35,000 miles, FSH, air con, alloys, headlight 'eye lid' covers, elec windows SALE PRICE £6,995 (Save £1,000)

X AUDI A4 1.8SE 4 DOOR
Jasper green, grey cloth, alloys, air con, only 40,000 miles, immaculate SALE PRICE £6,995 (Save £500)

Y FORD RANGER 2.5TD 4x4 pick up
Met blue, power steering, alloys, full electrics, 17,000 miles, Truckman top, great order
SALE PRICE £7,995 + VAT (Save £500)

* Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Subject to availability & part exchange

SECURE YOUR BRAND NEW 06 PLATE NOW!
OVER 70 PREMIER USED CARS ON DISPLAY NOW UNDERCOVER
Contact Kenneth Hyde SALES HOTLINE: 01475 528035

NEW CAR INDEX

BMW Calterdon Ltd Harbour Road, Inverness Tel. 01463 236566	RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphhead Tel. 01499 302150
FIAT Hazelbank Motors Lynn Road, Oban Tel. 01631 566476	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
HONDA Helensburgh Honda 135 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 675777/www.helensburghhonda.co.uk	TOYOTA Helensburgh Toyota 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www.toyota.co.uk/helensburgh
ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440	VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk
MINI Calterdon Ltd Harbour Road, Inverness Tel. 01463 236567	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

Drive Times



Cars and Commercial Vehicles

PEUGEOT 406 RAPIER 110



Diesel engine, 63,000 miles 02 plate, air conditioning, cd, remote locking and electric windows.

£3995 o.n.o.

Telephone 01880 770239

TOYOTA CAMRY GL ESTATE



immaculate condition, full electric pack, service history, MOT September 06

Telephone 07919 955540 (after 6 p.m.)

£900 o.n.o.

NISSAN ALMERA 1.5 S HATCH



July 01 "Y" reg. SB plates. Green, taxed to Dec, MOT to Oct, air-conditioning, 38,500 miles, dual airbags and new battery.

£3000

Telephone 01631 710630

LANDROVER FREELANDER



X1 station wagon, 98, FSH, 7 months MOT, leather, electric windows / mirrors, CD multi-changer, alloys, average mileage

Telephone 01546 600404

£4000 o.n.o.

IFOR WILLIAMS DOUBLE HORSE BOX

New tyres, good condition

£1500 o.n.o.

Telephone 01546 602995

RENAULT 5 1.4GTS



Mot for full year, taxed for 6 months. 86,000 miles. Good condition throughout. Recent full service including brake discs and pads. Cheap, reliable and economical. Ideal learner or runabout.

Telephone 01583 431774 07890 046847

£350 o.n.o.

VW POLO 1.4



W reg, 5 door hatchback, in Silver with remote central locking, cd player, electric windows. Two owners with full service history, excellent condition.

Telephone 07886 521614

£3649 o.n.o.

RENAULT CLIO PROVENCE 1.2



(1998), 67,000 miles, MOT until May, tax until November

Telephone 01631 770209

£850

MITSUBISHI PAJERO



'97 P, TAX OCT MOT JAN, 100,000 miles, e/w c/l, alarm, imob, clean motor.

£3500 o.n.o.

Telephone 01866 833334 or 07979 003611

SUZUKI GSXR 600



K1 2001 Y REG 1700 MILES, T & T

£3700 o.n.o.

Telephone 01838 200327 (after 7 p.m.)

RENAULT LAGUNA ESTATE



Dynamique sports tourer, 1.8 16v, 2001, shadow blue, Mot and Tax'd July 2006, new clutch and fitted tow bar, mobile phone hands free kit and charger. Excellent condition

£4650 o.n.o.

Telephone 01546 602257

FORD MONDEO GLX 1.8 16V



L reg, 1 year MOT, Tax till August 06, electric windows, mirrors, central locking, sunroof, brand new tyres all around very good condition

£640 o.n.o.

Telephone 07919 315406

PEUGEOT 406 1.8



petrol. 1999 T reg, MOT 6 months, taxed, 75,000 miles, fsh, wine red, excellent condition inside and out, can deliver

Telephone 07818 264999

£950 no offers

MAZDA B2500 STRETCH CAB PICK UP



52 registered, White, 2.4 Turbo Diesel, Tow Hitch, Truckman Canopy, 21,000 miles, Taxed & MOT till 01/12/06

£6000 + VAT

Telephone 01866 844229

YAMAHA TRX 850



1996. Under 10k Red. Taxed and MOT

Telephone 07802 549879

£1800 o.n.o.

HONDA CIVIC COUPE LSI



M Reg 1994, Green, MOT'd February 2007. 81,000 miles

Telephone 01586 554240 07776 148000

£1250 o.n.o.

SEAT IBIZA CUPRA SPORT



99(S), 7 months MOT 6 months Tax, only 67,000 miles, Excellent condition, Just serviced Brand new 17" alloys, Call for full spec

£1600 o.n.o.

Telephone 01770 700771 07887 551222

NISSAN TERRANO SPORT 2.7 TDI



May 2001 "Y" Reg, Metallic paint, Chrome sidesteps, alloys, half leather interior, air conditioning, six disc CD Changer, Alarm, Immobiliser, Tow bar, Privacy glass, roof bars and cross bars, 63 K Miles, FSH, 7 x Seats.

£7995 o.n.o.

Telephone 07960 591839 or 07704 177896

FORD ESCORT 1.8 DIESEL



2002, 51 plate, long MOT, very clean, Ford fitted bulkhead, woodlined, very well maintained, very economical, great driver, genuine reason for sale. Re-advertised due to time wasters

Telephone 01397 713880 07776 283842

£1975 o.n.o.

SUZUKI QUADRUNNER



(1994) Lt250

Telephone 01586 552498 07762 829984

£850 o.n.o.

RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION 1.6 16V



Y reg, 38,000 miles MOT September 06 Taxed September 06 Service history, CD player, A/C

Telephone 01546 602254

£3995

RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 RT SPORT



1997 Mot Dec, Tax'd Sept 2006. New exhaust, including Catalytic Converter. Good runner

Telephone 01631 562980

£995 o.n.o.

SERIES 3 LANDROVER



Galvanised chassis, 1 year mot.

Telephone 01631 710288 or 07770 623486

FORD TRANSIT MINI-BUS



F reg, 6 seats, MOT August, 6 months tax, excellent condition, full service history, would make a good camper van conversion

£900 o.n.o.

Telephone 01631 571252

HONDA XR 125 ADVENTURE SPORT



With helmet, learner legal, good all rounder, economical, tax Jan 07 V.G.C.

£1750

Telephone 01631 562321 07775 505004

AUDI A8 3.7 V8 QUATTRO



2000 X Reg, 76,000 miles, FSH, full electric pack, Heated leather seats, A/C parking, Alloys etc. Excellent condition.

Telephone 01583 431633 07810 818866

£10,250 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL CORSA 1.2



Blue, M reg, MOT'd till Sept, good condition, 2 door

Telephone 01631 562250

£750 o.n.o.

TOYOTA RAV 4 GX VVT-I



53 reg, silver, 5 door, sunroof, side steps, CD player, ABS, new brakes. FSH. 6 months road tax. Warranty till Sept 06. 27,000 miles. Guide price £11,300 will sell for

£10,900 o.n.o.

Telephone 01838 400360 after 5pm (Bridge of Orchy)

FORD ESCORT 75 TD



V reg 99, 86,000 miles, 12 months Mot and Tax. New roof rack. Good condition

Telephone 01631 567180 07900 954312

£1275

SWIFT CHALLENGER 530SE



4 berth, end bathroom, 1 year old with extras

Telephone 0141 6386570

£10,600

ROVER 220 TURBO DIESEL



R Reg, Taxed and MOT'd to May, Good condition, Lovely wee runner.

Telephone 01586 830288

£800 o.n.o.

VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT SPORT

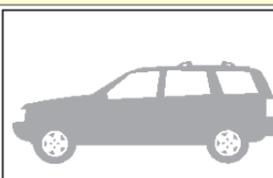


Blue, 20 valve turbo tiptronic, MOT'd and taxed, 4 door saloon

Telephone 01631 562250

£2500 o.n.o.

FRONTERA 4X4 TRANSGLOBE 2.5 TDS



1998, LWB, only 52,000 miles, all leather, alloys, PAS, very smart 4x4, MOT June 2006, any inspection welcome.

£2650

Telephone 01586 552283 or 07789 034353

FORD ESCORT VAN 1.8



DIESEL, 1995, towbar, roof rack, mot'd and taxed, selling due to requiring larger van.

Telephone 07950 253281 07776 157866

£750

AVONDALE 4 BERTH CARAVAN



1997, Excellent condition. Must be viewed.

Telephone 01770 700733

£4300

FIAT PUNTO SPORT 1.2 16V



R Reg, 3 door, alloy wheels with 4 new tyres, Sunroof, Elec Windows, CD Player, Rear Spoiler, Cheap insurance, great first driver. Fully service with 6 months M.O.T. 65,000 miles.

Telephone 07871 056096 01586 820226

£1650 o.n.o.

RENAULT LAGUNA ALIZA



2000, x reg, 1900cc, petrol, tow bar, lights, MOT Oct '06, sunroof, electric windows, CD player, many new parts, needs new water pump. can be viewed in Fort Williams.

Telephone 07774 156356

£950

NISSAN VANETTE 2.0 DIESEL



M reg Mot March 2007, taxed Aug 2006. 2, 4 or 6 seats, great load area, only 66,000 miles, good condition.

