

## A828 to close at Connel Bridge £1,000 a week to shift Oban's chewing gum Sick baby caught in Lochaber housing shortage

### Minister will keep looking for Kintyre ferry operator but tendering rules stay the same

ALL is not lost when it comes to finding an operator for the Campbelltown-Ballycastle ferry route.

Scottish Executive Transport Minister Tavish Scott MSP said on Monday efforts were still being made to find someone to run the ferry service, despite no tenders coming forward from the four original bidders.

The news was welcomed by Dalriada Business Action Group (DBAG), which represents businesses in Kintyre and Moyle, Northern Ireland.

The Scottish Executive, in answer to a parliamentary question about what steps were being taken to find an operator, said it had reviewed the reasons for the lack of tenders.

'The executive is aware of the strong support for the reinstatement of the service voiced both in Kintyre and Antrim and of the local disappointment at the outcome of the tendering process,' said the response.

'The executive has therefore agreed with the Northern Ireland administration that a final effort should be

made to identify any potential operator interested in submitting a tender to provide the service under a negotiated procedure.'

The executive stated this would take time and it was not possible to put a timescale on it.

Mr Scott said: 'A ferry service linking Campbelltown and Ballycastle would

create new opportunities for business and tourism between Argyll and Moyle.

'This devolved government is committed to working with our colleagues in the Northern Ireland administration, as well as both local communities, to try and identify potential ferry operators who could restore this important link between

Scotland and Northern Ireland.'

John Semple, secretary of DBAG, said he was pleased the minister had recognised the economic importance of the link but said it was 'imperative' that a timescale and process for negotiating with interested parties was identified.

Argyll and Bute MSP

George Lyon said it was now down to the companies concerned to come forward with 'financially robust and detailed business plans'.

Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor is asking the transport minister to consider one company in particular - Dalriada Shipping - that he said was originally rejected

because it was new. 'That was despite the company being owned by Pentland Ferries, which already successfully runs services between the Scottish mainland and Orkney - without subsidy,' he added. 'We cannot afford for this route to fall through again because the executive hasn't fully considered all the options.'

The four companies, who did not submit tenders after initial interest, were Harrison's (Clyde) Ltd, Isle of Man Steam Packet Company, Serco Denholm and Western Ferries. The executive has said that any operator would have to meet the original qualification criteria and terms of the invitation to tender.

### Oban joiner breaks back in island fall

AN OBAN joiner had to be flown to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow after falling from a ladder that slipped on scaffolding while working on South Uist.

Brian Askew's wife, Penny, told *The Oban Times* on Tuesday that her husband was 'in good spirits and staying very positive' after breaking his back in the fall which happened on March 5.

He had been working as a sub-contractor on an old people's home and was taken initially to Uist and Barra Hospital, Balivanich, on Benbecula before being transferred.

He was due to have an operation on his back yesterday (Wednesday) and Penny said if all went well she hoped he would be back to Oban in a few weeks, with a brace, although it would be some time before he could go back to work.

'Getting him better is the most important thing,' she said. 'Our oldest son works with him and I will help to keep things going for him - you can't keep a good man down.'

After receiving word of his accident, Penny, who is from Eriskay, managed to make the afternoon ferry to the Uists from Oban and was allowed to fly with him to Glasgow.

He was lucky in that the break did not leave him paralysed, said Penny.

'The telephone has not stopped ringing and there have been lots of get well cards,' said Penny, adding that she and their four children were grateful for everyone's support.

She said the hospital staff had been fantastic and very good to Brian.

Brian is a well known joiner around his home town and recently completed his own home at Mossfield.



Even a fall of snow didn't deter visitors to Oban's McCaig's Tower, who enjoyed a somewhat rare view of a snow-covered town.

Picture by Dennis Hartley

## Heavy snow closes A82 at Glencoe and Glen Falloch with lasting effect

HEAVY snowfall and strong winds combined to make tough going for travellers across the West Highlands over the weekend.

Buses were cancelled and trains struggled to get through while some ferries were cancelled and others rescheduled.

Blizzard conditions also conspired to bring down numerous trees across the region blocking part of the A82 until Tuesday.

Inspector David Sutherland of Strathclyde Police's Argyll road policing unit was full of praise for drivers.

'In recent winters we have had localised snowfalls but this was, I think, the biggest single dump of snow we have had that affected the whole roads network in Argyll.'

It was fortunate this happened on a Saturday and Sunday rather than the working week when we get our commercial traffic.'

He added that motorists heeded advice and stayed at home or drove cautiously when they had to make journeys.

'All things considered the roads department coped very well,' he said. 'The Rest and be Thankful had

to be closed for a short while; the conditions into Lochgoilhead were very bad. The snow gates were closed at Tyndrum on the A82 but that was because of conditions at the other end in Glencoe rather than the Argyll side.'

**Trees down**  
'There were a lot of trees down particularly at Ardgarten and Loch Lomondside and over at Arrochar.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said all 28 of its winter maintenance routes were gritted on Saturday night and Sunday morning with crews then going on patrol to deal with incidents as needed.

The snowfall meant the bus service to Glasgow was halted on Saturday and those people who switched to the Oban train complained of carriages without heating and no trolley service. Heavy snow also meant the train was halted twice and travellers finally arrived over an hour-and-a-half late in Oban at 10.50pm.

The high winds which caused drifting on land also caused disruptions at sea. Caledonian MacBrayne ferry services to Islay and

Arran were hit and the Iona boat was off for a while.

The *MV Lord of the Isles* found herself stormbound in Castlebay, Isle of Barra, on Monday after taking three and a half hours to battle the heavy seas from Lochboisdale. She finally arrived in Oban at 6.10am on Tuesday in time for the Coll and Tiree run.

Her disruption had a knock-on effect for other services to Mull and Colonsay and a late sailing of the vessel was arranged. Snow also caused disruption to flights at Campbelltown, Islay and Tiree airports.

## Curfews go as smoking ban arrives

ARGYLL pub goers might be able to breathe in cleaner air with the smoking ban coming into effect next weekend but Oban town centre residents could be set to suffer after pub curfews were scrapped this week.

The 12.30am curfews are being scrapped by Lorn, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Licensing Board.

Licencees who had an extension to 2am will no longer have to adhere to the current curfew which means nobody is allowed to enter the premises after 12.30am, even if they had been in the pub before and had left for a short time.

However, an Oban pub manager has highlighted noise concerns once the Smoking, Health and Social Care (Scotland) Act 2005 becomes law from 6am on Sunday March 26.

Willie Smith, manager of The Lorne, said it may have to employ more door staff because the smoking ban could indirectly increase

noise levels outside the premises. Mr Smith said: 'At least with the curfew everybody was off the streets at 12.30am. We could have 30 to 40 people outside smoking and because we have live music the door would be open all the time.'

**Problems**  
'I think it could cause problems because you could get people coming into the pub at 1.30am, 1.45am after people who have been in all night having a good time.'

The board was told by licencees at a meeting last month it would have proved difficult to enforce the curfew with the smoking ban set to push patrons 'out the door' to light up.

A statement from the licensing board said: 'As from March 26 the curfew condition will no longer apply to those premises with a regular extension to 2am. The affected licencees will be notified in writing of the board's decision

within the next week. The police will also be formally advised of this decision.'

The board's chairman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said the decision had been 'unanimous' because the circumstances relating to the curfew had 'changed significantly'.

Mr Smith was disappointed that the board had not told licencees in the town about the decision before informing the media. He believes Argyll and Bute Council and the Government should have been providing advice to licencees since the law was passed last year.

Environmental Health Officers will have the power to enter premises to make sure the legislation is being enforced with fixed penalty fines of £200 for owners.

Licencees will also be breaking the law if they fail to display warning notices on their premises and permit customers to smoke in their pubs or restaurants.

### Christine is Islay's ambassador

A NEW ambassador has been appointed on Islay but don't look for an embassy flying a flag.

Christine Logan, who has been welcoming people to Bowmore Distillery for two decades, has been given the honour of 'ambassador of whisky 2006' by the trade publication *Whisky Magazine* at its prestigious awards ceremony and dinner at the

Cafe Royal, London. Christine, who lives in Bowmore, is among the magazine's current icons of whisky. The magazine's editor Dominic Roskrow described Christine as: 'Islay and its whiskies personified and one who helps to cement the international family that the world of whiskies is so proud of.'

Christine is now the sales

consultant for the Scottish Liqueur Centre where the products include the malt whisky-based Columba Cream and Bruadar. She launched her new responsibilities at a reception in the Columba Gaelic Centre two weeks ago. 'People are the spirit of the spirit,' said Mr Roskrow, 'that is personified by Christine's complete commitment to the cause.'

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### 'Granny' removed from roof

TRAFFIC heading to the ferry terminal in Oban on Monday was disrupted when Albany Street and Drimvargie Road were closed off.

High winds had blown a 'granny' or chimney cowl loose so it was hanging dangerously on one bracket over Drimvargie Road.

As a precaution all traffic in the area was diverted from around 10am in case the cowl blew off on to a vehicle or pedestrian going along either street.

Cars parked in Drimvargie Road were also moved out of danger while Argyll and Bute Council's building control services made arrangements for a crane to remove the 'granny'.

High winds and rain prevented the crane from being used immediately and it was not until lunch-time that the offending cowl was safely removed and the street re-opened.



Save the Children host Peter MacLeod with some of the youngsters who were performing at the concert. ©11sav02

### Children are special guests at Save the Children concert

COLL primary school pupils were among the special guests at a Save the Children concert in Oban which raised £400 for the charity.

The annual concert, held at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls saw the Arinagour Primary School pupils perform *Coll Kids* and the *Banjo Breakdown*. The concert programmes

were designed and produced by pupils at Easdale Primary School, who also performed on stage, while Oban Junior Polish Choir members drew admiration for their costumes and Kilninver Primary school asked *What Will We Do With The Grumpy Teacher?* Host for the evening was Peter

MacLeod and he introduced a varied programme including piper Donnie Joe MacDougall, Oban Strings, Oban Youth Theatre Group, Achaleven Gaelic Choir and St Columba's Primary School. All performed admirably making it a memorable evening with an excellent atmosphere.

### Police call centre concern

TELEPHONE calls to Oban's police station being answered by a call centre in Govan or Motherwell has troubled local councillors.

At last week's meeting of the Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee a presentation was given explaining how Strathclyde Police day-to-day calls would be dealt with from now on; the emergency 999 call system has not been changed. Councillors were not impressed.

Councillor Donald McIntosh said: 'The local knowledge will be lost in telephone contact centres.' Councillor Ian Gillies said: 'They could have gone for the dispersed model instead of the centralised model. There could have been smaller groups of people in areas such as Oban answering phones and this would have got round the problem.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said she had been approached by worried community councils. 'There was also a lack of consultation,' she said.

Inspector Neil Wallace said there had been problems but the call centre approach was all linked to the new communication system which enabled officers to receive text messages and was more secure.

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# LOOK AT OBAN

## £1,000 a week to shift gum

IT WOULD cost nearly £1,000 a week to keep the streets of Oban free from the chewing gum people have spat out, councillors have been told.

Members of the Argyll and Bute Council Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee were told about the problem during a debate on street cleansing.

Councillor Donald McIntosh said: 'Walking through the town centre I don't think I have seen so much chewing gum, so much litter and so much dog dirt.'

The council bought a pressure washing machine to remove the gum from pavements, but so much force is needed to blast the gum away that sections of pavement have to be closed off to protect the public, parked cars have to be moved and shop fronts protected.

Neil Brown, area roads and amenity services manager, told the members: 'It would cost more than £50,000 extra a year to just remove the gum. When we do clean it off we are fighting a losing battle; it is very quickly replaced.'

On the positive side the Cleanliness Index Monitoring System for street cleansing carried out by Keep Scotland Beautiful has given praise for the full use of wheeled bins throughout the area last

year, which has reduced the number of bin bags which were burst and spilled by sea gulls; enforcement and education work by the environmental warden and increased kerbside recycling of paper and cardboard.

On the question of litter the report highlighted Oban High School - unfairly the head teacher believes.

The report said: 'Lunchbreak at Oban High School has been identified as a main cause of litter.'

Linda Kirkwood, the head teacher at Oban high, said that the children were very responsible about litter and that the school had had no complaints for a while.

'There has been a positive feedback,' she said.

Mr Brown said that the Oban High School eco-group had approached his department regarding litter between Tesco and the high school and the group would be working with the council to reduce the litter in the area.

'Positive action from the children should be recognised,' he said.

During the debate at their meeting last week, councillors also wanted to see more prosecutions for litter louts and people who let their dogs foul the streets.

Councillor McIntosh suggested writing to the procurator fiscal asking for more prosecutions to be made.



More than 200 youngsters enjoyed a 'lock-in' at Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

## Atlantis hosts another 'lock-in' success

HOPE to Oban can congratulate itself on another successful 'lock-in' at Atlantis Leisure when 200 young people from Oban and the surrounding area spent a night of fun inside the town's leisure centre.

The youths were all from Oban High School, with a group of the older students helping the team of volunteers who made the night such a hit. More than 40 helpers worked in two shifts to organise what has become a highlight of the year for the town's teens.

The entire leisure centre is given over to them with the swimming pool open all night as is the climbing wall and the gym for older ones under supervision.

Music workshops ran until midnight with drumming with Gary Mitchell

and dance in the main hall. The squash court became a cinema and everyone gathered together for a bacon and sausage roll breakfast before the doors were unlocked at 8am.

Youth worker Ewen Munro wants to thank everyone who helped make the night happen.

Neil Matheson said: 'You get youngsters from first to sixth year, from all different backgrounds mixing with each other and having good fun.

'It is quite inspiring.'

## Eye to Eye with John Wallace



### What Does It Mean?

THIS month I want to explain the difference between an optometrist and an optician.

When I graduated 30 years ago the profession was split into three sections.

Ophthalmic opticians were allowed to examine eyes, prescribe and dispense spectacles. We could treat vision anomalies but we were forbidden to diagnose or treat any medical problems affecting eyes.

Dispensing opticians were only able to advise on and dispense spectacles with a prescription issued from an ophthalmic optician or a doctor.

Manufacturing opticians then made the spectacles.

In the late '80s change was afoot and unregistered sellers, people with no optical qualifications, were allowed to sell spectacles to the public.

At the same time the term 'optician' ceased to have any legal protection and anyone, including people with no training or professional qualifications, could call themselves opticians.

To differentiate ourselves from the unqualified, many of us chose to opt for the title 'optometrist' as it was recognised throughout the world as describing a professionally qualified person who examines eyes, prescribes and dispenses spectacles, and who diagnoses, and sometimes treats, eye diseases.

Recently the law changed and optometrists are legally allowed to manage a limited range of medical eye conditions. Shortly, some of us, myself included, who have undertaken extensive further training, will be able to prescribe medication to treat a much wider range of eye conditions. This means instead of visiting your GP if you have an eye problem, you would seek the advice of a 'therapeutically qualified' optometrist. This is similar to dentistry; you would not normally see your doctor about problems with your teeth.

This massive change in the provision of eye-care should occur early next year. Until then you can seek advice from your optometrist and they will tell you if a visit to your GP or an ophthalmologist is required.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP  
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## Teenager admits cellar break-in

AN OBAN teenager has been fined £150 after admitting breaking into the storage cellar at O'Donnell's bar in Breadalbane Street in the town.

Kyle MacPherson, who Oban Sheriff Court heard last week was now based in Mallaig as a trainee crew member on a fishing boat, pled guilty to breaking in and stealing six cases of beer, two cases of Red Square and six bottles of red wine along with a co-accused.

Both were captured on closed circuit television cameras around 4am on June 18 last year.

MacPherson, aged 17, who appeared from custody after failing to turn up at court in January, was asked to give an undertaking that he would pay half of the compensation order for the cost of the drink taken.

His co-accused had been ordered at a previous hearing to pay the full amount of £191.57. MacPherson, whose address at the time of the offence was 8D Colonsay Terrace, Oban, agreed to pay his co-accused £96.

## Youth breached bail conditions

A SIXTEEN-year-old youth has been given a year's probation after admitting breaching a condition of bail.

The breach happened the same day Sean Johnstone, whose address at Oban Sheriff Court was given as Room 17, Kerrera Lodge, Shore Street, Oban, was released from the court on bail pending an appearance on another charge.

He also admitted breaching the peace on the same day, February 13, in George Street, Oban.

The court heard last week that Johnstone had a number of problems that would benefit from him being on probation and subject to some organisation in his life.

## Local bus route improvements swing into action

MORE improvements to bus services in and around the Oban area came into operation this week.

The weekday service 405 between Glengallan Road and Dunbeg steps up to a half-hourly frequency during the main part of the day with every second bus going to Barcaldine.

The improvement has come about as a result of a successful partnership application to the Scottish Executive by Argyll and Bute Council and West Coast Motors for Bus Route

Development Grant funding. The executive has awarded up to £154,000 over three years to 'kick start' the new improved service with the hope that the improved timetable will pay for itself in two years.

HiTRANS, the regional transport partnership of Highlands and Islands local authorities, has also given a grant of 50 per cent towards the cost of the new bus West Coast Motors needs to operate the extra journeys. The new, dedicated, low-floor vehicle is equipped with an audio and visual announcement system.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, transportation spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council and board member of HiTRANS, said: 'Bus passenger numbers have increased dramatically in recent years; the enhanced service and improved access to public transport will benefit not only the local developments but also communities further afield at Dunstaffnage and Barcaldine.'

The main improvements are: frequency of every half hour between Glengallan Road and Dunbeg; a new hourly service to Dunstaffnage serving the castle, Argyll College and

SAMS; a new hourly service to Barcaldine also serving the Scottish Sea Life and Marine Sanctuary.

Colin Craig, managing director of West Coast Motors, said that improvements in the local bus network introduced by the company in partnership with Argyll and Bute Council in May 2000 continued 'to deliver significant growth in bus patronage year on year.'

He said: 'The new service 405 timetable represents the first major improvement since 2000 that we believe will strengthen the local bus network even further. It is designed to give the local communities a real alternative to using the car to travel in and around the Oban area and will dramatically improve access to and

from Dunstaffnage and some of the key tourist attractions.'

Company secretary for SAMS, the Scottish Association for Marine Science, Elaine Walton, said how pleased the organisation was to have a better bus service.

She said: 'SAMS expects increases in the number of its own staff and students, and its tenants within the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology.'

'The improved service is seen as an excellent kick start to prove the need for and viability of the public transport route to Dunbeg. We would like to see it pave the way for even more services from the west and the north of Dunbeg to provide a greener option to all staff, students and visitors.'

## Development grants for groups

THREE groups in Oban are better off thanks to education development grants from Argyll and Bute Council.

Last week's meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee recommended three applications for the grants. Oban Budokan was given £500; Park Primary School Parent Teacher Association £1,500 and Hope to Oban £3,700.

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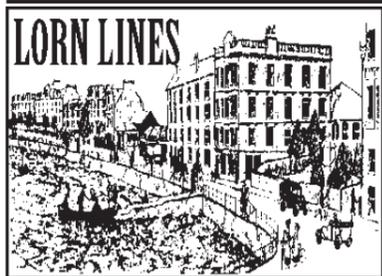
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AT ITS March meeting at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory, the Mid Argyll Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust heard a fascinating talk entitled 'Digiscoping the Birds of Chile' by Mike Betts of the Scottish Ornithologists Club. It dealt with photographing birds at a distance using a digital camera with a telescopic attachment enabling superb close-ups.

Chile has a wonderful bird fauna of 460 species. About 4,000kms long, yet never more than 200kms wide, the country stretches along the spine of the Andes - up to 6,000 metres high - from the driest Atacama desert south to the windswept grasslands of Patagonia.

Starting at the capital, Santiago, Mike's small group of dedicated ornithologists visited all these different environments and were able to record 240 different birds during a three-week trip. These included Andean condors soaring above glacial lakes and many rare species, some endemic to the area such as Diademed Sandpiper Plover and Megallanic Plover.

The guest's stunning photographs of the birds and their habitats were enhanced by superb recordings of their songs. Following a wide-ranging discussion, the chairman Harry Powell, Connell, thanked the speaker for his brilliant presentation.

FOR MEMBERS of Oban Art Society it was to prove a fascinating experience.

On Saturday February 18, they spent what was later described as 'a wonderful day' in the company of jewellery designer Sheana Stephen, learning how to produce some of the beautiful work for which she is famous.

With them she shared her treasure chest, the contents of which were at their disposal.

Beads, pearls, semi-precious stones, wires, tiger tail, silver stands, blinged nose and round-nosed pliers, catches, pincers and links, all littered the table as everyone worked away. So involved was the demonstrator she didn't even stop for a cup of coffee and lunch was a working affair.

Committee member Monika Smyth found herself giving new life to a Venetian glass bead choker given to her by her great-aunt and until now, never worn. Everyone was so engrossed in the workshop it overran its timetable.

The group is indebted to Val Macfarlane, Taynuilt, for her hard work in organising the winter programme.

The previous evening, the society enjoyed its annual supper party, efficiently organised as usual by Fiona Innes.

The competition proved a real test, challenging entrants to paint by foot or mouth. It inspired 14 interesting entries and this year's winner was Ann Sorley with a powerful portrait painted in strong greens and blacks, second was Monika Smyth and third was Margaret Whittow.

ONE OF 30 sixth-year pupils from 29 schools across Scotland who took part, Catriona Davies, a student at Oban High School, had the full attention of her audience when she gave an illustrated and humorous talk about her day spent at the European Parliament to members of Oban Rotary Club at a recent lunch in the Regent Hotel.

Catriona's visit had been sponsored by the club.

Along with the rest of the group, Catriona, who has passed Higher French, was taken on a guided tour of the European Parliament buildings which she described as 'stunning'.

Their experience included using MEP's seats and electronic voting equipment. Following their visit they conducted a street survey during which they quizzed French people on their views about Scotland and European politics.

The trip lasted four days with a sightseeing tour of Strabourg ending the visit.

TEN TABLES were in play at the most recent of the

winter whist drives held in Taynuilt Hall on Friday February 24, with no fewer than 10 children participating, a feature which delighted the organisers.

Play was directed by cardmaster Leslie Servant and the winners, all Taynuilt unless otherwise indicated, were: Gents: 1 Margaret Harris, playing as gent; 2 Shona Griffiths, playing as gent; 3 Janette MacMillan, playing as gent; consolation, Fraser MacMillan. Ladies - 1 Marina MacInnes, Connell; 2 Beth Morse; 3 Mo Griffiths; consolation, Alona Cameron.

Organised by a group of local ladies, the event raised £129 which will go to help fund Outdoor Week for Dalnally, Kilchrenan and Taynuilt schools.

NETHER Lorn Piping Society's March recital will take place in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Wednesday March 22 at 7.30pm.

As this is the final recital of the season, it has been decided that the evening's entertainment will be provided entirely by pipers from Argyll.

Taking part will be Iain Hurst, Iain Donaldson, Iain MacIntyre, Alistair Currie, Euan Dewar and Daniel Johnstone, a highly talented range of players.

OBAN'S Park Primary School is to hold its annual Daffodil Tea in the school hall on Saturday March 25, from 10am to 12 noon.

Organisers, the Parent Teacher Association, plan to open the event with an Easter Bonnet Parade.

Children wishing to take part have been asked to create an Easter Bonnet at home and bring it along on the Saturday morning. There will also be a decorated Easter egg competition, again involving the pupils.

Stalls will include baking, books, toys, plants, bottle stall, balloons, lucky dip, hair drying, face painting and tattoos. There will also be an ECO stall where bird tables, made by the children, will be on sale.

THERE will be much more than coffees, teas and mouth-watering home baking to tempt customers to the annual coffee morning of the Handicapped Children's Pilgrimage Trust, which is held in Oban's Royal Hotel this Saturday March 18.

A range of attractions will include a feast of music. Amongst artists dropping in will be accordionists Hector MacFadyen and his son Craig, Craig's sister Nicola, who will be dancing, Ian MacLean, a janitor at Oban High School, who is also to play accordion, and soloists Mod Gold Medallist Angus Smith and Frank McKenna, a member of the technical department at the school.

Several other local artists, including Oban High School pupils, are due to augment the programme. There will be the usual range of stands offering a selection of bargains and the organisers will be grateful for donations of all kinds which can be handed in to the hotel on Friday between 7 and 10pm.

On display at the coffee morning will be a magnificent painting of St Columba's Cathedral and Oban Bay by Ian Goudie, former principal teacher of art at Oban High School.

To give yourself a chance to win it all you need do is buy a square in a grid.

The lucky square will be chosen at the end of the morning.

Formed in 1956, the trust takes around 2,000 children with disabilities or social or emotional needs on a holiday to Lourdes every Easter.

The children, several from the West Highlands, come from all walks of life and various religious backgrounds. Helpers pay their own costs which this year will amount to £512 per person.

Playing a key role in organising the visit and travelling as a helper, as he has done for many years, is John MacKenzie, principal teacher of maths at Oban High School.



FV Our Heritage grounded off Calve Island in the Sound of Mull, just outside Tobermory Bay.

## Oban boat runs aground on Sound of Mull's Calve Island

THREE fishermen had to be rescued from Calve Island in the Sound of Mull after their fishing boat *Our Heritage* went aground off the island on Friday morning.

Clyde Coastguard received the call from the boat's Oban agent to say it was in difficulties just after 6am. There was some concern that she might be sinking close to the shore.

The three men managed to clamber into a liferaft and then on to the island where Tobermory lifeboat *Elizabeth Fairlie Ramsay*

used its rubber boat to pick them up after it was called out at 6.10am. All three were cold and a little wet but otherwise fine.

*Our Heritage* had left Oban at 3am and was on its way to fishing grounds off Coll. She had 6,000 litres of light fuel oil on board and there were concerns about possible pollution to nearby fish farms.

But with the help of a multi-cat, a multi-purpose barge used for maintaining moorings, fish farms and other marine gear, from North West Marine the fuel

was pumped off the fishing boat on to tanks on the multi-cat.

A pollution expert from the Marine Coastguard Agency was on hand to oversee the operation.

With some of the weight removed and the fishing boat on a more even keel, she was floated off the rocks just before high tide in the late afternoon, with help from the multi-cat and Tobermory lifeboat.

She was able to make her way under her own power, escorted by the multi-cat, to Oban harbour.

## Connell Bridge to close for repairs

CONNEL Bridge is to close overnight for five nights from Monday, March 20.

BEAR Scotland Ltd says the closures, between 10pm and 6am, are for essential maintenance and repairs and will allow Scottish and Southern Energy to replace a high voltage cable on the bridge.

BEAR Scotland will be replacing two cross beams that were removed after being struck by a vehicle in January that was higher than the height limit of the bridge.

All work will be completed by 6am on Saturday, March 25. The bridge will be open for 10 minutes at midnight and 2am each night to allow local traffic across while pedestrians and emergency vehicles will be allowed across at all times. Other traffic will be diverted along the A85, A82

and A828 trunk roads, via Tyndrum and Ballachulish.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said: 'These maintenance and repair works are vital and unavoidable and are being carried out at the same time to ensure that disruption to road users and inconvenience to the local community are kept to a minimum.'

West Coast Motors' 10.35pm bus service from Oban will end at Connell Post Office each night and return to Oban from there instead of going to North Connell. 'We could have done without it,' said Oban manager Ian MacDonald. 'If we've got a pensioner who has been to the bingo in Oban it will be a long walk for them over the bridge.'

## Oban Sheriff Court

### Sun on road blamed for accident

A BUS driver, who lost his job following an accident at Kilmore, has been fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court for careless driving.

William Dunlop, aged 57, failed to see a car approaching from the north as he while to turn right at the junction in Kilmore on November 17 last year and started to turn across the A816.

The Renault Clio hit the bus and then collided with another car waiting at the junction. Two people in both cars received minor injuries the court was told last week and the Clio was written off.

Defence agent Kathleen McMahon told Sheriff Douglas Small that Dunlop, 6A Mossfield Drive, Oban, had been dismissed by his employers as a result of the accident.

'The sun was glancing off the wet road and he didn't see the Clio coming down the hill,' she said.

Dunlop, who pled guilty to driving the bus without due care and attention, also had five penalty points added to his licence.

### Public access on private road leads to conviction

A TOBERMORY man who allowed his 12-year-old son to drive a car up and down the road outside their home has been admonished at Oban Sheriff Court.

The court heard that a neighbour had heard a car revving loudly then seen the boy reversing a Vaux-

hall Cavalier down the drive on to St Mary's with Stephen Barlow, aged 53, guiding him.

He then watched while his son drove off with another child in the passenger seat and a few minutes later they came back again.

Defence agent David Dewar said Barlow had originally pled not guilty to allowing his son to drive while disqualified by virtue of age and allowing him to drive with no insurance on March 24 2005 because the road concerned was in fact a private road.

However, investigations had revealed that, although private, there was public access through the road as a short cut and as a result his client had changed his plea to guilty.

'His son had received the car as a present with the intention of only ever letting him use it on the private road,' said Mr Dewar, adding that the car had since been scrapped.

He said Barlow of Llamados, St Mary's, Rockfield Road, Tobermory, was now taking steps to prevent public access on the road.

Sheriff Douglas Small admonished Barlow on the first charge and fined him £400 and added six penalty points to his licence on the insurance charge.

### Fifteen-month ban for Inveraray man

AN INVERARAY man has been banned from driving for 15 months after pleading guilty to being drunk in charge of a car.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Norman Lindsay, aged 43, had driven to Dunbeg from In-

### Van driver's dangerous load

A VAN driver who was sent to pick up a two-tonne load of sand and gravel from Ennstone Thistle ended up with more than the legal weight allowed on his truck.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Nigel Parr, aged 44, was working as a driver for a local building company, which was working in Dunollie, when he was asked to take a truck to pick up 2,000kg of sand and gravel from a quarry on November 9 last year.

When Parr arrived, he was told the weigh bridge was not working and the operator loading the sand and gravel used his 'professional judgement' to load the truck.

When Parr, 41 Cruachan Cottages, Taynuilt, was stopped by police on the Corran Esplanade, Oban, it was found that the load was above the level of the enclosed rear, free to fall and a potential danger to other road users.

Defence agent Edward Thornton explained that the only other working weigh bridge was on the other side of Oban to where the load was picked up.

'That vehicle would have been quite adequate normally to carry 2,000kg but the load that was put on was 4,700kg [gross],' said Mr Thornton, who also produced the ticket from the quarry company saying the load given was 2,000kg.

Parr pled guilty to having a dangerous load, which is a strict liability offence - where saying he did not intend to commit the offence is not a defence.

Mr Thornton told the court that Parr's employers had indicated that they would pay for any fine.

# Oban bowling alley building up for auction

OBAN'S bowling alley building is once again up for sale, this time for offers over £840,000.

The Harbour Bowl is let by PMJ Bowl until 2010 but the building, which is to be auctioned in London on March 22, is owned by a property management company in Manchester.

Previously California Dreaming Ltd bought the property for £650,000 in November 2003 at an auction by Allsop's Auctioneers in London.

