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### Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon states Ewing tribute snub claims are 'totally untrue'

ARGYLL and Bute Liberal Democrat MSP George Lyon has dismissed as 'totally untrue' national newspaper claims that he attempted to block a parliamentary tribute to the late Scottish Nationalist stalwart Margaret Ewing.

Mrs Ewing, who was married to SNP MSP Fergus Ewing, who represents Lochaber, died on March 21 of breast cancer at the age of 60. Her funeral took place on March 25 in Lossiemouth in her Moray constituency.

Mr Lyon was accused, along with other Scottish Liberal Democrats, of attempting to halt the motion of condolence in the Scottish Parliament because they believed it would set a precedent.

Mr Lyon is also accused of asking for a shorter tribute than was planned. However, he says the accusation is an attempt to discredit him - and that there is no substance in it.

'These allegations are completely untrue and are nothing more than an attempt to smear me,' he said. 'I was pleased to support the tribute to Margaret Ewing, who was a very fine lady and an example to us all.'

A Scottish Executive spokesman said: 'As a deputy minister for parliamentary business Mr Lyon speaks regularly to the minister of the Parliamentary Business Office [Margaret Curran].

'The content of these discussions are not normally disclosed, but I can confirm Mr Lyon did not make any request to either stop or delay the tribute.'

Tributes were paid to Mrs Ewing by all parties and party leaders in Holyrood and Westminster including the First Minister Jack McConnell, SNP leader Alex Salmond and Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy.

Mr Kennedy said he had worked with Mrs Ewing on several occasions. He said: 'We knew each other well and worked together throughout our period at Westminster - not least in pursuing north of Scotland interests. She was an easy politician to cooperate with, without ever compromising her fundamental principles.'

Mrs Ewing was one of Britain's youngest MPs when elected in 1974.

### From maths to list MSP

AN OBAN maths teacher is next in line to step into the shoes of Conservative Highlands and Islands list MSP Mary Scanlon once she is formally adopted as Tory candidate for Moray.

Mrs Scanlon announced this week that she was resigning her list seat in the Scottish Parliament to fight the by-election in Moray which has come about as a result of the death of former MSP Margaret Ewing.

Mrs Scanlon had already named as the Conservative candidate for the Moray seat at the Scottish Parliamentary elections in 2007.

Now David Petrie is waiting in the wings to accept the formality of being offered Mrs Scanlon's seat as the next candidate on the list of Conservative MSPs for the Highlands and Islands in 2003.

Mr Petrie, who stood for election to the Scottish Parliament in Argyll and Bute in 2001 and as a list MSP in 2003, said he would be delighted to accept.

He said the circumstances in which it was happening were regrettable but that Mrs Scanlon was showing a great loyalty to her constituents by giving up being an MSP for a year in order to stand at the by-election.

'I will be giving up the teaching, but I have really enjoyed it,' said Mr Petrie, who did a year's teaching training course at Moray House in Edinburgh in 2003 after taking an early retirement package from Scottish Water to concentrate in politics but failed to win a seat in that year's election.

He was teaching maths at Oban High School last year and this year, so far, has been based at Lochaber High School in Fort William.

'I hope to be running for one of the seats next May and keep going,' he said, adding: 'Not many people get an opportunity like this.'



Four-year-old Emma MacPhee from Oban visited the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) laboratory at Dunstaffnage and was introduced to the wonder of the underwater world by senior lecturer in shellfish research Maeve Kelly.

### University courses from Dunstaffnage

WORLD-class university courses from Dunstaffnage. Despite many of the national news stories on global climate change emerging as a direct result of work done by staff from the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunstaffnage, near Oban, few people are fully aware of the work, and educational opportunities, this life science centre offers.

Linked to the UHI Millennium Institute, the Dunstaffnage centre's work can be matched against that of other university research centres and it has, for the last six years, offered an Honours degree course in marine science.

Full story - see Page 5

## Drivers caught out as bridge closes again

A FURTHER two unexpected nights' closure of Connel Bridge over the weekend caught a number of people on the hop - including members of the audience at the annual Fiddlers' Rally in Oban.

Notice had been given that the century old bridge would be closed for five nights, March 20-24, last week to repair two struts and a high voltage electricity cable going across the bridge but the electrical work was not completed by the Saturday morning deadline.

A late notice was given out by trunk road maintenance contractors BEAR Scotland on Friday evening but too late for some folk unaware the bridge would close again on Saturday and Sunday evenings from 10pm until 6am the following days.

'The signs were still up saying until March 24,' said one disgruntled North Connel householder, who was caught on the Connel side of the bridge after an evening out in Oban on Saturday.

'Even the taxi drivers didn't know the bridge was closed,' she said. 'We got up to the bridge about 10pm and he was most apologetic. We had to walk across in the pouring rain and get a taxi from North Connel to take us home another mile up the road.'

'The display sign at Tyndrum said the bridge was closed at 10pm - which was not much help to locals,' she added.

John Gosling, of Oban Lorne and Strathspey and Reel Society, which hosted the 62nd annual Fiddlers' Rally at Corran Halls, said many had to leave early because they were unaware of the bridge closure.

John, who lives at Barcaldine, is demanding a public apology from BEAR Scotland.

'As late as 6.30 pm on Saturday the notices on the approaches to the bridge remained unchanged,' said Mr Gosling.

'However, just after the concert had started, a message was received stating that the bridge would indeed be closed, and in all conscience, an announcement had to be made at the interval to this effect.

'As a result a significant number of the audience had to leave early.'

This week a spokesman for BEAR Scotland said: 'The engineering works on Connel Bridge undertaken by Scottish and Southern Energy and BEAR Scotland were planned to be completed over five nights.

'Unfortunately, due to unforeseen technical difficulties the works required to continue for one further night.

'This information was conveyed as soon as possible on Friday to Strathclyde Police in Oban, Ambulance, Fire Service, Coastguard and Argyll and Bute Council.'

Oban FM was informed at around 4pm on Friday and the bridge was open for 10 minutes at midnight.

## Home improvement contracts to attract bidders

ARGYLL and Bute contractors are being encouraged to bid for home improvements work being put out to tender by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

The housing association takes over Argyll and Bute Council's housing stock later this year and as part of a £261 million investment programme is carrying out kitchen, bathroom and double glazing improvements to homes.

To encourage building contractors in Argyll and Bute - and beyond - to bid for the contracts, ACHA is holding two events for contractors to find out the implications of new European Union legislation and the process of awarding contracts.

The first event was this week, with more than 60 contractors attending, and has proved so popular that a second event is being held in Inveraray at the Argyll Hotel on Tuesday April 4.

ACHA chairman Norman Beaton said: 'ACHA's investment programme is huge and unprecedented in Argyll and Bute.

'With the help of contractors, we will be carrying out substantial improvements to tenants' homes and it's, therefore, extremely important that we find the right companies to work with.

**Local economies**

'We have said from the start that our plans will benefit both tenants and local economies; this is the latest stage in delivering those plans.'

In recent weeks the contract notices have been placed in the official European Union journal and those who have responded will soon be receiving pre-qualification questionnaires.

These will be returned before April 20 when the shortest of bidders will be drawn up.

Contractors are needed for 12 categories to ensure the whole process is on track ahead of the stock transfer this summer, subject to consent by the Scottish Executive.

Any contractor wishing a place at the Inveraray event should contact Gayle Stead at ACHA on 01436 658928.

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**Weather delays Isle of Barra medi-vac**

A HEART attack victim on Barra was airlifted to hospital a day after being taken ill as the weather proved too much for a helicopter or plane to land.

A spokesman for the Scottish Ambulance Service said neither the island's Islander fixed wing aircraft nor the helicopter ambulance could have landed in the bad weather on Sunday.

The service offered the RAF as back-up to take the victim to the mainland for hospital treatment.

The request for an airlift was made at 3.48pm on Sunday but at that time the weather was too inclement for aircraft.

However, the patient was kept stable by an island doctor who said the transfer could wait until Monday and it was then that the patient was airlifted to Glasgow.



**'Grease is the word' for success as Oban High School hit the boards**

BRYLCREEM, black leather jackets and white t-shirts were the uniform of choice for Oban High School pupils in its first musical for a number of years.

Grease, the musical, was performed by pupils over three nights at Oban's Corran Halls and judging by the crowds who attended was a great success.

A live music score, which was tightly controlled by principal teacher of music Morven McKeerrel, added a real energy to the show which was complemented by imaginative choreography from Ballet West. Fifth year students Mairi McTighe and Ben Sunderland took on the two main roles of Sandy Dumbrowski and Danny Zuko which were immortalised on film by Olivia Newton-John and John Travolta.

The show's artistic director Andy Powell praised the efforts of the students.

He said: 'Hopefully this cast and those inspired by their performances will develop drama as a strength in the school during the next few years because they certainly have the potential.'

The school wishes to thank local businesses Keyline, Mathesons, Stitch Nine and Mondo for their support.

**Oban's new school campus delayed**

WORK on Oban's new shared primary school campus has been delayed and Drummore Learning Centre will not be moving into a new building in May.

Argyll and Bute Council's Public Private Partnership (PPP) with ABC Schools project will see Rockfield and St Columba's primary schools share a campus along with Drummore pupils.

As The Oban Times went to press an Argyll and Bute Council spokesman admitted that the work was 'not proceeding at the pace anticipated by the construction timetable'.

The spokesman said: 'The council was advised that the planned decant of Drummore Learning into the new campus on May 5 will be delayed.

'The council is awaiting a detailed revised schedule for completion.'

The new Oban campus will see each of the schools maintain separate identities.

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### Lochcarron children hit the right note

WHEN it came to playing the right notes Lochcarron children knew just what keys to play. To raise money for a much-needed leisure centre for the area they decided to hold a 'pianothon' in the village hall to raise cash towards leisure centre funds.

The event raised £250, to the delight of leisure centre committee chairman David Murray.

David said the children really entered into the spirit of things, were enthusiastic and enjoyed the experience.

The children who took part were Sophie Hitchen, Fergus Hendry, Jodie Ellis, Simon Parsons, Ishy Henderson, Hazel Kindness, Samuel Parsons and Brandon Wilkins.

The 'pianothon' was arranged by Terry Hitchen with the help of other committee members who helped with refreshments for mums and dads and other local residents who turned up to listen.

It is hoped that work will start on the leisure centre in two years' time.

### Vital Spark to play its part in museums weekend

ATRIIP down Loch Fyne on the Vital Spark is one of many events happening around the country during Show Scotland this year.

Show Scotland is a new weekend of events from April 28 to May 1 being organised through the Scottish Museums Council by various museums and galleries to capture the public's imagination.

Various organisations are being challenged to use their spaces in creative ways to entice the public to spend time in museums and galleries.

Inveraray Maritime Museum is one of those organisations and as part of the long weekend's events is offering trips down Loch Fyne on the infamous Vital Spark, the puffer immortalised in Neil Munro's *Para Handy* stories.

## Harris river could prove vital in freshwater pearl mussel survival

AN IMPORTANT Western Isles site for freshwater pearl mussels has undergone relocation to prevent stocks dying.

The freshwater pearl mussel is an endangered species in Scotland and a river site on Harris is vital to the future breeding success of the species, a spokesman for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) said.

Banks of gravel in the river had been redeposited in heavy spates during the winter, resulting in peat getting into the river and the re-routing of a highly dynamic river system. This was threatening the mussels with death by dehydration.

Scottish Natural Heritage staff and environment spe-

cialists Young Associates have relocated 200 freshwater pearl mussels to a more stable location.

An SNH spokeswoman said Scotland held half the world's population of freshwater pearl mussels, although there were only an estimated 61 breeding sites left in the country.

The location in Harris was one of the most important sites for the species in Scotland.

SNH was informed of the seriousness of the situation by the concerned landowner.

Roddy MacMinn, an SNH area officer involved in the moving of the freshwater pearl mussels, said: 'The project should have a high chance of success - a check a few

days later found that the moved mussels had started to filter feed, a sign they were happy in their new locations.'

Freshwater pearl mussels are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, which was strengthened further in the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.

The mussels are among Scotland's rarest and most complex species and their presence is an indicator of the health of rivers.

Andy Robinson, area officer, Stornoway, said: 'Moving the stranded mussels is regarded as the most appropriate, cheapest and easiest option to ensure their survival.'

'Ongoing monitoring will need to take place to assess

the success of this work in the longer term. A report on the work undertaken will be compiled to record the number and size of mussels translocated and identify the sites used for re-location.'

In addition to theft, freshwater pearl mussels are hampered by slow productivity and the very specialised environments which they need to exist.

They can live for up to 100 years, only thrive in clean water and require the presence of wild salmon to reproduce.

### Mull community aims for woodland buy-out

A COMMUNITY woodland company on Mull hopes to buy nearly 700 hectares of land from Forestry Commission Scotland.

Under the National Forest Scheme, communities can bid to buy or lease national forest land on the basis that it increases public benefits.

In the case of Mull Community Woodland Company, based around Dervaig, it wishes to buy two plantations at West Ardu and Dervaig to provide somewhere for the community and schools to use for recreational and educational purposes.

**Houses and heating** There is also a desire to investigate ways of using the woodlands to create affordable housing and timber-based businesses such as woodchip for heating.

The community recently voted to buy the land and public comments on the application are being welcomed. The application has to be considered by an independent evaluation panel before a final decision on the sale is made by Forestry Commission Scotland.

Anyone wishing to comment should write to Cameron Maxwell, Forestry Commission Scotland, Silvan House, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT or email [cammaxwell@fc.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:cammaxwell@fc.scot.nhs.uk). View the application at [www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls).



Performers at the final winter ceilidh in Taynuilt were, from left, Jane Slater, Mairearead Green, Fiona MacCaskill, Joy Dunlop and Deirdre Graham. 112day01

### Music students team-up for Taynuilt ceilidh

FOUR talented young musicians joined together to play at the final winter ceilidh in Taynuilt.

Deirdre Graham, Fiona MacCaskill, Jane Slater and Mairearead Green delighted the audience at Taynuilt's village hall on Saturday.

The musicians met at the Royal Scottish Academy of

Music and Drama (RSAMD) and are all part of other folk groups.

Deirdre, from Breakish on Skye, is from a talented musical family and her mother Kirstine (MacLean) is a well-known Gaelic singer.

Deirdre is in her fourth year at RSAMD and plays with the group *Danarra*.

Fiona is also from Breakish and attended the music school in Plockton.

She is a first-year student at RSAMD and can play fiddle, accordion and whistle but is also an accomplished singer.

Jane, from Perth, was one of the first to study at Plockton. She is in her fourth year at RSAMD

where she is studying Scots song and piano. She also plays in the group *Danarra*.

Mairearead, from Achiltibuie, plays pipes, accordion and keyboard and is also part of a well-known family in the Gaelic world.

She now plays with the *Anna Massie Band* and has been touring in Denmark,

Canada and Sweden. The group has just released a second album.

Argyll and Bute Gaelic Development Officer Joy Dunlop was the only other artist on the programme and she sang and performed a step dance. Joy now has a weekly Gaelic programme on Oban FM, *Ceol Is Craic*, on Mondays 5-6pm.

### Argyll and Bute announces increase in environment wardens

FLY-TIPPERS and litter routes in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Bute, had better watch out - a new environment warden is on the beat.

Lynette Macdonald is one of two appointed by Argyll and Bute Council. She will be visiting schools, enforcing legislation and issuing fixed

penalty notices as well as reporting to the Procurator Fiscal. Her appointment and that of Jamie McGeachy in Helensburgh and Lomond, brings the council's environment warden complement up to its full strength of four. The other two are Derek Crooks in Oban, Lorn and the Isles

and Ailsa Cunningham in Bute and Cowal. Lynette and Jamie are currently on a Keep Scotland Beautiful training scheme, studying legislation relating to abandoned vehicles, commercial waste, duty of care, dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping. Training in the issuing

of fixed penalty notices for dog fouling, litter, and fly-tipping is also being given.

They will be patrolling their respective areas, visiting businesses, encouraging recycling and waste minimisation, as well as working with schools, community groups, the Scottish Protec-

tion Environment Agency, The GRAB Trust and Strathclyde Police.

Environment wardens have had a number of successes in Argyll and Bute including two convictions for fly-tipping and 27 fixed penalties of £40 for allowing dog-fouling.

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### Leasachaidh coille

THA DÙIL gun tig ath-nuadhachadh air coille ann an Leòdhas, a chaidh a dhroch mhilleadh, agus a' chomhairsnachd ionadail air an uallach airson a leasachadh a ghabhail os làimh.

Chaidh Coille Ath Linne ann an ceann-a-deas na Loch a cheannachd bho Iomairt nan Coilltean airson £72,000, leis a mhòr chuid dhen airgead a' tighinn bho Stòras Fearann na h-Alba.

Thèid a-nis a ruith le Urras Erisort, a' bhuidheann leasachaidh ionadail.

Thuir oifigear na urrais, Coinneach MacAoidh: 'Tha cothrom an seo ruideigin a dhèanamh nach eil an àite sam bith eile sna h-eileanan, chan ann dìreach a-thaobh daoine a thoirt a-steach dhan sgìre againn fhèin, ach le bhith tòirt daoine bho thir-mòr is eileanan eile a-steach dha na h-Eileanan Siar.'

AN AREA of woodland in Lewis, which has been badly damaged, is set to be rejuvenated after the local community took over responsibility for its development.

Aline Forest in south Lochs was purchased from Forest Enterprise for £72,000, with the majority of the finance required coming from the Scottish Land Fund.

It will now be run by the Erisort Trust, the local community development group.

Trust officer Ken MacKay said: 'This is an opportunity to do something which is not to be found anywhere else in the Western Isles, not just in terms of bringing people into our own community, but in terms of attracting people from the mainland and from other islands to the Western Isles.'

### Deasbad Dhùn Bheagain ga ùrachadh

THA COMHAIRLICHEAN nan Eilean Siar ag iarraidh sùil as ùr a thoirt air Dhùn Bheagain san Eilean Sgitheanach mar cidhe aiseig Chaledonian Mhìc a' Bhruithain.

Chaidh a mholadh a chur air adhart mar-thà bho chionn ochd bliadhna, ach chaidh roghnachadh gum bu chòir fuireachd le Uig airson na h-eileanan a-muigh a fhriththeadh.

Ach, a-nis tha cathraiche comataidh comdhail Chomhairle nan Eilean Siar, Dòmhnall Manford, ag ràdh gur e mearachd a bha sin.

Thuir e: 'Tha e a' cosg an t-uamhas dha na h-eileanan nach eil poirt ceart ann agus cumaidh a' chosgais sin a' dol far nach eil slighe ceart ann nach eil cho math 's bu chòir dhiha a bhith.'

A rèir Mhgr Mhanford tha e ro thrath moladh foirmeil a chur gu CalMac, ach gun robh e airson an deasbad a thòiseachadh as ùr.

WESTERN Isles councillors have called for a new look at Dunvegan in Skye as the ferry port for Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac).

The recommendation was discussed eight years ago, but it was decided to stay with Uig. But now Western Isles Council transportation committee chairman Donald Manford says that was a mistake.

He said: 'It is costing the islands a great deal that we do not have a decent port and that cost will continue as long as the crossing is not as good as it could be.'

Mr Manford said it was too early to put a formal request to CalMac but that he wanted the debate to be started afresh.

### Pròiseact nan cidheachan

THA COMHAIRLE nan Eilean Siar airson ath-leasachadh a thoirt air grunn chidheachan san sgìre gus an dèanamh nas tarraingiche dha turasachd is bàtaichean-seòlaidh.

Tha an iomairt ga chur air dòigh agus gnìomhachas an iasgaich a' crìonadh 's cur-seachadan mara a' fas nas comanta.

Tha dà fhichead cidhe sna h-eileanan uile gu lèir, ged nach eil a' mhòr chuid aca sin ach glè bheag. Sa chiald dol a-mach tha a' chomhairle gu bhith ag amas air na coig as motha, le molaidhean gu cur air adhart airson trì aca - Loch nam Madadh, Steòrnabhagh is Loch Baghasdail.

Chan ann leis a' chomhairle fhèin a tha ach Loch nam Madadh, le dùil gun tèid nam pròiseactan eile an cur air chois ann an co-bhòim le Ùghdarras Calla Steòrnabhagh is Sealladh na Beinne Mhòire, a' bhuidheann coimhairsnachd a tha an dòchas seilbh fhaighinn air Oighreachd Uibhist-a-Deas.

Thuir oifigear leasachaidh na comhairle, Iain MacLeòid, gu bheil e riatainach seo a ghluasad air adhart gun dàil, oir gu bheil feum air na gluasadan a leasachadh airson coimhairsnachd ri na feumalachdan ùra.

Chan eil clar-ama foirmeil sam bith mun coinneimh, ach tha dùil aon uair 's gum bidh cùisean air gluasad ann an Loch nam Madadh, Loch Baghasdail is Steòrnabhagh gun tionndaidh iad an aire gu Bàigh a' Chaisteil is an Tairbear.

WESTERN Isles Council hope to re-develop a number of piers in the area to make them more attractive for tourists and sailing boats.

The initiative is being brought forward because of the decline in the fishing industry and the growing popularity of marine leisure.

There are 40 piers in the islands altogether, although the majority are only very small. In the first instance, the council will look at the five major ones, with formal proposals being brought forward for three - Lochmaddy, Stornoway and Lochboisdale. The council only owns Lochmaddy, with the intention that the other projects will be taken forward in partnership with the Stornoway Port Authority and Sealladh na Beinne Mhoire, the community group hoping to seize control of South Uist Estates.

Council development officer Ian MacLeod said it was vital to proceed without delay, as the facilities required to be developed to meet the new demands.

There is no firm timetable being set by the council, but it is expected that once work is underway in Lochmaddy, Stornoway and Lochboisdale attention will turn to Castlebay and Tarbert.

# Factor's Inn restaurant

**NEW OPENING 1ST APRIL 2006**

We are delighted to announce that the Factor's Inn Restaurant will open for dinner, effective 1st April 2006.

**Menu**

*Starters*

Soup of the Day with Crispy Bread £3.95  
 Tomato and Goats Cheese Tart £5.50  
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~\*oOo\*~

*Mains*

Selection from the Chargrill  
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Rib Eye Steak (8oz) £14.50 (12oz) £18.95 (16oz) £25.75  
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All our chargrilled steaks are served with French Fries or Baked Potato with Sour Cream and Chives, Mixed Relishes and Béarnaise Sauce, and a Home-grown Salad as well as our own Garlic Bread

Sea Bream en Papillote (Gingered Vegetables, New Potato) £14.50

Noodles in a Vegetable Bouillon with Spring Onion, Roast Peppers, Chilli and Water Chestnut £10.50

~\*oOo\*~

*Desserts*

Chocolate Fudge Cake with Butterscotch £4.95  
 Lightly Whipped Caramel Brulee with Vanilla Ice Cream & Popping Candy £5.50  
 A Selection of Cheeses with Cocktail Oatcakes £6.95

~\*oOo\*~

Espresso £1.70 Black Coffee £1.80  
 Cappuccino £1.80 Gaelic Coffee £4.10  
 Latte £2.50 Tea £1.70  
 Hot Chocolate £2.50

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### Tourism project aims to keep Scotland in the public eye

ATTRACTING visitors to the Scottish Highlands is becoming increasingly more competitive with at least 200 countries trying to entice tourists to their special attractions.

Now Highlands and Islands Enterprise chairman William Roe has welcomed a new Scottish Executive tourism strategy which it is hoped will keep the Highlands in the public eye.

Kinlochleven-born William Roe said the region was competitively placed to attract tourists and over the next 10 years was expected to do particularly well in eco-tourism, heritage and history, outdoor activities and culture, music and the arts.

Mr Roe said: 'This strategy document will provide the Highlands and Islands tourism sector with valuable information about future trends.'

'It confirms that this area, with its magnificent opportunities in eco-tourism is excellently placed to compete for tourists in the global market-place.'

He said hopes were high that the 2007 Year of Highland Culture would give the area a superb opportunity to showcase its arts and heritage but also excellence in customer service, food and drink and all-round visitor experience.

The strategy points out that more people were now opting for short breaks rather than a longer holiday

and the region was already reaping the benefit of improved air services to Inverness from many UK cities and Ireland, enabling more Europeans and Americans to travel to the area more easily.

Last month HIE was the main sponsor of a conference for music, film, design and photography professionals took place at Dingwall to discuss how best to use these industries to the Highlands' advantage.

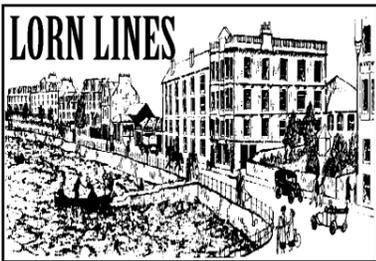
Jeremy Sim, project manager for the Association of Integrated Media in the Highlands and Islands, put forward New Zealand as an example, and how that country exploited The Lord of the Rings films by creating a series of tourist trails.

Chris Taylor, senior tourism manager at HIE also attended the day conference. He said: 'Tourism is one of the biggest industries in the Highlands and Islands, but with competition now coming from more than 200 world-wide destinations we need to work hard at delivering value for money and great visitor experiences.'

'Developing links between creative industries and tourism businesses can really help us differentiate the Highlands and Islands and create a world-class tourism destination.'

The other sponsor of the conference was the EU Northern Periphery Programme.





You can email your Lorn news to [lornlines@obantimes.co.uk](mailto:lornlines@obantimes.co.uk)

AT A RECENT Tuesday lunch in the Regent Hotel, Oban, the scope and scale of the Prince's Trust Scotland was outlined to members of Oban Rotary Club by Linda Tighe, area manager with the Argyll and Bute Division of the Highlands and Islands Board Area.

Through a network of thousands of volunteers the trust aims to bring practical support to the 14 and 15-year-olds, combating unemployment, anti-social behaviour, low basic skills and disengagement and truancy from schools. At the same time the organisation seeks to promote citizenship and respect, financial independence, self-esteem and motivation and community regeneration.

The trust works to achieve this through a series of programmes including the team programme, a 12-week course run from 300 centres throughout the UK. Up to 15 young people per team learn the importance of team work, re-engagement and motivation, helping them to develop a positive attitude towards their futures. XL clubs, operated in conjunction with schools, concentrate on youngsters facing difficulties at school, while youth cafés provide a safe and school-free environment in which the youngsters can develop in their own way while enjoying recreational activities. The trust, it was emphasised, works in partnership with many organisations from enterprise agencies to the fire service.

An appreciative vote of thanks was given by Rotarian Mike Urwin.

**MARTIN Cook** of AOC Archaeological Group, Edinburgh, was guest speaker at a meeting of Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society in the Church Centre on Friday March 24.

He gave a highly informative presentation on the latest excavation at Upper Largie, Kilmartin, an important site which, it is thought, might have served as the first monument in the ritual and burial landscape of Kilmartin Glen.

Members wishing to obtain field survey experience this spring should get in touch with Dr Sharon Webb of Kilmartin House Museum.

The society's winter programme will end at 7.30pm on Friday April 21 with a talk in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on the changing Highland landscape by Derek Pretswell.

AN ILLUSTRATED talk and slide show by Lady Avril Watson Stewart in Oban Church Centre brought to an end Oban Art Society's highly successful winter programme. A celebrated artist, designer, illustrator, calligrapher and worldwide lecturer, Lady Avril highlighted these various skills during a fascinating slide show entitled 'Illuminating Thoughts by a Designing Woman'. Her commissions have included gifts to a variety of recipients including royalty and she is a past winner of Glasgow School of Art's prestigious Gilbert Award.

Introduced by committee member Sonja Campbell, Kilmore, she was thanked by vice chairman Ann Sorley.

THE WAY in which digital photography can be used to enhance images was made colourfully evident at a meeting of Oban Photographic Club in the Regent Hotel on Monday March 6.

audience with a selection of superb prints.

Vice president Jim Kirkpatrick, Oban, said: 'She had worked wonders.'

At the club's annual open night, in the same venue on March 13, a large attendance greatly enjoyed a talk and digital presentation given by Sergeant Neil Owen of Strathclyde Police, Oban. The talk focussed on Oban's role during the Second World War, a subject on which Sergeant Owen is an acknowledged authority. It was later described as highly professional.

THE CAIRNBAAN Hotel was the setting for the March meeting of the Oban Local Members' Group of the National Trust for Scotland. Following an appetising lunch, members enjoyed a talk given by David Ainsley who runs a high-speed charter vessel out of Balvicar Bay. He was able to speak knowledgeably on life on the area's seabed and the ecological balance to be found there.

His points were illustrated by excellent under-water photography.

**HELD at the end of February in Dunmar Court, the annual general meeting of Oban Stroke Support Group** marked the close of a well-supported opening year for this organisation.

Monthly meetings in Dunmar Court have featured a range of top-class speakers as well as being enlivened by a variety of beneficial activities.

Currently ongoing is a fund-raising raffle to be drawn in September.

Principal office bearers appointed were: chairperson - Hazel Hamilton, Stroke Support Co-ordinator at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital; secretary - Margaret Munro; and treasurer - Harry Smith.

GUEST speaker at a meeting of Oban Beekeepers, held in Cameron House on March 9, was Cameron House-based Steve Sunderland of the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department.

In an illuminating talk, he discussed two worrying bee diseases, Varroa and the Small Hive Beetle. The group hopes to meet again in April.

GIRL power delighted an enthusiastic audience at the last of this season's winter ceilidhs in Taynuilt Village Hall on March 18 when an outstanding programme was entirely sustained by five young artists.

Providing the entertainment were, Deirdre Graham, from Breakish on Skye, a member of a highly musical family and one of the singers in Donald Shaw's 'Harvest'; Fiona MacAskill, also from Breakish, a former pupil at the music school at Plockton, and now in her first year at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD); Jane Slater, from Perth, also a Plockton product currently in her fourth year at the RSAMD; Mairearead Green, from Achiltibuie, a member of the Anna Massie Band, who plays pipes, accordion and keyboard; and Joy Dunlop, Connel, Gaelic Development Officer for Argyll and the Isles with An Comunn Gaidhealach and the producer of a highly popular Gaelic programme broadcast on Oban FM every Monday.

The artists were introduced by bean a tìghe Agnes MacLean, North Connel, and votes of thanks proposed by the programme organiser, Moira Dunlop, Connel. There was the usual tea and raffle.

## Connel crofter admits being three times over the drink-drive limit

A CONNEL crofter has admitted being almost three times the legal alcohol drink-drive limit.

Peter Sinclair, aged 61, of Dalrannoch Farm pleaded guilty at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday to driving a car with 103 microgrammes of

alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath on March 11 this year. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes in 100 millilitres of breath.

Prosecutor Fiscal Clifford Most said: 'The accused was working on his farm and around 4pm they were

joined by another man who brought a bottle of whisky with him and they began to drink it.

'The accused left the farm at around 7.20pm and drove to the Halfway Filling Station to get cigarettes.

'The police were alerted

and he was arrested at the filling station after a positive breath test.'

Defence agent Edward Thornton told the court Sinclair was a first time offender having held his licence since he was 17 years old. 'He had not intended to

drive that day but a friend came by and whisky was consumed,' said Mr Thornton. 'He accepts that over the last couple of years he has been drinking more heavily than normal.

'He suffers from anxiety and has gone back to his

doctor to be put on a course of medication.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is most unfortunate you find yourself in front of the court having had a considerable number of years driving without any offences but the reading is

nearly three times the legal limit.'

Sinclair was fined £375 and disqualified from driving for two years. The ban will be reduced by six months on completion of a drink drivers' rehabilitation course.

## Brave Lewis postwoman gains national award

AN ISLE of Lewis mill manager believes his life was saved by quick-thinking postwoman Helen MacKenzie after he trapped his arm in machinery.

Helen saw Stephen MacKay staggering in the road near Carloway mill covered in blood after he'd freed his arm.

His hand was hanging by a strip of skin and he had severed an artery.

She stemmed the flow of blood and kept Stephen conscious until an ambulance arrived.

Now her prompt action has resulted in her being named Royal Mail's Postwoman of the Year at its 1st Class People Awards.

Helen, aged 53, received a trophy and £500 from Royal Mail Chief Executive Adam Crozier and newscaster Natasha Kaplinsky in London.

The incident took place on a Saturday last October. Helen saw Stephen in the road, took him to her van, put her jacket round him to offset shock, stemmed the blood with towels and kept him conscious with the help of another driver who had stopped to help.

She telephoned for an ambulance from a nearby croft.

After it arrived she continued on her round. Surgeons were able to save Stephen's hand and forearm.

Stephen, 42, general manager of the Harris Tweed Textiles mill, said he was convinced Helen had saved both his life and his arm.

Helen said: 'Stephen was extremely brave throughout the whole time as his arm was in a terrible state.

'I'm surprised I didn't faint.'

Adam Crozier said Helen's action was a fantastic example of bravery and selflessness which deserved to be recognised.



Only two public sector employees crossed the picket at the Lorn Resource Centre in Oban. (13Mar02)

# Services stalled by one-day strike

RUBBISH in the Oban area remained uncollected, ferries to Lismore and Luìng were tied-up and school pupils got to stay at home on Tuesday as Argyll public sector workers gave a thumbs down to controversial pension plans.

The strike took place after trade unions lost patience with plans to scrap a rule letting some public sector workers retire at 60. At the moment if an individual's age and the number of years service given by the worker add up to 85, they can retire with a full pension from the age of 60.

Unions claimed that industrial action was unavoidable after 40 meetings with the government.

Despite the inclement weather picket lines formed in Oban early on Tuesday morning with John Duncan, vice-chairman of UNISON Argyll branch, outside Argyll and Bute Council's offices on Albany Street where only one person had crossed the picket line.

As cars sounded their horns in support, Mr Duncan said the strike showed the depth of feeling among workers and that they were taking the pension issue 'very, very seriously'.

He said: 'People are sending a message to the government and the Scottish Executive.

'It is very solid and we are getting a lot of support and I want to thank all our

members on the day for taking the action. I am very, very pleased with the response.'

'The thing about it is that COSLA [Convention of Scottish Local Authorities] and our employers are in agreement. We don't have an argument with them but they don't support our action.'