Telephone 01631 720442 07787 351008

£1075 o.n.o.

STATIC CARAVAN ABI RIO VISTA



28' x 10', fridge, cooker, fire, good condition

Telephone 01631 730522 01852 300159

£3500 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8,



T reg, nice condition, new CD, new timing belt, taxed, new MOT

Telephone 01631 570689

£1650 o.n.o.

RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.9TDI



1999 reg, MOT and tax, new parts been fitted for MOT, clean inside and out, twin sunroofs and electric windows, alloy wheels and towbar

Telephone 01631 564809 07796 752974

£2250 o.n.o.

IFOR WILLIAMS TRAILER



8ft x 5ft, twin axle, drop sides, hitch lock and, spare wheel, as new

Telephone 07785 537833

£1000

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 001631 568000

Coll Simmentals to 151p per kilo at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their Annual March Sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. A catalogue entry of 229 cattle and 200 sheep sold at keen rates and in keeping with current trends.

Bullocks sold to a top price per head of £512 for Limousin crosses from Tayvallich Estate and 151pence per kilo for Simmental crosses from Cornaigmore, Coll.

Heifers per head sold to £408 for Charolais crosses from Garraron and Melfort Farms and 130pence per kilo for Charolais crosses from Tayvallich Estate.

Breeding Cattle sold to £680 for a second calving cows with calf at foot from Keilator.

Kintyre stock amongst Stirling prizelist

UNITED Auctions had forward 1832 store cattle and 48 cast cows, plus 1384 store hoggets and grit ewes at Stirling on Wednesday.

Bullocks sold to 161p for a Charolais cross off of Cretelevane to average at 128.2p per kilo while heifers sold to 155p for another Charolais cross from the same home to average 119.9p per kilo.

Cast cows sold to 88p per kilo for a Limousin cross off Kinneil Mill to average at 67.8ppk

In the show prior to the sale, Kintyre cattle featured strongly in the prizelist.

Single bullocks:
1 Mr Brewster, Wr Boreland (CharX) £675 to Mr Jackson, South Lodge, Ochil
2 Mr McIntyre, Glenelvie (CharX) £560 to Mr Henderson, Little Ythie
3 Mr Glen, Saddell HF (CharX) £650 to Mr Stevenson, Balmacollie

Single heifers:
1 Mr Lines, Killocrow (BBX) £650 to Mr Buchan, Overton of Knaven
2 Mr McCorkindale, Macharoch (CharX) £580 to Mr Dunlop, Nr South Bar
3 Mr Brewster, Wr Boreland (CharX) £600 to Mr Brown, Inch

Pen of 4 Bullocks:
1 Mr Brewster, Wr Boreland (CharX) £670 to Mr Jackson, South Lodge
2 Mr McVicar, Middle Ballat (CharX) £635 to Mr Dandie, Learielaw
3 Mr Hutchison, Robertson Mains (LimX) £550 to Mr Adam, Lr Greenyards

Pen of 4 Heifers:
1 Mr Lines, Killocrow (LimX) £580 to Mr Dunlop, Nr South Bar
2 Mr McIntyre, Glenelvie (CharX) £550 to Mr Henderson, Kettlehill
3 Mr Glen, Saddell HF (CharX) £570 to Mr Stevenson, Balmacollie

Pen of 4 Bullocks:
1 Mr McLaren, Causewayhead (CharX) £695 to Mr Jackson, South Lodge
2 Mr McArthur, Cretelevane (CharX) £520 to Mr Low, Pitkennerie
Pen of 8 Heifers:
1 Mr McVicar, Middle Ballat (CharX) £525 to Mr Waddell, Pownyrie
2 Mr McArthur, Cretelevane (CharX) £440 to Mr Ross, Milton of Kennay

Texel feeding ewes to £69 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1269 store and breeding sheep of all classes at its fortnightly sale.

Store lambs maintained recent rates whilst breeding sheep met a satisfactory demand. Prime and feeding ewes met a considerable increase in prices.

Suffolk cross lambs from Springfield sold to £43.50 with Texel feeding ewes from The Cloy to £69.

RICE HORSEBOX TRAILER
New tyres
Good condition
£650 o.n.o.
Telephone
01855 821372

COVENTRY for FENCING
Scotland's No. 1
WIRE, STOCK FENCING,
BARBED, HIGH TENSILE,
MILD STEEL - BEST PRICES
TIMBER DIRECT
FROM OUR SAWMILL
Depots throughout Scotland
Delivery available
For a competitive quote
please call **01631 566866**

Business Ring expands with new office to be based on Campbeltown

ARGYLL and the Islands Rural Business Ring has announced that it is to open an administration office in Campbeltown later this month.

Along with this centre, a new part time administration assistant post is to be created to help with an ever increasing demand from members. The successful candidate will play a vital role in the future growth of this successful organisation.

Established in the spring of 2005, the Rural Business Ring is a non profit making co-operative which aims to help members improve the profitability and efficiency of their own businesses.

One of the ways it does this is by offering members

with 'spare' equipment, labour and expertise the opportunity to earn extra income by matching these services to members who have a corresponding need.

Members using these services also benefit, as they can access labour and equipment when needed through the Ring without investing heavily themselves in these items.

With a current 120-strong membership, the Ring is also an increasingly influential partner in the sourcing of products, commodities and utilities (phones and electricity) supply through the power of the co-operative.

As many business sectors in Argyll and the islands face dramatic price increases for raw materials, the Ring helps to keep these cost burdens to a minimum.

Additional funding has been provided by Argyll and the Islands Enterprise (AIE) to help finance the office and the new post.

AIE has also made available a great deal of business support and advice, for which the manager and directors are grateful. The Ring also receives valued ongoing support from Leader Plus.

The Ring manager, Colin Cameron said: 'I am really excited by this development. The business of the Ring is all about professional service, and the new administration assistant will play a key role in enhancing the service to members.'

'I should also be able to spend more time meeting local

people and discussing the issues that matter. By listening to our members, I can shape the services the Ring provides to match what people actually need at the sharp end of business. Many of our members are already using the Ring as an extension to their own office. They know that we will help them in any way we can, which takes the pressure off them in many ways.'

'Our new office will not only provide employment in the Campbeltown area but will allow the Ring to provide an even better service to our members right across Argyll and Bute and Arran.'

Anyone interested in learning more about the Rural Business Ring can contact the Colin Cameron on 01369 860117.



Continuing difficult weather conditions reduced the entry at Oban Livestock Centre on Tuesday

Ring means business at Tarbert AGM

ARGYLL and the Islands Rural Business Ring held its second annual general meeting in Tarbert on Friday and its first AGM after a full year in operation.

After a successful year, the Ring is fast establishing itself as the first stop for businesses in Argyll, Bute and Arran for a whole range of products and services.

Ring chairperson, Rory Colville opened the meeting and began with a reflection on the huge amount of progress made since the notion of such a Ring was first floated seven years ago.

He congratulated the manager, Colin Cameron, on his commitment to realising the vision of establishing a Rural Business Ring in Argyll and the islands to sustain the rural economy.

Mr Colville added: 'Personally, I am more convinced now than I was seven years ago that the Ring is capable of making a real difference to the

future wellbeing of our rural communities.'

He then closed by thanking the members of the original steering group, the current board of directors, staff at SAOS, Highland Business Services, and Iain Campbell of Hecla Consultants.

Mr Cameron added that all kinds of businesses are now seeing the benefits of membership by increasing their business and work opportunities and their buying power through the Ring network.

Colin Cameron, in his role as Ring manager gave an account of the years activities from his own viewpoint. He reiterated the point that the Ring had made real strides in the first year. Products and commodities sourced for members had formed the bulk of turnover, whilst equipment and labour hire had played a slightly lesser role in the first year.

Mr Cameron noted that

this was noticeably changing as the Ring becomes a familiar partner when members are in need of equipment, machinery and labour.

Mr Cameron added that all kinds of businesses are now seeing the benefits of membership by increasing their business and work opportunities and their buying power through the Ring network.

Rory Colville intimated his intention to stand down as chairperson at this meeting, with Alastair Barge of Otter Ferry being voted in as the new chair.

The meeting closed with Alastair Barge thanking Mr Colville for his energy in championing the creation of the Ring in the first place, and also for his invaluable contribution in the chair during the preceding operating year.

There was unanimous agreement from the board of directors and all in attendance that these words were well deserved.

The meeting closed with Alastair Barge thanking Mr Colville for his energy in championing the creation of the Ring in the first place, and also for his invaluable contribution in the chair during the preceding operating year.

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Proposed reform rings death knell for crofts

THE new Crofting Reform Bill will sound the death knell for crofting within 10 years, a Highland politician has warned.

Brian Wilson, a former Scottish Minister, said the free market envisaged by the Bill, if enacted in its current state, would kill it off and what was needed was regulation.

Other Highlands and islands politicians say the Bill does not deal with the real issues that crofters wanted addressed.

The Bill was launched last week in Inverness following lengthy consultation with crofting representatives, crofting communities and political representatives

in the Highlands.

It gives extra powers to the Crofters Commission to create new crofts on the Isle of Arran and other communities which can demonstrate a beneficial need.

New crofters will not have the right to buy, unlike existing crofters.

The commission can also enforce the appropriate use of a croft - and take a croft away if this does not happen.

Transfer tenancy

The Bill also accepts that the right to assign a croft or transfer the tenancy does have a market value.