It bought the building

from Kilmartin Property Group, which was founded in 1996 and at one time owned a number of commercial properties in the town.

The auction on March 22 includes 147 properties of which the bowling alley is lot 47.

It is described as a 24,000 square-foot 'purpose-built property' with a 'ten-pin bowling alley with bar and restaurant and a children's play area on the ground floor, together with an indoor bowling rink with bar,

catering and function facilities on the first floor'.

It includes 74 parking spaces, which are occasionally sub-let.

The whole property is rented at £80,000 a year and the downstairs bar is sub-let to J Strachan and D Shaw at £1,000 per calendar month and the first floor bowling rink to Indoor Bowling Club at £1,500 per calendar month, according to the sale particulars.

The tenancies will not be affected by the sale of the building.

Auctioneer George Walker said many people were using Self Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs) to invest in commercial property because of the tax benefits on offer.

'The auction room has seen an increasing number of clients using their SIPPs to buy and sell property,' said Mr Walker.

With an increase in value of at least £200,000 in three years for a property like Harbour Bowl, it is not surprising that SIPPs are being sunk into commercial properties.

## Oban Hospice has a new logo

A NEW logo has been designed for Oban Hospice Ltd thanks to third year art and design pupils at Oban High School.

A competition was run among the students for a logo and Amy Kincaid's simple but evocative design won the judges over and won her first prize in the competition.

Second prize went to Charlotte Lloyd, third to John Storr and fourth equal to Iona Campbell and Rachel Paterson.

The prize-winners were all presented with their awards by Raymond Shaw of Oban Hospice Ltd.

Amy's dove and laurel wreath logo, which was awaiting its lettering when the winners were announced, will be used on any literature associated with the hospice and leaflets that are being drawn up.

The hospice will be open one day a week in the day hospital at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in

the town. Although a far cry from the original desire to have a two to four-bedded unit in the hospital, the hospice board feels that this is a start from which it can prove the need for something more substantial.

It will offer a day away from a person's usual routine and give their carers a chance to take a breather knowing their loved one is being more than adequately looked after.



Third year art and design pupils Iona Campbell, Rachel Paterson, John Storr, all left, and Amy Kincaid and Charlotte Lloyd, right, with Raymond Shaw from Oban Hospice Ltd. (11Jan01)

## Big tyres leads to big fine and driving ban

AN OBAN chef whose car tyres were so big they were rubbing against the car body was fined £500 and banned from driving for three months.

Oban Sheriff Court last week heard Steven Drummond, aged 24, of the Staff Quarters, Regent Hotel, admitted one of

his tyres did not have a depth of tread exceeding 1.6mm on March 24 2005. Drummond also pled guilty to driving his car when the tyres and wheels exceeded specification with the tyre sidewalls striking and abrading the rear wheel arches and admitted not having insur-

ance. Edward Thornton, defending, said Drummond was unaware that his insurance did not cover the size of his tyres.

Drummond, who already had three points on his driver's licence, was banned from driving for three months.

## Police files

### Oban vandalism

A SPATE of vandalism and attempted break-ins in buildings in Oban town centre in the early hours of March 10 saw a man arrested.

He appeared in connection with the incidents at Oban Sheriff Court this week.

### Attempted break-in

POLICE are appealing for information into an attempted break-in at Oban Electrical Services in Stevenson Street.

The attempt took place at around 1.30am on March 11 and Inspector Neil Wallace wants anybody who saw anything suspicious to contact Oban police on 01631 510500.

### Appin accident

A DRIVER was taken to Fort William's Belford Hospital after suffering injuries in a one-vehicle accident.

The accident happened at Appin on the A828 road at around 3pm on March 8. The driver's injuries were not serious.

### Driver arrested

AN alleged drink driver was stopped by police and arrested at the Half Way House Filling Station on March 10 at around 7.30pm.

### Stolen bicycles

BICYCLE owners in the Oban area are urged to be on their guard after a number of bikes have been reported stolen in recent weeks.

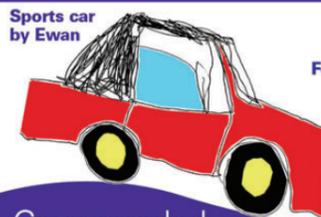
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Social Work Services can pay £350 a week for his foster care.

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](mailto:fiona.macdonald3@highland.gov.uk)

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# Armed police in Ballachulish face local man with guns and ammunition

ARMED police raced to Ballachulish after a local man claimed he had guns and would use them on anybody who came near his house, Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week.

A drunk and emotional Louis MacLeod had called Fort William Police Station on February 8 this year to warn officers he had two guns in his possession with more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition at 5 Albert Road.

MacLeod, aged 46, formerly of 5 Albert Road, Ballachulish, admitted a breach of the peace by being in possession of a loaded firearm and putting officers in a state of alarm.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie told Sheriff Douglas

Small that the accused had been drunk and spent the early hours of February 8 keeping his wife awake.

Ms Wyllie said: 'He had spent the whole night trying to keep her up talking about their problems. In the morning she had gone to work and at around 12.30pm she phoned him to see how he was and he told her he had a gun.'

The accused's wife put the telephone down on MacLeod, who was drunk, but at around 1.30pm he rang the police station.

Ms Wyllie said: 'The accused sounded very emotional. He said he was in possession of two guns, both guns were loaded and he would try and shoot anybody who came to

the house.' An armed response unit was scrambled while two officers from Ballachulish cordoned off the area around MacLeod's house.

Ms Wyllie said: 'There was a clear and urgent concern for the general public.'

'He said he had 500 to 600 pellets for each gun.'

Officers searched the house and found an air rifle on the kitchen table with pellets and a rifle case. A telescopic sight was found in the garden.

The police ordered him to throw the guns out and MacLeod later gave himself up.

He had drunk a bottle of vodka and taken diazepam and other tablets and told police afterwards he couldn't

remember very much about the incident.

Defence agent David MacNeill said the incidents were 'all attributed to abuse of alcohol'.

Mr MacNeill said: 'Happily he has a new address in Oban staying with a retired doctor, Dr MacKenzie, who has told him he can stay as long as possible.'

MacLeod spent a total of 27 days in custody between February 8 and March 9.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced MacLeod to carry out 200 hours of community service.

He also decided to maintain a one-year probation order imposed on MacLeod in January for a series of domestic incidents.

## Ben Nevis one of seven wonders

BEN Nevis, Glen Coe and the Caledonian Canal could become one of the Seven Wonders of Scotland in a national vote organised to celebrate the National Trust for Scotland's 75th anniversary.

The trust has selected 30 Scottish wonders nominated by high profile figures and a public vote will decide the final seven.

Outdoor Capital of the UK project director Anna Trafford said: 'The Outdoor Capital of the UK project was set up because we know how incredible this part of the world is and we want everyone to recognise the importance of our local area.'

'These three nominations in the National Trust for Scotland top 30 prove we really can claim to live in a wonderful world. Let's all get behind it and vote now.'

Text the number 07736 101010 followed by 1025 for Ben Nevis, 1011 for Glen Coe and 1008 for the Caledonian Canal.

## Housing roadshow hits Portree

THE HIGHLAND housing transfer roadshow, which is touring 47 locations across the Highlands throughout March, will visit Portree, Dunvegan and Lochcarron today (Thursday) and Friday.

The roadshow will give tenants the chance to find out more about the proposed transfer of council housing in the Highlands to a new not-for-profit organisation called Highland Housing Association.

Tenants should look out for a large white campervan with 'Housing Transfer Roadshow' on the side at the following places: 10am-noon, March 16 at Portree, beside swimming pool; 3-5pm, March 16 at Dunvegan, Lochside Car Park and 10am-noon, March 17 at Lochcarron near service point.

## Fiddle orchestra in Lapland

THE LOCHABER Fiddle Orchestra is jetting off to Lapland for an Easter tour.

The orchestra will visit Sorsele nestled in the heart of the Vasterbotten region 900km north of Stockholm.

A group of Swedish children will visit Lochaber in August when they will join the orchestra for concerts in the area.

# False start to pool project

FORT William's long awaited hydrotherapy pool could start taking shape by the end of May this year after a false start to the search to find a builder for the ambitious project.

Lochaber Hydrotherapy chairman Mark McCann revealed that National Lottery rules meant that a tendering exercise to find a builder had to be delayed.

Only two builders had submitted bids for the contract to build the pool, but the National Lottery rules stated that there must be three bidders.

The group raised in excess of £500,000 with the majority coming from the local community in Lochaber and more than £170,000 coming from National Lottery funding.

The tender had to be put out again and this time Mr

McCann is confident that around eight builders are interested in the contract.

He said: 'The problem was that when we put the search to find a builder for the ambitious project, Lochaber Hydrotherapy chairman Mark McCann revealed that National Lottery rules meant that a tendering exercise to find a builder had to be delayed.'

'The tenders out now must be returned by April 3 and then it is a matter of opening them and making a decision. We are hopefully looking at starting building by the end of May or June.'

'At the present time there are eight contractors interested. If they are not local they do a lot of work locally.'

'There will be work for local people in some capacity during the building work.'

Mr McCann also said that the charity still requires to

raise funds for maintenance and equipment and needed new board members and fundraisers.

'We've had fantastic support in the past but it's fallen away.'

'There are a good, many individuals and businesses who have raised funds in the past, but have since ceased to support us in this way.'

'There are many people who need hydrotherapy and there are many people in sports clubs who may benefit.'

'They should all be contacting me with applications to become a real supporter by an annual subscription of £5 or £50 for life membership.'

'This would be moral support for us and financial support for the hydrotherapy pool.'



Lochaber Sea Cadets took a trip in a Sea King helicopter last week.

## Sea cadets' Ben Nevis flyover in a Sea King

SEA CADETS in Lochaber had the chance to fly in one of the Royal Navy's Sea King search and rescue helicopters.

For two of the cadets, Catherine MacDonald and Kevin MacColl from Fort

William, it was their first time flying in any aircraft.

The cadets were given a quick flight up to Ben Nevis. The red and grey helicopters are a familiar sight over Lochaber, picking up climbers or hillwalkers in

need of assistance. First time flyer Catherine said: 'It was a bit scary at first but I would really like to do it again sometime.'

Cadet David Cartledge, who hopes to join the Royal Navy, said: 'This was my

second trip in a Royal Navy helicopter and it has lost none of its excitement.'

Cadet unit CO Derrick Warner said: 'As well as giving the cadets a new and positive experience I was also keen for them to real-

ise that the Royal Navy isn't just a grey ship passing on the horizon. It is extremely relevant to Lochaber.' The cadets are currently enrolling those between 12 and 18 years for the senior unit and starting a junior section.

# Sick baby caught in housing shortage

THE PARENTS of a four-month-old baby with a rare breathing condition are facing a long stay in hospital because of housing problems in Fort William.

Mary-Ann Stewart-MacDonald, daughter of Catherine and Angus MacDonald of Fort William, was born with central hyperventilation syndrome, which means she stops

breathing when she goes to sleep.

Four-month-old Mary-Ann is being treated at Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children while her parents stay in Ronald McDonald House, which provides accommodation for parents of sick children.

Mary-Ann now needs a ventilator to help her breathe when she is asleep and

carers for 18 hours a day. She will only get out of hospital when a large enough house is found for the family, who currently stay in a three-apartment house in Banff Crescent in the town.

Mr MacDonald said he had been told he could face a wait of more than one year for a suitable house.

He said: 'We were told we would have to get a bigger

house because of the carers, which is going to have to be a five or six-bedroom house.'

'They are now saying that they won't have a house ready until May 2007. Mary-Ann will be ready to come home in about one month but instead we are taking up valuable bed space in a special children's hospital which doesn't need to be taken up.'

A Highland Council spokesman said: 'Regrettably none of our existing properties meet their specific needs so we are working closely with our partners at the local housing association to develop an appropriate housing solution. This will include some complex work with architects, planners and occupational health services.'

# Diversity day builds bridges in Lochaber

A HIGH school is to build bridges with an immigrant population by holding a 'diversity day' next week.

One of the events planned in Lochaber High School is the production of large Saltire and Polish flags by pupils holding pieces of coloured cards in the school quadrangle.

Videos with an anti-rac-

ism theme will also be shown and the canteen will serve Latvian, Polish and Spanish food.

On Tuesday, March 21, the United Nations international day for the elimination of racism, the school will hold events throughout the school day to highlight diversity to the pupils.

Rector Donnie Campbell

said: 'With 900 plus pupils you would expect diversity in the school and we have that in abundance.'

'However, it's not been highlighted like this before. We hope the day will make us all more aware of the richness of the diversity in our midst, and just as importantly what also unites us as people.'

## Argyll access forum members wanted

A NEW outdoor access forum is to be set up for Argyll and Bute and members are being sought to sit on the new group.

The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 came into force last February and gives everyone the right to access the majority of land and inland waters in Scotland.

One of the obligations under the act is for local authorities like Argyll and Bute Council to set up an advisory body known as a local access forum.

It will be an independent body offering advice on a range of outdoor access issues.

Access rights only apply to people who exercise them responsibly, similarly land managers and owners need to manage their land in a way that both recognises and does not infringe on the new access rights.

To help to understand these a Scottish Outdoor Access Code has been published.

As well as including those with an interest in outdoor access, the forum will include representatives from public bodies, land managers and owners, users and communities. It is hoped that Argyll and Bute's forum will be able to help develop and manage outdoor access through advice and guidance.

Anyone wishing to apply for membership of the forum should contact Douglas Greison on 01546 604228 and return their application by April 3. Application packs will also soon be available on line via Argyll and Bute Council's website.

# Senior high school pupils consider third option

OBAN High School senior pupils have been introduced to a third option on leaving school - self-employment.

At a seminar in the Caledonian Hotel recently, 18 students were introduced to the idea by Stewart Miller, of Stewart Miller associates, who is running a series of seminars on the third option on behalf of Careers Scotland in Argyll and the islands.

Donald Melville, client adviser with Argyll and Islands Enterprise (AIE), is also involved in presenting the seminars.

He said: 'The seminars are all about taking the stu-

dents out of their school environment and teaching them the pros and cons of self-employment, using theory, practical and interactive exercises and case studies.'

'AIE has been involved with these events for a number of years now and they are very popular with pupils,' he said.

Helen Miller, founder of the Oban Chocolate Factory, gave pupils an insight into her experience of starting and running a business.

She got her idea after visiting a chocolate factory in Australia and set up shop in 2003 producing hand-made

chocolate truffles, bars and wedding cakes from the premises in Craigard Road.

'The objective of these seminars is to provide basic information to pupils so they can make informed decisions about considering self-employment as a possible career option in their local vicinity,' added Mr Miller.

In Argyll the business start-up rate is lower than down south and in many rural areas pupils leave school to go to university or college and never return.

The second option is to find a job, which can also mean leaving the area.



Oban High School pupils at the third option conference, with, centre Stewart Miller, Helen Miller and Donald Melville. 0110p01

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## A82 closed for two days after snow

A PRESSURE group has called for immediate action on the A82 after bad weather caused the trunk road to close for two days this week.

The road closed between Tarbert and Crianlarich on Sunday, March 12 after heavy snow falls brought down trees on high ground above the road.

A spokesperson for BEAR Scotland said it had to bring in 'platform levels' to clear dangerous snow-bearing branches.

The spokesperson added that the narrow width of the road had also caused problems.

A spokesperson for the pressure group, the A82 Partnership, said the closure would never have happened if there was a decent standard of road.

He said: 'To be closed for 48 hours over a few trees is ridiculous.'



The late Cameron of Lochiel with his wife, Margaret, who died this week.

# Lady Cameron a 'lovely, gracious lady' dies aged 93

LADY Margaret Cameron of Lochiel, wife of the late chief of Clan Cameron, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, has died aged 93.

She survived Sir Donald Cameron, who died in June 2004, by only two years.

They were married in 1939 and Lady Margaret leaves two sons, Donald, the present clan chief,

Johnny and two daughters, Anne and Caroline.

The couple moved to Achnacarry Castle on the death of Sir Donald's father in 1951. Lady Margaret was very involved in the Red Cross in Lochaber.

Isabel Campbell, secretary of Lochaber Agricultural Society for 29 years, remembered a 'lovely, gra-

acious lady'. She said: 'She supported her husband in everything he did and never missed a single year of the Lochaber Show.'

'They had an estate party every year for the workers and their wives.'

A funeral service will be held at 2.30pm on Tuesday, March 21 at St Andrews Church in Fort William.

## Environment group first in Lochaber

FRIENDS of the Earth (FoE), the environmental campaign charity, is to launch a new group in Lochaber.

Duncan MacLaren, FoE's Scotland chief-executive, will launch the new group with a talk about energy, waste and environmental justice.

Lochaber co-ordinator Linda Taylor will talk about local issues and said she felt it was important to establish a group in this area as it was important local people have an input on the future of the town.

She said: 'Fort William is quite an industrial town and there is a history of pollution in Corpach. The town is growing very fast and it is important people have an input into what businesses come here and what sort of town it becomes.'

'I'd encourage all local supporters and those interested in environmental issues to come along.'

The meeting will take place at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William on March 29 at 7.30pm.

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# North Uist settlement discovery could mean re-write of history books

ARCHAEOLOGISTS working on North Uist have turned up evidence of a pre-historic settlement which they claim may re-write the history books as possibly the oldest tangible evidence for human settlement in the region.

Traces of oval-shaped structures, post holes and quartz tools have been found by a team from Sheffield University's Archaeological Research and Consultancy (AR-CUS) and two local archaeologists. Over the last month they have been digging out a section of peat bog during works to widen the Lochmaddy-Clachan stretch of the A865. The dig, funded by Comharile nan Eilean Siar, was a requirement of planning consent for the road improvement scheme. The particular section of bog was selected for its proximity to Barpa Langais, the best preserved Neolithic chambered cairn in the Western Isles.

Local archaeologist Helen Bradley made the first discovery. 'We had opened up six small trenches. In one I

spotted two edge-up stones which looked as if they had been placed. Further digging revealed evidence of stone walls, and circular stone settings which looked as if they may have been placed to act as post supports.'

The team went on to discover evidence of a more extensive settlement which includes a possible seven structures, one of which extends up the hillside out of the dig area towards Barpa Langais.

Leading the ARCUS team, Helen Holderness explained she thought the settlement might have been occupied intermittently over a long time during the early Neolithic period around 4000BC.

'This was possibly a site for temporary domestic occupation by hunter-gatherers, with insubstantial oval structures of hides or skins supported by poles,' she said.

'There is good evidence that quartz tools were produced on the site, and some arrow heads and tiny scraping tools

have been found. Flint is not available here, and quartz is much harder to use, so we've found plenty of discarded fragments. From the evidence it seems that someone who really knew how to use quartz was in the settlement at one point.'

Asked if there could be any link with the chambered cairn 100 metres away, she said it was extremely hard to say with certainty at this stage. 'Much evidence of pre-historic burial rituals survives, but it is rare and exciting to find evidence of day to day human occupation,' she added.

Ms Bradley explained that peat bog was notorious for destroying evidence, making the settlement difficult to date.

'The acidity rots away bones, pottery or anything organic. We have sent away the tools we found for dating, and this will be done by comparing them with similar tools found in other places where carbon-dating has been possible.'

Asked if there was evidence of the use of fire on the site, local archaeologist Ian McHardie said he was looking at a concentration of charcoal in a round ditch, close to a deep post hole. 'It's possible but by no means certain that it may have been a structure with a fire in the middle,' he said.

'The problem is a lot of charcoal occurs on these sites, and it's hard to define what comes from man-made activity or natural fires. But here we have a formation of three small flat stones which may have been griddles.'

The team also found a number of large flat stones which had been transported to the site, one of which appears to have been used as a platform for tool-making.

Now at the end of the dig, they have produced scale drawings, photographs and context sheets of the site which will act as a permanent record. Within weeks the site will be dug up completely and covered with tarmac to allow modern man to pursue his faster way of life.

## Oban - Fort William bus service via Kinlochleven?

ARGYLL and Bute and Highland councils are looking at extending bus services between Oban and Fort William and introducing a service to include Kinlochleven.

Lochaber MSP Fergus Ewing, who has had several constituents from Kinlochleven saying they would like the opportunity to get to Oban, has welcomed the news. Mr Ewing said: 'In a recent surgery in Kinlochleven, constituents said that they would like the chance to travel to Oban from Kinlochleven. Other residents said they too would like to visit Oban, to visit the shops and have a day out. These include a number of senior citizens, who, from April 1, will be entitled to free travel anywhere in Scotland.'

Argyll and Bute Council said that on two occasions over the last few years Citylink had been asked to give a cost for a minimum six-days-a-week, twice-a-day service to Fort William to improve the restricted winter service. But this had proved to be too costly to both Highland and Argyll and Bute, which would have to subsidise the service as it is not commercially viable.

'However, last year the councils once again sought tenders for the operation of the winter service on a six-day-a-week, two journeys-a-day basis and a more economical bid has been submitted, which is currently under consideration,' Douglas Blades at Argyll and Bute Council told Mr Ewing in a letter. Mr Blades said in his letter that it was hoped to provide some additional services along the route, which would connect with the existing service. 'It is hoped that these could provide a link between Kinlochleven and Oban, albeit involving a change at either Ballachulish or Barcaldine,' he added.

'This would depend on two obstacles being overcome: the cost and the ability to have seamless connections so people would not be waiting for long time at change points.'



## Gàirdeachas sna Hearadh

Fhuair uachdaran coimhearsnachd adhbhar gàirdeachais bhò chionn ghoirid nuair a fhuair iad seilbh air 7,500 acair a bharrachd.

Chaidh aonta a ruighinn eadar Urras Chinn-a-Tuath na Hearadh agus uachdaran Oighreachd Shìophoirt airson an talamh a reic airson £150,000.

Thàinig a chuid as motha den airgead air an robh feum bho Stòras Fearann na h-Alba.

'Tha e a-nis a' ciallachadh gu bheil gach baile ann an ceann-a-tuath na Hearadh bho smachd a' coimhearsnachd.

Thuir cathraiche an Urrais, Calum MacAoidh, gur e 'gluasad cudromach' a bh' ann, gu h-àraidh dhaibh-san a tha a' fuireachd air Oighreachd Shìophoirt.

Thuir Derek Laidlaw, a tha fuireachd air an oighreachd: 'Tha seo cudromach dhuinne. Tha e a' ciallachadh gu bheil smachd againn air an oighreachd agus gum faigh sinn smachd air na tha dhan dhuinn san àr teachd agus na cothroman a thig na lùib.'

A community landlord was given reason to celebrate, after gaining control of an additional 7,500 acres.

The North Harris Trust and the owners of the Seaforth Estate reached an agreement to sell the land for £150,000. Most of the finance required was accessed through the Scottish Land Fund.

It now means that every village in the north of Harris is under community control.

Trust chairman, Calum MacKay, said it was 'an important development', especially for those that reside in the Seaforth Estate.

Derek Laidlaw, who stays on the estate, said: 'This is very important for us. It means that we are now in control of the estate and can seize our destiny and the opportunities that come with that.'

## Seusan turasachd soirbheachail

Tha e coimhead coltach gum bi seusan turasachd soirbheachail eile anns na h-eileanan, leis na tha dhaoine air aiteachan-fuirich a chur air dòigh tron eadar-lìon air èirigh gu mòr.

Thuir a' bhuidheann a tha coimhead as dèidh làrach-lìon turasachd na h-Alba, Visitscotland.com, gu bheil 1,527 duine air na seibheisean aca a chleachdadh ann bliadhna airson saor-làithean a chur air dòigh an sgìre - àrdachadh de 80% air an-uiridh.

Thuir ball-pàrlamaid nan Eilean Siar, Alasdair Moireasdan: 'Tha na figearan math dha-rìribh agus tha iad a' comharrachadh gum bidh bliadhna turasachd soirbheachail aig an h-Eileanan an Iar a-rithist. Tha iad cuideachd a' sealltainn mar a tha cleachdadh an eadar-lìon a' fas san comanta.'

A rèir Mhgr Mhoireasdan tha measgachadh math de sheallaidhean, cultar is eachdraidh aig an h-eileanan, agus e ag ràdh gu bheil iad a' fas nas tarraingiche gach bliadhna.

The tourism season in the Western Isles looks set for another successful year, with accommodation bookings through the internet showing a substantial increase.

The organisation which runs Scotland's tourism website, Visitscotland.com, said that 1,527 people had used their services this year to book holidays in the islands - a rise of 80 per cent on last year.

Local MSP Alasdair Morrison said: 'These figures are very welcome as an indicator of another good year for tourism in the Western Isles.'

'They also demonstrate the spiralling growth in the use of the Internet for online bookings generally.'

Mr Morrison said the islands had an excellent mix of scenery, culture and history, claiming their appeal was widening every year.

## Fèis Cheilteach air leth

Bidh luchd-ciùil air leth ciùiteach rin cluinntinn aig Fèis Cheilteach Inne Gall am bliadhna.

Dh'ainmich luchd-stiùiridh na fèis gum bidh leithid an comhlan ainmeil Èirinneach, Hothouse Flowers, na Levellers agus an Afro Celt Sound System a' gabhail pàirt.

Cuideachd a' gabhail an àrd-ùrlair air feadh na ceithir oidhichean san Iuchair bidh na peathraichean NicChoinnich à Leòdhas, Julie Fowlis is Blazin' Fiddles.

An-uiridh bha an fheis, a tha air a chumail ann an Steòrnabhagh, air leth soirbheachail agus an àireamh thicead a chaidh gan reic nas àirde na bliadhna sam bith eile.

Thàinig iad as gach ceàrnaidh dhen shaoghal airson an tachartas a fhrithealadh.

Thuir stiùiriche na fèis Caroline NicIleinein: 'Tha an ceòl againn, tha an suidheachadh ceart againn agus tha coimhearsnachd taiceil againn. Sin as coireach gum faigh sinn air ar h-àite mar aon de fèisean as fheàrr ann an Breatainn a ghleidheadh agus gu bheil ùidh ga shealltainn ann air feadh an t-saoghail.'

A line-up of top musicians will be performing at this year's Hebridean Celtic Festival.

Festival organisers revealed that the likes of the famous Irish band, Hothouse Flowers, the Levellers and the Afro Celtic Sound System will be taking part.

Also taking the stage over the course of four nights in July will be the MacKenzie sisters from Lewis, Julie Fowlis and Blazin' Fiddles.

The festival, which is held in Stornoway, proved a tremendous success last year, with more tickets sold than any other year. They come from all over the world to attend.

Festival director Caroline MacLennan said: 'We have the music, the setting and a supportive community. That's why we continue to hold our place as one of the UK's top festivals and why we have interest from around the world each year.'

# Isle of Mull keeps eagle eye on rare birds

AS the nesting season arrives, police, islanders and wildlife protection groups are gearing up to keeping an eagle eye on one of Mull's rarest birds.

The highly successful Mull Eagle Watch, which started on Monday (March 13), will run until April 17 and sees the community

coming together to protect the eggs of the rare white-tailed sea eagles.

Every year when the birds are sitting on their eggs, Strathclyde Police wildlife crime officers, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the local community and volunteers from throughout the UK

provide a round-the-clock watch on the nests. Strathclyde Police Oban's Chief Inspector Ciorstan Shearer said: 'The initiative highlights the determination of the police, partner agencies and members of the public in preventing and detecting wildlife crime on Mull. Everyone associated with



Mull's eagles are now being carefully watched - Picture Iain Erskine

launch in 1996 it had gone from strength to strength each year and no eggs had been lost since 2000.

'However,' he cautioned, 'we are not getting complacent and thanks to overwhelming support from everyone involved, we plan to provide the best possible protection to the nest sites again this year.'

Mull Eagle Watch has been instrumental in the successful convictions of people who were disturbing the nest.

'There are local eyes and the

## Crinan Canal bridge closes overnight

THE BRIDGE over the Crinan Canal at Ardrishaig will be closing again for three nights at the end of March.

On March 22, 23 and 24 the A83 bridge will be closed from 10pm until 6am and British Waterways, which is carrying out work on the bridge, has warned that it will be completely closed.

This is to allow the company's contractor to replace the deck surface of the bridge.

Vehicles under five tonnes in weight will be diverted via an alternative route but heavier vehicles will have to wait on either side of the bridge until 6am.

The bridge was also closed last Friday and Saturday, with some traffic allowed across at intervals when work allowed.

## McDougall's Home Hardware's new look



The new-look McDougall's Home Hardware looks so much bigger and stocks more than 10,000 different products.

THERE is a superb, modern new look for the good, old-fashioned, quality service that is provided by McDougall's Home Hardware.

Since 1865 the business has been making homes in Oban and Argyll better places to live.

What began as a joinery business was moved into hardware and ironmongery in the 1950s by the present owner's father, the late Alan McDougall.

'And this is the first major refit the premises has had since then' said John McDougall.

From the floor to the ceiling everything has been replaced.

McDougall's is a member of the Home Hardware group of independent hardware shops who pool their buying power to enable them to compete with the large nationwide chains of stores.

'We can offer better service and value for money,' said Mr McDougall.

He also called on the group's design services to plan the new-look store.

'The result is spectacular. We have had very good customer response and they can't get over how much larger the place seems to be,' he said.

McDougall's Home Hardware now boasts over

10,000 different products for sale.

McDougall's stocks leading makes of power tools and has expanded its electrical goods range along with its housewares. The heating department can sell you anything from the smallest fan heater to the largest oil filled radiator and solid fuel fires and accessories.

Dulux paint is another popular brand which has seen McDougall's increase its product range and the firm also offers the Dulux paint tinting and mixing service.

The clothing department has also been enlarged and offers an incredible range.

As the gardening year unfolds customers will see a new look garden centre that will also open on Sundays.

McDougall's prides itself on being as competitive on price as the big boys but still giving the kind of quality customer service you expect from a family-owned business.

'Yes, we still sell things like nails by weight, none of that 'buy it in bubble packs only', said Mr McDougall. 'We're the kind of store where you can still buy the amount you want, not just a standard pack size.'

Deliveries are made to 10 miles outwith Oban and or-

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**www.mcdougalls-homehardware.co.uk**

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**HIGHLAND THEATRE** 01631 562444  
GEORGE STREET - OBAN

6.15 DAILY (inc. SUNDAY) FROM FRIDAY-2.30 SATURDAY MATINEE  
**THE BIG MOMMA OF ALL FAMILY COMEDIES IS BACK**  
**Big Momma's House 2** PG

8.15 EVERY EVENING (inc. SUNDAY) FROM FRIDAY  
TV MET MAN (NICOLAS CAGE) AND MICHAEL CAINE in  
**THE WEATHER MAN** 15

**STUDIO CINEMA** 01397 705095  
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

5.45 DAILY (inc. SUNDAY) FROM FRIDAY-2.30 SATURDAY MATINEE  
HILARIOUS TALE OF A CHICKEN HELD FOR FINAL WEEK  
**CHICKEN LITTLE** U

7.00 DAILY (inc. SUNDAY) FROM FRIDAY-2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE  
ALL STAR CAST IN THE GREAT JOHNNY CASH STORY  
**WALK THE LINE** 12A

7.30 EVERY EVENING (inc. SUNDAY) FROM FRIDAY  
HEATH LEDGER and SIENNA MILLER shine in  
**Casanova** 12A

**Your Stars with Patrick Arundell**

**ARIES** (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272  
A sensational week for Rams, as the Sun pours its healing energy into your sign, putting you very much on the front foot. Yet there can be some sharp exchanges and perhaps you will feel that someone will be deserving of your wrath, especially if the trust and support you have invested in the past has not been reciprocated. Once you have had your say you can then boldly move on. For more, please call.

