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### BARCALDINE CALLS IN KIDS FOR LOGO

CAMPBELTOWN'S Irish ferry is still no nearer but the town will have another new ferry link by the end of the month.

The Kintyre Express is the brain child of hotelier Wilson Smith from Irvine,

who will run a twice daily service between Campbeltown and Troon, three days a week. Mr Smith served in the Merchant Navy and is formerly of the Ballygrant Inn, Islay and was a member of the Islay lifeboat

crew. He has bought a twin-engined, 11m Stormforce rigid inflatable which boasts 540hp with a speed of 40 knots and can take a maximum of 12 passengers and luggage. He will inaugurate the service on April

28 with a run of VIP guests including Ayr MP Brian Donahoe, who wished the new ferry every success.

'We are getting more and more people using Prestwick Airport and we don't want to see them just

sucked into Glasgow and Edinburgh. This service is another piece in our tourism jigsaw and allows us to show people the glory of Scotland,' said Mr Donahoe. The service will be met in Campbeltown by

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid. He said: 'I am delighted to see this ferry service. It will bring more tourists to Campbeltown and is bound to be good for the local economy.' Golfers are seen

as the main customers and golfing journalists are amongst the first guests. Mr Smith said: 'I have already taken a booking from guests at Turnberry and depending on the tide I should be able to land at Maidens

Harbour. Another group of golfers from Bermuda playing Machrihanish will now get to play Dundonald when they thought they'd run out of time.'

For Kintyre people there is the draw of Ayr Races and the ability to leave Campbeltown and be in the queue at the check in for Prestwick Airport in only an hour-and-a-half. 'I am also getting a lot of interest from service engineers and the like.'

### SOROBA 'CUT OFF' AS BRIDGE CLOSES

### SURFERS AIM FOR SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIPS



## Fast ferry from Troon to Kintyre will bring golfers to Wee Toon from end of April

### Forum wants answers on water supply

A FORUM to deal with the crisis facing the development of housing - and therefore the economy - in Argyll and Bute has been set up by the area's MSP.

George Lyon MSP says that he got so frustrated with the lack of answers coming from Scottish Water, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Argyll and Bute Council's development department that he decided to bring them all together, along with representatives of the major building firms and social housing providers in Argyll and Bute.

'Development constraint is the single biggest issue in Argyll and Bute because of water and waste water,' said Mr Lyon.

'Up until now I have not been able to get a straight answer about where the constraints are and with its new funding, how Scottish Water is going to prioritise and spend its funds in Argyll and Bute.'

The forum has now looked at where those constraints are and where the priorities are and where the money should be spent first.

New waste water treatment plants are due to be built in Dunoon and Lochgilphead and where previously there was going to be no extra capacity, this is now going to be re-evaluated.

In Campbeltown, several million pounds need to be spent on the existing system but Scottish Water is to examine the need for extra capacity at the same time, said Mr Lyon.

At the next meeting, the Oban area is due to be discussed where there are problems of water supply constraints.

Alongside this SEPA, which is currently consulting on private sewage systems, is being asked to be flexible in rural areas like Argyll, where it is not always realistic to connect to a public sewage system.



Margaret Donald and Pudsey bear join the Dalmally children in the new playpark. (144da10)

## Dalmally children get 'high tech' play park

DALMALLY is celebrating the opening of a £119,000 adventure playpark and community garden in the village.

Residents, many of whom had been working hard on the site since 7am, cheered as celebrity guest Pudsey bear from Children in Need and

former Dalmally primary pupil John Hannah, aged 16, cut the pink ribbon at the official opening last week of the site to the public.

The crowd lined the street as they braved the wet weather to witness the ceremony. The creation of the play area and garden has

taken six years of planning by the organisation Adventure Dalmally 2000.

Chairperson Margaret Donald is relieved that the work is almost finished. She said: 'We have had a lot of support from the community, who have been desperate for this to happen for

years. We included a garden as we thought the older generation should benefit too.'

With support from BBC Children in Need, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise, the Community Economic Development Programme and a host of local foundations and trusts the commu-

nity was able to secure funding for the long-awaited community park. George Kay, headteacher of Dalmally Primary School, described the park as 'high tech' and praised all those who had put so much hard work and effort into the project.

## Stall national park plan, says MSP

A DELAY is being called for in the Scottish Executive's decision on which part of Scotland's coast should become a coastal and marine national park.

Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon says no decision should be made for at least nine months to allow for proper consultation and information to be made available.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), which was asked by the executive to advise min-

isters on the legal and policy framework and a list of areas for such a park, has come up with five locations: Argyll Islands and Coast; Ardnamurchan, Small Isles and the South Skye Coast; North Skye Coast and Wester Ross; North Uist, Sound of Harris, Harris and South Lewis; and Solway Firth.

Following meetings on Mull with community representatives, Mr Lyon said: 'The community on Mull

has genuine concerns about the impact a coastal and marine national park would have on the island.'

'They are concerned that there is not sufficient information available to allow them to take an informed decision on whether the park will be of benefit to the island or not.'

He said fishing representatives feared for their livelihoods and islanders feared they would have little say in the management

of a coastal and marine park.

'I have asked the minister to delay any final decision on the location of the marine national park until their questions are answered and their fears allayed,' he said. SNH's Andrew Bachell, director of strategy and operations, said that any new national park should go where there was local public support.

'We have not been asked to assess that support; in-

deed until there were proposals about what a park might do, it would be hard to consult people. Nevertheless, with so many areas appearing to be suitable there is scope for communities to make a case for their area.'

'If the Scottish Executive decides to go ahead with a park, this will be done only with full public consultation and I would encourage people to make their views known.'

## Taynuilt's new houses to get water

THE WATER supply in Taynuilt is 'better than expected', tests carried out at the best of Scottish Water reveal.

This means that the development of 10 homes at Brochroy Croft, overlooking Loch Etive, now has permission to be connected to the water main; something many people thought would be prevented by the tight constraints currently imposed by the water authority across Argyll and Bute.

Sam Silcock, one of the directors of Highland House Developments, said: 'There has been a lot of problems with

water in Argyll and Bute. After we applied for permission to connect to the main we had to meet strict criteria.' The company had to pay Scottish Water for consultants to prepare pressure and flow tests that would show whether 10 more properties could be connected at that location without causing problems for existing customers.

'A Scottish Water official said the results were 'better than expected' which was good news. I know a lot of people in the village have been sceptical as it is a mature main in places,' said Mr Silcock.

## Rian is Oban's unsung Scot

TWELVE-year-old Rian MacAllister has been given the Unsung award in the first Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards.

Rian, a first year pupil at Oban High School, was one of thousands of young Scots nominated for 11 different awards, including sport, health, entertainment and arts.

Rian, who is visually impaired, scooped the Unsung prize for his legendary debating and public speaking skills.

Rian was nominated for the Young Scot award, sponsored by Lloyds TSB, by none other than First Minister Jack McConnell.

Oban High School head teacher had written to the First Minister after he was unable to attend a debating competition at Inveraray Jail and he had written back saying he had nominated Rian - totally unaware that the youngster was visually impaired.

But Mr McConnell could have some competition himself in a few years' time as one of Rian's ambitions is to be a politician.

### Three appear in private at court

A TWENTY-THREE-year-old Oban man and a 19-year-old woman appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday on charges of serious assault.

The charges followed an incident in the early hours of Sunday morning near the Claredon Hotel, Shore Street, Oban.

Both made no plea or declaration and were released on bail pending further investigations.

Following a separate incident, a 39-year-old man also appeared in private at the court on Monday in connection with four charges under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

He made no plea or declaration and was released on bail pending further investigations.



Helping support the Marie Curie Daffodil Tea held at Drumnell House, courtesy of Janet Glaisher, left to right: Annette Petrie, Judith Easton, Jamie McGrigor MSP, Linda McGillvaray, Catriona Petrie, Dr Iain McNicol, and Elma MacKay. (144da10)

### Port Appin assists Marie Curie funds

VOLUNTEERS in Port Appin helped to raise nearly £900 for Marie Curie Cancer Care nursing service on Sunday.

The beautiful spring sunshine brought people out to Port Appin's Drumnell House which was open for a daffodil tea, thanks to owner Janet Glaisher; this is the 12th year the house has hosted the event. Jamie McGrigor MSP

opened the annual event. Mr McGrigor, who has recently become a patron of the charity, spoke on how the charity formed in 1948 and how it has evolved into one of the largest and most well-respected in its field.

'The charity carries the name of a true heroine who literally gave her life for her work with radio active materials to help save other people'

Elma MacKay, community fund-raising manager for the charity, said: 'It is a real privilege to meet the people of Port Appin who give up so much of their time and money every year to support Marie Curie. 'The money raised will provide 45 hours of local Marie Curie nursing and I would like to thank everyone involved for making it such a success.'

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## Mull fights dog muck

DOG fouling on the streets of Tobermory is a growing concern for residents on the Isle of Mull.

The matter was discussed recently at a community council meeting on the island.

Linda Dawson, secretary of Mull Community Council, said: 'It's a big problem in Tobermory and it's moving up to Dervaig.'

'The issue has been brought to the attention of the community council two or three times now.'

'It is especially bad in the summer months when so many children are about.' Under the Dog Fouling (Scotland) Act 2003 it is an offence not to clean up after a dog that fouls in public spaces such as football pitches, pavements and communal land.

Those who neglect to dispose of their dog's mess may be forced to pay a fixed penalty of £40.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed that regular visits were made by officers to the Isle of Mull and the surrounding islands.

So far, on Mull alone, there has been a number of warnings and one fixed penalty given out.

Mull Community Council has sent out a notice to remind dog owners that: 'Your dog can't clear it up. Bag it, tie it and bin it.'

Dog owners looking for a poop-scoop and bags can collect them from Argyll and Bute Council's area offices.

# CalMac sails into a Harris Sunday storm

## Two thirds of Harris folk were against the Sunday sailing and their wishes have been ignored, claims Harris councillor Donald MacDonald

HISTORY will be created on April 9 with the first crossing from Uist to Harris on a Sunday, amid growing anger and hostility to the move.

MV Loch Portain, which operates on the crossing six days a week, will run from Berneray to Leverburgh on Sundays until October 15, leaving at 9am, 1.30pm and 4.15pm on the hour-long journey, with a 10-minute turn-round in Leverburgh before returning to Berneray.

A decision by ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) to have a seven-day service from Berneray to Leverburgh was announced on March 29 by board chairman Dr Harold Mills.

Immediately it incurred the wrath of islanders, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and the local branch of The Lord's Day Observance Society (LDOS) who want to keep the Sabbath holy.

They say they have been betrayed by CalMac and have lost trust in the company.

A 711-signature petition opposing the move was last week handed to Dr Mills and it is understood that at least one councillor is to protest in writing to Scotland's transport minister Tavish Scott.

CalMac says it agreed to the service following a request from Uist councillors so islanders could travel to see relatives in hospital in Stornoway.

CalMac's Head of Communications Hugh Dan MacLennan said the deci-

sion was taken after careful and sensitive consideration of both sides of the argument.

Speaking from New York, where he is attending the annual Tartan Week festival, he added: 'We have committed ourselves to doing this service because of the lifeline nature of the service, to enable the people of Uist and the other islands to have the same opportunities to travel along the Western Isles Spinal Route.'

'The Barra ferry sails on a Sunday so people can travel if they so wish.'

But the comhairle accused CalMac of cynicism, saying the announcement was made 24 hours before it was due to discuss Sunday ferries and Sunday working for comhairle employees.

Harris East member Donald MacDonald said two-thirds of Harris folk were against the Sunday service and their wishes had been ignored.



Harris East councillor Donald MacDonald

The Lewis branch of the LDOS and the comhairle say CalMac has broken a promise not to sail on the Sabbath without prior consultation.