Mr Wilson added: 'Crofting tenure has been the most successful system in West-

ern Europe for maintaining population in ultra-peripheral areas.

'That is precisely because it is based on community values and regulation rather than being part of the free market in land.'

Jim Mather, MSP (SNP) said some aspects of the Bill were to be welcomed but added: 'My concern is that a free market for crofts will result in a free-for-all that will completely undermine the present system of crofting tenure.'

LibDem MSP John Farquhar Munro said that during consultation he felt Scottish Ministers had understood crofters' anxieties, but added: 'I am disappointed that the Bill has not been amended to address those concerns,' he said.

The Bill was cautiously welcomed by Scottish Crofting Foundation director John Laing.

But he also said regulation was absolutely the key to the future of crofting.

Maureen Macmillan Labour MSP Highlands and Islands also called for the speculation on crofting assignments to be addressed, especially in desirable areas where they might change hands for large sums of money.

Deputy environment minister Rhona Brankin after the launch said the Bill would ensure that a croft owner or tenant would be obliged to live on and work the croft in an appropriate way and that this was in response to people buying up crofts for large amounts of money and then not working them.

'We need to ensure that young people can get a start in crofting and that some of the excesses and speculation in croft land can be curtailed,' she said.

The Bill goes through two more stages before being enacted, giving time for any changes to be made.

Market reports

DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs
Suffolk cross - £43.50
Springfield; £39.50
Bruiach Mills; £38 Delnymuir.
Texel cross - £43, £42.20
Bruiach Mill; £43; £39.80
Woodend.
Cheviot - £42.80
13 Inverbreackie Drive; £42.50
Woodend; £40.50
Achenault Farms.
Cross - £39.50
Bruiach Mills; £29.1 & 2 Ose.

Feeding ewes
Texel - £69
The Cloy; £63
Wester Moy.
Beltex cross - £58.50, £53.50
Braes of Coulmore.
Suffolk cross - £53
The Cloy.
Suffolk - £48
The Cloy.
Mule - £46
Easter Arbol; £41
The Cloy; £31.50
Easter Rarichie.
Texel cross - £44.50, £44
Wester Moy.
Cheviot - £43
13 Inverbreackie Drive; £35
Wester Moy; £34.50
Easter Rarichie.

Blueface Leicester - £38
The Arr.
Blackface - £38
Balchraggan.
In-lamb gimmers - Blackface - £32, £30
Brae Eynort.
Cross - £23.50
Brae Eynort.

In-lamb ewes
Cheviot - £48
(twice) Milton Muie.
Blackface - £27
Uiginish; £26
Brae Eynort.
Cross - £24
Uiginish.
Wedders
Cross - £24.50
Wester Moy.
Blackface - £21
Glendoe Estates.

Rams
Texel - £30
Woodend.
Blackface - £28.50
Balchraggan.
Cheviot - £22.50
8 Balmeanch.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 145p, 133p, 129p(4) and 127p(3)
Keills Estate.

£348(4) Keills Estate.
Belgian BlueX: £442, £438, £398 and £362(3)
Garraron and Melfort Farms.
CharolaisX: £442 and £438
Balliemanoeh Farm £432(8), £392(6) and £368(8)
Tayvallich Estates.
HerefordX: £408, £372(2) and £348(2)
Middleton Farm, Treet.
LimousinX: £512
Tayvallich Estate £508 and £452
Balliemanoeh Farm £448
Garraron and Melfort Farms £442(3)
Balliemanoeh Farm £438(3) and £428
Garraron and Melfort Farms £418
Keills Estate £412(7)
Garraron and Melfort Farms £382(2)
Balliemanoeh Farm £372(7)
Middleton Farm, Treet £350
Tayvallich Estates.
ShorthornX: £378
Balliemanoeh Farm.

SimmentalX: £448
Tayvallich Estates £422(2) and £392
Cornaigmore, Coll.
Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: £318 (2)
Keills Estate
CharolaisX: £408
Garraron and Melfort Farms £358(7) and £352(4)
Tayvallich Estates.
LimousinX: £352(6)
Garraron and Melfort Farms £348(3)
Tayvallich Estates £322(4)
Garraron and Melfort Farms £318 and £312(2)
Balliemanoeh Farm.
SimmentalX: £348
Tayvallich Estates £328
Cornaigmore, Coll.

Breeding cattle
Cows with calf at foot: £680 and £500
Keilator Farm
In-calf cows: £500 and £480
Moleigh Farm
In-calf heifers: £600(3), £580 and £550(4)
Balmeanch Farm.

Belgian BlueX: 137p, 134p(3), 122p and 121p
Garraron and Melfort Farms.
CharolaisX: 150p(6), 142p(8), 139p(2), 133p(6)
Tayvallich Estate 133p and 130p
Balliemanoeh Farm 127p
Tayvallich Estates.
HerefordX: 143p
136p(2), 134p(2), 120p and 118p
Middleton Farm, Treet.
LimousinX: 145p
Keills Estate 143p(7) and 136p(3)
Middleton Farm, Treet 135p
Tayvallich Estates 134p(5)
Balliemanoeh Farm 133p(3)
Garraron and Melfort Farms 133p
Keills Estate and Middleton Farm, Treet(2)
127p
Balliemanoeh Farm, Tayvallich Est and Balliemanoeh Farm 125p(7) and 122p
Garraron and Melfort Farms.
ShorthornX: 133p
Middleton Farm, Treet.
SimmentalX: 151p
Cornaigmore, Coll 144p
Tayvallich Estates 139p(3) and 134p(2)
Cornaigmore, Coll 128p
Tayvallich Estates 124p
Lower Tervine.

Heifers
Aberdeen AngusX: 110p(2), 106p and 103p(3)
Keills Estate.
Belgian BlueX: 103p(5)
Garraron and Melfort Farms.
CharolaisX: 130p(4), 125p(3), 123p(9) and 116p
Tayvallich Est LimousinX: 127p
Balliemanoeh Farm and 10
Eoligarry, Barra 122p(2)
Glenshellach, Oban 116p(3)
Tayvallich Est 115p(4)
10 Eoligarry, Barra 113p(2)
Balliemanoeh Farm 112p(6)
Garraron and Melfort Farms.
SimmentalX: 126p(2)
Cornaigmore, Coll 116p
Tayvallich Estates

STIRLING - United Auctions
Lambs: Luckenburn (Tex) £67, Guardswell (Tex) £66.50, West Balgair & Guardswell (Tex) £66, Guardswell (Tex) £65, Luckenburn (Tex) £64, Shenlarich & Drumcairn (Tex) £63.50, Gilston (SuffX) £59.50, Guardswell (SuffX) £59, Merryhill (SuffX) £54.80, Newton Of Coldwells, Gilston (Chev) £54.50, Gilston (Chev) & Newton Of Coldwells (BF) £53.80, Glenmollachan (Mule) £52.80, Coulshill & Minnonie & Newton Of Coldwells (Chev) & Coulshill (BF) £52.50, Ben Lawers (BF) £52.20, Shenlarich (BF) £52, Auchenbrae (Mule) £51.80
Lambs per kilo: Guardswell (Tex) 150p, Luckenburn (Tex) 148.8p, Guardswell (Tex) 147.7p, Moulin (Tex) 147.6p, Luckenburn (Tex) 146.5p, West Balgair (Tex) 143.4p, Drumcairn (Tex) 141.1p, Buses (SuffX) 134.6p, Moulin (SuffX) & Coulshill (Chev) 126.8p, Minnonie (Chev) 126.2p, Moulin (SuffX) 125.6p, Gilston (Chev) 125.1p, Ballaird (SuffX) & Minnonie (Chev) 125p, Auchgoyle (SuffX) 124.8p, Shenlarich (BF) 123.8p, Moulin (BF) 123.6p, Newton of Coldwells (BF) 122.6p, Glenalloch (BF) 122.2p, Burnshot (BF) 121.9p, Dykehole (Mule) 120p, Coulshill (Mule) 119.5p, Auchenbrae (Mule) 119p, Nether Enoch (Mule) 117.5p
Ewes: Stonefieldhill (Tex) £70, (Suff) £54, Letham (X) £53, £50, East Skeroblin (BF) £34.20

STIRLING - United Auctions
Bullocks
Yonderhaugh (SimX) £775, Auchensalt (BBX) £730, Midtown (LimX) £705, Braendam (CharX) £700, Laigh Kilphin (ShX) £690, Dunrod (AAX) £655, Ormiston Mains (Fr) £640, Falside Hill (BAX) £635,
Heifers - Killocrow (BBX) & Auchensalt (BAX) £650, Wester Borland (CharX) £645, Milton (LimX) £640, Putechan (SimX) £630, Ormiston Mains (AAX) £530,
Bullocks per kilo - Cretelevane (CharX) 161p, Killocrow (LimX) 160p, Middle Ballat (SimX) 146p, Braendam (AAX) 132p, Killocrow (BBX) 130p, Mid Knockglass (BAX) 131p, Ormiston Mains (FR) 103p,
Heifers per kilo - Cretelevane (CharX) 155p, Killocrow (BBX) 151p, Cretelevane (LimX) 140p, Braendam (AAX) 121p, Putechan (SimX) 129p,
Cast cows - Kinneil Mill (LimX) £630, Quixwood (BBX) £570, Fairfield (SimX) £560, Easter Greenhill (SimX) £515, Wester Highgate (Fr) £465
Hoggets - Morenish (SuffX) £43, Dunrod (SuffX) £42, Craighdu (Tex) £41.20, Ledlation (Tex) £40.20, Laganbunioch (Mule) £40, Riverside (Chev) £38.20, Ferndale (BF) £34.80, Mayfield (BF) £33.80, Broughmore (BF) £32.80,
Ewes with lambs at foot - East Mains (Singles) £38
In-lamb ewes - Hillside (twins) £60, Drumdowie (Twins) £48, East Mains (Mule) £46, Hillside (Singles) £43, East Mains (Singles) £35

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Happy 18th Birthday Hannah 12/03/2006 Love Mum and Dad

PERSONALS 41 years ago at David MacBrayne a young man as a pursuer did train he became a port manager on the shore in charge of ships by the score now it's time for him to let go it's his birthday THE BIG 60 lots of love Janis, Julie and Stewart. xxx

THANK YOU I Robert Didecock would like to say a big thank you to my family and friends for making my party on Saturday night such a special occasion. I would also like to thank everyone for their beautiful cards and gifts. Last but not least a big thanks to the boys Neil and Alan for their entertainment and the girls of Oban Rugby Club.