**TAURUS** (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 273  
A chance to change your world, may see you having to make a choice. Perhaps something dear to your heart will be compromised in the pursuit of progress. For example a job could be offered you'd love, but which is badly paid, or you have the chance to fill your coffers doing something you might not enjoy. Value yourself in any discussions that you do have however. For more, please call me.

**GEMINI** (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 274  
If there have been some situations this month where you have felt no option but to stand your ground, it'd be understandable. But then perhaps you have been showing more grit, more desire to get your own way. However, although strains may not mysteriously vanish, your ability to network and build valuable links, or improve those you have, will be improved and beneficially so. For more, please call me.

**CANCER** (June 22 - July 22) 09111 767 275  
The desire to infuse your world with greater variety may not have pleased everybody - though opposition may not have been necessarily obvious. Now you are asked to step up a level and show your leadership credentials. People may want to bestow you with greater responsibility, you may want to take on more yourself. The fact is this is crunch time as far as your life. For more, please call me.

**LEO** (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 276  
Much as you can embrace a certain amount of routine, there is that other, more risk taking side of your nature, one which can see you roll the dice of luck and to great effect when the mood takes you. Now you can get the taste to transform your world through spiritual action. With the Spring rushing forth, a great time to clear out the cobwebs and show how enterprising you can be. For more, please call me.

**VIRGO** (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 277  
Your ruler is still tangling with impatient Mars, clearly not a good time to try to overly boss situations. Yet your passions could be roused to such an extent that you may be minded to play hard ball. Remember, it is not just the winning that counts, but the manner. You could get your own way, but there may be a price to pay. Yet maybe something is ripe to change in your world. For more, please call me.

**LIBRA** (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 278  
However much your fair-minded ways have tried to steer you clear of doing so, it may have been easier to have got tangled up in the tiny details of situations of late. Yet this week gives you the opportunity to engage in that inimitable way of yours, making it easier to rub along with others, or to sell yourself or your wares. Some Scales may even be up for sporty competition. For more, please call me.

**SCORPIO** (Oct 24 - Nov 22) 09111 767 279  
The creativity that you have been showing, has stood you in great stead. But however much promise situations have been showing, you may need to fine tune your approach to really get appreciable results. If you combine flair with a down to earth, no nonsense practicality, you will have a winning ticket. Yet you may have to master your frustrations around one situation. For more, please call me.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280  
A more combative approach towards those at home or in the family is likely to be helpful. Are you being a touch grouchy and oversensitive. Your sense of humour can however, be re-ignited and this can provide the spark to see life in a more balanced way. Most of all, you can be less defensive and be much more in the mood to seek entertainment and fun. For more, please call me.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281  
Dashing from pillar to post may well have made for much excitement of late, but it may not have done much for a regular sleep pattern. Now you can start to step back a little more and consolidate. If you can take the chance to rest and recharge any frayed nerves, this would be a timely week to do so. Give yourself permission to step off that proverbial treadmill. For more, please call me.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282  
Have you long hoped to learn a new skill, perhaps to assist your work prospects or might you have talents that you can share with others? Either of these scenarios is possible from now and you might be in the perfect mood to enliven the daily routines of life. Yet you may still be the tail of one rather exasperating situation, linked to money. Perhaps someone is set to be unreasonable. For more, please call me.

**PISCES** (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283  
Feeling good about yourself and your personal qualities, is definitely something to aspire to. You may have taken some bold moves over the last month, unaware of how these would work out. Now you can start to discover how. If you have yet to see evidence of practical improvements have faith, because things really can shape up nicely - perhaps just not as you had exactly expected! For more, please call me.

**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**.

**WALK THE LINE**  
Screen One  
12A Certificate  
136 Minutes  
(Under-12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)  
**FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA**  
7.00 Daily, including Sunday - from Friday 2.00 Saturday afternoon Matinee  
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-12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)  
**FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA**  
7.30 Daily, including Sunday, from Friday  
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.

**WEATHERMAN**  
15 Certificate  
101 Minutes  
**OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE**  
Screen Two: 8.15  
EVENINGS ONLY, INCLUDING SUNDAY, FROM FRIDAY  
**Nicolas Cage** plays high-profile TV weatherman **David Spritz**, but his success has come at a very heavy personal price, with the breakdown of his marriage.  
His father, played by **Michael Caine**, a "Pulitzer Prize" writer, regards his son's choice of career with withering disdain. David's ex wife (**Hope Davis**) has even less

**MK Jewellery**  
Come along and see our new range of Stunning Silver Jewellery  
As we have been supporting Cancer Research Race For Life 15% from all sales will be donated To Cancer Research  
There will be wine and nibbles available so please bring a friend  
If you would like more information on booking a party or About fundraising  
Please contact Margaret MacDougall Telephone (01866) 822113.

**MK Jewellery is launching its 2006 Catalogue in The Oyster Inn in Connel**  
**On Saturday 25th March at 8pm**  
Come along and see our new range of Stunning Silver Jewellery  
As we have been supporting Cancer Research Race For Life 15% from all sales will be donated To Cancer Research  
There will be wine and nibbles available so please bring a friend  
If you would like more information on booking a party or About fundraising  
Please contact Margaret MacDougall Telephone (01866) 822113.

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
**What's On Guide**

**16th and 17th March**  
Lorn Drama Festival, Corran Halls, 7.30pm

**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

**Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd March**  
Oban High School production of Grease, Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm, Tickets: Adult £4, Child £2, Family £10

**Saturday 25th March**  
Fiddlers Rally, Corran Halls  
MK Jewellery launch new catalogue, Oyster Inn, Connel 8pm  
Fishermen's Mission, Mallaig, Taable Top Sale, 10 am till 1 pm

**Tuesday 28th March**  
Traditional Highland Folk Tales, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm.  
Beasties and Bogles, Traditional Highland Folktales, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30pm, Tickets £5/£3.  
Box Office 01631 567333

**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

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

**MacDougall collection comes to Benderloch**

BENDERLOCH and District Scottish Women's Rural Institute was recently treated to a talk from Catherine Gillies of the MacDougall Collection.  
She brought a number of items connected to the Benderloch area to the SWRI meeting, either that had been used in the area or been donated by people from the area.  
These included what looked like large butter paddles with a hinge but turned out to be a lard press and the shafts from the trap that was used to carry passengers to and from the South Shian ferry and also make deliveries in the area. These were donated to Miss Hope MacDougall, who built up the huge collection of social and historical artefacts from around the West Highlands and islands and further afield, by Mr MacKelvie, who was local to Benderloch. She was given the 1.9m-long shafts in 1974.  
The last ferryman on the South Shian ferry was Donald Black and he lived in the ferry house at the end of the South Shian road now owned by Roger Thwaite.  
Catherine informed the ladies about many of the other items in the collection and in turn some of the members were able to give her a little bit of background about where and who would have used the horse and trap.

Ann Buchanan, president Benderloch and District SWRI and Eileen Hill, treasurer, with the cart shafts that were used on the cart around Benderloch. t11wr101

**St. Patrick's Irish Pub**  
Friday 17th March  
IRISH DISHES  
BOOK YOUR TABLE AT THE PARTY NOW  
START THE 'CRAG' WITH A FREE GLASS OF GUINNESS FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED  
Breadalbane Street, Oban Tel: 01631 566159 / 565421

**forthcoming events**

**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 1pm

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

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

**Tuesday 30th May** - Annual Local Biodiversity Conference, Craignure Hall, Isle of Mull, Tel 01631 562125 (Linda Brown)

**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

**GET YOUR EVENT LISTED CONTACT 01631 568000**

Renowned country dance instructor Jimmie Hill from Fife with pianist James Gray and members of the Lorn Branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Association. Dancers from all over the UK and even Norway came to Oban for the annual event which included a workshop and successful dinner dance in the Corran Halls. t11dnc01

Alec Cameron, centre front, takes time out from engraving Lauren Moore and Nicole Lopez's bicycles with their postcodes to help identify bikes in the event of theft. The Crime Prevention Panel, PC Raymond Law and Alastair MacLean, Guiseppa Lopez and Chantelle Lopez are watching on. PC Law would like to thank Oban Mica Hardware for donating the engraver. t11bke01

**COMMUNITY Noticeboard**

**Duncan Ban MacIntyre Night**  
Weem Hotel, By Aberfeldy  
Friday 24th March 2006  
7.15 for dinner at 7.30pm  
Tickets £12.95 per person  
Information & Tickets from Richard Deveria Tel: 01887 820 567

**Storytelling with Duncan Williamson**  
24 March 6.30-8 p.m.  
**Biodiesel Workshop and Demonstration**  
25 March 10-4 p.m.  
For further information, booking and diary of events, contact 01546 510278 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)

**Fiddlers' Rally**  
Saturday 25th March  
Corran Halls, Oban at 7pm  
Tickets £7  
Concessions £5  
Available from Corran Halls Booking Office only  
Tel: 01631 567333

**H.C.P.T. COFFEE MORNING**  
Royal Hotel, Oban  
Sat 18th March  
10.30am - 12.30 pm  
£1.50  
Stalls include: baking, toilet, sunshine and raffle.  
Guess the weight of cake  
Guess the doll's birthday  
Live Music provided by a host of local artists

**An Comunn Gaidhealach CRUACHAN BRANCH CEILIDH**  
Saturday 18th March at 7.45pm  
TAYNUILT VILLAGE HALL  
Deirdre Graham & friends from RSAM&D with full supporting programme  
Bean an Taigh: Agnes MacLean  
Admission: £3; Members and Children £2

**Friends of Mallaig Fishermen's Mission TABLE TOP SALE and CRAFT FAIR**  
Soup & Roll - Cakes  
Fishermen's Mission MALLAIG  
Saturday 25th March  
10am to 1pm  
Table space available at £10 per table  
Contact Sonia on 01687 462189

**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

**This Mothers DAY**

Come on kids, send a message to Mum for Mothers Day show her how much she means to you

**5x1 Box 20 Words Max £12.50**

**A** To Mum Happy Mothers Day Lots Of Love Always Amy xx

**B** To the best Mum in the world. Lots of love Davie

**C** Put the feet up Mum, Dinners on it's way!! Lot's of love Debbie & Ewen

Your Message Will Appear in The Oban Times on Thursday 23rd March  
**Deadline Monday 20 March**

Fill in the coupon below with your message and send or hand in to:

THE OBAN TIMES, PO BOX 1, OBAN TEL: 01631 568000  
OBAN TIMES, MAMORE HOUSE, FORT WILLIAM TEL: 01397 703003  
**Only £12.50** (including VAT) Pay by Cheque, P.O. or telephone in your message, quoting your Access/Visa number

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Alan Campbell, Charles Kennedy MP, Harry MacMaster, Bill Smith and Neil MacKay before the Oban FM Cash for Kids Gale Dinner at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls

## Oban FM Cash for Kids raises £10,000

OBAN FM'S Cash for Kids charity appeal smashed all expectations with between £9,000 to £10,000 raised after a gala dinner dance and live radio auction.

Oban FM Cash for Kids chairman Neil MacKay said the event had been a tremendous success.

Neil said: 'We can't give an exact figure raised because people are actually giving more than the agreed

and Radio Clyde veteran Bill Smith compered the gala dance and guest speaker was former Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy and MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

Mr Kennedy who entered the House of Commons in 1983 as a MP gave a witty and wry speech in which he recalled campaigning before the election.

The then would-be MP

was on the Skye ferry from Kyle of Lochalsh to Kyleakin and his campaign car was emblazoned with 'Vote Kennedy'. One inebriated ferry passenger looked the MP up and down until asking to confirm if he was indeed 'Mr Kennedy' - the great Gaelic singer and entertainer Calum Kennedy.

Popular Tیره band Skerryvore provided the music throughout the night.

and Radio Clyde veteran Bill Smith compered the gala dance and guest speaker was former Liberal Democrat leader Charles Kennedy and MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

Mr Kennedy who entered the House of Commons in 1983 as a MP gave a witty and wry speech in which he recalled campaigning before the election.

The then would-be MP

**Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon & 10k**  
Sunday 28 May 2006  
Aqualinium, Campbeltown  
Visit [www.mokrun.co.uk](http://www.mokrun.co.uk)  
for details,  
pick up an entry form  
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Tom Barbour on  
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Book at Reception now as places are limited.

Activities on offer

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Coaching sessions - include Badminton, Performance Squash (6th April), Squash and Basket Ball Junior Squash Tournament - Friday April 14s Over £100 worth of prizes

Also Pool Inflatables sessions on Tuesday's, Fridays and Saturdays  
Roller Disco sessions.....  
Disco and lights  
(Bring your own skates only)

For detailed holiday information, enrolment and booking forms can be downloaded from [www.atlantisleisure.co.uk](http://www.atlantisleisure.co.uk) or collected from reception.

**CORRAN HALLS**  
Tuesday 28 March  
7.30pm  
**BEASTIES AND BOGLES**  
Traditional Highland folk tales  
with **Andrew MacKintosh**  
Tickets £5/£3  
Box Office: 01631 567333

**Smokie**  
LIVE IN CONCERT

Saturday 1st April  
**CORRAN HALLS**  
Tickets: £18.50 & £16.50  
Available from Corran Halls Box Office  
Tel: 01631 567 333

**HOLDING AN EVENT?**  
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Wednesday 22 March  
Thursday 23 March  
7 p.m.

**Oban High School's production of**

Tickets:  
Adult £4, Child £2  
Family (2 adults + 2 children) £10

**ARGYLL ANIMAL AID**

**PET OF THE WEEK**

**MAJOR and SARGE**

Friendly 3-year-old brothers. Very nice natured. Need either a home together or can go separately  
Please contact Jean on 01631 710084 after 8pm

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[www.smallpaws.co.uk](http://www.smallpaws.co.uk)

# Everyone loves their mum and wants to celebrate Mother's Day. But are we celebrating Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday? Put the right coloured carnation in your buttonhole, tuck into your carlings, furrmety or simnel cake and find out.

# Mothers Day

Lent, everyone would visit their 'mother' church, or Cathedral of the area. With everyone returning to the 'mother' church it was obvious that family reunions would take place, especially with children who were working away 'in service' returned home. And not just domestic servants, in those days children as young as 10 could be working away as farm hands or apprentices. This return to the 'mother' church and often to mother herself led to the tradition of children being given the day off to visit their mother and family.

Traditionally, it was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family. On most Sundays people worshipped at their nearest parish or 'daughter church'. Centuries ago it was considered important for people to return to their home or 'mother' church once a year. So each year in the middle of

As they walked home through fields or along hedgerows of freshly open spring flowers children would pick wild flowers or violets to take to church or give to their mother as a small gift and over the years the traditions evolved. You could not return home to see your mother without bringing a gift. One such traditional gift is a simnel cake. This is a fruit cake with two layers of almond paste, one on top and one in the middle. The cake is made with 11 balls of marzipan icing on top representing the 11 disciples; Judas Judas Judas is omitted. Traditionally, sugar violets

would also be added. The cake can involve the use of saffron in some recipes, a beautiful golden yellow from crocus flowers, traditionally a spring colour, along with the violets. Simnel probably comes from the Latin word simila which means a fine wheat flour usually used for baking a cake. There is also a legend that a man called Simon and his wife Nell argued over whether the cake for Mothering Sunday should be baked or boiled. In the end they did both, so the cake was named after both of them. But Mothering Sunday falls in the middle of Lent a time of abstinence so it is more likely that the cake was cooked this way to enable it to keep longer; because of Lent simnel cake had to keep until Easter. In some parts of Scotland and northern England, especially around Northumberland, the usual gifts were carlings, pancakes made of steeped peas fried in butter, with pepper and salt.

In fact, in some locations the day was referred to as Carling Sunday. Another early dish from the 16th century Associated with Mothering Sunday was called 'furrmety' a milk based dish a bit like rice pudding but with wheat grains instead of rice. ALL the world loves their mums and Mother's Day is celebrated all around the world, but not necessarily on the same day. In the United States of America it is always the second Sunday in May. Many other countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium also celebrate Mother's Day on the same day as the United States. Britain celebrates Mother's Day on the fourth Sunday of Lent, and in Argentina it is the second Sunday in October. International Mother's Day is actually celebrated on May 11. So if you think your mother is special, stock up on a few cards and hand one over on every date. That's a sure way to keep in her good books.

Mother's Day or Mothering Sunday means flowers, no matter what you want to call the day. One tradition is to wear a carnation. A coloured carnation means that a person's mother is living while a white carnation honours a person's mother who is dead.

**Simnel cake**

565g (1lb 4oz) Marzipan • 450g (1lb) Mixed Dried Fruit  
225g (8oz) Plain Flour • 170g (6oz) Butter  
170g (6oz) Soft Brown Sugar • 50g (2oz) Glace Cherries, chopped  
3 Eggs • 1 Lemon, grated rind only • 2 tsp Milk • 2 tsp Brandy  
1 tsp Mixed Spice • ½ tsp Baking Powder • Sieved Apricot Jam

Pre-heat oven to 170°C: 325°F: Gas 3.  
Line a 18cm (7 inch) cake tin with buttered greaseproof paper.  
Cream butter and sugar together until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, adding tablespoon of the flour with last egg.  
Fold in the dried fruit, chopped cherries, mixed spice, sifted flour and baking powder, mixing thoroughly. Stir in the lemon rind, milk and brandy.  
Roll out 150-170g (5-6oz) of the marzipan on a lightly floured surface, to a round shape slightly smaller than 18cm (7 inch).  
Spoon half of the cake mixture into the prepared tin. Add the round of marzipan. Cover with the remaining cake mixture.  
Bake for 2-2¼ hours. Allow the cake to cool in the tin for about 15 minutes. Turn out onto wire tray to cool completely.  
When cold, remove greaseproof paper. Brush top of cake with apricot jam. Roll out a piece of marzipan large enough to fit top of cake. Brush top of cake with apricot jam.  
Press the marzipan in position with egg white. Roll the remaining marzipan into 11 equal sized balls and press around the outer edge. Place under grill and toast gently until just golden brown.

**Furrmety**

'Boil an approved quantity of wheat; when soft, pour off the water, and keep it for use as it is wanted. The method of using it is to put milk to make it of an agreeable thickness; then, warming it, adding some sugar and nutmeg.'

- Household Cyclopaedia 1881

**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'

PRAWNS & 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

xxxx

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 CHEFS SELECTION OF SEASONABLE VEGETABLES AND POTATOES

xxxx

APPLE & CINNAMON PIE  
With creamy custard

BAILEY & WHITE CHOCOLATE CHEESE CAKE

VANILLA ICE CREAM  
With raspberry sauce

£12.95

Childrens Meals available  
Ring to Reserve your Table  
01631 562341

**LOCHNELL ARMS HOTEL**  
North Connel

**MOTHERS' DAY CARVERY**

12 noon - 4 pm

£10.95

Tel 01631 710408

**the pierhouse**  
HOTEL & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

**Mothers Day Lunch**  
served on Sunday 26th March  
from 12 noon - 2.30pm  
with complimentary glass of wine.

Delicious, fresh locally sourced seafood & game with an extensive selection of wines on the shores of Loch Linnhe, Port Appin.

**Make this Mothers' Day special.**

Telephone: 01631 730302.

**ISLE OF MULL HOTEL**  
CRAIGNURE BAY, ISLE OF MULL

Celebrate Mother's Day  
with Isle of Mull rib roast  
hand carved by our new chef  
Richard Cameron

**TWO COURSES £10.95**  
CARVERY LUNCHES AVAILABLE FROM  
MOTHER'S DAY EVERY SUNDAY FROM 12-3PM

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**CRERAR**  
HOTELS

**PLEASE NOTE:**  
none of these recipes have been tested by us.

In the case of the furrmety, you're on your own folks, but further research shows it goes well with venison; they ate a lot of it in Thomas Hardy novels, too.

**CAKEBREAD'S Garden Centre**

**NATIONAL GARDEN GIFT TOKENS**

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The Best Selection of plants in the area (Inc Mother's Day Azalea)

A Great Range of Glazed Pots (Potted up for you at no extra charge)

**Glencoe**  
Your correspondent is Ros MacDonald: 01855 811490

**Prize bingo**  
A PRIZE bingo night was held recently in aid of Glencoe Primary School funds.

The event raised £204 and thanks were extended to everyone who contributed and took part on the night.

**Whist drives**

TWO WHIST drives took place at St Mary's Hall, Glencoe, in aid of senior citizens.

Prizewinners were: Ladies, 1 Jean Robertson; 2 Kate Duff; travelling, Jessie Bryson; consolation, Davina Plank. Gents, 1 Beth Bolton, playing as gent; 2 Jane Lobb; travelling, Kenny Duff; consolation, Corran Allwood.

In the second whist winners were: Ladies, 1 Rosie Riznyk; 2 Mary McLean; travelling Mary MacDonald; consolation, Sheila Duff. Gents, 1 Jean Robertson, playing as gent; 2 Ian Blake; travelling, Ian Blake; consolation Danny Ryan.

Overall winners over the season were ladies: 1 Mary McLean; 2 Isobel MacKay. Gents, 1 Mary MacNeil; 2 Ruth McLeod.

The committee thanks everyone who supported the whist drives over the season. There will be a final event in March in aid of the Motor Neurone disease charity.

**Strathspey and Reel evening**

GLENCOE Primary School was the venue recently for a great night of song and dance in aid of senior citizens.

Comperes for the evening were John MacCallum, who introduced Fort William Strathspey and Reel Society, which set the feet tapping for the evening.

**Around the Rurals Tobermory**

TOBERMORY members of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute welcomed three young ladies from the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust who gave an interesting and educational presentation about the work of the trust.

Included were excellent slides of the variety of cetaceans which can be seen in the sea around Mull.

They explained the differences between the species and passed round samples of bones, teeth and baleen.

Members were encouraged to report any sightings of whales and dolphins.

A selection of well-known Gaelic songs were sung by Morag McIntosh, with Dave Chrystal on guitar.

Glencoe primary pupils played various musical instruments throughout the evening and the comperes played the bagpipes.

The event raised more than £100.

**Lismore**  
Your correspondent is Pauline Dowing: 01631 760 293

**Valentine tea**

THE HALL committee welcomed a good turnout to a Valentine Tea on February 12.

It featured the usual delicious baking and friendly service. Proceeds will go to the future development of the hall which at the moment is uncertain.

**Proud grandparents**

THREE sets of grandparents have reason to be proud that their grandchildren are carrying on the Gaelic tradition and culture even though no longer resident on Lismore.

Margaret Macdonald's grandson, talented piper Angus Nicholson, aged 20, has been given a Dewar Arts Award with which he is planning to buy a set of Fred Morrison reel pipes.

Angus has been playing since he was nine and has won many competitions all over Scotland. He is often heard in Lismore, where his talent is much appreciated.

Mhairi Smith's granddaughter, Sarah Urquhart, aged 13, is in second year at Hillpark Secondary School in Glasgow where she is studying Gaelic.

Sarah was recently placed second for a Bardach she entered in BBC Scotland competition which attracted 600 entries. Sarah won £20. Roma and Donald Black's grandson, Alexander Mook, aged seven, who



**Lakeland boosts lifeboat funds**

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) Guild in Oban recently organised a night out with everyone's favourite kitchen gadget company, Lakeland Limited, at the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban. With Lorraine MacCracken, guild president, centre, are Marian Morrison, left, Lakeland Limited's store manager for Glasgow, and Hazel Penman, one of the assistants in the store. They regularly hold demonstrations with groups around the Glasgow area to help them raise funds for their good causes. This was their first visit further afield and they enjoyed their trip to the West Highlands. The event in Oban raised more than £400 for RNLI funds. 11/01/01

goes to a Gaelic medium school in Stirling, won £25 for his Bardach in a competition run by Scottish Natural Heritage and second prize for a poster he designed for a Gaelic television programme.

**Comann Eachdraidh**

COMANN Eachdraidh has signed a contract with Stuart Carmichael of Appin to start the Lismore Gaelic Heritage Museum on April 3 with a finishing date of mid to late September.

Meanwhile Taigh Iseabail Dhaidh, the award-winning reconstructed cotters' cottage, will be closed for the season on health and safety grounds but one room of the old school house at Achnacroish, where the archive is currently housed, will be open daily.

Comann Eachdraidh has

advertised for tenants for the restaurant and gift shop which will open in the museum. Applications closed at the end of February and Tony Perkins, project co-ordinator, hopes that once the museum is up and running as many locals as possible will be able to make and sell items and/or produce at the museum.

**Explore Appin and Lismore**

THIS is the catch phrase which Small Town and Rural Development Group has come up with as it prepares to publish 'A Heritage Interpretation and Visitor Management Strategy for Appin and Lismore'.

Members were appointed in October 2005 by Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor acting with groups

including Appin Historical Association, two community councils, and Appin Co-operative in Port Appin with funding from Scottish Natural Heritage.

In the last four months it has worked extensively with both communities to find out what locals consider the best way forward so this exceptional area can play a vital part in Scottish tourism without destroying any of the essential peace and beauty.

The emphasis is to be on walking and cycling and improving access to historical places.

**Petrol problems**

THE ISLAND'S petrol problems are by no means at an end.

Anyone who has had to take their car or even just their cans on the Achnacroish ferry to fill up

knows what a long, involved, time consuming chore it is with forms to fill and placards to display.

All for safety, of course, which is necessary, but it is a far cry from the years when the Point ferry took and returned the cans which Gunns faithfully filled.

**Killin**  
Your correspondent is Judy Forster 01567 820298

**Strathfillan Community Development Trust**

THE TRUST now has a new woodland officer.

Bill Scott from Crianlarich has started work in the post work. The go-ahead has been

given from the Scottish Executive to buy Tyndrum Woodland from the Forestry Commission. This is a great asset for the community.

**Tyndrum kickaround**

THE FENCING is now going up and it is hoped to be completed soon.

Thanks to contractor David Burton for his hard work.

**Tyndrum village hall**

THE FIRST wedding has taken place in the hall.

The hall was transformed with hundreds of candles, fairy lights and gossamer.

For more information call 01567 820851 or 01567 830220.

**Café SCI**  
ORIGINATING in France, the aim is to give communities the opportunity to learn about science in a friendly and informal atmosphere.

On Wednesday March 22, the topic will be 'What is cancer?' by Irvine Delamore, a consultant from Manchester Royal Infirmary.

Further information from 01838 400545.

**Plenty on offer**

ACROSS the Breadalbane area from Strathyre to Tyndrum the Breadalbane Virtual Learning Centre is providing a flexible, adaptable and local service:

- Investing in up-to-date computer equipment
- Running an internet cafe three days a week in Tyndrum with a learning assistant to help with computer problems or enrolling on distance learning courses
- Setting up internet cafés in Killin and Lochearnhead soon
- Running digital photography courses in a number of villages.
- Proving there are still people keen to catch up with ICT revolution through 'Computing for the Terrified' courses
- Providing employment for six local people and access to the internet for everyone.

The programme has a starring role in the LEADER magazine which profiles successful projects across Europe.

For local businesses there is web design, brochure design and accounting systems.

It also hires out equipment including projector, screen

or laptop computer for a small charge.

The project is run by local people for local people and is supported by voluntary management scheme members who are involved because they believe access to lifelong learning is important to a rural community. In the first year the project received funding from Leader, Stirling Council, Carnegie UK Trust, Direct Grants and National Lottery Awards for All. In the second year Leader + and Carnegie UK Trust have continued to fund the project with the help of the Hugh Fraser Foundation, HBOS and PF Charitable Trust.

Many thanks to all the funders.

For more information call 01567 820851 or 01567 830220.

**Kyle of Lochalsh**

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

**One-act play festival**

THE SOUTH West Ross District Festival of one-act plays was held at Plockton High School on February 17 and 18 with five teams taking part.

On the first evening, Plockton Amateur Dramatic Society N team opened the show followed by Loch Duich Drama Club and lastly Lochcarron Amateur Dramatic Society with its play 'Theird o' Scarlet' adapted by Charlie Harkins from 'Thead o' Scarlet' by JJ Bell.

Producer was Pam Bright with Barbara Souter stage manager. Adjudicator was Ron Nicol and Lochcarron were the first night winners.

On the Saturday evening Lochalsh Scottish Women's Rural Institute opened the show. Its producer was Jill Carnlet and stage managers were Kathleen Webster and Dave Charnley. Plockton Amateur Drama Society S team ended the festival.

At the close Joyce MacRae presided when the adjudicator announced the prizewinners: 1 Lochcarron Amateur Dramatic Society; 2 Lochalsh SWRI, which also won best set. Both groups will go on to the Highland Divisional Finals at the Assembly Rooms, Wick, on March 30 and April 1. Best moment was won by Jeanette Taylor, Plockton.

Trophies were presented by Stan Forrester from Kishorn.

**Piping**  
SOUTH West Ross Piping Society recently held a piping recital in the Lochalsh Hotel, Kyle.

Guest piper was Roddie Macleod from Glasgow and a large crowd enjoyed an evening of excellent piping. The chairman was Dr John Adamson, Kyle.

At the Kyle Lighthouse Centre on February 17 a baking stall and coffee morning organised by local churches raised £465 for the Leprosy Mission.

**Indoor bowls**

LATEST results in the South West Ross and Skye League: Lochalsh 29 v Lochcarron 21; Plockton 12 v Lochalsh 39.

At Kintail, Kyleakin suffered their first defeat for more than two years when Kintail beat them 26-17.

However, Kyleakin has an unbeatable lead in the league with Dunvegan leading in the North End.

The Skye and Lochalsh pairs competition was held in Kyleakin Hall on February 18. Thirty-five pairs took part and in the final Philip Pelham and Susan Mackenzie, Portree, beat Sam MacAskill and Archie Campbell, Dunvegan.

John Goiner presented the winners with the pairs shield.

**Sports council**

AN EXECUTIVE meeting of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council was held recently at the Highland Council Offices, Portree.

A total of £3,000 was awarded to Dornie Badminton Club; Elgol Badminton Club; Skye

Badminton Association; Skye Dolphins Amateur Swimming Club; Sleat Fencing Club; Skye Sailing Club; Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club; Raasay Community Association and Kinlochsheil Junior Shinty Club. This was last meeting of the financial year and all money has been allocated. Sarah Nicolson, Skye sports council co-ordinator, gave an update of her work and distributed her first newsletter.

Willie Mackinnon, sports development co-ordinator, gave an update of his work.