Mr Duncan said UNISON's Argyll branch had a fairly steady membership of around 1,500 people but this had increased by 200 in the last two weeks.

Council refuse collectors were also on strike in Oban outside their depot although surrounding areas were unaffected as were Mull and Tiree. Shop steward Andy Birnie said: 'I have been here since 6.30am and nobody has crossed the picket line and nobody has crossed the roads department picket either.'

'People are really worried about their pensions.'

Mr Birnie, aged 53, said he was not affected by the pension plans but he and

colleagues in the same position were supporting the strike because they are concerned about the impact on pensions for younger people.

First, second and third year pupils at Oban High School were given the day off with office staff, janitors and classroom assistants striking. However, senior pupils attended classes because of impending exams.

Lorn Resource Centre staff had also left their posts with only two employees crossing the picket line, while Drummond Learning Centre was closed along with Luìng and Taynuilt primary schools, the latter closing at lunch-time.

Pre-five nursery units at Taynuilt, Kilniver and on the Isle of Coll were shut and the Lismore and Luìng ferries only offered emergency cover although there was a special Lismore service in mid-afternoon for people wanting to attend medical appointments.

Lismore resident Mandy

Curry said she had been planning to leave the island but had been unable to do so as the ferry was not running.

She said there was support on Lismore for the strike although it had caused inconvenience for those attending work - while on Luìng people leaving the island used private boats.

Between 200 and 300 local authority employees in Kintyre were on strike with the council's finance, housing, roads department, refuse collections and social work and education services disrupted.

Woodlands Resource Centre, Campbeltown, closed although the adjoining Greenwood residential unit remained open as did the Kintyre Community Education Centre but was staffed by Argyll College which occupies part of the building's upper floor.

Although some individuals in Mid Argyll went on strike, local authority services remained largely unaffected.



Left to right, Argyll and Bute Council staff Andy Birnie, Ian Hay and Campbell Goodbrand on the picket line in Oban. (13Mar01)

## Islanders unhappy with Barra mail service

NATIONAL Health Service staff on the island of Barra are having to pay extra for sending samples for analysis because islanders say the outgoing mail service is too poor.

They claim mail posted after 8am does not leave the island until 9.30am the following day when it connects with the mail plane out of Benbecula, which leaves at 3.30pm.

Any mail posted at the post office on Barra must be done so before 5.30pm. It joins the 8am collection going on to Uist.

Now Councillor Donald Manford, who represents the Isle of Barra on Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, has written to the Royal Mail's area manager in Stornoway, Eddie MacKenzie, inviting him to travel to Barra to meet the community and find a way to solve the situation.

In his letter, Councillor Manford said although the mail service had been realigned the islanders had given it time to 'bed in' but

the outgoing mail problem had to be resolved.

He said: 'Concern has been expressed by the manager of the Barra practice who stated that the change to the outgoing mail service has resulted in considerable difficulties for the practice in sending samples for analysis, and that they are now having to be sent air freight via Benbecula and Stornoway, a considerable increase in costs for the NHS.'

Islanders on Barra point out that, by comparison, a letter can be posted in Balivanich, Benbecula, up to 2.30pm for the plane leaving at 3.30pm.

As Barra mail for Uist, Stornoway and Inverness is sorted on its way to Uist the problem could be alleviated by outgoing mail leaving Barra on the 12.30pm ferry to Lochboisdale, South Uist and be in Benbecula in time for the 3.30pm flight.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, Mr MacKenzie was not available for comment.

## Oban's Gaelic debate on television tonight

A GAELIC debate television programme which was filmed in Oban this week will be broadcast tonight (Thursday).

*Cunntas* which is the Gaelic version of *Question Time* was recorded in Oban's new ferry terminal building.

Presenter Derek MacKay chairs a panel which includes poet Angus Peter Campbell, Aberdeen University lecturer Christina MacKenzie and Donald MacLennan of Ionad Chalum Chile on Islay.

Gaelic and tourism, the public sector strikes and the smoking ban are expected to be discussed with the audience. The programme starts at 7pm on BBC 2 Scotland.

## Police files

### Mixer missing

POLICE received a report on Monday March 27 that a cement mixer had been stolen from the rear of the Oyster Inn, Connel, during the weekend of March 24 to March 26.

Police are keen to speak to anyone who may have seen a trailer or other suitable vehicle being used to move a cement mixer in this area.

### Three hospitalised

THREE people were taken to hospital on Wednesday March 22 following a road accident on the A85 between Lochawe and Taynuilt. A man and a woman were trapped in one vehicle, whilst a 56-year-old woman in another vehicle was seriously injured. Police, fire and ambulance crews all attended the scene. A full road traffic examination was carried out by road policing officers, which resulted in the road being closed for a short period.

### Man arrested

FOLLOWING a joint operation between uniformed and CID officers on the evening of Saturday March 25, a man was arrested in the Soroba area of Oban for the alleged supply of a controlled substance.

He appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday March 27.

### Controlled substances

A MAN was charged with allegedly possessing controlled substances in Glenshellach Terrace, Oban, in the early hours of Saturday March 25, following a joint operation between uniformed and CID officers.

### Vehicle vandalised

THE WINDSCREEN of a vehicle parked outside 6 Soroba Park Terrace, Oban, was smashed overnight between Saturday March 25 and Sunday March 26.

Anyone who witnessed suspicious behaviour in this area at the time is asked to contact Oban Police Station.

### Window smashed

DURING last weekend a JCB parked at McLaughlin's quarry, Upper Soroba, Oban, had its side window smashed.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Oban Police Station in confidence.

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# Pressure grows on Scottish Executive to publish A82 route action plan

A PRESSURE group set up to ensure the upgrading of the A82 is calling for the Scottish Executive to publish a route action plan on the road which has been delayed since last year.

The A82 Partnership is calling on transport minister Tavish Scott MSP to publish the A82 Route Action Plan. Transport Scotland, the new national transport agency for Scotland, has confirmed that the plan, together with its recommendations, was passed to the minister in the middle of March. The plan, which will address the immediate safety and operational concerns along the route and assess its medium to long-term investment needs,

had been due to be published by the end of 2005. A spokesperson for the A82 Partnership said: 'Not only has there been a delay in publishing the plan but the delay is now affecting ongoing maintenance works as engineers are unsure of the details of the route action plan.'

A Scottish Executive spokesperson said: 'The route action plan for the A82 has been submitted to the Minister for Transport and will be published once the Minister has fully considered the important issues it raises.'

Jim Mather, SNP, MSP for the Highlands and Islands, has confirmed that he will be asking the minister for the early publication of the plan. He added: 'The road is

unbelievable. There are people frightened to use it during wintertime. It puts off businesses and tourists.'

A delay has also been announced in the date for completion of the works presently being undertaken to replace the bridge at Glencoe Gorge. The works which were planned to be completed in June 2006 are now forecast to be completed by November 2006.

A 30th 'birthday party' for the temporary traffic lights on Loch Lomond was attended by local and national politicians together with members of the public from Fort William and Ardlui.

Councillor Brian Murphy, chairman of the Lochaber

Transport Forum, who attended the party, said: 'The response from motorists we spoke to was overwhelmingly supportive with the deepest safety concerns being expressed by motorists who regularly have to tackle this 'goat track'.'

'Observing the road at close hand, as we did on Friday, was particularly informative as we could see the rough, potholed surface and observe the difficulties experienced by large vehicles negotiating the corners.'

An economic analysis has estimated improvements to the road would generate additional income of £463m for the area between 2019 and 2039.

## Mallaig says no to marine park plan

A PACKED 100-strong public meeting in Mallaig on Saturday has voted to fight Scottish Executive plans to designate the west coast as Scotland's first Coastal and Marine National Park.

The audience unanimously condemned as 'inadequate' Scottish Natural Heritage's current consultation on behalf of the executive and similarly rejected the principle of a national park at sea in view of the facts emerging about Scotland's two existing national parks, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs and Cairngorm.

An action group has been formed to co-ordinate opposition and represent individuals and organisations whose views have been ignored by what it terms as the largely 'urban-focussed political campaign for a marine park'.

John Hermse, secretary of Mallaig and Northwest Fishermen's Association, said: 'People from the Butt to Barra Head and Cape Wrath to the Mull of Kintyre have all shown disillusion at the rather biased SNH consultation which has always carried the subliminal message that marine parks will be an accolade to the chosen area, and this from the body that is supposedly giving an unbiased view to the minister. It is important to let the silent majority be heard and listened to.'

Oyster fisherman Ian MacKinnon, of Arisaig, said: 'When someone comes up to you and tells you what a marine national park can do for you, you just answer them back with a question of your own. Will a national park build a new hospital? Will it repair the local school? What will it do for old people in the area? Can it fill the holes in the road system?'

# Sawmill move secures 150 jobs

NEARLY 50 jobs are to be created and 100 saved as BSW Timber, the UK's largest sawmilling group, announced it is to move next door to the former Arjo Wiggins paper mill site at Fort William.



An artist's impression of the new sawmill.

The deal will pave the way for a phased relocation and expansion of BSW's Fort William sawmill, which currently sits opposite the Arjo Wiggins site on the shores of Loch Linnhe.

BSW plans to invest more than £25 million into the new site as part of a phased expansion programme - likely to create 45 new jobs and safeguard a further 88 at the existing sawmill.

The company anticipates a further 100 indirect jobs will be created within its supply and distribution chain.

The new mill will have more than twice the output of BSW's current Fort William site and has the potential to become the UK's largest sawmill.

The expansion is being

supported with an aid package of £5.25 million, made up of a £3m grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and a further £2.25m from the Scottish Executive.

**Growing**

BSW Timber's chief executive Paul Barham said: 'Since becoming part of BSW in 1988, our Fort William operation has been an important element of the BSW Group's UK production and distribution network. But the size of our current site is a major constraint on growing the

business. improvement, the first development phase will see investment in secondary processing facilities - including kilning, timber treatment, planing and grading. The second phase will include the building of a new sawmill. Following completion, all production will be transferred to the new site.

MP for Ross, Skye and Lochaber Charles Kennedy said: 'I am glad that the private sector and the various public agencies have been able to conclude this successful package which offers real hope for the Lochaber area.'

'The community will want to continue to monitor progress carefully but this really does represent an excellent start.'

Charlotte Wright, chief executive of Lochaber Enterprise, said: 'Lochaber Enterprise and HIE have been working closely with BSW on this project for some time and we are delighted that it is going ahead.'

'The former Arjo Wiggins site gives BSW the perfect opportunity to invest in the expansion and relocation of our Fort William sawmill. We have developed a phased investment plan to ensure solid growth of the business. Ultra modern facilities will help drive our development of value-added and high quality timber products to continue to service our customer requirements and needs in a growing market.'

Following initial site clearance and infrastructure



William Hobson, Shaun Fraser, Mairi MacRae and artist in residence Laura Kingswood. (13Jan01)

# Fort to host film premiere

FORT William is to host a film premiere this week for a new movie to raise funds for Lochaber's new hydrotherapy pool.

The movie, titled *Here's Tae Lochaber*, is narrated by Magnus Magnusson and includes appearances by national stars of the Scottish music scene and local Lochaber musicians.

As well as contributions from Donnie Munro, Ally Bain and Phil Cunningham, the Kilmallie Singers, Lochaber Schools Pipe Band and the senior pipe band are also featured. There are also a host of local musicians performing under the watchful eye of Ingrid Henderson.

The premiere was due to be held yesterday (Wednesday) in the town's Studio Theatre.

It is being organised by Scottish musician Billy MacIsaac, who was responsible for the CD, *Here's Tae Us*, which made £20,000 for Lochaber Hydrotherapy in 2004.

Billy has also written a new song, simply titled *Lochaber*, which he hopes will be taken on as an anthem for Lochaber. The song features Strathclyde Police Band and a 50-piece choir and is written in the style of Paul McCartney's *Chill of Kintyre*.

Billy said: 'I was approached by a film production company when the CD came out in 2004 and they offered to do a short DVD for the charity taking some tracks from the CD and story-boarding them.'

'I managed to persuade them to extend it a little bit.'

# Lochaber pupils star on television

PUPILS from award-winning arts projects across Lochaber have been starring in a series of short films on national television this week.

Pupils from the Room 13 projects in Caol and Lochyside primary schools and Lochaber High School made the short 'three minute wonder' films themselves.

The films tell the story of how Room 13 has expanded over the past three years from its beginnings in Lochaber to countries all over the world. Artist in residence at Caol

Primary Laura Kingswood said the films updated a previous documentary. 'At the end of the last film the project was going to Lochyside and now it's in 10 schools worldwide including England, South Africa and India,' said Laura. The award-winning project is now looking for more money as a five-year funding grant has just run out. The final programme in the series, looking at Room 13 in South Africa, is shown tonight (Thursday) at 7.55pm on Channel 4.

# Bands battle it out in Portree

YOUNG bands from across Skye and Lochalsh are heading to Portree tomorrow night (Friday) to battle it out for the chance to win £1,000.

The event, organised by Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum, is aimed at the 14-25 age group to promote positive lifestyle choices.



Anmol Arshad of Park Primary School, Oban with her certificate from the West of Scotland Racial Equality Council.

# Posters win prizes in race relations

FIVE Argyll and Bute primary pupils plus a whole pre-five unit have been rewarded for their efforts to improve race relations and promote equality through a poster competition.

Lochnell Primary School, Benderloch, pupils Hayley Edwards, aged 11 and Megan MacLeod, 12, came top in the Argyll and Bute entries for the West of Scotland Racial Equality Council competition.

The competition asks pupils from 12 local authorities all over the west of Scotland to design a poster from one of three themes: to promote good race relations between people of different racial groups; to promote equality of opportunity; and eliminate unlawful racial discrimination.

The girls from Lochnell came up with a slogan each but when they realised that their efforts rhymed, decided to work together on one poster, creating the slogan 'Black's a colour not a name, deep inside we are all the same' and drawing children of different race holding hands.

Oliver Childs, six, also Lochnell drew a poster of a rainbow with people of different race holding hands on it and the slogan 'We are

all friends', which caught the judges' eye and earned Oliver a prize too.

Anmol Arshad, 10, of Park Primary School, Oban, was a runner-up, as was Anna Sofia Raposo, 10 of Tobermory Primary School, Mull and the whole of Carradale Pre-five Unit, Kintyre.

All the prize winners and runners-up were invited to a recent ceremony in the Banqueting Hall of Glasgow City Chambers where they were presented with prizes of vouchers and certificates by actors Paula Sage and Aaron Sidhu from BBC soap *River City*.

The winning posters are distributed to schools with teaching notes for teachers to use as a tool to discuss anti-racism and equality.

'We feel a great sense of achievement; what makes it really worthwhile is the celebration event that we hold for young people, teachers, families and invited guests,' said Shahana Noor, race equality education officer.

'This is when we derive real pleasure and a real sense of purpose-meeting families, teachers and young people. It is a wonderful set of posters and I am sure everyone who sees them will learn and want to make a change in the

world,' said Shahana.

The competition is the ninth annual poster and calendar competition run by the West of Scotland Racial Equality Council which works in partnership with the Public Authorities Equality Forum Education Group and Strathclyde Police, Scottish Prison Service, the Education Institute of Scotland, Ethnic Minority Enterprise Centre and Glasgow Anti Racist Alliance.

Right: Lochnell Primary School's Megan MacLeod, aged 12, Hayley Edward, 11, and Oliver Childs, six, who won the judges' prize. (13Jan01)



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**Parents lead calls for Gaelic unit**

PARENTS in Lochaber have led calls for a Gaelic medium unit to be set up in Kinlochleven.

A meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee on Monday April 3 is set to agree a start date for consultation into the plan.

Commitments from parents in the Kinlochleven area mean that up to 10 pupils could be in Gaelic medium education at the unit by 2009.

The unit would serve pupils in Ballachulish, Glencoe, Kinlochleven and Duror.

The new Kinlochleven Primary School, which is to be built by public-private partnership by 2008, has accommodation identified for a Gaelic unit.

If agreed by councillors the consultation will go ahead next week and run until Friday May 5.

**NEWSDESKS**  
01631 568000  
01397 703003

**Gambia thanks Lochaber**

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of computers have been donated to a school in Gambia thanks to the generosity of people in Fort William.

Fort William businessman Richard Rumney, chairman of the Scottish charity the Gambian Children's Education Fund (GCEF), handed over the computers at a ceremony in Bundung Lower Basic School in Gambia.

Commending GCEF for the donations, Koumba Manneh, headmistress of the school, said: 'Such partnerships complement the government's efforts in realising education for all in the country.'

Richard Rumney said: 'We arranged the shipment of a consignment of materials to donate to the school.'

'The consignment contained computers, printers, monitors, books, pens, clothes and shoes, mostly donated by people in the Fort William area, but also from the Glasgow area.'

Mr Rumney urged the students at the school to make good use of the new equipment.

He added that there are plans to recruit a computer expert from Scotland to instruct the students in the use of the new computers.

Richard Rumney with local dignitaries at the ceremony in the Gambia.

**Confidence boost for Lochaber**

LOCHABER got a much-needed confidence boost this week as one of Scotland's top motivational gurus visited Fort William.

Managing directors rubbed shoulders with apprentices as Jack Black held his two-day 'Mindstore' programme.

The event was organised by Outdoor Capital Limited which hopes to give a confidence boost to businesses and individuals.

The Outdoor Capital's Steve Hamm said: 'We see it as part of our role to set goals for the area and also provide a way we can reach them as well.'

Free places on the event were given to community groups and sports teams.

Jack Black said: 'There are far too many people who do not appreciate what they have got. A lot of people talk Fort William down but they should be proud of the place.'

'If people can get behind the outdoor capital bid and realise the power they have then it's a great opportunity.'

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# A world of opportunity on your doorstep

Oban laboratory at forefront of UK research ... and local people can join in its success

CHILDREN completing secondary school in Argyll have the fabulous opportunity of enrolling for world-class university-level education right on their doorstep at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) laboratories at Dunstaffnage.

The association was founded more than 100 years ago and moved to modest laboratories at Dunstaffnage in the late 1960s. However, with the growing importance of marine science in relation to climate change and the potential clinical implications harboured by marine organisms, SAMS secured funding to build a magnificent new building which opened two years ago and also houses the European Centre for Marine Biotechnology.

The SAMS laboratory now commands the majority share of the UK's marine science research effort and has been strongly supported by Argyll and the Isles Enterprise (AIE).

AIE chief executive Ken Abernethy explained: 'The presence of SAMS at Dunstaffnage has been central to our policy of drawing the life science sector to this beautiful location - a strategy that has proved very successful and we are delighted and proud of the valuable contribution that its presence and its staff make to life in Argyll.'

Many of the news reports on global climate change that we see on our television screens have emerged through work done in Argyll as its

students and staff travel from Oban to the Arctic and Tropics gathering information.

An artificial reef created in Loch Linnhe through co-operation with Foster Yeoman's Glensanda quarry is the largest research reef in Europe and core samples of seabed sediment taken by the laboratory's specially adapted 'lander' apparatus is drawing 30 European scientists to Dunstaffnage in the autumn to discuss the shaping of global policy on seabed disturbance. The UK's entire marine science community will descend on Oban this autumn when SAMS hosts the largest marine science conference in the country.

### Argyll life

The contribution and opportunities presented by the laboratory to its neighbouring communities are often overlooked through the sometimes lofty reputation of anything scientific. However it occupies a much more central role in everyday Argyll life than many would assume.

As well as offering educational opportunities, its 120-strong staff plays an enthusiastic part in the area's drama clubs, sports associations, the lifeboat crew and mountain rescue teams. SAMS also owns a recompression chamber to support its large scientific diving unit. The chamber, operated by scientific personnel, is in frequent use to treat largely sport divers.

One of the most significant aspects of modernising the laboratory, and a result

of a major funding investment by AIE, the European Centre of Marine Biotechnology was set up in a wing of the new building. It has laboratories that can be rented by small developing research-based companies.

The laboratory's impressive, ultra-modern architecture houses scientific capacity fit for its role as the principal research centre for the UHI Millennium Institute.

Since linking up with the UHI, the association has dramatically increased its activities.

'We can now participate in the research assessment exercise,' explained lecturer Anuschka Miller. 'This means our work can be matched against that of other university research centres. This is very important for us as we are about to recruit three professors or



readers onto the staff and these are likely to be people who already have a weighty standing in their fields.'

Two private companies, Glycomar and Aquapharm,

PhD students Susie Cox, left, and Lindsay Vare are both studying at the SAMS base at Dunstaffnage. Currently rent space at the SAMS building, but there is room for some more said Anuschka.

'Argyll and the Isles Enterprise has been very help-

ful for all of us. There is a plan to further develop the area with complementary companies and it makes great sense to share the facilities as it makes them affordable

nursery so that's great for our workforce - many of whom have young children. 'The local shop at Dunbeg comes in at lunchtime and sells home-made soup and sandwiches, which also works very well for all concerned.

When the MacDougall clansmen built Dunstaffnage Castle in 1275 they would have found it hard to envisage the breathtaking technology employed at the SAMS building which dominates the castle's peninsula.

'I think Oban should be proud of SAMS,' said Anuschka. 'This centre is the envy of people from around the world. Scientists here are playing a part in forming some world policy and we're helping to draw some very successful life science companies to the area, but the campus remains accessible and welcoming. Being able to live in Argyll is seen as a definite bonus by staff here and hopefully the wider community feel the same way about the presence of children from local high



Primary seven pupil Duncan Hopkinson from Lochgilheach visited Dunstaffnage with his mum to find out about the fascinating work of marine science.

'This centre is the envy of people around the world'

## Eye to Eye



with

John Wallace

### Free eye-care for all

SATURDAY April 1 2006 sees the dawn of a new style of eye-care in Scotland.

All Scottish residents and anyone with entitlement to NHS care when visiting Scotland are entitled to free eye examinations from this Saturday.

The Scottish Executive has recognised that optometry is a greatly under utilised healthcare profession. From this Saturday you can visit your optometrist not just for a 'sight test' but also if you are having problems with the health of your eyes.

Your optometrist is no longer constrained by outdated rules which meant every patient had to receive a 'sight test' whether needed or not.

Community optometrists in Scotland are now legally allowed to examine your eyes and offer you a 'needs driven' eye examination which might or might not also include a 'sight test'.

For instance you can now consult your optometrist if you have a sore eye or any other eye problem for which you would have previously consulted your GP.

Your optometrist can now examine your eyes, offer advice and treatment, and can re-examine you later to check all is well at no cost to yourself.

Because optometrists are taking on an enhanced role you should find your examination will last typically 30 minutes. You may even be asked to return for additional tests. This is nothing to worry about.

The Scottish Executive is creating a more efficient eye-care pathway so tests that were previously done in hospital can often now be undertaken by your optometrist, thus saving unnecessary referrals to hospital.

There are still limitations as to how often you may have an NHS 'sight test' but if you have problems with the health of your eyes your optometrist is free to examine you on the NHS as necessary.

Next year the revolution in Scottish eye-care continues when some of us will be able to treat a much wider range of eye conditions previously the reserve of your GP.

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## Pilgrimage funds boosted in Oban

THE BANK balance of HCPT The Pilgrimage Trust was boosted by £1,750 following a successful coffee morning in Oban.

The trust, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, takes children with a disability or social or emotional needs on a pilgrimage holiday to Lourdes every Easter.

It costs £540 per child for the trip and around 2,000 children from all over the world take part.

At the coffee morning in the Royal Hotel, a number of youngsters from the Oban area who had previously gone on the trip were in attendance.

John MacKenzie, a fundraiser for the group based in Oban, said: 'We've had lots of children from Oban and Argyll and I have

been a helper on these trips for the past 20 years. There is an HCPT group in Acharacle which does tremendous work and this year it has raised £1,000.

'I would like to thank everyone who supports us. The people in this area are very generous.'

The coffee morning hosted a number of stalls including baking and bottles. Music was provided by Hector MacFadyen and his son Craig on the accordion with Hector's daughter Nicola, a highland dancer, also performing.

To mark its 50th anniversary, local HCPT fund-raisers are organising a ceilidh in the Corran Halls on September 9. World Champion Irish Dance Troop Tara will headline a long list of artists.



Hamish Birt, Eleanor Nicol, Gavin Nicol and John MacKenzie pictured at the HCPT coffee morning to raise funds for the charity's pilgrimage trip to Lourdes. Gavin has been on the trip in the past. t12hct01



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# Race against time to find Port Ellen pitch money

PORT Ellen Primary School hopes to have the island's first all-weather playing surface but faces a race against time to find funding.

The school's award-winning Brilliant Beginnings Committee sourced a company, PlayForce, willing to build the pitch and, in February, quoted the school £35,000 for the work.

The school has been given six months to come up with the money or risk having the price raised when the company issues a new

quote. The school has so far raised £15,000 and has applied for three grants but needs help to raise the remaining money.

It will also include a Timber Trail for the school's pre-5 unit.

**Grants**  
As the school is a council-owned building it is not eligible for the same number of grants other public groups are.

Kath Johnston, principal teacher and chairwoman of the Brilliant Beginnings Committee, said: 'The pressure is on for us to raise

the money before the six months is out.

'The pitch would address everything that is needed in the school grounds.

'I think a playground should be a place to play, a place to learn and a place for wildlife.

'We have a playground which is great for wildlife and learning but we need something to address the active part of it.

'We're happy to get support from anyone either financially or as a helper.'

To raise funds, the school has taken inspiration from

Mull and Iona Swimming Pool Project and has auctioned off a number of island products on e-bay.

Hotels have donated dinner, bed and breakfast packages.

Other donations have come in the form of car hire, rounds of golf and even football strips.

This week the schoolchildren will add to the coffers with a sponsored beach clean.

There have also been generous cash donations from Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, The MacTaggart Fund and Sir John and Lady Caroline MacTaggart.

Should the school raise enough money in the time given the pitch could be ready in August.

Mrs Johnston added: 'To have good school grounds is the way forward because there are so many restrictions on school trips now.

'So it is nice to just go out side and find that resource on your doorstep.'



The group begins the rowing leg of its journey. Picture courtesy of The Ileach

## Islay and Jura distilleries boost charity efforts of intrepid whisky ambassadors

THREE whisky ambassadors spent two days walking, cycling and rowing around Islay and Jura in aid of charity and were greeted as heroes as they visited every distillery on the islands.

The 'Drover's Return Triathlon' was completed by Whisky Magazine editor Dominic Roskrow, former editor Marchin Miller and

Annabel Meikle, who works for the Scotch Malt Whisky Society.

Dominic, speaking after the event, said: 'It was the best thing I have done in this job. We were given so much support by the locals and each distillery gave us 20-year-old malts!

'Near the end, when we were at Laphroaig, they set off the fire alarm to greet us

and at Lagavullin we were given a 1969 malt.

'At Ardbeg they welcomed us with a piper. I am English but I was welling up because we were a bit tired and emotional. I'm not supposed to have favourites but if I had a top 10 the Islay whiskies would be in it.'

The trio began their journey on Jura last

Tuesday and walked the first eight miles of the 63-mile journey to the ferry.

Once on Islay they visited Bunnahabhain and Caol Ila distilleries before cycling to Kilchoman and Bruichladdich. That evening the trio attended a Distillers Dinner at Port Charlotte Hotel. Despite the sunshine, day two began a bit wetter for the trio who travelled

from Bruichladdich to Bowmore by boat. There followed a 12-mile trek to the Port Ellen Maltings before the final leg of the journey, taking in Laphroaig, Lagavullin and Ardbeg. The group hopes to raise money for Make Poverty History. Last year the group walked the Speyside distilleries and raised £5,000 for the cause.

## Top authors make mark on new island summer book festival

BOOKWORMS on Islay are planning one of the island's biggest events this summer with the creation of the Port Ellen Book Festival, June 17-18.

Some of Scotland's top authors, including Bernard MacLaverty, Isla Dewar and Anne MacLeod will be making an appearance.

The inspiration for the festival came after a Port Ellen Book Club won a prize to attend the Edinburgh Book Festival.

The book group had finished second in the national competition but took the prize as runners-up, because the winners were a group residing in Highdown Prison, Surrey.

Maggie Pollard of the book group said: 'We came back from the book festival fired up and we thought, if Edinburgh can do that why can't we?'

There followed a promotional campaign on

the island and the group pulled in the other book group in Port Ellen, made up of teachers from primary schools, and the recently formed book group in Bowmore.

Maggie continued: 'We have a website and we've given out brochures and put up posters.'

'The festival will be held in Port Ellen Primary School over two days and the teachers have taken the idea to their hearts.'

**Decorated**  
'The school will be decorated and will look attractive for the festival.' There will be an adult and children's programme and the weekend will also have a Gaelic element in the role of storytellers.

Until the action begins this summer, the primary school set up a web blog where readers can review books by the visiting authors.

'We've moved from holding a book group where we sit and have a cup of coffee and discuss books to a full blown book festival with all the trappings of a big competition,' said Maggie.

'It has taken on a life of its own but hopefully we will all benefit. It will be two days of fun listening to the authors and hopefully people will want another one next year.'

The festival has added a competitive edge with a short story competition. Bernard MacLaverty, for the adults, and Callum Murray, for a children's section, have written 'starter' sentences to a story.

The competition requires entrants to finish the story. Entry forms can be obtained from C&E Roy's, Bowmore, Port Ellen Post Office or online at 'The Booth'.

## Helping Islay charities make a real difference

CHARITIES on Islay will have the chance to put forward their reasons for needing funds on Tuesday, April 11.

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland is holding the event at Ionad Chalum Chille, Bowmore. Appointments can be made for representatives of an island-based charity to meet and discuss potential projects with an assessor from the foundation.

Appointments can be made between

11am and 6.30pm. To arrange an appointment phone 0870 902 1201.

As well as discussing financial assistance the assessors can give people tips on filling in application forms for grants.

Andrew Muirhead, Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland chief executive, said: 'We are keen to support charities where our grants will make a real difference.'



Monty Python's Michael Palin is behind the Celtic Pillage 2005.

## Globetrotter Michael Palin backs Celtic Pillage event

THE CELTIC Pillage 2005 has been backed this year by Monty Python and globetrotter Michael Palin in a bid to raise £50,000 for a children's charity.

The Pillage Malt is a combination of 12-year-old whiskies from all Islay distilleries as well as Jura and Bushmills Distillery in Northern Ireland.

The Celtic Pillagers, made up of a crew of modern-day Vikings, pillaged each distillery for 40 litres of 12-year-old cask strength whisky.

The whiskies were then left to 'marry' over several months and was bottled at Bruichladdich Distillery last week.

The crew rowed and sailed with their precious cargo to Northern Ireland's Antrim coast, 20 miles from home, in force eight gales across the North Channel.

There are 50 numbered bottles of the exclusive Pillage Malt and

organisers hope to raise £50,000 for Children's Hospice Association of Scotland (CHAS) and the charity based in Northern Ireland.

Mr Palin said: 'This is the drink that gives pillaging a good name.'

'There are few things I'd row through Force eight gales for but a malt whisky from Islay, Jura and Ireland are three of them.'

Mr Palin got a taste of bottle number one.

He said: 'This Pillage malt is terrific stuff.'

'Forget Ambrosia, this is what the gods should be drinking.'

'Never has more trouble been taken to provide a fine whisky.'

'Do whatever you can to pillage the 2005 Pillaged Celtic malt and make a lot of children very happy too.'

Bottles can only be purchased from [www.visit-islay.com/pillage/auction.htm](http://www.visit-islay.com/pillage/auction.htm).

## Disgraceful wrecking scenes at Islay

THE BRIG *Mary Ann*, of Greenock, now lying a wreck at Kilchoman Bay, Islay, is fast breaking up and portions of the cargo floating ashore.

Up to Saturday there had been about 200 boxes saved, containing bottled brandy, whisky and gin, and upwards of six puncheons of whisky, brandy and wine; but the wildest scenes of drunkenness and riot that can be imagined took place.

**Fishermen**  
Hundreds of people flocked from all parts of the neighbourhood, especially the Portnahaven fishermen, who turned out to a man.

Boxes were seized as soon as they were landed, broken up, and the contents carried away and drunk.

Numbers could be seen here and there lying amongst the rocks, unable to move, while others were fighting like savages.

**'Boxes were seized as soon as they were landed, broken up, and the contents carried away and drunk.'**

The following article is taken from the Greenock Advertiser of May 27, 1859. Corresponding police log books verify the story.

The article was made available by Murdo MacDonald who will retire from the post of Argyll and Bute Council archivist tomorrow (Friday).

Sergeant James Kennedy and constable Colin Chisholm, of the County Police, were in attendance, and used every means in their power to put a stop to the work of pillage.

**Disapproval**  
They succeeded in keeping some order during the day of Thursday, but when night came on the natives showed evident symptoms of their disapproval of the police being there at all, and on the

latter preventing a fellow from knocking the end out of a puncheon, in order, as he said, to 'treat all hands', they were immediately seized upon by the mob and a hand-to-hand fight ensued, which lasted half-an-hour, and ended in defeat for the police of whom there were only two against 30 to 40 of the natives.

**Retreat**  
The police beat a retreat to Cuil Farm - about a mile from the scene of action - closely pursued by about 30 of the natives, yelling like savages.

Mrs Simpson of Cuil, on seeing the state of matters, took the police into the

house and secured the doors, at the same time placing arms at their disposal for their protection. The mob yelled two or three times round the house, but learning the police had firearms, they left and returned to the beach.

**Frightful**  
Next morning the scene presented was still more frightful to contemplate.

In one place there lay stretched the dead body of a large and powerful man, Donald McPhayden, a fisherman from Portnahaven, who was considered the strongest man in Islay; but the brandy proved to be still stronger. He has left a wife and family.

Others apparently in a dying state were being conveyed to the nearest houses, where every means were used to save life.

**Remedy**  
Mrs Simpson, who is a very kind and humane person, supplied every remedy, but there was no medical man within 15 or 16 miles of the place.

Mr James Simpson got a coffin made for McPhayden and had him interred on Friday.

At the time when the corpse was being taken away, some groups could be seen fighting, others dancing, and others craving for drink, in order, as they said, to bury the man decently.