Morvern and Malcolm and both sets of grandparents would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for their kindness and generosity since the birth of Calum.

Happy 60th birthday to the macaroni man. Dance with a hankie as fast as you can See you at the Milton on the 30th June Sunshine and Crete will be here soon. Best wishes R & M

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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was raised for donation to the Inver Nevis House. Thanks to Spean Bridge Hotel for refreshments.

CLARK - The family of late Katie Clark, formerly of Sinclair Drive, Oban and Ardenstuir, Kilmelford, wish to thank doctors, nurses and carers at Eader Glinn and Lynn of Lorn Care Home for their endless support and devotion to duty. To Rev Alastair MacLachlan who conducted the service at Kilmelford and graveside to organist Bob MacMinn, Dorothy Carmichael and Georgina Dalton for church heating etc. To Hamish Hoey and Son and (Daughter) for professional services, to Kings Knoll for excellent lunch and all relatives, friends and neighbours who paid their respects, sent flowers, cards and phone calls, thank you all.

COOPER - Tricia, Caroline and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many telephone calls, sympathy cards, Mass cards and floral tributes following the sad loss of their mum Dorothy. Special thanks to the doctors and staff of Ward C, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital for their care and support and also to Dr Alison Murray for her kindness to mum over the years. Grateful thanks also to Canon Donald MacKay for the very comforting funeral service, to Hamish Hoey and his family for efficient and caring funeral arrangements and to all who paid their respects at the Mass and graveside, finally to the staff of the Argyllshire Gathering for providing the much appreciated soup and sandwiches after the funeral. Dorothy will be sorely missed by us all.

CULLEY - Anne, Maureen and Sandy wish to thank Monsignor MacKinnon and the priests who celebrated Mass with Father Sandy. Family and friends for their Mass cards, messages of sympathy and the love and support shown to us on the recent loss of John. Thanks also to Mike McFall and his staff and to Nevis Bank Hotel. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions. £385 was raised for the British Heart Foundation.

JACKSON - The family of Alastair Jackson would like to express their thanks to the Rev JA McCormick for providing valuable advice and support to the family and for his uplifting Address during the funeral service at Ardchattan Kirk on Friday, March 3. Sincere thanks to D & A Munn, Funeral Directors, for the superb services rendered at Ardchattan Kirk and Dalnottar Crematorium. The family will always be grateful to the staff at Ossian Retirement Home and the Doctors at Connel Surgery for their kind attention and care and for the kind sympathies extended to the family by relatives and friends during this sad time.

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LEITCH - In loving memory of my dear wife Myra, mum and grandma, who died so suddenly on March 9, 2005. One year has passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. Your life was one of kindly deeds. A helping hand for other's needs. Your memory is a keep sake with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping. We have you in our hearts.

- Ivor, Neil, Debbie and family.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my dear wife, mum and gran, Charlotte, (Lottie) who died at her home 'Sunnyville', Comaigbeg, Treen, on March 9, 1993. I miss your smile, your cheery ways. I miss the things you used to say. And when old times I do recall. It's then I miss you most of all.

- Inserted by her loving husband, Hugh. Loving and kind in all her ways. Upright and just to the end of her days. Sincere and true in heart and mind. What a beautiful memory to leave behind.

- Ian, Fiona, Kirsteen and Niall.

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- John, Morag and family.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum, gran and great-gran, Lottie, who passed away March 9, 1993, at Sunnyville, Isle of Treen. A cluster of golden memories. Sprayed with a million tears. Wishing God had spared you. For just a few more years. Love and miss you, mum.

- Rita, Duncan, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Bonnyrigg.

MACLEOD - It seems so strange that those we need. And those we love the best. Are just the ones God calls away. And takes them home to rest.

- Love, Johann x

MACMILLAN - In loving memory of Jane, died March 11, 1983, aged 74 years. Loving you always. Forgetting you never.

- Mum, dad and Graham.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my darling son Allan, died March 11, 2004. Not just today. But everyday. I think of you. Love you and miss you. Mum x

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my beloved nephew Allan, died March 11, 2004. Loved and missed always.

- Auntie Ann and Alasdair.

MACPHAIL - In loving memory of Allan, who passed away March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts.

- Jennifer x.

MACPHAIL - In memory of Allan, March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts.

- Maureen.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of a much loved son and brother, Fraser, who died tragically in an accident on March 8, 2002. In God's hands but forever with us and in our hearts.

- Mum, Dad, Catriona, Niall, Ruairidh and Arran.

McFADYEN - In loving memory of my son, Richard, killed March 1, 1980. You are always in my mind.

- Love Mum x.

NICOLSON - In loving memory of John who died March 6, 1999. Always in our thoughts.

- Joan and family.

NICHOLSON - In loving memory of Jessie, died March 11, 2000, wife of the late Malcolm. If tears could build a stairway. And memories a lane. We would walk right up to Heaven. And bring you home again.

- Inserted by Donald, William, Catherine, Jane, Caroline and families.

RENNIE - In loving and grateful memory of Mary Elizabeth Rennie (née Robertson), one time of Oban, Earraid and Bellshill; passed away March 15, 2005, a year ago. Cherished forever and always in our hearts.

- Inserted by the family.

STODDART - In loving memory of our dear mother Isabella Livingstone, died March 11, 1990. Always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by family, Glasgow.

IN MEMORIAM

ANDERSON - Remembering with love today and every day our dear daughter Catherine who died suddenly on March 7, 1993. Fondly remembered.

- Mum, Dad and family. Oban, London and Southampton.

BEATON - In fond and loving memory of Hugh, a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandpa, who died March 6, 1999. Loving thoughts of years together. Hold memories that will last forever.

- Inserted by his loving wife, Bella and family.

BLACK - Treasured memories of a dear dad and granda, Alexander Black, died March 8, 2005, also our mum and nana, Ethel Black, died December 23, 1994. For those we love but see no longer, Heavenly Father grant them Thy peace.

- Henry and Etive, Lily and John, Jim and Kirsty and all grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

BLOOR - In loving memory of my dear sister, Margaret, died March 12, 1999. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day.

- Jimmy, Cathy and family.

BURTON - For sons and brothers, David who died April 2, 1972. Paul who died March 3, 1996. Always in our hearts and minds. Forever Young - From Mum, Dad, Kevin, Eilidh and Chris.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear sister and our dear aunt Morag, who died suddenly on March 7, 2005. Sadly missed.

- Bella and family (Onich).

CLARK - Treasured memories of Margaret who was taken from us on March 9, 1997. Not just today but every day I remember.

- Love Mum. Time passes, memories stay. Loved and remembered every day.

- Dad and Lotta. No words, no verse. Mum can ever say. How much we miss you every day.

- Love from Natalie and Carrie Anne. No need for words, we'll never forget.

- Love Marilyn, Matthew and Aileen. Love and miss you always Auntie Margaret.

- Love from Caroline, Robert, Sharree and Darren xxx.

COUTTS - Treasured memories of my dear mother, Ishbel, who died on March 8, 1992, my dear father, Alex, died on June 17, 1976, my aunt, Jean, died on October 26, 1988. Quietly remembered every day.

- Cathie, Inverness.

LEITCH - In loving memory of my dear wife Myra, mum and grandma, who died so suddenly on March 9, 2005. One year has passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. Your life was one of kindly deeds. A helping hand for other's needs. Your memory is a keep sake with which we'll never part. God has you in his keeping. We have you in our hearts.