In making the announcement Dr Mills said the new service fulfilled CalMac's responsibility to provide lifeline services, meeting the social and economic needs of the islands.

But LDOS local branch secretary Angus MacKay said many people were aghast at CalMac's rejection of the overwhelming evidence of hostility to such an 'imposition' and had written to tell Dr Mills so.

People now felt very uneasy about CalMac's motives and future intentions about other crossings.

He hoped it would not set a precedent for sailings on the Sabbath from Tarbert and Stornoway and wanted an assurance for Lewis and Harris that this would not happen.

He also wanted CalMac to justify the proposed service meeting the commonly accepted lifeline service criteria.

The comhairle is to ask the company to make available full details of its evaluation of the viability of the service.

Councillor John MacKay, Dell, said: 'These islands made CalMac and now they are kicking these islands in the teeth.'

'It is a total disregard for the Lord's Day and the Lord's people.'



Dell councillor John MacKay

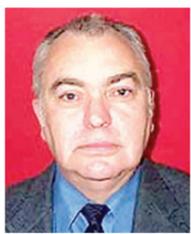
Councillor Annie Macdonald, Lochs, said: 'Without shame they have ridden roughshod over the people of Lewis and Harris by choosing to ignore the elected members for these areas, and did not give this council the opportunity to go out to consultation to these communities.'



Lochs councillor Annie Macdonald

However, North Uist member Archie Campbell, Paible, who campaigned for

the Sunday service, said Uist had one already as well as a Sunday plane service and the place was still quiet.



North Uist councillor Archie Campbell

Councillor Donald Manford, Barra, said CalMac should have consulted with the communities before making its decision.



Barra councillor Donald Manford

Historically, all services to and from the Western Isles - North Uist, Harris and Lewis - have operated a six-day-a-week service. Reacting to demand from customers, Sunday services from the North Uist port of Lochmaddy to the mainland via Uig on the Isle of Skye were commenced in 1989.

CalMac has also operated the Sound of Barra service, the other key element of the Western Isles Spinal Route, on a seven-day basis since it was taken over from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar in 2004.



MV Loch Portain will commence the Sunday sailing to Harris on April 9

The company said no additional staff costs would be incurred on the Sound of Harris crossing as the crew was currently rostered for maintenance work on a Sunday.

The Sunday sailing did

not involve any staff on the shore-side and the only additional costs would be fuel, berthing and traffic dues. Anticipated revenue would be in line with current daily income.

Last Thursday the

comhairle reaffirmed its policy prohibiting working on the Sabbath except in emergencies at its meeting last week.

This also includes prohibiting Sunday work by contractors.

## Signs look good for summer season

THE SIGNS are already looking good for tourist activity in the West Highlands this summer.

Caledonian MacBrayne is reporting a 'significant increase' in advance activity from potential tourists in the Outer Hebrides.

An 80 per cent increase in accommodation bookings via the internet is being mirrored through CalMac's own website activity, said Managing Director Lawrie Sinclair.

'In January the website had 672,278 impressions - up 40 per cent on 2005 - and in February we had 606,576 - up 20 per cent on 2005,' he said.

Although this did not translate into bookings, Mr Sinclair said CalMac's own January figure was 300 up on last year and February was 700 up, which is five times

the rate the ferry operator took bookings in the same month in 2001.

'CalMac would obviously like to grow these numbers even further but we believe that the greatest restraints at the moment are not in the capacity we ourselves have to offer but in the ability of the islands and destinations to offer the right kind and volume of accommodation needed, particularly at the highest point of the season,' said Mr Sinclair.

CalMac's marketing campaign will again run on television, from May 15 for seven weeks and has been targeted to tie in with the World Cup when it is hoped there will be a large number of viewers.

The remote beauty of the Hebrides will feature heavily in CalMac's spring marketing campaign, both on television and in print.

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## Three Chimneys comes of age

SKYE'S The Three Chimneys restaurant with rooms run by Shirley and Eddie Spear is celebrating a double achievement.

Not only has The Three Chimneys come of age but it has also won the Best Location category in the Observer Food Monthly annual awards in London. The accolade is based solely on readers' votes and Shirley and Eddie were delighted with not just the award but its timing.

'After 21 years here, along a single-track road on the shores of Loch Dunvegan on Skye, we are thrilled that people throughout the UK have voted for us as the best location to enjoy a fantastic meal,' said Shirley. 'It's great for The Three Chimneys, great for the local suppliers we buy from and great for everyone on Skye to know that we are the top of people's wish lists when it comes to combining a stunning location with the best fresh local food.'

The restaurant is sharing its anniversary with all those who have played a part in The Three Chimneys with a series of visits and events inviting long-time customers, local politicians, suppliers and others.

April 1 marked the 21st anniversary of when Eddie and Shirley, with no previous experience of the restaurant trade, opened the doors of the now famous crofter's cottage.

The journey to its coming of age has seen The Three Chimneys gain the AA triple rosette, a listing in the AA Top Places to Stay in the UK and in the Good Hotel Guide and has appeared 20 times in the Which? Good Food Guide as well as winning a number of accolades.

Shirley has always used high quality fresh ingredients from Skye and the Highlands and to keep up the fresh ideas brought in a new head chef, Michael Smith, 18 months ago.

Ross Skye and Inverness West MSP John Farquhar Munro said The Three Chimneys was a fine example of a long-term sustainable business providing local jobs.

'If you had visited here back in 1985 you would have stumbled on a great west restaurant no one had heard of, run by a hard-working couple determined to make a life on Skye with their family. 'Now in 2006 we are delighted to be back here celebrating 21 years of what has become an international, award-winning restaurant.'

# Caithness decision on bilingual road signs sparks anger

A DECISION not to have English/Gaelic road signage in Caithness has started an angry backlash.

An Comunn Gaidhealach, the society which runs the Royal National Mod, says it is disgusted by the decision by Highland Council's Caithness Area Committee.

The decision was taken last week when members discussed a report from the Director of Planning and Development on Caithness

Development Project. The report recommended not to have bi-lingual road signage, stating it was 'not appropriate for Caithness's unique historic and cultural development, notwithstanding the council's bilingual policy for road signs'.

This week a common's chief executive Calum Iain MacLeod cited several examples where Gaelic was flourishing in Caithness

through organisations and events.

These included award-winning Gaelic choirs, feisean, Gaelic learning classes and the voluntary work of many individuals who worked tirelessly for Gaelic while at the same time promoting Caithness to the wider world. He also cited the many Gaelic place-names in the area.

Among those who promoted Gaelic was former Mod gold medalist Raymond Bremner of Thrumster.

He is now pressing for all Gaelic agencies to work together when issues such as support for Gaelic arise and stressed that it was important to promote Gaelic as a national treasure for the whole of Scotland.

He said: 'We are totally behind the efforts of the Gaelic Committee within Highland Council in relation to the issue of road signage in Caithness.'

'The council has a Gaelic policy which in our view should be implemented throughout the whole of the council area.'

'In our view it is absolutely wrong to claim that there is no Gaelic heritage in Caithness, an area which regularly hosts a provincial mod, and indeed it is our understanding that the Caithness and Sutherland Provincial Mod 2007 will be held in Thurso as part of the Scottish Year of Highland Culture.'

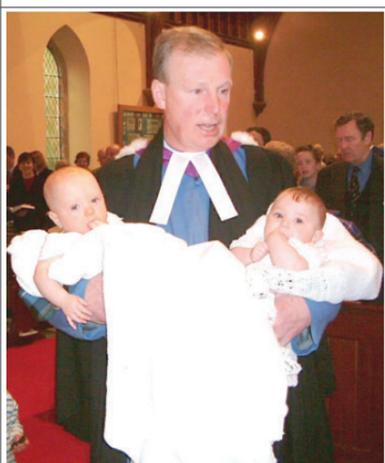
'Caithness also has competitors appearing at the Royal National Mod on an annual basis and also at some of the provincial mods and other Gaelic events held outwith the Caithness area.'

'You need only look at the place-names in Caithness to see the legacy left by the Gaelic language.'

The area committee discussed the possible use of Gaelic for new interpretive panels at selected sites including Akavanich, the Cairn o' Get and the proposed extension of the Pictish Trail to Caithness and Sutherland.

The report stated that the advisory group, after discussion with Councillor Graeme Smith, considered that Gaelic/English signs were not suitable.

The signs will be in English only.



The Rev John Murdoch with Iona and Andrew at Appin Parish Church's double christening.

## Christening double may be first for Appin

A DOUBLE christening in Appin Parish Church took place recently which may have created a little piece of history for the church.

The Rev John Murdoch christened first cousins Iona Catherine Dunlop and Andrew MacKinnon Barclay in the church on Mothering Sunday.

Double christenings of twins have taken place in the church before but Rev Murdoch went through the church's log book and had found no record of a double christening not involving twins.

Not only were they christened together but five-month old Iona and Andrew, aged 10 months, wore 300-year-old Hopperton family robes.

Iona's mum Vivienne Hopperton-Dunlop and Andrew's mum Caroline Barclay are sisters and arranged for their children to be christened in the family robes which are carefully stored in a relative's house in Ayrshire.

Vivienne said the Hopperton family tree could be traced back to Switzerland.

Vivienne, husband David, Iona and her older sister Isla live in Port Appin while Caroline, husband Ross, Andrew and his older brother Ryan live near Connel.

Three great grandparents of the two babies watched the christening along with another 150 family and friends.

The families asked for donations to Port Appin Surgery instead of presents and presented £250 to Dr Ian McNicol after the service.

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## APRIL ISSUE

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THE SCHOLASTIC Book Fair, held this month at Park Primary School, was highly successful, raising £811 of which 60 per cent will go to the school itself in the form of commission.

This will be spent on resources for the school. Pupils of Primary 6 recently attended a four-week block at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre where they enjoyed a range of team-building activities.

The school broke for the Easter Holidays on Friday, March 31, and will reopen on Tuesday, April 18.

The annual Easter Service took place at Christ Church, Dunollie, and was attended by friends and family.

THE THIRD quiz to be organised on an annual basis by ABCD - Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease - drew a large attendance to Oban's Royal Hotel on Friday, March 24.

The event was contested by 15 teams who sought to answer a range of challenging questions posed by Quizmaster Craig Munro.

A family team led by Kenny MacIntyre, Dunollie, ran out comfortable winners. The competition raised £280 to be added to the funds of ABCD.

The group's treasurer, Willie Melville, said: 'We are delighted and very grateful to everyone who supported the quiz.'

The organisation's annual 10km fun run will take place on Sunday, May 7, and is reportedly already drawing a high level of interest.

Formed in 1999, the trust promotes a range of activities dedicated to the improvement and care of patients suffering from all forms of heart disease.

EXCELLENT though the cuisine may be there is more than an outstanding menu of painstakingly prepared dishes to attract customers to Oban's popular Light of India Restaurant.

Thanks to a series of charity lunches, over the past two years the restaurant's owner, Abdul Muslim, has raised an astonishing £6,000 all of which has gone to benefit poverty-stricken families in his home country.

For hundreds, his support has proved a vital lifeline. Mr Muslim has personally overseen the way the money is spent during regular visits to Bangladesh. In a number of instances he has even financed the building of houses for those who lacked even a roof over their heads.

Mr Muslim, who returned from his most recent visit to Bangladesh only last week, is determined to continue with the good work and for the following two Sundays lunches at the Light of India will again go to support this worthy aim.

Mr Muslim said: 'I am very grateful for the support we have had in the past which I am sure will once again be repeated.'

ON March 18 Oban and Lorn Lions Club celebrated 20 years of the Lions in Oban at a Charter Dinner and Dance in the town's Royal Hotel.