Up to Saturday there was only one death, but it was reported on Monday that two more had died.

**Cargo**  
The *Mary Ann* had on board 300 tonnes of pig-iron, a large quantity of spirits, and other general cargo, from Glasgow to New Brunswick.

Shortly after going to sea she became leaky, put to Dublin, where she discharged, and got repaired.

**Abandoned**  
Going to sea again, she sprang a leak off the west coast of Islay, the wind blowing fresh off the land; and Captain Pryce, finding the vessel in a sinking state and quite unmanageable, along with the crew, abandoned the vessel.

The wind veering round to the west-ward, a fisherman picked her up and ran into Kilchoman Bay, where she sank in shallow water.

Donald McPhayden's death notice gives the cause of death as 'intoxication'.

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# LOOK AT OBAN



## Literary forum for Argyll pupils

A ONE-DAY literary forum is to take place in Oban on Wednesday June 14 for second and third year pupils from around Argyll, thanks to a grant from the National Lottery's Awards for All scheme.

The pupils will take part in an exercise designed to shadow the Carnegie Medal for Children's Literature.

Once the shortlist for the medal has been announced, groups of readers from each school will be allocated a number of books to read.

They will then form virtual book clubs to discuss the merits of all the books. The readers' groups will then meet for a seminar and joint discussion, with talks from a past winner and a Carnegie judge also planned for the day.

In the past the pupils have used video conferencing for inter-school discussions but this year, thanks to the £4,610 grant for travel, accommodation and food for students and speakers, the youngsters will be brought together in Oban at the Corran Halls.

'Argyll and Bute covers such a large area that this will also present a rare opportunity to bring pupils together,' said spokesperson for education Councillor Dick Walsh. 'The discussion forums will not only offer intellectual stimulation but the additional benefits of interaction and socialising,' he added.

Big Lottery Fund Director for Scotland Dharmendra Kanani said: 'This is a fantastic initiative which recognises that supporting young people to develop important reading and analytical skills at an early age is vital for their future development.'

## Oban man fined £200 after admitting fighting in pub

AN OBAN man has been fined after he admitted assaulting another man in an Oban public house.

Alan James Goodbrand MacDougall, aged 22, 11 Mossfield Drive, and his cousin, co-accused Jenna Craik, aged 21, Flat 2/1, 903 Govan Road, Glasgow, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last Tuesday.

MacDougall pled guilty to assaulting James Stewart at Oban Police Office, by punching him in the face to his injury on September 11 last year.

Craik, who is on probation, pled guilty to violently resisting arrest and struggling with police officers.

Prosecutor Fiscal Clifford Most said: 'Mr Stewart was

in the pub socialising with his friends. At around 10pm the accused walked in the premises and approached the bar next to him.

'After an altercation the accused punched Mr Stewart who sustained a bleeding nose.

'They were both put out of the pub as a consequence and further events occurred

where police were involved in an incident with Jenna Craik.'

Defence agent Edward Thornton, representing MacDougall, said: 'My client and the victim had an incident some three years ago which had not been forgotten.'

Mr Stewart reminded him of the incident and asked

him to step outside for a fight. Mr Stewart made some other comments and my client punched him and was ejected. It was out of character and a momentary lapse.'

Eugene Boyle, defence agent for Craik, said: 'My client was in the company of Mr MacDougall but had nothing to do with the inci-

dent. When she saw some kind of altercation she was keen to go home. Police officers wanted to speak to her but there were problems arresting her, which were sorted quite quickly.'

Sheriff Douglas Small told MacDougall: 'There was a background to this incident as there was previous animosity between

yourself and Mr Stewart but you can't just go about fighting with people in pubs.'

In fining MacDougall £200 Sheriff Small said: 'Don't come back into this court again.'

Sentence was deferred on Craik until the end of her probation period on February 6 for her to be of good behaviour.

The Oban Times  
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## New car and motorbike club launched for Oban and Lorn

THE FIRST official car club in Oban and Lorn for around 70 years is making tracks.

Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club is for anyone interested in old vehicles or stationary engines.

The last time a group such as this was formed in the 1930s when the Motorcycle and Light

Vehicle Club catered for car and engine enthusiasts.

Chairman of the new group Ken Munro said: 'It is something we have needed for a while.'

**Travel**  
'Because of where we live we all have to travel to events and most of us are members of other clubs. 'We thought we could

gain by having a local thing and we can exchange ideas or help someone in the club who needs to repair or rebuild a car or bike.'

The club welcomes vehicles of all types but you don't need to own an old vehicle to join.

Cars range in age and style and so far include a Morris Minor, Ford Anglia

Triumph TR3, a Lagonda Special, Austin 12 Open Road Tourer, a Mercedes and even a French military jeep.

**Engines**  
Ken added: 'We're trying to encourage people with old tractors and stationary engines as well.'

The club is non-profit making and will donate any

money raised to a local charity.

The 30 members meet in the Lancaster Hotel once a month and also produce a monthly newsletter.

This weekend club members are travelling to Lanark to attend a car sale. The club hopes to organise a car show in Oban next year.



Oban and District Classic Vehicle Club members with their vehicles including Ken Munro's 1954 BSA B-31 motorbike, Peter Weir's Lagonda Special from 1934 and Iain Campbell's Austin 12 Open Road Tourer, also from 1934, which is the only one in Scotland. t12car02

## Marie Curie's daffodil appeal



The Great Daffodil Appeal run by Marie Curie Cancer Care saw thousands of volunteers across the UK raise money for the cause. In Oban, staff from The Royal Bank of Scotland collected money at the Co-op. In return for donations the staff gave out daffodil pins. Doing their bit for the cancer charity are Penny Logan and Pauline Evans from The Royal Bank of Scotland. t12can01

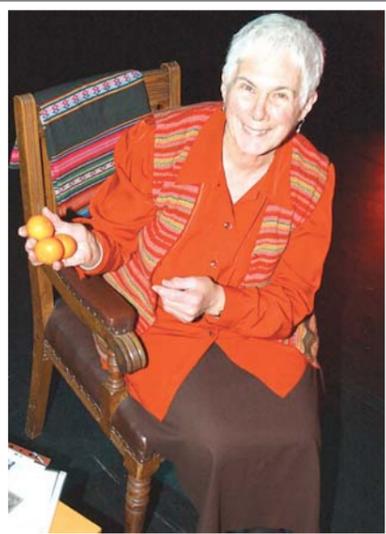
## Jan tells her tales of travel

PEACE monitor Jan Sutch Pickard, from Mull, was in Oban last week to tell tales of her recent exploits in Palestine and other stories.

As a member of the Scottish Storytelling Network, Jan told a small but enthralled audience at the Studio Theatre in the Corran Halls a number of stories about her three months with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel.

She also told tales from other parts of the world, including her home and Iona, where she is a member of the Iona Community. The stories varied from the traditional and true to the sad, silly and serious and were told in a variety of prose and verse with the odd prop to help the imagination conjure up the pictures her stories painted. Comparisons could be drawn between the fate of the Palestinian people and those affected by the Highland Clearances.

At other points Jan made connections between the



Jan Sutch Pickard at the Corran Halls in Oban. t11jan02

journeys in old stories and significant journeys people undertake today.

Working for justice and peace, Jan said that at points while preparing to travel to the Middle East, she felt small, inadequate and slightly ridiculous - a bit like a hobbit. Hence the title of her story evening - There and Back Again - after J R R Tolkien's famous hobbit Bilbo Baggins.

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# LEISURE TIMES

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

2.00 and 7.30 EVERY DAY - INCLUDING SUNDAY

**ICE AGE 2: The Meltdown**  
U 90 minutes

1.45 and 7.15 EVERY DAY - INCLUDING SUNDAY  
**DENNIS QUAID and RENE RUSSO FAMILY COMEDY**

**YOURS, MINE AND OURS**  
PG 88 minutes

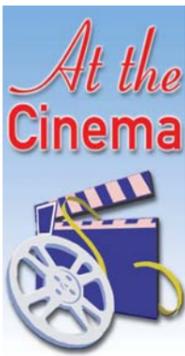
**STUDIO CINEMA** 01397 705095  
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

7.15 DAILY (inc. SUNDAY) - 2.15 SATURDAY MATINEE  
**FBI AGENT DISGUISED AS OVERWEIGHT NANNY**

**Big Momma's House 2**  
PG 99 minutes

7.30 DAILY (inc. SUNDAY) - 2.30 SATURDAY MATINEE  
**THE GEORGE CLOONEY USA WITCH-HUNT MOVIE**

**Goodnight, and Good Luck**  
PG 93 minutes



Movies from Friday 31st March

**ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN**  
Oban and UK Premiere:  
U Certificate - 90 Minutes  
**OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE**  
2.00 and 7.30 every day (including Sunday) from FRIDAY

Our trio of heroes are still together and enjoying the perks of a melting world.

**Manny** is ready to start a family, but nobody has seen another mammoth for years! **Manny** thinks he might be the last in his line until he miraculously discovers **Ellie**, voiced by **Queen Latifah**, who just happens to be the only female mammoth left in the world!

There is a problem however in this possible relationship, as they both dislike each other! **Ellie** somehow thinks she is a possum, as she has two possum 'brothers', voiced by **Seann William Scott** and **Josh Peck**. The two 'brothers' are however a couple of daredevil pranksters and somewhat difficult troublemakers.

Friends **Manny**, **Sid** and **Diego** quickly discover that the warming climate has one dangerous drawback as a huge glacial dam, holding oceans of water, is about to burst and threaten their entire valley. Their only chance for survival exists at the other end of the valley so our three heroes, together with **Ellie**, **Crash** and **Eddie** form the strangest family group ever. They embark on a dangerous adventure, across an ever changing and increasingly more perilous landscape, towards their end-of-valley salvation.

In **'The Meltdown'**, we also encounter the continuing misadventures of **Scratt**, who has a larger role than ever, in yet another very exciting animation adventure, under the masterful direction of **Carlos Saldanha**, with the additional star voices of **Ray Romano**, **John Lequizaro** and **Denis Leary**.

## YOURS, MINE AND OURS

Oban and UK Premiere:  
PG Certificate  
88 Minutes  
**OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE**  
1.45 and 7.15 every day (including Sunday) from Friday.

In a new outstanding family comedy, **Frank Beardsley (Dennis Quaid)**, a widower with eight children, meets school sweetheart **Helen North (Rene Russo)**, a widow with ten children, including six she and her husband adopted. They decide to tie the knot, but without telling the children!

Unfortunately for **Frank** and **Helen**, the two family groups do not mesh together as easily as the newlyweds hoped.

When it appears the plot has succeeded, the children realise they like each other, despite their differences.

In the end, they don't want the families to split but the question then arises - can they now save **Frank** and **Helen's** marriage, after so brilliantly splitting them?

## BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE 2

PG Certificate  
99 Minutes  
**FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA**  
7.15 Daily (including Sunday) from Friday - 2.15 Saturday Matinee

**Big Momma** is back in an hilarious sequel to the highly successful first **Big Momma** outing, with stand-up comic **Martin Lawrence** as an FBI field agent disguising himself as a fat old lady, to chase and catch the villains.

Great family fun this time around as he works under cover as an obese nanny, in the suspect's home, to avert a national security disaster - only to find himself (or maybe herself!) becoming attached to the three children of the highly dysfunctional clan.

## GOODNIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK

PG Certificate  
93 Minutes  
**FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA**  
7.30 daily (including Sunday) from Friday - 2.30 Saturday Matinee

**George Clooney** directs a great movie, set in the time of the communist USA witch hunts of the 1950s. Legendary broadcaster **Edward R Murrow** (played by **David Strathairn**), decides to risk his high reputation and career, as a news man, to battle 'live on the radio' with the great tyrannical witch-finder himself, one **Senator Joe McCarthy**.



The organisers, trophy presenter Janice Cameron, Duror, adjudicator Silvie Taylor and winners in the North Lorn Drama Festival

## Full house brings curtain down on North Lorn Drama Festival at Appin

IT WAS a packed Appin Village Hall on the final night of the North Lorn Drama Festival with the audience witnessing another night of performance.

The festival which ran over three nights saw 11 teams from Dalnally, Taynuilt, North Connell and Appin performing in the adult, youth and primary categories.

It was a one-two for Appin in the adult competition with Appin 'B' beating off Appin 'A' to win the Honorary Mrs Langton Jones Trophy. Appin A picked up the Director's Cup as runners-up and the H J Dobson Trophy for their production.

The adjudicator's Award in the shape of the Jack and Mavis Skea Trophy was presented to Duror and Kentallen.

In the youth competition it was Taynuilt and District which picked up the North Lorn District Council Cup as winners while Strath of Appin Primary School won the primary competition. The adjudicator Silvie Taylor from Broughty Ferry

was impressed with the calibre of performance. She said: 'The festival was a joy from start to finish and drama is alive and well in North Lorn.'

Appin Youth Drama Club was the youth runners-up with Lochnell Primary School the primary runners-up. The Mr and Mrs Hugh Grant Award for Special Endeavour went to Lochnell Primary School. It was also a very long night for Douglas MacKenzie of Port Appin who was on hand to capture the festival winners at the end of a long night of drama and allowed them to take their positions in front of the camera just before the witching hour.



£1,215 was raised at Park Primary School's annual daffodil tea with around 200 visitors enjoying an Easter bonnet parade and egg decorating competition.

## Chaffinches comes top of Argyll birdwatchers' tree

SPOTTING a sparrow in Oban may be common, but Argyll's birdwatchers are most likely to see a chaffinch in their garden, a new survey has revealed.

RSPB Scotland organised the world's biggest ever bird survey in January, encouraging twitchers across the country to watch what birds landed in their gardens.

The survey found that the chaffinch is the most common bird in Scotland, with an average of 5.46 per garden. This result was repeated in Argyll, where an average of 9.23 chaffinches landed in each garden during the survey.

Argyll's second most common garden bird is the blue tit, with an average of 3.58 per garden. House sparrows, blackbirds, great tits, coal tits, greenfinches, robins, starlings and dunnocks completed the top 10. More than 28,000 people across Scotland participated in the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch. The annual event aims to establish which are the most common garden birds.

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**COMMUNITY Noticeboard**

At the heart of the community for 91 years

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club  
**MONTHLY CLUB NIGHT**  
McTavish's Kitchens  
Thursday 6th April at 8pm  
All players welcome  
Special Guest Artist **Ian Hutson** and his **Scottish Dance Band**  
Admission £3  
Come along and enjoy the music

**SAHARA CHALLENGE TEAM CAR BOOT SALE**  
In aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief  
11am - 3pm  
Co-op Car Park, Oban  
Sunday 2nd April  
Cars/Table £5  
No booking - just turn up

Oban RNLI Fundraising Branch  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
Royal Hotel  
Argyll Square, Oban  
Saturday 1st April  
10.30 - 12 noon  
Ticket £1.50 adults  
Cake Stall

**KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM**  
Children's Holiday Workshops  
Thursday 6th April  
Woodland Wizards  
10 till noon or 2 till 4pm  
Friday 7th April  
Paper Making  
10 till noon or 2 till 4pm  
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)

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
**OPEN MEETING**  
to receive final report of A Heritage Interpretation and Visitor Management Strategy  
Friday 7 April 2006  
Port Appin Hall  
7.30pm

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain  
**Local Interest Evening**  
FATHER SYDNEY MACEVAN and DUNCAN MORRISON  
A musical partnership  
Talk (in English) with slides and recordings  
By Bill Innes  
Free High Church Hall, Oban  
Fri 31st March at 7.30pm  
Tea & Biscuits  
Admission £3

North Argyll House  
**DAFFODIL TEA**  
in the house  
Thursday 6th April  
2.30pm  
Stalls, Raffle, Flowers, Baking.  
Tea £1.50

COMUNN GÀIDHEALACH AN OBAIN  
**COFFEE MORNING**  
Saturday 1st April  
10am - 12 noon  
Congregational Church Hall  
Oban

**Kids Art Classes**  
Wednesday 5th and 12th April  
Ages 4-7  
11.30 - 12.30  
ages 7 - 11  
2pm - 3pm  
£3  
Book on 01688 302211  
An Tobar Arts Centre  
Tobermory, Isle of Mull

Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Lorn (Argyll) Branch  
Get fit for Summer Fun  
**Scottish Country Dancing Beginners' Class**  
Wednesday 19th April  
Church of Scotland Centre, Oban  
8pm - 10pm - £3 per class  
Details from Sue Porter  
Tel 01631 563103

Highland & Islands Music & Dance Festival  
Tickets For.....  
**Scottish Choreography Challenge**  
**Scottish Area Highland Dancing Finals**  
**Accordian & Fiddle Masters**  
(Tel 07768 155 282)  
**Festival Dance Concert of Champions**  
(Corran Halls 01631 567333)  
on sale 3rd April

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

## forthcoming events

**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  
**Friday 26th May** AGM at 7.00pm Helensburgh and District Highland Association. DANCE at 8.00pm. Band - Willie Paterson. Contact John Wilson. Tel 01389 841208  
**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  
**Friday 30th June** at 8.00pm Helensburgh and District Highland Association DANCE: Band - Donnie & Diane. Contact John Wilson 01389 841205  
**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

Your Stars with **Patrick Arundell**

**ARIES** The great news this week is that stern Saturn ends a backward journey which has lasted since last November. It may have brought some benefits - if you have been able to become more self-disciplined about keeping fit, or shaping your talents constructively, but on the whole you should experience a pick-up in vitality. Romance is another area that can become lighter. For more, please call me.

**TAURUS** If you have found yourself having to call in the builders over the winter months or have been actively involved in a renovation project yourself, it would be understandable. And, as much as this potential can ease off now, working on the structures in your world, physical and emotional, is going to continue to be a theme for some while. Pottering in the garden can appeal now though. For more, please call me.

**GEMINI** Has it seemed that people have been quick to challenge your ideas and self expression? This may not have been easy for you, who can be the consummate communicator. Things can slacken off a little now. However, if you have been learning new skills, even if it has been a slog you could be close to the point where you can feel something is coming together - something really solid. For more, please call me.

**CANCER** Putting down roots can come about in a number of ways. And perhaps you have been actively trying to firm-up yours. All this may also require you to count the pennies, to be a little more prudent. Then again, if you enjoy woodwork, pottery, walking nature trails, conservation or wildlife these can all be things that you connect with the earth. Feeling grounded is the key. For more, please call me.

**LEO** Of late, there has been a real desire for expansion bubbling up within you. Yet has there just been a little voice within you that has prevented you from really taking off? If so, this is likely to be less of a case now. In fact the real adventurer in you could be aroused. However, it is still going to be important, to not spread your activities too thinly. Retain your focus. For more, please call me.

**VIRGO** Even if not all the time, have you experienced a sense of isolation over the winter months? Or have you been plagued by past issues or sensitive data coming to the surface within you? If so take heart, things can get easier. This will however, be especially the case if you've actively been grappling with such dilemmas. The more you know them, the less important they will become. For more, please call me.

**LIBRA** If there have been strains in certain associations, it may be because you're changing. Your expectations and future hopes are also slowly but powerfully altering. With your ruler Venus also shifting this week some bright prospects are possible on the job front. Moreover romantically, if you have recently become smitten, now you can really acquaint yourself with your new partner. For more, please call me.

**SCORPIO** Extra responsibility may have headed your way in the last five months, but then again you may have walked away from this kind of weighty load. Now you can start to make sense of what's what. And with Venus moving into the most glorious of zones, things are about to get a lot sweeter for you. In fact romantically, the next month can be very auspicious - especially later on in April. For more, please call me.

**SAGITTARIUS** Earlier in March you may have had some improvements done, now you can find yourself wanting to beautify things. Found yourself with your nose in books or reference manuals during the winter months? You took the chance to bone up on valuable new knowledge. If stuff like this had little appeal, at least you can become a little bit more open to influences and new ideas. For more, please call me.

**CAPRICORN** Your ruler Saturn, at last ends a very long backward journey. You may have got down to brass tacks around business and long term finances but there may have also been some strains in close relationships. This has all been shaping a more realistic outlook and of all the signs, you may have managed this best. Yet you can welcome the sociable vibes Venus ushers in this week. For more, please call me.

**AQUARIUS** Not all the responses you've had since last Autumn have necessarily been pleasant. Be it in a relationship context, in business or in terms of your energy, you may have felt "up against it" and had to work very hard at these areas. Slowly, unhelpful factors have unwound from this equation and another one fades this week. You can feel less burdened and become better off too! For more, please call me.

**PISCES** As April unfolds, take great heart. The Spring is emerging and with it you can find your physical vitality reviving and discover that plans can start to power forwards. A niggling health issue can also fade. With Venus moving into your own sign, your popularity can soar too. Most of all you can feel better within your self, more attractive and get a buzz from getting out and about. For more, please call me.

For your detailed forecast call your number above.  
Calls cost 60p per minute at all times  
Visit - [www.patrickarundell.com](http://www.patrickarundell.com)

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

**Thursday 30th and Friday 31st March**  
Argyll Youth Theatre Group, Corran Halls, Oban, 7.30 pm. Tickets £5 and £3

**Friday 31st March**  
Battle of the Bands, Portree Community Centre, 7.30 pm. Free transport and admission [www.cuillinfm.co.uk](http://www.cuillinfm.co.uk)

**Saturday 1st April**  
Smokie in Concert Corran Halls 7.30pm

**Sunday 2nd April**  
Car Boot Sale, Taynuilt Village Hall, 1.30 pm

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

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

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

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

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## National nature reserves move closer

TWO OF Scotland's most remote National Nature Reserves are now a little bit closer for study thanks to the publication of new Gaelic/English leaflets.

John has visited all four Western Isles NNRs many times. The other two are St Kilda and Loch Druidibeg, South Uist.

subject of a long-term research project. Up to four families lived here until 1844 and the remains of human settlement go back to early Christian times.

David MacLennan, area manager for the Western Isles, said: 'Three of our NNRs are remote and difficult to access so SNH has to be innovative about how we can bring them closer to the general public.'

Leaflets about Loch Druidibeg in South Uist and St Kilda - the most visited of the four Hebridean National Nature Reserves - were published some years ago.

## Fort William library hosts art exhibition

AN EXHIBITION of artwork by children and older people from throughout Lochaber is to be held in Fort William Library from today.

The exhibition shows some of the work and photographs from a year long project run by The Artexchange, a community artists' group in Lochaber.

The group received funding to run a programme of workshops in playgroups, after school care and nurseries and in older peoples care settings throughout the area.

The aim of the project was to develop pre-school and primary children's natural creativity and enhance the childcarers skills to enable further arts activities and new ideas to develop.

Project co-ordinator Helen Michie said: 'We are delighted with the response to the project. The young children and older people that have taken part in the project have been brilliant with some fantastic work being produced.'

Alastair said the society has been better than anticipated and there was a core audience of around 80 people at every monthly concert.

## Craignish's new hall exceeds expectations

SINCE it opened last November, the number of events and activities which have taken place in Craignish Village Hall have exceeded all expectations.

Argyll College courses in computing and digital photography, circuit training, felting workshops, Scottish country dancing, tai chi, yoga and whist have all been running over the winter, while the parent and toddler group and the school also make full use of the facility.

The limitations of the old hall had meant that several organisations had had to close down, among them the sports and recreation club. This has now been resurrected and an enthusiastic group of adults and children have been meeting weekly to play badminton and table tennis.

Although some organisations are now winding down for the summer, others are starting up, in particular 'FACTory', a children's drama club which starts straight after Easter.

In addition to the regular activities, the village hall committee has organised a full programme of events which will run throughout the year.

Coming up Coming shortly will be Garlic Theatre's puppet show 'The Three Billy Goat's Gruff' on April 6 followed by well known singer Heather Macleod and her band 'The Healthy Measures' on April 8.

The appearance on April 21 of Bonny 'Prince' Billy (aka Will Oldham), is causing great excitement, with people coming to Ardfern for the gig from as far afield as Denmark, Holland, Ireland and the south of England.

Everyone who supported the hall during its construction should be delighted that their generosity has resulted in such a fantastic facility for the community.

Details of all events in the village hall can be found at www.craignishvillagehall.org.uk



The pipers before Nether Lorn Piping Society's final winter concert. 113pi01

## Nether Lorn pipers host final night before summer break

THE FINAL monthly night of piping before the summer break saw the Nether Lorn Piping Society cap an excellent winter of entertainment.

The society's monthly meeting in the Argyllshire

Gathering Halls saw Ian Hurst, Ian Donaldson, Ian MacIntyre, Struan Thorpe and Alastair Currie pipe as well as young piping talent from Lorn.

Society president Alastair Dewar said money raised

during the winter was being put towards equipment for Oban High School's pipe band and a drums instructor was also actively being sought.

The society will now aim to direct any revenue it pro-

duces towards Oban Pipe Band.

Alastair said the society has been better than anticipated and there was a core audience of around 80 people at every monthly concert.



More than 80 fiddlers crammed the stage at the Corran Halls for the 60th Fiddlers Rally 113fid01

## Fiddlers play to crowded house

THE SIXTY-second fiddlers' rally in Oban's Corran Halls was as spectacular as ever when more than 80 fiddlers took to the stage for a three-hour concert.

As well as around 50 fiddle players from the Oban Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society, which hosts the event every year, there were around 30 additional fiddlers crammed on to the stage on Saturday evening from more than 15 societies from as far

as Aberdeen, Lochaber, Inverness, Stirling, the Borders and Mull.

Joining the fiddlers on stage were six accordionists and two double bass players as well as soloists and guest artistes Maurice Duncan on fiddle and Mod gold medallist Paul MacCallum.

Ably introducing each set to a packed and appreciative audience in the Corran halls was chairman of the

proceedings and president of the society Peter MacLeod. Mr MacLeod described the event as being a 'tight squeeze' and said, 'A capacity audience in the Corran Halls enjoyed a feast of traditional Scottish music ranging from hundred year old pipe music to a new Maurice Duncan composition getting its first airing.'

To set the feet tapping the evening started off with a

number of jigs, followed by a couple of polkas. There were Welsh tunes for a bit of variety and of course Gaelic waltzes like An-t-Eilean Muileach and An Cluinu Leannain.

There was also the chance for the audience to sing along, after they had wetted their whistles at the interval, with songs such as The Wild Rover and Green Glens of Antrim. The evening was completed with some rousing reels and the classic Auld Lang Syne.

The society anticipates that a summer weekend tour will take place on Iona in May.

## Embrace set to play Oban

TOP INDIE band Embrace are set to play in Oban next week, two years after being on the verge of splitting up.

The group, who spent time unemployed after their early success dried up, made a successful return to the charts with the release of a track written by Coldplay singer

Chris Martin called Gravity.

Embrace singer Danny McNamara said he and his bandmates were looking forward to a 'complete change of scene' in performing in Oban.

Embrace will play Corran Halls on April 8.

The Oban Times HOTLINE IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE, CALL US ON OBAN 01631 568000 FORT WILLIAM 01397 703003 WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

PARTY INVITATIONS Formal or funny, we will personalise them to your requirements Contact us at: Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Burnside Street, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6JD Tel: 01586 554975 Fax: 01586 554903

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID PET OF THE WEEK Mickey Very friendly, neutered boy. Has only one eye but the other works well! Please contact Pat on 01852 300362 aaa.rescueteam@btopenworld.com www.smallpaws.co.uk

Smokie LIVE IN CONCERT SATURDAY 1ST APRIL Corran Halls Tickets £18.50 & £16.50 Available from the Corran Halls box office TEL: 01631 567 333

## SINGING KETTLE COMPETITION



The Oban Times have two sets of family tickets to give away for The Singing Kettle's show at The Corran Hall's on Saturday April 22nd. Two lucky winners will each receive a family ticket, DVD and Singing Kettle funpack and one runner up will receive a DVD and a funpack.

Answer..... Name..... Address..... Tel No.....

## THE SINGING KETTLE WORD SEARCH

Word search grid for 'Old MacDonald's Farm 2006' with letters B, O, N, Z, O, R, T, B, V, C, E, Y.

- Find the following words: Singing Cilla, Kettle Artie, Old Gary, Macdonalds Kevin, Farm Bonzo, Tractor Farmer, Animals Songs

the Singing Kettle OLD MACDONALD'S FARM Join the Singing Kettle's Cilla, Artie, Gary and Kevin for their brand new show 'Old MacDonald's Farm'.

Come along to... ATLANTIS LEISURE AT ATLANTIS LEISURE THIS EASTER 3RD - 14TH APRIL 06 There are lots of different activities available to keep the kids active this Easter.



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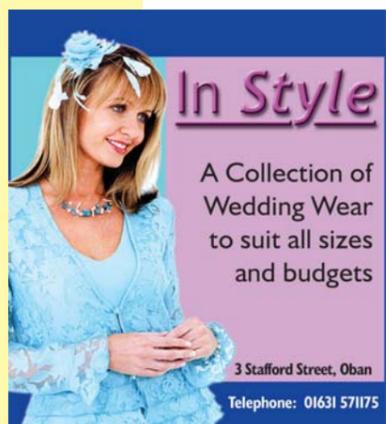
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# Your Spring Wedding



## FUNCTION ROOM RECEPTIONS

When selecting a venue for the reception it is essential to choose one that is not only the right size for the gathering but also one that provides the right facilities and service. Size of the facility is of prime importance because there is absolutely nothing worse than a small gathering of say twenty or thirty folk, rattling around in a hall big enough for a couple of hundred. By the same token, if there's insufficient room for all who arrive, things can be

or the ventilation if that is more appropriate. Look at the seating. It should be comfortable enough to make sitting for an hour or more, comfortable for all concerned. If children are attending, find out if baby chairs are provided or whether it will be necessary for parents to bring their own. Finally, if a buffet is being ordered, do make sure there will be sufficient tables and chairs for those who so wish to sit down to eat. Many elderly guests will neither wish nor be able, to stand balancing a full plate whilst also attempting to eat.



The Argyllshire Gathering Halls

just as uncomfortable. So when you are looking around for the right venue be sure you know within a very few, how many guests will be attending. Of course this does mean you will have to decide well in advance how large a gathering you want at the wedding. You will of course be bounded by the budget set on the event. To help you decide on the final numbers, you will find most functions caterers provide a series of menus at a price per head so you can easily calculate the eventual cost. And this applies whether you are ordering a buffet, or a full, multi-course, sit-down meal. Having decided on the numbers to be invited, have a look at the facilities provided by the caterer. The functions room should be comfortable and well appointed. There should be easy access to toilet facilities and a secure cloakroom. There should be a fully serviced bar within the room or in a room set aside for your party's exclusive use, and there must be good parking facilities. Look around the room and make sure the heating provision will be adequate,

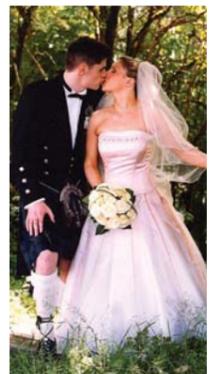
## CATERERS

As it's obvious the caterers hold the key to a successful wedding reception, it's also obvious that a great deal of care has to be taken in the selection. If you book the reception at a hotel or other catering facility with a functions suite, you will normally be expected to accept the catering supplied in-house by the establishment. If you opt for a community or village hall of course, your choice becomes wider as there is generally no in-house catering to call upon. When catering is not automatically supplied you have either to look towards outside or party caterers, or do the job yourself. Success of the DIY operation depends very much on the experience and expertise of the people involved. Usually in the case of weddings, such catering is supplied by the bride's mother with the help of one or more close friends or relatives. The big problem here is, no matter how expert she may be at catering, even if the whole thing goes with a huge swing, she will be so tied up in the arrangements, she will have little time to enjoy her daughter's wedding or bask in the glow of being an important player in the performance. She will also have the unenviable task of clearing away afterwards. Better by far to leave the whole business to outside caterers, who have not only the expertise but also the equipment for catering on a very large scale. The matter of equipment is of course important, but more important still is the need for extra tables and

chairs perhaps, plus table linen, cutlery, crockery and glassware. Usually the caterer can arrange this. Then there is the service. Preparing food is one thing, serving it with care and delicacy is another. Outside caterers will usually be able to bring an army of staff to serve, wait-on, and best of all, clear up and wash up when it's all over. Another consideration for the reception is the bar. Most catering establishments will provide bar and service. At the village hall or in the marquee in the garden, this will not be so. A local publican will usually be happy to provide and man the bar, to make sure the glasses are always ready and clean, the drinks are properly dispensed, and again, cleared tidily away afterwards. Whatever you do however, wherever you decide to hold the reception, get the caterers booked up fast, before they get book up elsewhere.

## PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOS

The fact that for most couples, their wedding day will be a unique event in their lives means they will want perfect, professionally produced photographs to keep as mementoes.



Anthony MacMillan Photography.

By the same token, it is increasingly becoming important to have a video recording of the proceedings as well. Again they will want that video to be expertly produced. Unless one or other of the couple has a professional photographer or video cameraperson within the family or their circle of friends, they will be relying on professionals. And well they might if they really want the best record of this precious event. Of course they may well want to economise on some areas of the

wedding. It is however, most unwise to choose the photography as that area. Apart from the fact that very few amateurs have the equipment, expertise and flair to take first class photographs, or to film a really professional video, it isn't really fair to place this burden upon the shoulders of a well-meaning friend or relative whose very nervousness might well interfere with their artistic capabilities. Nor is it very sensible because the occasion, once over, can never really be repeated, and a moment lost is truly lost forever. It is therefore vitally

important to select the right photographer and cameraperson for the job. The best artists in this field tend to get booked up a long way in advance, and so the first intimation you may get of their popularity is the fact you cannot book them.

There are several ways of finding good photographers. Personal recommendation by someone whose taste and judgement you trust, is one. Most advertise in the local press or in trade directories. The competence or otherwise of these you may only judge by examining samples of their work which will normally be displayed in their studio. Always ask to see the photographer's brochure. This should give details of prices and the various services on offer. Specialist in weddings will often offer package deals which may include proofs ready for examination before the reception is finished, a certain number of prints of various sizes and an album. They may also offer special prices for additional numbers of prints for those guests who wish to place an order. Frequently the photographer will be able to organise the video recording, again the couple will want to see a sample of work, to know the cost, and will wish to be assured more than one copy of the film may be had. A set of carefully composed, well mounted colour prints of a wedding plus an entertaining, well filmed video, make for wonderful memories over the years. So leave nothing to chance and have those visual recordings produced only by proven professionals.