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Church NEWS

Thought for the week

Dunbeg celebrates its silver jubilee

THE CHURCH in Dunbeg started in the early 1940s when the Admiralty built prefabs to house dock workers and the village of Dunstaffnage was born. The Church at that time was a Nissan hut which served Dunstaffnage and the Royal Marine base beside it; the Nissan huts continued to be used. Dunstaffnage grew into the village of Dunbeg and the people wanted a proper Church as the Nissan hut was in a bad condition. The ship half-pennies collections were started by

the Sunday school which numbered about 150 at that time. A committee was formed and fund raising was started - sponsored knits; Christmas and street fairs; parable of the talents; monthly street collections; afternoon teas in houses etc. The money was raised and a volunteer work force

began work. The Church was dedicated on Friday April 24 1981 by the Rt. Rev William B Johnston the Moderator of the General Assembly. Officiating ministers were Rev E McLachlan, Rev D MacCallum and Rev A Ingram. On Sunday April 23, 2006 at 10.30am in St

Oran's Church, Connel, and noon in the Dunbeg Church we will be celebrating 25 years of worship in Dunbeg Church and finishing the day with a Songs of Praise at 6.30pm in Dunbeg Church. This is a time to give thanks to God for all he done for us, remembering of His great love for us

when Christ Jesus died on the cross for our sins. The Church is not just the building but the people of God who come each Sunday to worship Him and give thanks for His faithfulness and promises that can never fail. **Bill Harvey Elder and Lay Preacher**

Fairtrade fortnight

IT's Fairtrade fortnight so look out for events at shops and organisations around Oban to mark the occasion. The Co Op presented Oban Hospice with a selection of its Fairtrade produce to mark the occasion. Left to right: Ian Malloy, Anne MacCallum, Karen King, Donna MacLeod and Marri Molloy



CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact **David Mudie (Treasurer)**
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

Macmillan cancer relief
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Macmillan Cancer Relief
79-81 Laurieston Gardens
Hyndland, Glasgow, G12 9QU
Freephone 0800 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland

Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH

Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to **Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

DESTINY CHURCH
OBAN
Sunday 12 March
Drummore School
Lower Soroba
Oban
11 a.m.
And meeting on Thursday evening, 7.30 p.m., in the Lorne
Speaker: **Christina Macaulay**
Telephone: **01631 564283**
www.destiny-church.com

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) LOCHABER AND LORN MEETING FOR WORSHIP
held the Second Sunday of each month
11 a.m. - 12 noon
Port Appin Hall
Visitors welcome
For further information telephone 01631 730594 or 01631 730429

MEMORIALS

MACLACHLAN'S OBAN MONUMENTAL WORKS
Design and Price Lists on Request
Cleaning and Restoration
Gravestone and Memorial Seats
Gravestone
Lochmullin - Oban
(01631) 566629
563785 (evening)

Mallaig says farewell to oldest resident, Barbara MacKay



Clan MacKay in the late 1940s. From left to right: Barbara MacKay, Katy MacKay, Jessie Evans, Nan MacInnes, Teen Lanyon, Madge Rattray, Peggy Benzie and Mary MacLellan. Photo: Geo. Evans



Barbara MacKay on her 98th birthday

WHEN Mallaig lost its oldest inhabitant a fortnight ago, a significant witness to a century of Mallaig's history died. After a short illness Barbara MacKay died peacefully at the Belford Hospital on February 20. She was a mere one hundred and four days short of her 100th birthday. Barbara was born on the of June 4, 1906, at 1 Railway Buildings to John and Jessie MacKay. Her father was a crofter from Sheildaig who came to Mallaig to work on the railway and, in time, he married a local lass, Jessie Gillies. Barbara was their fourth

child in a family that eventually numbered ten, eight of whom were girls. Through her mother, Barbara was great-great-grand daughter of William and Catherine Gillies, John Gillies and Catherine MacLellan, Lachlan Gillies and Christina MacKinnon, and John MacDonald and Margaret MacLellan, most of whom resided along the shores of Loch Nevis, in the 1700's. At that time, of course, very few families lived in what has now become Mallaig. If any of the above couples are in your family tree, you are certainly related to Barbara MacKay. Barbara grew up amongst

her large family, surrounded by playmates from other often equally large families at Railway Buildings. When it became time to leave school she followed many another Highland girl into 'service', in her case to Helensburgh and Shandon. In her early twenties, she returned home to work first in the 'Refresh', and then in Archibald MacLellan's general provisions store (where the Marine Bar is now situated). Barbara was to spend the best part of 30 years serving there and her 'tin of broken biscuits for the bairns' is remembered fondly by many a senior citizen of Mallaig. She always dealt very courteously with the islanders who sent their orders to the shop and many a letter was treasured for its insight into island life.

Folklore
Lots of phrases and expressions contained in these letters passed into the family's folklore. Who remembers: 'Half price for dogs' and 'Have you a rubber boot, size 8? Good, I'll take two?'
Some readers will have memories of Barbara working elsewhere and those memories are correct, for Barbara finished her working life alongside Bertie Maclean and Willie Kirk in D & M Maclean's (where the Tourist Office is now). Wallace Brown loved to tell the tale of his father Gordon's arrival at Mallaig Station. In those days, many years before Mallaig got TV, the arrival of each train provided entertainment and would be witnessed by any who had the time to spare. As Wallace told it, his father got off the train and the first two people he spied were Barbara MacKay and her younger sister, Peggy. He thought to himself: 'If this is what the lassies are like, then Mallaig's the place for me!' He used to add that he truly thought he had arrived in Heaven.

Addresses
Apart from her teen years in 'service', Barbara spent the whole of her hundred years at two Mallaig addresses: first at 1, Railway Buildings (now Victoria Place) and, for the last 62 years, at 5, ClanRanald Terrace. For many years Barbara was a close friend of Nell Duncan, the baker's widow. Initially, she looked after Nell's son, Billie, when he was a lad, and latterly she was Nell's friend and companion. After his mother died, Barbara cared for her grand nephew, Fraser and became a surrogate mother to him. Always ready to try a new experience, at the grand age of 91 years, Barbara had her first flight when she visited Florida. Now, whether it was due to being happy, eating lots of oily fish and tattie, or simply being lucky enough to have inherited great genes, Barbara lived an exceptionally healthy life, only spending time in hospital in her last few years. Indeed, as she said herself: "How many people in their nineties fall head first down the stairs and live to tell the tale?" Barbara is survived by her sister, Nan, 13 nephews/nieces and multitudinous great, and great-great, nephews and nieces. Matriarch of the clan for the last 24 years, Barbara will be sadly missed and fondly remembered.

BIRTHS

MACDOUGALL - Peter and Morvern are delighted to announce the birth of their son Craig at the Royal Alexandra Hospital on February 16, 2006, a little brother for Rachel. Many thanks to midwife Catherine Henderson and all at Oban Maternity Unit.

MACMILLAN - Malcolm and Morvern MacDonald, are delighted to announce the arrival of their son, Calum 'John' Greig' MacMillan on February 8, 2006 at the Royal Alexandra, Paisley, 11th grandchild for Flora and Scally and first for Jess and Iain and brother to Steven.

MACSWEEN - Alan and Jessie Ann are delighted to announce the birth of Jamie Alexander, born on Monday February 13, 2006. A grandson for Norman and Kate Ann MacAskill, Grogarry, South Uist and Neil and Hughina MacSween, Nunton, Benbecula. Special thanks to the staff at Western Isles Hospital - Maternity ward.

DEATHS

CLARK - Peacefully at the Lynne of Lorn Care Home, Benderloch on Tuesday February 28, 2006 in her 98th year, Katie beloved wife of the late Colin Clark, much loved mum, granny and great gran. Sadly missed.

DUNLOP - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban surrounded by family on Saturday, March 4, 2006, in her 75th year. Betty (nee Ness) loving wife of the late George, dear mother of David, dear mother-in-law of Christine and beloved granny of Martyn, much loved sister of Walter and Helen and much loved aunt and great aunt. She will be sadly missed by all.

IRONSIDE - Edmund. Suddenly at home on March 5, 2006 Eddie Ironside beloved husband of (Margaret) Ann, loving Dad of Duncan and Kenneth, dear Father-in-law of Sandra and proud Grandpa of Catriona and Eilidh. Funeral service on Friday, March 10, at Woodside Crematorium, Paisley at 10am, to which all friends are respectfully invited, family flowers only please.

LUTKIN - Peacefully at the Lynne of Lorn Care Home, Benderloch on Wednesday March 1, 2006 in her 102nd year, Marjory formerly of 5 Burnbank Terrace, Oban.

WELLS - Peacefully on March 1, 2006, in his 86th year, Donald Edward Charles, late of the Island of Shuna, Arduaine.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Ewen (Hughie) Cameron wish to express their sincere thanks to all medical staff at Belford Hospital, Inver Nevis House staff and Dr Robinson's High Street Surgery for their devoted care shown to our father. Special thanks to Mike McFall and staff for the kind, considerate and efficient service provided, to Rev MacQuarrie for a comforting service, to all those who sent messages of sympathy by card and for their attendance. The sum of £197.80

was raised for donation to the Inver Nevis House. Thanks to Spean Bridge Hotel for refreshments.

CLARK - The family of late Katie Clark, formerly of Sinclair Drive, Oban and Ardenstuir, Kilmelford, wish to thank doctors, nurses and carers at Eader Glinn and Lynn of Lorn Care Home for their endless support and devotion to duty. To Rev Alastair MacLachlan who conducted the service at Kilmelford and graveside to organist Bob MacMinn, Dorothy Carmichael and Georgina Dalton for church heating etc. To Hamish Hoey and Son and (Daughter) for professional services, to Kings Knoll for excellent lunch and all relatives, friends and neighbours who paid their respects, sent flowers, cards and phone calls, thank you all.

COOPER - Tricia, Caroline and families would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many telephone calls, sympathy cards, Mass cards and floral tributes following the sad loss of their mum Dorothy. Special thanks to the doctors and staff of Ward C, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital for their care and support and also to Dr Alison Murray for her kindness to mum over the years. Grateful thanks also to Canon Donald MacKay for the very comforting funeral service, to Hamish Hoey and his family for efficient and caring funeral arrangements and to all who paid their respects at the Mass and graveside, finally to the staff of the Argyllshire Gathering for providing the much appreciated soup and sandwiches after the funeral. Dorothy will be sorely missed by us all.

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- Jennifer x.

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- Inserted by the family.