More than 100 were present to hear the president of the club, Derek Coates, welcome guests before giving a brief resume of the last 20 years which have seen the organisation raise money through various events such as the Oban Bed Race, piping in McCaig's Tower and the ever-popular Charities Day.

Ted Heath proposed the toast to the Oban Lions and Lions International and spoke of the work of a club whose fund-raising had helped finance school trips, and Atlantis Leisure, with many personal donations going to those in difficulty.

The club's next event will be a table top sale to be held in the Royal Hotel on Saturday, April 8. Donations of books, bric-a-brac, etc will be gratefully received at Hazelbank Motors.

The club has quickly moved to scotch rumours that there is to be no Charities Day this year by confirming that this annual attraction will take place on June 3.

Stalls can be booked by phoning John Lloyd at 01631-562762.

THURSDAY, March 21, found members of Oban and District Scottish Cooperative Women's Guild welcoming the organisation's National President, Ina Begbie, paying her first official visit to Oban for well over a decade.

On that occasion she had been instrumental in establishing an Oban branch of the guild. In a well-received talk she spoke to members about her work as national president.

She was thanked by Rene Laughlin, the Oban Guild's vice-president. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a cup of tea.

A MARCH Table Top Sale run by the 5th Oban Brownies in the Guide Hall under the direction of their leaders, Brown Owl Caroline MacInnes, and Snowy Owl Louisa Hyde, found the youngsters spending a busy afternoon manning a variety of stalls.

The venture raised £75 for the unit's funds.



Historic Scotland's free weekend always proves to be a great success when its properties around the country can all be visited with no charge.

At Bonawe Iron Furnace at Taynuilt, visitors came from as far afield as Australia. Amongst the stewards welcoming them was Christine Marlow.

# Citizens advice stays in Argyll - but at Lochgilphead only

THE BATTLE to keep the citizens advice bureau service going in Argyll and Bute has been won - but at a price.

Enough funding has been found to keep Argyll and Bute CAB but the service will only be available from its Lochgilphead office.

Since 2001, the service had been built up at offices

in Campbeltown, Oban, Islay, Dunoon and Helensburgh, using laptop computers in a ground-breaking way to access information for clients.

But funding difficulties last year, which culminated in Argyll and Bute CAB having to go back to Argyll and Bute Council for additional funding and ask for

money to keep going this financial year, has meant having to 'retrench' the service.

Each CAB is an individual charity and has to raise its own funding although they are affiliated to Citizens' Advice Scotland (CAS).

David Price, chairman of Argyll and Bute CAB, said:

'The board wishes to thank everyone who has supported the CAB during these last uncertain months, when it looked like the service would have to close.

'This support has now ensured a future for the CAB service in Argyll and Bute. 'We have continued to stress that the CAB is tre-

mendous value for money. Not only have we won £1,073,779 in financial gains for clients since we opened but we have unlocked the resources of the CAB service nationally for the benefit of local people.'

Argyll and Bute Council had given Argyll and Bute CAB £60,000 last year but had been asked for a further

£32,000 and £55,000 for 2006-2007.

After discussions, a policy development group within the council agreed to an extra £16,000 for 2005-2006 if this was matched by CAS.

People requiring advice will have to call at the Lochgilphead office or phone 01546 605550.

## Police files

### George Street disturbance

IN the early hours of Sunday morning, police received a report of a disturbance in a common close at the north end of George Street, Oban.

As a result of investigations two males were apprehended and charged with allegedly breaching the peace, assault and police assault.

### Two injured in incident

TWO men were taken to hospital with serious injuries following an incident in the vicinity of the Claredon Hotel, Shore Street, Oban in the early hours of Sunday morning.

As a result a male and a female were arrested and charged in connection with the alleged incident and appeared on Monday at Oban Sheriff Court.

One of the injured men was treated at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban and later released, while the other man was transferred to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley for further treatment.

### Car searched

IN THE early evening of April 2 on the A85 at Loch Awe, a car was stopped by uniformed police officers.

As a result of the car and driver being searched, a 29-year-old male was arrested in connection with a substantial quantity of controlled drugs that were found and he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

### Washing stolen

SOMETIME overnight between March 31 and April 1, a quantity of washing was stolen from a line to the rear of Kilchurn Place, Oban.

Anyone who has any information regarding anyone acting suspiciously in the area should contact Oban police station on 01631 510500.

### Teenager arrested

FOLLOWING a disturbance at Tesco superstore in Oban on April 1, a 19-year-old female is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal in connection with an alleged breach of the peace and assault.

### Private housing grants total £3.9 million

PRIVATE property owners in Argyll and Bute will be able to tap into a new pot of grant funding to improve conditions in homes and private-rented accommodation.

More than £3.9 million is being provided by Communities Scotland, the Scottish Executive's housing and regeneration agency, through the Private Sector Housing Grant to improve sub-standard homes or adapt them for disabled use.

'Everyone in Scotland has the right to live in a decent home,' said Deputy Communities Minister Johann Lamont, announcing the funding programme.

'The Private Sector Housing Grant funding will allow Argyll and Bute Council to raise the standard of living for some of the area's vulnerable residents.

'It allows the authority to target home improvements for people, which improves their day-to-day lives.'

The fund is administered by the local authority.

## A&E knife man jailed for three months

A MAN has been jailed at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting carrying a knife in the accident and emergency (A&E) unit at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban.

Alexander Paterson, aged 48, also pled guilty to breaching the peace by swearing and shouting at police officers in the hospital.

Procurator Fiscal Jonathan Kemp told the court on Monday Paterson was in the A&E department on Sunday evening, April 2, for treatment to a head injury and staff became suspicious that he was carrying a knife.

When police arrived, Paterson was searched and the kitchen knife, with a three-inch blade, was found in his sock.

'He was cautioned about that and when asked why he had the knife, he replied, 'I am not a very good cook', said Mr Kemp.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said his client was an alcoholic and over the years had learned to drink in his own home to keep out of trouble.

But on this occasion he had met a friend who offered to cook him a meal and had set Paterson the task of peeling potatoes.

A knock at the door had led to Paterson putting the knife in his pocket and his friend, the visitor and the accused had drunk more alcohol and Paterson had forgotten about the knife.

Mr Thornton said that Paterson had fallen and in the taxi on the way to hospital had realised he had the knife. He had transferred it from his pocket to his sock because he didn't want to alarm staff and there was no suggestion that he had produced it in public.

Paterson, who received several stitches to his head, had no recollection of swearing at police.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Paterson that given his extremely bad record, he had no alternative but to jail him for three months and one month, concurrently, for breaching the peace.

## Break-in concern

TWO break-ins at commercial premises in Oban over the weekend are being investigated by Strathclyde Police's CID in Oban.

A business premises in Gallanach Road was broken into sometime between 7pm on April 1 and 7.20am on April 3 and a substantial amount of cash taken.

Another premises in Mill Lane, Oban, was broken into sometime between 10pm on April 1 and 2.30pm on April 3 but nothing was taken.

Oban CID would like anyone who may have seen anybody or a vehicle acting suspiciously in either areas to contact them on 01631 510500.

## NEWSDESK

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First prize winner, front centre, Fergus Moore, with runners-up Claire MacPherson and Kyle Ormiston, Barcaldine Community Association directors Peter Jameson and Jacqui MacPherson and the rest of the pupils at Barcaldine Primary School.

## Barcaldine turns to school for new logo

BARCALDINE Community Association (BAC), the fledgling organisation set up to find land for and building a community hall for the area, has a new logo.

Thanks to the imagination and skills of pupils at

Barcaldine Primary School, north of Oban, the association was able to pick a suitable winner from all the suggestions made by the pupils for logos for BAC.

The pupils had been set the challenge by the asso-

ciation, with the added incentive of book token prizes.

Fergus Moore's interpretation of the sea, woodlands and mountains which surround the community of Barcaldine was felt to be the most fitting and, as well as a

£15 book token prize, Fergus will see his drawing scanned and digitally transformed into a logo that will be used on correspondence and anything to do with BAC.

BAC directors Peter Jameson and Jacqui MacPherson, who was not involved in the judging as her daughter attends the school, visited the school to announce the winner.

The runners-up were Kyle Ormiston, second prize and Claire MacPherson, third.

# Soroba 'cut off' as bridge closes

THE CLOSURE of the footbridge over the railway at Soroba for repair has once again raised the question of whether a new, better-sited bridge might be the answer.

The results of engineers' investigations will be announced soon and will decide the fate of the bridge which links Soroba estate to Drummore Road, via Mull Terrace.

Subsidence has caused bridge supports to fill with water and the resulting decay has made the bridge unsafe.

Soroba estate now only has one way in and out for cars and pedestrians, along McCaig Road.

'That's Soroba all but cut off, we've only got McCaig Road,' said Soroba resident Andy Harper.

Not only is the bridge closed but the footpath between McCaig Road and St Columba's School is also closed while the work continues on the new school building; some people have been cutting through by the Drummore School building.

'With the bridge closed it adds another mile or so to the journey into town - about 15 - 20 minutes,' said Mr Harper.

Community police officer PC Jeremy Moore said: 'A gate was welded across each end but we discovered that youngsters were climbing around. Argyll and Bute Council very quickly came out and extended it by adding to the sides.

'We would ask parents to stress to their children not to attempt to use the bridge or climb over the gate,' said Constable Moore.

If the bridge needs to have lengthy and expensive repairs it prompts the question of whether the money might be better spent on a new bridge in a more suitable spot.

Dangerous Soroba has long been plagued with people, especially children, taking a dangerous short cut across the railway line.

The community police officers and their colleagues in the British Transport Police regularly patrol the area and mount campaigns to warn people about the dangers of their shortcut.

Circumstances have changed since the original footbridge; the new pitches at Oban High School will soon be open to the community, just at the bottom of the hill on the other side of the railway line and temptingly close to youngsters who live in Soroba.

Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh said he was waiting to hear from council staff who had called for a survey of the bridge.

'Subsidence has caused it to warp by about 35 millimetres and pillars have filled with water. These had to be drilled to let the water out and the bridge is unsafe.

'Further investigations are taking place as to whether we shore it up.'

But Councillor McIntosh

'We will have to think seriously if it is a new bridge whether it is in the right location,' he said, 'with the new all-weather pitch and the other facilities at the high school.'

The advent of the new primary school campus on the old St Columba's and Drummore site means that there will be three buses a day less leaving Soroba to take children to the old Rockfield Primary School.

'We will keep the public informed as to the results of the survey and what is going to happen,' said Councillor McIntosh.

## Oban hotelier keeps licence after three-star rating case

AN OBAN hotelier has been given permission by Lorn, the Isles, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Licensing Board to continue trading in the town.

Gilbert Mackechnie appeared in front of the board last week after pleading guilty in November 2005 to displaying two signs saying The Rowantree Hotel in George Street, Oban, had a three-star VisitScotland rating, when the property had not been given a rating.

The licensing board heard that Trading Standards officers had asked Mr

Mackechnie, aged 62, to remove two signs at the property which had previously been rated under a different ownership.

Despite not being a member of the tourist board, he had displayed the signs for two-and-a-half years, until they were removed by trading standards. He was subsequently fined £400 for the offence.

Speaking on behalf of Mr Mackechnie, solicitor Kathleen McMahon said: 'My client deeply regrets the incident, which was his

first offence, at such a late stage in his career.

'There were never any complaints about the service offered at any of Mr Mackechnie's hotels.

'He had no need to bring people in by fraudulent means - the hotels were full because people liked what they got.'

Members of the licensing board unanimously agreed that Mr Mackechnie, who has been a licensee in Oban since 1980, was a suitable person to continue trading in the town.