## WEDDING CAKES

In times gone by, it was the custom to bake a large number of small cakes for a wedding.



Oban Chocolate Company.

They were then thrown at the bride after the ceremony, or as she entered her new home. During the Commonwealth, this custom fell into disrepute as it was thought too frivolous. After the Restoration however, it returned, though by now, the French habit of covering a pile of cakes with marzipan was in the ascendant. This whole confection was actually broken over the bride's head after the ceremony. The little cakes would then shower out to be enjoyed by all who could grab one. Over the years, the many cakes gradually became one large cake, and by the 19th century, the one single cake had become several cakes arranged in tiers in descending size. These tiers too have a tradition all their own. The bottom one is for the wedding, the second for the Christening, and the third for the first anniversary.

The cutting of the cake symbolises the co-habitation of the couple and their sharing of domestic responsibilities. Cakes or similarly baked confections seem to be a universal symbol of marriage. They appear in some guise in virtually every culture in the world today. The cake is the focal point of the reception. It stands magnificent awaiting the moment when the ceremonial cutting takes place toward the end of the reception. It is the last thing the guests eat and is washed down with the final toast. Wedding cakes in this country are very rich fruit cakes covered with marzipan and royal icing. Over this is piped decorative icing in intricate

designs. Making such a cake is no job for an enthusiastic amateur. The mixture has to be right or the cake will taste like a pudding. The icing has to be right or the cake will look a mess.

Go to your favourite bakery and ask to see their cake brochure, most bakers have one. Choose the cake that appeals both to your eye and your pocket. However, tell the baker how many guests will be receiving a piece and how many pieces you intend to send away. He or she will then be able to recommend the right size to order. Make sure the baker is able to deliver the cake to the reception venue on due date, transporting and erecting such a heavy yet delicate construction is a job only for professionals. And don't forget to ask about a suitable cake stand. Again most bakers hire these out but they don't necessarily supply them automatically. A cake without a proper stand really lacks the impact it and the occasion deserve.

## INVITATIONS

Personalised stationery is becoming more popular and really adds something to the image of the occasion. Commissioning a designer to create your wedding stationery is one way of putting a personal mark on your wedding but remember that it will almost certainly take longer to deliver than pre-printed items. Taking into account that invitations should be



Shona Dunn Designs.

sent out no later than six weeks before the wedding and preferably eight to nine weeks before, a first consultation with the designer should really take place around four or five months before the wedding.

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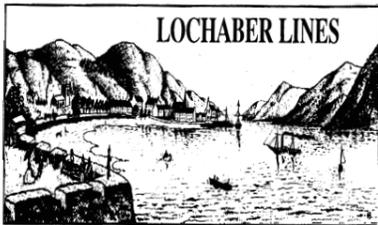
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email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

WE STARTED something last week when we mentioned places in Scotland taking on the unofficial title of Khyber Pass.

A correspondent from Killin has come up with a justifiable claim for 'The Khyber Pass of Scotland'. In his email he states: 'Probably it's the lack of nicotine affecting your brain but there is an even more famous - though obviously not in the Fort - Khyber Pass in Scotland. Glen Ogle, between Lix Toll and Lochearnhead, was mentioned in Queen Victoria's diaries in 1842 as being Scotland's 'Khyber Pass'. Yes, when you picture Glen Ogle it probably resembles the original Khyber Pass more than the other claimants.

UNFORTUNATELY when we picture Glen Ogle we cringe with embarrassment.

About 40 years ago we broke down there in our first car, a Morris 1100, on a stormy Sunday afternoon. As we changed gear, the gear stick came loose and fell from our hand. Three hours of worrying that our gearbox was ruined and of how we could pay for this serious mechanical problem ended with the arrival of a mechanic. He nodded wisely, but never spoke as we blurted out the symptoms. Still not speaking, he produced a screwdriver and picked up two screws from the car floor and with a couple of turns this major fault was remedied. Within 30 seconds the knight of the road was back in his cab, having refused payment, still shaking his head.

WE MAY have to change our title to Breadalbane Lines as a wee story, from a different source to the Khyber Pass man we hasten to add, reaches us from Killin.

Two ladies of a certain age, we will just call them Lady Auch and her sister Annie, are just embracing the technology of mobile phones. The titled one is more experienced, having had her phone for two months and is passing on her skills to Annie who quickly masters switching it on and off and making a call. Progress is good until Annie says: 'Can you show me how to do predictive sex. No, I mean protective text!'

A COUPLE of smokers this week let us know they were bored reading of our smugness at giving up the weed.

We weren't going to mention our continued success until Dr Dave from Killin brought the subject up. On Sunday morning, in a telephone chat with Ken Cameron, ex-general secretary of the Fire Brigades Union and Freeman of Lochaber, a man with whom we have shared fags and parents, we exchanged sibling rivalry over our 'respective' success. Ken was not looking forward to the curtailment of his freedom but he, too, had jilted Lady Nicotine.

Imagine our surprise, not to say delight, as we sat watching the evening news, eating fresh fruit after a brisk walk, to see himself on national television having a drag outside Herraghty's, aka columnist Jack MacLean's Southside Club. Shame on him.

WHAT brought four disparate, that's disparate and not desperate, sons of Lochaber to the red light district of Ardlui last Friday?

The occasion was the 30th anniversary of the temporary traffic lights on the A82 at Loch Lomondside. Labour Party councillor Brian Murphy, Scottish National Party MSP Jim Mather, former chairman of the local Conservative Party Stewart MacLean and newsagent John Steel, who enjoys a party, were united as they handed out birthday cake to motorists in a bid to highlight the disgraceful scenario on a major trunk road.

Stewart was a leading figure in the campaign to secure primary care services at Belford Hospital, Fort William, and with his latest tilt at authority we are now seeing him in a new light.

Lochaber's answer to Swampy, the eco-warrior, celebrates his own birthday, his 58th incidentally, this Saturday, April 1, and as he shares his birthday with wife Linda, we trust he held back plenty cake for the occasion.

JOHN Steel, through the Chamber of Commerce, has campaigned for many a year for the A82 to be upgraded.

There was the occasion when John had a date for a working lunch with ex-deputy minister Jim Wallace to discuss the poor state of the road. John, like everyone else, had great difficulty finding a parking space in Edinburgh and arrived 10 minutes late for the appointment. 'Don't worry Mr Steel, we've informed the minister that you were probably held up on the A82,' said an aide. John, of course, said nothing to disabuse the official or Mr Wallace.

CHARLIE'S challenge 2007: We've been rambling on a bit this week so there's only room for last week's Mod Lotto numbers: 14, 17, 20. No winner. Jackpot £700 this week. Oh, and the Mod Father says if we're ever stuck again in the Khyber Pass 'Gior-bhocsa' (keer-vok-suh) - gear box - and 'Gior shlat' (keer hlat) - gear lever - could be handy words to use on the nice man from Lix Toll.

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

ON SUNDAY, a school of bottle nose whales managed to pass through the narrows at Corran and during the day, dispersed themselves in the upper reaches of Loch Linnhe, opposite Fort William.

The day was very boisterous and the manoeuvres were witnessed by only a few inhabitants. The belief that the presence of whales is an indication of the nearness of herring still prevails and local fishermen are looking to their nets in anticipation of a haul. The second section of the steel wire for the aerial ropeway of the Loch Leven Water Power Works was landed from the steamer Nellie and weighed 13 tons. Once constructed, it will greatly help the contractors as the conveyance of heavy material would be almost impossible without such means of transport. A new era of prosperity will come to the Highlands when the works are completed.

Two noble Scottish families were united in London when Captain Cameron of Lochiel married Lady Hermione, second daughter of the Duke of Montrose.

The performance in Banavie Public School of Mr Alan Reid's sangspiel *Round ye Clock* had us wondering if this was a forerunner of the hit for Bill Haley and the Comets.

40 years ago FORMER Prime Minister Sir Alex Douglas-Home addressed a hustings meeting in the Town Hall in support of the Conservative General Election candidate David Warren.

It was reported there were amazing scenes in Cameron Square as Sir Alex left the meeting. He was besieged by autograph hunters, well-wishers and some hecklers. His exit was blocked by a lorry and one local worthy who had questioned the ex-Prime Minister during the meeting once again took the opportunity to express his disgust at the price of a bottle of whisky.

On the closure of Marshall and Pearson's garage the familiar penny-farthing cycle on display was donated to the West Highland Museum.

# Hospital to remain open

GLENCOE Hospital is to remain open for the next three months after nurses agreed to increase their hours.

The geriatric unit was last week threatened with a six month closure because of staffing shortages and problems recruiting staff.

This week, after talks with NHS Highland, nurses at Glencoe Hospital agreed to increase their contracted hours for three months to help keep staffing levels safe for patients.

Heidi May, nursing director for NHS Highland, said: 'I am pleased we are going to be able to keep the hospital open and am very impressed by the commitment shown by the staff.

'I am grateful to them and to local managers for their sterling efforts and hard work in the last few days, to achieve safe staffing levels.

'With their assistance, together with some additional investment, we have developed a safe rota for a three-month period, as long as sickness or vacancy levels do not increase. The situation remains fragile, and we will keep it under close review.'

Gill McVicar, general manager of Mid Highland Community Health Partnership, said: 'NHS Highland will continue to try to recruit to the area and to explore some options for rotational and flexible posts.

'A planned review of community care services to be undertaken jointly with the local authority, voluntary and independent sectors will be progressed in the near future.'

The 20-bed hospital in the former home of Lord Strathcona, caters for elderly patients from Fort William, Appin and Loch Leven.

NHS Highland had announced the hospital would close on March 29 this year because of difficulties with staff recruitment. Staff and 10 patients involved were advised that they may be transferred to the Belhaven Ward at the Belford Hospital, Fort William.



Kirsten Coleman, Geum Chrystal, Martainn Skene, coach Nick Hedwin and Jennifer MacCallum. F13str01

# String quartet makes it a trio of finalés

FOUR young musicians from Lochaber made it a trio of wins when they appeared in the finals of a national chamber music competition for the third successive year.

As well as playing music in school, Kirsten Coleman, Geum Chrystal, Martainn Skene and Jennifer MacCallum all play in the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland and Lochaber

Music School. The string quartet made it to the finals of the national chamber music competition for schools and performed the first and fourth movements of Hadyn's 'quartet in D,

opus 20 no.4' in London's John Smith Square. String quartet coach Nick Hedwin said: 'The fact that they have been through to the finals three times is a terrific achievement for a

comprehensive. The Hadyn piece they played was substantially more difficult than anything attempted in previous years and the fact they played it to such high acclaim speaks volumes.'

# High profile role for smoking ban officers

TWO POLICE officers have been appointed to enforce the new smoking ban in enclosed public areas which came into effect on Sunday morning.

Fort William officer David Mackay will join Ian Wilson of Fort Augustus in enforcing the new regulations throughout the Highlands.

Ian Wilson retired in 2002 after 30 years service in Ayrshire while David has served with Northern Constabulary in Orkney, Shetland, Nairn and Inverness.

Highland Council says



Smoking enforcement officers Ian Wilson and David Mackay.

that initially enforcement will be high profile with officers visiting pubs and

restaurants, sometimes under cover. The officers will assess compliance of

the new regulations, offer guidance and advice and, if necessary, carry out enforcement action, including fixed penalty notices of £50 for smoking in an enclosed public area.

Managers of any no-smoking premises can also be fined £200 for allowing smoking to take place, or failing to display warning signs.

The council is also responsible for enforcing the smoking ban in factories and offices.

The Scottish Executive says that Scotland has one of the worst health reputations in western Europe with one in four of all deaths attributable to smoking. 'About 13,000 people die every year as a result of smoking,' said deputy health minister Rhona Brankin. 'We have to tackle that.'

Ms Brankin added that 7,000 people in Ireland stopped smoking in the first months of the Irish ban.

# Fort William Sheriff Court

## Van driver crashed into cyclist

A VAN driver who nearly crashed into a cyclist could not speak coherently, was helped into a police car where he fell asleep and ended up being carried into Fort William Police Station.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week how James Lowther was driving his van three miles south of Fort William on the A82 on February 20.

A Scottish Citylink bus driver following him watched as Lowther nearly clipped a cyclist with his van.

Lowther, of 7 Kentallen Travellers Site, Kentallen, admitted driving while unfit through drink and drugs and failing to provide two specimens of breath.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith told Sheriff Wendy Sheehan that the bus driver saw Lowther, aged 50, drive too close to a cyclist ahead of him. Mr Smith said the cyclist had 'waved his fist' at the accused.

At that point the bus driver overtook and positioned the bus in such a way as to prevent Lowther driving any further.

The police found Lowther to be smelling of alcohol and unable to speak coherently. Mr Smith said: 'He staggered and fell into the two police officers. The officers had to help him to the police car. He was taken to the police station where

Ms MacDonald for two years when the incidents occurred.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith told the court that Munro and his partner had been rowing and the police were called to the house. Munro, now of 20 Wyvis Place, Inverness, had been drinking before the incident.

The police left at around 10pm but minutes later Munro demanded £20 from Ms MacDonald's purse.

Another argument ensued which saw Ms MacDonald run towards the front door and the accused pushed her causing her to fall onto the stairs in the hallway.

Mr Smith said the couple's next door neighbours heard a 'thump' and shouting and rang the police.

Hamish Melrose, defending, said the couple were now reconciled and were planning to marry later this year.

Mr Melrose said the couple simply wanted to put this incident behind them. 'Mr Munro accepts he was completely out of order,' said Mr Melrose.

Sheriff Wendy Sheehan told Munro: 'I view domestic abuse as a very serious matter. I hope you accept that this is a completely unacceptable way to behave.'

Sheriff Sheehan fined Munro £375 for assaulting Ms MacDonald and admonished him on the breach of the peace charge.

# Cautious welcome for prawn quota increase

FISHERMEN'S leaders on the west coast have given a cautious welcome to this week's announcement of an increase in prawn quotas of 39 per cent.

John Hermse of Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association said he was in a strange position because some of his members were for and some were against.

He said: 'I think there will be winners and losers but a

lot of people will feel that it will reconcile a lot of the mishandling of the quota distribution that took place in the past.

'Some of my members are for it and some against but in general the smaller boats will welcome it.'

Ben Bradshaw, chairman of the Fisheries Council during the UK Presidency of the European Union, said: 'No-one has got all they wanted but we are

extremely grateful for the spirit of co-operation which all member states have shown.'

Prawn quotas were increased by 31 per cent in the North Sea and there were also decreases in the quotas for cod, whiting and spurdog.

There were quota increases for Western Monkfish and Irish Sea Plaice, which are currently in a good state.

## Headbutt man claims drink spiked

A FORT WILLIAM man who was celebrating his birthday tried to headbutt a police officer after coming out of a pub, but claimed his drink had been spiked by friends.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard how Iain Cameron had been in a bar on the town's High Street on November 6 last year

celebrating his 26th birthday with friends. However, outside the pub he had shouted at two passers-by and became embroiled in a fracas.

Cameron, aged 26, admitted assaulting a police officer by attempting to headbutt him and resisting arrest.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith told the court that Cameron, of 15 Bruce Place, was spotted outside the bar at around 1am by

two men walking past. Mr Smith said: 'They saw the accused staring at them and shouting 'What are you looking at?'

'They saw another male trying to restrain the accused from walking to them.

'The accused broke free and went towards the two males.'

When the officer arrived on the scene the accused attempted to headbutt him but the officer saw it

coming and moved out of the way. Hamish Melrose, defending, said his client had now moved to Edinburgh where he was a branch manager for a tyre company and had apologised to police five hours after the incident.

Mr Melrose said: 'He strongly suspects that one of his friends had spiked his drink because it was his birthday.'

Cameron was fined a total of £450.

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# The Oban Times & West Highland Times

## Flag lowers on the Argylls

THIS week saw a line being drawn under the proud name of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders.

From this week the regiment, which for so long has been closely associated with *The Oban Times*, has become part of an amalgamation of six famous Scottish 'family' regiments under the banner of the new Royal Regiment of Scotland, the RRS.

Later this year, this week's four, the Argylls, the Highlanders, the Royal Highland Fusiliers and the Black Watch, will be joined by the Royal Scots and the King's Own Scottish Borderers. Between them they will form five battalions of the RRS.

There is considerable irony in that, at a time when more Scottish soldiers are being deployed to flash-points throughout the world, the British army on the ground is being reduced despite the Scottish parliament voting two years ago against the merger of Scotland's regiments.

Scottish soldiers will, as ever, do their job with pride and wear their new cap badges with the same dignity and loyalty they have shown to their old colours. But they must wonder if the loyalty they display is being taken for granted.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders will never be forgotten and the support of the people will remain with Scottish troops - whatever name they fight under.

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

## GLASGOW LETTER

### Fun is back

LIKE most Scots, I have been impressed with the performance of Scottish teams in the past few weeks.

First of all it was our rugby team who got back to winning ways and then, led by the swimmers, the Scottish team has had its most successful Commonwealth Games ever.

Excellent performances by everyone concerned but what really came across loud and clear was the emphasis put on the fact that they were all thoroughly enjoying what they were doing. The fun was back. They enjoyed being with each other and suddenly the quality of performance had improved beyond all expectation.

Last week I advertised the Govan Choir Concert and those who braced the elements, in the well-filled hall, were treated to an evening of excellent music.

Not only that, but the fun factor was evident and the Govan choir had it in abundance.

Being a member of a choir requires dedication and much hard work and so it is important that the choristers enjoy what they are doing. The Govan choir skilfully transferred this feeling to its audience and in so doing it was ably assisted by fear-an-taigh Donald Fletcher, vice president of the Glasgow Skye Association, who together with his wife Margaret, are chief 'roadies' of the choir.

Donald, who was brought up and still lives in the west end of Glasgow, has now retired as a sea-going chief engineer and spends much of his time at his croft in Waterish, Skye. His relaxed style, and many jokes, ensured that the atmosphere of the whole evening was totally in keeping with what both the choir and the audience required.

Musically, patrons were treated to a wide range of choral items together with soloists, duettists, piping selections and as a special treat selections were played on the Scottish small pipes by Rona MacDonald, a former member of the choir.

With Donald Fletcher in charge of proceedings, it was perhaps quite appropriate that Sheena Walker sang a new song, penned by Neil Brownlie, recognising the achievement of Ellen MacArthur who broke the world record for sailing round the world.

Ellen is to build a new house in Skye and is a well-known face in the Waterish area.

Listening to the song reminded me of a supply teaching stint in a Glasgow school during the time of Ellen's journey. We were talking about endurance and I asked if anyone knew of any current example of this highlighted on the news each evening.

After several hints a voice said: 'Aye sur, ah know. It's that mad woman in the B & Q boat.'

This was followed by a short silence till another pupil, thinking himself to be more intellectual, said: 'You're stupid! You cannae buy boats in B & Q!'

Who said there is no fun left in education?

Fun in education and fun at a choir concert - that's what it should be all about. Well done Govan Gaelic Choir.

### Sympathy

I'M SURE you will wish to join me in sending sympathy to Kirsteen Grant and her immediate family following the death of her mother, Margaret, on Monday March 20.

Although resident in Helensburgh for the past few years, Mrs Grant, together with her late husband Donald, was very active in Gaelic circles during the years she stayed in the city. She will be sadly missed.

### Best wishes

I WOULD like to send best wishes to Lex Keith who has been in hospital.

We look forward to seeing him back on the music scene soon.

### Diary dates

**Thursday March 30:** Star Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Maevae MacKinnon.

**Friday March 31:** Helensburgh Highlanders Association, ceilidh/dance, Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh, 8pm. Uist and Barra Association, ceilidh/dance, Whitefield Road Community Hall, Ibrox, 9pm.

**Thursday April 6:** Motherwell and Wishaw Highlanders, annual general meeting, 7.30pm.

**Friday April 7:** Clydebank Highlander's Association, Erskine Hospital Charity Ceilidh, Town Hall, 7.30pm. Edinburgh Argyll Association, ceilidh, St Mark's Church Hall, Castle Terrace, 7.30pm.

**Saturday April 8:** Paisley Highlander's Association, ceilidh/dance, Village Hall, Elderslie, 7.30pm. Southern Region West An Comunn Gaidhealach, annual general meeting, Partick Burgh Halls, 11am. All members welcome.

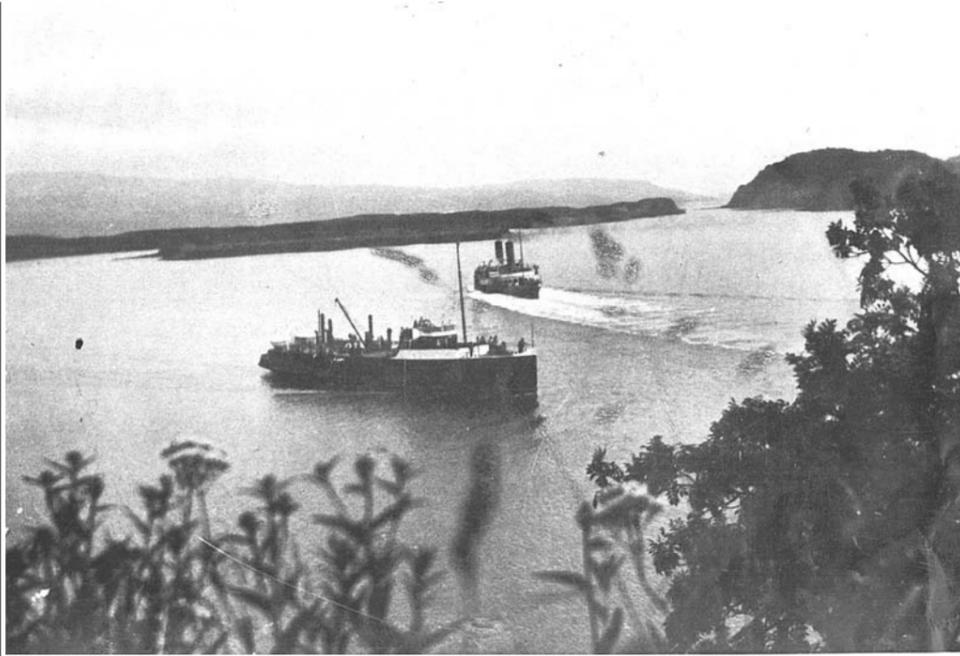
### Pub scene

IT IS another weekend for supporters of *Skerryvore* to head for the Park Bar where they will be playing on Saturday and Sunday evenings.

Gary Forrest will be in the Park Bar on Friday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Campbell Brown and Johnnie Scoullar on Friday, Freebird on Saturday and Pat Gillespie and friends on Sunday.

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



## Tobermory Bay, Isle of Mull, 1926

This week's flashback photograph features Tobermory Bay, Isle of Mull. The two ships photographed are the *Lochinvar*, heading into the bay, and the *Grenadier* going out. The photograph was submitted by Christine Reid of Callander. It came into her possession recently following the death of her aunt. Being a native of Tobermory, Christine was delighted with the photo especially as her father, the late Dugald Lamont of Bunessan and Tobermory, served on the *Lochinvar* in the early to mid 1930s. Christine is not exactly sure about the date but reckons it was around 1926. She recalls being told, many years later, that the *Grenadier* went on fire at Oban Railway Pier in 1927. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, 'Flashback' Photo, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name and address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

## Letters to the Editor

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### Glencoe Hospital

Sir, Rumour has it NHS Highland is to close the geriatric hospital at Glencoe.

This without prior discussion with staff, patients or any members of the local community.

As one who spent his formative years in Ballachulish, I have had relatives over many years work in the hospital and many other relatives and friends spend their final days, weeks, months and years receiving what can only be described as exceptional nursing care and attention from an incredibly dedicated staff.

Apparently the reason given for the closure is the failure to attract sufficient trained nursing staff to the area. This seems incredible when both the UK government and the Scottish Executive have, over recent years, promised to deliver more nurses to the NHS and the North Lorn/Lochaber area is certainly a desirable area to live and bring up a family.

It is surely the duty of any management team to recruit the proper staff and if they fail to put together an

attractive enough package to do this then this is the department in which heads should roll.

The welfare of the patients of Glencoe Hospital is paramount. Many of them have spent years in the hospital and now look on it as their final family home. To move them to another hospital outwith the area would, I suspect, subject them to such trauma that it would certainly shorten their lives.

To close the hospital at Glencoe, even on a temporary basis, would be seen as an act of treachery. I would urge all natives both home and away to lobby local council representatives, MPs and MSPs to intervene and save our hospital.

**Jan MacPhee, Lochgilphead.**

### Bridge closure

Sir, The evening of Saturday March 25 saw a capacity crowd and more than 90 performers from all over Scotland in the Corran Halls, Oban, for the 62nd annual Fiddlers' Rally hosted by Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society.

For some weeks we had been aware that Connel Bridge was to be closed for engineering work from 10pm to 6am Monday to Friday 20-24 March. There were notices to this effect on the approaches to the bridge and information in *The Oban Times*. No problem, we thought, it will all be over in time for Saturday's event.

But late on Friday afternoon a rumour began to circulate that the work had not been finished on time and that consequently the bridge would close on Saturday night. No-one seemed to know what was going on, and anxious members of the society spent much time and effort seeking information but to no avail.

As late as 6.30pm on Saturday the notices on the approaches to the bridge remained unchanged.

However, just after the concert had started, a message was received stating that the bridge would indeed be closed, and an announcement had to be made at the interval to this effect. As a result, a significant number of the audience had to leave early. To their credit, none of the performers did so, although the traditional get-together afterwards was seriously

compromised. The bridge did close at 10pm, but was opened for 10 minutes just before midnight to allow a huge back-log of vehicles, and some very angry drivers and passengers across. This was not an emergency and the proper course should have been to end the works as promised, set up additional statutory notices and finish the job at a later time, after due public notice had been given.

Those responsible for causing this latest chaos and disruption should be identified and brought to book.

**John Gosling, Barcaldine.**

### Concerned reader

Sir, On the front page last week you had a story about two men who can plough a straight furrow and, right next to this, is an item on someone who came tenth in a marathon on the other side of the world.

On page three, halfway down, is a story on the virtual moratorium on new building in Argyll and elsewhere because of Scottish Water's failure to provide an infrastructure capable of meeting the needs of current planning availability and demand for new housing.

As this latter story could, as a worst-case scenario, bring an end to building on the west coast with the resultant loss of thousands of jobs and, best case, slow down the currently booming industry to a level reminiscent of 10 years ago, I feel it is more important to the local economy than the speed and accuracy with which a field can be dug up.

Any other provincial paper would have headlined this story on page one with demands that questions should be answered by the authorities concerned.

**Simon Gregory, Craignish Estate, Ardfern.**

### Wider view of national parks

Sir, In response to Matthew Capper's letter, 'Nothing to fear from national park', I have travelled to virtually every national park in England and Wales.

All national parks are different in their landscapes, geology, climate and culture. They are unique, often supporting very rare species of fauna and flora which are the reasons they are designated as such. This national park in Scotland will be entirely different from the Peak District which has no coastline, smaller farms and large nearby concentrations of urban populations.

In England our national

park authorities come under the control of the Department of the Environment and Rural Affairs - SEERAD is the equivalent in Scotland. As a result of central Government imposing more targets and requirements for more activities onto the national park authorities, but without the necessary extra funding, the Lake District National Park now has a deficit of £1m and is closing a number of tourist information centres plus making other cuts.

How is this new national park to be funded? Is the money to be raised by Scottish taxpayers, by English taxpayers or from the EU? The environment and greater public access are at the top of the UK, Scottish and EU governments' agendas. It is vitally important that the contribution made by local farmers, land managers and fishermen, who have created and sustained this unique and beautiful area of Scotland, is recognised.

Their local knowledge must be used and their working practices allowed, but unimpeded by layers of bureaucracy. Tourism may be the biggest financial contributor to the local economy, but it lives off the backs of the farmers and fishermen who have created the environments that support the wildlife and marine life. For generations these two important activities have sustained local communities.

**Suzanne Greenhill, Cumbria.**

**DE THA DOL?**

### Laoidh Nàiseanta

THUG Geamaichean na Co-fhaitheas ann am Melbourne toileachas agus tlachd dhuinn a bhith gun coimhead.

Bha coltas air na farpaisich às gach dùthaich gun robh an gnòthach a' còrdadh riutha agus gun robh cairdeas eatarra. Ach ann am farpais sam bith tha cuid a' buanachd agus cuid nach eil agus bha e nadarra gu leòr gum biodh sinne ann an Alba gu sonraichte moiteil às na farpaisich againn fhèin, cho math is a rinn iad. Chan ann tric a gheibh sinn an còthrom! Aon turas deug sheas na farpaisich againn air a' phodium agus iad air bonn òr a chosnadh agus chuala sinn an laoidh nàiseanta ga chluich agus moiteil is gun robh sinn ga èisteachd, an e 'Scotland the Brave' da rìreabh an laoidh nàiseant againn? Thog e a' cheist a-rithist nach eil sinn aonta mun seo. Uaireanan bithear a cluich 'Flower of Scotland' anns an t-suidheachadh seo agus tha cuid ann a roghnaicheadh 'A Man 's a Man' agus tha Jack Mac Connell a' moladh 'Highland Cathedral'. Bha triuir againn a' deasbad na ceist seo air prògradh Choinnich agus thàinig sinn chun a cho-dhùnadh, tha mi a' smaoinicheadh gun tàinig co-dhù, gum b' fhearr leinn laoidh as ur a bhith air a dhèanamh le faclan a bheireadh deur gu sùil Albannach ge bith càit am bitheadh iad, gum biodh e dualchasach agus gum biodh gach treas liodhne ann an Gàidhlig. Bha sinn cuideachd ag iarraidh gum biodh am fonn Albannach, gum biodh e togarrach agus gum biodh e comasach do aon neach no do shluagh mòr a sheinn gu dòigheil. Thàinig an tìde againn gu crìch mas d' fhuair mise còthrom moladh gum biodh an laoidh air ionnsachadh dhan h-uile leanabh sgòile os gum biodh e aca air an teanga - rud nach eil tric a' tachairt ge bith dè an laoidh a thathar

## A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG

### Permanent summertime?

LAST weekend, we went through the annual farce of putting clocks, watches and all other working timepieces forward an hour so that we could have British Summertime instead of Greenwich Mean Time.

The reason, stemming from the Second World War, is so that we could have more hours of daylight to further the war effort, especially at night. At that time, agriculture in its widest sense was of paramount importance and the populace generally accepted that fiddling with the clock was essential.

After hostilities ended the practice of losing an hour's sleep in March to regain it in October continued but not without numerous attempts to keep us on British Summertime being made.

This was opposed by farmers and by those who were worried about schoolchildren going to school in the dark. As far as the agricultural industry is concerned the ferocity of protest about permanent summertime has become somewhat muted, even although they get exemptions from the European Working Time Directive. As the industry has become more mechanised and milking times can be varied the impetus to scream for Greenwich Mean Time in the winter months has become less strident.

As far as children going to school in the dark and the risks to them from bullies, motorists and 'nasty men lurking in the bushes' are concerned, very few of them seem to walk there anyway. Buses transport them, parents do 'the school run' and the number actually walking is greatly reduced. Therefore, the biggest bogey to more light in the evenings has been greatly reduced.

Another attempt to give us permanent summertime is now being made with a Bill being introduced in the House of Lords. The rubric runs something like this: when the last Sunday in October comes around there would be no return to Greenwich Mean Time but clocks and watches would go forward another hour and remain so. Thereafter, there would be no adjustments, summer or winter.

It will be astonishing if there are no screams from self-interest groups who can find a vast number of reasons why we should not continue with the current arrangements.

**The 'granny state'**

THERE must have been quite a few people who were doubly tetchy last Sunday morning.

Not only had they lost an hour's sleep but they had been in their favourite pub until the very last minute of the extended licence so that they could have their last 'gasper' there before the law changed to ban smoking in all enclosed spaces to which

the public have access. With a sore head and too much light streaming through the curtains in the 'early morning' for those who rarely rise before Sunday opening time the prospect was bleak. They could have the first fag of the day with the 'fry up' that constitutes the unhealthy Scottish breakfast, but could they face the dreary prospect of a lunchtime pint in their favourite hawth with smoke-free air?

Some must surely have decided that a cigarette at home in front of the television was preferable to keeping company with a bunch of nicotine addicts down in the pub.

Not good news for licensees and brewers but something to which everyone will have to get accustomed.

I support the ban and feel that those stubborn enough to continue to smoke may eventually come to accept that it is they that are out-of-step and should do something about it. However, I'm not so convinced that some of the measures demanded by the Food Standards Agency, such as that we should consume no more than six grams of salt daily - what does six grams of salt look like anyway? - would be the state's right to impose.

The same body wants to stop people putting sugar in their tea or coffee, butter on their toast and will, no doubt, get round to suggesting that it should be an offence to have more than two drams and one pint in 24 hours.

Indeed, junior doctors, notorious throughout the past century for consuming fairly substantial quantities of alcohol from their student days onward through the gradations of their professional career, now want to be much more image conscious and become secret drinkers lest their advice on alcohol consumption is thrown back in their faces.

Do we really want a lifestyle that has every decision imposed upon us?

### Margaret Ewing

EVERY journalist, whether they wrote on politics or not, who came in contact with the late Margaret Ewing will remember her as one of the kindest, most friendly and most astute ladies they ever encountered.

While she fought unceasingly for Scottish independence there was much more to her than that.

I will always remember my first time when she arrived with Fergus, her husband, at a meeting of Highlands and Islands MSPs to discuss a current problem. Her incisive exposé galvanised it and certainly earned her plaudits from many who had not heard her previously.

Ever after that she made me so welcome, even when she was seriously ill.

Our sympathy goes to Fergus on the loss of a perfect soul mate.