The Skye half marathon is on June 10 and Willie would welcome any sponsorship. At the meeting Bill Edgar gave a comprehensive report on his attendance at the Scottish Association of Local Sports Councils' Conference and had a big variety of leaflets on show.

The annual general meeting will be held in Kyleakin Hall on May 9.

Also being held that evening will be the senior sports quiz and the presentation of the service to sports awards.

**Scalpay**  
Your correspondent is Donald Morrison: 01859 540217

**Fishing boats from the past**

MANY will remember some of the following names of ring net fishing vessels from the past including *Vigilant*; *Jasper*; *Agate*; *Majestic*; *Scalpay Isle*; *Britannia* and *Ribhinn Donn*.

They were all larger vessels and were all sold. These vessels could all still be in existence in various others island harbours or on the mainland.

**Hebridean Mink Project**

THE LAST few months have been spent searching areas where mink sightings have been reported, mainly in North Uist and Benbecula.

Trapping in South Harris has mainly been in the South East corner. Eleven mink have been caught in South Harris. Although there have been no captures in the Uists, there have been four sightings and two records of possible tracks.

These have been followed up by trappings and searching with dogs in the area. It is being recommended that a substantial level of trapping continues after the Hebridean Mink Project funded trapping ends on March 31. This will prevent populations reforming and spreading from any remaining animals. A high level of trapping is also required in Harris to remove remnant mink populations that remain untrapped in this phase of the project. People are asked to report any mink sightings to the project, on 01859 511135.

**Tern monitoring:** The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has been carrying out monitoring on tern sites across the Western Isles. Significant differences have been recorded in tern hatching success between Lewis and the Uists - and much of these differences can be attributed to mink predation. Tern hatching success in the Uists was not being affected by mink predation and this is an indication that the project is succeeding in its aim to protect breeding birds in Special Protected Areas (SPAs) in the Uists from mink predation.

**Workshop:** Priorities for the final few months of the project include following up all reported sightings of mink.

A European workshop is to take place in Stornoway in May to help share experience about controlling alien species and to inform the proposed 'Phase 2' of the Hebridean Mink Project; the eradication of mink from the remainder of the Western Isles. It is hoped that speakers and participants from throughout the European Union will attend the event.



Cameron Stout joins the audience for part of the Religious Observance Conference at Oban High School.

**Big Brother winner at Oban high conference**

BIG BROTHER 4 winner Cameron Stout visited Oban High School to attend a sixth year religious observance conference.

The Orcadian, who shot to fame in 2003 on the Channel 4 programme, was a speaker at the conference, named r u faith +ve or faith -ve.

More than 90 pupils took part in the conference which hosted workshops with visitors from as far afield as Glasgow and Perth. During the conference pupils heard how faith can impact on different areas of life.

The thought-provoking conference is to be followed up by a first year conference called Take Care.

**Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh success**

EDINBURGH Argyll Association recently held a ceilidh in the city's St Marks Unitarian Church Hall.

Attendances were poor as a result of severe winter weather but those who did brave the elements were treated to a fine line-up of talented artists.

The programme opened with a warm welcome in Gaelic and English by president Mabel Rowan Munro.

Piper Alastair McGregor then entertained with some fine tunes. This was Alastair's last appearance at

the association as he is leaving Edinburgh to further his studies. Everyone agreed it had been a joy to listen to his playing over many years.

Gaelic singer for the evening was Ann Bone MacLean, Glasgow, who was in good voice giving her audience a variety of well-known ceilidh songs.

Also on the programme was Iain MacKinnon, Glasgow, who delighted everyone with Argyll songs.

Owing to illness association accompanist Diane Boyd was unable to attend the ceilidh. The

association's thoughts and prayers were extended to her. Ann Bone stepped in and accompanied Iain on piano and when Ann sang the roles were reversed.

David Thornley, a member of Lothian Choir, sang traditional Gaelic songs in his own style and Anna Fraser sang some unusual Scottish songs, accompanied on guitar by her husband.

George Current's Scottish and Irish music on his harmonica and mouthorgan was refreshing.

Bean an taighe for the evening was Mabel Rowan,

who told some amusing stories, and the usual splendid interval refreshments were provided by the committee.

Thanks were extended to the committee, the artists and everyone who donated raffle prizes.

The next ceilidh will be on Friday April 7 at the same venue at 7.30pm.

As this is the association's 70th birthday year, a dinner/ceilidh dance is being held at the Orwell Lodge Hotel, Edinburgh, on Friday May 5 at 6 for 6.30pm. Tickets will be on sale at the April 7 ceilidh.

**Laughter on Luing as drama society stages Cinderella**

THERE is said to be nothing better than to see people you know get up on a stage and do something funny, well.

If that is the case, Cullipool Hall on Luing was the place to be on the last weekend in February when the long-defunct Luing Drama Group - now Luing Amateur Dramatic Society - staged four performances of the pantomime *Cinderella* by Stuart Arden and Bob Heather.

Buttons, Alex Law, held the story together, ably supported by Joan Morgan, whose evil ways also provided some skilfully applied 'glue' of ad-libbing when things, just occasionally, threatened to come unstuck.

The Ugly Sisters, Eoghann MacLachlan and Peter Miller, are an act on their own, particularly in their mimed songs *Sisters* and *Anything You Can Do*. Poor Old Baron Hardup, Richard Shuff, had very little idea of what was going on, but did his best to keep up, especially in his song with Buttons, *Chick, Chick, Chicken*.

King Cuthbert, the convivial Simon Breasley, behaved like all the minor Royals you ever met - looking rather gorgeous and flirting outrageously.

Dandini, Julie MacQueen, and the Court Herald, Alison Robertson, played their parts to perfection, adding to the spectacle as did Kay Benn, the Prime Minister Mrs Who?, the beautiful Fairy Godmother, Fiona Cruickshanks, and the Footman, Julia Shuff.

Two dear little mice, Laura and Kristina MacQueen, became two lovely ladies to

join Krysia Akers and Ailsa MacLachlan in the chorus.

*Cinderella*, Linda MacGregor, and Prince Rupert, Amanda MacLachlan, were beautifully cast and played together sympathetically and with humour to bring the plot to its satisfying conclusion.

Mention must be made of all the unseen and unsung heroes: stage manager Susie Barrett; lighting engineer Hugh Gray, who with Linda MacGregor also provided wonderful costumes and stage carpenters Norman Garnett and Jim Robertson.

Anja Lamont, Sandy Shairp and Fumiko Miller provided professional looking scenery, Paula Lodge applied the make-up and Peter Bissett supplied the music.

Even the programmes were a delight, issuing magically as they did from the house of Kiloran Publishing, premises shared, appropriately, with the Fairy Godmother.

There were lots of opportunities to boo, hiss and hector, but most of all the audience wanted to clap and cheer.

But the highspot of the evening came from Alex Law as Buttons when, totally unexpectedly and with great assurance, he burst into his dance based on *Blue Suede Shoes*.

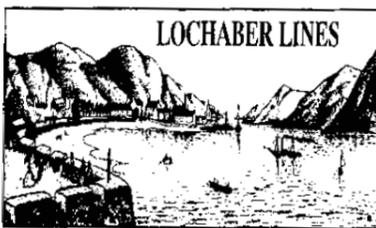
Cullipool Hall had never seen anything like it! We wanted more!

The entire production was directed by Pam Baker, who, with her cast, is to be congratulated on giving a hugely enjoyable evening's entertainment.

JG.



The cast of Luing Amateur Dramatic Club's panto Cinderella take a bow on the stage in Cullipool Hall.



email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

IN OUR darker moments we have taken up the cudgel on behalf of the beleaguered smoker and attacked the health fascism of today.

We have sought the assistance of Irish navy Patrick MacGill's poetry to support the persecuted minority;

*Makers of the Law and sufferers, mankind of whatever stamp,  
Prince or pauper saint or sinner, tyrant, teacher, tailor, tramp,  
Leave me and I ask for little, but that little I must get,  
Just a cosy spot and silence and a soothing cigarette.*

The author of *Children of the Dead End* eloquently states the case on behalf of the lepers of today's society.

When attending the History of the Ben Race presentation in the Nevis Centre we realised that smokers are a dying breed.

From an audience of 350 people only five of us nipped out for a smoke at the interval.

So as the unelected spokesmen for nicotine junkies, what words of comfort do we have for our fellow sufferers as March 26, Judgement Day, approaches and the ban on smoking in enclosed public places is invoked.

Well, none actually, because eight days ago we gave up the filthy unsociable habit and hell mend those polluters of our nice fresh air.

They can find someone else to fight their corner.

ONE of the side effects of giving up the fags, apart from an overpowering feeling of righteousness, is the need to talk about it and so we trust you will forgive us some further indulgence on the matter.

We have found that giving up our 40-a-day, 40-year habit has been quite easy.

In fact no more difficult than the many times we have done so before. The aid of patches could make the difference this time.

A great invention, you don't have to get out of bed in the middle of the night for a fag.

Now if only they could come out with a Bacardi patch we could save ourselves trips to those soulless and smokeless pubs. No, we must not waiver as this time it's for keeps.

So confident are we that should we be seen with a lit fag we will enter for this year's Ben Race and run it backwards.

THE ENTHUSIASM of Lochaber Rugby Club members for their sport knows no bounds but last weekend's fixture away to Shetland tested their commitment.

Their itinerary meant overnight sailings on Friday and Saturday nights with a game and several beers squeezed in between.

The meticulous planning of club captain Ian Macfarlane was rewarded with a victory. The tactics and line-out calls were spot on but some of the travel arrangements left a wee bit to be desired, we hear.

Two players unable to join the main travelling party were booked on a day return flight by their captain who had also arranged for the kick-off to suit the timing of the flights. Such an eye for detail impressed us until we heard that Ian had booked them on flights for the middle of this week.

Fortunately the lads got standby flights and the day and the captain's reputation were saved, almost.

WE WERE on our travels for sport last Saturday also as a guest of the Caley Thistle supporters based in the railway club.

A good day out with a cheery bunch and we hesitate to voice criticism of their enthusiastic chanting, but it needs to be catchier.

By the time they belted out, 'we are the Fort William Railway Club Inverness Caledonian Thistle Supporters Club', it was nigh on half time.

To be fair club president Jimmy 'Barrel' MacGillivray, a rock legend in Lochaber, is working on new lyrics and calling for Sunday rehearsals in the Braxy, right enough.

A goalless drab game was summed up perfectly by ex-Highland League star Murray Gillies who said neither outfit had enough up front and we had to respect this opinion from a man who appeared at a wedding in Keith the other week with the pleats of his kilt showing to the front. Murray's defence was that his dresser was local solicitor Sandy Henry, allegedly. If Sandy is annoyed with this reference does he become a cross dresser?

CHARLIE'S Challenge 2007: for the rugby lads next trip to Shetland the Modfather has come up with: 'Is there a bar on board?'. Bheil bar air bord? (Vail baar air bawrsd?) Mod lotto numbers last week were 7-9-14. No winners so £500 in the pot for tonight's Thursday draw. Ceilidh in the West End Hotel on Saturday, March 25. Full details next week.

Lochaber Past Times - from the archives of *The Oban Times* 100 years ago.

THE half-yearly meeting of the Scottish Meteorological Society in Edinburgh received a paper, presented by Mr RT Ormond on 'Large differences of temperature between Ben Nevis and Fort William Observatories'.

It was learned that the average difference of temperature between the two observatories was 15½ degrees and that at most hours the difference did not depart much from the mean value.

It was also reported that on occasions which could last for days Ben Nevis was warmer than the base station.

40 years ago  
THE presbytery of Lochaber called for an old folk's home to be built in the grounds of the old Belford Hospital.

A dozen people were due to be paid off at the end of the month when Marshall and Pearson's garage was scheduled to close.

Lochaber Licencing Court reminded hotelkeepers of their responsibilities under common law to meet their obligations to provide food and shelter at all reasonable times.

By June this year the peninsula of Ardnamurchan will have its first golf course - the most westerly on the mainland of Britain. The owner of Kilchoan Hotel, Mr Ronald Taylor, has been at work with a full-time assistant since October to have six holes completed for the official opening.

Kilmallie's Scottish Cup quarter-final tie with Newtonmore coincided with the wedding of player Willie Brown. Because of the clash of dates Kilmallie asked the Camanachd Association for a postponement but their plea was turned down and Marshall Brown, the groom's brother, instead of being best man will play for Kilmallie. Six of his team mates have had to turn down the wedding invitation and there is much disquiet in the Kilmallie ranks. Club secretary Alasdair MacIntyre said: 'After all, it is an amateur game and some come and go in matters like this should be made.'

# Inverness 'chipping' at Gaelic

ANGRY Highland councillors have attacked some of their fellow members for their continued 'chipping away' at attempts to promote Gaelic.

One councillor says there is a deep seated antagonism towards Highland Council's Gaelic policy.

Now the Gaelic Select Committee has agreed to produce a leaflet for members outlining the historical importance of Gaelic.

The matter was brought up when Lochaber councillor and deputy council leader Michael Foxley said the council had yet to introduce a significant number of Gaelic signs on non-trunk roads and that Gaelic street signs had no uniformity to them.

Councillor Jimmy MacDonald said: 'It is unfortunate

that I find myself time and time again defending the council's Gaelic policy against the attack of Inverness councillors.

'They claim it is a choice between Gaelic road signs or repairing potholes in the road. They take a Stalinist approach to the whole issue. I get discouraged by members who are continually chipping away at the edges and breaking bits off in an attempt to damage Gaelic.'

The suggestion for a leaflet came from Councillor Hamish Fraser, Skye Central, detailing the value of Gaelic in the Highlands and islands. He said: 'We have our own language here in the Highlands and it sets us apart from the rest of the world. We should use it to boost the social and economic development of the area.

The Slet area of Skye would be a pretty dead part of the world, if it were not for the Gaelic language.'

## Fall back for care home privatisation

HIGHLAND councillors are to be asked to consider three 'fall back' options if there is insufficient interest from the private sector to run seven care homes.

Council Chief Executive Arthur McCourt told members of the care home sub-committee that the council could rebuild Invernevis House in Fort William and six other care homes at a cost of more than £18 million with running costs of over £4 million per year.

Another option would be to build five new homes across the region, including one in Fort William, at a cost of nearly £19m or refurbish the seven homes at a cost of £7m with decanting costs of £2.5m.

Mr McCourt added that the implications of the contingency options would be that the council might have to increase its savings targets, raise council tax or replace projects in its five-year capital programme.

Helena said: 'They are exceptional kids and so grateful and appreciative of everything. You don't realise how much it impacts on them.'

During her trip Helena said she was met with parents holding their children out to her and pleading her to take them back home with her.

She said: 'It really opened my eyes how much they trusted me to take their children.'

'I found that extraordinary and very humbling. They know how much better the others were when they got back.'

'It was a total emotional rollercoaster.'

## Fort woman highlights Chernobyl kids' plight

A TELEVISION programme broadcast next week will show the experiences of a Fort William woman as she visited children affected by the Chernobyl disaster.

Helena Cairns has given respite care to more than 40 children in her Fort William home, who were affected by the radioactive fall-out from the 1986 disaster.

Spending just four weeks away from the contaminated areas around Chernobyl can increase the life expectancy of very young children by two years.

The film follows Helena as she visits Belarus and the homes of the children she has looked after. The film shows emotional reunions with children she has not seen for five years and dramatic scenes as she visits a children's cancer



Councillors Charlie King and Michael Foxley join some young footballers at the all-weather pitch.

## New all-weather pitch for Mallaig

THE SPORTING community in Mallaig received a welcome boost this week with the official opening of a £600,000 all-weather pitch adjacent to Mallaig High School.

The project has involved the complete reconstruction of an existing playing field which had become unusable because of subsidence.

Councillor Michael Foxley, chairman of education, culture and sport for the council's Lochaber Area Committee, officially opened the pitch by unveiling a plaque. Users of the new playing field will include both pri-

mary and high school pupils and the town's two football teams, Mallaig FC and Mallaig Magpies, saving them a 90-mile round trip to play their home games.

Councillor Foxley said: 'One of the clear intentions of this project, to build a top quality pitch, was to encourage healthy living and lifestyles by getting more young people involved in playing and enjoying more sport more often.' Head Teacher of Mallaig High, Martin Sullivan, said: 'Before this was constructed we had no outdoor sports pitch so it has really breathed new life into the sporting activity of the community.'

## Young mother lucky not to kill, says sheriff

A YOUNG mother who crashed a car through a hedge into a garden in Caol was told she was lucky not to be in a High Court dock for killing somebody through drink driving.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Sheriff Douglas Small tell Ria Pearson of 14 Glendessary Street, Caol, that she was fortunate not to have struck anybody with the car which she crashed in a residential street.

Pearson, aged 21, admitted taking her partner's car without consent and driving when she only held a provisional licence and when she was more than twice the legal alcohol limit for driving.

She had also pled guilty in Fort William Sheriff Court to careless driving last month and sentence had been deferred until March 9 for background reports.

Pearson, aged 21, crashed through the hedge and into a garden when she was turning into Glenpane Street, Caol, on January 11 at around 11.30pm.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said his client was 'deeply ashamed of her actions'.

Sheriff Small told Pearson: 'It is indeed fortunate that nobody was injured in this case. If you had collided with somebody and killed them you would have been appearing in the High Court and not in the Sheriff Court.'

Sheriff Small banned Pearson from driving for two years, ordered her to carry out 200 hours of community service and her licence was endorsed with six penalty points.

Pearson also agreed to go on a drink drivers' rehabilitation scheme.

## Generator stolen from caravan

POLICE in Fort William are looking for a generator which was stolen from a caravan parked near Lochailort Post Office.

The incident happened sometime between Friday, February 24 and Monday, February 27.

A mobile phone was also stolen from a car parked at Claggan Road, Fort William sometime between 9.15am and 11.30am on Friday, March 3. Sometime between 7.30pm the same day and 1pm on Saturday, March 4, eggs filled with gloss paint were thrown at a house in Ballachulish.

Sometime between 10pm on Saturday and 6pm on Sunday, March 5 wheel nut covers were taken from a vehicle parked in MacColl Terrace in Ballachulish.

Any person with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 702002.

## Fort William Sheriff Court

### Hotel thief caught through handwriting

THE HANDWRITING of a hotel worker who left a note after stealing £200 from a petty cash tin proved to be her undoing Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week.

Patricia MacDonald, aged 22, stole £200 from a cash tin in the Ben Nevis Hotel on either December 2 or 3 2004.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wyllie said suspicions had been aroused when a handwritten note had been discovered in the cash tin stating that the money had been used to pay for 'staff wages'.

However nobody in the hotel knew anything about it and staff were taken in by the management and told that whoever had taken the money had one week to replace it or alternatively approach the bosses in confidence and pay the money back in small amounts.

If that happened the police wouldn't be called. But after a week MacDonald of 3 Waverley Court, Fort William, had not come forward.

The police were called and as part of the investigation five workers, including a pregnant member of staff, voluntarily went to Fort William Police Station in September 2005 to provide examples of their handwriting for analysis.

Ms Wyllie said a report by handwriting experts concluded there was a 'high probability' the handwriting on the note belonged to MacDonald.

Ms Wyllie said: 'The accused then admitted during the police interview she stole the money and the

handwritten note was down to her. She was then remorseful.' Stephen Kennedy, defending, said MacDonald had stolen the money because she had fallen a month behind with her rent and stole the £200 to pay her landlord.

Sheriff Small fined MacDonald £200 for the theft and ordered her to repay the money she had stolen.

He said: 'It was a particularly mean offence that you carried out.'

'It put them [MacDonald's workmates] under suspicion and stress.'

### Hogmanay driver helped to police car

AN ESTATE agent who was visiting his girlfriend's family in Mallaig had to be helped out from his car by police on Hogmanay after they saw him driving erratically.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week that Martin Cunnah, aged 24, had been stopped by police officers who witnessed him veering his car from one side of the road to the verge on the A830 Mallaig road at around 1.25am on December 31 2005.

Cunnah, of 6 Chertsey Road, Feltham, Middlesex, admitted driving while unfit through drink or drugs and failing to provide a specimen of breath at Fort William Police Station.

Prosecutor Fiscal Alison Wyllie said the police immediately realised Cunnah had been drinking.

She said: 'On speaking to him he smelt strongly of alcohol and his speech was slurred.'

'He had to be helped to the police vehicle.'

When Cunnah was taken to Fort William Police Station he asked repeatedly to

go to the toilet and did not give a specimen of breath for the breathalysing machine, said Ms Wyllie. 'He was clearly well over the limit,' she said.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Cunnah had driven up from England with his girlfriend to visit her family in Mallaig over New Year and they had gone to a pub with her relatives.

Afterwards Cunnah decided to drive the short distance back to their accommodation when he was caught by police.

Mr Melrose said: 'The consequences of this was that he spent three nights in custody and appeared in Inverness Sheriff Court.'

Mr Melrose said Cunnah was a first offender who had now given up his job as an estate agent because he realised he would be losing his driving licence.

Sheriff Douglas Small disqualified Cunnah from driving for 18 months and fined him £400 for driving while unfit through drink or drugs and £200 for failing to provide a breath specimen.

### Kilmallie player must complete community work

A KILMALLIE shinty player, who was a member of the Camanachd Cup Final team last year, has been ordered to complete his community service by June after claiming he was not fit enough to do so.

Martin Duncan was ordered to pay £1,000 compensation and carry out 300 hours of community service in Fort William Sheriff Court last year after admitting smashing a glass into a man's face on July 9, 2004 at Kinlochleven's Tailrace

Inn. In Fort William Sheriff Court last week Duncan, aged 23, of Angus Crescent, Fort William had made an application to have his community service hours quashed.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client had completed 208 hours out of the 300 hours of community service but had been off work from November with a sore back and sciatica.

He had not been able to do any community service since then.

Mr Melrose said his client had played his last game of shinty in the Camanachd Cup Final in Fort William last year.

Sheriff Douglas Small said he was not inclined to grant the request because Duncan had committed a serious offence using a glass to hit a man.

Sheriff Small called on the social work department to provide community service which was not physically demanding.

### New Year thief to pay damage costs

A MERCHANT seaman who presented a faked drugs prescription after carrying out four break-ins on New Year's Day has been ordered to pay for £2,418 worth of damage he caused.

Heroin addict Kenneth Brown embarked on a break-in spree on January 1 stealing drugs and a digital multiplex recorder in two shops and two surgeries in Fort William and Caol.

Twenty six days later Brown, aged 43, presented a forged prescription to a pharmacist in Boots in Fort William. Brown of 69

Lochaber Road, Fort William, had signed it in the name of 'DR D J Tangey' and made it out for diazepam and dihydrocodeine.

The prescription sheet had been stolen by him during the New Year break-ins.

Brown had admitted the break-ins, thefts, forging the prescription and possession of cannabis at Fort William Sheriff Court last month.

Sheriff Small also placed Brown on probation for one year and ordered him

to carry out 240 hours of community service.

Sentence had been deferred for background reports and Sheriff Small told Brown that he would never know how close he had been to being sent to prison.

## SCOTTISH FIELD

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# APRIL ISSUE

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GLASGOW LETTER

New format concert

FOLLOWING its success at last year's West End Festival, Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association (GG) decided on informality for its annual concert held this year in Partick Burgh Hall.

Well, it was nearly informal. Someone forgot to tell the male voice singers and they were wearing their full formal outfits! That aside this well-attended function displayed the versatility of excellent solo artists within the choir and also illustrated why the choir has featured on the prizelists at local and national mods over the years.

Solo singers were Joanie Morrison, Catriona Watt, Amanda Millen, Alasdair MacArthur and Duncan MacDonald, while musical contributions came from clarsach playing Beverley Darroch and piper Allan MacLintock.

Was the new format a success? I think the jury will still be out on that one. Yes, it was more relaxed but with that came higher noise levels. Call me old-fashioned, but I feel artists, whether solo or in a group, deserve the courtesy of receiving full attention so this was, for me, a downside.

Also, it was difficult to see the choristers because the stage was not being used and because of the layout of the tables but perhaps this is just nit picking in what was an evening of excellent music.

Unfortunately there was a sad note to the evening when the death of Colin Oman earlier in the week was intimated. Colin joined the GG in 1953 and was a past president of the choir and despite having moved to Carradale he remained a loyal and well attending member.

Colin was a true Highland gentleman, one of those for whom the word gentleman may have been introduced to the English language. He made friends with everyone privileged to make his acquaintance. He will be a sad loss and we extend our sympathy to his wife Margaret and to Leslie, Finlay and Garry at this difficult time.

Quiz questions

DO YOU enjoy attending quiz nights?

If you do, head along to St Columba's Church tonight (Thursday) but before you go here are a couple of questions for you to get you in the mood.

Those of us old enough will remember when telegrams, usually for weddings or bad news, were the only means of fast communication but do you know who was the first person, in the world, to receive a telegram?

You will all know who invented the television but do you know who his main teacher was?

The answer to both questions is the same. It was Professor Magnus MacLean from Glendale, the Skye man of Science, and this Friday evening the Glasgow Skye Association is hosting an evening when the life and works of Professor MacLean will be addressed by Professor Norman MacDonald with Cailean MacLean.

Among other things they will be talking about will be the major role played by Professor MacLean in the setting up of both An Comunn Gaidhealach and the Gaelic Society of Glasgow and how he was responsible both for the introduction of cottage hospitals and for the provision of a telephone to all GPs.

This should be a most entertaining and informative evening and with tickets priced £10/£5 students, including a full buffet, it is one not to be missed.

Bearsden and Milngavie ceilidh

BEARSDEN and Milngavie Highlanders finished their session with a successful ceilidh in Kessington Hall.

Vocal contributions were provided by Anne Bone MacLean, Archie MacLean, Hector MacLeod and Sheena Walker with Jean Anne Callender, fiddle, James

MacLean, piper, and Anna Cameron contributing instrumental input.

Last week I mentioned music teaching within schools and this ceilidh again took me back, although not quite to my own schooldays, to the start of my teaching career in Drumchapel when I was privileged to teach next door to Hector, or Mr Hector as he was known by the pupils.

It may have been many years, and Hector has probably been better known in Highland circles over many of those years for his fiddle playing, but it was wonderful to hear again his rich baritone voice. There was also the chance to be reminded of some of the fun incidents which took place and I was reminded of one in particular with the recent announcement that parents could be faced with prosecution if their children were kept off school for reasons such as holidays.

This particular incident involved Back Football Club in Lewis which was to play a cup final but needed a school pupil, a certain Andy Gray, to bolster their chances of success.

Unfortunately for Andy, however, the school boasted several teachers of Lewis descent, who subscribe to the local newspaper, and we soon had access to the photograph of the winning team. We never ever received an absent note explaining the 'illness' despite repeated requests, threats and many laughs!

Mind you, if a few days off school can result in such a successful career, both on and off the football pitch, there can hardly be much of an argument.

Where is Glasgow?

AS A RETIRED geography teacher you would think I should know the answer but the boundaries seem to have changed since my teaching days, and why not?

On Friday March 24 the diary dates highlight functions in both Glasgow and Perth so let's go just a little further south to the McCosh Hall in Kirkmichael where Clair will be performing at 7.30pm. To obtain tickets and further information telephone 01655 750 286.

This is an excellent opportunity for those of you in Ayrshire who perhaps feel starved of Gaelic music. What could be better than an evening with Clair?

Diary dates

**Thursday 16 March:** St Columba's Church, quiz night, 7.30pm

**Friday 17 March:** Glasgow Skye Association, literary evening, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm. Kilmarnock Highlander's Association, ceilidh, Holy Trinity Church, Irvine Road, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 18 March:** Highlander's Club, dance, 8-11.30pm, Partick Burgh Hall, with John Carmichael's Band. Clann Gaidhlig, fiddler's concert, Bishopton Community Centre, 7.30pm with Helensburgh and Lomond Fiddlers.

**Monday 20 March:** Strupag, informal Gaelic classes, has now moved venue to Hillhead Library every Monday, 2pm to 4pm.

**Thursday 23 March:** Glasgow Arts Council, conference, City Halls. Andrasda and students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, St Andrews in the Square, 8pm. **Friday 24 March:** Perth Gaelic Society, annual Gaelic Lecture, St Mark's Church, Tay Road, Perth. Govan Gaelic Choir, annual concert, St Columba's Church, 7.30pm.

**Saturday 25 March:** Motherwell and Wishaw Highlander's Association, ceilidh dance.

Pub scene

ON FRIDAY evening the Nickey McMichael Ceilidh Band will be playing in the Islay Inn and on Saturday evening it will be Penny Dogs.

The Park Bar will have Deoch 'n Dorus on Friday and Gary Forrest on both Saturday and Sunday. **Neil Murray, telephone 0141 954 8105. Email neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**

press policy

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

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Oban United Football Club 1919/1920

This week's flashback photograph is of the Oban United Football Club team from season 1919/1920. It was submitted by Euan Kennedy of Kilmarnock Road, Wormit, who found it inside an old book when he moved house. 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

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB  
e-mail: editor@obantimes.co.uk

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

Lochaber High School

Sir, May I publically congratulate everyone involved with the recent double success at Lochaber High School, namely securing refurbishment funding and victory in the Scottish Under 18 Boys' Hockey Cup.

A pat on the back to all teachers, parents, pupils and councillors involved.

My fear is that amongst all this euphoria the recent Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMI) report will be forgotten.

In our remote rural areas I, for one, am thankful that we have such a diligent roads department. **Marilyn Henderson, secretary, Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council.**

Helping Oban mums

Sir, As your readers may be aware, Oban Maternity Services User Group was set up to ensure there is good communication between mums and the maternity unit in Oban.

The group has been very active in the past few months with meetings once a month - check the Community Noticeboard in The Oban Times for details.

May 14-20 is Breast Feeding Awareness Week

**Federica Warnock, Oban Maternity Services User Group.**

ISLAY LETTER

Fèis Oigridh

THIS year's Fèis Oigridh, held in the St Columba Gaelic Centre, was deemed an outstanding success by both organisers and participants.

The two-day festival attracted more than 20 of the island's youth who were tutored in a variety of musical instruments as well as Gaelic language and song.

Simon and Daniel Morgan taught fiddle and guitar, Bowmore and Rhinnis pipers Lyndsay MacArthur and Andrew MacEachern were in charge of the chanter lessons, Fraser Shaw shared his whistle-playing skills and Sineag MacIntyre led in Gaelic song.

Lessons in spoken Gaelic were the remit of centre secretary Lorraine Ferguson and the event culminated with an 'end of fèis' ceilidh where the youngsters strutted their stuff to the delight of the

large number of parents present.

The evening was encouragingly compered by Christine MacIntyre from Fèisean nan Gaidheal.

Iain Justice

HIS MANY friends in Islay and far beyond were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Iain Justice after a short illness in Paisley's Royal Alexandra Hospital.

A native of Port Charlotte, he was a familiar figure at local events as well as being active over many years in Glasgow's Highland scene.

He was a former member and office bearer of Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir and served for a period as treasurer of the Glasgow Islay Association where he was latterly an esteemed honorary vice president.