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# Mallaig councillor sparks car park charging row across Highlands

A SENIOR councillor has admitted he could be sparking off a car park charging war following a decision to study proposals to introduce car-parking charges in smaller Highland towns where parking is free at present.

Councillor Charlie King said the study was being carried out in response to demands from councillors in the Inverness area, who claim that parking charge income from their area is being used to subsidise the maintenance of car parks in areas where parking is free.

Councillor King said that introducing charges would help manage traffic in the centres of towns which were becoming choked with traffic, especially during busy

summer months. He said: 'The change in charges we agreed last week was the first part of trying to improve the situation for shoppers going into town centres.'

'The changes will mean a quicker turn-round of cars and will enable more people to use town centres.'

'The second part is to look at all areas in the Highlands where there are problems with parking to see what can be done.'

'Past history says this could be a difficult process, but if there is a need to manage traffic by managing parking, then we have to do it.'

Previous reviews of parking charges have been met with

fierce opposition. Councillors in the smaller towns said that parking charges would simply drive visitors and shoppers into Inverness, and that the businesses in the smaller towns would suffer.

Councillor King said that was too extreme a view: 'Most people nowadays see parking charges as part of their motoring expenses.'

'It gives people the knowledge that their car is in a safe place, and the charges we have so far in the Highlands are very reasonable compared with other towns and cities throughout Scotland,' he said.

Councillor King added: 'Ninety per cent of the visitors

to the Highlands come from areas where they pay exorbitant parking charges and they will not be put off by the level of charges we have.'

'Councillors from the smaller towns and villages should look at this as part of their traffic management schemes. We had opposition in Aviemore and Portree to the introduction of parking charges.'

'Now people say it's one of the best things that's happened to the centre of their villages.'

'We have to look at this properly and see if there is a traffic management problem, and make sure that parking charges are levied to provide the right answers.'

## Glencoe's A82 lay-bys upgraded

TWO lay-bys on the A82 trunk route through Glencoe are being upgraded to improve visitor access, enjoyment and safety.

The work will be carried out by BEAR Scotland and has been planned by the A82 Working Group (Glencoe and Rannoch Moor).

The group was set up by Transport Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) to involve local agencies, stakeholders and community groups in developing a coordinated programme of improvements along the route.

The two larger lay-bys, opposite Coire Gabhail and Corrie nan Lochan, at the heart of Glencoe, are being resurfaced and expanded to enable more vehicles to park safely, reducing the risks of visitors parking on the roadside at busy times.

Phase two will include a more detailed plan of parking for cars and coaches as well as information and interpretation for the visitor.

Fiona Chalmers, property manager for NTS in Glencoe, said: 'We are very pleased to be working with the Scottish Executive, members of the local community and other interested groups on this important project.'

'The route through Glencoe is one of the most popular and beautiful in Scotland and the A82 Working Group is keen to improve the facilities available to visitors who want to stop and take in the scenery.'

'Mark Smith and his team at BEAR have worked very hard to get phase one of the works completed before the Easter holidays and we hope visitors will appreciate the improvements.'

Further landscaping and interpretation work is being planned for later in the year.

# Fort needs to swap shops

COUNCILLORS in Fort William have criticised the number of charity shops in the town saying they are 'choking off' choice in the town's High Street.

The comments came after a report commissioned by the council revealed that rents in Fort William's High Street have increased by 50 per cent in three years.

The report showed that there were eight charity shops in the town with a further two among shops wishing to locate in Fort William.

**Complaint**

The comments were made at a meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee on Monday, April 3.

Councillor Thomas MacLellan said: 'The number one complaint is the lack of choice. These

rentals are so high that the only people that can afford them are the charity shops.'

'There are eight already and another two coming in. They are choking off choice in the High Street. They are competing with retailers who are trying to provide services by selling brand new goods.'

**Rental**

Councillor Drew MacFarlane Slack suggested that the trading standards department should look at the way the charity shops were doing business with a view to the rental arrangements.

However, a spokesperson for Save The Children, which has a shop in Fort William High Street, said that it did not get any help with rates or any special help with rents, although it did get a 'little help' with

business rates which 'amounts to pennies'.

Dave Wrigglesworth, chairman of Fort William Retail Association, told the meeting: 'Retail is in a very difficult situation, most of which is not unique to Fort William.'

'The comments about charity shops are things that are being discussed across the country.'

'People are frightened to invest heavily and Fort William doesn't have the premises that people want.'

Councillors also criticised the number of posters advertising sales in shop windows as bringing down the image of the town.

The council's retail report will now be incorporated into the new local plan and extended to include events like the Christmas Festival and the Continental Market.



Mark McCann, chairman of Lochaber Hydrotherapy, Councillor Olwyn Macdonald, Billy MacIsaac, Fraser McInnes and Cameron Laws pictured at Fort William's film premiere of *Here's Tae Lochaber*. (14Apr06)

## Red carpet rolled out at Fort film premiere

THE RED carpet was rolled out at Fort William's Studio Theatre for the world premiere of a film which it is hoped will raise funds for Lochaber's new hydrotherapy pool.

The DVD film, put together by Glasgow-

based musician Billy MacIsaac celebrates Lochaber in film and music and was given a rousing fanfare from Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band in Cameron Square.

Lochaber Pipe Band, Kilmallie Singers and

the Lochaber Ceilidh Trail Band also feature on the DVD.

There is also a brand new theme song for Lochaber, *Here's Tae Us*, which was produced by ex-Simple Mind, Mick Macneil.

# Lochaber facing more council cuts

LOCHABER is facing further cuts in education and social work services as a massive £700,000 overspend is being predicted this financial year.

A meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber Area Committee heard this week that there was little scope for measures to reduce the anticipated overspend, much of which relates to 'demand-led' services.

Councillors on Lochaber's area committee heard that the social work department was facing an overspend of £300,000, the education, culture and sport department a £104,000 overspend and the Transport, Environment and Community service had a projected overspend of £256,000.

The overspend could have implications for the 2006-07 budget, even after cuts of more than £18 million were made this financial

year by Highland Council.

There was concern that although Lochaber faces an overspend this year some areas of the Highlands like Caithness are under-spending.

**Underspend**

Councillor Neil Clark said: 'There appears to be historic budgets for individual areas. Some areas underspend, some overspend.'

Councillor Brian Murphy

added: 'The pressures we are going to be under make it more important that the underlying measures are addressed.'

Councillor Olwyn Macdonald said: 'What worries me about other areas is what kind of service are they delivering against what we can deliver. What we should be looking for is to find out what services are going to be affected so that the general public know.'

'What really annoys me is that we have a residential home under threat against other areas having two or three local authority homes.'

'There has been a difference in budgets for different areas and there has never been anything done about it.'

Councillors agreed that the matter would be on the agenda for a meeting with the chief executive of Highland Council.

# We are committed to consultation, say SNH

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage (SNH) is to attend a meeting in Arisaig to address concerns about a coast and marine national park on the west coast.

The government agency confirmed this week that a public consultation was at the top of the agenda for the proposed marine park.

SNH was given until the end of March to advise ministers on the legal and

policy framework for the park and to make recommendations on potential areas. Ministers are then to 'consult widely' on the proposals put forward.

Initial areas looked at as possible sites for the marine national park included Argyll, Lochaber and Skye, the north-west Highland coast and the Western Isles.

Andrew Bachell, director of strategy and operations

for SNH said: 'SNH is committed to this process of consultation and we are committed to actively engaging with the public - we have been listening to what people have to say about this important issue. Scottish national parks are not a single interest designation. They are about the better care and management of an area to benefit its wildlife, landscape and people.'

President Morvern Cameron, who can be contacted on 01397 708267, said that they need to find somewhere within two weeks and any help would be hugely appreciated by the group.

# Loch Etive marine litter pick fills three skips



One of the skips bursting at the seams with the amount of debris collecting from the shores of Loch Etive.

A COLLABORATIVE marine litter pick from the shores of Loch Etive took place recently and saw three skips filled to the brim with debris.

Shellfish and fin-fish farmers came together to use their knowledge and vessels to take part in the marine litter clean-up through the Loch Etive Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM) project, which they are all part of.

This made it easier for them to plan how to carry out the clean-up using boats and other equipment into area which are normally difficult to get to by foot.

Marine litter is brought in by the tides and was not

helped by the winter storms of 2005. This tidy-up over a week concentrated on larger items stranded on the shores between Achnacloich and Inverliever on one side and Ardehatten to Dail on the other.

Nets, floats, plastic bottles, bits of metal, rope, plastic, polystyrene pieces and even a fire extinguisher were among the things lifted.

Walter Spiers of Muckairn Mussels said: 'We were happy to participate in the clean up and would like to thank Ken Buchan, Argyll and Bute Council, and Karen Judd, The GRAB trust for all the organising involved to

make this event possible.'

'We would be happy to make this an annual event.'

Willie MacLean of Isle of Shuna Shellfish added: 'The collaborative nature of the clean up was the key to its success, something that can be repeated annually to help make the local a cleaner and safer place.'

One of the issues that had been raised through the ICZM project was amount of coastal debris, which led to the clean up being organised.

Shanks provided skips free at Taynuilt and Achnacloich piers and took them to Moleigh waste disposal site where Argyll and Bute Council agreed to dispose of the contents.

# Warning on post office policy

THE GOVERNMENT'S pension and benefit payment policy is going to wipe out rural post offices, the House of Commons has been warned by Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid.

Speaking during Scottish Question Time Mr Reid quoted senior management in the Post Office which predicts that 10,000 of the country's 14,000 post offices will close unless the government reverses its decision to abandon the Post Office Card Account in 2010.

This, linked with the fact that Government financial support for rural Post Offices through social network payments is only guaranteed until 2008

makes the future look bleak.

'Unless the Government can promise sub-postmasters that Social Network Payments will continue beyond 2008 and that either the Post Office Card Account or an improved Post Office-based alternative will continue after 2010, I fear that we will see frequent closures of Scottish rural Post Offices from this autumn onwards,' said Mr Reid after Question Time, adding that many Scottish pensioners had chosen to collect their pension at the post office, especially so in rural areas.

In a debate earlier in the week the MP had quoted from an agreement between

the Government and the Post Office which had come into effect three years ago and only recently been made public.

This previously secret agreement prevents the Post Office from marketing or publicising the Post Office Card Account and compels them to encourage pensioners to have their pensions paid into bank accounts instead.

Mr Reid told the Commons: 'The government seems to be going down the track of moving people away from the Post Office and the loss of custom will lead to the closure of post offices.' He added: 'The post office is often the core of the community.'

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### Yorkshire officer dies after fall

A YORKSHIRE police officer died after falling from several hundred feet on a Lochaber mountain on Sunday, April 4.

Darren Simpson from Woodlesford in Leeds was a detective sergeant with West Yorkshire Police and leaves a wife and a four-year-old daughter.

Mr Simpson died after falling on the Forgotten Twin at Aonach Mor near Fort William.

He was climbing with two colleagues, also police officers, who were helped to safety by members of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

All three men were experienced climbers and were well equipped but weather conditions on the mountain were poor. Staff from the Nevis Range ski resort and members of RAF Kinloss rescue team also helped in the rescue.

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### Kursk heroes visit Fort

A SUBMARINE crew which rescued seven Russian sailors trapped 600ft below the Pacific Ocean surfaced at Fort William's Underwater Centre this week.

The crew from James Fisher Runic, which operates the Royal Navy's submarine rescue service, will be in Fort William for 12 days.

While there they will train new crews on LR5, their manned submersible rescue vessel. In 2000 the crew were also involved in the salvage operation for the Russian submarine, *Kursk*, in which 118 Russian sailors died.