McCaig

### DE THA DOL?

a' seinn an dràsta. Bha sinn dhen bheachd gum bu chòir farpais a bhith ann agus gum taghadh muinntir na h-Alba ann fear a b' fhearr leotha. Thug Mairi Anna NicUlraigh nar cuimhneachadh eil fada bho bha leithid a dh' fharpais ann agus nach do lean sinn ris a cho-dhùnadh ach 's dòcha nan gabhadh Pàrlamaid na h-Alba cùram a ghnòthaich gum biodh e na bu shoirbheachail an turas seo. Tha aont' ann gu bheil fìor fheum air Laoidh Nàiseanta Albannach. 'S e cheist dè fhearr.

### Phrases

BHA COLTAS air na farpaisich gun robh an gnòthach a' còrdadh riutha - The competitors looked as if they were enjoying themselves. Agus bha e nadarra gum biodh sinne ann an Alba gu sonraichte moiteil às na farpaisich againn fhèin - and it was perfectly natural that we in Scotland should be proud of our own competitors. Chan ann tric a gheibh sinn an còthrom - it is not often we get the chance. Agus moiteil is gun robh sinn ga èisteachd, an e 'Scotland the Brave' da rìreabh an laoidh nàiseanta againn - and proud as we were listening to it, is 'Scotland the Brave' really our national anthem? Bha triuir againn a' deasbad na ceist seo air prògram Choinnich - three of us were discussing this question on Coinneach's program. Gum b' fhearr leinn laoidh ur a bhith air a dhèanamh - that we would prefer to have a new anthem composed. Gum biodh an laoidh air ionnsachadh dhan h-uile leanabh sgòile - that the anthem should be taught to every school child. Gum biodh e na bu shoirbheachail an turas seo - that it would be more successful this time. Tha aont' ann gu bheil feum air Laoidh Nàiseanta Albannach - there is agreement that there is a need for a Scottish National Anthem.

Criosaidh Dick.

## ISLAY LETTER

### Ploughing match

PLOUGHING matches have been an integral part of the island's agricultural scene for more than 160 years.

The latest of these took place at Newton near Bridgend and attracted 11 competitors in the conventional class and six in the reversible section.

The match, held in less than ideal ground and weather conditions, was judged by Iain MacKerrell, Island Farm, and Jock Campbell, Keills, both former fine furrow medallists. They were greatly impressed by the overall standard and awarded the Kilbride Cup and Motalink Try for the best in the conventional class to Willie Reid from Campbeltown. Second and third places went to Kilchiaran's Neil and Scott MacLellan.

The David Woodrow Memorial Trophy for the reversible class champion was won by Fraser Woodrow of Port Charlotte. Runner up was Neil

MacLellan with Ballymartin's Andrew MacMillan a close third.

The prizelist also included a number of fun awards and these included recognition of the most enthusiastic and coldest looking ploughmen.

Because of the weather conditions on match day, picking up the latter was a doddle!

### Charity CD

LOCAL blues singer Sheena Swanson and her quartet, whose gigs are one of the most eagerly supported at the island's jazz festival, have released a new CD under the title of 'Holiday on Islay'.

This was recorded at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile at a jazz festival concert and sections of the recording were broadcast in mid January on BBC Radio Scotland's jazz programme 'Be-Bop to Hip Hop'.

The disc, also featuring pianist Paul Harrison, drummer Brian Palmer and bass player Mario Caribe, sells at £10 and all proceeds go to the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Unit which plans to provide sufferers with mobile nebulisers at a cost

of £225. 'Holiday on Islay' will appeal to all cool cats. For more details visit [ssq@sheenaswan.co.uk](mailto:ssq@sheenaswan.co.uk).

### Fireman honoured

ISLAY airport fireman Angus MacDougall has been presented with his 20 years' service and good conduct medal by Highlands and Islands Airports Limited (HIAL).

The ceremony was attended by local airport staff and the presentation was carried out by Graham Simpson, HIAL Chief Fire Officer, who described the recipient as an exemplary employee who displays loyalty, flexibility and a complete dedication to duty. Well done Angus.

### Top bar

CONGRATULATIONS to the proprietors and staff at Bowmore's Lochside Hotel whose bar has been chosen by the publishers of Whisky Magazine as 'The Great Whisky Bar of the World 2006'.

Publication editor Dominic Roskrow commended the local hoteliers on their 'outstanding presentation, promotion and knowledge of the great whiskies of the world'. 'Good on you' to owners Roberta and Duffie MacNeill and slainte mhath!

**Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore.**

### Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5PY. Fax (01631) 568001. E-mail editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Dalmally

Your correspondent is Averil Watson: 01838 200449

Glenorchy and Innishail

IF MARCH came in like a lamb, it was a very cold and wind-blown one. At least the days are longer now, with each one bringing more spots of colour as intrepid buds open to the afternoon sun.

Unfortunately the sunshine reveals the amount of litter that has been dropped on roads and verges.

Every year Dalmally Village Hall organises a 'litter pick' day to keep the village looking clean and tidy.

The committee appeals to everyone not to leave it to the faithful few who turn out every year.

Anyone willing to take part should collect a pair of gloves at the village hall at 11am.

Drama club

NO SOONER was the Christmas panto over than rehearsals for the drama club's 2006 entry for the Lorn One Act Play Festival got underway.

This year's production was 'Remembrance Day' and it was staged in The Corran Halls, Oban, on Wednesday March 15.

Ceilidh to remember

ERISKAY Lilt recently gave the area a ceilidh night to remember. The enthusiastic audience couldn't wait to get up dancing, like the 'old days' apparently.

On Saturday April 8, Tony McCuish, known to many as half of 'Sanantone', and support acts will be entertaining in what promises to be another great evening.

Sale time

ALSO on the village hall agenda is a car boot sale in the auction mart on Sunday April 23 from 1pm.

Anyone having a clear out for spring is asked to consider taking a table, priced £5, or donate to the hall table. Contact 01838 200370 for more information.

Playground opening

THE GRAND opening of Adventure Dalmally 2000's children's playground was due to take place yesterday (Thursday).

The identity of the celebrity asked to perform the opening has been shrouded in mystery but everyone was invited to the ceremony when all was revealed.

There is also an open invitation to a free celebration disco, buffet and bar on Saturday April 1 in the village hall. Please note this is not a hoax.

Community council

COMMUNITY council minutes are posted on Dalmally's website.

There is still a vacancy for a representative for Dalmally.

Anyone interested in developments in the village should look out for information on notice boards.

The next community council meeting, which is also the annual general meeting, will be in Dalmally Hall at 7.30pm on Wednesday April 12.

Lismore

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760 293

Out-of-hours medical cover

THE PROVISION of out-of-hours medical cover is still of great concern to islanders.

However, following negotiations with Argyll and Clyde Health Board, the Scottish Ambulance Service and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, hopes are high that a pilot project could be introduced.

This would mean groups working together, with



Contractors and Councillor Robin Currie, third right, at the start of work to upgrade Colonsay airstrip.

Work starts on Colonsay airstrip

COLONSAY islanders were given the chance to quiz contractors about how work to upgrade the island's airstrip would affect them.

Representatives of the contractors attended a meeting of Colonsay Community Council to meet islanders.

The things that worried people most were working hours and heavy traffic on the road from the pier to the golf course. As the meeting was assured the state of the road would be constantly monitored and repaired as necessary, with provision in the contract for full repairs at the end, most people were fairly happy with the situation.

The most worrying thing for many was that the golf

course will have to be closed until a temporary nine-hole course can be arranged.

The community council meeting was part of a series of events for Councillor Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council officials and the airstrip contractors.

The night they arrived an Initiative at the Edge committee meeting was held to discuss the island's development plans and to agree what has to be done now that the community owns 90 hectares of croft land to make new crofts available.

The final event of the visit was on Wednesday morning when construction work formally started at the airstrip.

Lismore's volunteer firefighters co-responding to any emergency with the proviso that medical cover would attend if necessary.

Community bus

THE COMMUNITY bus is being used regularly thanks to the efforts of the committee which runs it and the many volunteer drivers.

The Lismore Community Bus now has more than 20 drivers and is used a lot on the island and in Appin. With Dave Meddes now a qualified trainer, recruiting is easier to organise.

The bus has been of great benefit to all sections of the community with the school, which once found it so difficult to arrange outings for the children and managed only a couple a

year, now able to run up to eight trips.

The youth and shinty clubs also find it a great asset which makes life for them easier and more interesting.

Weddings, funerals and any large scale visits to the island all use the bus. These have included visiting country dancers from around Argyll or last year's arrival of a party of MacColls from Canada with connections to Lismore.

The archaeologists who were here in the summer also found it a great help and locals use it to arrange shopping trips, nights out, cultural outings or bowls and art group outings. Families can also use the bus.

Mink

MINK continue to be a big problem for ground nesting birds and waders. Traps are set about the island and recently at Salen they have been catching mink regularly.

It is assumed they cover the island's coastline with one every 300 metres or so. The wildlife would have more of a chance if a concerted effort was made to trap them consistently.

Butterflies

THE SPELL of good weather brought out the Marsh Fritillary caterpillars and they have been seen in abundance at Salen.

The Marsh Fritillary was once widespread in Britain and Ireland but is thought to be declining at about 10 per cent per decade with an identical decline in Europe.

However, Argyll and its islands now hold some of the most significant populations in Europe, several of which are on Lismore.

As more than 20 letters of representation had been received, it was decided that there would be a local hearing. The time and venue for this would be

Around the Rurals

Lochawe

EIGHT members gathered recently for a meeting of the Lochawe branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI).

Speaker for the evening was Kevin Baker, head librarian at Oban Library. Mr Baker gave an excellent talk on libraries in general and Oban Library in particular.

He also entertained members with a rendition of various songs from amateur musicals he had been involved in during his time in Oban such as Fagan's song from Oliver, 'My old Man's a Dustman' from 'My Fair Lady' and 'Leaning on a Lamppost' from 'Me and My Gal'.

Members joined in the choruses with gusto!

Mr Baker also gave an interesting insight into his career prior to becoming a librarian.

Mrs Terry Orr, president, thanked Kevin on behalf of the members for a wonderful, enjoyable evening.

Competition: Three decorated fairy cakes, judged by Mr Baker - P McLeod, Gold; T Orr, Silver.

An excellent tea was provided by Mrs A McPhail and Mrs T Orr, hostesses for the evening.

The next meeting of Lochawe institute will take place on Wednesday April 12 in Lochawe Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors welcome.

Lochgoilhead

THE MARCH meeting was opened by president Betty Bryce.

Business matters were dealt with first as the guest speakers for the evening were delayed on their journey but arrived safe and well.

Karen and Diane, who work for Thorntons, gave an extensive history of how the firm started from its humble beginnings in 1911 to its present day form of a large countrywide business.

The best selling product is their Special Toffee. All members received a goody bag and Betty Bryce gave the vote of thanks.

The competition for macaroon bars was won by Catriona Morrison with Anne Livingstone second.

Kilbrandon

SOME members preferred to be on holiday in various resorts including the Caribbean, Mauritius and Bangkok rather than Easdale Hall on a March evening!

However, those present on March 7 took part in a beetle drive.

Within minutes, the hall was filled with shouts of 'at last I've got a head' and 'if only I could get a body' as the normally sane and responsible members of Kilbrandon SWRI were transformed by the compulsion to roll a dice.

Morar

THE ANNUAL dinner of Morar SWRI was cancelled because members had too many other commitments.

However, Arisaig ladies kindly invited members to join them on February 25.

Twelve ladies joined 16 Arisaig ladies for dinner in the Old Library Restaurant. They had a lovely evening and raffle prizes were won by Cathy Stewart and Rosie MacEachan.

It was decided to hold a beetle drive at the February meeting. Six ladies attended and great fun was had by everyone.

Competition: 1 Heather Simpson, 2 Eileen MacPhie, 3 Cathy Stewart, 4 Mary Ferguson.

Raffle prizes were won by Christine Haynes, Ann Currie, Mary Ferguson and Heather Simpson. The hostesses were Ann Currie and Cathy Stewart.

In March, eleven members welcomed 11 Arisaig ladies for a most enjoyable evening when June Blanchard, of Gartcosh, gave a demonstration of card folding. Everyone joined in and succeeded in making a mini concertina album and a handbag card.

A new member, Isobel Campbell, joined the institute and was given a warm welcome.

Soda bread competition: 1 Mary Ferguson - see John, Mum doesn't always come fourth; 2 Eileen MacPhie; 3 Cathy Stewart; 4 Dorothy Simpson.

Say What You See word quiz: 1 equal Christine Haynes and Dorothy Simpson; 3 June Foxwell.

Raffle prizes were won by June Blanchard, Rosie MacEachan and Eileen MacPhie.

Kilmore and district

ON MARCH 8, 25 members attended the meeting at Kilmore Hall.

Following business matters, president Catriona Stuart welcomed another eight ladies and two gentlemen to an open evening.

An 'Old Oban' slide show by Bob MacCulloch and Charlie Drummond was the highlight of the evening. They toured around the area with lots of new material on display. Many views provoked discussion of the changes over the years.

Competition results: Photograph of a flower: 1 Mhairi Morrison, 2 Ann Sorley, Tray bake: 1 Isabel Smith; 2 Fiona Dickie.

Proceeds from the sales table will go to Oban War and Peace Museum, which will host the April meeting.

Tiree

THE MARCH meeting of Tiree SWRI was held in the Resource Centre in Crossapol.

The meeting was chaired by vice president Margaret MacIntyre as the president could not attend through ill health. Margaret welcomed Liz Lapsley and Rosemary Omand from the A'Bhain Organising Group. They gave details of the Tiree Homecoming 2006 project including an early look at the provisional programme.

Liz is receiving up to 50 email enquiries a day with the majority of visitors hoping to further research their family genealogy but she hopes they will find the time to do one of the singing or dancing classes or go on one of the many walks and tours planned.

Margaret gave the vote of thanks. Tea and home baking prepared by Dorothy Burnie and Elsa Campbell was served.

Monthly competition prizewinners were: Knitted teacosy, 1 Annette MacKinnon; photograph of Tiree building, 1 Annie MacKinnon; 2 Peggy Cameron; 3 Margaret Jones.

Shinty

CONGRATULATIONS to Lismore Primary School's shinty team for coming third equal in the recent First Shinty B league at its first attempt.

Kinlochleven

Your correspondent is Judith Brickwood: 01855 831955

Riverbank clean-up

KINLOCHLEVEN Fishing Club organised a clean up on Saturday March 18. Members of the club, together with a large number of villagers, combed the banks and gathered up a winter's worth of rubbish.

Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson 01866 833201

Dalavich chalets

AT A RECENT area committee meeting of Argyll and Bute Council the planning application for the erection of 30 chalets at Dalavich was discussed.

Carraig Gheal Wind Farm

IT WAS only recently that the area committee was informed of the preferred access route for the transport of turbines.

A report will have to be written about this route. It was decided by the area committee that it should have a site inspection on the morning of April 4 followed by a local meeting in the afternoon to make their decision of the proposed wind farm at Carraig Gheal. The Scottish Executive will then be informed of the council's decision, as consultants. The planning officer has recommended Carraig Gheal for refusal.

Lochgoilhead

THE MARCH meeting was opened by president Betty Bryce. Business matters were dealt with first as the guest speakers for the evening were delayed on their journey but arrived safe and well.

Karen and Diane, who work for Thorntons, gave an extensive history of how the firm started from its humble beginnings in 1911 to its present day form of a large countrywide business.

The best selling product is their Special Toffee. All members received a goody bag and Betty Bryce gave the vote of thanks.

The competition for macaroon bars was won by Catriona Morrison with Anne Livingstone second.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 426

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solutions to last week's puzzle and quick clues.

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# Mountain rescue casualty bag tested to 'destruction' on Cuillins

MAYDAY is going to be a day Paul Roshier remembers for a long time, as he has been working four-and-a-half years towards it.

For more than 1,600 days he has been toiling on creating a major piece of rescue kit which looks set to be adopted by mountain rescue teams throughout the UK and indeed the world.

Paul, from Dunvegan on Skye, has been a member of the island's mountain rescue team since 1984.

Led by Gerry Ackroyd, the Skye Mountain Rescue Team is one of the oldest in Scotland, having been founded in the 1960s, and is certainly one of the busiest with the Cuillins, Quiraing and Trotternish Ridge the dramatic backdrops to countless call-outs over the years.

In 2001 Paul sat down with his peers from across Scotland to listen to Mick Tighe, training officer for the Mountain Rescue Committee of Scotland (MRCS).

Mick didn't mince his words.

'To put it frankly he was putting the boot into mountain rescue equipment,' recalls Paul.

### Challenge

'He was saying that this was useless. On the continent they did it this way and he put down this one challenge for someone to come up with something to improve safety.'

A few months later Paul and his colleagues met as part of a 'think-tank' to discuss what mountain rescue equipment needed to be improved.

Paul said: 'I thought I would have a try.'

Paul set about creating a radical new casualty bag or 'Casbag'.

As the name suggests the casualty bag is what teams use to take an injured climber off the mountains.

To some people having a try is giving it your best shot, perhaps not achieving what you set out to do, shrugging your shoulders and walking away.

To Paul Roshier 'having a

try' meant spending thousands of hours working on ideas, different materials and problems, day and night, and testing it on mountains with teams all over the UK and even in America.

The old Casbag was originally designed by Gerry Ackroyd in the 1980s.

### 'Sausage roll'

Paul describes it 'like a sausage roll' with the casualty wrapped up and strapped into the stretcher.

Paul set to work on creating a new version with a range of factors to take into account.

Obviously it had to be super secure for both vertical and horizontal lifts down mountains; it had to be comfortable for the casualty and it had to be warm.

When designing the Casbag, Paul had to take into account the needs of the different areas in Scotland and the challenges facing mountain rescue teams in those places.

Paul said: 'In the Borders you've got the fields and the forests; in the Cairngorms you have the Arctic conditions and in Lochaber and Skye it is completely different again. They are all such different terrains and all the teams have looked to get the bag their way.'

'The Skye team wanted it sturdy. They wanted it to be light in the Borders and warm in the Cairngorms. I have had to analyse everything because it has to be very tough and it has taken four-and-a-half years of testing.'

The first time the Casbag was tested was in Creag Dubh, Kingussie, in 2001 and Paul admits he was so nervous about the trial he 'over engineered' the design.

### Comfortable

The volunteer in the first test told Paul the straps on the Casbag were not particularly comfortable, which was not a surprise.

Suspension trauma is when a person's blood circulation is cut off. In the



Paul Roshier with his Casbag. (13cas01)

worst case scenario the dead blood can kill the person once it returns to the system.

That was the signal for Paul to ditch the straps in favour of a mesh material which clings to the casualty's body instead of pinning them back. He designed two separate compartments of mesh for the casualty's torso and the legs.

### Advantage

The major advantage of the mesh is that it doesn't restrict or pin down the casualty too severely. If someone was suffering from a shattered hip then the mesh would contort itself around the body.

Packed into the bag is layers of foil and foam because casualties in Scottish mountains are normally found to be suffering from hypothermia. The Casbag is extremely light, has a small hole to allow the casualty

This year I have been to Assynt, Oban, Killin and Braemar.

'I have had grinding wheels against the material and have taken a piece of rock to it to see how it would hold up.'

But is he the stereotypical inventor who hits a brick wall until being hit by inspiration in the wee small hours and has to get up to beaver away on his invention?

'Oh yes! You've got me in one,' said Paul.

'It's the same for me as everyone else on a Monday morning. I got a lot of encouragement from guys in the team. They would say 'Keep on going. Come on Roshier! When are we getting one Roshier?'

### Advice

'I have had loads of very good advice. I don't want to give the impression that I have been working in a vacuum. I have had a lot of help and counsel.'

'Although my business is a one-man operation, it is the input from team members that provides much of the data I use in my work. Gerry and the Skye team have been a brilliant help, as has the MRCS.'

Monday May 1 is the day on which Paul will step forward and deliver a report to the MRCS about the Casbag, which will cost around £850. Afterwards he will be taking a well deserved holiday with his wife but *The Oban Times* left him working on getting 'beefier' zips and working out measurements to provide more material for 'beefier' casualties.

**'The Casbag has had to be tested to death. I have tested it to destruction and it has been up and down the Cuillins. This year I have been to Assynt, Oban, Killin and Braemar. I would take a piece of rock to it to see how it would hold up.'**

## Major overhaul still needed

THE NEW Casbag has been hailed for modernising an integral part of mountain rescue kit but there appears to be a long way to go.

Former MRCS training officer Mick Tighe, who worked very closely with Paul Roshier on the Casbag, praised the work he had put in over the last few years but aimed a broadside at mountain rescue.

He said: 'Paul has done a fabulous job and put a lot of effort into it but there is a long, long way to go in the whole mountain rescue spectrum.'

'Mountain rescue people, mountain rescue needs a major overhaul.'

'That is not to say they are not doing a good job, because they are. Things are increasingly slow to happen and is going to be very difficult.'

Mr Tighe, a former member of Lochaber Mountain Rescue team, believes it could take a while for the

new Casbag to be embraced because mountain rescue teams in Scotland have several different types of casualty bags in their stores.

Mick said Donald Duff, who was a surgeon in Fort William's Belford Hospital, had used a similar mesh material in a casualty bag before and Paul had now taken up that mantle and modernised it.

### Exercise

Strathclyde Police's Chief Inspector in Oban Ciorstan Shearer experienced the Casbag at first hand last January as she volunteered to take part in an exercise involving Paul Roshier and Oban Mountain Rescue Team on Ben Cruachan.

The chief inspector spent three hours in the Casbag and described it as the most 'comfortable experience I have had in a casualty scenario'.

Speaking personally as an experienced hill walker and not on behalf of Strathclyde Police, she said: 'It was



The Casbag had to be tested in all conditions. Paul Roshier is pictured along with other mountain rescue team members carrying out prototype tests on Anach Mor.



Skye Mountain Rescue Team member Ewan MacSween was the willing volunteer for a Casbag test down Skye's 200-foot Kilt Rock.



Ewan MacSween being carefully lowered in the vertical drop down the Kilt Rock near Staffin.

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# WEST HIGHLAND PROPERTY GUIDE

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## Skirinish - a most attractive Dorran bungalow, sited in Benderloch



Skirinish... well laid out and in good decorative order

THE current readiness of several major financial institutions to fund the purchase of Dorran houses has contributed to the positive light in which these bungalows are now being viewed.

Formerly it was only this element of uncertainty which prevented Dorrans from enjoying the positive appeal which they would otherwise have merited.

Undeniable were their stylish design and well laid-out accommodation.

Their attraction is well exemplified by Skirinish at Benderloch, currently on the market with offers over £185,000 being sought.

### Charm

The location itself will undoubtedly add to its charm. This is a lovely area which combines high scenic beauty with a range of local services while Oban itself, only nine miles away, is readily accessible.

Contemporary-styled accommodation at Skirinish includes a vestibule, lounge/dining-room, inner hallway, kitchen, rear vestibule, toilet, four bedrooms and the family bathroom. The house sits on an expansive, meticulously maintained site.

### Wilton

An attractive vestibule has frosted double-glazed windows to both front and side. Surmounting a tastefully-decorated lounge/dining-room is a ceiling rose with fitting for a pendant light below.

There are secondary glazed windows to the front and side and the room hosts a fireplace designed to accommodate a solid fuel fire.

The inner hallway, proudly embellished by a new Wilton carpet, gives access to

the remaining accommodation. In a smart, modern kitchen light spills through secondary glazed windows to the rear.

### Storage

A parade of fully-fitted wall and floor units with marble-effect work surfaces, provides substantial storage.

Equipment includes a built-in electric hob and double oven with extractor fan, and an integral dishwasher plumbed for an automatic washing machine. Incorporated is a built-in coat cupboard. The kitchen also offers access to a loft providing ample storage.

The toilet, replete with a ceramic tiled floor, houses a white W.C. and wash-hand basin and displays a fitted vanity unit.

The four well-appointed, comfortable bedrooms are individually styled with considerable flair.

### Immaculate

In an impeccable family bathroom the walls are fully tiled and the bath, which contains an immaculate three-piece suite plus shower, is impressively boxed in pine.

Sizeable level gardens, laid mostly to grass, provide the backdrop for well-chosen mature shrubs and bushes. There is a quality garage with in-built shed at the rear with separate access and a sizeable patio area behind the house which is approached by a gravelled driveway.

The sale of this appealing property is being conducted by E. Thornton & Co., the Oban Solicitors, Notaries and Estate Agents.

## A home on the Isle of Tiree Development at Pier Road, Scarinish

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Offers over £60,000 are invited for Plot 1  
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### 5 LORA VIEW, NORTH CONNELL, ARGYLL

Nicely presented end terrace house, which is well situated, in a sought after residential location. The accommodation, on two floors comprises: Ground floor: Open vestibule, hallway, living room, bathroom, kitchen. First Floor: Two bedrooms, box room. The property has easily maintained gardens to the front and side and an attractive and established garden to the rear. Oil central heating.



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### BUILDING PLOT, BARCALDINE, ARGYLL

A unique opportunity to purchase a building plot for the erection of a dwelling house with views towards Loch Creran and the Appin Hills beyond. The plot is well situated, amongst a small community of houses. Outline planning consent was granted on the 7th April 2003.



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## RENAULT LAUNCHES NEW CLIO BIO-FUEL TOGETHER WITH EMISSIONS COMMITMENT FOR EUROPE



Renault launches Clio Hi-Flex biofuel initially for Brazil

New Clio Hi-Flex bio-fuel launched Renault sold 25% of all vehicles emitting less than 120g/km CO2 in Europe in 2005. Target to sell 1 million cars annually emitting less than 140g/km CO2 by 2008. Following its recent international debut at the 2006 Paris International Agricultural Show, Renault has launched a new bio-fuel car, the Hi-Flex Clio available with either a 1.0 or 1.6-litre 16v engine. Based on the Clio II, the new range has been developed for the Brazilian market and features Renault-developed 'Flex Fuel' technology, with a highly versatile engine that can run on petrol and ethanol in any proportion (0-100% of either). Available in three and five-door hatchback or Clio Sedan form, the new Flex Fuel models replace all of the previous petrol versions and cost an average of just 1% more, with prices starting at 26,570 R\$ (Brazilian Real), or £7,165 sterling equivalent.

In Europe, biofuel is one of the most promising solutions for bringing down CO2 emission levels. Under Renault Commitment 2009, Renault has made several commitments to environ-

ment issues, including engine adaptation to biofuels. By 2009, 50% of petrol-engined Renaults offered for sale in Europe will be able to run on fuels containing up to 85% of ethanol and all Renault diesel cars will run on fuel containing up to 30% of diester. **Renault leads in Europe for low emissions cars** The Renault range is already one of the best in the world for fuel consumption and CO2 emissions. For example, in 2005, 25% of all vehicles sold in Europe that emitted less than 120g/km CO2 were Renaults, compared to the company's market share of 9.7%, providing greater environmental benefit in total than a small number of expensive hybrids. This lead is planned to continue with the aim of selling a million cars a year with CO2 emissions under 140 grams per kilometre by 2008, with a third of these emitting less than 120 grams.

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2001/51 Peugeot Partner Combi, 5 dr M.P.V. PAS, C/L etc 22,000 miles ... £4,695  
2000/X Landrover Freelander TD4 PAS C/L Alloys Metallic ..... £8,695

**COMMERCIALS**  
2001/51 Vauxhall Movano 2.5 Diesel Van PAS etc Very tidy ..... £4,495 + vat  
1998 R Ford Escort 1.8 Diesel Van ..... £1250 + vat

**DEMONSTRATOR'S**  
2005/55 Peugeot 307 XSI HDI 136 5dr Alloys, 6spd,A/C etc 5000 miles ... £15,995  
2005/05 Peugeot 1007 1.6 Auto Electric Sliding Doors PAS A/C Alloys metallic, 3,000 miles ..... £10,995

**ALL THIS AND MORE AT**

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BURNSIDE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN Tel: 01586 551144

**NEW CAR INDEX**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>BMW</b><br>Calterdon Ltd<br>Harbour Road,<br>Inverness<br>Tel. 01463 236566  | <b>RENAULT</b><br>W.D Semple<br>Inveraray & Lochgilthead<br>Tel. 01499 302150  |
| <b>FIAT</b><br>Hazelbank Motors<br>Lynn Road, Oban<br>Tel. 01631 566476   | <b>SUBARU</b><br>S & S Services<br>Old Bridge Road,<br>Heathfield, Ayr<br>Tel. 01292 880080/880440                     |
| <b>HONDA</b><br>Helensburgh Honda<br>135 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh<br>Tel. 01436 675777/www.helensburghhonda.co.uk | <b>TOYOTA</b><br>Helensburgh Toyota<br>5 John Street, Helensburgh<br>Tel. 01436 672779<br>www.toyota.co.uk/helensburgh |
| <b>ISUZU</b><br>S & S Services<br>Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr<br>Tel. 01292 880080/880440                          | <b>VOLKSWAGEN</b><br>Hawco<br>Caol, Fort William<br>Tel. 01397 700900<br>www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk                    |
| <b>MINI</b><br>Calterdon Ltd<br>Harbour Road,<br>Inverness<br>Tel. 01463 236567   | <b>TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000</b>  |



# Drive Times

## Cars and Commercial Vehicles

### Cars



#### FORD ESCORT 16V



Taxed and MOT'd until September, 80,000 miles, T reg  
Telephone  
**01852 300261**

**£600 o.n.o.**

#### PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 1.4



Oct 2003, Full Service History, Excellent Condition, 17000 miles.

**£4700 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01631 565096**  
**07881 866086**

#### VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.7CTDI ENJOY



diesel hatchback. Reg Sept '04, 54 plate. High spec, aircon, alloys, CD etc. 19000miles. Taxed July. Roadtax £110. Full Vauxhall warranty to Sept '07. £14,000 new.

**£7750 No offers**

Telephone  
**01631 565500**

#### ROVER 216 SLI



R Reg 1.6 16v 5 door, Special edition. Nightfire red with matching trim, walnut dash. Alloys, sunroof, electric windows, electric mirrors, airbags, radio/cassette. New tyres and exhaust. MOT September, Tax June. Very reliable and cheap to insure.

**£800**

Telephone  
**01631 720213**

#### FORD ESCORT FLIGHT



1.6 Petrol Zetec, 1st Reg. March 2000, 51,000 Miles Genuine, Full Service History, P.A.S.S. Elec. Windows, Central Locking. Excellent Condition

**£2200 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01397 722461 or 07742 713289**

#### SEAT IBIZA 1.4 CHILL



2002 5 door hatchback mot January 2007 alloys, air con, PAS, electric windows and mirrors, very cheap insurance & road tax FSH & timing belt fitted excellent condition in black.

**£2850**

Telephone  
**07770 917967**

Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

#### ROVER MG ZR 1.4



52 Plate Silver, 38,000 miles, Alloys, CD, electric windows. One owner

**£4999 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**07979 791061**

#### RENAULT CLIO 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE



Met Black, 3dr, 03 reg, one non-smoking lady owner from new, sunroof, alloy wheels, CD player, excellent condition, well maintained

**£4950**

Telephone  
**01546 605246 / 07711 378513**

#### VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.6 LS



X Reg, 6 months mot, 72,000 miles, good condition.

**£2400 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**07771 868332**  
(Oban)

#### FORD ESCORT 1.8 TURBO DIESEL



W Reg, full years MOT, 4 new tyres, CD player, alloy wheels

**£2300 o.v.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01546 606750**  
**07775 600936**  
(Lochgilphead)

#### VAUXHALL CORSA GLS 1.0



T reg, low mileage, lady owner, full years MOT, 6 stack CD player very economical, ideal first car

**£1700**

Telephone  
**01546 606750**  
**07775 600936**  
(Lochgilphead)

#### VAUXHALL ASTRA ENVOY



1600cc, 2001 (Y reg), FSH, PAS electric windows, central locking, new timing belt, excellent condition. 1 yrs MOT

**£3500 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01546 603788**

#### VW GOLF MATCH



N Reg, 1.4 litre, 5 door, Mot and Tax, 100,000 miles

**£1300 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01397 772771**  
**07786 160153**

#### HONDA CIVIC COUPE LSI



M Reg 1994, Green, MOT'd February 2007. 81,000 miles

Telephone  
**01586 554240**  
**07776 148000**

**£1250 o.n.o.**

#### SAAB 9-5 AERO 2.3



HOT 4 DOOR (250 b.h.p.) Silver Metallic with Charcoal leather interior. Reg Sept 2001. Full SAAB dealership service history. 44,000 mls. factory alarm and immobiliser, abs, traction control, climate control, cruise control, CD, headlamp wash, parking assist, 17" alloys. Superb condition. T&T.

**£9,995**

Telephone  
**01631 710553 or 07747 695309**

#### VOLKSWAGEN POLO ESTATE



MOVING- Reduced for quick sale. 1999, 42,000 miles, white with black interior, Mot Feb 2007, Tax April 06, CD player, 1.6 Petrol, full VW service history, dual airbags. Perfect for outdoor living, families and/or pets. Versatile and reliable.

**£2795**

Telephone  
**07803 745739 (Oban)**  
email: peaceofmind@hotmail.com

#### RENAULT LAGUNA EXPRESSION 1.6 16V



Y reg, 39,000 miles MOT September 06 Taxed September 06 Service history, CD player, A/C

Telephone  
**01546 602254**

**£3500**

#### PEUGEOT 405 TD



M Reg, Tax and MOT, October 06

Telephone  
**01586 553180**

**£950 o.n.o.**

#### SUBARU LEGACY



Tax and MOT, 87,000 Miles, white, fast car, M Reg

Telephone  
**01586 553180**

**£1100 o.n.o.**

#### AUDI A3 1.8 SPORT



P Reg, absolutely mint cond. MOT Jan 2007, FSH, CD/Radio, Alloys, Full electric pack.