Iain, who was 68 years of age, was cremated at Clydebank Crematorium where the Rev Donald Michael MacInnes, minister of the St Columba

Gaelic Church, delivered the eulogy.

A memorial and thanksgiving service for this popular Ieach was held in St Kieran's Parish Church, close to his home village.

We will all miss Iain's friendly ways and droll humour, and none more so than his wife Irene, daughters Allison and Fiona, son Stuart and the wider family to whom our sincere sympathies are extended.

Countdown to local Mod

SYLLABUSES for the island's local mod, to be held in Islay High School on Saturday June 10 at 9am, are available from Mod secretary Fiona MacGregor on 01496 840 220.

Last year's winners should return trophies to the IDEA's Centre at Bowmore by Saturday April 15. Please don't be late.

Equine success

CONGRATULATIONS to Angela MacLeod from Portmahaveg whose five-year-old stallion 'Sunny of Runiveraid' took the reserve Highland pony championship at the 145th

Nothing to fear from national park

Sir, On a recent visit to Oban and Mull, I became aware of the debate surrounding the proposal that Scotland's first marine national park encompass the Hebrides and associated mainland.

Although not a resident of Scotland, readers may be interested to hear a perspective from a national park ranger in the world's second busiest national park - the Peak District.

Having watched two different species of eagle and several otters in spectacular scenery, I know just what a draw the area is to wildlife enthusiasts and tourists.

A national park can help promote the enjoyment and understanding of this fantastic natural resource in a way that will sustain the very essence that people travel so far to see.

But, of course, our national parks are not glorified nature reserves. The needs of local residents and the economy are firmly balanced against the need to protect the environment.

A total of 38,000 people live in the Peak District. It is not just an attractive place to live, but to work in too; the economy is buoyant, unemployment relatively low, with tourism the highest job provider,

followed by manufacturing, farming and quarrying.

Further would flow from a marine park ranger service; a service that could benefit tourists, farmers and fisherman.

Locals should have nothing to fear from a national marine park - far from it.

I would have no hesitation in recommending these ideals and experiences from one national park to a prospective other. **Matthew Capper, Peak District National Park, resident and national park ranger.**

A caring school

Sir, My son is a school janitor in England.

Speaking to him during his usual Sunday call to me, he told me a little tale.

One day at his school he wandered into the playground and sat down on one of the benches.

One or two youngsters walked past then they came back and asked him if he wanted anything or should they get a teacher and he just said, 'No thanks'.

Later on he learned that particular bench was to sit on if you felt worried, unhappy or not well and teachers would come to you.

What a lovely considerate school. **Mrs M Nicolson, 11 McCallum Court, Dunbeg.**

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG



Too many tsars and commissioners

A COUPLE of weeks ago, the first annual report of the Information Commissioner was published to a flurry of cheers from over-zealous, dig-the-dirt merchants who are never happier than when they are delving into some obscure story that is then blown up out of context and out of proportion.

This costs the tax payer something approaching £1 million a year.

This gentleman is just one of a number of so called 'commissioners' who have been appointed by the Scottish Executive to enable those who have complex agendas to go raking among files, facts and figures in the hope of finding something to satisfy their conspiracy theories.

There is also a Children's Commissioner who has probably made more people grit their teeth and mutter an expletive under their breath than any of the others.

But now she seems to have realised that her seemingly one-sided implementation of her role may have done more harm than good.

Perhaps she could start her re-appraisal with the question of whether parents have a right to smack their children as part of the bringing-up process. Of course, she belongs to that section of the community that believes a child can do no wrong no matter how obvious the exact opposite is the truth. If a child is not taught the difference between these two opposites how is he/she supposed to learn to grow up to be a valuable member of society?

I have often felt that the common sense approach to her dicta is to take the view exactly opposite to that which she expresses and I won't be too far from the correct answer. However, she seems to have woken up to the fact that 'her little angels' may on occasion be right out of order and may need to be given a little 'corrective' guidance.

She is currently concerned that her social workers are being given a hard time when high profile 'abuse' cases end up being investigated and they are found wanting. It seems they mustn't be criticised for getting it wrong in case they become stigmatised.

Add the food tsar to this patently unnecessary expense being built up while vital NHS services are put on hold.

The question of how necessary or effective these tsars and commissioners are must be posed. Among her duties are to persuade children and their parents that junk food, fizzy drinks and penny chews are bad for them.

Can anyone show that this lady has done so with any of the level of success that celebrity chef Jamie Oliver has had?

Top selling author?

THE PAST week's literary news certainly is an insult

to anyone who pursues the writer's craft.

It brings little credit to a once-great publisher, Harper Collins, which has the audacity to pay a footballer with little education and maybe even less intelligence £5 million to produce a five-volume autobiography over the next 12 years.

The 'author', already a massive success with a horde of books and film scripts to his credit - okay, I'm being sarcastic - is one Wayne Rooney.

It's a major gamble on behalf of the publishing house that Mr Rooney will still be a world-class player in five years' time, never mind 12.

It is also highly doubtful that the 'ghost' writer will have sufficient material to fill one volume never mind five.

Even David Beckham hasn't managed to produce that size of autobiography although there's certainly more material and achievements for a ghost writer to use.

It will be interesting to see if the publishers allow Mr Rooney to 'claim the right to be identified as the author of this work' which he clearly is not.

It might be more honest if they said that Joe Bloggs, or whoever, has asserted his right to be considered to be the author of these volumes, using some irrelevant ideas from a young footballer!

'SCOTS - The Language Of The People'

THIS is a genuine book by a genuine author who has strong Oban connections: Carl MacDougall.

He has had a considerable career as a skilled writer of plays, short and long stories, novels and an acclaimed television series *Writing Scotland* - in eight parts on Scottish Writing, shown on BBC2 in 2004.

Gillian MacKay, of Edinburgh publishers Black and White, assures me that her company didn't give a seven figure advance for his latest book *SCOTS; The Language of the People* which accompanies a four episode television series currently showing on BBC2 Scotland on Tuesday evenings.

We all know the Scots language exists but is thought by many to be used only by a bunch of pseudo-intellectuals who take pride in addressing those they know don't speak or understand it.

However, Carl MacDougall shows just how we all use Scots words without realising that they are and, in some cases, have been adopted as English words when in fact they are not.

Scots is enjoying a renaissance as people come to realise that it has a directness and freshness that matches the nation's psyche, as the author amply illustrates.

McCaig

DE THA DOL?

An Sneachda Mòr

Tha am Bodach againne na gh-lòraidh an-diugh. Tha ceithir òirlich deug de shneachd againn agus chan eil fois a' dol air bho dh'èirich e ach a' stàireachd a-mach 's a-staigh le bòtanan mòra, a' fagail cnapan sneachd agus lòin nuair a leaghas iad air ùrlar a' chidsin.

Tha bliadhnaichean bhon nach robh sneachda mar seo againn agus tha e a' feitheamh, gu mi-fhoighidneach, agus an tig Gilbert leis an tractor agus gum faigh e fhèin a-mach an uair sin leis an Land Rover agus thèid iad le chèile a bhaidhadh nam beathaichean. Agus aon uair is gum fosgail iadsan an rathad mòr, gheibh muinntir a' bhaile suas is sios chun na bhiththan. Ach chan e goireasachd muinntir a' bhaile a tha a' cur dragh air Gilbert agus air a' Bhodach ach faighinn dha na pàirccean agus a-meas nam beathaichean agus a phluitraich anns an t-sneachd. Tha iadsan cheart cho mòr nam boil mun t-sneachda agus a tha a' chlamh a tha a' dèanamh nam bodaich-sneachda agus a' slaighdeadh le na slaodan aca air na lèibean.

Agus nuair a thàinig iad dhachaidh bha iad nam boil às ùr òir bha cleas eile aca. Bha iad air dealbhan a thogail leis am fòn laimheadh aig Gilbert airson sealltainn dhòmhsa cho dicheallach is a bha iad a' cothachadh an aghaidh na h-aimsir. Mhol mi gu mòr iad is thug mi dhaibh an cofaidh is fhiosan fìor mhaigh gum robh fadachd orra agus faighinn a-mach a-rithist. Chan fhada gur am fas iad sgèith dheug agus tòisichidh iad ri gearrain air an t-side mar is àbhaist.

Chan eil mòran agam fhèin mu dheidhinn sneachda ged a tha e glè mhath leisgeul a bhith agam fuireach tearainte

aig an teine airson latha no dhà fhads a dh' fhalphas e gu sgiobalta agus nach reoth e.

Phrases

Tha am Bodach againne na gh-lòraidh an-diugh - our Bodach is in his element today.

Chan eil fois a' dol air bho dh'èirich e - he has been restless since he got up.

Agus lòin nuair a leaghas iad - and puddles when they melt.

Tha bliadhnaichean bhon nach robh sneachda mar seo againn - it's been years since we had snow like this. Thèid iad le chèile a bhaidhadh nam beathaichean - they will go together to feed the animals.

Ach chan e goireasachd muinntir a' bhaile a tha a' cur dragh air Gilbert agus air a' Bhodach - but it's not the convenience of the people of the village that concerns Gilbert and the Bodach.

A' pliuiraich anns an t-sneachda - pluttering about in the snow.

Bha iad nam boil às ùr - they were excited all over again. Cho dicheallach is a bha iad a' cothachadh an aghaidh na h-aimsir - how conscientious they were struggling against the elements.

Tòisichidh iad ri gearrain air an t-side mar is àbhaist - they will start complaining about the weather as usual. Tha e glè mhath leisgeul a bhith agam fuireach tearainte aig an teine - it is quite nice for me to have an excuse to stay warm beside the fire.

Fhads a dh' fhalphas e gu sgiobalta agus nach reoth e - as long as it goes away quickly and does not freeze. **Criosaich Dick.**

# World Book Day celebrations

## Delight as top author helps Coll pupils launch own title

THURSDAY March 2 saw the launch of a book written by the pupils of Arinagour Primary School, Isle of Coll.

The pupils of primaries five, six and seven had collaborated with author Mairi Hedderwick to produce their book 'Calumn and Ceilidh and the Spara Landslide'.

BRAW, a group under the umbrella of the Scottish Book Trust, had asked all Scottish authors to go to their local schools and hold a book event in celebration of World Book Day on March 2.

Mairi Hedderwick and head teacher Aileen Cook hatched a plan to not only celebrate the day with a reading event, but for the older children to write and illustrate their own story.

The whole process took about a week-and-a-half with Mairi taking the children through the exact steps that she follows in the production of her books. The children met each morning for editorial meetings. They held a secret ballot in the initial stages to elect one story from a choice of five and then made up story boards and did the illustrations.

Each child was involved in the illustrations.

The result is a very fine story which was read to the children of the lower school in front of an invited audience of parents and other members of the community.

The older children then

presented a copy of the book to the younger children.

As Mairi explained to the audience and the children, World Book Day has its roots in a Catalonian tradition of giving and receiving books on a particular day. In Catalonia each book would also have a flower in its pages.

Mairi kept this tradition going by giving the latest Katie Morag book, 'Katie Morag and the Birthday', with a flower, to the children of the lower school while the older children received 'Late Again' by Ian MacPherson, again with a flower.

### Stories

As part of the celebration of World Book Day each primary school pupil received a book entitled 'BRAW Stories' a collection of five stories from Scottish authors. BRAW is an acronym for Books, Reading and Writing and is the new network for Scottish children's books, set up under the umbrella of the Scottish Book Trust.

It is funded by the Scottish Arts Council to promote books, reading and writing for young people, by authors and illustrators living in Scotland, as central to the cultural life of the nation and the cultural entitlements of its children.

You can order a copy of 'Calumn and Ceilidh and the Spara Landslide', priced £3.50, by contacting the school, 01879 230 376.



## Achaleven joins in fun

The pupils of Achaleven Primary School, Connel, celebrated World Book Day by going to school dressed as characters from their favourite books. So you could find ninjas, Dennis the Menace, the Incredible Hulk, Batman and more wizards than you could shake a wand at in the playground at break time. t10ach01



## Storybook animals come to life

PUPILS and staff at Ardchattan Primary School celebrated World Book Day by coming to school dressed as their favourite storybook animal.

During the day they read animal stories

and held a 'spellathon' in aid of Book Aid International which supplies books to schools in Africa. The children were also treated to Eeyore's birthday party at lunch time. Great fun was had by everyone.



Children at Easdale Primary School took part in World Book Day celebrations last week. t10eas01

## First class fun and games for book event at Easdale

EASDALE Primary School always celebrates World Book Day in style but this year staff and pupils went one better.

On Thursday last week every teacher and pupil dressed up as their favourite character from a book.

They gathered in the school hall where they acted out the part of their character whether it be Harry Potter, a dragon or Cleopatra.

Head teacher Maggie Anderson, who dressed as Mary Poppins, said: 'They are really enjoying today and because we only dress up for World Book Day every three years they have been really looking forward to it.'

As well as dressing up, the children took part in a number of activities leading up to World Book Day.

A 'readathon' has been going on at the school over three weeks where the children are sponsored for each book they read.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to Sargent Cancer Care.

All the children spoke about their favourite book at an assembly and the older children read to the pre-five and infant pupils.

On Thursday the pupils also played charades based on book titles only.



Mairi Hedderwick launches the Arinagour pupils' book 'Calumn and Ceilidh and the Spara Landslide'.



Pupils and staff from St Columba's Primary School who dressed up as their favourite Roald Dahl characters to celebrate World Book Day. t10col01

## Roald Dahl a St Columba's favourite

WELL-KNOWN faces from the world of children's literature turned up at St Columba's Primary School in Oban as pupils celebrated World Book Day.

As part of the celebrations, children were asked to dress up as their favourite characters from popular author Roald Dahl's books.

A wonderful array of costumes included Willy Wonka and Violet Beauregarde from *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Twits* and *Matilda*.

Some staff also got into the spirit by donning costumes of their own for the day.

One winner was chosen from each class and they received a copy of a Roald Dahl book courtesy of Ottakar's Books in Oban.

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**ACROSS**

- Capital of the Republic of Guinea, West Africa (7)
- Monica, 1993 U.S. Open singles tennis champion (5)
- and 11 Down. Nickname of Robert Paterson in a novel by Sir Walter Scott (3,9)
- 1966 novel by Ian Fleming (9)
- Ermanno, Italian composer of the opera *The Four Rustics* (4-7)
- 1868 novel by Louisa May Alcott (6,5)
- Character in *Wuthering Heights*, housekeeper to the Earnshaws (5,4)
- Turkish brimless felt or wool cap, usually red with a tassel (3)
- Steve, 1980 Olympic 800m champion (5)
- J.M., South African author of *The Life and Times of Michael K* (7)

**DOWN**

- 'The History of Mr. —', novel by H.G. Wells (5)
- Bird of the crow family such as the Eurasian *Garrulus glandarius* (3)
- Mr. Idle, actor/writer and member of the *Monty Python* team (4)
- Heavily scented Mediterranean plant with hairy stems and white flowers cultivated for forage (9)
- for —, 1604 play by Shakespeare (7)
- Spanish dance in simple triple time (6)
- See 9 Across
- W.C., actor born William Claude Dukinfield (6)
- Roman goddess of wisdom (7)
- Asian climbing plant whose leaves are chewed as a digestive stimulant (5)
- Old Testament prophet, a herdsman and fig-grower from Tekoa in Judah (4)
- Seventh letter in the Greek alphabet (3)

**QUICK CLUES ACROSS**

- Garland (7)
- Slur (5)
- Prod (3)
- Bigoted (9)
- Dispute (11)
- Fearlessness (11)
- Store (9)
- Possess (3)
- Happen (5)
- Door-keeper (7)

**QUICK CLUES DOWN**

- Cup (5)
- Health resort (3)
- Fairy (4)
- Indecency (9)
- Ardent (7)
- Support (6)
- Polite (9)
- First-class (3-3)
- Babyhood (7)
- Faint (5)
- Dominion (4)
- Expire (3)

**SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK**

**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across:** 7 Gareth Edwards; 8 Kilogram; 9 Lane; 10 Sonata; 12 Elvira; 14 Levant; 16 Embryo; 18 Port; 20 Mastodon; 22 Carmen Miranda.

**Down:** 1 Baritone; 2 Senora; 3 Char; 4 Adam Bede; 5 Vaclav; 6 Eden; 11 Antimony; 13 Reynolds; 15 Autumn; 17 Bhopal; 19 Oval; 21 Said.

**QUICK - Across:** 7 Red Riding Hood; 8 Accepted; 9 Vend; 10 Caress; 12 Barter; 14 Stupor; 16 Excite; 18 Zero; 20 Remember; 22 Dispassionate.

**Down:** 1 Penchant; 2 Grieve; 3 Edit; 4 Inedible; 5 Shiver; 6 Noon; 11 Surprise; 13 Entreaty; 15 Prompt; 17 Cement; 19 Exit; 21 Main.

**25 Years Ago**

**Those Were The Days**

**The Oban Times** Thursday March 17, 1981

**Western Ferries pull out of Oban**

THE HIGH speed catamaran *Highland Seabird* will not be cruising out of Oban this summer.

The vessel, run by Western Ferries, has proved uneconomical because of the fall-off in tourism trade and increase in costs.

A Western Ferries statement said: 'Over the past years we have been happy to subsidise this service in order to get it established and indeed we have succeeded in building our trade and had increased our carrying capacity each year since we commenced in 1977.'

'Unfortunately overall costs have increased, with the cost of fuel doubling since 1979 and this has meant we have not met our budgets.'

The decision being made at such short notice caused problems for some organisations including the Mull Music Festival which had advertised they would be using the *Seabird* to take visitors over in April.

**Ben Race rescue cover withdrawn**

LOCHABER Mountain Rescue Team decided unanimously this week that it will not turn out as usual for the 1981 Ben Nevis Race.

The decision was taken at the team's annual general meeting and secretary Andy Nicol said it had been made because the runners' safety could not be guaranteed.

Andy said: 'Normally we go out on the day of the Ben Nevis Race and spread out over the mountain. In this way in the past we've been able to keep track of the numbers going up or down and if anyone goes missing have some idea of where to look for them.'

'That was all right in the early days when the number of runners was between 120 and 150 but gradually the entries have built up to around 500 and it is becoming increasingly difficult to keep track of the competitors. If there is a mist they can pass within 30 yards of you and not be visible.'

Ben Nevis Race assistant secretary Chris Chmielewski said he had not received official notification of the team's decision.

He said: 'I am notifying the race association's safety committee today and the issue will be discussed further at a meeting on March 26.'

**Country win for Mallaig girl**

MALLAIG girl Belinda MacDougall has won a major talent contest in Glasgow.

Belinda, aged 21, came first equal in the Grand ol' Opry and was presented with a trophy and cheque for £175 by Glasgow's Lord Provost.

The country and western competition attracted an entry of 12 performers and was run in various stages over several weeks.

Belinda now hopes to pursue a musical career.

After she graduated from university last year she toured the Highlands and islands with singer Donnie 'Large' Macdonald and recorded a cassette in Lewis which will go on sale soon.

### Police warn following farm thefts

FARMERS and crofters are being warned to be on their guard after two quad motorbikes were stolen from agricultural holdings.

Inspector Neil Wallace of Strathclyde Police in Oban told *The Oban Times* that one quad motorbike had been stolen from Scammadale and another from Criannlarich in the last couple of weeks.

He said farmers and crofters should be more aware and extra secure in guarding their property after the incidents.

### HAY & STRAW FOR SALE

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## Crofters and farmers learn from local food marketing open day

WEST coast crofters and farmers gained an insight into ways in which meat is butchered at a special training event held at Dingwall Mart.

Nineteen farmers from Lochalsh, Wester Ross, Caithness, Nairn, Inverness-shire and Sutherland attended the open day or-

ganised by Highlands and Islands Local Food Network.

There were several items on the agenda for the day, all linked. The delegates learned about techniques for finishing cattle and getting them ready to supply the retail market all the year round.

They also paid a visit to the abattoir in Dingwall where they learned ways in which meat was butchered and about taking their own stock there for killing and butchering if they wanted to supply their own meat.

Hazel Gordon, for the organisers, Highlands and Islands Local Food Network,

said the day had been successful with some farmers who had wanted to attend not being able to do so.

It was the first training day of its kind and because some were unable to attend it was hoped another one would be organised in the near future.

Those who did attended

also visited Gordon Moir, Butchers, of Rosemarkie, and were given lunch at the Plough Inn in the village, owned by Graham and Ann Law.

Graham, who also has his own farm, spoke about the importance of locally produced meat and vegetables and said demand for such

produce was increasing. After lunch the attendees returned to the mart where Charles Munro spoke more about the services his abattoir in Dingwall offered to those who wanted to sell their own meat, such as curing for bacon.

The day ended with a talk by Alan Yates, Principal

Environmental Health Officer with The Highland Council, who spoke about matters of hygiene for those wanting to supply their own meat.

The training event was funded by the Scottish Agricultural College with support from the European Social Fund

### Glenside Limousin to 166p per kilo at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 575 store cattle at its fortnightly sale.

All classes continued to sell at recent high rates with a Limousin bullock from Glenside selling to 166p per kilo.

The 316 bullocks sold to a top of 166p per kilo for a 232kg Limousin from K J Fraser & Son, Glenside, to average 132.3p, and to £730 per head for an Aberdeen Angus cross from H J & G MacLennan, Springfield.

The 251 heifers sold to a top of 147.3p per kilo for 353kg Charolais cross from Messrs Forbes, Lochduh, to average 120.4p, and to £670 for Aberdeen Angus and Charolais crosses from Springfield.

Bullocks up to 450kg averaged 138.4p, over 451kg averaged 123.2p.

Heifers up to 450kg averaged 123.8p, over 451kg averaged 109.6p.

The company also sold 29 over 30 month cattle with bullocks selling to a top of 61.8p per kilo for a 510kg Highland from A Moore (Drummond) Ltd., to an overall sale average of 54.2p for a mixed show.

### Limousins to 155p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions, Stirling had forward 816 store cattle, 68 young bulls and 54 cast cows and 82 breeding cattle and 599 store hoggets and grit ewes for sale on Wednesday.

Bullocks sold to 155p per kilo for a Limousin cross off Graystale to average at 123.2p per kilo.

Heifers sold to 130p per kilo for a Simmental cross off Torbrex to average 116.5p per kilo.

Young bulls to sold 136p for a Charolais cross off Ashfield to average at 119.7p.

### Shorthorns top native breed sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts held its spring sale of native, rare and minority breeds of livestock.

All classes met a keen enquiry with a British Shorthorn cow with calf at foot selling to £1250.

Kerry Hill in-lamb ewes from Longoe Farm sold to £220 and £190 with Jacob gimmers from Kinlochell to £105.

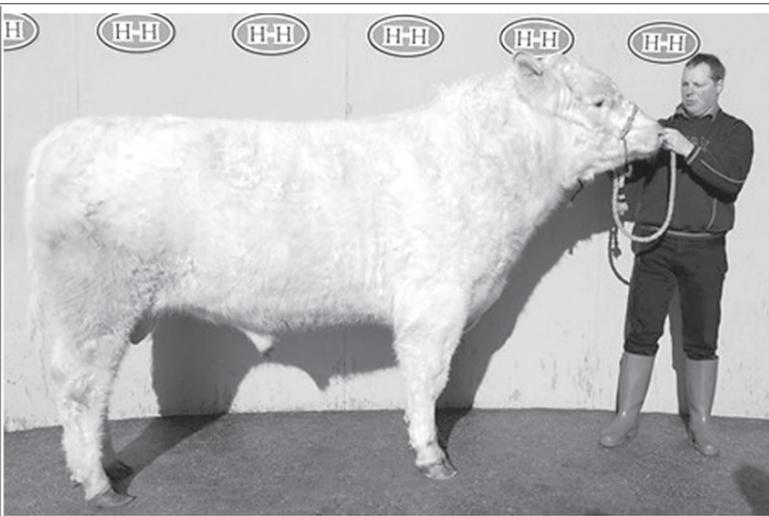
### Dunollie hosts ploughing match

THE Annual Lorn Vintage Ploughing Match will be held this year at Dunolliebeg Farm on the outskirts of Oban.

The event, which attracts teams of both tractor and horse-drawn ploughs will take place on Saturday, Match 18 with entrants coming for as far afield as Aberfeldy, Kintyre and the Isle of Bute.

Last year the main trophy was won by Lismore's John Livingstone and Archie Cameron, North Connel, who teamed up again having competed together in the first of a new series of ploughing competitions in 1965.

Ploughing gets underway at 10am and, although entry is free, donations to go to the high dependency unit of Lorn and the Islands District General Hospital will be gratefully received.



Spring show champion Parton Legacy

## Parton Legacy takes White Shorthorn spring championship

AUCTIONEERS Harrison and Hetherington Ltd conducted the spring sale of Whitebred Shorthorn bulls and females at Carlisle on behalf of members of the Whitebred Shorthorn Association.

The pre-sale show was judged by Mr D Kennedy-

Moffat, Lochmaining, Auldgrith, Dumfries who awarded the championship to Parton Legacy, a December 2003 bull, bred and exhibited by Messrs Hewson, Parton Farm, Wigtown.

Sired by Parton Surprise with the dam line going back to Murtholm Premier,

this bull failed to reach its reserve price in the ring, but later sold at an enhanced figure.

The reserve champion Bloch Ross was bred and exhibited by Messrs Bell, Bloch, Langholm. Sired by Murtholm Parky this bull realised 1600gns and trav-

els back home with the judge.

From the same home, Bloch Flint an April 2004 bull sired by Burnedge James realised 700gns and finds his new home at Harwood in Teesdale with Messrs Dent and Nixon, Peghorn Lodge.

### Market report

**ISLAY - United Auctions**  
Bullocks  
Belgian BlueX: £558(3), £522, £512, £472(2) and £448 Ardbeg £438(4) Starchmill £412 Ardbeg £392 Starchmill.  
CharolaisX: £655 Dunlossit Estate £572(5), £562 and £558 Ardbeg £552 Kilchiaran £548 (4) and £538 (4) Eorabus £528 Aoradh (10) and Eorabus (5) £522(3) Kilchiaran £518 Ardbeg (7), Eorabus(2) and Sunderland £512(8) Ardbeg £508(4) Aoradh £502 Sunderland £498 Aoradh, Tallant, Leorin(7) and Dunlossit Estate (7) £492(5) Aoradh £488 Sunderland £478(4) Tallant £472 Starchmill £468 Kilchiaran, Leorin(12) and Dunlossit Estate(6) £460(4) Lorgba £458(9) Aoradh £450 Dunlossit Estate £442(4) Tallant £428(5) Dunlossit Estate £422(4) Leorin £418(2) Dunlossit Estate £412 Ardbeg £408(4) and £392(2) Starchmill.  
SimmentalX: £518 and £512 Sunderland.  
Heifers  
Belgian BlueX: £408 and £358 Ardbeg  
CharolaisX: £468 Dunlossit Estate £448(5) and £418(6) Aoradh £388(5) Dunlossit Estate.  
GallowayX: £428 Sunderland  
LimousinX: £650 6 Bayview £562, £518(2), £488(5) Lossit £482 Ardbeg £458 Lorgba and Sunderland £452(4) Eorabus £442 Lossit £432(6) Eorabus £428(2) Tallant £418(4) and £408 Ardbeg £408 Lossit £402 Starchmill and Dunlossit Estate £372 Carrabus £362 Tallant and Dunlossit Estate(9).  
SimmentalX: £452, £448(2), £432, £428, £412 and £392 Sunderland Estate.  
Prices per kilo  
Bullocks  
Belgian BlueX: 163p, 154p, 143p(4) and 137p(2) Ardbeg 134p(4) Starchmill 133p Ardbeg 129p Starchmill.  
CharolaisX: 155p, 151p(8) Aoradh 149p Dunlossit Estate 146p(8) Aoradh 139p(2) and 137p(7) Dunlossit Estate 134p Aoradh 132p(2) Dunlossit Estate.  
LimousinX: 156p Aoradh 152p Ardbeg 150p(2) Dunlossit Estate 149p(5) Ardbeg 144p(5) Aoradh 143p Paic A Chlissan (2) and Ardbeg (16) 141p Aoradh (18), Tallant and Leorin(7) 139p(12) Leorin 138p Tallant (4) and Dunlossit Estate (5) 137p Kilchiaran (3), Leorin (4) and Dunlossit Estate (6) 136p Starchmill (8), Aoradh (5) and Sunderland 135p Tallant (4) and Dunlossit Estate (9) 134p and 133p Ardbeg 132p Sunderland and Ardbeg 130p Paic A Chlissan (2) and Eorabus (4) 129p(2) Starchmill 126p (5) Eorabus 125p Dunlossit Estate 123p(5) Eorabus 121p Carrabus 120p Sunderland and Kilchiaran.  
SimmentalX: 131p and 123p Sunderland.  
Bulls  
131p(2) Starchmill and 123p(2) Lyrabus Moor Croft.  
Heifers  
Belgian BlueX: 146p Ardbeg CharolaisX: 134p Dunlossit Estate 122p(11) Aoradh.  
LimousinX: 141p 6 Bayview 134p Lossit 127p, 126p(4) and 125p Ardbeg 121p(2) Tallant 120p Ardbeg 118p Lyrabus Moor Croft 117p Sunderland 116p Lossit, Carrabus, Eorabus (6) and Starchmill 115p Starchmill 114p Dunlossit Estate (9), Ardbeg (9) and Lossit (5) 113p Lossit (3) and Eorabus (4) 110p Carrabus (8) and Dunlossit Estate (6).  
SimmentalX: 118p, 117p, 116p, 115p, 113p and 111p Sunderland

**STIRLING - United Auctions**  
Bullocks - Whiteburn (BAX) £780, Middle Coldrain (CharX) £770, Whiteburn (LimX) £740, Middle Coldrain (SimX) £695, West Mains (AAX) £650, South Glascock (HF) £530, Auchmeddan (BF) £480  
Heifers - Torbrex (SimX) £625, Milton (CharX) £620, Torbrex (LimX) £615, Bowridge (BAX) £510, Kinaldy (AAX) £505, Dyke (BBX) £495.  
Young bulls - Gartary (CharX) £560, Wester Lochgreen (BAX) £560, Dyke (LimX) £465, Kinaldy (AAX) £460.  
Bullocks per kilo - Graystale (LimX) 155p, Toward (CharX) £15p, East Cauldcoates (SimX) 139p, High Drumrae (ShX) 130p, Titwood (AAX) 133p, High Drumrae (ShX) 129p, Whiteburn (BAX) 127p, Auchmeddan (fr) 108p  
Heifers per kilo - Torbrex (SimX) 130p, Bowridge (BAX) 116p, Netherlands (AAX) 114p  
Cast cows - Hawkhill (BBX) £735, Bogton (LimX) £720, Mid Cambushinnie (CharX) £700, Pathcondie (SimX) £685, Blackford (ShX) £650.  
Cast cows per kilo - Hawkhill (BBX) 100p, Fairfield (SimX) & Bogton (LimX) & Cambushinnie (CharX) 90p.  
Breeding cattle  
Cows and calves - Corscaplie (Lim Hfr & HCF) £1000, Sauchie HF (Lim Cow & BCF) £760, South Mains (AA Cow & HCF) £730.  
In-calf cows - Grasslands (AAX) £640, Lampitts (Char) £610, Grasslands (SAX) £560, (SimX) £540, Lampitts (LimX) £500.  
Sheep hoggets - Sauchie Mains (Mule) £46.80 & (BF) £44, Ardchonnell (ChevX) & Ardmaleish (Tex) £40.  
In-lamb ewes - East Mains (Mule Twins) £46 & £45, Mains of Doune (Tex Singles) £39, Innishewan (BF Singles) £24.50  
Cast ewes - Garvie (BF) £30

**OBAN - Caledonian Marts**  
Bullocks  
Upper Largie £505: Poltalloch £480; Fidden £465; East Hynish £470.  
Heifers  
Upper Largie £495; Achnacremore £510; Achaleven £460; Ferloch and Turnault £400.  
DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts  
Bullocks - up to 250kg - £385 Glenside (Lim), 150p Bog Fada (Lim); £345 Bog Fada (Lim), 149.8p Larchgrove (Lim); £310 Larchgrove (Lim), 118.2p Keedale Sheep Stock Club (Lim).  
251 - 300kg - £455 Coldhome (Lim), 162.1p Achnacone (Lim); £425 Calrossie (Rox), 154.9p Woodend (Lim); £415 Achnacone (Lim), 151.7p Coldhome (Lim).  
301 - 350kg - £515 Calrossie (Lim), 154.8p Lochduh; £510 Lochduh (Chx), 154.7p 2 Balbeg (Simx); £505 Oldtown of Leys (Lim), 153.7p Calrossie (Lim); 351 - 400kg - £605, 153.2p Duid Temple (Lim); £590, 154.6p Cloy (Chx); £590, 152.5p Lochduh (Lim).  
401 - 450kg - £620 Culoich (Lim) and Druid Temple (Simx), 145.7p 6 Balnabeg; £610 Coldhome (Lim), 142.1p Keppoch (Chx); £600 Bunchrew (Simx), 141p Woodside of Culloden (Simx); 451 - 500kg - £645 Upper

Latheron (Chx), 136.2p Coldhome (Lim); £640, 133.5p South Balkeith (AAX); £640 Coldhome (Lim), 133p Caplich (Chx); 501 - 550kg - £680, 125.9p Balvaired (Lim); £675, 125.7p Caplich (Chx); £660, 122.2p Balmtraid (AAX); 551 - 600kg - £700 South Balkeith (AAX), 123.2p Caplich (Simx); £690, 120.5p Balmtraid (AAX); £685, 120.4p Culoich (Lim); Heifers - up to 250kg - £345, 138p Bog Fada; £290, 137.4p Achnacone (Lim); £290, 123.4p Woodend (Lim); 251 - 300kg - £370, 129.8p Redbank (BAX); £360, 143.4p Achnacone (Lim); £355, 126.8p Calrossie (AAX); 301 - 350kg - £450 Brae Eynort (Lim), 135.1p Bunchrew (Simx); £440 Bunchrew (Simx), 130.8p Achnacone (Lim); £435 Coldhome (Lim), 130.4p Brae Eynort (Lim); 351 - 400kg - £520, 137.2p Bunchrew (Simx); £520, 137.2p Lochduh (Chx); £520, 133p Cloy (Chx); 401 - 450kg - £550 Coldhome (Lim), 134p Cloy (Chx); £540 Caplich (Chx), Cloy (Chx) and Easter Strath of Auchterflow (Lim), 130.1p Easter Strath. (Lim); £500 Bayhead (Lim), 125.6p Caplich (Chx); 451 - 500kg - £605, 124.7p Upper Latheron; £565, 120.2p Dalchork (Lim); £565, 115.1p Caplich (Simx); 501 - 550kg - £600, 112.2p Balvaired (Lim); £560, 106.7p Oldtown of Leys (AA); 551 - 600kg - £670, 111.7p Springfield (Chx); £600, 104.4p Mulchaich (Lim); £580, 103.6p Upper Latheron (Lim).