Tom Heron of James Fisher Runic said: 'The Underwater Centre provides us with the ideal location to carry out the advanced training our submersible pilots require. We've trained here in the past and we're delighted that The Underwater Centre is back offering its dive site for training and sea trials.'

'There's a real buzz about the place now, and we're looking forward to a busy week of training.'

Allan Brown, operations manager at The Underwater Centre, said: 'It's great to be recognised not only as a commercial diver and ROV training centre, but also as an excellent location for subsea organisations to undertake sea trials.'

### Environment group fight to recycle

STAFF at under-threat Lochaber Environment Group (LEG) are to continue for one month on a semi-voluntary basis to maintain recycling services in Lochaber.

Bids have gone forward for support to the Scottish Executive's Strategic Waste Fund and to Lochaber Housing Association.

LEG runs a 'refurbishments scheme' which helps more than 800 people per year with low cost furniture and keeps useful household items from being dumped. It also runs three community compost schemes in Kinlochleven, Glencoe and Strontian, using local resources to make compost.

A spokesperson for the group said: 'In order to give the organisation a chance to keep going we have had to cut back drastically on costs and want to appeal for support from the people of Lochaber to help keep these services going. We may not be able to respond as quickly to requests for pick ups and deliveries as we have in the past.'

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**Charity cycle dinner boost**

TONY McLarney and Beth Campbell hosted another enjoyable and successful fund-raising dinner.

This time they were officially launching nurse practitioner Mairi Perkins' bid to raise between £2,000 and £3,000 so she can cycle in Malawi in support of the doctors and nurses of Mulanje and their dire need for equipment for their medical mission.

Mairi decided to take part after she heard that the theme for the Women's Guild was 'Daring to Care'. Wanting to make the idea real, she has taken up the challenge of cycling 280-300 miles in the foothills of Mulanje over five days in May 2007. She has chosen Malawi because of the island's close connections with it through the Livingstone and MacCormick families, as well as its close ties with Scotland itself and the Church of Scotland. She would rather fund raise through community events and who better to ask than Beth Campbell and Tony McLarney, both seasoned and effective fund-raisers.

For the Malawi meal the two combined Scottish food featuring Corour Venison with many delicious African dishes including cold African lemon curried fish, sweet potato casseroles and a delicious dish called triple red consisting of red cabbage, kidney beans and onions in red wine.

**Archivist's last visit**

COMANN Eachdraidh Lios Mor recently welcomed Murdo MacDonald, Argyll and Bute's archivist, to talk about the McCaigs of Oban, who originated from Lismore.

They were an extremely interesting, eccentric family, whom Murdo described as 'the family with the Midas touch'. Each member made her or his mark on the world but John Stewart McCaig is the most famous as he built McCaig's Tower in Oban.

John Stewart was very much a committee man having been on, amongst others, the Poor Relief Body, various school boards and the town council, eventually becoming chief magistrate - the then equivalent of Provost. He even stood unsuccessfully for parliament in 1885.

As an entrepreneur he had many business interests in Oban; he bought the North Pier and built the Columba Hotel which he then sold to the town council for more than £16,000 - a princely sum in those days.

But the project for which he is most famous is, of course, McCaig's Tower which was not only to be a grand memorial to his own family but also to provide work for local artisans. The work was never finished.

The talk was followed by questions from the audience some of whom were descendants of the McCaigs, and Donald Black, chairman of Comann Eachdraidh, gave the vote of thanks.

Murdo is retiring at the end of the month. Comann Eachdraidh will miss him and his extensive knowledge of the history of the area.

**Around the Rurals**

**Taynuilt**

THE TAYNUILT branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute met recently in Taynuilt Village Hall.

President Alice Campbell welcomed 12 members and five visitors.

After business was completed, the president introduced Mrs Sheena King, Taynuilt, who gave a jewellery demonstration. Sheena showed members and visitors lovely jewellery, all set in solid silver, including necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings, explaining which countries the precious and semi-precious stones had come from. The medicinal benefits gained from some of the jewellery was explained and the jewellery was passed around for everyone to have a closer look.

At the end of the evening, the audience was able to buy items which took their fancy with Sheena donating a percentage of sales to the Taynuilt branch.

Alice Campbell gave the vote of thanks for a most enjoyable evening. A small raffle was held. Tea was served by Stella Huntingford and Marilyn Stanners.

Competition, three decorated fairy cakes: 1 Beth Morse; 2 Mary Livingstone; 3 Alice Campbell. Dressed doll: 1 Marilyn Stanners; 2 Janet Cameron.



**Five generations celebrate Mothering Sunday**

All five generations of Isabella Buchanan's family were in Lismore to celebrate Mothering Sunday. Isabella - Nurse Buchanan as she is still known today - came to Lismore to nurse in 1941 in the days before there was any doctor, let alone a medical infrastructure and worked until she retired in 1981. She married the late Hugh Buchanan in 1942 and had two children, Bessie who lives in Lismore, and Duncan, who lives in South Australia. She has seven grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild. On Sunday she celebrated with her daughter Bessie's family, grand-daughter Louise, great grand-daughter Samantha and great great grandson Matthew who is six months old.

**Fire baskets from Lismore**

WHEN Lismore took delivery of its new fire engine in May 2005, Gilly Dixon-Spain was asked to design a filter for the hose which would stop blockages when sucking water from burns.

She did this using the willow growing on her Salen croft where, among other things, she makes baskets.

Later, when Strathclyde's Chief Fire Officer Brian Sweeney was opening the island's new fire station she suggested he might be interested in her filter for other stations.

For a while she heard nothing but in November 2005 she received a commission for 35 baskets to be ready before the end of March 2006. This was a tall order but she accepted the challenge using Salix Viminalis, which she had grown and collected last year, and the order was completed and dispatched by mid January.

**Home safety checks**

THANKS to the Better Neighbourhood Scheme, more than 18 houses in Lismore have been given a thorough safety check.

Brian Robbins from the Trading Standards Home Safety Division of Argyll and Bute has checked the electrics in televisions, microwaves, plugs and electric blankets as well as fitting and/or testing smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms and seeing if there were dangerous rugs likely to cause falls.

The service was free to everyone aged over 65, those with children aged under five or those vulnerable in any other way.

The work should pay for itself if all these dangers are taken care of and damage to person and property is restricted to totally unforeseeable accidents.

Brian recommended that everyone gets these things done even if it means paying, as the cost of a spell off work and/or replacing property can be very high, never mind the cost to the tax payer.

**Pitch plans discussed**

AN OPEN meeting was held recently at Plockton High School on February 23 to discuss the way forward for the new all-weather pitch planned for the school campus on the present Ross Memorial Football Pitch.

This was left to the village but acquired by the education department for £10 when the new school was being built.

The following management committee was elected: chairman, Hugh Macquarrie, Plockton; secretary, Jane Sandison, Duirinish; and treasurer Robert Anderson, Kyle.

A committee with various interests was also elected. The first sod was due to be cut on March 21. The

**Smoke detectors save the day**

THANKS to the quick response of the householder and the efficient working of the smoke detectors, serious damage was averted in a Lismore house.

The fire started in the junction box in the electrical cupboard in the early hours of the morning and, hearing the alarm, Iris MacColl of Mid Farm, Achinduin, did all the right things: she got her family up and out, rang the emergency service and closed all doors and windows.

Within 10 minutes volunteer fire fighters were there and able to contain the fire. They then had to keep watch until the emergency Scottish and Southern Electric team arrived just after 7am to disconnect the power.

Duncan Brooks, leader of the volunteer team, said it was thanks to the new fire engine and the training of the volunteers that there was no serious damage or loss, which there most certainly would have been under the old system. He also stressed the importance of fitting smoke detectors and of testing them once a week to make sure the batteries are still working.

**Kyle of Lochalsh**  
Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

**Plockton weather**

RAINFALL in Plockton during February 2006 was 3.85 inches which, following January's 4.85 inches, made it a fairly dry start to the year.

The total of 8.7 inches for the two months compared favourably with the total of 15 inches which fell in January and February 2005. The coldest temperature was -2°C and warmest 11°C.

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Lismore homeowner Cristall Lutyens with Pete Walker of the Better Neighbourhood Scheme and Brian Robbins of Argyll and Bute Council.

cost of using it will be subject to debate, and with the removal of the pavilion it is hoped a shelter will be provided on the other pitch where Plockton Football Club will have to play their matches.

**Welcome return**

THE CONGREGATION of Plockton and Kyle Free Church were delighted to have their minister Roddie Rankin back on Sunday March 5 at all three services.

**School event raises cash**

A DANCE in Plockton Hall on March 3, organised by Plockton High School pupils, raised more than £500 for Computers for Africa.

**Shinty boost**

A SALE of work in Inverinate Community Centre on Saturday February 25 raised more than £2,000 for Kinlochsheil Shinty Club funds.

**For sale**

REPORTS in many national daily newspapers are claiming that Britt Eklund danced in the Pink House, Plockton, during the making of the film 'The Wicker Man'.

Locals know that although she was in the film, and some of it with Edward Woodward was filmed in Plockton, Britt Eklund never set foot in the village.

**Indoor bowling**

TWO MATCHES were played recently with the following results: Lochalsh 33 v Kyleakin 20 and Lochalsh 35 v Kintail 16.

**NEWSDESKS**  
01631 568000  
01397 703003

**Field club**

THE SOUTH West Ross Field Club met recently in Kirkton Church Hall.

Despite many other events locally on the same evening, there was a good attendance. Guest speaker was John Love of South Uist who gave a talk entitled 'Swamp and Savannah in Botswana'.

This was an excellent illustrated lecture with a wonderful show of wild animals and scenery.

The club held its annual general meeting in Achmore Hall on Thursday March 23.

**Rugby trip**

FOURTEEN rugby enthusiasts who go to Ireland every year for the Ireland v Scotland rugby match were disappointed when Scotland lost on a wet afternoon.

The trip is organised by the Plockton Inn and this was the fourth year the fans had travelled over to Ireland for the match.

The group saw themselves on television on BBC Scotland when they came home as they were interviewed in Ireland about the No Smoking Ban there.

**Plockton Stores sold again**

PLOCKTON Stores, which was bought two years ago by Jane MacKenzie, has been sold again.

Ian James, who runs the Off the Rails Restaurant at Plockton Station, is the new owner.

**Duneraig Castle**

DUNCRAIG Castle, which was bought two years ago by the Dobson family from Nottingham and attracted a lot of attention from family members, now only has six residents left.

However, Mr and Mrs Sam Dobson hope to start bed and breakfast in the castle from Easter.

**New school turf cut**

THE TURF cutting ceremony for the new Plockton High School and community all-weather pitch took place at Ross Memorial Park on March 31.

The turf was cut by Lee Butcher and Innes Thomson, third-year pupils and keen sportsmen.

**Festival fun**

SEVEN local schools took part in the youth festival of one-act plays in Plockton

High School organised by the South West Ross District of the Scottish Community Drama Association.

The adjudicator was Ron Nicol and more than 100 children took part.

Anna Rowe, Plockton, presented the following trophies:

David Nelson Cup for best junior team in the Highlands: Loch Duich Primary School, producer Mardi Wood.

Magic Moment Trophy: Poolewe Primary School, producer Margaret Young.

A new trophy presented by Bob and Anna Rowe for special achievement: Kyle Primary School, writer and producer Julie Neath.

The event was part of a Highland-wide festival.

Dingwall won the overall award, producer Sandy Glass. Plockton High School won the Edward Nicol Trophy for Ensemble playing and Loch Duich Primary won the EML Trophy for stage presentation.

**Step nearer to health centre**

THE PROPOSED new health centre at Kyle took a step nearer when NHS Highland bought a 15-space car park from The Highland Council.

**Football donation**

PLOCKTON Football Club and Plockton Inn have donated indoor footballs to primary schools in Lochalsh.