**£3995 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01369 707777**  
Freedom Scotland Motorhomes, 333 Argyll Street, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7RJ

#### FORD GALAXY 2.0 GLX



7seat, excellent cond. MOT July 2006, FSH, Air-Con, CD/Radio

**£2895 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
**01369 707777**

Freedom Scotland Motorhomes, 333 Argyll Street, Dunoon, Argyll PA23 7RJ

#### RENAULT MEGANE SCENIC 1.9 DIESEL



P reg 1997, Only 75,000 miles

Telephone  
**01631 720460**  
**07788 872820**

**£1500 o.n.o.**

#### NISSAN MICRA



1998, 3 DOOR HATCHBACK, TAX JAN 2007 MOT SEPTEMBER 2006. EXCELLENT CONDITION. ONLY ONE OWNER. GENUINE MILEAGE 4072. ELDERLY LADIES SHOPPING CAR

Telephone  
**01631 565560**

#### VAUXHALL VECTRA ESTATE 1.8 CLUB



'99 V Reg, service history, E.W, P.A.S, A.C, C.L, CD, Radio, Colour Coded Body Kit, Alloys Well looked after. Good Condition. M.O.T September 2006, Taxed May 2006

Telephone  
**01583 421325**

**£2300**

#### CITROEN ZX 1.9R



(M Reg), 6 months MOT, 3 door hatchback

Telephone  
**01770 302540**

**£600**

#### HONDA CIVIC 1.4 16V



H Reg, Mot till July 6 months tax Alloy wheels Cd Player, Low mileage

Telephone  
**01770 860484**  
**07920 804114**

**£500 o.n.o.**

#### SUBARU FORESTER S TURBO AWD



Metallic Silver 1999

Telephone  
**01770 302625**

**£6100 o.n.o.**

#### NISSAN MICRA



N Reg, 1 year MOT and 6 months tax

Telephone  
**01770 830282**  
(after 5 p.m.)

**£550**

#### MITSUBISHI FT0 2.0L V6 GR COUPE



outstanding looking sports coupe in black, 2 door, auto/triptronic box very low miles for year cd player alloys long mot superb condition and looker stylish motoring only

**£ 4495**

Marina Trade Centre, Ardrossan  
**01294 607777**  
Courtesy pick up from pier

#### PEUGEOT 306 MERIDIAN D



2001 Y Reg, 1.9 Diesel Engine 38,000 miles, New MOT 2 owners, Service history, Air Con, CD, Remote Locking, Good condition, Runs well.

Telephone  
**01586 553858**  
(Office Hours)

**£2800 o.n.o.**

### 4 x 4's



#### LANDROVER DISCOVERY

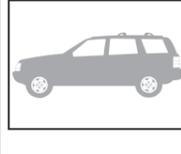


1994 (L reg), 2007d 3 door, good condition, 11 months MOT, 5 months tax, white, 120,000 miles, just serviced

Telephone  
**01838 200398**  
**07733 260726**  
(Dalmally) 2

**£2650 o.n.o.**

#### LANDROVER FREELANDER



1.8 petrol X167 XAS, taxed and MOT, as new, 11,000 miles, in Mull

Telephone  
**01688 500237**

#### DAIHATSU FOURTRACK



R Reg, August 1997, diesel, 53000 miles, taxed and MOT'd, Isle of Mull.

**£3250 plus VAT**

Telephone  
**07900 605900**

#### LANDROVER DISCOVERY ES



1995, Grey, 1 year MOT, average mileage

Telephone  
**01546 830208**  
**07736 520099**

**£3500**

#### MITSUBISHI SHOGUN 2.8 TD GLS



P Reg, 7 SEATER, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, CENTRAL LOCKING, TOWBAR, MOT MAR07 TAXED GOOD CONDITION.

**£4750 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
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**07717 500144**

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# Drive Times



## Cars and Commercial Vehicles

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Mary Stewart, Carradale

### HONDA CRV AUTO 2.0 SE SPORT



03 Reg, silver, Taxed June, Mot February 2007, Honda Warranty March 2007, F.S.H, electric windows, sunroof, alloys, air con, CD.

**£10,700**

Telephone 01369 840183 or 07979 684167 No Canvassers

### MITSUBISHI SHOGUN 2.8 TDI GLS LWB 4X4



1996, 130000 miles, gunmetal grey, 7 seater, 10 months MOT, 6 months tax, cruise control, full electrics, tow bar, new tyres

**£2995 o.n.o.**

Telephone 07780 676782 01631 570902

### LANDROVER 110 DEFENDER V8

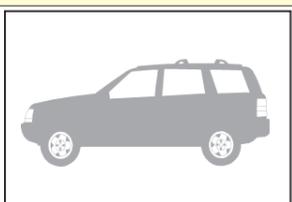


1983, Station wagon, 13,000 miles since complete, professional restoration, very high specification winch etc, MOT & Tax - August 06

**£8450 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01546 602265

### LANDROVER DEFENDER 110



P Reg, 1997, Dark Green, Mot'd until Dec 06, Taxed until end of May, Excellent Condition.

**£6750 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01680 812110

### RAV-4 1.8L



00 / X-reg, 3Dr 2WD FSH (most recent March 2006), MOT to March 2007, road tax to Feb 2007. New rear tyres. Radio / 6CD player. Alloy wheels. Very slight dent to offside rear bumper. Gets 45mpg. 52k miles.

**£6600 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01546 602117 or 07939 590875 Lochailhead

### LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TD5XS

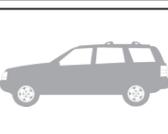


2000, auto, dark blue metallic, half leather high spec, private plate included. Luxury with versatility, marina trade centre

**£10,750**

Marina Trade Centre, Ardrrossan 01294 607777 Courtesy pick up from pier

### LANDROVER DISCOVERY



L Reg, good condition for year, Mot just expired, Tax'd, Spares or repair

**£1200 o.n.o.**

Telephone 07899 896608

### LANDROVER SERIES 2A

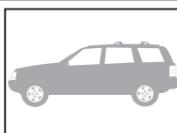


1968, Long wheel base pick-up, Tax free, Cheap Insurance, New Paint, Engine and Suspension good condition. 10 months MOT.

**£995 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01586 830108

### ISUZU TROOPER 3.1 TURBO DIESEL



L Reg, L.W.B, Mot'd and Taxed, Used daily.

**£2450 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01397 702140

### VW TRANSPORTER VAN

(October 03), 2.5 litre turbo diesel, 12,200 miles only, all-round windows, ideal for camper van or people carrier conversion, never used commercially and in excellent condition

**£7400**

Telephone 01496 850298

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100cc Road Legal 11 months old

For more details call 01770 601321

**£950 o.n.o.**

### Motorcycles



### HONDA CBR 600 F-W

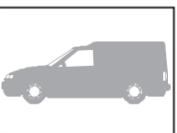


S Reg (98), excellent condition

**£2300 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01546 603306 07760 384939

### RENAULT KANGOO VAN



V Reg, 1.9 Diesel, Full years M.O.T, Power Steering, Roof Rack, 5 Speed, Ready For Work. Price Negotiable

**£1750 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01586 810252 07990 974026

### FORD TRANSIT 190 2.5 DIESEL



1998, S reg, ex BT fibre glass box van, 81,000 miles, V.G.C

**£2500 o.n.o.**

Telephone 01880 820273

### MITSUBISHI SHOGUN 2.8 GLS



M reg, lwb turbo diesel intercooler, dark navy over silver, manual, radio/cassette taxed and mot good condition, good spec a very attractive vehicle at a realistic price

**£5495**

Marina Trade Centre, Ardrrossan 01294 607777 Courtesy pick up from pier

### FORD ESCORT VAN TD



2001 Y, fully lined long mot very clean white ready for work just had full service low miles for year

**£2795 + vat**

Marina Trade Centre, Ardrrossan 01294 607777 Courtesy pick up from pier

### VOLKSWAGEN CADDY 1.9 TDI



2004 red, 17,500 miles excellent condition superb driver with diesel economy

**£5495 + vat**

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Buyers should note where standardised silhouettes are used they do not accurately represent the vehicle being sold

## WANTED

### WANTED 4 X4 VEHICLES

Landrover 90.110 Discovery, Rangerover and all Japanese models etc, high mileage, damaged, anything considered

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1998 (S) 45.180. 10T / 20 T Gross. 18' platform on each. All on air. MOT 1 year. Immaculate condition.

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### 3 BERTH CARAVAN



Tidy, ready for use, gas, cables, toilet

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**£300**

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30 X 12 FT

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**£500 o.n.o.**

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### TRIUMPH SPEED 4 600CC



2003, 7,500miles, Roulette Green, Includes cowlings, data log, Scott oiler and street bars, VGC. Swap / part X For an off road bike considered.

**£2300 o.n.o.**

Telephone 07901 843829

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1991, Reluctant sale due to relocation. Well cared for 1991 Renault Traffic Camper Van, 1700cc Petrol 52,500m. Towed 31/10/06, MOT 21/11/06. Leisure Battery & 240v Hook-up. Two berths, gas hob & heating, 3 way fridge, 12v lighting, sink w/water tank, portapotty, canvas tent awning, winter cover. Excellent runner, clean interior, all ready to go!

**£4900**

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 £5,7181 per hour 13hrs 20mins weekly  
 0830-0915, 1220-1345, 1505-1535 daily  
 You will ensure the safety of children when crossing the road. You must be over 18 with a good sense of community spirit, be able to work alone, and be a good timekeeper. Experience of working with children and knowledge of the Highway Code would be an advantage as would a driving licence. Ref: OSR00226.  
 Reserve School Crossing Patrollers are also required. You would be put on a reserve list and will only be required to work during the absence of any regular Patrollers. Therefore, the hours of duty will vary considerably.  
 For a recruitment pack call 01546 604870.  
 \*Applicants should note that this is an EXCEPTED POST, i.e. a post to which the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions)(Scotland) Order 2003 applies. Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting. Closing date 18th April 2006.  
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 SNH encourages applications from all sectors of the community  
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 Experience preferred but training can be given to successful applicant  
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**Abacus Services**  
**8 High Street, Oban, PA34 4BG**

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 please ask for Mr N Ryan  
 Thank you

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 Please apply to  
 The Centre Manager  
 The Lochgoilhead Centre,  
 Shelter Park, Lochgoilhead, Argyll, PA24 8AQ  
 Tel: 01301 703217 E-mail: [manager@lochgoilhead.org.uk](mailto:manager@lochgoilhead.org.uk)

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 requires  
**WAITING STAFF/ GENERAL ASSISTANT**  
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 Full time, permanent position.  
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 Kamma Craig  
**01852 316 251**

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**Highland Heritage Limited**

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 e-mail: [lcservice@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:lcservice@tiscali.co.uk)

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**Tweedmill Buildings, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4HQ**

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**We are recruiting:**  
**EDUCATION OFFICER (MATERNITY COVER)** to run our education programme for a minimum of six months from May 1. Post involves liaising with schools, delivering talks and events programme in and around Argyll, developing educational resources and courses. Six months - £8200  
**MARINE BIODIVERSITY OFFICER** to work on its conservation research and monitoring land and boat-based projects in the Hebrides. Experience of marine mammal monitoring techniques. Eight months annually - £10,900  
 Also **RELIEF FIRST MATES** onboard *Silurian* and **VOLUNTEERS** required  
 All information see [www.hwdt.org](http://www.hwdt.org)  
 Telephone **01688 302 620**. Closing date: March 31  
**HWDT, 28 Main Street, Tobermory, Mull, PA75 6NU**

**Social Work Senior Home Care Officer**  
**Dailmhor House Strontian, £18,381 - £20,169**  
 Part of a developing team committed to providing quality home care services, you will be responsible for the day to day organisation of the Care At Home Service in Strontian. You will prepare care plans and arrange appropriate support for older people and people with a physical disability living in the community. You will also provide support and supervision to home carers. You should have relevant experience and be willing to undertake SVQ3 in Care.  
 Informal enquiries to Shona Knight, tel (01397) 703397. Ref: L/37/06  
**Application packs quoting Ref: L/37/06 are available, from our website or by telephoning, (01397) 707220.**  
**Closing date: 21 April 2006**  
[www.highland.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.highland.gov.uk/jobs)

**The Highland Council**  
 Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd  
 SERVING The Highland Community

**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

**Benderloch**  
 requires the following:  
**Full-Time Trained Nurses**  
**£24,897 per annum**  
 plus  
*Overtime and Weekend Enhancements*  
 Also required:  
**Part-Time and Bank Nurses**  
 Please contact **Cathy Lee, Manager**  
**01631 720278**

**QUALIFIED Dental Nurse WANTED**  
 Basic computer skills needed  
**Please send your C.V. to:**  
 The Practice Manager  
 Argyll Square Dental Practice, 21 Argyll Square, Oban PA34 4AT

**ALCAN**  
**ALCAN PRIMARY METAL - EUROPE, LOCHABER SMELTER ACCOUNTANT**

An opportunity has arisen for a suitably experienced Accountant to work in the Finance Department of Lochaber Smelter. The successful applicant will report to the Accountant Manager. The role will include Cost Control, Financial Planning and Forecasting, Project Accounting and preparation of monthly Management Reports. Compliance with internal and external controls and statutory requirements is essential. Ideally you should be at least part qualified and working towards a full Accountancy qualification. You will be supported in seeking any further qualifications pertinent to the role or likely to be of benefit both to yourself and the Company. Good communicative and interpersonal skills and ability to work in a progressive environment meeting tight and demanding deadlines are essential. Please write with full CV by Friday 14th April to:  
 Mr D. Rankin, Accountant Manager  
 Alcan Primary Metal - Europe  
 Lochaber Smelter  
 Fort William  
 Inverness-shire, PH33 6TH  
 Telephone 01397 90 2274

**TARBERT HARBOUR AUTHORITY**  
**CASUAL EMPLOYEE**  
 required to assist Tarbert Harbour Master.  
 Working flexible hours including evenings and weekends. Must be trustworthy and reliable. Boat handling and handyman skills would be an advantage. Ability to deal with the public. Could lead to a more permanent position. Please apply in writing, outlining your skills, before April 14, 2006.  
 Applications marked 'Vacancy' should be sent to:  
**The Harbour Master, Harbour Master's Office, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6UD.**

**Melfort Village**  
 KILMELFORD

**PART-TIME SATURDAY CLEANERS**  
 We would welcome mature (over 16 yrs), responsible cleaners to join our Saturday change-over team.  
 Hours 10 am - 4 pm every Saturday (all year round) with break for lunch.  
 Training given.  
 £7.50/hour gross.  
 Assistance given with transport expenses.  
**Please telephone Christine Roberts on 01852 200257**

**JOB SEARCH**  
**Experienced Carer Available for private work in Oban area**  

- Meal preparation
- Personal care
- Nursing tasks
- Household duties
- Excellent References

 Apply to Box No 41  
 The Oban Times Ltd,  
 P.O Box 1 Oban

**Work you can believe in.**

**Careworkers**  
**30 & 35 hours • £13,578 - £15,863 pro rata**  
**Campbeltown**  
 CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counselling to over 4,000 people daily. At **Auchinlee** we provide the highest standard of care to older people.  
 Making a positive difference to people's lives can be a very rewarding experience. Every shift will bring different challenges, from planning future activities for clients to simply giving them the dignity, privacy and choice their humanity deserves. We'll provide you with all the support you need, the opportunity to gain a social care qualification and a comprehensive benefits package, including employer's contributory pension.  
 Applicants for these posts are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos. This requirement is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003. These posts are subject to enhanced disclosure.  
 Make a difference in life - call 01586 552568 or email [auchinlee@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:auchinlee@crossreach.org.uk) for an application form. Closing date: 13 April 2006. Church of Scotland Social Care Council  
[www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)

**CROSSREACH**  
 providing a caring future

**Kranenburg Fine Arts**  
 Required for busy Art Gallery an  
**ASSISTANT**  
 who can be multi-tasked with essential computer skills.  
 Full or Part Time Position.  
 Apply in writing with C.V. to:  
 Kranenburg Fine Arts, Star Brae,  
 Oban, PA34 4AZ

**CONVENIENCE RETAILING**  
 The Craignure Stores  
 Isle of Mull

**SEASONAL RETAIL ASSISTANTS**  
**FULL and PART-TIME**  
 Vacancies for retail assistants will involve operating the cash point and customer service area, stocking product displays, maintaining the shop's high standards of cleanliness and hygiene in addition to assisting with the preparation of hot food to go snacks and instore bakery. Shifts include early mornings, evenings and weekends. Previous experience working with the public is an advantage as is an enthusiastic manner and proven ability of using your initiative. In addition you should be punctual, with evidence of excellent record of attendance. Depending on experience rate of pay will be between £5.75 and £6.50 per hour. Free uniform provided.  
 For further information contact **Larry Highton/Lynne Stockey** on 01680 812301/07711069757 or write to **The Craignure Stores, Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY**

**ELEANOR'S THE HAIR SALON**  
**Staff Required Full & Part Time**  
**Hair Stylist & General Assistant**  
 Apply With in or telephone 01631 562970

**Messrs D J Campbell & Son**  
**Achnashelloch Farm, Lochgilphead PA31 8RE**  
**Tel/fax 01546 605273**  
 we require a highly motivated, reliable and flexible person to work in our busy dairy retail business. Duties will include, driving, wholesale or retail delivery, money collection and stock picking for loads. The position is full time based at our Depot here at the farm but will entail relief work on different rounds as required.  
**Please apply to Achnashelloch Farm, Lochgilphead. Telephone 01546 605273.**

**Caledonian MacBrayne**  
 Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited has a requirement for  
**Port Assistant** (Seasonal Post)  
 Location: Mallaig  
 Rate of Pay: £6.20 per hour  
 Ref 18-5B

Applications are invited for the position of Port Assistant based at Mallaig for seasonal duties from 17 April until 31 October 2006.  
 Reporting to the Port Manager/Supervisor, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will deal with customer enquiries and assist in sales of passenger/vehicle tickets; cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels and any other duties required by the Port Manager/Supervisor.  
 You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.  
 You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.  
 If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 18-5B no later than Friday 7 April 2006 to:  
 Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited  
 Ferry Terminal, Gourack, PA19 1QP  
 t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268  
 Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.  
 Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer  
[www.calmac.co.uk](http://www.calmac.co.uk)

# 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)



**The Nadair Trust**  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
and INFORMATION DAY  
CORRAN HALLS  
(small theatre)  
Wednesday 26th April 2006

**MORNING SESSION**  
10.00-Registration and Tea/Coffee  
10.30-Welcome: Dr Tricia Bradley,  
Regional Director, RSPB Scotland,  
Chair of Nadair Trust  
10.40-AGM  
11.00-The Nadair Heritage Projects Programme  
and Nadair Support Services  
11.20-Project Leader Speakers  
12.30-LIGHT LUNCH  
AFTERNOON SESSION  
13.30-Workshops: Nature and Sustainable  
Development in the Argyll Atlantic Islands  
15.45-Tea/Coffee  
16.00-Review of the Day: James Hilder,  
Mull and Iona Community Trust  
16.15-Closing Remarks:  
James Fraser, Area Director, VisitScotland  
Sponsored kindly by Charity Bank  
All welcome  
To book a place please contact  
01631 570075  
nadair@nadair.org.uk

Supported by the  
Heritage  
Lottery Fund

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO START PREPARATION OF REPLACEMENT OF LOCHABER LOCAL PLAN AND BADENOCH AND STRATHSPEY LOCAL PLAN (PART)**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING SCOTLAND ACT 1997**  
**LOCHABER LOCAL PLAN**

The Highland Council intend to prepare replacement of the Lochaber Local Plan and the Badenoch and Strathspey Local Plan (part) by preparing one new Local Plan to be known as the Lochaber Local Plan. This will include land comprising the Lochaber Area and that part of the south west of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area, outwith the Cairngorms National Park.

Further information on the Plan can be obtained from the Director of Planning and Development, The Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX or from [www.highland.gov.uk/plintra/devplans/loc/loc.htm](http://www.highland.gov.uk/plintra/devplans/loc/loc.htm) If you wish to discuss matters or would like further details please contact Colin Mackenzie (tel. 01463 702261), Elaine Watt (702259) or Neil Huggan (702291).

30 March 2006  
John D Rennison  
Director of Planning and Development  
The Highland Council  
Glenurquhart Road  
Inverness  
IV3 5NX  
Lochaber Futures

**This is your opportunity to influence the future of your community.** The new Lochaber Local Plan will update the statutory planning framework, provide a development and land use dimension to the Highland Community Plan and contribute to the corporate vision for the Area. The Council wishes to engage with local people, the agencies, community and voluntary groups, the private sector and landowners in considering the issues and options which will shape the Local Plan priorities for the period to 2015/16 and beyond.

In this regard, the Council has published a consultation newspaper: *Lochaber Futures*. Lochaber Futures is to be circulated - in a customised form for the different parts of the Area: Fort William, Ardnamurchan and Morvern, Glencoe and Nether Lochaber, North Lochaber (including south west Badenoch and Strathspey) and West Lochaber - to all domestic and business address points in the Local Plan area. The Council invites your views (including by e-mail or by return of the Lochaber Futures Comments panel) by **Friday 9th June 2006**.

**Lochaber Futures is available in full at [www.highland.gov.uk/plintra/devplans/loc/loc.htm](http://www.highland.gov.uk/plintra/devplans/loc/loc.htm)**

**Next Steps**  
The Council will carefully consider all responses to *Lochaber Futures* and the scope to set up local "focus" groups to help with further discussions. The Council expect to publish the replacement Lochaber Local Plan by November/December 2006. Details of the publicity to be given to the Local Plan will be advertised at that time.



To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @  
[www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**PLANNING**  
**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996**

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll & Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

- Ref No: 06/00247/OUT  
Applicant: David + Lorna Moseley  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwelling House  
Site Address: Old Schoolhouse Kilmore Oban Argyll PA34 40R  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 06/00520/OUT  
Applicant: Mrs Billimore  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Cacha Benderloch Argyll And Bute PA37 10S  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledarg  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00523/OUT  
Applicant: Mrs M Kennedy  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Ards House Connel Argyll And Bute PA37 1PT  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00588/DET  
Applicant: Mrs C Wood  
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse, Formation of Road Access and Erection of Shed  
Site Address: Land West Of Inishkea Dervaig Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6W  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dervaig  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00520/COU  
Applicant: Mr Chaudhry  
Proposal: Change of Use from Shop Class 1 to Restaurant/Takeaway Class 3  
Site Address: 99 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NR  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00549/DET  
Applicant: James Robertson  
Proposal: Extension to Oyster Farm Shed  
Site Address: Land North East Of Winterton Farm Balvicar Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00553/DET  
Applicant: British Trust Hotels  
Proposal: Leisure extension to existing hotel  
Site Address: Isle Of Mull Hotel Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6BB  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00544/REM  
Applicant: M And K Macleod Ltd  
Proposal: Erection of 29 dwellings (mix of houses and cottage flats)  
Site Address: Area 2 Glenallaigh Glenangall Road Oban Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00547/LIB  
Applicant: Mr Gilbert MacKechnie  
Proposal: Proposed Sleeping Accommodation  
Site Address: Glenrigh Corran Eglanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AQ  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
S60 Setting of Listed Bldg Ad - 21 Days
- Ref No: 06/00561/DET  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Granger  
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North Of Forabus House Ardturn Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle Of Mull  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR**

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

- Ref No: 06/00524/DET  
Applicant: Scottish Water  
Proposal: Installation of a pipe bridge and ground reprofiling  
Site Address: Land North West Of Burnside Shore Street Port Wemyss Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00368/DET  
Applicant: Catherine Doherty King  
Proposal: Installation of replacement windows in half of house  
Site Address: Bruich Dhu Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte  
Development in Conservation Area 21 Days
- Ref No: 06/00369/LIB  
Applicant: Catherine Doherty King  
Proposal: Installation of replacement windows in half of house  
Site Address: Bruich Dhu Main Street Port Charlotte Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte  
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day

## RECRUITMENT



**Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute Valuation Joint Board**

**ASSESSOR AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER**

**Trainee Technician/Technician**

Ref No: VJB/04/03  
35 hours per week  
£10,671 - £25,857  
Based at Kilbrannan House, Bolgam Street, Campbeltown

This is an opportunity to develop an interesting career in surveying that involves the survey of both domestic and commercial properties for inclusion in the Valuation Roll and the Council Tax Valuation List. Applicants should have excellent communication and team working skills together with a flexible approach and outlook.

Applicants lacking formal surveying qualifications will be considered and would be initially placed on the salary scale £10,671- £14,220. The salary scale extends to £25,857 for candidates with experience and relevant qualifications (Diploma in Surveying Practice and Tech RICS)

Benefits include working for an equal opportunities employer, final salary pension scheme, a wide range of family friendly policies and up to 30 days annual leave.

Interviews will be held on Friday 28th April 2006  
**CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 14th APRIL 2006**

For an application pack please contact  
**Corporate Personnel (Admin), Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU,**  
telephone number (01389) 737666  
Or via E-mail:  
[recruitment@west-dunbarton.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment@west-dunbarton.gov.uk)

Please quote Reference Number VJB/04/03 when applying.

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts**

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

| Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number                              | Proposal Description   | Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement                       |
|--|--|--|
| Mr A MacGillivray & Mrs H MacGillivray Arivegaig, Acharacle 06/00120/OUTLO         | Erection of House (Outline)  | Acharacle Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)  |
| Mr MacDonald Carness Cottage North Ballachulish Onich, Fort William 06/00112/FULLO | Conversion of Steading to Form 2no. Holiday Lets                                 | Ballachulish Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)                                     |
| Morbaine Limited Alcan Site North Road, Fort William 06/00115/OUTLO                | Erection of Foodstore with Associated Parking and Servicing Facilities (Outline) | Lochaber Area Planning Office Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (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](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)**



**STRATHCLYDE**  
safety camera partnership

The Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership is an initiative involving police, local authorities and trunk roads management which operates safety cameras (speed and red light) as a means of helping to reduce accidents and injuries on the road.

During 2006-07, the Partnership will be carrying out enforcement in the interests of road safety at the following locations in:

**Argyll & Bute**  
A815 near Ardinglass Mobile  
A82 Bridge of Orchy Mobile  
A85 5.5km west of Tyndrum Mobile

For further information and a full list of all safety camera locations in Strathclyde, visit our website [www.strathclydecameras.com](http://www.strathclydecameras.com)

**Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership, Road Policing Complex, 433 Helen Street, Glasgow G51 3HH.**

working for safer roads

**OPERATIONAL SERVICES**  
**THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (CAMERON BRIDGE, ISLE OF MULL) (WEIGHT RESTRICTION)(AMENDMENT) ORDER 200\_**

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to amend the existing Order, which will remove the current 3 tonnes maximum gross weight restriction on Cameron Bridge in Mull.

Full details of these proposals, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Cameron Bridge, Isle of Mull) (Weight Restriction)(Amendment) Order 200\_" together with a plan and a statement of reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the following offices:

- Area Manager, Operational Services, Kilbowie House, Gallanach Road, Oban;
- Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Broadalbane Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull;
- Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Democratic Service and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 21st April 2006.

**Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RD**



**SEPA**  
Scottish Environment Protection Agency

**Trainee Environment Protection Officer**  
£17,388  
Fort William

As part of a structured training course, you will develop the skills necessary to undertake the regulation and enforcement of a range of environmental legislation including controlling pollution of controlled waters, conservation of water resources, emissions to air from prescribed processes, the storage, treatment, transfer and disposal of controlled waste (excluding radioactive waste) and the use of sealed radioactive sources.

You must have a relevant scientific degree, whilst corporate membership of an approved body would be desirable. Excellent communication and MS Office skills are essential, as is a good knowledge of environmental media legislation.

**The closing date is 7th April 2006.**  
To apply or for specific details on this post, or other opportunities within SEPA please visit [www.sepa.org.uk/vacancies](http://www.sepa.org.uk/vacancies)  
e-mail [recruitment@sepa.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@sepa.org.uk)  
Alternatively you can call 01786 452555 or e-mail [recruitment@sepa.org.uk](mailto:recruitment@sepa.org.uk)  
Please quote reference Train3/041 in any correspondence.  
CVs will not be considered.

**Mallaig Harbour Authority**

Notice is hereby given that a meeting of all owners of vessels (other than Caledonian MacBrayne Limited, and members of the Mallaig & North West Fishermen's Association) who are entitled to elect one of their members as a Member of the Mallaig Harbour Authority for the 2 year period to 15th May 2008, will be held within the Harbour Offices, Mallaig on 26th April 2006 at 11.15am.

Notice is hereby given that a Meeting of persons other than owners of vessels, who have used the Harbour for the purpose of trade, business of undertaking and who are entitled to elect one of their members as a Member of the Mallaig Harbour Authority for the 2 year period to 15th May 2008 will be held in the Harbour Office, Mallaig on 26th April 2006 at 11.30am.

Nominations for the said appointments must be lodged with the undernoted not later than ten days from the date of this Notice. Owners and persons as aforesaid entitled to attend and vote at the forthcoming meetings are entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in their place (joint owners being entitled to appoint one proxy only). Proxies must be lodged with the undernoted not later than forty-eight hours prior to the date of the said meetings.

The aforementioned meetings will be held in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 1 part 2 of the **Mallaig Harbour Revision Order 1968.**

**Robert MacMillan**  
Port Manager/Secretary to Mallaig Harbour Authority.

**MEETINGS OF THE OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE**

Meetings of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held as follows:

**Tuesday 4th April 2006**  
In Portsochan Village Hall at 3.00pm to discuss the Council's response to the Scottish Executive in regard to planning application ref. 05/00016/ELSE36 (Green Power: Electricity Consultation - proposed Windfarm - Carriga Gheal, Inverinan, Tainuult).

**Wednesday 5th April 2006**  
Ordinary monthly meeting in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Albany Street, Oban at 10.30 am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Any enquiries should be directed to: Kenneth Macdonald, Area Corporate Services Manager (Tel. 01631 567930).



**Comhairle nan Eilean Siar**

**HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY**

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in conjunction with Craighforth Consultancy are carrying out a postal survey to gain information on the housing needs of the Western Isles population.

Survey questionnaires are now being sent at random to 6500 addresses throughout the Islands.

If your household receives a questionnaire, please take time to complete and return it to Craighforth Consultancy.

The results will be crucial to forward planning for housing and housing related services in the Islands in the next 5 - 10 years.

Craighforth 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, 01851 709322)

**The Royal Burgh Cafe**  
3 Main Street West, Inveraray  
Have a vacancy for a  
**Head Waitress/Waiter**

This is a full time, permanent position. Good people skills, charismatic a happy disposition and able to work as part of a busy team is essential, as passionate about food and wine. Good rate of pay and accommodation available if required. If you think you are the right person for this position, please contact Mr Pia on 01499 302 323.

**Self-employed AGENTS**  
Required in your area  
Hours to suit you.  
Own transport and mobile phone required.  
Call  
Charles McGuigan  
at Provident Personal Credit  
on 01786 445643.

**PART-TIME BOOK-KEEPER and Sage WAGES PERSON required**  
Apply to  
**Hazelbank Motors Oban**  
Telephone  
**01631 566476**

**Argyll Couple Counselling AGM**

To be held on Monday 24 April 2006  
At the Family Mediation Office  
Stevenson Street  
OBAN  
6:00pm  
all enquiries  
01852 300514

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**

Lachlan J. MacLean, trading as Argyll Haulage, of Greenacre, Connel, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PJ, is applying to change an existing licence to keep an extra one goods vehicle at the operating centre for Greenacre, Connel, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PJ; to add an operating centre to keep one goods vehicle at Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SH.

Owners or Occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE, stating their reasons within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

**A.G.M**  
An Comunn Gaidhealach  
Southern Region West  
Partickburgh Hall, Glasgow  
Saturday April 8, 2006, 11am  
All members Welcome

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**  
**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

### Animal magic in Lochaber

LOCHABER Rural Complex is hosting an Easter holiday club this year. Workshops will be held for children of all ages on themes such as animal magic, springtime, Easter and food production.

The workshops will be held between 10am and 12 noon and 1.30pm and 3.30pm from Monday, April 3.

### Heathmount Charolais to 167.7p per kilo at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts presented 567 store cattle at its fortnightly sale.

A mixed show for quality saw all classes maintain recent keen rates. The 294 bullocks sold to a top of 167.7p per kilo for 310kg Charolais crosses from A R Mackenzie, Heathmount, to average 132.9p, and to £765 per head for a Limousin from J M Fraser and Sons, Easter Clune.

The 241 heifers sold to a top of 145.8p per kilo for 240kg Charolais crosses from R Bain, 17 Newmore, to average 121.4p, and to a top of £735 per head for Limousins from AR Leslie, Boganbuie.

Over 30-month cattle sold to a top of 82.6p per kg, £545, for a Limousin cow from D. Fraser and Son, Lower Milton to an overall sale average of 67.3p. Other leading prices: Cows - £515 East Croftmore (AAx), 80.4p Abersky (SH); £510 Bual (AA), 78.2p Topperfettle (Lim). Bullocks - £540 Glenurquhart (AA).

### Charolais bullocks to £928 at Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 78 cattle (49 bullocks and 29 heifers) at its weekly prime sale.

Bullocks sold to 134p per kilo for a 610kg Limousin from J G Ross and Partners, Wester Cullicudden to Woodhead Brothers and to £928 per head for an 800kg Charolais from W MacKenzie, Coul of Fairburn to A Ingram, East Comalegy.

Heifers fetched to 121p per kilo for a 560kg Charolais cross from D Hannan, Dunvournie to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall and for a 520kg Limousin from D Robertson, Easter Lovat to Woodhead Brothers.

Top per head was £699 for a 635kg Charolais cross from E J MacKenzie and Co, Pithogarty to John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall.

The company also sold 2935 prime sheep with lambs selling to £58 for 47kg Texel crosses from Conon Brae Farms, Torgorm to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall and to 134.1p per kilo for 42.5kg Texel crosses from D Cameron and Son, Allanglach to A Ingram, East Comalegy.

### Stirling Thursday

UNITED Auctions Stirling had forward 5808 prime sheep including 4523 hogs, 10 spring lambs and 1283 ewes and rams at their Stirling on Thursday.

Hoggs sold £70, £69 and £68.50 for Texels from Guardswell and to £58.50 for Cheviots off Ardtornish. Blackface ewes from Glenfalloch sold to £40 with Texels from Brae side to £74.