STODDART - In loving memory of our dear mother Isabella Livingstone, died March 11, 1990. Always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by family, Glasgow.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 12 March 2006
Lent 2
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion 0800
Sung Eucharist 1015
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost
☎(01631) 562323
Holy Spirit, Ardchattan
Holy Eucharist 1215
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Eucharist 1500
Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist 0900
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins 1100
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 1030

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 12 March 2006
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Wednesday 15 March 2006
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

Cowal Funeral Directors
Independent Family Funeral Directors
Tel: (01631) 563 587
Immediate Attention 24 Hrs
The Funeral Home - 16 High Street, Oban PA23 4BG
Serving the communities of Western Scotland
Inverary • Oban • Lochgilphead • Campbeltown
www.cowalfuneraldirectors.com

TIMES Sport



First-Shinty festival

Shinty
THE NINTH annual National First Shinty Festival will take place at the Nevis Centre, Fort William on Saturday with 14 primary aged teams from across Scotland competing for the title of national champions. These top 14 teams have all won through from their area competitions that have taken place across the country from Skye and Ross-shire in the North to Glasgow and Cowal in the South.

Saturday's results

Shinty
Saturday 11th March 2006
All throw up times 2.30pm

Marine Harvest Premier League
Kilmallie v Inveraray
Lochcarron v Fort William
Newtonmore v Kingussie
Oban Camanachd v Strathglass

North Division One
Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel
Glen Urquhart v Beaulieu
Inverness v Aberdeen University
Lovat v Skye Camanachd

South Division One
Ballachulish v GMA
Glenorchy v Lochside Rovers
Kilmory v Kyles Athletic
Tayforth v Bute

North Division Two
Fort William v Kilmallie
Glenorchy v Newtonmore
Kingussie v Boleskine
Skye Camanachd v Lovat
Strathglass v Caberfeidh

South Division Two
Aberdour v Glenorchy
Col Glen v Strachur
GMA v Edinburgh EL
Kyles Athletic v Oban Celtic

North Division Three
Ardnamurchan v Lochaber
Beaulieu v Nairnshire
Kintraig v Lochcarron
Kinlochshiel v Inverness
Lochbroom v Glen Urquhart

Results

Shinty

Marine Harvest Premier League
Fort William 6 Oban Caman 1
Inveraray 2 Newtonmore 4
Kingussie P Kilmallie P
Strathglass P Lochcarron P

North Division One
Beaulieu P Inverness P
Kinlochshiel P Glenurquhart P
Lochaber P Lovat P
Skye P Caberfeidh P

North Division Two
Caberfeidh P Kingussie P
Glenorchy P Strathglass P
Kilmallie 4 Skye 4
Lovat P Boleskine P
Newtonmore P Fort William P

North Division Three
Glenurquhart P Ardnamurchan P
Inverness P Beaulieu P
Kintraig P Kinlochshiel P
Lochcarron P Lochaber P
Nairn P Lochbroom P

South Division One
GMA 2 Glenorchy 2
Kilmory 0 Bute 2
Kyles 0 Ballachulish 0
Lochside Rovers 3 Tayforth 1

South Division Two
Aberdour P GMA P
ColGlen P Kyles P
Glenorchy P Inveraray P
Oban Celtic 0 Strachur 0

Fort William hit Oban for six

Shinty
Premier League
Fort William 6
Oban Camanachd 1

FORT WILLIAM sit top of the Premier table after day one thanks to a six goal eclipse of Oban Camanachd at a chilly An Aird. On the opening day of a new 'summer' season only eight of the scheduled 26 matches survived last week's wintery weather. The teams were even for the opening quarter-hour but when Oban Camanachd missed a golden opportunity to open the scoring, Fort hit on the break and James Clark smashed home a sharp lesson in finishing. After 27 minutes Gordie MacKinnon fired in a second to the top corner of Buchanan's net from the right and Buchanan did well to deny Victor Smith a third goal minutes off half-time.

With five minutes of the second-half played a defensive blunder gave Clark a clear shot to double his tally and the big forward spurned an easier opportunity one minute later as the Oban defence chased shadows. With Oban's midfield unable to take the pressure off their overworked rear-

guard, Chris Bamber fired home Fort's fourth on the hour but 12 minutes later Camanachd substitute Ian MacMillan came on to drag a goal back with his first touch of the ball. Any thought of a dramatic revival were quashed within a minute however when Victor Smith was left unmarked at the back post and he rifled the ball past the unprotected Buchanan from a tight angle. Seven minutes from time Bamber competed the scoring as he was allowed time and space to push forward before picking his spot. Fort William travel north to Lochcarron this Saturday with what looks like a very settled and confident squad, while Oban Camanachd will have to pick-up the pieces of a poor team performance and go back to the drawing board if they are to ensure their first league points at home to Premier new-comers Strathglass.



Fort William defender Adam Robertson and Oban Camanachd forward Aiden MacIntyre race for the ball at a wintery An Aird on Saturday

Cheyne takes seconds to net first goal of the season

Shinty
Premier League
Inveraray 2
Newtonmore 4

NEWTONMORE started their Premier season with a good away win at Inveraray - and a contender for the fastest goal of the season. It took David Cheyne only eight seconds to give the visitors the lead at the Winterton as he struck home the ball almost directly from the throw-up. The teams then battled out an even first 45 minutes until Andrew Watt switched from defence to attack at the start of the second pe-

reach with a third goal. Cheyne had added a fourth before Newtonmore defender Jamie Robinson deflected a shot past his own keeper to give Inveraray their second. This Saturday, Inveraray will aim to kick-start their season away to Kilmallie while Newtonmore have an early opportunity to show their true potential with a home tie in the Premier's match of the day against old rivals Kingussie.

of added time before Celtic captain Kevin Lockhart looked to have ensured the cup stayed in Oban - but Kerr deceived the home defence with a slipped pass and Andrew Robertson equalised with the last hit of the game. Strachur then when on the lift the trophy on penalties. A young Celtic should take heart from a league point against one of the division's strongest teams.



Strachur captain Ross MacDonald accepts the Robert Wylie Memorial Trophy from Robert's sister Lorna and father Bob

Strachur win Wylie Memorial Cup on penalties

Shinty
South Division Two
Oban Celtic 0
Strachur 0

OBAN Celtic took the opportunity of their first game of the new season to play the annual contest for the Robert Wylie Memorial Cup against Strachur. Although the league points were shared at the end of 90 minutes the clubs agreed to play extra time to decide the outcome of the trophy. Despite almost arctic conditions at Ganavan, both teams provided an exciting and skilful tie.

Strachur pushed Oban Celtic back for the first 15 minutes but the home side worked their way back into the tie with Kevin Lockhart and Angus Campbell both shooting over the crossbar. Midfield provided the key for both teams with Celtic's Willie Gemmill launching many of his side's forward moves thanks to superior hitting, while Strachur's Duncan Kerr used his pace to full advantage.

At the other end, Celtic's forward were left scratching their heads wondering how they didn't managed to force the ball over the line in a goalmouth scramble. The second-half remained even with both defences on top. Veterans George Reid for Celtic, and Donald MacDonald for Strachur, proved immovable. With no goals after 90 minutes the match then went to the last two minutes

of added time before Celtic captain Kevin Lockhart looked to have ensured the cup stayed in Oban - but Kerr deceived the home defence with a slipped pass and Andrew Robertson equalised with the last hit of the game. Strachur then when on the lift the trophy on penalties. A young Celtic should take heart from a league point against one of the division's strongest teams.

Ian MacPhee is appointed to Association's board of directors

THE CAMANACHD Association has confirmed that Ian MacPhee, Lochgilphead and Ballachulish has been appointed as Director with responsibility for Officials.

Mr MacPhee is a former member of the Camanachd Association's Executive Council and is also currently chairman of shinty's Disciplinary Committee; a

post he will relinquish on joining the Board of Directors. Ian MacPhee replaces the late Johnnie 'Ach' MacRae who died recently.

Shinty
Camanachd Association President John MacKenzie said: 'I am delighted that someone of Ian's breadth of

experience and involvement at club level has joined the Board of Directors.

'Obviously, we have all felt John MacRae's passing deeply and he cannot, in many ways, be replaced. However, Ian will bring his own opinions and

judgement to the many challenges we face ahead and I am pleased that we have the full complement in place as the new season gets under way. We have made

significant progress with our officials in a number of ways in recent weeks and we would like to think now that Ian, once he is settled in, will progress that further.'



Spot The SHINTY BALL Competition

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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.

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Easy to enter
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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.



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LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Mrs C Fraser 16 Moray Place, Fort William and Ellen Gemmill, 2 Strathfillan Terrace, Crianlarich

TIMES Sport

Argyll athletes do well in Scottish Final

A GROUP of 37 young athletes representing Argyll travelled to Dundee on Saturday, February 25 to take part in the Scottish Final of Sports Hall Athletics.

The contest, which was held in the International Sports Centre, was promoted by Scottish Athletics and sponsored by Norwich Union.

All four Argyll teams had successfully qualified for the national final by winning at the regional event at Clydebank in January and in Dundee were backed up by a large travelling support of parents and coaches. After over three hours of intense competition, two of the Argyll teams were successful in qualifying for the UK Final in early April.