**Lochalsh**  
Your correspondent is Alistair Scouler: 01967 421285

**Contract renewal**

CONTRACTS for the Highland Council's subsidised bus services are due for renewal.

As part of its consultation process, the Highland Council has provided Morvern Community Council with three possible options for services out of Morvern to Fort William, two of which would include taking pupils to Ardnamurchan High School at Strontian.

Eight regular users of the service joined seven community councillors at their March meeting in Lochalsh Hall to discuss the options, with the general consensus being the retention of the present timetable which operates out of Lochalsh at 9am on Tuesday, Thursdays and

Fridays, arriving in Fort William at 10am and leaving for Lochalsh at 2.50pm. If requested the service is extended to Drimmin, and from mid June to mid September, the same timetable operates on Saturdays.

Options two and three, the services designed to take the school pupils, were roundly rejected, and a generally preferred addition to the present schedule would be the inclusion of an all-year Saturday service, but if granted, would this be at the cost of the much less used Friday bus?

Also present at the meeting was local GP Dr Susan Taylor who was granted a slot by chairman Jim Bolton to present the results of the Morvern Medical Centre patient satisfaction survey.

Against a general practice analysis questionnaire percentage rating, in every case the Morvern practice led the way, with an overall plus factor of 17 per cent.

Doctors Taylor and Richard Houston provide out-of-hours cover through calls between 6pm and 6am, with 24 hours at weekends being triaged by Inverness-based NHS24 who then call the doctor on duty for whatever treatment or consultation is required.

In 2002 the Morvern Medical Practice achieved the Royal College of General Practitioners Accreditation Award.

The campaign to retain the fast declining name of Morvern, an area very much alive within its own boundaries, but steadily growing more and more neglected by postal, local and national government bodies, was again reinforced by further debate at the meeting.

Misconceptions that are slowly pushing the name of Morvern out of existence are: having to share postal code PA34 with Oban - although nearly 80 road miles distant - but a map in the Royal Mail address book shows Oban situated almost in the centre of the Morvern peninsula; the non appearance of Morvern on road signs, while 'Welcome to Lochaber' greets motorists as they arrive off the Mull ferry; the non replacement of the local registrar, as the office of the Chief Registrar for Scotland does not now consider that there is a sufficient population to justify Morvern its own registrar with registration now having to be recorded 20 miles away in Strontian.

Many other examples of the loss and identity of Morvern have been cited at previous meetings and there is a great deal of concern within the community council, and many other local people, that nowadays while neighbouring districts benefit from a series of development schemes, Morvern with its huge exports of granite, silica sand and timber, receives little benefit from these industries. It was stated by councillors that when local organisations attempt to set up initiatives to benefit the locality, there is little or no back-up from outside agencies and groups whose remit it is to promote rural development. Jim Bolton urged fellow councillors, and other local organisations, to join the campaign and have the name of Morvern fully recognised again.

**Edinburgh Argyll Association**

EDINBURGH Argyll Association is holding its spring ceilidh on Friday April 7.

The venue is St Mark's Unitarian Church Hall, Castle Terrace, off Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Artists include Mod Gold Medallist Dougie Gillespie and Sheen MacKenzie.

Tea and goodies will be served at the interval. Admission is £5 or £4 for members and the event starts at 7.30pm. Everyone welcome.

The 70th birthday dinner ceilidh dance planned for Friday May 5 at the Orwell Lodge Hotel, Edinburgh, has been cancelled. This will take place at a later date.



**Chocolate morning boosts Brownie funds**

Chocolate was the main ingredient in a successful fund-raising recipe for the 1st Connel Brownies. The youngsters recently held a chocolate morning featuring a whole host of goodies. Highlights included bottle, baking and toy stalls and the sale of the chocolate recipe books they made for their endeavour badges. The event raised £453. Pictured, from left, are: Shona Vajk, Kirsty Sinclair, Ashleigh Kerr, Chloe MacLeod and Megan MacLean, who were among the Brownies taking part, along with Brownie leaders, at the morning in Connel Church Hall. 1133bw01

**Ellenabeich Slate Island Centre revamp**

ELLENABEICH'S Slate Island Centre is undergoing a few changes before it opens for the season.

The centre, in one of the conservation village cottages, is being revamped and its archives updated.

The Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust has built up a fine archive of not just Easdale and Seil but all the slate islands in the last few years, from geology and social history to farming and the slate industry.

The centre itself, opened by Lord Gordon of Strathblane in 2000, is home to a number of exhibits, including a scale model of what the cottage which houses the exhibits looked like when it was first built and how it was used.

This was put together by Jean Adams of Easdale Island, who has since moved out to Sri Lanka with her husband Bert Baker. Jean also ran the Easdale

Folk Museum on the nearby island and much of the administration facilities between the two centres was shared until the folk museum closed when Jean left for foreign climes.

Another of the exhibits shows Cullipool quarry as it was before it was flooded - and the depth to which it went is quite astonishing.

The centre already has bookings throughout the summer for 16 bus loads of American tourists to call in

and is opening in April 11 for the day before opening more fully from the middle of the month onwards.

'We are interested in all the slate islands,' said Mike Shaw, chairman of the heritage trust, 'including Belnahua where there was a whole village but now there are only ruins having been abandoned in the 1920s.'

'In a sense it is better preserved because it has never been modernised.'

# Argyll fish farms agree temporary closure

FISH farms in the Firth of Lorne and Sound of Jura will be shut temporarily to protect wild stocks from sea lice after the fifth Area Management Agreement (AMA) in Argyll was signed.

The agreement, which will see fish farm companies and wild fish organisations work together, covers 75 miles of coastline including the sea lochs Crinan, Craignish, Melfort and Feochan as well as the Nell, Feochan, Euchar, Oude and Add rivers.

It sets out to promote and maintain healthy stocks of wild and farmed fish and to restore wild salmon and sea trout stocks.

Fish farm companies Pan Fish Scotland, Lakeland Marine Farms and Kames Fish Farming are all bound by the agreement with wild fish interests represented by the Argyll District Salmon Fishery Board, the Nell and Euchar River Improvement Association and the Argyll Fisheries Trust.

Alan Kettle-White of the Argyll Fisheries Trust is the chairman of the Lower Lorn AMA.

He said: 'The importance of better dialogue and understanding between the wild fish and farmed fish sectors and a co-operative approach to the management of farmed and wild fish cannot be over-emphasised. In areas where

AMAs have been in place for some time there are now good indications of increased marine survival and recovering wild fish populations.'

**Commitment**

Pan Fish Scotland technical manager Alex Adrian believes the 'protracted discussion and negotiation' is testament to the commitment of the various parties involved.

He said: 'It serves to illustrate the successful outcome of one of the basic objectives of the Tripartite Working Group (TWG) process, namely to get salmon farmers and wild fisheries interests talking to each other face to face.'

'It is undoubtedly this regular contact and communication, together with a willingness to address the many issues particular to this management area, that has built the trust and confidence now evident between members of the group'.

The Tripartite group was set up in 1999 and is made up of representatives from Scottish Executive, the aquaculture industry and the wild fisheries sector.

The agreement will lead to synchronised production and 'fallowing' of the area's eight marine fish farms and one freshwater site in the Firth of Lorne and the Sound of Jura by 2008.

Farms will shut temporarily with empty cages be-

tween salmon production cycles.

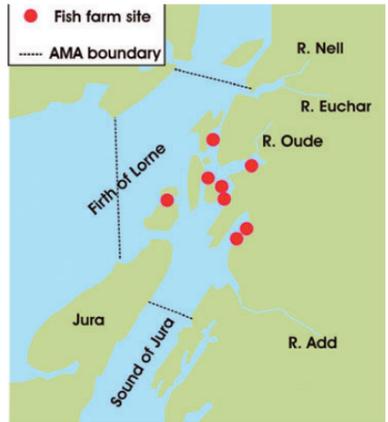
With the life-cycle of sea lice between four to six weeks, the farms' closure should devastate the sea lice population by denying them any host fish.

Simultaneous sea lice treatments began last year and there is a target of zero adult female sea lice per farmed fish between February and June which is the critical time for the wild smolts migrating to sea.

At other times the fish farms will 'aspire to' the lowest possible sea lice levels.

Wild fish interests are committed to management plans and restoration programmes, as well as controls on levels of exploitation.

The agreement will last for five years.



The map showing the area which the Area Management Area will cover. 114aa1d

## 'Dangerous goods' cause of Mull shopkeeper concern

A MULL shopkeeper says he doesn't dare carry packs of aerosols like deodorant cans and air fresheners in case he is reported for carrying dangerous goods by Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) staff.

The shopkeeper, who didn't wish to be named, carries aerosols and lighter fluid in bulk to sell in his shop.

He said: 'CalMac searched my van a few weeks ago but there was nothing in it.'

'They search your van to see if you are carrying Dangerous Goods and take your name and details.'

'I have been carrying these things for 22 years without a problem but I don't know if I dare put a can of aerosol in my van now.'

'I sell a lot of these things in my shop.'

'Will CalMac be searching coach tours because each passenger on the coach will have these items in their luggage?'

The shopkeeper said he hadn't been told to display a Dangerous Goods notice.

A spokesman for CalMac said the company had been

carrying out such checks for five years now and denied accusations that commercial vehicle drivers not displaying a Dangerous Goods notice would be fined.

All vehicles carrying Dangerous Goods on CalMac vessels must be declared to the port at least 24 hours in advance and display the appropriate sign.

The spokesman added: 'Anyone found shipping dangerous goods unlawfully will be reported to the Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA), which could take further action if it chooses.'

'Dangerous Goods do include items such as aerosols and lighter fluid but more usually petrol, propane/butane, etc.'

'Although small items containing dangerous goods for personal use, such as contained in passengers luggage, are not subject to these rules.'

'If in any doubt to their duties in law commercial vehicle customers are advised to seek advice from their own designated Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor.'

# Angus: where are you?

## Lovelorn Norwegian woman's plea to find Highland hunk

**A NORWEGIAN nurse has contacted the Highland News Group to help her track down her hunky Highlander.**

And the 32-year-old lass is hoping for a fairytale ending with her Highland prince.

Catherine Solem, who lives in Oslo, emailed last week, in the hope that we can help her find "Angus", her dream guy.

The only problem is Catherine only knows his first name, and is not sure exactly where he lives in the region.

Catherine, who met Angus in the first weekend of March whilst she was visiting Scotland with six friends, explained why she wanted to find him.

"I have never done anything like this before, but I can't stop thinking about him," she said.

"I have been trying to forget about him all week, but he just keeps popping up in

my head and I need to do something about it, to know once and for all if anything could happen.

"I hope he will think this is romantic and not crazy."

Catherine explained that she met Angus in Glasgow in a nightclub called ABC.

"We started talking when we were getting drinks and it just went from there."

"We were talking for ages. We just clicked. We ended up talking out in the cold for about two hours."

"I am sure he is single, he certainly gave me that impression and we shared a kiss at the end of the night."

### WHAT CATHERINE KNOWS ABOUT HER HEILAN LADDIE...

- This is what Catherine knows about her hunk:
- His name is Angus.
- He works in construction - possibly house building.
- He lives somewhere in the Highlands.
- He is 34-years-old.
- He used to live in Glasgow.
- He has short, dark hair and brown eyes.
- He has four sisters.
- He plays the bagpipes.



# Message to Norwegian seeking amorous Angus: 'I'm in Lochgilphead'

A MYSTERY 'Highland' man who has been the object of a Norwegian and Inverness manhunt has been tracked down...in Argyll.

Catherine Solem, a nurse from Norway, was on holiday in Glasgow last month. On a night out she met a man who introduced himself as 'Angus'.