## Environment and Rural Development Committee comes to Oban

CROFTERS will have a chance to voice their opinions on the future of crofting when the Scottish Parliament's Environment and Rural Development Committee meets in Oban on May 8.

The committee is set to discuss the Parliament's Crofting Reform Bill during the meeting at the town's Corran Halls.

Committee Convener, Sarah Boyack MSP stated that the committee is aware of the importance of crofting and are keen to hear the response of crofters to the bill.

She said: 'The views of individual crofters and inter-

ested organisations on the impact the proposed bill will have on communities are vital to our work in scrutinising the bill.

'The Committee is very keen to meet in crofting communities.

'The meetings allow those most affected by the proposals the opportunity to share their views and experience before we meet with the Crofters Commission and the Minister in Inverness.'

Donald Harrison of the Scottish Agricultural College in Oban, welcomed the chance for discussion on the sub-

ject. He said: 'Crofting is a mainstay in the area - more than people realise.

'Crofting legislation will obviously have an effect on crofting in Argyll.'

However, Patrick Krause, Chief Executive of the Scottish Crofting Foundation has concerns about the bill and the democratic nature of the commission and is glad to have the opportunity to raise questions at the Oban meeting.

He said: 'Many of the points we made haven't been addressed, such as having elected members on the board

and the duty of the commission to regulate.

'It is very difficult for most people to understand the bill and obtaining a copy is expensive, we feel handicapped.

'The general feeling is that the bill is taking power away from crofters and giving it the landlords and commission.'

The Committee will also hold meetings in Stornoway on April 24 and Inverness on May 15. These are open to the public who can submit responses to the stage one bill.



BBC Springwatch's Kate Humble joins RSPB's Dave Sexton on Mull

## Scratchy heads for 'Skye' but it's 'Itchy' feet still on Mull

SCOTLAND'S celebrity wildlife stars of last year, sea eagles 'Itchy' and 'Scratchy' have finally spread their wings on the west coast - just in time for a new brood to hit the lime-light.

After several months of earning their wings, all seven feet of them, the young eagles made famous by a host of wildlife films and the BBC's Springwatch programme have begun to venture further afield as their parents prepare for another busy season in the spotlight.

After a host of high-profile celebrity visitors in 2005, including Simon King, Kate Humble and Chris Packham, the young eagles won't be feeling the pressure of the director's clapper board this year, although thousands of pairs of eyes at the island's special viewing hide will be hoping for their own personal wildlife experience. Simon King has recently returned to Mull to film an update report on the sea eagle family for the 2006 series of Springwatch in June.

A hit with over 4,000 visitors in 2005, the hide on Loch Frisa is nearly ready to welcome even more eagle-eyed people this year - and things are looking good so far, with adult sea eagles 'Frisa' and 'Skye' already adding the final touches to their huge high-rise residence.

**Favourite pastime**  
With enjoying wildlife fast-becoming the UK's favourite pastime with 70,000 people visiting RSPB 'Aren't Birds Brilliant!' viewing projects in Scot-

land last year alone, the importance of this growing area of tourism looks set to continue as David Sexton, RSPB Scotland Mull Officer confirms: 'It is great to know that both Itchy and Scratchy are alive and well having survived the toughest part of their first winter alone and fending for themselves.

'All being well the sea eagle hide will be open again for business from Easter until July.

'The large numbers of people now visiting the Isle

of Mull year round to see them is helping to sustain vital tourism income to the local economy'

The sea eagle viewing hide is open from April 10 to mid July, with two visits each week day and one each on Saturday/Sunday. The booking line for this year's trips will be open through Sealife Surveys from this week on 01688 302038.

The viewing hide is one of the best ways to experience sea eagles and helps to minimise disturbance to

these rare and threatened birds.

Police and local volunteers support 'Operation Easter - Mull Eagle Watch' throughout the breeding season protecting nest sites throughout Argyll.

Sea eagle viewing on Mull is a partnership between RSPB Scotland, Forestry Commission Scotland, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Mull and Iona Community Trust, with kind support from the Heritage Lottery Fund via the Nadair Trust.

### Midbadgrinan Texels to 138.5p per kilo at Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 94 cattle (59 bullocks and 35 heifers) at its weekly prime sale.

Bullocks sold to 153p for a Simmental cross off of Brackley to average 124.1p per kilo.

Heifers sold to 129p per kilo for a Simmental cross also off Brackley to average 115.2p per kilo. Cast cows sold to 98p per kilo for an Aberdeen Angus cross off of Meadowfoot to average 74.6ppk

Bullocks per head - Laigh Glenmuir (LimX) £805, Catslackburn (SimX) £700, Grasslands (CharX) £695, Meadowfoot (AAx) £665, West Mains (BBX) £650, Courthill (SDX) £605, Drinkstone (LuiX) £570, Riddell (HF) £435. Heifers - Courthill (ChX) £610, Balnacroch (LimX) £590, Courthill (AAx) £580, Catslackburn (GallX) £580, Drinkstone (SimX) £535, Norrieston (BBX) £525. Bullocks per kilo - Brackley (SimX) 153p, (CharX) 152p, Howslack (LimX) 146p, Ardloch

### Stirling - Wednesday

UNITED Auctions had forward 824 store cattle and 78 cast cows plus 974 store hoggets and grit ewes at Stirling on Wednesday.

Bullocks sold to 153p for a Simmental cross off of Brackley to average 124.1p per kilo.

Heifers sold to 129p per kilo for a Simmental cross also off Brackley to average 115.2p per kilo.

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Heifers - Courthill (ChX) £610, Balnacroch (LimX) £590, Courthill (AAx) £580, Catslackburn (GallX) £580, Drinkstone (SimX) £535, Norrieston (BBX) £525. Bullocks per kilo - Brackley (SimX) 153p, (CharX) 152p, Howslack (LimX) 146p, Ardloch

(BBX) 143p, Titwood (AAx) 137p, Belvidere (HF) 93p.

Heifers per kilo - Brackley (CharX) 129p, West Park (LimX) 127p, Dyke (SimX) 123p, Standingstone (AAx) & Nr Brae (BBX) 116p, West Park (BAX) 119p.

Cast Cows per head - Wolfstar (SimX) £735, Kilwhipnash (LimX) & Rumbletonlaw (AAx) £655, North Medrox (HF) £590, Rumbletonlaw (BB) £500.

Cast Cows per kilo - Rumbletonlaw (SimX) 96p, Kilwhipnash (LimX) 93p, Broadlees (AAx) 84p, Mid Shawton (BBX) 82p, North Medrox (HF) 76p.

Hoggets - Glendinnin (Suff) £50 & (TexX) £48, Sorn Mains (Suff) & Lochhead (TexX) £45.50, North Ballinton (TexX) £42.50, Gilkerscleugh (TexX) £42 & (Mule) £40.80, Inverglas (BF) £40, Ewes - Balafark (X) 40, Kilfinnan (ChevX 1 crop) £34.50, (ChevX 2crop) £29, Ellary (BF) £28.50, Kilfinnan (ChevX 3crop) £28, (ChevX 4crop) £26

### Strike could hit hard at meat sector

A STRIKE by the Meat and Hygiene Service could have lasting effects on the farming industry claims farming leaders.

The National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) is warning that a potential strike next week by the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS), as part of the local authority pension dispute, could cause enormous disruption and damage to the Scottish livestock industry. NFUS understands MHS is considering industrial action throughout next week and that it may be the only public sector body on strike. This follows the one-day walk out of staff this week, which caused disruption in meat plants across Scotland.

John Kinnaird, NFUS President, said: 'We cannot underestimate how much disruption this industrial action could cause to the Scottish meat industry. The knock-on effects will be hugely damaging. We have already seen Hall's at Broxburn, the only pig

processing facility left in Scotland, stating that it could go bust if this action goes ahead. That would be a disaster for the 1000 people employed by the company and for the whole Scottish pigs industry which would lose its only Scottish outlet.

'Other plants will be unable to operate in the absence of meat inspectors, yet will still face daily running costs that could lead to them being unable to re-open again at the end of the industrial action and the permanent loss of processing capacity within Scotland

'Consumers could also face a shortage of supply of quality Scottish meat. Contracts could be sourced elsewhere, displacing quality Scotch product with imports. 'Animal welfare could also be an issue for farmers on the ground. If pig farmers, for example, are unable to send stock to abattoirs, they will be forced to keep them on farm, leading to potential overcrowding.

## Beach rubbish rate rises

ARGYLL may be internationally-renowned for its unspoiled coastal landscape but the results of a new survey have painted an alarming picture of the way Britain abuses its beaches.

The Marine Conservation Society's (MCS) annual Beachwatch report found that the amount of litter on the country's beaches is increasing at a dramatic rate.

Amongst the Argyll beaches cleared in Beachwatch 2005 were Java Point and Tobermory beaches on Mull; Shore Road beach in Ardrishaig; and Crinan Ferry beach. The Big Strand in Laggan Bay, Islay, was also cleared by an army of 20 volunteers.

John McKechnie, who has organised several beach cleans on Loch Gilp, near Lochgilphead and Ardrishaig, said: 'We did a beach clean last year, and it was very successful.

'We managed to collect more than a skipload of rubbish and dead vegetation from the shores of Loch Gilp, and we'll be organising a similar event later this year.'

Two days in September saw 971 Beachwatch volunteers pick up 63,676 pieces of rubbish from Scotland's beaches, an average of 1,747.6 items per kilometre

The volume of rubbish collected by the volunteers was more than in any previous year of the Beachwatch studies. The 2004 survey found 1,505.6 items per km of coastline surveyed, whilst 2003's survey returned 1535.5 items per km.

Large plastic debris accounted for 11.8 per cent of the waste collected. Smaller plastic pieces accounted for 6.5 per cent of the rubbish, with crisp, sweet and lolly wrappers making up 6.4 per cent of the waste.

Other commonly found items on Britain's shoreline were plastic caps and lids, cotton bud sticks, small fishing nets, rope, polystyrene pieces, plastic drinks bottles and cigarette stubs.

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In total, 11,337 tonnes of rubbish was removed from beaches around Britain during Beachwatch. It was estimated that 35.4 per cent of waste was deposited by beach visitors; 14.6 per cent by those engaged in fishing; 7.2 per cent was sewage-related debris; 2.2 per cent was from the shipping industry and 0.8 per cent had been fly tipped. A further 39.6 per cent of the rubbish was unattributable.

Calum Duncan, MCS Scottish Officer, said: 'It's fantastic that so many people took part in Beachwatch 2005 and a record number of beaches were cleaned and surveyed last year.

'Unfortunately the survey showed beach litter is still increasing in Scotland and throughout the UK, an unwelcome tide that everyone can help turn by taking plastic bags, cigarette stubs and other rubbish home from the beach.

'When at home we can also reduce our impact by bagging and binning cotton bud sticks and other sanitary products, instead of using the toilet like a wet dustbin.'

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Viewing on sale morning 9-11 a.m.  
Next Sale - Saturday 13 May  
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### Market report

**DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts**

Bullocks - Up to 250kg - £375, 160.5p Erchite (Lim); £360, 144p Brae Eynort (Lim); £345, 138p Balvullich (Lim). Cows - £440, 154.4p Polly Estates (Lim); £435, 149p Calrossie (Lim). 301 - 350kg - £540 Cloy (Chx); 159.7p Culrain Mains (Lim);

£535 Culrain Mains (Lim), 157.9p Cloy (Chx); £520 Heathmount (Chx), 152.4p Thule (Lim). 351 - 400kg - £585, 152.7p Cloy (Chx); £560, 145.5p Ardnagrask (Mackay) (Lim); £555, 154.2p 145 Badnellan (Lim). 401 - 450kg - £635 2 Glaick (Lim), 148p Heathmount (Chx); £630 Lower Milton (Lim), 147.8p 145 Badnellan (Lim); £605 Drumancroy (Lim), 144.8p Lower Milton (Lim). 451 - 500kg - £620 Lingland

(Chx) and Punta Alta (Smx), 133.3p Punta Alta (Smx); £610 2 Glaick (Lim), Lower Gledfield (BAX) and Lower Milton (Lim), 130.9p 2 Glaick (Lim). 501 - 550kg - £700, 133.3p Easter Clune (Lim); £670, 125.9p Balvaire (Smx); £655 Lower Milton (Lim), 123.3p 91/92 Achviach (Lim). 551 - 600kg - £700, 127.5p Easter Clune (Lim); £675, 117.5p Morvich (Smx). 601 - 650kg - £750, 122p Easter

Clune (Lim); £745, 115.5p Lochduh (Chx). Heifers - up to 250kg - £350 17 Newmore (Chx), 128p Brae Eynort (Lim); £320 Brae Eynort (Lim), 125p Balvullich (Lim); £300 Balvullich (Lim), 121.9p Raasay Home Farm (Lim). 251 - 300kg - £375, 126.3p Tomcluch (Lim), £355, 125.4p Belladrum Mill (Smx); £345, 130.2p Abersky (Chx). 301 - 350kg - £465, 140.5p Calrossie (Rox); £440 Carrol

(Lim) and 8 Englishtonmuir (Lim), 136.2p Boganbuie (Lim); £430 Glebe (Lim), 129.4p Carrol (Lim). 351 - 400kg - £550, 141.8p Lower Milton (Lim); £515, 145.1p 25 Camultmuir (Lim); £510 91/92 Achviach (Lim), 138.1p Cloy (Chx). 401 - 450kg - £535, 128.9p Ordmuir (Lim); £530 Mid Badgrinnan (Chx), 123.4p Keppoch (Chx); £525 Boganbuie (Lim), 122p Morvich (SH). 451 - 500kg - £640, 130.8p

Lower Milton (Lim); £580, 119.6p Balvaire (Lim, Smx); £570, 122p Lochduh (Lim). 501 - 550kg - £645, 128.2p Lower Milton (Lim); £595 Boganbuie (AA), 114.9p Lochduh (Lim); £580 Lingland (AAx) and Lochduh (Lim), 114.4p Boganbuie (AA); 551 - 600kg - £690, 124.3p Lower Milton (Lim); £605, 107.7p Boganbuie (AA). Cows with calves - £850 Lingland (Lim).

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SONY COMPUTER monitor 15", good condition, free. Telephone 01852 300233.  
TECHNO SONIC wide screen TV 28", teletext, remote control, euro scart, excellent condition, Pal 1, 4 bands, £49.99. Telephone 01631 564661.

**COLLIE BITCH** 18 months, keen on sheep and cattle, nice nature, biddable, Taynuilt. Telephone 01866 822683.  
**ENGLISH SPRINGER** Spaniel pups, two female, working parents, ready now, £200 each. Telephone 01972 510296.  
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**PATTERDALE PUPPIES** for sale dogs and bitches ready March 24, 2006. Telephone 01546 510276 (after 6pm).

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WOODEN EXTERNAL door 206cm x 91cm. Free, buyer to uplift. Telephone 01631 563452.

**FIREARMS**  
SAKO HUNTER .243, threaded for T8, very good condition, FAC required, £350 ono. Telephone 07775 600996.

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GATELEG TABLE, containing 4 folding chairs, £15 ono. Telephone 01586 552711.  
MFI WARDROBE, shelves, drawers and hanging, suit teenager, £30 ono. Telephone 01631 563317 after 6pm.  
HI-FI UNIT, £10. Telephone 01631 570955.  
LIGHT GREEN suite 2 x 2 with pouffe, £300. Telephone 07990 678450.  
MAHOGANY STYLE former hotel furniture, wardrobes, dressing tables, bedside tables etc., average to good condition. No reasonable offer refused. Telephone 01631 730522 and 01852 300159.  
PINE FUTON, dark red cushion, lattice arms, buyer uplifts, £25. Telephone 01546 600147.  
2 SEATER bed settee for quick sale, excellent condition £49.99. Phone after 6pm 01546 603466.  
SINGLE BED and mattress (if required), good clean condition, free. Telephone 01852 300233.

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SINGLE BED and mattress (if required), good clean condition, free. Telephone 01852 300233.

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GOOD QUALITY winkle wanted. Telephone But Shellfish 01700 503419.

**PERSONALS**  
ALEX MUNRO & SONS On retiring Sandy Munro and family would like to thank most sincerely all the people who have supported them during their 45 years of trading (in mobile shops and shops) in the Lochside, Ardgour, Strontian, Morvern, Ardnarnachan and Moidart areas. We would also like to thank all our staff past and present for their loyalty and hard work over all these years. We would like to wish Graeme and Elsie at the Acharacle Shop and Alasdair and Carol at the Strontian Centre, all the best for the future.

**PERSONALS**  
Happy 30th Birthday Duncan Love from all the family

**PERSONALS**  
Granny & Papa Happy Ruby Anniversary From all your Grandchildren

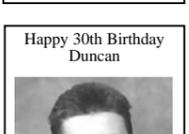
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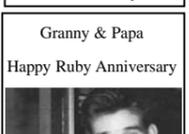


**PERSONALS**  
Ceilidh and Buffet on the Retiral of Doctor Katie Armstrong 7.30pm Connel Village Hall Friday 7th April, 2006 All patients and friends of Dr Katie are welcome but as numbers are limited please telephone Connel Surgery on 710229 to book a place.

**PERSONALS**  
Happy 30th Birthday Duncan Love from all the family



**PERSONALS**  
Granny & Papa Happy Ruby Anniversary From all your Grandchildren



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# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

**THE OBAN TIMES**  
West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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**MACCALMAN** - Archibald Duncan, LLB, NP, SSC. Peacefully at ACCU, Wishaw General Hospital on Tuesday, March 21, 2006 aged 56 years, Archie, dearly loved husband of Netta, only son of the late Doan and Bessie, formerly of Islay and Glasgow. Loving uncle of Anona. Remembrance service at Cambusnethan Old Parish Church, Wishaw, at 11:30am on Saturday, March 25, 2006 followed thereafter by private cremation. No flowers please.

**MACCUISH** - Suddenly in Fremantle, Australia, on March 23, 2006. Murdo John, youngest son of the late Malcolm MacCuish and of Katie MacCuish, Larachbeg, Morvern. Sadly missed by all the family.

**MACINNES** - Peacefully at Dailmhur House, on Friday, March 24, Iain, last surviving member of the family of the late Mr and Mrs D MacInnes, Craignaha, Duror. Sadly missed.

**MACKECHNIE** - Peacefully at the Uist & Barra Hospital on March 10, 2006, Catriona, nee MacCormick, beloved mother of Ann, Angus and Morag and devoted Granny to Calum, Joanna, Maggie and Grace. R.I.P.

**MACKELVIE** - Peacefully on March 23, 2006, in the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban in her 94th year, Janet Fraser, (nee Gill) loving wife of the late Kenneth MacKelvie MBE, Capt. RNVF, formerly of Bampton, Edinburgh and lately of South Shian and 'Femie' North Connel. Funeral service will take place from Ardchattan Parish Church, North Connel, on Friday, March 31, 2006 at 1pm. Thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery.

**McLEAN** - Ruari McLean CBE, DSC, Croix De Guerre (late of Mull, Sanquhar and Tillicoultry) passed away peacefully at Stirling Royal Infirmary on Monday, March 27, 2006, husband of the late Antonia. Private burial on the Isle of Mull. Family flowers only please but donations if so desired to St Georges Fund for sailors.

**SELLARS** - Gordon. Peacefully at Maclesfield on March 19, 2006, in his 90th year, dearly loved husband of Mary, much loved father of Carl, Frances, Ralph, Nina and Adrian and loving grandfather of Paula, Steven, Karen, Jason, Natalie, Joanna and Ryan.

**TAYLOR** - Peacefully at Strathcarron Hospice on Tuesday, March 28, 2006, in the loving care of his family after a long illness bravely borne with great courage, John of Braes of Ardeonaig, dearly loved and loving husband of Helen (nee Robertson), much loved and devoted father of Eilidh and father-in-law of Neil. Funeral arrangements to be confirmed.

**THOMSON** - Peacefully, at the Campbeltown Hospital, on March 27, 2006, Lachlan Thomson (Lachie), in his 87th year, 15 Dell Road, Campbeltown, formerly of Stewartfield, Clachan, dearly beloved husband of the late Peggy, loving father of David, Murdo and Brian and a loving papa. Service in Clachan Parish Church on Thursday March 30, 2006 at 1.00pm, funeral thereafter to Clachan Cemetery. Friends please accept this intimation and invitation. Family flowers only please. A retiring collection will be held in the Church in aid of the Acute Ward, Campbeltown Hospital.

**WILLIAMSON** - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on March 26, 2006, in her 101st year, Helen Alison Flockhart Wishart, beloved wife of the late James Williamson, Gor-bridge, Edinburgh and North Connel and dearly loved mother of Donald, North Connel and the late Helen. Service will take place at Warriston Crematorium, on Monday, April 3, 2006 at 1.10 p.m.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

**CAMPBELL** - Ewen, George and all the family would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy received following the sad loss of Sheila. Thanks also to Dr Shirley and Craig Nevis Surgery, District Nurses, Dr Barlas and all the Medical Staff at Belford Hospital and Belhaven Ward and also the home carers. To Rev. A. Ramsay for his support and comforting service to Father Donald MacKinnon for his support and visits, Mike McFall and staff for their caring and professional funeral arrangements, May MacIntyre for the music, the Grand Hotel for their excellent catering and MacDonald

Bros for the beautiful flowers. Many thanks to all who attended the church and graveside and donated so generously the sum of £451.70 to Lochaber Palliative care.

**CARMICHAEL** - The family of the late Gilbert M Carmichael wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours on Islay and the mainland, for expressions of sympathy, flowers and cards received at this sad time. Many thanks to Rev. S Fulcher for a comforting service, Mrs Gallimore, organist, Lochindaal Hotel for catering, Jean McAffer and staff for excellent and professional funeral arrangements. Thank you to all those who attended St Kierans Church and Kilchoman graveyard. The sum of £140.00 was collected for Glenfield House, Braemount Nursing Home, Paisley.

**FARMER** - The Farmer family would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts and support at mum's funeral on March 16, 2006.

**HAY** - Johanna and family of the late James Hay, wish to thank all relatives and friends for their help and kindness, flowers and cards, we also would like to thank staff at The Lynne of Lorne Nursing Home for all their care, also Rev Geoff MacCormack for the lovely service and to D and A Mum for all the funeral arrangements and those who attended the service and interment. Many thanks to all.

**MACKECHNIE** - The family of the late Catriona MacKechnie wish to thank sincerely Fr Roddy MacAuley for all support and spiritual comfort and for being principal celebrant at the Requiem Mass. Also thanks to Fr Calum, Fr John Paul and Fr Joe for concelebrating. Thanks to all medical and nursing staff at the Uist & Barra Hospital for their care and to MacPhee Undertakers for the arrangements. Special thanks to Dr Lush and all staff at the Haematology Ward, Raigmore Hospital. We would like to express our thanks for the many expressions of sympathy received and to thank especially all friends, neighbours and relatives for their amazing kindness and support. Holy Mass will be offered for the intentions of all.

**MACLEAN - JOHN** - The family of the late John Maclean wish to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy, prayers, cards and floral tributes received during their recent sad bereavement. Special thanks to the Rev. R. Sloan and the Rev. S. Fulcher for conducting the services in Kilsyth and Kilchoman respectively, the staff of Kilsyth Cooperative Funeralcare and A.J. and C. Macaffer Funeral Directors, Islay for caring and efficient funeral arrangements. Thanks are also expressed to the staff of Ward 11A, Stobhill Hospital and Eastfield Wing, Carrickstone House Nursing Home and to all who donated to the sum of £400 which will be forwarded to Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland.

**ROBERTSON** - The family of the late Kathleen Robertson would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy received at this sad time. Thanks also to Dr Robinson, Gail, Ann and Home Carers. Special thanks from the family to all the staff of the Medical Ward, Belford Hospital, who looked after Kathleen so well and also Father MacKinnon for his spiritual comfort. To Mike and Ewen for the caring manner they arranged the funeral and cremation. Many thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and to all who contributed donations to Talk Lochaber.

**BIRD** - Precious memories of our dear mum and nan, Nan, who died on April 2, 1999. A loving mother is now at rest. For each of us, she did her best. Her love was great. Her heart was kind. A beautiful memory left behind.

- Ruthie, Murdo and girls.

**BIRD** - In loving memory of our mother and nan, Nan McCuish, who was taken from us on April 2, 1999.

We miss your smile. Your cheery ways. We miss the things you used to say. And when old time we do recall. It then we miss you most of all.

Love always.

- Donald, Diane, Alan, Grant and Denise.

**CAMERON** - Treasured memories of Hugh, devoted husband, dad, father-in-law and grampa, who passed away March 31, 2002. Always thoughtful, always kind. These are the memories you left behind.

- Bella and family.

**CAMERON** - In loving memory of John (Ian) who passed away on April 2, 1997.

Always in our thoughts.

- Annette, Mairi, Margaret, John and families.

**DEAKIN** - Treasured memories of my son-in-law, John, died April 4, 2003. Tears can be wiped away. But the heartache of losing you will never go away. God grant him eternal rest.

- Love, Margaret Childs.

**HEAP** - Edward. Memory Lane is a beautiful place. Where thoughts of love are pure. Again and again we travel there.

Just to be with you.

- Mum, Dad and family xx

You left us with many happy memories.

- Auntie Peggy, Auntie Mary and family.

**MCDONALD** - In loving memory of our dearest mum and nana, Morag, who died on March 31, 2005. Very sadly missed.

- Inserted by her loving family, Bunessan, Mull and Oban.

**MCDUGALL** - Treasured memories of a darling son and brother, Anthony, who died March 31, 2005. God saw that you were tired. The cure was not to be. He put his arms around you. And whispered "come with me".

- His loving mother, brothers and sisters, Mallaig.

**MACKINNON** - Precious memories of Lachie, our dad, father-in-law, grandpa and great-grandpa, who died March 25, 2005, also our mum, mother-in-law, gran and great-gran, Margaret, who died April 22, 2003. Softly the leaves of memories fall. Gently we gather and treasure them all. Unseen, unheard, they're always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Anne, Arthur and family, Isabel, William and family, Duncan and Mary.

**MACPHERSON** - In loving memory of Willie, who died, March 28, 1992. Always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by Patsy & family, Cairndow, Inveraray.

**McCAMLEY** - In fond remembrance of Joan (nee Matheson), a loving and loved wife, mother and gran who died at Edinburgh on April 1, 2004. You had a smile for everyone. You had a heart of gold. You left the sweetest memories. This world could ever hold.

- Bill and all the family.

**McCAMLEY** - In loving memory of our dear sister, Joan, who died on April 1, 2004.

Forever in our thoughts and so sadly missed.

- Margaret, Cath and Ina.

**McCAMLEY** - In loving memory of my dear sister-in-law and Aunt Joan, who died on April 1, 2004. Always in our thoughts.

- Leslie, Joyce and Roy.

**MCDUGALL** - In loving memory of my dear son, Andrew, who died on April 1, 2002, and my dear brother, John, who died on April 8, 2000. They say there is a reason. They say that time can heal. But neither time or reason can change the way I feel.

- Allan, Arivouichallum, and Inveraray.

**McKILLOP** - In loving memory of my dear husband, David, who died April 3, 1996. Deep are the memories. Precious they stay. No passing of time can take them away. Loved and missed always.

- Cissie.

**McPHAIL** - In loving memory of my dear wife, Mary McPhail, who died April 3, 2004, devoted mother to John, Sheonaid and Drew. Sadly missed, forever in our thoughts.

A light is from our household gone. A voice we loved is still. A place is vacant from our hearts.

Which never can be filled.

- Inserted by her husband, Charlie, Dalnally.

Love and miss you always Granny.

- Elizabeth and Andrew.

**MOYES** - In loving memory of Flora, dear wife, mum and granny, who died March 30, 1990. Always in our thoughts.

- Inserted by Ted and family at Inverness, Maryburgh, Selkirk and Shetland.

**PROSSER** - In loving memory of our dear mum, granny and great-granny, Mary, who died March 26, 1997. You will always be with us. In our thoughts and in our hearts. And in all the precious memories we have of you.

- Betty and Iain.

Forever in our thoughts our very special Granny P.

- Marina, Cameron and Emma.

**PROSSER** - In loving memory of our dear mother and granny Mary, who died March 26, 1997. Time passes but memories stay. Loved and remembered every day.

- Frances, Tommy, Michael and Leanne. xx

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear father, Archie, who died on March 29, 1996. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving son, Archie, Islay.

**Church NEWS**

Please keep sending in the news about your church!

Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1  
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

## Thought for the week

### Waiting for a late Easter . . .

IF YOU think Easter is 'late' this year, wait until 2038 when (if the internet is to be believed) Easter will fall on April 25.

I belong to the generation that memorised the formula that calculates the date of Easter - 'the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox'.

Although I've never forgotten the formula, I do not remember when I first understood it. When I accorded the formula any

relevance or importance is certainly more recent.

Easter celebrates the world-changing event of the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. With that single event all life, all human history, takes on a whole new dimension and relevance.

So the whole of creation, the entire cosmos, is invited to be involved in the annual celebration of the 'Life after Death' that the resurrection of Jesus offers

and promises. That is good a reason as any to let the celebration revolve around the sun and the moon and the earth, and 'all people that on earth do dwell'. With the lenten countdown of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving we wait. We wait for the sun to be over the belt of the earth that is the Equator - our spring equinox; a further wait then for the full moon to appear in the heavens - the first of the spring; and

then the final wait for the darkness that heralds the Sunday - the Lord's Day.

'It was very early on the first day of the week and still dark, when Mary of Magdala came to the tomb...' The sun had not yet risen; but he, the crucified, dead, and buried Son of God had.

Easter is Good News...and worth the wait.

**Fr Donald J MacKay, St Columba's Cathedral, Oban.**

## Obituary

### Chris Finlayson, 1923-2006

HER MANY friends were sorry to hear of the death of Chris Finlayson in Inverness on March 2.

She was born on March 31, 1923, in Greenock. When she was 10 years old her father Donald Macintyre, who was a young tug boat skipper on the Clyde, became a Home Missionary with the Church of Scotland, and the family, which now included Donald, Robert and Margaret, moved to the remote village of Elphin in Sutherland.

However, Chris had to move into digs to attend a senior school in Lochinver. The family moved to Lochaline in 1938 and she completed her schooling at Oban High School.

Further education was abandoned in favour of a war-time job in the office of the local Ardornish Estate where Chris learned to drive on the estate vehicles.

After the war her father received a call to Kyleakin in Skye and although the family moved, Chris stayed on working at Ardris.

However, a visit to her family in Kyleakin changed her life as she met and married

church organist William Reid Finlayson in Kyleakin in 1950.

They set up home in the village and had four children Flora, Jo, Finlay and Wilma. As mother of four, a fisherman's wife and book-keeper for the family fishing boats, life was hectic but happy.

Chris supported her husband Billy in his enterprising spirit most notably the pioneering of commercial prawn creel fishing.

Unfortunately ill health forced Billy to give up the fishing, so they embarked on a new life in 1967 when they bought a house in Plockton which they turned into the Haven Hotel. This went on to become one of the top hotels in Skye and Lochalsh.

Sadly, within a year of the move, Chris's life was shattered when Billy died suddenly. However, with the help of the family and her

### ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 2 April 2006  
Lent 5  
Passion Sunday  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion ..... 0800  
Sung Eucharist ..... 1100  
Sunday School and Creche  
Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All welcome  
Norman MacCallum,  
Provost  
01631 562323  
Kilbrandon Kirk  
Holy Eucharist .....1515  
Christ Church, Lochgilphead  
Loop System  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1100  
St Columba, Pottalloch, Kilmartin  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0900  
St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Mattins .....1100  
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0800  
Evensong ..... 2000

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 2 April 2006  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available  
Wednesday 5 April 2006  
7.30 p.m.  
Prayer and Bible Ministry  
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh  
01631 567076  
All welcome

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**Oban Hospice**

CARING FOR THE FUTURE  
Donations always gratefully accepted  
Please contact  
David Mudie (Treasurer)  
Oban Hospice Ltd  
The Croft  
Kilmore

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
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Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh  
01631 567076  
All welcome

**DESTINY CHURCH**

OBAN  
Sunday 2 April  
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

**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

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Clydebank Business Park  
Clydebank, G81 2LA

**FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH**

Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy

Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

## Cleaning up around Dunbeg and Argyll



More than 50 villagers turned up to help Dunbeg Development Group at its sixth annual litter collection. The collection was supported by GRAB Trust and the Argyll and Bute Trust. A huge amount of litter was picked up, including bikes, armchairs and car batteries. The development group thanked everybody who took part.

## Award recognises council's support for communities

HELPING to support communities clean up their area has won Argyll and Bute Council an award.

As part of the People and Places Awards for 2006 run by Keep Scotland Beautiful, the authority has been given top place in the 'Supporting Community Clean Ups' category.

The award was handed over by comedian and radio broadcaster Fred MacAulay at a ceremony on Monday at the Hilton Glasgow Grosvenor Hotel.

The People and Places programme supports efforts to make local environments cleaner and awards the contribution that partners make.

Argyll and Bute's award recognised the authority's part in helping communities manage and minimise litter through promotion

and helping community clean-ups and recycling.

'By empowering members of the community, from school children to local businesses and individuals to take action themselves for the areas they care about, a true pride is created,' said John Summers, chief executive of Keep Scotland Beautiful.

'Argyll and Bute Council has clearly demonstrated that high standards of cleanliness and recycling can be achieved even on the popular but remote islands of Islay, Mull, Jura and Iona.'

Spokesperson for development and environment in Argyll and Bute Councillor Robin Banks said the award reflected the hard work everyone had put into cleaning up the area.

'As well as council and

community groups, the public, visitors, schools, businesses and a host of other agencies have all played their part in this success.'

The People and Places awards is the highlight of a two-day conference where local authorities, landlords and social landlords exchange ideas on best practice.

### BIRTHS

**MACLEAN** - Donnie and Sara (nee Blackwell), are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Edith Elisabeth, at Eastern Idaho Medical Centre, USA. A precious granddaughter for Mary MacLean, Inishfree, Lochside, and Carol Blackwell.