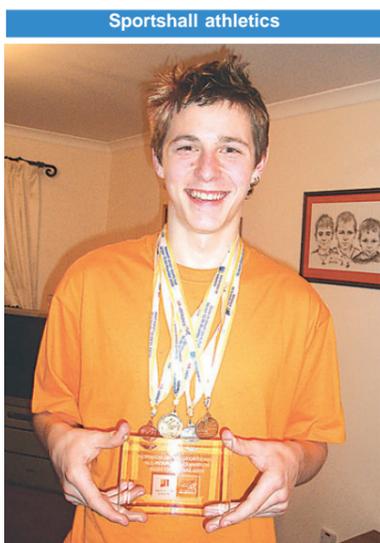
Clean sweep
It was almost a clean sweep for Argyll with the two boys teams winning and the two girls teams finishing in second place.

The Under 13 boys were clear winners scoring 690 points ahead of Fife on 606, North Lanarkshire on 489, Shetland on 472, Highland on 453 and South Lanarkshire 6th with 414 points.

All 12 boys contributed valuable points with a trio of Mull boys outstanding.

Team captain Iain MacDowell from Salen gained two second places in the 4lap race [44.4] and the standing long jump [2.44M] and partnered Struan Carmichael from Tobermory in the 8lap paarlauf relay for another second place. Struan won his speed bounce event with 78 jumps and won bronze in the 6lap time trial in 72 seconds.

Steven Higson, also from Tobermory, was an excellent winner of the high jump clearing a new best of 1.60metres and came close to equalling the Scottish Sports Hall record of 1.65metres. Steven was part



Lochgilphead's John Kennedy - Scottish sports hall champion

of the 4 x 2lap relay team which easily won by more than half the length of the hall.

The other relay runners were Fraser Meechan from Lochgilphead, Ben Boss from Ardrishaig and Ian Hamish Paton from Strachur.

Ian Hamish was impressive in the vertical jump winning with a 54cm effort.

The Argyll boys also won the 4 x 1 lap relay thanks to Angus MacCallum from Fionnphort on Mull handing over to Innes Muir from the island of Jura, then Rhys Campbell from Dunoon and finally Ross Robinson from Lochgoilhead. The boys only lost the obstacle relay in a photo-finish with Angus, Rhys and Ross running again plus John MacPhee from Connel.

Individuals
Other individual medalists were Fraser Meechan who was third in the triple jump with 6.40metres and Ben Boss in the 4lap in 46.9seconds.

Sportshall athletics

jump [2.26M]. In the final event of the day the girls excelled to win the 4 x 2lap relay and had North Lanarkshire finished fourth instead of third the girls would have won overall.

The relay team was Christie Roxburgh, Holly Crawford, Zoe Fleming from Oban, and C h e r m a i n e MacLachlaine from Tobermory.

Hard work
The under 15 boys had to work hard to secure their place at the UK Final.

Argyll scored 634 points ahead of North Lanarkshire on 588, Shetland on 564, East Lothian on 513, Dumfries and Galloway on 477 and Perth and Kinross with 394 points.

John Kennedy from Lochgilphead was the individual Scottish champion on 144 points ahead of Sam Jespersion from Oban on 141 points.

John won the shot putt throwing 12.07metres and gained a silver in the standing triple jump with 7.58metres and finally a bronze in the 4lap race in 42.5.

Sam was second in the 4lap in 42.2 and also the standing long jump [2.54M] and added a third place in the speed bounce with 82 jumps.

Jonathon Rochead from North Connel was impressive in winning the 4lap in 41.4 seconds. Sam and Jonathon combined to win the 8lap paarlauf relay.

John Lamont from Campbeltown, David Beckett from Tobermory and Aiden MacLaren from Oban added additional individual and relay points to ensure victory.

This will be the sixth year in succession that an Argyll under 15 boys team has qualified for the UK Final.

The Argyll under 13 girls

finished a creditable second on 589 points just behind winners Shetland on 612, with North Lanarkshire 3rd on 580 and Perth & Kinross 4th on 520 points. West Dunbartonshire were fifth and Fife sixth.

Rebecca Gallier from Pennyghael on Mull was the only individual winner for Argyll with an excellent performance in the high jump clearing 1.35metres.

Nicola Paterson from Carradale was third in the same competition clearing 1.25M.

Nicole Anderson from Campbeltown was second in the standing triple jump with 6.10metres and Kayleigh Tennant from Oban was second in the speed bounce scoring 85 jumps.

Ruth Semple from Southend was third in the vertical jump reaching 50cm.

The girls won silver medals in the 8 lap paarlauf relay with Eilidh Campbell from Lochgilphead and Ruth Semple not far behind winners Shetland.

Silver
The girls also won silver in the obstacle relay thanks to the efforts of Kayleigh Tennant, Lisa MacKenzie from Oban, Nicole Anderson, Campbeltown and Georgina Durie from Salen on Mull. Laura Fyfe from Inveraray, Katrina Durie from Salen, Emma Roxburgh from Oban and Laura Russell from Campbeltown added points in their events but it was all in vain as Shetland emerged worthy winners.

The under 13 boys and under 15 boys teams now look forward to competing at the UK Final which will be held in the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham on Sunday, April 9.

The teams, consisting of 19 boys, will make the long trip south by coach on Saturday, 8th and leaving Birmingham early on Monday morning, April 10.



Upper Achintore A and Banavie B were the winning teams at the Lochaber under-12 six-a-side tournament.

Upper Achintore ready for Saturday's FirstShinty festival in Fort William

UPPER Achintore Primary School will be representing Lochaber in a national shinty tournament this weekend.

The Lochaber district finals of the national under-12 six-a-side shinty competition saw the school's 'A' team beat Banavie Primary School's 'A' team in an exciting penalty play-off after finishing in the first two places of the league section.

First Shinty

Banavie's B team won the B Competition after winning their section outright.

Upper Achintore will now compete in the BP Indoor National Six-a-Side tournament which takes place this Saturday on March 11 at the Nevis Centre.

Organisers of the Loch-

aber finals which was held at the previous weekend thanked all the players and coaches who took part and the parents who came along to support the teams.

The Skye heats were held on the same day in Plockton High School because there is no suitable venue on the

island after Portree High's Games Hall was damaged in a fire last year.

In the final, Portree Primary School's A team drew 1-1 with South End A and after extra time it was the south team who scored the winner in the Golden Goal period of the match. Both teams will represent Skye at the national tournament in Fort William this Saturday.

Tesco vouchers bring new equipment

THANKS to more than 12,000 Sports for Schools vouchers being collected at Oban High School, the sports department now has

some new equipment. Tesco ran its Sports for School vouchers last year, when anyone spending £10 or more got a voucher that

could be passed on to their local school. The schools are then supplied with a brochure from which they can choose pieces of equipment

that they need. Oban High School was able to 'buy' a set of indoor-outdoor goals, a tag rugby set and an athletics measuring tape.



Head of PE Colin Nicol, Active Schools co-ordinator Donald MacLeod and Tesco Oban manager Iain Livingstone, right, with pupils Kelsey McMahon, Kayleigh MacDonald, Frances Young and Robert Dunnings.

Tesco Oban store manager Iain Livingstone went along to the school to see the equipment and was thanked by Active Schools co-ordinator Donald MacLeod, who said that the vouchers were a great idea. The school is one of the first in Lorn to spend its vouchers but the top collection was made by Park Primary School, Oban, where around 15,000 vouchers were handed in. Tesco has already contributed millions of pounds in computers to schools through its similar Computers for Schools voucher scheme, which is due to start again soon.

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Oban Saints match is frozen off at Renfrew

LAST Saturday's Scottish Amateur League Premier Division match between Moorcroft and Oban Saints was called off on Saturday morning after a pitch inspection found the playing surface at King George V Park, Renfrew, to be frozen solid.

The games involving Saints Under 19s and 17s also fell foul of the weather at the weekend.

This Saturday Oban Saints senior team travel to Brancumhall, East Kilbride, to take on Duncanrig in a league match. Saints will be looking for revenge as the East Kilbride outfit defeated them 2-1 at Glencruitten earlier in the season.

Saints have a very tough West of Scotland 6th round tie coming up shortly against Central Scottish league team Redbrae. The Kirkintilloch side are due to play Dalziel HSFP in the Scottish Cup this Saturday and if there is a conclusive result in that game then the Oban side will be travelling to Kirkintilloch on March 18.

Football

The weather played havoc with the fixtures last Saturday with only six games surviving the big freeze. Lochgilhead Red Star were the only Argyll team to feature and they fought out a 1-1 draw away to Inverkip Thistle.

This Saturday's games involving Argyll teams: Premier Division - Duncanrig v Oban Saints; Gartcosh United v Campbeltown Pupils. Premier Division One - Port Glasgow OBU v Dunoon. Division Two - Carlton YM v Tarbert. Colin Munro Cup - Lochgilhead Red Star v East Kilbride YM.

The semi-finals of the Marshall Trophy were drawn at Hampden Park last Thursday night with Campbeltown Pupils or Eaglesham taking on Kilpatrick or St Patrick's FP or Centre. The other semi final will be between Oban Saints or Pollok or Inverclyde versus Moorcroft or Gartcosh United.



Some of the young Argyll athletes from Oban High School who competed at the Scottish Schools Indoor Championships.

Silver for Turner in Scottish Schools Championships

YOUNG Argyll athletes put in some top drawer performances at a prestigious national schools championships in which Alan Wells, Liz McColgan and Lee McConnell competed in when they were young.

Around 1,000 young athletes from 100 schools competed in the Scottish Power Secondary Schools Indoor Championships in Glasgow.

Campbeltown Grammar pupil Matthew Turner was the top performer from Argyll as he came home with the silver medal in the over-16s 800 metres. In a tactically run race Matthew's time was just over two minutes.