Catherine, aged 32, and Angus hit it off famously and spent around two hours

talking in a nightclub on Sauchiehall Street. The pair shared a goodnight kiss outside and Catherine gave Angus her telephone number.

But Catherine returned to Oslo days later and did not hear anything from Angus so contacted an Inverness-based tabloid newspaper for help in tracking him down.

Catherine told the news-

paper: 'I have never done anything like this before but I can't stop thinking about him. I have been trying to forget about him all week but he just keeps popping up in my head.'

'I hope he will think this is romantic and not crazy.'

Under the heading 'What Catherine knows about her Heilan laddie...' the Scandinavian said she knew Angus lived 'some-

where in the Highlands', had four sisters and played the bagpipes.

The Oban Times made a few calls and fairly easily tracked down Angus to Lochgilphead - and confirmed he was the 'mising person' and not a 'Heilan laddie' but born and bred in Argyll.

Angus MacPhail, aged 34, is a Lochgilphead builder who was in Glasgow for the

weekend when he met Catherine. He admitted he was flattered by her going to such lengths to contact him and had no idea about her appeal until this week.

He said: 'I really liked Catherine and she gave me her mobile number. I rang it the next day but it was just this Nowegian woman babbling away.'

'I then called back but it just seemed to ring out so I

thought it was the wrong number.'

Angus confirmed that all the details Catherine had made public about him were correct, although he confessed to being unable to play the bagpipes, apart from fledgling attempts at the chanter in primary school.

The shy Argyll man said he might contact Catherine again - once all the fuss has died down.



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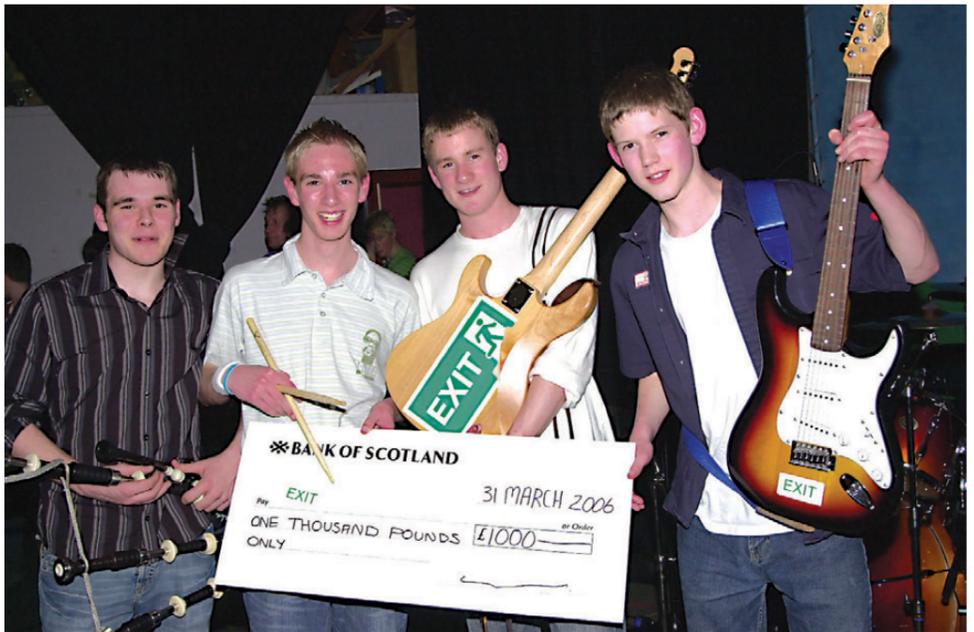
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# Exit exit as Battle of the Bands 2006 winners



Battle of the Bands winners 2006 were Exit, from left, Chris Nicolson, Calum MacVicar, Kerr Gibb and Chris MacKinnon. t14bat02

WHEN *The Doors* were the house band at Los Angeles's Whisky A-Go-Go it was the old Lizard King Jim Morrison himself who belted out 'When The Music's Over... Turn Out The Lights'. For the judges at Skye and Lochalsh's Battle of the Bands 2006 the lights had been turned out before the live music even began at Portree's Community Centre. Judges Denis Blackham, Dougie Pincock and Rorie MacKenzie had their pencils sharpened and their notepads at the ready when opening act *The Daisy Chains* took to the stage. Months of hard work and preparation had paid off as a crowd of around 200 people were before the band

who immediately set about dispelling any pre-gig nerves. Only one thing was missing - the judges couldn't see their notepads because it was so dark! Two bedside lamps were swiftly commandeered and the minor hiccup was quickly forgotten as an energetic and thoroughly entertaining evening's entertainment unfolded. Battle of the Bands was organised by Skye and Lochalsh Drug and Alcohol Forum. One of the organisers Alex MacLeod said the idea for the event came out of a forum meeting where ideas were being discussed about how to engage with the 14-

to-25-year-old age group. Alex said: 'It was about finding a way of engaging with them. I thought of holding a concert but it just kept getting bigger and bigger and bigger. It gives them an opportunity where they can come and have fun in a safe environment without the need for alcohol or drugs. I had heard some of the bands before but I was absolutely and completely blown away by all of them on the night. The highlight for me was simply hearing them play and seeing how happy the bands were in getting the chance to play live. It was really very good.' The competition was straightforward.

Eight bands featuring young musicians aged between 14 and 25 years from Skye and Lochalsh were to play live at the community centre for 20 minutes each. They picked the songs and the judges marked each band on their musical and vocal ability, the originality and interpretation of material and their stage presence and interaction with the audience. The fact that some bands played their own material and other groups performed covers did not matter. **Applaud** After all the bands had played the judges announced the two groups with the highest scores were *Exit* and *Caustic*. The audience was then asked to applaud the band they felt

should win and the judges then awarded a big, fat cheque to *Exit*, which was the winner. The prize wasn't a record deal with Simon Cowell, a subsequent single peaking at number 72 and a one-way ticket back to obscurity like Messrs Gates and McManus and company. *Exit* picked up £1,000 to go towards music equipment or recording costs in a studio. Music mastering engineer Denis Blackham, who has worked with artists as diverse as *The Eurythmics*, *Status Quo* and *The Bee Gees*, now runs his own business from his Edinbane studio. Denis said he was impressed with the bands' interaction and rapport with the audience but felt the groups who performed better had put in a lot of hours' rehearsing, in particular the runners-up *Caustic*. He said: '*Caustic* seemed to be really sorted. They played their 20 minutes really well and were tight as a band and switched on. Three or four of the bands were quite well rehearsed and really had their act together. *Caustic* knew what they were doing in between songs. There was no hesi-

tation, they'd say a couple of words or go straight into the song. *Exit* started a bit flaky but they improved as they went on.' Denis said it wasn't a contest on song writing and popular songs covered by the bands understandably went down well with the crowd. But what if he was a young musician in a band, how would he have approached the competition? 'If you have got 20 minutes the majority of bands could play four songs. There was one band which played two songs which I don't think worked. I would play one number which was written by the band. Obviously the bands are very young and it is very difficult to write songs.' Indeed Denis believes Skye band *Steroglo*, which has been forging a reputation across Scotland, has a major songwriting talent in frontman Richard MacIntyre. 'If they get the breaks they could go far', he said. Denis was disappointed that *Firedrone's* piper Neil Beaton could not be heard on their opening song and said a microphone for the instrument should have been provided by the sound engineers during the soundcheck. The general acoustics of the community centre in Portree are something that needs to be closely looked at by the powers-that-be believes Denis. He said: 'It is really difficult because the community centre had not got a very good sound. It is very 'echoey' and that is a problem for the sound crew. It was originally going to be held in the Skye Gathering Hall and that does have better acoustics.'

microphone, one expletive-laden welcome to the crowd and one opportunistic stage diver later and *Exit* were crowned the winners of Battle of the Bands 2006. Aply enough *Exit* were the last act and they made the most of their opportunity. Nonchalantly finger tapping like a young Eddie Van Halen, Chris MacKinnon from Elgol put on a tremendous performance with singer Kerr Gibb and Chris Nicolson on bass and pipes; a tight unit with drummer Calum MacVicar. Quite how they could lose with a drummer called 'Biscuit' is unfathomable. Their closing cover of *Guns N' Roses* classic 'Sweet Child of Mine' had the whole crowd in their back pockets. *Inflatable Haggis* had the crowd earlier chanting for Scotland's national dish to return while *Audiovoid* singer Gregor Muir dropped his microphone mid-song but recovered well. Understandably, some of the bands played quite fast because of nerves but there was certainly no lack of melody or talent in their performances. Their youthful exuberance led one singer to alter *Pink Floyd's* 'Another Brick in The Wall' to call for the Portree High School rector to 'Leave the kids alone' which unsurprisingly got a cheer from his peers in the audience. Just as well the school holidays have started for him. 'The first stage-diver to possibly 'tread the boards' at Portree's Community Centre also got a huge cheer but must have gulped a big breath when he saw the crowd moving out of his way! The only thing lacking from evening was the absence of any female musicians but perhaps Battle of the Bands 2007 is when they will come to the fore.

Review Eight bands, one dropped

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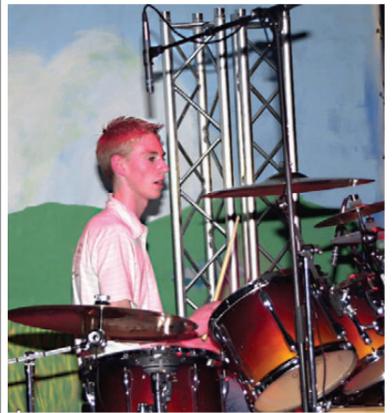
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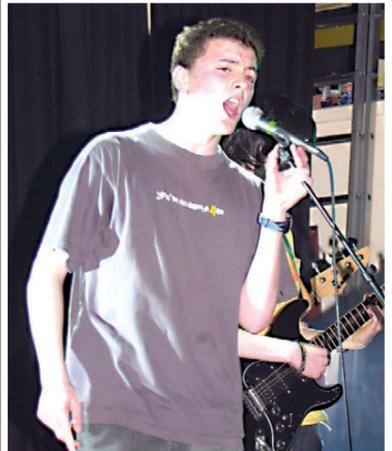
Left to right, Battle of the Bands judges Dougie Pincock, Rorie MacKenzie and Denis Blackham. t14bat03



Alex MacLeod and Chrisanne MacDonald reprised their Cuillins FM show and were the presenters of Battle of the Bands. t14bat01



Exit drummer Calum MacVicar. t14bat11



Audiovoid's frontman Gregor Muir minutes after dropping his microphone. t14bat05

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# LOOK AT OBAN



## Ploughing the way for ABCD charity



Donald Cameron and Gregor MacCormick presented Dr Andrew Henderson with a cheque for £1,020 from the proceeds of the North Lorn Ploughing Match. Consultant physician Dr Henderson is the chairman of Argyll Beats Cardio Disease (ABCD). Looking on are ABCD committee members Caroline Henderson, Christine McQuaid, Alfie MacKenzie, Ian MacInnes, Pauline Ogilvie and Betty Graham. t14k401

## Recklessly scraping a bottle along windows causes £17,450 of damage

A NINETEEN-year-old caused £17,450 worth of damage to around 10 shops in Oban town centre after scraping a broken bottle along their windows.

Sheriff Douglas Small had deferred sentence on Jennifer Thomson, 3D Lismore Crescent, Dunollie, Oban from last month in order to find out the cost of the damage to the windows.

She had previously pled guilty to vandalising the windows on October 22 last year in Stevenson

Street and George Street. Procurator Fiscal Jonathan Kemp told the court that the total cost of repairing the damage was £17,450.

**Shocked**

Defence agent Edward Thornton said that Thomson was rather shocked at the cost of the damage she had done.