### MARRIAGE

**MACKENZIE HARPER** - In Freeland Church, Bridge of Weir, on March 18, 2006. Colin, only son of Liz and Alfie, Oban, and Suzanne, only daughter of Ann and Jim, Bridge of Weir.

### RUBY WEDDINGS

**CURRIE - WHYTE** - At Oban Old Parish Church on March 26, 1966, by Rev. William and Rev Norman MacDonald, William to June, Hawthorn, Benderloch.

**FISHER - CAMPBELL** - At St Conan's Church, Lochawe on March 29, 1966, by Rev Dr M K MacLeod, Matthew Pearson to Margaret, present address 39 South View Drive, Bearsden G61 4HQ.

**MACDONALD - MACKENZIE** - At The Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven, on April 2, 1966, by Rev James B Rennie, Kenneth to Caroline. Present address Inchconnal, Glencoe.

**MACKECHNIE CUTHBERTSON** - At St Conans Church, Lochawe on March 30, 1966, John to Christine, 20 Glenview, Dalnally.

### GOLDEN WEDDING

**POWELL - KERR** - On March 26, 1956, at Glasgow University Chapel, by the Rev Hamish MacIntosh, Harry to Grace. Present address, Cumbrae, Grosvenor Crescent, Connel.

### DEATHS

**BLACK** - Margaret Steel, Margaret, 75 years, passed away peacefully at Burnside, Appin, on March 23, 2006. A funeral service was held at Appin Parish Church, Monday, March 27, at 1.30 p.m., followed by interment at Annat. Much loved wife of Lachie and dear mother to Christine, Mairi, Neil, Ian and Robert, and grandmother to 13 grandchildren.

**CRAIGIE** - Peacefully, at Dunaros Hospital, Mull, on March 24, 2006, Barbara Craige, in her 95th year. Sadly missed.

**HERON** - Suddenly, on March 22, 2006, at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, Isabella Halliday (Bella), in her 87th year, beloved wife of the late James, 49 Rockfield Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull; a dear sister and aunt to all the family. Interment took place in Tobermory New Cemetery on Tuesday, March 28, 2006.

**MACARTHUR (LAFFERTY)** - Suddenly, at home, on Thursday March 23, 2006, Isabel, dear Ma of Tommy, Brian, David, Denise, Isabel, Nadia, John, Kathleen, Terrence and Collette; and a much loved Nanny.

**The Oban Times HOTLINE**

IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE. CALL US ON OBAN

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# TIMES Sport



## Inveraray win in the first-half at Lochcarron to take their first full points of season

INVERARAY claimed their first full points of the season courtesy of the odd-goal in seven at Lochcarron on Saturday with the home side almost coming back to claim a dramatic draw in the closing minutes.

Lochcarron's poor start to the season continued with the injured duo of Lewis Ross and Kenny Ross missing this league tie.

The home side went behind after 12 minutes when Gary Macpherson struck to

give Inveraray the lead.

Lochcarron pushed for the leveller but could not break down the visitors' defence, but were given a great chance in 20 minutes when referee Graham Cameron awarded Lochcarron a penalty.

With normal penalty taker Kenny Ross injured Alan Mackenzie took over

but saw his shot go high and

wide. Lochcarron were then dealt a further blow when 10 minutes later they went two down as Gary MacPherson again got away from his marker to crash the ball home.

MacPherson's attacking runs and quick thinking was to trouble the home side

throughout the 90 minutes

with the defence tactically unable to counter his movement on-and-off the ball.

At this stage Lochcarron heads went down and they lost another two goals in quick succession as first Grant Griffin and then Euan MacMurdo scored what looked like soft goals

### Shinty

Lochcarron 3  
Inverary 4

as the Inveraray forward line looked likely to go on a scoring spree.

Lochcarron dug deep and were rewarded when the

ball broke to half forward Darren Coyle on the right and he drove the ball in at the left hand post to make the score 4-1 at the break.

Within minutes of the restart Ian Mackenzie then Alan Mackenzie had shots well stopped by Graham Macpherson and on the hour Lochcarron pressure

paid off when Alan Mackenzie scooped the ball over the head of Macpherson and into the net to reduce the deficit.

Again and again Lochcarron went at the Inveraray defence and the dual between Scott Robertson and Alan Mackenzie proved a main talk-

ing point and the Inveraray defender can count himself very lucky to have finished the game - booked in the first half for a late swing and warned twice in the second half.

With five minutes remaining the ball broke kindly for Ian Mackenzie and he smashed his shot into the

bottom corner to reduced the deficit to one - but time ran out on Lochcarron.

Inveraray claimed their first full points on the Premier table ahead of this weekend's tie against high-flying Fort William while Lochcarron will aim to get their season back on track at home to Newtonmore.

### Saturday's fixtures

#### Shinty

Saturday April 1 2006

**The Strathdearn Cup Preliminary Round**  
Fort William v Inverness  
Nairn v Lochaber  
Skye v Beaulieu (12 noon)

#### Marine Harvest Premier League

Inveraray v Fort William  
Kilmallie v Oban Camanachd  
Lochcarron v Newtonmore  
Strathglass v Kingussie

#### North Division One

Beaulieu v Inverness  
Kinlochshiel v Glenquhart  
Skye v Lochaber

#### South Division One

GMA v Bute (12 noon)  
Kilmory v Glenorchy  
Lochside Rovers v Kyles

#### North Division Two

Lovat v Glengarry  
Caberfeidh v Kingussie

#### South Division Two

Edinburgh EL v Aberdeen  
GMA v Col Glen  
Glenorchy v Kyles  
Strachur v Inveraray

#### North Division Three

Ardnamurchan v Lochcarron  
Kinraig v Kinlochshiel

### Saturday's results

#### Shinty

Saturday March 25 2006

#### Marine Harvest Premier League

Fort William 10 Strathglass 2  
Kingussie 9 Oban Camanachd 0  
Lochcarron 3 Inveraray 4  
Newtonmore 4 Kilmallie 2

#### North Division One

Caberfeidh P Beaulieu P  
Glenquhart 0 Skye 1  
Lochaber 4 Aberdeen Uni 0  
Lovat 6 Inverness 1

#### South Division One

Ballachulish 6 Kilmory 1  
Glenorchy 1 Bute 0  
Lochside Rovers P Kyles P  
Tayforth 0 GMA 7

#### North Division Two

Boleskine 0 Newtonmore 5  
Glengarry 6 Caberfeidh 1  
Kilmallie 3 Lovat 0  
Skye 1 Fort William 5  
Strathglass P Kingussie P

#### South Division Two

Inveraray w/o Aberdeen  
Kyles P Glasgow Mid Argyll P  
Oban Celtic 2 Edinburgh EL 2  
Strachur 8 Glenorchy 2

#### North Division Three

Ardnamurchan 1 Nairn 8  
Lochbroom 2 Beaulieu 5  
Inverness 1 Lochcarron 2  
Kinraig 2 Glenquhart 0  
Kinlochshiel P Lochaber P



Kingussie's Barry Dallas with Oban Camanachd's Fraser Inglis in pursuit

### Glenorchy remain unbeaten after four starts

GLENORCHY kept their unbeaten start to the season intact with a hard fought victory over Bute at Dalmailly in a match sponsored by Glenorchy Lodge Hotel.

Glenorchy started the match with three changes due to injuries and Bute took full advantage by taking the game to the home side in the opening 10 minutes.

Stuart Strathie should have done better when firing wide from the edge of the box as he had more time than he realised. And Rpbert (Zeb) Walker forcing Glenorchy keeper Graeme MacKechnie into a

### Shinty

Glenorchy 1  
Bute 0

good stop high to his left.

Glenorchy came more into the game but with both defences well on top chances were few and far over the opening 45 minutes.

Bute started the second half on the attack but, with the half-back pairing of Duncan MacDougall and Alex MacPherson standing firm, the Glenorchy goal was rarely threatened.

On the hour mark Glenorchy introduced sub-

stitute James Livingstone and his direct style of play troubled the Bute rear-guard to such an extent that he was brought down inside the box in the 73rd minute. The resulting penalty was emphatically despatched by Keith Macntyre.

In the final minute Bute almost snatched a late equaliser when 'Zeb' Walker fired narrowly past. It was Bute's best and last chance of an evenly contested match well refereed by Rab MacMillan.

This Saturday, both teams are away from home with Glenorchy at Kilmory while Bute travel to Glasgow for a 12 noon start.

# Goals galore in Premier league

GOALS rain down on Saturday as shinty's Premier matches produced 34 in only for tie.

There were 12 goals at Fort William; nine at Kingussie; seven at Lochcarron and six at Newtonmore.

Leading the routs were Fort William who played fast flowing shinty and took Premier new boys Strathglass to the cleaners at An Aird by netting 10 times - and this despite Strath goalkeeper Stuart Geddes performing heroics.

There were hat-tricks for Victor Smith and Gary Innis, doubles for James Clark and Gordie MacKinnon with Smith opening the scoring after only three minutes.

At this stage Strathglass were still very much in the game and Robert Geddes levelled the score in the 10th minute, only for Smith to regain Fort's lead two minutes later.

### Shinty

Fort William 10  
Strathglass 2

Kingussie 9  
Oban Camanachd 0

From then on in, the result never in doubt and despite Strathglass's Darren Reid scoring the final goal of the game with 15 minutes still to play, by that time Fort William were out of sight.

Fort William remain two points clear of Newtonmore and are the only Premier team to have won all of their four starts this season, scoring 23 goals for the loss of just five.

Newtonmore, the only other Premier team not to have lost a tie this season, have Fort William at the Eilan in two weeks time in what could be a thrilling encounter.

At Kingussie last Satur-

day, fears that Ronald Ross had lost his goal-scoring prowess proved unfounded as he smacked home seven in a nine-nil rout of Oban Camanachd.

Kevin Thain started the ball rolling in the second minute with Ross adding another three before half-time.

In the second period Ross took just six minutes to resume where he left off and his four second-half goals were divided by a 58th minute strike from Fraser Munro.

Oban Camanachd appeared to have no answer to the free-flowing Kingussie attack with stand-in goalkeeper Chris Eccleston having little chance with the majority of the goals.

Kingussie now direct their fire-power against Strathglass at Cannich this weekend while Fort William travel to Inveraray to meet at team which scored four before half-time last weekend.

## Late goal sees Oban Celtic lose grip of league points

A SHARE of South Division Two points at Oban on Saturday will mean a lot more to Edinburgh East Lothian than it will to Oban Celtic.

A strong, fit Edinburgh team simply refused to give up at Ganavan and were rewarded with an equaliser 17 minutes from time.

Things started well for the home side with Lockhart's shot after only six minutes producing a great reaction save from Edinburgh keeper Gordon Reid.

Although Celtic dominated possession, it took 21

minutes for them to breach the visitor's defence. Angus Campbell met a high cross-field volley that was blocked at close range. With the ball rebounding back to him, Campbell was allowed the luxury of a second chance and he drilled his shot low through a ruck of players and into the net.

But from then on the home side suffered from a lack of communication and poor off-the-ball movement, allowing the visitors to break-up Celtic's forward play with ease.

### Shinty

Oban Celtic 2  
Edinburgh East Lothian 2

This sloppy approach was punished after 35 minutes when Edinburgh hit back with their first break of the game.

Lucky to survive a desperate goal-mouth scramble, Celtic eventually cleared for the ball but only to centre Davy Arnott who intelligently kept his shot high and over the melee of players and into the net.

Just before the interval Oban Celtic showed how they could play. Winger MacCuish controlled a MacNab goal hit, swung a high diagonal ball to Lockhart on the right and the Celtic captain drove for the goal-line and finished with a crisp, angled shot beyond Reid.

Awarded a penalty for a kick after 53 minutes,

Celtic looked certain to increase their lead until marksman Donald MacKay drove his penalty hit directly at Reid who stood firm and cleared for a corner from which Lockhart was unlucky to rattle then post.

The Oban team continued to have the best of the possession and for half-an-hour laid siege on the Edinburgh goal-mouth.

But in the 73rd minute history repeated itself when a swift breakaway caught out Celtic's midfield and defence allowing Andy

Scott to equalise with a low shot from 15 yards.

Suddenly a sense of urgency, which had been sadly lacking, added some bite to Celtic's play but resolute defending by Gordon, McPherson, Dargel and Ferguson protected the Edinburgh goal against the last minute onslaught.

Edinburgh were delighted with an away point ahead of this weekend's home tie against Aberdeen while Oban Celtic will be disappointed that they let a point slip and no have game this week.



# 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.



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.

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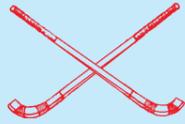
Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

**WIN £2350**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Iain Henderson, 12 Midlock Street, Ibrox, Glasgow and Peter J MacAllister, 3A Colonsay Terrace, Soroba, Oban



# TIMES Sport

## Division Four beckons for Oban

### Rugby

**Division 5 (West) Oban Lorne 6 Cumbernauld 0**  
CUMBERNAULD boasted the best defensive record in the league coming into this game but it was the Oban team which proved superior, nilling the Glasgow side on Saturday.

Cumbernauld sit comfortably third in the table with a couple of games left to play and have already guaranteed promotion. Oban on the other hand needed a win in this, their last game, to go up to National 4.

With this in the back of all the players' minds it was an intense start to the game, Oban dominating the physical exchanges. A couple of penalty attempts went wide

early on, adding to the pressure. As the game went on it was the physical aggression of the men in green which could have been their undoing. Three Oban players were yellow carded during the game at Glencruitten, something the coach will want to address before next season. As a result, the home side played nearly half the match with only 14 men.

Midway through the first half Oban registered points through a Louis Nel penalty. It seemed as though the defensive organisation of both sides outweighed the attacking flair and a try looked unlikely.

As is often the case, a good kicker can be relied on to keep the scoreboard ticking over and fortunately Oban had this in their

number 10. Shortly after the first goal, another penalty attempt went between the sticks from Nel again to put Oban six points ahead.

Although the Glasgow side did not even manage a point in the game they tested Oban in every area. Their driving maul was strong and at set pieces there was nothing between the sides. The real difference between the teams was that Oban's back five and outside backs were a little hungrier for the ball. This seemed to force Cumbernauld into errors and put their half back completely off his game.

In the dying minutes of the game Oban almost poached a try under the posts through Mark Metighe but the ball was dropped just short of the

line. Nevertheless, with the game only seconds from the end this ran down the clock enough to ensure Oban did not have to defend their lead for much longer.

The full-time whistle came as a relief to players and spectators (of whom there were a large number) and Oban can now look forward to a relatively relaxing seven-a-side season.

The result means that Oban have achieved their season's aim of gaining promotion to National Division Four for the first time in the club's history. This is a superb achievement for all the players and coaching staff with a really challenging league to look forward to next season.

Hopefully the new challenge will bring out the best in the players and they will

need to put in committed performances every week to stay in contention. All those players who have stuck it out and kept training through the lean times can give themselves a big pat on the back for their efforts.

The club thanks all sponsors and club supporters, particularly strip sponsors MacQueen Bros, for their loyalty once again this season.

Oban seconds were also in action against Cumbernauld. Chris Benson and Craig McInnes impressed despite the team going down to a 25-5 defeat.

Oban Lorne's senior men's and ladies' teams will be in action at Inverness for the Highland RFC sevens on Saturday April 8.



The Oban High School boys' team that competed in last week's Coca-Cola 7s competition at Lesser Hampden. N/A

## Oban footballers fall at quarter-finals

OBAN High School's boys and girls football teams last week travelled to Lesser Hampden for the quarter-finals of the Coca-Cola Sevens.

Both sides gave strong performances in the com-

petition, but failed to reach the national semi-finals.

The boys' competition saw Paisley Grammar, Johnstone High School,

Mearns Castle High School and St Columba's High School progress.

Girls' teams continuing to the semi-finals were Barrhead High School, St

Andrew's Academy, Park Mains High School and Duncanrig High School. All of the players competing in the tournament received coaching and advice from former professionals.

## Mull rugby boys keep perfect record



The Isle of Mull P6 and P7 mini rugby team. Back row from left: Patrick Carmichael, Stuart Tomison, Kyle MacLean, Angus MacCallum, Ciaran Whyte, Callum Cooper, Lorn Carmichael (coach). Front row: Rory Tait, Kieran Martin, Jackob Whattan, Dougie Brunton, Lewis MacLeod, Dexter Govan. N/A

### Rugby

ON March 18, two mini-rugby teams from Mull had an early rise when they caught the lam ferry from Craignure to travel to Lenzie Rugby Club.

The Mull P4 and P5 team played two hard games, drawing the first and win-

ning the second by one try. This side has improved dramatically in their skills and determination since the start of the season.

The Mull P6 and P7 side won both their games, the first 11-1 and the second 5-0. The team demonstrated solid defending and fluent attacking play in both matches. In a strong squad,

Angus MacCallum, Patrick Carmichael and Jacob Whattan were the main playmakers. The side is now unbeaten this year with victories over Lenzie, Oban, Lochaber, Crief, Callander, Mid Argyll and Highland. They have scored 102 tries and conceded only eight. The side is now looking for some new fixtures.

**BT National League Division 5 (West) A 2005/2006**

|                   | P         | W        | D        | L        | Pts       |
|-------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Marr              | 17        | 16       | 0        | 1        | 75        |
| GHK               | 17        | 15       | 0        | 2        | 73        |
| Cumbernauld       | 16        | 11       | 0        | 5        | 50        |
| Strathendrick     | 16        | 9        | 0        | 7        | 47        |
| <b>Oban Lorne</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>0</b> | <b>9</b> | <b>43</b> |
| Loch Lomond       | 16        | 9        | 0        | 8        | 37        |
| Clydebank         | 17        | 7        | 0        | 10       | 35        |
| Paisley           | 15        | 5        | 0        | 10       | 25        |
| Hillhead          | 16        | 2        | 0        | 14       | 11        |
| Bishopton         | 18        | 1        | 0        | 17       | 7         |

## Cash windfall for Scottish yachting

### Sailing

ARGYLL's yachtsmen and women are set to benefit from a massive cash injection into the sport.

The Royal Yachting Association Scotland (RYAS) has received £299,750 from sportsotland, funds which will be used to support its activities across the country.

Cash has already been earmarked to improve Scotland's chances of medal success in competitions, to replace boats, improve coaching and encourage volunteer and club development.

Announcing details of the funding, Sports Minister Patricia Ferguson said: 'This funding will support Scotland's elite sailors as they strive for success at the highest level, whilst investing in new young talent that will grace the waves in top competitions of the future.'

'Funding will also be directed at young people who live in areas not traditionally associated with sailing, providing new opportunities to participate in this exciting sport.'

The RYAS, which represents all disciplines of sailing - from dinghies to motor cruising, schools to clubs and ocean racing to windsurfing - has more than 8,000 members. There are 121 RYA-recognised training centres in Scotland, more than 150 yacht clubs and more than 19,000 active participants.

By investing in yachting's infrastructure, the RYAS hopes to encourage more people to become active in recreational yachting.

Agnes Barclay, chief operating officer at the RYAS, said: 'The support from sportsotland is vital and extremely valuable; it allows new, young sailors to enter the sport and ensures that Scottish sailing retains its world-class status.'

'This year's investment will allow us to build on the successes of 2005 by increasing participation and raising our national and international sailing performances to new heights.'

Britain is the world's leading sailing nation, and sailing is the country's most successful sport for Olympic medals.

**Football**

|               | P  | W  | D | L  | Pts |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Atlantis Leis | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2  | 36  |
| Forteiths     | 13 | 10 | 0 | 2  | 36  |
| Foster Yeoman | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0  | 31  |
| Oban High     | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2  | 31  |
| AM Transport  | 13 | 5  | 1 | 7  | 16  |
| Oban Times    | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8  | 16  |
| Burnside Jnrs | 14 | 5  | 0 | 9  | 15  |
| Hotels        | 13 | 3  | 0 | 10 | 9   |
| Hydro         | 14 | 2  | 0 | 12 | 6   |
| Hospital      | 11 | 0  | 0 | 11 | 0   |



Oban High School's girls' team performed well at Lesser Hampden, but narrowly failed to reach the national semi-final of the Coca-Cola 7s. N/A

### Atlantis Leisure Five-a-side

|               | P  | W  | D | L  | Pts |
|---------------|----|----|---|----|-----|
| Atlantis Leis | 14 | 12 | 0 | 2  | 36  |
| Forteiths     | 13 | 10 | 0 | 2  | 36  |
| Foster Yeoman | 13 | 12 | 1 | 0  | 31  |
| Oban High     | 13 | 10 | 1 | 2  | 31  |
| AM Transport  | 13 | 5  | 1 | 7  | 16  |
| Oban Times    | 14 | 5  | 1 | 8  | 16  |
| Burnside Jnrs | 14 | 5  | 0 | 9  | 15  |
| Hotels        | 13 | 3  | 0 | 10 | 9   |
| Hydro         | 14 | 2  | 0 | 12 | 6   |
| Hospital      | 11 | 0  | 0 | 11 | 0   |

### Highland League fixtures

| Football                   | Works League                    |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday April 8</b>    | <b>Saturday April 8</b>         |
| Scot-Ads v Highland League | Fosters Highland League Cup     |
| Buckie Thistle v Brora     | Brora v Cove Rangers            |
| Deveronvale v Clach        | Inverurie Locos v Clach         |
| Fort William v Wick        | Wick Academy v Keith            |
| Fraserburgh v Forres       |                                 |
| Huntly v Lossiemouth       | <b>Scot-Ads Highland League</b> |
| Keith v Inverurie Locos    | Forres Mechs v Rothes           |
| Rothes v Cove Rangers      | Fort William v Dever            |
| Nairn County free          | Huntly v Fraserburgh            |

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## Cathro claims cycling cup win

### Cycling

OBAN cyclist Ben Cathro started his international race season in spectacular fashion in Portugal last week, winning the junior event at the Maxxis International Cup.

Finishing 11th overall, Ben competed against a strong international field which included current world champion, Frenchman Fabien Barel.

The dry and sunny conditions at the course usually give competitors the chance to test themselves on a hard but fun course.

However, heavy rain and biting winds made it feel more like a Scottish winter than a Mediterranean spring, conditions which had an adverse affect on performances.

Speaking to *The Oban Times*, Ben said: 'The course was mint, probably the best track I have ridden on after Fort William. It was just flat out all the way. The first race run was about the only dry part of the weekend, and I got a good, clean, fast, run. On our second runs it started raining and never stopped, so times were a bit slower.'

Ben's season will continue in New Zealand, if he makes the British team for the world championships, and Canada.

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Ben Cathro won the junior event at the Maxxis International Cup in Portugal, finishing 11th overall despite poor weather conditions.

## MacInnes pair take title

### Golf

Glencruitten Golf Club  
 Two Ball Stroke Play  
 Saturday March 25  
 Winners: DB MacInnes and A MacInnes 72-12 = 60 (b.i.h)  
 Runners-up: H May and C Carmichael 78-18=60

## Tides

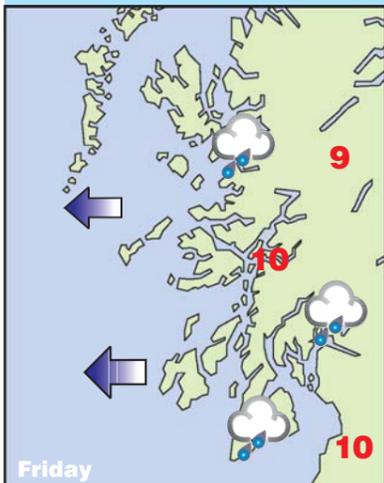
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, March 30, 2006 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am                                      | pm |
|------|---|----|
| Thur | 00.11 0.2 06.15 4.4 12.35 0.3 18.24 4.0 |    |
| Fri  | 00.52 0.1 06.51 4.3 13.12 0.4 18.58 4.0 |    |
| Sat  | 01.33 0.3 07.26 4.1 13.48 0.5 19.32 3.9 |    |
| Sun  | 02.14 0.6 08.01 3.7 14.26 0.8 20.05 3.6 |    |
| Mon  | 02.56 0.9 08.37 3.4 15.08 1.1 20.40 3.4 |    |
| Tues | 03.42 1.3 09.16 3.0 15.56 1.4 21.21 3.1 |    |
| Wed  | 04.39 1.7 10.09 2.7 16.55 1.7 22.20 2.8 |    |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

|                  |       |              |       |
|------------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Ardrishaig       | -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 30**  
 Will be dry with sunny spells at first. However, it will become cloudier with some rain or drizzle pushing in from north during the day. Winds will be light and variable. Temperatures 1°C to 9°C.

**Friday, March 31**  
 Will be cloudy or overcast with rain or drizzle at times. Winds will be light and variable. Temperatures 3°C to 11°C.

**Saturday and Sunday**  
 Saturday and Sunday are both expected to be cloudy or overcast days with rain or drizzle at times. Winds will be light to moderate and variable in direction. Temperatures 3°C to 11°C.

**Ferry Crossings/Sea States**  
 Oban to Barra/South Uist - Slight  
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
 Kennacraig to Islay - As above

## Lack-lustre Saints dumped out of Marshall Trophy

Jimmy Marshall Trophy  
 Quarter Final  
 OBAN SAINTS 1  
 INVERCLYDE 2

OBAN Saints entertained Inverclyde in the quarter final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy at Glencruitten last Saturday but unfortunately the Oban side chose this game to turn in a pretty lacklustre performance and it was the men from the tail o' the bank who emerged victorious by the odd goal in three.

Not surprisingly manager Iain Jackson kept the same starting line-up that did so well in the West of Scotland Cup tie against Redbrae the previous Saturday, but that's where the similarity ended as Saints were only a shadow of the team that did themselves proud against Redbrae.

The Oban side didn't seem to be up for this game at all, everything was flat, the team lacked drive and a cutting edge, plus the workrate, unlike the previous Saturday, just wasn't there.

They started the game well enough, but as the afternoon wore on it was obvious to those on the touchline that it was going to be one of those days, as the visitors started to impose themselves on the game.

The match was mostly confined to midfield in the opening exchanges, but the first

### Football

chance fell to the home side when Ross Maitland sent over deep corner from the left which Joe Lopez, got on the end off but he was crowded out at the back post.

On the half hour mark Darin Bryars had a shot but it was well blocked by defender Jim Docherty.

Although there was a lot of good football getting played neither team seemed to have that cutting edge which would break down the opposing defence so the half time whistle arrived with the scoreline blank.

The home side created the first chance of the second period when Ross Maitland broke clear, but his left foot shot was easily dealt with by Inverclyde keeper Stephen Jackson.

One minute later the visitors took the lead when Stephen Gillan was allowed too much room in midfield and the big man strode forward before unleashing a tremendous drive that went in off Tim Woodcock's right hand post giving the Saints keeper no chance.

Saints were stunned by this goal and they needed somebody to take the game by the scruff of the neck and take control, but this just didn't happen and it was the visitors

who looked the better team as the game wore on.

The home side looked to have a good claim for a penalty turned down in the 63rd minute when the Inverclyde



Keith Millar

keeper took Allan MacKay out of the game with a rash challenge but referee John Scott turned down the loud appeals from the Saints players and spectators on the touchline.

Two minutes later the visitors took a 2-0 lead when the home side gave away a silly free kick. The ball was quickly played into the path of Inverclyde substitute Steven Morris who, with the help of a deflection, skelped a great right foot drive past Tim Woodcock.

Saints took off midfielder Joe Lopez, along with strikers Allan MacKay and Darin Bryars who all found it hard to get going in the game.

They pushed Duncan Campbell and Keith Millar into attack and this seemed to bring a bit more urgency to the Oban side.

They threw everything they could at the Inverclyde defence, but the visitors looked pretty solid, well marshalled by the experienced Tommy Boyle.

Willie Gemmell had a chance when he thumped a left foot drive over the bar when a low cross into the box might have been the better option, then Duncan Campbell fired in a pile-driver that the keeper could only fist away.

Saints netted a consolation goal in the last minute of the game when Willie Gemmell sent over a great ball across the face of the Inverclyde goal and Keith Millar raced in to thump it past Stephen Jackson, but alas time ran out and Saints lost by the odd goal in three.

A very disappointed manager Iain Jackson said: 'We just didn't perform today, it's as simple as that. There was a lack of urgency and commitment all round and we will need to get this sorted out for the remaining seven league games. I couldn't believe it was the same players who had performed so well the previous Saturday against Redbrae.'

Now out of all the cup competitions Saints must concentrate on picking up league points so they won't get dragged into a relegation dogfight. This Saturday they face a tough test when they travel to Battery Park to take on league leaders Greenock HSPF. The game kicks off at 2.30 pm and will be refereed by Alan Lamb.

Saints Under 19s had an impressive 4-1 away win over Everton Youth, but the Under 17s lost 2-0 at home to Renfrew Vics.

Saturday's results: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils 0, Duncanrig 0; Gourock Athletic 1, Greenock HSPF 1; Moorcroft 0, Kilpatrick 5. Premier Division One - Busby 2, Dunoon 2. Premier Division Two - Sandiefield Star 11, Campbeltown Boys 1. Division Two - Tarbert 3, Hamilton 1.

### Scottish Amateur League - Premier Division

|                    | P  | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| GREENOCK HSPF      | 13 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 25 | 18 | 26  |
| POLLOK             | 15 | 7 | 4 | 4 | 35 | 29 | 19  |
| ST PATRICK'S FP    | 11 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 24 | 12 | 13  |
| KILPATRICK         | 11 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 25 | 19 | 18  |
| GARTCOSH UNITED    | 9  | 5 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 15 | 16  |
| OBAN SAINTS        | 11 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 26 | 22 | 15  |
| DUNCANRIG          | 13 | 4 | 1 | 8 | 20 | 21 | 13  |
| MOORCROFT          | 12 | 4 | 0 | 8 | 17 | 33 | 12  |
| CAMPBELTOWN PUPILS | 13 | 2 | 4 | 7 | 18 | 30 | 10  |
| GOUROCK ATHLETIC   | 12 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 18 | 33 | 9   |

## Six of the best for Oban women

### Shinty

Women's shinty  
 National Division One  
 Glasgow Mid Argyll 6  
 Oban Lorne 0

## Easter session to prepare golfers for summer training

GLENCRUITTEN Golf Club will be running its summer coaching programme this year with a 'taster' session to run at Easter.

Ian Nicholson of Kilmacolm Golf Club and

### Golf

9am to 12pm while the 12 to 18 year-old session takes place on the same day from 1pm to 4pm.

The cost is £2 per session with players advised to take waterproof clothing and clubs.

## Oban's young footballers say 'no' to drugs



Some of the school children and speakers who took part in the Football Against Substance Abuse event in Oban. (13mm01)

AROUND 150 primary schoolchildren from Oban and Lorn took part in a football coaching day which set out to educate them about the dangers of drugs.

Football Against Substance Abuse also high-

### Football

lighted the abuse of alcohol and solvents as well as trying to promote a healthy lifestyle to the pupils.

Coaching and games at Mossfield followed talks given by school nurses Cheryl Lyons and Shelia McMonagle and by community police officers PCs Raymond Law, Greg Bryce and Sergeant Neil Owen.

PC Davie Paterson, who organised the event,

thanked the Oban and District Crime Prevention Panel for sponsoring the event as well as all those who gave their time on the day including nurses, police officers, football coaches, Oban and Lorne Rugby Club and Mossfield's groundstaff.

## Team Jolomo to test their endurance over 36 hours

### Biathlon

TEAM Jolomo, a group which plans to tackle two charity endurance events, will walk 70 miles and cycle 40 over a 36 hour period in June.

The team has been named Jolomo in honour of Lochgilphead based artist John Lowrie Morrison. Mr Morrison had agreed to sponsor the group and donate the proceeds from the auction of a painting to support their attempt.

The endurance events will raise money for Scottish Community Charities, Cancer Research UK, CHAS and Habitat for Humanity.

The Jolomo team will be made up of Rebecca Helliwell, Jeremy Phillips,

## Tee off for tweed prize

### Golf

FORGET about the famous green jacket awarded in the Augusta Masters - the Western Isles version is set to eclipse it this summer.

The Isle of Harris Golf Club is giving the winners of its annual open competition a special memento of their achievement - Harris tweed jackets worth around £300.

It has secured the sponsorship from the Isle of Harris knitwear company, Lusketyre Harris Tweed and Caledonian MacBrayne.

Designing the special tweed, which will be copyrighted to the Harris club, will be Donald John MacKay who designed a Harris tweed trainer for American sports-wear giants Nike last year.

## Total Soccer arrives in Oban

### Football

BUDDING Barry Ferguson or wannabe Wayne Rooney can strut their stuff at a football training camp in Oban next month.

The Total Soccer World Cup Easter Soccer Camp takes place at Mossfield Park on Wednesday April 12 and Thursday April 13. Coaches will also be at Lochgilphead's Ropework

Park to run five full day or half-day sessions between Monday April 10 and Friday April 14, and at The Meadows in Campbeltown for two full day sessions on Monday April 10 and Tuesday April 11.

Oban's boys and girls aged between five and 14 can spend two days learning skills from the professionals. Organisers will be putting the youngsters through their paces in a series of football drills and coaching exercises, and have said that any especially promising players will be recommended to professional clubs.

The two-day course, running from 10am until 3pm each day, costs £24 per child. For more information, call 0141 889 7977, email enquiries@totalsoccerexperience.com or visit www.totalsoccerexperience.com.

**RANGERS TICKET PROMOTION**  
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Rangers vital clash with Motherwell takes place at Ibrox Stadium on Saturday 8 April, kick-off 3pm. Come along and raise the roof along with 50,000 other fans, for an unforgettable matchday experience!

We've teamed up with Rangers to offer readers a super chance to win a pair of tickets to see the game live at Ibrox.

For your chance to win just answer this question

who was the Light Blue goal hero at the recent home game against Dunfermline?

Fill in your answer below and send to The Oban Times P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Answer .....

Name ..... Address .....

Email ..... Tel .....

All entries to be in by 12noon 5th April 2006. Winners will be notified by phone. Normal Oban Times rules apply.

Don't worry if you don't win tickets this time, tickets are on sale NOW priced from £22 for adults and £12 for concessions, booking fees apply.

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