Third overall in the over-16s high jump was Kilmore's David Clunie as he cleared 1.75m. David is now at the Glasgow School of Sport.

Lochgilhead High

Athletics

School duo Christine Roxburgh and John Kennedy also did well. Christine just missed out on the bronze medal as she threw 8.89m in the under-16s shot putt to finish fourth.

John came fifth in the under-16s shot putt as he produced an 11.98m throw.

Oban High School's Frances Young set a new personal best of 1.50m in the under 16s high jump to finish seventh while Jonathon Roched reached the semi-finals of the under-16s 200m. Sam Jesperson also did well competing in the high jump and 200m as did Aiden MacLaren in the under-16s 200m and shot putt.

Jade MacEwan ran the 800m in the same age group. Campbeltown's Alex Pajak competed in the

over-16s high jump and 60m.

The president of Scottish Athletics Allan Potts said: 'For hundreds of Scottish children the championships provides their first taste of a truly competitive athletics event. It is a superb, exciting environment for any budding talents to develop.'

The championships saw the athletes split into two age groups of under-16s and over 16s and included races ranging from 60m to 1,500m as well as long jump, triple jump, pole vault, high jump and shot put events.

Scottish Power's Jim Paterson said: 'The great thing is that all you need is talent and a pair of trainers to take part in athletics. I'm sure we have witnessed the start of some very successful athletics careers at this event.'

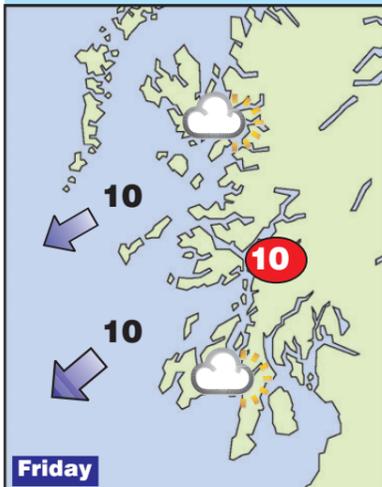
Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, March 9, 2006 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.33 2.7 09.03 1.9 15.40 2.7 20.17 1.8	
Fri	04.23 2.9 10.14 1.7 16.24 2.9 21.38 1.6	
Sat	04.33 3.1 10.51 1.5 16.44 3.2 22.25 1.3	
Sun	04.35 3.4 11.22 1.3 17.03 3.4 23.02 1.1	
Mon	05.04 3.6 11.50 1.1 17.29 3.6 23.35 0.9	
Tue	05.35 3.8 12.17 1.0 17.58 3.8 ** ** ** **	
Wed	00.06 0.8 06.05 3.9 12.42 0.9 18.27 3.9	

Port	Difference
Ardrihaig	-5.35
Campbeltown	-5.30
Crinan	-0.47
Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Lochboisdale	+0.30
Mallaig	+0.25
Portree	+0.55
Tobermory	+0.16
Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday, March 9
 Cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Some of the showers are expected to be on the heavy side. Winds will be moderate south or south-westerly. Temperatures 6°C to 3°C.

Friday, March 10
 Bright and sunny with temperatures rising to feel spring-like around mid-day but will fall sharply in the afternoon. Winds will be moderate north-easterly. Temperatures 10°C to -3°C.

Saturday and Sunday
 Are both expected to see a mixture of bright sunny spells and showers. Winds will be moderate north or north-easterly. Temperatures 8°C to 0°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
 Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Oban's new £667,000 sports' pitch almost ready

THE NEW £667,000 sports pitch for Oban and Lorn is set to open with its playing surface identical to training ground pitches of SPL football clubs Rangers, Celtic and Hearts.

Oban High School pupils will be the first to try out the top quality surface in the coming weeks with a formal opening to follow in June.

The surface of the pitch is third generation Fieldturf S1 and meets not only SFA standards but UEFA and FIFA specifications.

Rugby

Dunfermline installed an astroturf pitch at East End Park in 2003 but were made to rip it up after a vote by other SPL clubs who didn't like the surface.

However the new Oban surface is believed to be of an even better standard than the Pars 'plastic' pitch and a spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'It is considered to be the best quality available at the moment.'

The new sports pitch is at

Oban high but community groups and casual users will be able to book it from May after changing rooms are built during the Easter holidays. A range of sports will be playable on the pitch.

The pitch was funded by Argyll and Bute Council, sportsScotland and the Big Lottery Fund.

A management committee will look after the pitch on behalf of the council. The council's deputy

leader Robin Banks said: 'This impressive new facility will benefit the people of Oban and also schoolchildren through a range of sporting activities.'

'It is part of the council's ongoing strategy for updating or renewing sports grounds across the area and is a sign of our continued commitment to provide the means to improve the health of our residents.'

The council spokesman said adverts for information on booking the pitch would be placed in 'due course'.

Pupils win Six Nations prizes

THREE Lochaber youngsters were winners in a Six Nations rugby competition.

Neil Cameron of Glencoe, a pupil at Kinlochleven High School, won the top prize of a Six Nations rugby shirt in a competition organised for schools taking part in a financial education programme, Face 2 Face with Finance, run by sponsors, The Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS).

Hannah Malcolm from

Rugby

Duror and David Neilly from Kinlochleven won runner-up prizes of Six Nations goody-bags.

The education programme was developed to provide secondary school pupils with the financial skills to enable them to manage their finances now and in the future.

The course materials cover a wide range of finan-

cial subjects from learning how to use a bank account and personal budgeting to understanding how to start a new business.

Angela Milligan of RBS said: 'The aim of the programme is to give young people the skills today which they will need for the future. Understanding the basics of money management can help young people make the right financial decisions.'



Lochaber youngsters Neil Cameron, Glencoe, centre, with Hannah Malcolm, Duror, left, and David Neilly, Kinlochleven with Angela Milligan of RBS.

Mammoth mix at annual Nevis Range descent

ON SATURDAY, 13 competitors braved icy winds to take part in the annual Mammoth Descent at Nevis Range.

And a special mention goes to Alex Wild who was the first snow boarder and Darren Walker who made the dash from the summit on a ski-bike.

Mammoth Descent Results:

- 1 Dave Biggin; 7:01
- 2 Callum Douglas; 7:21
- 3 David Tagney; 7:38
- 4 James Tagney; 8:04
- 5 Darren Walker; 9:06
- 6 Olly Bowman; 9:36
- 7 David Mackay; 9:48
- 8 Gillian Culshaw; 10:02
- 9 Alex Wild; 11:00
- 10 Rick Hanson; 11:11
- 11 Alan Waugh; 13:32
- 12 Nicola Forster; 13:46
- 13 Katrina Parfoot; 22:28

Winter Sports

race in 10 minutes and two seconds.

Two tries from Chris Benson and one each from Andy MacDougall, Mark McTighe, Ian MacKinney, Robert Wright, Duncan MacDougall, Malcolm Downie and Euan Wilson saw Oban register a comprehensive victory.

Man mountain Benson's second try saw him drag around four of his opponents over the try line.

There is no match this weekend because of the Six Nations Ireland v Scotland game.

Oban Lorne's final league match is on March 25 at home to Cumbernauld and if they can maintain a top seven finish then they will be promoted to the new National Four West League. League reorganisation

Campbeltown looks forward to hosting half-marathon

Athletics

ORGANISERS are expecting over 150 entrants to the Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon and 10k races due to be held in Campbeltown on May 28.

Chair of the organising committee Tom Barbour commented that entries had already been received from as far away as London and Portsmouth, as well as from around Argyll.

'There hasn't been a race like this in the town for a number of years and since we are holding a 10k and a half marathon on the same day there has been a lot of extra interest,' said Tom.

Organising two races on

the same day has not been without its headaches for the organisers and Mr Barbour was quick to praise local police and Argyll and Bute Council roads department for their co-operation in planning the event.

'Without their help, and funding from Campbeltown Common Good Fund and Awards for All, it would have been difficult to put on the events,' he said.

Further information on the can be obtained from the race website at www.mokrun.co.uk, or pick up an entry form from Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

Lorne rollover Bishopton in 50 point whitewash

Rugby

OBAN Lorne took on Bishopton at the weekend in a match which was one of only six games played in Scotland because of the wintry weather conditions.

At full-time Bishopton must have wanted the game to have been called off after a 50 points whitewash.

Meanwhile Oban Lorne Ladies are holding an Open Day this weekend. They are holding a 'Come and Try' session at Atlantis Leisure on Saturday.

The coaching session will run from 12 to 2pm on the Atlantis astroturf and is open to all ages and abilities.

Rugby

means there will now be more emphasis on regional leagues leaving fewer national set-ups and all the new leagues will be made up of 10 teams each.

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The coaching session will run from 12 to 2pm on the Atlantis astroturf and is open to all ages and abilities.

Carpet bowling

Lorn Carpet Bowling League	
P	Pts
Kilmore	10 64
N. Connel	11 42
Benderloch	9 41
Easdale	10 38
Connel	9 33
Cairnbaan	8 27
Taynuilt	9 15

Pool

Oban Pool League				
P	W	L	Pts.	
Loch 'B'	13	12	1	24
Markie D	14	12	2	24
Cellar 'A'	14	10	4	20
Claredon	14	9	5	18
Loch 'A'	13	11	2	16
Bowling 'A'	14	6	8	12
Cellar 'B'	14	6	8	12
J and D 'B'	14	5	9	8
J and D 'A'	14	5	9	8
Bowling 'B'	14	2	12	0