**STIRLING - United Auctions**  
Hoggs - Guardswell (Tex) £70 and £69, North Lambieatham (Tex) £64, Harviesmailing (Tex) £62.50, Guardswell (Suff) £62, Auchoch (Chev) £55, Coulshill (Chev) £54.80, Dunruchan (Suff) £54.50, Ballinloan, Baleave and East Town (Suff) £54, Burnshot (BF) £50, Merkins (BF) £49, Arnicle (BF) £48.80.  
Ewes - Easter Middleton (HB) £70.50 and (Suff) £68.50, Gartvaigh (Char) £60.50, Upper Auchenlay (Tex) £60, Peattieshill (BF) £42.  
DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts  
Cattle  
Cows with bull calves - £1250 Woodend Croft (British Shorthorn).  
Cows with heifer calves - £380 Eilburn (Longhorn).  
Heifers - £620 Eilburn, £400 Letterewe Estate (Longhorn), £200 No 7 South Erradale (Dexter). In calf heifers - £310 Melvich, Inveresdale (Highland).  
Sheep  
In-lamb ewes - £220, £190 Longoe Farm, Mey (Kerry Hill); £45 Eilburn (Ryeland); £40 Greenlands Farm (Jacob cross).  
Gimmers with lambs - £105 Nos 3, 4 & 5 Kinlochell (Jacob).  
Ewes with lambs - £70, £65 Bogallan (Jacob).  
In lamb gimmers - £50 Longoe Farm (Katmoget x Shetland); £40 Greenlands Farm (Jacob); £25 Upper Meadows (Shetland).  
Rams - £50 Nos 3, 4 & 5 Kinlochell (Jacob).  
Lambs - £40 Bogallan (Jacob).

### Milk price cut could lead to store war

SCOTLAND'S dairy leaders believe supermarket group Asda's move to slash the price of milk in its stores is mixed news for hard pressed farmers.

Whilst welcoming the fact that Asda has taken a lead by paying for the cost of the promotion out of its own margin the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) has expressed concern at the potential for a renewed retail price war.

NFUS also believes that the remarkable level of retail cut, up to 9-10p pence per litre, emphasises the huge margins being made

on liquid milk by the major supermarkets and the need for a more equitable distribution of profits.

NFUS Vice President Jim McLaren said: 'The fact that Asda has committed to paying for this latest promotion out of its own pocket is, at the very least, a refreshing change.'

'There is little surprise they can do this given the fact that the retail price of milk has increased repeatedly recently, with nothing being passed back to farmers.'

'I am nervous about another retail price war.'

### Kintyre Holstein breeders host AGM

KINTYRE Holstein Breeders Club held its Annual General Meeting when the guest speaker was Jim Boyd Jr of Lettrickhills Holsteins, Cambuslang.

Mr Boyd entertained members to a very interesting talk on his experiences of the dairy industry, both at home and in Canada where he worked for some time. He also expressed his views on the future for the industry.

Mr Boyd presented the club trophy for the most points gained during the year to T Ralston, Dhurrie and the following office bears were elected:

Chairman: J Smith  
Vice-chairman: J Ralston  
Secretary: T Ralston  
Treasurer: A Graham  
Committee: J Semple, J McLean, D MacKay, J Wallace.

Mr J Ralston, vice-chairman closed the meeting with a vote of thanks.

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### Poltalloch Limousin to 144.6p per kilo at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts, Stirling had 188 store cattle and 297 store sheep at Oban Livestock Centre last Tuesday when all classes of cattle met an excellent trade.

A Limousin cross bullock from Poltalloch, Lochgilphead sold to 144.6p per kilo with the bullocks selling to a sale average of 121p per kilo.

Heifers averaged at 117.1p per kilo at a top of 130p per kilo for a Limousin cross from Upper Largie, Kilmartin.

Bullocks sold to £530 per head twice, for Limousin crosses from Lagganulva, Mull and from Upper Largie. Top price per head for heifers was £520 for a Simmental cross from Achnacremore, North Connel.

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### Stirling Thursday

UNITED Auctions sold 6330 prime sheep including spring lambs, 4572 hoggs and 1752 ewes and rams on Thursday.

Texel hoggs from Guardswell sold to £70 and £69 with Blackface hoggs from Arnicle, Kintyre selling to £48.80. Charollais ewes from Garvaigh sold to £60.50.

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## WANTED LAND-ROVER 90/110 Toyota Hilux or similar 4WD for farm work

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### MANAGING ACCESS ON YOUR FARM A ONE-DAY TRAINING WORKSHOP

Tuesday 28th March 2006  
Ifferdale Farm, Saddell, by Campbeltown  
Courtesy of Andrew Gemmill  
or Wednesday March 29th  
Bamdromin Farm, Knipoch, by Oban  
Courtesy of Jamie Mellor

- Do you have public access related issues on your farm?
- Would you like to find out more about the Scottish Outdoor Access Code?
- Do you want to find out more about the LMC option for 'Improving Access'?

If the answer is 'YES' to any of these questions then this event is for you.

The workshops are FREE to all farmers, crofters and land managers with an agricultural holding number; non-farming delegates will be charged £20 per head. All refreshments tea/coffee/light lunch provided plus a delegates pack of resources

Places limited so booking essential.

For further information or to book your place at one of the workshops contact Lucy Sumsion, Argyll FWAG  
Tel: 01499 600113 or email: argyll@fwag.org.uk

This training course has been part-funded by:

SAC IACS 2006

IACS surgeries will be held as follows:

LOCATION	DATES
Islay/Jura	28-30 March, 10-12 April
Mull-Salen	12-13 April
Mull-Bunessan	13-14 April
Tiree	19-21 April, 25-27 April
Oban	21 April, 3 May
Acharacle	25 April
Mallaig	25-26 April
Fort William	26 April
Cowal	27 April
Coll	2 May
Colonsay	9 May

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www.sac.co.uk

## Nature Times

MANY birds spend the winter on the coast - it's a reliable place to live if you can adjust to the rhythm of the sea.

The unrelenting rise and fall of the tide ensures that the shore rarely freezes, and on sheltered beaches of sand and mud there is plenty of animal life to feed on - though finding it may be a problem. Wading birds are experts at this, probing with their narrow beaks to catch the hidden inhabitants - worms, shrimps and shellfish.

Curlews have the longest beaks and can reach into the deep burrows where lugworms live. Small waders such as dunlin and knot have short beaks to reach smaller creatures near the surface; redshank and oystercatcher can probe rather more deeply.

Waders find their prey by various means - sight, touch, taste and movement. The beaks of some species have flexible and sensitive tips, giving them great versatility.

A naturalist is limited to visual clues, but with careful searching it is surprising how much evidence of life beneath the surface can be found when the tide is out, without digging!

Lugworms are the most obvious, the familiar coils of sand giving away the locations of their U-shaped burrows.

Ragworms are usually

more numerous, but less obvious; they are predators and emerge from their burrows when the tide is in to hunt for their prey. Look for their irregular, snaking trails on sand and mud, radiating from a central hole. In place there may be more than a thousand ragworms in a square metre of mud - they are an important food source for many shore birds.

Two bivalve shellfish, common in muddy sand, are known as 'deposit feeders' because they feed on food particles on the sediment surface. The oddly named peppery-furrow shell and the smaller Baltic tellin live buried a few centimetres down, and each extends a pair of flexible tubes called siphons to the surface when the tide is in. One siphon is longer than the other and works like the hose of a vacuum cleaner, sucking up particles of food from the mud surface. This siphon extends out in different directions from the same point, making a distinctive star-shaped pattern and revealing the position of the animal beneath. Waste water is pumped out through the other siphon.

When the tide goes out these bivalves pull their siphons down and may burrow more deeply for protection. The Baltic tellin is usually still within reach of waders such as knot and oystercatchers - the peppery furrow-shell may only be reachable by curlews.

The Forestry Commission is one of the biggest landowners in the west Highlands, and has a key role to play in balancing timber production, nature conservation and recreation.

To learn more about its work come along to Lochaber Natural History Society's on Friday March 17 at the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William when Kevin Peace, Forest District Manager for Lochaber, will give an illustrated talk, starting at 7.30pm.

*Highland Darter*

Sand and mudflats teem with life throughout the year, if you know how to find it

To book this property space contact  
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# WEST HIGHLAND PROPERTY GUIDE

The largest weekly property pages, covering Argyll, West Highlands & Islands. Selling your property? Make sure your advertisement is here in *The Oban Times* - it works! (Seen by more than 40,000\* readers each week.) \*Source: JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC audit.

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## High-spec Taynuilt home is one of five in exclusive site



Hindle House . . . former Taynuilt Primary School site

FOR families with primary age children, Hindle, at Taynuilt, is the perfect family home, allowing them to walk safely to school without crossing any roads. Built on the site of the former Taynuilt Primary, it is one of five houses in an exclusive development of exceptionally high specification homes. Fittings throughout, including carpets, blinds, floorings and fixtures, are all of a high quality.

Twelve miles east of Oban, Taynuilt is an attractive village lying in the shadow of Ben Cruachan. Many local families have lived there for generations. The village centre offers a butcher's shop, well-provisioned grocer and a sub-Post Office. There is a modern doctor's surgery, Police Station, two churches, a popular tearoom and a first class hotel. The sports minded will be pleased to note that it boasts a sports field with an all-weather pitch and a nine-hole golf course. The recently-modernised village hall hosts a range of social activities and entertainments. The Glasgow-Oban rail service stops at Taynuilt Station and the village is served by the Citilink Bus Service which connects villages from Glasgow to Oban. Nearby Loch Etive provides top class sailing opportunities as well as fishing.

Whilst retaining a traditional vernacular appearance, the house has been finished with a smooth render under a Spanish slated roof. All windows and roof lights are timber double-glazed. Ground floor accommodation comprises cloakroom, bedroom, lounge, hall, kitchen and dining room. On the upper floor are a further three bedrooms, a shower and dressingroom and a family bathroom. The cloakroom contains its own wash-hand basin and pedestal basin in white

with matching fittings. A stunning kitchen flaunts a range of modern Shaker-style wall and floor units including a large glass-fronted illuminated cabinet with glass shelving. Perfect counterpoint is provided by beech-effect work surfaces. At its heart stands a superb racing green Rangemaster 110 six-burner Calor Gas stove with hot plate, double oven and grill. Incorporated is a Dimplex DuoHeat radiator. Quarry-tiled flooring adds to the showpiece effect.

French-glazed panel doors opening on to an area of enclosed timber decking with steps down to the front garden and parking, add distinction to a contemporary lounge decorated with flair. Windows on either side of the French doors and on another wall of the room offer views towards the hotel and village main street. A white fireplace contrasts perfectly with black marble insets. On either side is expensive book shelving. With twin windows to the rear, the dining room has no shortage of natural light. Windows to the front in the downstairs bedroom enable occupants to enjoy vistas of the rolling countryside in the direction of Glen Loman. Currently used as a music room-sitting room-office, it reveals an open recessed area originally designed for fitted wardrobes.

Upstairs apartments are accessed by a graceful staircase with banister. Bedroom two, with its slightly coombed ceiling,

enjoys a scenic outlook towards Glenloman. Bedroom three has three Velux windows and houses a recessed area currently used for hobby/craftwork. Bedroom four, the master, is an imposing room, again with twin windows to the front. It features double built-in wardrobes with sliding doors and is linked to an en-suite dressing room and fully-fitted shower room.

Both are superbly finished and the dressing room sports painted wood panelling to dado height and cream painted walls. The large modern bathroom, which again has Velux windows, is unashamedly luxurious with a tiled window ledge, wood panelling to dado height and 'Pure Indulgence' painted walls. The double-ended bath is surmounted by a telephone-style shower attachment.

The property is approached via a shared entrance leading to a private driveway. Trim gardens have been laid out to turf with laurel hedging to the front and rear which has already become established.

The decking area to the front of the property and the house is flanked by paved patio areas creating a sense of privacy. There is room for a conservatory to the side of the building. Outdoor assets include a good-quality timber garden shed.

The sale of Hindle is being conducted by the Oban office of MacKinnon Estates, who are inviting offers over £275,000.

www.dmkestates.co.uk

01631 566122



**GOIRTEANARD**  
 (Former Doctors' House and Surgery)  
 DALMALLY, ARGYLL

This substantial detached Victorian villa is situated within Dalmally old village enjoying views of the dramatic mountain scenery. Well maintained and presented country residence comprising: reception hall, drawing room, dining room, kitchen, utility room, shower room, office (or bedroom), half-landing with a bathroom and shower room, first floor comprising four bedrooms and a loft conversion providing two further rooms suitable for conversion. Attached former surgery with three main rooms, reception and toilet. Fully serviced and suitable for a number of uses (subject to all necessary consents). Oil central heating. Double glazed. External store. Detached garage. Driveway and mature well-established gardens. **Offers over £295,000**

**BOTHANUAINE, ARDUAIN, ARGYLL**

An attractive three bedroom Scandia-Hus, detached bungalow, enjoying an enviable location, with fantastic views across the water to the islands of Shuna, Luing, Scarba, Jura and the Gulf of Corryvreckan. The well presented accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, kitchen/dining area, living room, bedroom and bathroom, inner hall, utility room, two bedrooms and bathroom. The Scandia-Hus design is energy efficient, with triple glazing and substantial insulation. The property benefits from the attractive, established gardens with trees, mature shrubs, plants and fruit bushes. Driveway and detached double garage **Offers over £275,000**

**QUO VADIS, URE GARDENS, OBAN, ARGYLL**

Well preserved four-bedroom linked-detached bungalow situated in an established cul-de-sac in a popular residential location on the outskirts of the town. Lovely far reaching views of the bay to the front and not overlooked at the rear. The spacious accommodation comprises: Entrance vestibule, hallway, WC, living-room, open plan kitchen/dining-room, rear porch, four bedrooms, bathroom. Double-glazed, oil-fired central heating, private driveway, parking and garage. Good-sized gardens to the front and rear **Offers over £195,000**

**MALIN, ARDFERN, ARGYLL**

Recently completed and tastefully presented two bedroom detached house, nicely situated in the popular village of Ardfern. The accommodation on two floors comprises: Hallway, bathroom, bedroom, open plan dining room, kitchen and living room. First floor: Bedroom with en-suite shower room. Oil fired under floor heating on ground floor and radiators on the first floor. Double glazed. Easily maintained and fully enclosed gardens to the front and rear. Driveway with parking for two cars. **Offers over £175,000**

**COMMERCIAL**

We currently have three commercial properties available:  
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**Retail Unit, Corran Esplanade, Oban** - Lease available immediately  
**Rental offers in excess of £6,300 per annum are invited**  
**Tackle and Tack, Soroba Road, Oban** - Lease available; terms negotiable

**5 ACHINREIR, BARCALDINE, ARGYLL**

A most appealing three bedroom semi-detached, two-storey house, which is pleasantly situated in a small community of forestry properties within commuting distance of Oban approximately 12 miles away. The nicely presented accommodation comprises: Ground floor: Vestibule, hallway, living room, garden room, kitchen, lobby with utility cupboard, WC, bedroom. First floor: Two bedrooms, bathroom. Mono block parking area to the front, mature gardens to the rear. **Offers over £125,000**

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**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**FOR SALE**  
**FORMER SCHOOL**  
**ISLE OF KERRERA**

An opportunity has arisen to acquire a unique property on the Isle of Kerrera on the beautiful west coast of Scotland. This traditional school building is now available for sale along with an adjoining 0.24 acre site offering residential development potential. Offers in excess of £130,000 are invited. Closing date Friday 28 April 2006. For further information contact: The Estates Office, Legal and Protective Services, Blairvadach, Shandon G84 8ND. Tel: 01436 658957

**PROPERTY TO LET**

**LONG LET**  
**KILMELFORD (Oban 15 miles)**  
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## PEUGEOT STRENGTHENS 407 SALOON AND SW LINE-UP WITH V6 HDi AND NEW FOUR-MODEL RANGE



Peugeot has revised its 407 Saloon and SW range with a four-model line-up, available for May delivery. A new 'Sport' model introduces a compelling specification, while the impressive 2.7-litre twin-turbo HDi Diesel, first seen in the 407 Coupé, is available in the distinctive range-topping 'Executive' model.

The four optimised trim levels now combine a progressively increasing level of desirable features, and are identified by their comprehensive model specification designations: S, SE, Sport and Executive. The S model introduces all the range-wide benefits of standard equipment features on 407, while the popular SE model adds items like automatic activated wipers and headlamps, tyre pressure sensors and electrically folding door mirrors.

The new Sport model is available with either a 2.2-litre petrol or HDi 136 Diesel engine.

Standard features, over the SE, include electric adjustment of the half-leather/Zagros trimmed front seats, 6-disc CD autochanger, rear parking aid and a multi-function colour display screen. A Bluetooth® hands free telephone kit is also fitted as standard, as it is on the SE model.

A substantial choice of powertrain is offered to 407 customers and the new and much praised V6 HDi Diesel unit, with a displacement of 2.7-litres is now available in Executive trim. The DPFS (Diesel Particle Filter System) equipped twin-turbo engine, with 205bhp is mated to the smooth-changing six-speed automatic gearbox, with 'Porsche System' Tiptronic controls, to harness the awesome 330 lb ft of torque delivered from 1900rpm.

Supplementing the V6 HDi Diesel engine, the top-of-the-range Executive model can also be specified with the 3.0-litre V6 petrol automatic or HDi 136 Diesel

engine, in either manual or automatic transmission. All models now feature 18" Soleil alloy wheels and body-coloured rubbing strips for a more distinctive exterior appearance. All Executive models take the fully-integrated Peugeot RT3 system – combining single CD/RDS radio, integrated GSM mobile telephone colour satellite navigation and voice activation. Further enhancements include xenon headlamps, rear seat side airbags, full leather interior, laminated side windows, heated front seats, rear side window sunblinds and a rear screen sunblind on Saloon models.

The 407 redefines the standard for range-wide safety equipment in the medium sector, featuring a comprehensive safety specification with the standard fitment on all models of ESP (an Electronic Stability Programme) and seven airbags, recognised by the awarding of a maximum 5-star Euro

NCAP rating.

High standards of equipment include digital air conditioning, panoramic glass roof on SW models, a choice of four petrol and three diesel engines, double-wishbone front and multi-link rear suspension, and remote locking, plus many other desirable features.

The latest 407 Saloon and SW range also sees the introduction of a new HDi 136 six-speed automatic version in SE, Sport and Executive trim levels. Visually the 407 has been enhanced by the fitment of a chrome-plated radiator grille, which creates a more stylish presence, and body coloured side mouldings on the Executive V6 HDi model.

Smartnav remains a very popular standard fit item on all UK registered 407 cars (RT3 satellite navigation equipped models excluded) up to 31 March 2006.

- Enhanced equipment levels ensure 407 remains best value in medium sector
- New four-model line-up includes the introduction of the V6 HDi Diesel engine
- Introduction of new 407 Sport model

## SUBARU LAUNCHES SPRING ACCESSORY CAMPAIGN

Leisure-seeking motorists preparing for the spring holiday season are being targeted by Subaru which has just launched a high-value accessory campaign focussing on towbars and electrics plus roof bars and attachments.

For example, Subaru Forester customers buying a detachable or fixed swan-neck towbar will receive a free-of-charge 'plug and play' 12N wiring kit worth £49.95.

This avoids fiddly connectors, clips and soldering and drastically reduces installation time for the towbar electrics.

Meanwhile, owners planning outdoor pursuits such as mountain-bikers, skiers and campers will all benefit from Subaru's new 'Raise The Quality Bar' campaign.

Anyone buying a load carrier and attachment such as a cycle carrier, ski carrier or transport box will receive a 10 per cent discount on both items.

The 'Raise The Quality Bar' campaign on genuine Subaru accessories is available from all participating dealers with all items enjoying a full and comprehensive three-year warranty.



Subaru launches Spring accessory campaign

## APPRECIATION ON A PLATE FOR MOTHER'S DAY

If you're looking for an alternative way to show your mum just how much you care this Mother's Day, you could follow the lead of the Harvey family and spell out your appreciation on a number plate.

For the Harveys from Surrey, finding their gift was simple. Mum Denise, had been hinting for a while that she wanted a personalised number plate and after coming together and visiting [dvlaregistrations.co.uk](http://dvlaregistrations.co.uk) her family found the perfect registration to show their mum just how proud of her they truly are – DH06 MUM.

Denise's husband, Alan, commented: "Having just purchased a new car and with Mother's Day just

around the corner we knew what to get. Personalised number plates run in the family and we see them as a fun way of standing out from the crowd.

"The DVLA Personalised Registrations website is incredibly easy to use and within a few minutes of searching, we knew we'd found the best registration for Denise."

Whatever the occasion, you can find an ideal personalised registration by logging on to the DVLA's official website [www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk](http://www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk) or by calling DVLA's telesales hotline on 0870 6000 142 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday or on Saturday, between 9am to 1pm.

## NEW CAR INDEX

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 <b>ISUZU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440	 <b>VOLKSWAGEN</b> Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 <a href="http://www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk">www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk</a>
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Y FORD FOCUS ZETEC 1.8, BLUE, 36,000	P.O.A.
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# Drive Times

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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.

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First offer over  
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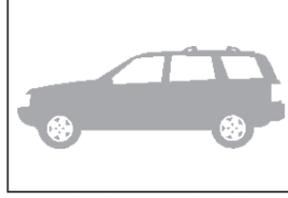


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 Informal enquiries to Cheryl Allan, tel (01855) 831708. Ref: L/35/06

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 You should have experience of working with the public with a good general standard of education and customer care skills. You should also have a good general knowledge of Ben Nevis, Glen Nevis and the surrounding countryside.  
 Informal enquiries to Dorothy Maxwell, tel (01463) 702280. Ref: L/25/06

**Application packs are available from our website or by telephoning, quoting relevant reference:**  
 Ref: L/35/06 - tel (01349) 868640 (24 hours)  
 Ref: L/34/06 - tel (01397) 709000 or email lochaber.tecsadmin@highland.gov.uk  
 Ref: L/25/06 - tel (01397) 702220 (24 hours)  
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 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

**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

**Coast**  
 We are currently recruiting: **CHEFS**  
 Must be enthusiastic and able to work in a small team  
 (Rates of pay dependent on age and experience)  
**PHONE RICHARD (HEAD CHEF) ON 01631 569900**  
 COAST: 104 GEORGE STREET, OBAN: PA34 5NT



**West Highland Gas Ltd**  
 Torran 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.



**ENNSTONE THISTLE LGV DRIVERS**  
 (Concrete Bowser + Tipper Class 1 or 2)  
 Due to increased work load we have vacancies for LGV drivers. You will be required to deliver asphalt, aggregate and ready-mix concrete.  
 Experience in these fields would be desirable, but training will be given.  
 These permanent positions are covered by the Working Time Regulations and include a generous remuneration package.  
 Please write or e-mail CV and covering letter to: **Rosemary Morrison** rosemary.morrison@ennstonethistle.co.uk  
 Customer Services & Transport Manager  
 Ennstone Thistle Ltd, Dunbeg, By Oban PA37 1PX



**PCV Drivers**  
 Oban, Argyll  
 Full time and part time vacancies exist within our Oban depot for PCV drivers.  
 Full training will be provided, subject to our terms and conditions.  
 Trainee applicants must be 21 years or over and have held a clean driving licence for 2 years to be considered.  
 For further details please contact **West Coast Motors, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HH**  
 Tel: 01631 570 500



**Marine Husbandry Personnel**  
 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd are currently recruiting hardworking and dynamic individuals who wish to progress their future career in aquaculture.  
 Working in a marine husbandry environment your responsibilities will span the full range of activities leading to successful farmed salmon performance namely: fish health and welfare, feeding routines, environmental monitoring and site security. Experience of working in such an environment is not essential but would be beneficial.  
**Opportunities for part time husbandry staff are now being considered for the Loch Linnhe Area.** If you would like to play a part in the development of this exciting and progressive local industry then in the first instance contact our Personnel Office on 01786 445521 to obtain a copy of our job description. Then write, enclosing a CV, telling us how you would make the difference to our operations to:  
**Claire Robertson**  
 Scottish Sea Farms Ltd  
 Laurel House  
 Laurelhill Business Park  
 Stirling FK7 9JQ  
 Closing Date for Applications: 31st March 2006



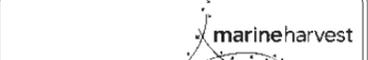
**Sacro SAFEGUARDING COMMUNITIES - REDUCING OFFENDING**  
**YOUTH JUSTICE SERVICE - HIGHLAND** (Based in Fort William)  
 PART-TIME YOUTH JUSTICE WORKER  
 20 Hours per week  
 Final salary pension scheme  
 25 days annual leave plus 12 public holidays pro rata  
 £20,807 - £23,033 per annum pro rata (Pay Award Pending)  
**Sacro's Mission is to reduce conflict and offending and make communities safer**  
 Highland Council and Sacro have expanded their current Youth Justice initiative using the Restorative Justice approach to assist young people in addressing the consequences of their offending behaviour.  
 The Youth Justice Service worker requires skills in engaging and working with young people and their families and the ability to plan individual programmes, which reflect the needs of young people and the victims of anti-social behaviour.  
 Two years of working with young people in challenging situations is essential. Candidates should be able to demonstrate some understanding of restorative practices. A relevant qualification is desirable.  
 The post holder will be responsible for working directly with service users and for supporting a team of volunteers. Candidates should have experience working with young people and the ability to recruit, train and support volunteers.  
 Please Note: A valid drivers licence is essential. Applicants must have a full driving licence and access to a car satisfying the appropriate insurance requirements.  
 An Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check is required for this post.  
 Closing date: Friday 31st March 2006  
 Interviews will be held on Monday 10th April 2006  
 SACRO values diversity and welcomes applications from all sections of the community



For an application pack please contact: **Sacro Highland Youth Justice Service, Ballantyne House, 84 Academy Street, Inverness IV1 1LU.**  
 Telephone: 01463 716325 or E-mail: info@drum.sacro.org.uk



Argyll College will shortly be offering SVQ Level 2 & 3 Hairdressing at Dunstaffnage Learning Centre and is now looking to recruit a:  
**Hairdressing tutor**  
 The successful candidate will be a fully trained, occupationally competent hairdresser.  
 An Assessor qualification would be an advantage, although training will be given to the successful candidate.  
 In addition, the candidate will have a full, clean driving licence as travel throughout Argyll is required.  
 This is a part-time position with hours to be agreed depending on student numbers.  
 Salary (including an employer contribution towards a final salary pension scheme) will depend on experience.  
 Initial applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by **Friday March 31st 2006** to:  
 Rosemary Fife-Jackson, Argyll College, Lochgilphead Learning Centre, Oban Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA37 1PZ.  
 Fax: 01631 559561  
 E mail: rosemary.fifejackson@argyllcollege.ac.uk  
 Interviews will be held during week commencing April 3rd 2006.  
 Argyll College aims to be an Equal Opportunities Employer



**Temporary Farm Technician - Laga Bay**  
 We currently have a vacancy for a Temporary Farm Technician at our seawater site at Laga Bay.  
 The successful applicant will be required to carry out a variety of duties including feeding, net changing and other general farm tasks.  
 The post would be offered on a full-time, temporary basis, working a 40 hour week and the successful applicant will be required to work weekends, on a rota basis for which an overtime payment will apply.  
 Applications are invited from individuals who have experience of fish husbandry along with excellent organisational skills and the ability to work on their own initiative.  
 If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 31st March 2006 to: **Vicky Ferguson, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.**



**BLUE TRIANGLE (GLASGOW) HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED**  
 We are an equal opportunities employer and a lead provider of accommodation and support to vulnerable people.  
 We are currently recruiting for the following staff vacancies throughout Argyll and Bute.  
**PROJECT MANAGER**  
 £25,149 - 26,379 p.a. (pay award pending)  
 35 hours, Solas Project  
 An appropriate qualification is essential, e.g. SVQ Level 4 in Care, Nursing, etc.  
**RELIEF WORKERS**  
 £7.05 per hour (Throughout Argyll)  
 Applicants should have either experience of working with vulnerable people and/or hold a qualification in Social Care.  
 To apply telephone 0141 221 8365 or email admin@btha.org.uk  
 Successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced disclosure.  
 The Closing Date for applications is **Wednesday 29th March 2006.**

**Distributors Wanted**  
 To deliver the new phone book  
**A car is required**  
 For more information, details of other work available, and to apply on-line please go to: **www.deya.co.uk/jobs**  
 Alternatively to apply call us (24 hours) on: **(0118) 989 9909** or **Freephone 0800 298 7101**  
**DEYA**

**HELPING HANDS**  
**Cleaner required in the Lochgilphead area**  
 5 evenings per week, 5.30pm start,  
 Monday to Friday (7½ - 10 hours p.w.)  
 Tel Vicky for more details 01631 571252.

**LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?**  
**The Oban Times & West Highland Times**  
 Be seen by over 50,000 readers  
**Tel: 01631 568000**  
**www.obantimes.co.uk**



**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**

**CLEANERS**  
 required for holiday accommodation in Oban area on Saturdays.  
 Hours 10am - 4pm approx.  
**Tel: 01631 562425**

**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

**COOK NEEDED**  
 Join friendly crew on holiday cruises aboard *Fingal of Caledonia*  
 ●April to October  
 ●Caledonian Canal  
 ●Quality meals for 18  
 ●Cruising activity holidays  
**Caledonian Discovery**  
 www.fingal-cruising/jobs  
 01397 772167

**OFFICE CLERK REQUIRED**  
 Full Time or Part Time Position  
 Experience of Sage Accounts & Payroll Software an advantage but not essential as training will be given  
 Apply in own handwriting to:-  
**McFadyens Transport Ltd**  
 Glebe Street  
 CAMPBELTOWN  
 PA28 6JJ

**Part time childminder/ mother's help required.**  
 April to Sept.  
 To look after 2 children aged 5 & 6.  
**Tel: 01631 562425**

**GAMEKEEPER**  
 Part-time  
 Required for Killean Estate Farms  
**Telephone 01583 441294.**

**The West Loch Hotel** Tarbert  
 Requires **Kitchen Porter and Kitchen Staff** (to carry out general kitchen duties)  
 Hours and Rates Negotiable  
 For Further Info Contact **01880 820 283**

**HF Holidays**  
 World Leaders in Walking & Special Interest Holidays  
**Maintenance Person**  
**Alltshellach, Onich**  
 Decorating skills needed with a good all round knowledge of property maintenance.  
 You may need to use an Access Platform for which training will be given  
**Salary Circa £13,500.00 39-hour week**  
 Please contact  
 Sue Chandler Chartered FCIPD  
 Head of Human Resources  
 HF Holidays Ltd  
 Redhills, Penrith  
 Cumbria CA11 0DT  
 schandler@hfholidays.co.uk

**HANDYPERSON/ GROUNDS PERSON**  
 Responsible, capable and versatile person required for ground care and general maintenance duties.  
 Practical skills essential.  
 Varied work with some week-end working in peak season.  
 Permanent position for suitable person  
 Telephone 01631 562425 or write Oban Caravan and Camping Park Gallanachmore Farm, Oban PA34 4QH

**OSSIANS RETIREMENT HOME**  
 North Connel, By Oban  
 Has the following vacancies  
**Registered Nurse**  
 Day/Night Shift hours are available £11.55 per hour  
**Activity Co-ordinator**  
 35 hours per week (could be flexible) £5.60 per hour  
**Domestic Cleaner**  
 30 hours per week - £5.50 per hour  
**Kitchen Assistant**  
 22 hours per week - £6.00 per hour  
**Relief Chef**  
 18 hours per week - £6.20 per hour  
 For further information please contact **Senior Care Assistant on duty on 01631 710 322**  
 Ossians is now under new ownership

**LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?**  
**The Oban Times**  
 Be seen by over 50,000 readers  
**Tel: 01631 568000**  
**www.obantimes.co.uk**

Argyll Arms Hotel Southend (by Campbeltown) Requires **CHEF/ COOK**  
 Hours and Salary Negotiable  
 Telephone - Bill or Margaret on 01586 850622.

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**www.obantimes.co.uk**

**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**  
**Oban Times RECRUITMENT**

# RECRUITMENT

# PUBLIC NOTICES

**CAN YOU COOK OR BAKE?**  
No experience necessary

We are looking for a part time person to work 3 days a week which will include working one weekend in 3.

Hours are normally 9am to 5.30pm, but we can be flexible for the right person.

Good rates of pay, age no barrier and must have a good sense of humour.

Please ring 01499 600263 or write to: - Paul Tate, Retail Manager Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH (Next to Loch Fyne Oysters) www.scotfistrees.co.uk

**TREE SHOP**

**LOCH FYNE Oysters LTD**  
www.lochfyne.com

Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd is an employee owned company situated at the head of Loch Fyne, world famous for its quality and values.

**MARKETING ASSISTANT (NEW POSITION)**

We are currently looking for a confident, self motivated person to assist in the implementation of marketing campaigns, as well as providing support for our Home Delivery department. This is an exciting opportunity for a creative individual keen to apply their skills within the food/retail sector. Previous computer experience and excellent communication skills are essential.

Based on a 40 hour week, hours will be flexible with some weekend working required. Starting salary from £13,500 plus benefits. Closing date 24th March 2006.

**SALES PERSONS (PERMANENT)**

We also require enthusiastic, self motivated people to work in our busy sales department. The role is office based and you will be required to maintain and grow existing customer accounts as well as prospecting for new. Ideal candidates will be customer orientated with excellent communication skills and previous experience in telephone sales. PC skills are essential preferably with some experience in using Word and Excel. Knowledge of the food industry would be an advantage but is not essential.

Based on a 40 hour week, hours will be flexible with some weekend working required. Starting salary from £13,500 plus benefits. Closing date 31st March 2006.

If you are interested in any of the above posts, please apply in writing enclosing your CV to Anne Stewart, Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd, Clachan, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BL

**The Clan MacDuff Hotel**  
Fort William Tel: 01397 702341

**Full Time Receptionist**

Responsible, mature person experienced in dealing with the public required to work in family managed hotel. Capable of coping with all aspects of reception duties and working unsupervised.

Previous hotel experience not essential as full training is provided. Short working week 32 hours - 2pm until 10pm with flexible working days. £216 p.w plus holiday pay.

Housekeeping and waiting vacancies are also available.

For more details or to arrange an interview please phone 01397 702341

**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
Messrs. MacLennan, Gillespie & Bales 72 High Street, Fort William 06/00087/FULLO	Change of Use from Retail Unit to Cafe Bar	Fort William Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
The Highland Council - TEC Services Kilchoan Landfill Site, Lighthou Road, Kilchoan, Ardnamurchan 06/00083/FULLO	Reinstatement and Restoration of Existing Landfill Site and Establishment of Segregated Waste Collection Point	Kilchoan Post Office Development by Planning Authority (21 Days)
London & Edinburgh Inns Ballachulish Hotel, Ballachulish 06/00089/LBCL0	Installation of Retractable Projecting Awning	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

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer A 'no smoking' policy is operated

**Driver/Escort\***  
£5,9138 per hour Oban Area Variable hours

You will transport school children as required to and from educational establishments within the time bands advised by the department. A current driving licence is essential. Ref: CSE66210.

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708546.

\*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 7th April 2006.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

**SCOT TROUT FARMING LTD**

Scot Trout Farming Ltd., part of the Scot Trout Group, is one of the leading aquaculture companies in Scotland. Based in Bellshill, and having a number of fish farms and processing facilities around Scotland, we have a vacancy within our marine production team for a Site Manager at our Loch Etive site based near Taynuilt, Argyll.

**SITE MANAGER (Loch Etive)**

We are seeking a key individual to manage and develop our farming operations in Loch Etive, which currently produce 300 tons of harvest size fish a year.

The ideal candidate will have several years practical experience in fish farming including management experience. Leadership combined with strong interpersonal skills, communication, organisational, and planning skills are just some of the attributes required for this post. A full, clean driving licence is essential.

In return the successful candidate will benefit from an attractive salary package, including bonus scheme, and the opportunity to develop their management career with a leading Scottish Company. Assistance with housing may also be available.

If you would like to be considered for this position, please apply in writing with cv and covering letter to: Lynne Dunlop, Scot Trout Farming Ltd., C/O Kames Fish Farming L.t.d., Killmelford, By Oban, Argyll, PA34 4XA E-mail: fish@kames.co.uk

**LOCHABER HOTELS LTD**  
The following positions are available at both the

<b>MOORINGS HOTEL</b> Banavie, Fort William www.moorings-fortwilliam.co.uk	<b>ONICH HOTEL</b> Onich, By Fort William www.onich-fortwilliam.co.uk
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**CHEF-DE-PARTIE**  
Experienced chef to join our kitchen teams Excellent salary offered - single live-in available.

**RECEPTIONIST**  
Shift system- good level of English plus some IT knowledge required  
Both positions are permanent and offer good rates of pay, uniform provided and meals when on duty.

Contact Mrs MacDonald on ( 01397) 772797  
3 star AA/RAC AA Rosette Investor in People

**COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949**  
**APPLICATION FOR A PUMPING MAIN AND TWO LONG SEA OUTFALLS IN TOBERMORY HARBOUR**

Notice is hereby given that Scottish Water Solutions, on behalf of Scottish Water, have applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under section 34 of the Coastal Protection Act 1949, as amended by Section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to carry out Marine Outfall works at the above location in the positions:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Landward Termination		
Pumping Main	56° 37.24' N	06° 03.49' W
Outfall 1	56° 37.15' N	06° 04.10' W
Outfall 2	56° 37.15' N	06° 04.10' W
Seaward Termination		
Pumping Main	56° 37.15' N	06° 04.10' W
Outfall 1	56° 37.25' N	06° 03.37' W
Outfall 2	56° 37.16' N	06° 03.39' W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Tobermory Post Office, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NT.

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application, should be made to: Ports and Harbours Branch, The Scottish Executive, Transport Division 4, Area 2F North, Mailpoint 2B, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC/11/4/22.

Mr Simon Wall, Scottish Water Solutions  
Riverside House, Riverside Business Park, Dundee, DD1 9WL

**LIVINGSTONE & MCEACHRAN**  
Plumbing and Heating Engineers, Campbeltown

Have the following full time vacancies:

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
The successful applicant must possess good communication and organisational skills to ensure the smooth running of our busy office, book keeping, Sage and PAYE experience essential.

**GAS SERVICE ENGINEER**  
Experienced individual required for ongoing service and maintenance contract in Campbeltown, relevant gas safety courses and driving licence essential.

**HOURLY RATES NEGOTIABLE.**

Apply with CV to: James McEachran, Avondale High Askomil, Campbeltown PA28 6EN or by email to jamesmceachran@hotmail.co.uk

**REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM**

The Oban Times  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk



## The Oban Times Wedding Album



**MacDonald - McKechnie**  
Lorna MacDonald, formerly of Islay, and Tim McKechnie, of Glasgow, were married at The Western House Hotel, Ayr Racecourse. Photograph by Roddy Robertson, Girvan.



**Graham - MacKelliach**  
Lisa Graham, Drumdevan Place, Lochardil, and Barry MacKelliach, Edgemoor Park, both Inverness, were married in Crown Church, Inverness. Photograph by Ian MacRae.



**Fitzsimmons - Johnston**  
Nina Fitzsimmons and Grant Johnston, of Cleator Moor, Cumbria, were married at Inverloch Castle Hotel, Fort William. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



**Brown - Freeman**  
Ginny Brown and Ben Freeman, both of Dallington, were married at Inverloch Castle Hotel, Fort William. The couple also held their reception there. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



**Zummerova - Eccles**  
Milena Zummerova and Thomas Eccles, both of Glendale Road, Kinlochleven, were married in Fort William Registry Office. The couple held a reception in Kinlochleven Community Centre. Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



**Baird - Johnston**  
Sheila Baird and Bruce Johnston were married at Ardrishaig Parish Church. The couple held a reception at The Cairnbaan Hotel. Photograph by NDK Wedding Photography.

# 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)



## 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

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



## 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: 06/00431/DET Applicant: Lorna Craig MacDougall Proposal: Extension to Dwelling House Site Address: Bremlen Croft Ardun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DH Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00451/DET Applicant: S E Carmichael Ltd Proposal: Proposed 2 No Semi Detached 3 Storey Houses, New Vehicular Access, Car parking and New Boundary Walls and Fencing - Amended Proposal to 05/02315/DET Site Address: Land East Of Hamilton Park Terrace Nursery Lane Oban Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Oban Area Office 560 Setting of Listed Bldg Ad - 21 Days
Ref No: 06/00393/OUT Applicant: Robert Barry Barlow Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwelling House and Separate Holiday Chalet Site Address: Erray House Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00435/DET Applicant: Mr And Mrs D Currie Proposal: Erection of Dwellings - Minor Changes to Design Approved Under 04/01101/DET Site Address: Site At Craigsuir Lane Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00387/DET Applicant: Mr + Mrs Sedgewick Proposal: Six Units 'Wigwam' Camping Site, Erection of Toilet/Shower Block and Conversion of Outbuildings to Provide Camp Site Facilities, Upgrading Farm Access and Installation of New Septic Tank. Site Address: Cranich Farm Aros Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA72 6JP Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00437/DET Applicant: Dr + Mrs Pauline Green Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House Site Address: Plot 4 Land South West Of Ardshehall Farm Ardmaddy Argyll And Bute PA34 4QY Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00020/DET Applicant: Mr + Mrs Ross Lawrie Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House Site Address: Land South West Of Fir Bank Croft 3 Achrosigan Appin Argyll Location 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00381/DET Applicant: Scottish Water Proposal: Erection of Security Fence Site Address: Scottish Water Reservoir Pulvinister Road Oban Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Oban Area Office Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00479/DET Applicant: M W C Foster Proposal: Change of Use, Extension and Redevelopment of Former Fishermans Bothy to form Single Dwellinghouse Site Address: Land East Of Archivaig Cottage Usken Nr Bunnass Isle Of Mull Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00380/DET Applicant: Mr Danksin Proposal: Erection of Conservatory and Associated Works Site Address: 4 Cnoc A' Chaltuinn Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute PA34 4TR Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

- Ref No: 06/00489/DET Applicant: Mr Mrs J C Storrance Proposal: Extension to Dwellinghouse to Provide Exercise Room and Recreation Pool Site Address: Green Moorings Barcalidne Argyll And Bute PA37 15G Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00452/DET Applicant: TSL Contractors Ltd Proposal: 4 No. Proposed Industrial Units Adjacent to Torosay Sand Pit Site Address: Land Adjacent To Torosay Sand Pit Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6AY Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00427/DET Applicant: Mr And Mrs David Stewart Proposal: Extension of Existing House Site Address: Fasnacloich House Fasnacloich Argyll And Bute PA38 4BJ Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00471/DET Applicant: Donald MacKinnon Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse - Amended Design for Plot 1 of 5 Plot Development Approved Under 03/02305/DET Site Address: Plot 1 South East Of The Shelling Kilmore Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Oban Area Office Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 05/02283/DET Applicant: Dorinda Johnston Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House Site Address: An Caladh Balevullin Scarinish Isle Of Tiree PA77 6XD Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
Ref No: 06/00436/OUT Applicant: Mr + Mrs A M Duff Proposal: Development of Land for Dwellinghouse Site Address: Land North Of Traigh Uaine South Shian Argyll PA37 15B Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street Oban

Ref No: 06/00346/DET Applicant: Mr And Mrs Wm McFarlane Proposal: Attic conversion to form bedroom and en-suite also study ground floor sitting room extension and alteration Site Address: 2 Mulindry Cottages Glen Road Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig PA30 8DX

### 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 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: 06/00393/OUT Applicant: Robert Barry Barlow Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwelling House and Separate Holiday Chalet Site Address: Erray House Erray Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21) Potential Departure from Policy H05 of Mull Coll and Tiree Local Plan
Ref No: 06/00436/OUT Applicant: Mr + Mrs A M Duff Proposal: Development of Land for Dwellinghouse Site Address: Land North Of Traigh Uaine South Shian Argyll PA37 15B Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Leidaig Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Lorn Local Plan A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR

### 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 601345 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.

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 11 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Stirling Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group LTD, Killin Maintenance Depot, Station Road, Killin, FK21 8TN.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Office, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### Co-Roinn Ghàidhlig Latharna LORN GAELIC PARTHNAIR Coinneamh Bhliadhnail ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:00/7 p.m. 27mh am Màirt/27th March

Taigh-Osta Rioghail ROYAL HOTEL, ARGYLL SQUARE, OBAN 01631 564555

Deasbad air cùisean Ghàidhlig as dèidh làimh Discussion of Gaelic development afterwards

Fàilte chridheil oirbh uile! A warm welcome to all!

### Charles Kennedy MP

Serving Ross, Skye and Lochaber

## FORT WILLIAM SURGERY

Saturday March 25, 2006

Caol Community Centre 10am - 11am

No appointment necessary

01349 862152

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 9 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Argyll & Bute Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group LTD, Operational Services, Inveraray Roads Depot, Dalmlally Road, Inveraray, Argyll, PA32 8UR.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Office, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at The Highland Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group LTD, Ballachulish Depot, The Quarry, West Laroach, Ballachulish, Inverness-shire, PA30 4JJ.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Office, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at Argyll & Bute Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group LTD, Operational Services, Oban Roads Depot, Jacksons Quarry, Millbank Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4JA.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Office, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 15 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at The Highland Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group LTD, Ballachulish Depot, The Quarry, West Laroach, Ballachulish, Inverness-shire, PA30 4JJ.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Office, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

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### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Balfour Beatty Group Ltd of Fleet Services, West Service Road, Raynesway, Derby, DE21 7BG is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 1 goods vehicles and 0 trailers at The Highland Council, c/o Balfour Beatty Group LTD, Arisaig Depot, TEC Services, Arisaig, Inverness-shire.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area Office, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

### THE CROWN ESTATE

Creating value for us all

## Proposed new shellfish farm development at Mealdarroch Point, Loch Fyne.

NOTICE is hereby given that -

- application has been made to The Crown Estate by Fyne Scallop Farms for permission to develop a shellfish farm at:-

Reference	Location	Map Reference
XX100/242B	Mealdarroch Point Loch Fyne	NR 886 679 Lat: 55° 51.501'N Long: 05° 22.746'W

- the application, plans and other documents submitted may be inspected at all reasonable hours at - Planning Department, Argyll & Bute Council, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DY and Tarbert Post Office during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice: and
- any person who wishes to make representations about the application should make them in writing within that period to the Local Authority at the address above.

Dated: 16 March 2006.

### ATTENTION ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

...Lacking time and resources but want to innovate?

Event: 'Developing renewable and sustainable technologies for the construction and building industry'

Venue: Craignish Village Hall - Ardfern

Date: Wednesday 22nd March

Time: 6.30pm for 7pm until 9pm

Attendance: Free

Format: Three presentations showcasing the technologies and expertise available in Scotland's Universities that can be capitalised upon by local businesses.

For further details please contact the HI Links Events Manager on: Tel: 01463 667 357 Email: HILinks@uhi.ac.uk

### REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

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www.obantimes.co.uk

## Green Power

### 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, Cooperage 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.

## 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 Dalmlally, 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:

Dalmlally Post Office	Argyll and Bute Council	Natural Power Consultants Ltd,
Main Road Dalmlally 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.

### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (CUIL BAY ROAD) (20MPH/40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Highland Council proposes to make an Order in terms of Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and all other enabling powers entitled as above.

If the Order comes into effect:-

- A temporary 20mph speed limit in the vicinity of Duror Primary school will come into force when children are arriving/departing. Flashing amber lights on the relevant signs will indicate that the temporary speed limit is in force. The road affected is a length of the U111(L) Cuil Bay Road from the junction with the A828(T) westwards for a distance of 79 metres or thereby.
- A permanent 40mph speed limit will be introduced over the same road from the said junction but further west to a point 491 metres west from the junction with the A828(T).

A copy of the Order, as drafted, together with a copy of the relevant plans and the Council's statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order (also noted below) can be inspected at the Service Point in Fort William, between 9am-5pm Mon-Fri, and the Service Point in Kinlochleven Mon 10am-12pm & 2pm-5pm, Tues-Thur 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm; Tues 6pm-8pm, Fri 10am-1pm. It should be noted that all objections to the order must be made in writing and must specify the grounds thereof, and should be made to the undersigned on or before 13 April 2006.

Potential objectors should note that all objections which cannot be resolved will be included in a public agenda for the Lochaber Area Committee for consideration.

Mr K D Falconer  
Area Solicitor/Administrator  
The Highland Council  
Lochaber House  
High Street  
FORT WILLIAM

#### Statement of Reasons

In order to improve road safety for children walking and cycling to and from school, Highland Council has been awarded funding by the Scottish Executive for the introduction of part time 20 mph speed limits around schools. This Order will authorise the introduction of a part time 20mph speed limit at the location stated. The 40mph speed limit is proposed for general road safety reasons to limit the speed of vehicles over a busy single track road.

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LEC FREEZER 3 drawer freezer, excellent condition, £45.

Toshiba television with stand, 6 months old excellent condition, £100 ono.

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FLYMO TYPE lawn mower, used once, price £59.99 sell for £30, excellent condition.

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SECOND HAND picnic tables, First come, first served, £40 each.

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GOODMANS CAR CD radio GCE7001 including instructions, £35. Telephone 01852 300304.

PERSONALS

EILIDH WILSHIRE Would like to thank Mr Scobie, his team and the staff of Ward A at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, for all their care, also thank you to all at Tobermory Surgery and a special thank you to family and friends for the beautiful flowers, cards and good wishes.

THANK YOU I would like to say thank you to all my friends and family for making my Birthday Party on Friday night so special. I had a great time. I would also like to thank you all for the presents and cards, they were very much appreciated. See you all at my 50th. GUS KENNEDY.

Oban Times PERSONALS

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# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

## THE OBAN TIMES

West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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### BIRTHS

**CARSWELL** - Gavin, Moira (née McGregor) and Sophie are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Gemma Rose, on March 7, 2006 at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. A long awaited wee sister for Sophie. Thanks to all the midwives in Oban for all their special care and attention.



**MACCOLL** - Ronald and Fiona (nee Jackson) are absolutely delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Eva Sara on March 7, 2006 at RAH, Paisley, with sincere thanks to all those involved.

### MARRIAGES

**MACGREGOR MACFADYEN** - at Duncannon House Hotel, Oban, on March 4, 2006, by Rev. Andy Campbell. Stuart, son of Catherine and Stewart, Dunollie, Oban, to Christine Rose, daughter of Alex and Cynthia, Isle of Mull. Many thanks to all involved in a great day. xx

### SILVER WEDDING

**SCOTT - ADAIR** - At Lochgilhead Parish Church on March 14, 1981, Brian to Christine, Shira, Croft Road, Oban.

### RUBY WEDDING

**McPHAIL - SHEARER** - On March 19, 1966, at Kinlochleven Parish Church, by Rev. James Rennie, Douglas to Wilma. Present address: 6 Abrach Road, Inverloch.

### DEATHS

**CAMERON** - Suddenly, on March 7, 2006, in his 35th year, Stephen Cameron, beloved son of Ann and the late Alexander, brother of Sandy and Bernard. Sadly missed.

**CAMERON OF LOCHIEL** - Margaret, died peacefully at home, aged 93 years, wife of the late Sir Donald Cameron, K.T., much loved mother of Anne, Caroline, Donald and Johnny, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 21, 2006, at St Andrew's Church, Fort William.

**CARMICHAEL** - Peacefully at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on March 11, 2006, Gilbert, beloved husband of the late Rena Brown, much loved father of Gilbert and Jean and dearly loved grandfather, great-grandfather and father-in-law. Funeral service in St Kiarins Church, Islay, on Thursday March 16 at 11.30 a.m., family flowers only. Donations in lieu of Glenfield House Braemont Nursing Home.

**DICKIE** - Peacefully on March 10, 2006, aged 84, William, dear husband of Effie and much loved dad, grandad and great-grandad. Sadly missed.

**DRAKE** - Francis Drake M.V.O. died peacefully at home, Tarrant, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, on Sunday March 12, 2006.

**LAWRIE** - Suddenly at home on March 11, 2006, Margaret, aged 61 years, wife of the late Hugh, dear mum of Gregor and Ewen and much loved granny of Jordan and Shanna. Sadly missed.

**MACKAY** - Suddenly at home, Kirkpatrick Fleming, Dumfriesshire, on Saturday, March 11, 2006, Ivor Sharpe MacKay, beloved husband of Jennifer Whyte and dear father of Neill and Oliver, youngest son of the late Bill and Elsie MacKay, Atholl Hotel, George Street, Oban and much loved brother of Rosemary, Kenneth and Stuart.

**MACLEAN** - Peacefully at Carrickstone House Nursing Home on Saturday, March 11, 2006, John, dearly beloved husband of Isabella (née Macaulay), much loved father of Janette and Donald John, loving grandfather of Iain and Allan and father-in-law of Keith. Funeral service at Kilsyth Burns and Old Parish Church on Saturday, March 18, 2006, at 11am. Interment at Kilchoman Cemetery, Isle of Islay on Monday, March 20, 2006 at 11am.

**MACRAE** - Peacefully at Richmond Hospital, Vancouver, on Sunday, March 12, 2006, Isabel (Isa) MacRae, aged 83, wife of the late Kenny MacRae, mother of Sandra, Moira and Ian and younger daughter of the late Christina and Campbell Stewart of Oban.

**McMILLAN** - Peacefully at the Mill Argyll Hospital on March 10, 2006, Frances Margaret, in her 62nd year, of 12 Peddie Bank, Lochgilhead. Beloved mother of Doreen, Diane, Lynne, Andrew and the late Argyll. Loving Gran of Marco and Marissa. Will be sadly missed. Funeral service was held in Lochgilhead Baptist Church on Wednesday March 15, 2006 followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery.

**OMAN** - Peacefully, after a long illness, at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow, on March 7, 2006, Colin Donald Oman, in his 79th year, Wellwood, Airds, Carradale, dearly beloved husband of Margaret MacKenzie, much loved father of Leslie, Finlay and Garry, loving grampa of Christina, Rosslyn, Lucy, Karen, Colin, Robbie and Ruairidh and father in law of Kate, Karen and Janice.

**SASSOON** - George, Thornycroft. At home after a long illness fought with interest and curiosity. Much loved husband, father, stepfather, and grandfather. He will be sorely missed by his many friends. The burial will take place at Lochbuie Friday March 17, 2006.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**BAND** - The family of the late Annie Band wish to offer sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy they received at this sad time. Special thanks to Dr Foxley's Craig Nevis Practice for their devoted care, medical staff and colleagues at the Belford Hospital, Macmillan nurses, ambulance staff and carers. Heartfelt appreciation to Marie and Isabel, the Marie Curie nurses, for their kind attention, care, friendship and long nights spent with Annie. To Mike McFall and staff, we are grateful for the thoughtful and caring manner which you arranged the funeral and cremation. Father Roddy, the time you spent with the family, the lovely service and most beautiful music. Your time with us at Inverness gave us all a great feeling of peace and strength. Thanks to all who contributed donations to the Marie Curie nurses.

**CAMERON** - Greta and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their support during Donald's illness. Thanks to Rev Richard Corbett for visits and conducting a most comforting service. Thanks also to all at the Craig Nevis Surgery, particularly Dr Shirley, for their unfailing assistance and for the many cards, telephone calls and flowers received. Many thanks to all who paid their respects at church and graveside, Mike McFall and staff for funeral arrangements, Mary and Ian Kennedy for the lovely music and the staff of The Lochy for catering. The sum donated to the Belford Hospital was in excess of £900.

**DUNLOP** - The family of the late Betty Dunlop wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy received at this very sad time. Heartfelt

appreciation to all doctors and staff at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban and Ward 62, Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Special thanks to the nursing staff of Ward B, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban for their loving care and attention during Betty's long illness.

### IN MEMORIAM

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of my dear mother and grandmother, Betty Lyall, who died on March 19, 1979. Never a day but in our thoughts. Inserted by her loving daughter Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon, Gillian, Ardness, Tiraghail, Bunessan, Mull.

**GARVIE** - In loving memory of a dear husband John who died March 20, 2005. A loving heart stopped beating. As we watched you slip away. Our hearts were truly broken. As you fought on hard to stay. God saw that you were tired. The cure was not to be. He put his arms around you. And whispered come with me. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his wife Isabel.

**GARVIE** - In memory of John. Smiles may hide our sadness. Tears we can wipe away. But the heartache of losing you. Will never go away.

- From Donald, Janette, Jacky and family.

**GILLIES** - Precious memories of our much loved daughter, mother, sister, aunt and niece, Phemie McCallum who left us on March 17, 1979. You whispered not a last farewell. You said goodbye to none. The heavenly gates just opened. And a gentle voice said come.

- Family in Islay and Drymen.

**KENNEDY** - In loving memory of a dear husband Ian who died March 13, 2005.

Remembered always.

- Annie and family at home and away.

**LAFFERTY** - In loving memory of my da John Joseph who passed away March 15, 1989.

In our thoughts. God Bless.

- Inserted by daughter Denise, granddaughter Kerry.

**MACBETH** - Treasured memories of my dear husband, Jimmy, died March 18, 1990, in his 79th year. RIP.

You are always by my side. Our Lady of Fatima pray for him.

- Inserted by his loving wife, Lizzie, Grange Road.

**MACDONALD** - Treasured memories of Johnny, a dear son, died March 17, 2005.

Always in our thoughts.

- Neil, Jackie, Gemma and Kayleigh.

**MACEACHEN** - Sheanac (Bell) died March 14, 2000. Remembered with love and happiness, a very special mother, granny, great granny and sister.

From all the family.

**MACPHAIL** - Precious memories of my dear son, John, who died so tragically on March 15, 1995, aged 25 years.

Missing you always. Forgetting you never.

- Dad and Mary x.

**MACPHEE** - In loving memory of my dear mum Elizabeth (Betty), who died March 18, 1994.

Much missed and loved. -Johnny.

**McKELLAR** - In loving memory of our mum Joan McEachen who died March 18, 2005.

'No words, no verse, can ever say. How much we miss you every day. Precious are our memories, silently kept. Of a mum we loved and will never forget.'

Loved and remembered always - Your family.

**ROBERTSON** - In loving memory of John, a much loved husband and father, who passed away on March 17, 2004.

Forever in our hearts - Sandra and Craig.

**SCOTT** - Precious memories of a loving husband, Jimmy, who died on March 14, 2005.

Always in my thoughts. - Your loving wife, Jessie.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of my dear dad who died on March 14, 2005.

Sadly missed.

- Adrian and Kathy (Australia)

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of a special granddad who died on March 14, 2005.

Always in our hearts and never be forgotten.

- James, Claire and Lee-Ann.

Miss you always old papa - Love Charlie.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of our dear dad, who died on March 14, 2005.

I lost a father with a heart of gold. Few of his like this world could hold.

For those left behind he did his best. God grant him now eternal rest.

- James and Sandra.

**SCOTT** - In loving memory of a dear brother-in-law, who died March 14, 2005.

Always in our thoughts and sadly missed.

- From Pat, Malcolm and family, Inverness.

### ECCLIASTICAL NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 19 March 2006  
Lent 3

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

St James, Ardrecknisk, Cladich  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1500

Christ Church, Lochgilhead  
Loop System  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0900  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1100

St Columba, Poltalloch, Kilmartin  
Evensong ..... 1530

St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1100

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1030

### ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 19 March 2006  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Wednesday 22 March 2006  
7.30 p.m.

Prayer and Bible Ministry  
Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
☎(01631) 567076  
All welcome

### DESTINY CHURCH

OBAN  
Sunday 19 March  
Drummore School  
Lower Soroba  
Oban  
11 a.m.

And Meeting on  
Thursday evening,  
7.30 p.m.,  
in the Lorne

Telephone:  
**01631 564283**  
www.destiny-church.com

### 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 Lauderdale Gardens  
Hyndland, Glasgow, G12 9QU  
Freephone 0800 100 8000

In memory of Dawn Joyce

### CANCER RESEARCH UK

**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

### MEMORIALS

**OBAN MEMORIALS**  
Alistair MacLean  
MASTER SCULPTOR  
Glenelg, Soroba Road  
Designs and prices on request  
LETTERING AND RENOVATING  
DONE IN ANY CEMETERY

☎01631 562129

# Church NEWS

## Inverness man's photo of the year

AN INVERNESS man has snapped up the coveted first prize in the Church of Scotland's second annual Photographer of the Year competition.

*Centuries of Witness*, by Iain MacDiarmid Iain MacDiarmid, of Milton of Culcabock, staved off fierce competition from over 50 other entries.

Photographs were submitted from throughout Scotland, as well as from distant cities of the former Soviet Union.

The competition culminated in an interactive online voting gallery which gave members of the public the chance to vote for their favourite image. The number of votes cast in the 2005 contest was 66 per cent higher than the number received in 2005, the inaugural year of the competition.

Hundreds of votes were cast but with only a handful of votes separating the leading entries it was Iain MacDiarmid who finally scooped the top title with his photograph, featuring the Old High, St Columba High and Free North churches dominating the Inverness skyline, entitled *Centuries of Witness*.

It was a double celebration for Iain, who also won one of the runners up prizes with his photograph of his grandchildren standing inside St Columba High Church in the Highland capital.

## Scottish invitation for Pope

FOLLOWING the recent letter from Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor to Pope Benedict XVI inviting him to visit England and Wales, the Catholic Bishops of Scotland remain hopeful that any such trip would include a visit to Scotland.

President of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland Cardinal Keith O'Brien said: 'In the event that the Pope is able to accept the invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales the Bishops' Conference of Scotland will extend an invitation urging the Pope to spend some time in Scotland where he would be welcomed most warmly.'

## Thanks for all your help

ALAN and Rosanna Clarke of Napalgunj, Nepal, wish to thank everyone who helped to make the coffee morning at Lochgair on March 4 such a real success.

The send their thanks to all the churches involved, Oban Baptist Church, Oban Congregational Church, Lochgilhead and Church of Scotland Lochgair.

A total of £560 was raised for the poor fund in Nepalgunj and seven parcels of dressings have been sent out so far and all have arrived safely thanks to Oban Baptist Church and Boots the Chemist.

## 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 Aris Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

## COOL celebrates five years' service

CHRISTIAN Outlook on Lochalsh (COOL) recently held its annual celebration service in Aucterlyre School.

COOL was launched in 2001 and employs Dave Mockett as its youth worker.

All the ministers in the COOL area took part and the evening was well attended.

Colin Carmichael from Scripture Union Scotland gave the COOL committee report and Dave gave an excellent illustrated talk on his work in local schools.

Music

Guest speaker was the Rev Ian Cathcart from Anstruther, Fife. Music was by local pupils led by Heather Grimmer.

Dave is going to Peru for three weeks in July with four pupils from Plockton High and one from Portree.

They will join a larger group hoping to do building projects in association with Scripture Union Peru.

It will cost £10,000 and fundraising has started, but donations will be very welcome by COOL.



Jordan MacKay, who celebrated his fifth birthday this week, shows off his fair trade chocolate bar with great-grandmother Mairi Malloy and Oban's Fairtrade Group.

## It's Fairtrade fortnight

THE DRIVE to have Oban registered as a 'Fairtrade Town' has been stepped up by the town's Fairtrade Steering Group.

Argyll and Bute Council became a fairtrade council last year and now Oban is next on the radar. Fairtrade goods are more expensive than normally sourced goods but campaigners say it is more ethical for Western countries to buy fairtrade.

Murdoch MacKenzie, secretary of the steering group, said there had been a good response from several

churches, schools and businesses in Oban who are in the process of being included in the Oban Fairtrade Directory.

Murdoch said: 'We do need more to register in order to gain recognition from the Fairtrade Foundation. We do need more businesses especially to register including catering establishments, bed and breakfasts and hotels.'

The steering group is open to anybody to join and anyone wishing to register should email Moira Copeland on moiraatcolryn@aol.com

## Obituaries

### Sandy Kennedy

THE CROFTING and farming community of Lochaber felt deep sadness on learning of the death of Sandy Kennedy from Blarmacfoldach.

Sandy was born Alexander Kennedy, eldest of eleven children, to Donald and Jenny Kennedy on February 12th 1939.

He attended the primary school in Blarmacfoldach and then went on to Fort William Primary and Secondary schools. From an early age he was interested in crofting on the family croft and aged fifteen he left school. After a very brief spell at Lundavra Farm, Sandy went to Strathconnan where he worked for six months.

On returning to Lochaber he went back to work at Lundavra where he continued for 34 years. It was during this time that Sandy met Grace MacDonald from Roy Bridge. They were married in 1964 and remained happily married for 42 years. They have three

sons, Derek, Colin and Peter and three grandchildren Anna, Sorcha and Isla.

Sandy was immensely proud of his family and their achievements and thoroughly enjoyed having the grandchildren visit.

Peter followed his father in the local farming and crofting life and became his constant companion when, after his time at Lundavra, Sandy took on the Blarour Farming partnership.

Sandy was always happy among his cattle and sheep.

He looked after them with the highest care and concern and was always striving to improve his stock and his methods.

Although steeped in the tradition and history of crofting Sandy was progressive and always open to new ideas.

Farming at Blarour gave him the opportunity to excel.

Neighbouring farmers knew that Sandy could be relied upon to tackle any task cheerfully and competently, be it gathering or shearing and indeed to help anyone in need.

Although not a member of the climbing fraternity, he was committed to the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, of which he was a member for several years. Finding time to play a full part in the crofting and farming life of Lochaber, Sandy brought his keen mind and faithful attendance to meetings of the Crofters Union.

As chairman of the Lochaber Branch and Area treasurer, he was instrumental in implementing a local level, changes which happened within the union as a whole.

Even after taking over the farming partnership Sandy remained loyal to the union and the interests of crofting in general, helping to guide its future.

From the beginning of the new Ben Nevis auction mart he was supportive, eventually becoming a director and was never afraid to put forward his views and ideas.

He was also a stalwart of the Lochaber show for which he worked tirelessly.

Before and after he would help with assembling and dismantling the pens, while on the day itself he would show sheep, demonstrate shearing and still find time to enjoy a wee dram in the beer tent with old friends.

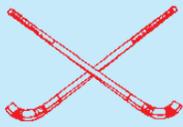
He was often called upon to judge local shows and shearing competitions and

loved to travel and compete himself. Sandy was an honest, hardworking, unassuming man who found a deep contentment and peace from living and working with cattle and sheep among the hills of Lochaber.

Many will miss his wee chats on the phone or by the side of the road and his presence at dances and local events.

Others will remember sharing stories in a car on the way to a meeting or watching Sandy stride out across the hill with his team of dogs.

His open friendly manner endeared him to all he came in contact with and he had the respect and friendship of the entire farming community.



# TIMES Sport

## Kilmallie and Inveraray take a Premier point-a-piece at Canal Park

KILMALLIE and Inveraray took a point-a-piece from Canal Park on Saturday, with the scoreline reflecting the 90 minutes.

### Camanaehd Cup draw

**Shinty**  
TWO North near-neighbour derby matches appear to be the pick of the draw for the first round of this year's Camanaehd Cup.

First out of the hat in Saturday's night's draw, made live on BBC radio Scotland, was number 13, Lochaber who will play Bute.

The complete draw was: Lochaber v Bute  
Kinlochshiel v Tayforth  
Inverness v Skye  
Glenorchy v Aberdeen Uni  
Kilmory v GMA  
Beaulay v Glenurquhart  
Lovat v Caberfeidh  
Kyles v Ballachulish  
All ties will be played on Saturday May 13.

### Saturday's fixtures

**Shinty**

**Saturday March 18 2006**  
**Marine Harvest Premier League**  
Kilmallie v Lochcarron  
Kingussie v Fort William  
Oban Camanaehd v Inveraray  
Strathglass v Newtonmore

**North Division One**  
Aberdeen Uni v Caberfeidh  
Inverness v Glenurquhart  
Kinlochshiel v Lovat

**South Division One**  
Bute v Ballachulish  
GMA v Kyles Athletic  
Glenorchy v Tayforth  
Lochside Rovers v Kilmory

**North Division Two**  
Boleskine v Glenangry  
Caberfeidh v Skye Camanaehd  
Fort William v Kingussie  
Lovat v Strathglass  
Newtonmore v Kilmallie

**South Division Two**  
Aberdon v Oban Celtic  
Edinburgh EL v Col Glen  
Inveraray v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Strachur v Kyles Athletic

**North Division Three**  
Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel  
Lochaber v Beaulay  
Lochbroom v Kincaig  
Lochcarron v Ardnarmurchan  
Nairnshire v Inverness

both sides the game opened at a furious pace.

Kilmallie had a number of attempts in the first 10 minutes as the visitors struggled with the lively home forwardline.

However, the visitors looked dangerous on forays up field, the ever dangerous Gary MacPherson providing the focal point for the visitors.

After 12 minutes Inveraray

forced a succession of corners and, after a well rehearsed move, MacPherson lashed a low drive past Kevin Toye in the home goal.

This encouraged the visitors and for the next few minutes they were first to the ball and dominated possession. Their momentum was halted after centre David Robertson sustained an accidental blow to the face and

Both sides played one-

### Shinty

Kilmallie 1 Inveraray 1

the treatment for the injury took the wind from the Inveraray sails. Robertson moved up front to recuperate with McMurdy dropping into midfield. Kilmallie also rearranged with John MacPhie marking Gary MacPherson.

Both sides played one-

touch, pass and move shinty, that was enjoyable to watch for the spectators as play swung from end to end and both Toye and Graeme Macpherson, in the visitor's goal, were called into action.

John Stewart was the focal point of the home attack

and his clever distribution found willing recipients in Fraser Massie and Michael Rodgers who constantly troubled their markers and liberally peppered the visitor's goal. In one last sustained attack before half-time Rodgers fired in an effort from 20 yards which MacPherson got his stick to but only managed to deflect the ball over the line.

The second period fol-

lowed the pattern of the first with both sides continuing to play good shinty in attack and both defences being equally obdurate in repelling the offences.

Toye and Macpherson continued to prove equal to any and all attempts on their respective goals and both sides upped the tempo in search of a win.

The final 10 minutes were frantic as both sides forced

free hits around goal areas but a combination of resolute defending and rustiness prevented any further scoring and the result offering a fair reflection of the tie.

Kilmallie face a Lochcarron side this weekend who find themselves at the foot of the Premier table after losing to Fort William, while Inveraray travel to Oban with both still looking for full points.

## Fort stay top thanks to Clark double

**Shinty**

Lochcarron 2  
Fort William 4

FORT William stay at the top of the Premier table thanks to a good 4-2 away win at Lochcarron.

Fort started quickly and had the home side against the ropes for the opening 10 minutes and should have taken the lead when Gordie Mackinnon blazed over from 10 yards.

Lochcarron played long balls from midfielders Kenny Ross and Peter Mackenzie to Alan Mackenzie and in the 15th minute he gave his side the lead as he blasted the ball high past Scott MacNeil. But Fort were back on level terms 10 minutes later when James Clark was able to turn before unleashing a shot in-off the post that keeper Mike Macmillan would hardly have seen.

The game threatened to turn ugly before the interval when Fort's Drew MacNeil was lucky only to receive a yellow card for a crude late swing on Kenny Ross - and this was followed by a yellow card for Darren Coyle for an equally bad tackle on Neil Robertson.

Gordie Mackinnon doubled Fort's lead 12 minutes into the second-half and three minutes later it was three as Clark added his second of the game and Fort William then put the game beyond Lochcarron as Chris Bamber fired home another.

Changing to a two-and-two south forward formation, Lochcarron pulled a goal back when Alan Mackenzie hit a screamer into the opposite top corner.

An eye injury to Fort's James Clark saw him having to leave the field after an accidental clash with Ross Matheson and the injury may keep him out of this Saturday's tie at Kingussie.

Lochcarron face a tough test at Canal Park this Saturday against Kilmallie.



Kingussie's Ronald Ross and Newtonmore's Cameron Binnie get off their mark at the Eilan

## Ex-Kilmallie players earn GMA win in Ballachulish

TWO former Kilmallie players did the damage for Glasgow Mid Argyll in a 3-1 win over Ballachulish at the Jubilee Park.

David Robertson came off the bench at the start of the second half to bag a double after Fulton Ross had equalised just before the interval.

The first half was marred by unsavoury incidents involving players and spectators which could see the Association taking a close look at the referee's report.

Playing down the hill, Ballachulish came increasingly into the game as the first half wore on. John MacDonald was denied by the post on two occasions and his frustration began to get the better of him, resulting in a booking after an altercation with Ben Simmister

Proceedings became heated near the end of the first half with a series of flare-ups sparked by off-the-ball incidents. The game threatened to get completely

### Glenorchy go joint top of South one

GLENORCHY moved to the joint-top slot in South Division One after a 2-1 win over a young Lochside Roivers team at Dalmally.

The home side started strongly, scoring with a well taken strike from Stuart Scott after only five minutes and continued to

### Shinty

Ballachulish 1 GMA 3

who also found his way into Duncan Kerr's book.

By that time, however, the home side had taken the lead from the penalty spot. A stinging shot struck Mid Argyll keeper Stuart Murray on the leg but his foot was clearly off the ground and Rankin buried the resultant spot hit.

Murray subsequently made up for that mistake many times over with some great saves including a one handed stop from a close range Gavin Whyte effort.

Proceedings became heated near the end of the first half with a series of flare-ups sparked by off-the-ball incidents. The game threatened to get completely

dominate the first half by forcing Lochside into defensive mode.

At the start of the second both teams stepped up the pace and a goal mouth scramble resulted in a second goal for Stuart Scott as he flicked the ball into the goal.

Lochside came back and were rewarded in the 70th minute with a fine goal from Michael MacQueen.

Only strong defending and good goalkeeping from both sides prevented further scoring with the ballyhoo of the tie played at a frantic pace.

### Shinty

ing a ball fully 40 yards from goal and lobbing Jackson.

Jackson produced some good saves including an instinctive stop from a Somhairle Macdonald pile-driver.

Thankfully the ugly scenes of the first half were not replicated in the second and Mid Argyll ran out worthy winners.

It was to be the last action of the half and both coaches were glad to get their players off the park to defuse a volatile situation.

By contrast the second 45 was a relatively sedate affair. Robertson's impact was immediate, scoring with an excellent angled drive into the bottom corner with virtually his first touch of the ball. He then doubled Mid Argyll's advantage - collect-

### Shinty

fort appeared to be comfortably covered by keeper Buchanan until he attempted to allow the ball to run out of play - and it bobbed into the corner of the net.

In a frustrating match, during which referee Ted MacDonald could have shown red cards instead of yellow to both teams, neither side will be satisfied with their share of the points.

Oban Camanaehd are at home again this Saturday when Inveraray come looking for their first win of the season while Strathglass welcome an injury-struck Newtonmore to Cannich's first taste of Premier shinty.

However, the home side failed to kill the game off and Strath snatched a share of the points with 10 minutes remaining when Ian MacLeod's speculative ef-

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## Newtonmore drop point in derby draw

**Shinty**

Newtonmore 1  
Kingussie 1

more's defence. Ronald Ross rifling home after a free hit in under two minutes.

As 'More's keeper Michael Ritchie struggled to get his goal-hits more than 20 yards against the fierce wind, the signs looked ominous but the home side took control of midfield and were encouraged to push forward as David Cheyne hit the post in 11 minutes.

Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick did well to block

### Shinty

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## New sponsor puts power into the Camanaehd Cup after 29-year deal ends

AFTER 29 years of Glenmorangie sponsorship The Camanaehd Association has unveiled Scottish Hydro Electric as the new sponsors of the Camanaehd Cup, the sport's premier competition.

The new agreement was confirmed following meetings at Perth, where the company, which is part of the Scottish and Southern Energy Group, is based. Camanaehd Association President John MacKenzie,

told *The Oban Times*: 'This new relationship marks the beginning of a new era for shinty and we are pleased to form a sporting association with Scottish Hydro Electric.'

'A significant number of our players are employed by Scottish Hydro Electric or have family members working for the company, which has a very rich tradition in many of our playing communities. I am delighted that the

### Shinty

sport has linked up with one of the UK's leading and most established energy companies, at such a challenging time in our history.'

Confirming that Scottish Hydro Electric had agreed to a three-year deal, head of marketing Kevin Greenhorn said: 'This arrangement with shinty is a natural fit which enables us to build our futures together. It is very important to us

### Shinty

to be involved with the communities we serve and operate in and shinty has presented us with a dynamic partner with a forward-looking set of plans.

'We are delighted to be able to work with the Association as it plans for the future and we will now be working with its officials to develop a programme of activity which will be of mutual benefit.'

### Shinty

John MacKenzie also paid tribute to Glenmorangie, who had been the Camanaehd Cup's only previous sponsor in a 29-year relationship.

He said: 'It is only right that we pay tribute to the magnificent support that we have received from Glenmorangie for nearly three decades and we know that we have parted on the very best of terms.'

### Shinty

'All good things come to an end but we know that Scottish Hydro Electric and the Camanaehd Association will continue to maintain our links with the Glenmorangie name and spirit.'

The first round ties of this year's competition are due on Saturday, May 13 with the final due at Dunoon on September 16, 2006, the first time the famous match

### Shinty

and had its famous figure on the lid repaired after some exuberance by winners in its 99-year history.

It will soon be on its way to Central Station in New York as part of Highland 2007's contribution to Tartan Week, the first time the trophy has been out of the country.

The 2007 Camanaehd Cup Final at Inverness will be the 100th playing of shinty's Blue Riband competition.

STRATHPEFFER Primary won the National First Shinty festival for the first time on Saturday when they defeated Park Primary, Oban in the final at Fort William.

At the semi-final stage, Strathpeffer had beaten Milngavie and Bearsden by the odd-goal in three, while Park defeated Portree by the same score.

Strathpeffer then went on to win the final 3-1.

## A first for Strathpeffer

**First Shinty**

STRATHPEFFER Primary won the National First Shinty festival for the first time on Saturday when they defeated Park Primary, Oban in the final at Fort William.

At the semi-final stage, Strathpeffer had beaten Milngavie and Bearsden by the odd-goal in three, while Park defeated Portree by the same score.

Strathpeffer then went on to win the final 3-1.



# Spot The

# SHINTY BALL

## Competition

**All you have to do**

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons. The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

**Easy to enter**

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

**Competition Rules**

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Racheal MacIntyre, 26 Glencruitten Drive, Oban and Paul MacLeod, 30 McCaig Road, Oban

enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel No. \_\_\_\_\_

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

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## Tides

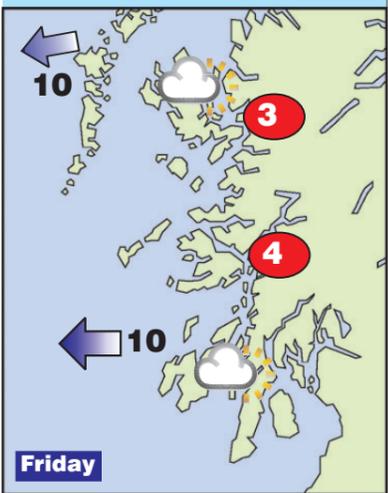
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 16, 2006** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.36 0.7 06.34 4.0 13.08 0.9 18.53 3.9	
Fri	01.03 0.8 07.00 3.9 13.31 1.0 19.16 3.8	
Sat	01.28 0.9 07.23 3.8 13.48 1.1 19.39 3.7	
Sun	01.51 1.0 07.46 3.7 14.06 1.2 20.06 3.6	
Mon	02.20 1.2 08.13 3.5 14.35 1.4 20.37 3.4	
Tues	02.56 1.4 08.46 3.3 15.13 1.6 21.16 3.2	
Wed	03.44 1.6 09.28 3.0 16.11 1.8 22.13 3.0	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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## the weather

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**Thursday, March 16**  
Cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and light showers. Winds will be light to moderate east or north-easterly.  
Temperatures 8°C to -3°C.

**Friday, March 17**  
Dry with variable amounts of cloud allowing bright spells. Winds will be light to moderate north-easterly.  
Temperatures 6°C to -1°C.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
Are both expected to see a mixture of sunny spells and showers, some of which could be heavy. Winds will be moderate north or north-easterly.  
Temperatures 9°C to 2°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/ Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

# Rising tide of interest in this year's Round Mull Race

INTEREST is hotting up for the Owen Sails Round Mull Race which last year saw the best ever entry for this popular circumnavigation.

Organised by Oban Sailing Club and sponsored by Owen Sails with Ardfern Yacht Centre as co-sponsors, the event attracts a wide range of both racing and cruising boats.

Like Tennents WHYW competitors can opt to race either in a spinnaker or white sail class. Increasing interest from faster boats for the race looks likely to take the entry to 45 boats for 2006. And with the race starting later this year from July 14-16 many boat owners may choose to bring their boats to the area to do both events.

Sail cloth suppliers Dimension Polyant, are again to provide either T-shirts or caps as a memento of the race, whilst North West Marine and Gleaner Oils also provide sponsorship help.

Billy Forteith, one of the race organisers, said there were a few key changes being introduced this year. The Royal Bank of Scot-

### Sailing

land will present a new trophy for the best overall performance of the weekend for the first time.

Within the classes of fast and slow handicap keelboats there will be a prize for the best sailed two-handed boat. This will attract those boats sailing short-handed on crew.

New also this year is a prize for the best boat racing under the IRC handicap. This, said Billy, is in looking to the future in the light of more regattas now using the IRC handicap rating.

On the social front the function in Bunnassan will be a revival of former years with a ceilidh in the village hall and will be a community fund-raising event.

This year funds will be raised for the Ross of Mull Historical Society for the renovation of an old cottage near Bunnassan. The Bunnassan Hall Trophy will be presented at the ceilidh dance.

Further details of this race and entry forms are available from Billy on 01631 563404 (evenings).

## Glencoe to Caribbean for Tigh Soluis 11

CHRIS Owen key sponsor of the Round Mull Race recently competed in the Key West Regatta, this time on Ken Grant's J109 Tigh Soluis II.

Chris normally races with Ian Cleaver of Dalmally in his Melges 24, but Ian was forced out of competing because of injury.

Ken, of Glencoe Boat Club, decided to ship his boat out to compete with his usual crew and Chris raced as tactician at this highest level of one-design racing.

The team took some creditable results finishing seventh overall in windy conditions with big seas.

It is understood that Tigh Soluis II will stay in the Caribbean till April for another one-design regatta in

### Sailing

Charleston then be shipped back to compete in the J109 Europeans in France as well as some other regattas.

However after all the exotic travelling, it's good to know Ken plans to be back on the west coast in time for the circuit of the Scottish Series, Round Mull and West Highland Yachting Week.

Chris also has a busy season planned on the water competing at the Scottish Series with Steven Forteith in his father's First 31.7 Shadowfax as well as racing with Ian Cleaver in the Melges 24 one design at the Nationals, Europeans and World Championships.

Win SPL tickets - see Page 2



## Saints pick up all three points at Duncanrig

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division **DUNCANRIG 1 OBAN SAINTS 2**

OBAN Saints travelled to Brancumhall, East Kilbride, to take on old rivals Duncanrig in a Premier Division league match and the Oban lads made the journey back up the A85 with a close-fought 2-1 win under their belts.

The visitors were without Mark MacCallum, Duncan Campbell and Dean Walker for this important league match against an East Kilbride team who had defeated them 2-1 in Oban earlier in the season.

Saints booked the advantage of a stiff breeze in the first half and took the lead in the 6th minute when Willie Gemmell curled a great free kick over the Duncanrig wall and into the net giving keeper Craig Hendry no chance.

The lads from Oban were playing some good stuff on the tight pitch in the early exchanges and Ross Maitland had a chance but Craig Hendry smothered the shot.

Gradually the home side clawed themselves back into the game and Saints have Tim Woodcock to thank for a great block when some slack play at the back allowed Kevin Gallagher a clean run through on goals.

Play was raging from end to end during the first 45 minutes, but generally the

### Football

defences were on top with neither goalkeeper having too much to do.

The home side came storming out of the traps at the start of the second half and had Saints pinned back, but the Oban defence looked pretty solid, coping with most of the Duncanrig attacks.



Willie Gemmell

Saints first real constructive move in the second half almost produced a goal when Allan MacKay set up Ross Maitland, but the wee man's shot was just off target.

Duncanrig came close when the Saints defence failed to clear a corner and the ball was whipped across the face of the Saints goal and a touch from any of the players in the box might have resulted in the ball ending up in the back of the net.

The Oban side had lost a bit of their first half composure, and were giving the ball away too often as well

as silly free kicks in dangerous places and it was the home side who looked the more likely to score and this they did in the 68th minute when the Saints defence failed to clear a corner, and the ball was headed back across the face of the goal for Russell Patterson to bundle the ball over the line to make the score 1-1.

This reversal prompted a positive reaction from Saints and they began to take the game to their opponents once again, but the Duncanrig defence looked reasonably comfortable at the back.

With time running out manager Iain Jackson took off Ross Graham and Allan MacKay, replacing them with Scott Johnston and young Colin Carswell.

He moved Ross Maitland back and pushed Keith Millar up front and this move paid dividends with five minutes left on the clock when Ross Maitland broke clear on the right flank before sending over a great cross to the far post for Keith Millar who outjumped his marker to nod the ball into the path of Colin Carswell who scrambled the ball over the line from close range to give Saints a vital 2-1 lead.

All credit to the home side they never gave up and Saints had to defend in depth for the final few minutes of the game as Duncanrig pushed every-

body forward in an attempt to get an equaliser, but the Oban side managed to hold out and record a narrow and close-fought 2-1 win.

Saints manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the three points. He said: 'I thought we played some good stuff in the first half, but fell out of things a bit in the second, which is credit to the way Duncanrig played, but at the end of the day we came here to win all three points and that's what we did.'

This Saturday Saints face a really tough match when they travel to play Central Scottish league side Redbrae in the sixth round of the West of Scotland Cup.

The game, which has to be finished on the day, takes place at Merkland Playing Field with a 2 pm kick-off. This will be a tough test for the young Oban side as Redbrae are unbeaten in the league so far this season and they are still in all the cup competitions. The winners are at home to MLS Leeds in the quarter finals.

Saints Under 19s went down 1-0 away to Houston BC and the Under 17s lost 5-0 away at West Park United.

Saturday's results: Premier Division - Duncanrig 1, Oban Saints 2; Gartcosh United 2, Campbeltown Pupils 2. Premier Division One - Port Glasgow OBU 2, Dunoon 1. Colin Munro Cup - Lochgilphead Red Star v East Kilbride YM (postponed) Division Two - Carlton YM 'B' 0, Tarbert 6.

## Karate team battle to get to venue

### Karate

STUDENTS of Argyll Shukokai Karate faced their toughest battle of the day before they even reached their Wishaw competition destination on Sunday with the younger members of the club missing their place.

However, there were two medals to celebrate in other ranks with Stephanie Dunstaffage showing excellent control and optimising her speed to snatch a bronze medal.

Justin Black narrowly missed silver in his first major competition of the year and had to be content with bronze.

### Curling

#### Drimsynie Ice Rink Monday League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Oban	12	7	3	2	17
JACL	12	8	1	3	17
Fyne Team	12	6	1	5	13
Team Cluny	12	6	1	5	13
Upper Cowal	12	4	2	6	10
Dunoon Ladies	12	2	3	7	7
Mike the Knife	12	3	1	8	7

#### Tuesday League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Drimsynie Office	14	10	1	3	21
Benmore Kiln	14	9	2	3	20
Tighnabruich	13	9	0	4	18
Sandbank	13	9	0	4	18
Drimsynie Const	14	7	2	5	16
Dunoon Argyll 1	13	4	0	9	8
Lochgoil	13	3	1	9	7
Dunoon Ladies	14	0	0	14	0

#### Thursday League

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Big Deal	14	11	0	3	22
Tighnabruich	14	9	1	4	19
Glen Orchy	14	9	1	4	19
Cot House	14	7	0	7	14
Cairndow	14	7	0	7	14
Arrochar	14	5	1	8	11
Dunoon Argyll2	14	3	3	8	9
Inveraray	14	1	2	11	4

### Dominoes

#### Isle of Skye Whisky Domino League

	P	W	L	Pts
Aulays	8	6	2	12
Tartan	8	6	2	12
Lochavullin	8	5	3	10
Coasters	8	4	4	8
Woodside	8	4	4	8
Balmoral	8	0	8	0

Your chance to win Glasgow Rangers

v Dunfermline SPL tickets

see Page 2 this week



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