'At first glance the figure for compensation is horrendous, but I suspect that with a number of windows we are looking at replacement costs because they are large plate glass windows that cannot be re-

paired. I understand that it is very difficult to see a substantial number of these scratches. In many cases the shop owners were oblivious to the damage because they were so difficult to see,' he added.

**CCTV**

The incidents came to light after Thomson was seen on closed circuit television cameras (CCTV) scraping the bottle along various windows.

Mr Thornton said Thomson had been at a party in Soroba and was walking home at about 4am with a

beer bottle in her hand which she was running along various walls and railings.

'It was not until the next day when she was spoken to by police that she realised what she had done,' said Mr Thornton.

**Compensation**

He said that she had gone out of her way to find a job in order to earn money to pay compensation.

'She has a job, in fairness, but I would suggest that the sum we are looking at is unrealistic,' Sheriff Small said it was

'mindless vandalism' that has cost other people £17,450, which was a 'substantial amount of money'.

'She deeply regrets what she did. It was done recklessly and not deliberately and was as a result of intoxication,' said Mr Thornton, adding that Thomson was working in a shoe shop as an assistant.

Sheriff Small ordered Thomson to pay £1,200 in compensation, which would be divided among the 10 shop owners concerned.

## Hostel ethos praised but building not

GLENCRUITTEN Hostel, which is home to Oban High School pupils from Mull, Coll and Colonsay during the term time, has been told it could do better.

The hostel was inspected last November by HM Inspectors of Education (HMIE) and the Care Commission when there were 82 pupils boarding in the residential accommodation.

**Praise**

While there were aspects to do with its links with the high school, the range of leisure activities for pupils during the week and the induction process for new pupils that came in for high praise, the hostel was marked down on certain physical aspects.

Although all the bedrooms had been recently refurbished, said the report, the corridors, stairs and bathrooms needed to be refurbished and pupils' privacy when taking showers

able and helpful and made them feel welcome.

Most pupils felt that staff listened to them and they had enough space, time and help to do their homework but some felt the meals were not good and that there were not enough baths and showers.

But parents felt there could be improvements in the way issues were dealt with, discipline, the number of staff at night and the weekends and the accommodation itself.

Following the publication of the HMIE and Care Commission joint report, Argyll and Bute Council, which is responsible for the hostel said that a number of the points raised had already been addressed.

The issue of security and the fire report were dealt with at the time of the report while other areas are being tackled as part of an on-going £400,000 refurbishment and upgrade programme.

'Additional training has been arranged for staff in relation to general health and safety matters,' said a council spokesman. 'Any staffing matters are addressed through the normal council procedures.'

**Welcome**

Oban High School Board chairman Andrew Campbell welcomed the report: 'We welcome anything that improves the standards of care for children in the hostel.'

'We do note that parents expressed quite a high level of satisfaction with the care of their children and also note the praise given to the school for its support in the school with the pupils' education.'

'We look forward to seeing the issues which have been identified in the report being attended to,' added Mr Campbell.

Other areas where it was felt there was need for action were the working relationship between the officer in charge and the deputy; clearer guidance for staff on dealing with discipline and restraint and developing the pupils' sense of responsibility and involvement in the hostel.

The report stated that parents were generally content with the hostel and almost all thought their children were well looked after and that staff were approach-

able and helpful and made them feel welcome.

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## Co-op drinks licence

MEMBERS of Lorn, the Isles, Mid Argyll, Kintyre and Islay Licensing Board last week unanimously agreed to renew the alcohol licence at Oban's Co-op supermarket. The store's managers appeared before the board to discuss the application, following an incident which saw a 15-year-old hospitalised after allegedly consuming alcohol purchased at the Soroba Road store. Board members were told how the store prevented the supply of alcohol to minors but heard how a flaw in the system was exploited on the occasion in question.

## Woman re-sentenced on fraud charges

A TWENTY-ONE-year-old Oban woman has been re-sentenced at Oban Sheriff Court after failing to carry out the terms of a community service order.

Sophie MacColl, 2E Corran Brae, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday and after Sheriff Douglas Small read a social inquiry report regarding her circumstances, he decided to revoke the community service order. It had originally been imposed after

MacColl admitted resetting of a stolen debit card and then using the card on seven different occasions to obtain money and goods by fraud in January 2004.

She had also admitted a charge of theft of a soft toy.

'I am encouraged by what the social worker says about you and that you have decided to take a turn for the better. You have a boyfriend, your own tenancy and are about to start a study course. I don't want

to interfere with that course that you are taking,' said Sheriff Small.

Instead Sheriff Small decided to defer sentence for nine months until January 9 next year for MacColl to prove she could be of good behaviour and also to come to court with £340.33 - the costs of the goods obtained by fraud.

He warned MacColl that she was not being let off but was being put in a position of trust by the court.

## Scottish Water meeting

OBAN Community Council is inviting Scottish Water to a meeting to discuss concerns about water supplies for new housing developments in the town.

With a large housing development planned for Glensheallach, the community council is concerned about 'general water availability'.

Community council chairman Kenny MacIntyre is to write to the company to organise a meeting.

## Soroba sports venture comes to end

A SUCCESSFUL three-year project which subsidised sports activities for Oban youngsters is coming to an end, despite a full minibus.

Community Learning has run the scheme with Social Inclusion Partnership (SIP) funding at Atlantis Leisure and youth workers Gillian Petrie and David McKechnie pick up youngsters from Soroba early on Friday evenings.

They are taken to the sports centre where they can take part in a range of sports for only a £1.

However the subsidy is now set to run out and Argyll and Bute Council community education worker Scott Douglas said: 'It has been very well attended and I am hoping that it may be continued, either without subsidy or with support from the new Soroba Community Enterprise Board.'

'Gillian and David have been telling me that in the last year the minibus has been full every week so we are hopeful something can be done.'

Friday nights at Atlantis have been a great success. t14k401



## Frances wins



Frances Young, aged 13, won the MacDonald Plate in the girls solo, S1-S3, at the 27th Mid Argyll Musical Festival, singing *The Cradle Song* by Schubert. The music festival had a record number of entries this year from all over Argyll and the crowds turned out in large numbers to listen to the competitions in venues around Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig and Inveraray. a13mus06

## The Beach joins 10K run to aid CLIC Sargent

OBAN'S Beach Club members are putting on their running shoes for charity again.

This time the club is helping its members train for the Oban 10k race on May 7 and to raise money for CLIC Sargent, the children's cancer care charity.

Last October 12 members of the Beach health club raised £1,600 for the charity, which has helped a number of Oban families over the years.

The charity offers accommodation in Glasgow for families while a child is receiving treatment at Glasgow Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill.

CLIC Sargent also provides care professionals to give emotional and practical support and holidays at the Malcolm Sargent House at Prestwick as well as financial grants.

Christine and James Lind of Oban and their family were given just this support after their daughter Lauren was diagnosed with leukaemia two years ago when she was 12.

The Linds, including their other daughter Ashleigh, received a lot of support

from CLIC Sargent. Robin Morton, owner of the Beach health Club said: 'We are delighted to be supporting CLIC Sargent again by having runners in the 10K. For all our entrants we would be happy to help prepare them for this event, which for many would be a huge personal achievement.'

Peter Logie, fund raising manager for the north of Scotland, said: 'The Beach club's support last autumn was fantastic. It would be fantastic if we had a big turn out for CLIC Sargent in the 10K this year and really put Oban on the map.'

There is also a 3K run for children.

## Vandals strike in Oban

VANDALS have been busy in Oban with cars bearing the brunt of the destruction.

Inspector Neil Wallace told Oban Community Council that there had been 17 recent incidents of vandalism, of which seven cases had involved cars.

Inspector Wallace said one juvenile who has returned to Oban has been causing some of the problems and has been charged with a number of offences.

## New opportunities

OPPS, a new Oban opportunities group, has appointed a brand new committee at its annual general meeting.

Over the coming year, the group connected to Oban Addiction Support and Information Service (OASIS), will be looking for new funding to support potential projects.

The group, in its second year, aims to provide activities like hill walking and art classes for those with mental health, homeless or addiction problems in the area.

Kay Campbell, co-ordinator of the committee, said: 'Our main priority was to get the committee up and running.'

'Now we have a good committee on board, chaired by George Crawford, we can move forward and continue rehabilitating people back into social inclusion.'

There are currently 40 people signed up to the service in Oban.

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**THE GEORGE CLOONEY USA WITCH-HUNT MOVIE GOODNIGHT, AND GOOD LUCK**  
Screen Two PG 93 minutes



**At the Cinema**

**ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN**  
Oban and UK Premiere:  
U Certificate  
90 Minutes  
**OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE**  
2.00 and 6.30 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

## West coast attractions to honour 'Blue Peter' badges despite rising web sale worries

FOR ALMOST 50 years it has been one of the crowning achievements in the world of children's television.

Generations of British children have waited eagerly for the day when their own Blue Peter badge dropped through the letterbox, honouring their achievement in being featured on the BBC show.

Not only do the tiny badges act as a trophy to youngsters across the UK, they also grant free access to tourist attractions of the length and breadth of the country.

But the rise of the internet generation has left the humble Blue Peter badge open to abuse.

Hundreds, if not thousands, of the badges have been made available for sale on internet auction sites such as Ebay, giving those with a few pennies to spare the opportunity to purchase free access to these attractions.

The upsurge in this activity has seen some attractions end their policy of allowing free access to badge holders.

**Barcaldine**

But the Scottish Sea Life Centre in Barcaldine has no intention of following suit.

Sarah Vine, acting manager at the Scottish Sea Life Centre, said: 'We have no plans to stop giving free admission to Blue Peter badge holders. As far as we're concerned as a company, we have no intention of turning away anyone with a Blue Peter badge.'

'Though we are aware of the rise in people buying Blue Peter badges on the internet and using them to gain free entry to attractions, we are not aware of any rise in the number of people doing so at the Sea Life Centre.'

'We welcome all visitors to the Sea Life Centre and will continue to give free entry to Blue Peter badge holders.'

Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye is another attraction with no intention of ending free entry for Blue Peter badge holders.

John Lambert, chief executive, said: 'We've not, to my knowledge, had a problem with Blue Peter badge holders at Dunvegan Castle.'

'Badge holders looking for free entry to the castle arrive very infrequently, and there hasn't been a rise in the number looking for free entry.'

'I would have thought that if there was a problem, the BBC would have contacted every premises offering free entry to advise them accordingly.'

When *The Oban Times* searched for Blue Peter badges on Ebay, 32 were being auctioned, with prices ranging from just 1p up to £112.

Blue Peter badges are awarded to children under 16 years old. There are five badges altogether - blue, silver, green, gold and the competition badge.

Blue badges are awarded for interesting letters, good ideas for the programme, stories, poems, pictures and for having appeared on the programme.

Silver badges are presented to children who have already won a blue badge - but only for doing something different from what they did to win their blue badge.

Green badges are awarded for letters and pictures with a conservation or environmental theme, and gold badges are awarded for outstanding achievements such as saving a life or extreme bravery.

**Your Stars with Patrick Arundell**

**ARIES** Your ruler, Mars, starts to get into a potentially stormy stand-off with Pluto, the planet of truth and transformation. And the quarter Moon can find you reacting a little bit more subjectively. This combination suggests that if you do go into battle, you make sure it is one worth fighting for. And yet, after a long period of effort, you may achieve a breakthrough. For more, please call me.

**TAURUS** Friendships can be the source of inspiration from now, or will it be one pal in particular who starts to resonate more on your senses? Trying to tie down a deal? Exasperation looms unless you accept that not everything can be perfect. As soon as you do, you may get a better offer than you'd first hoped. A passionate connection is also possible, in fact things can truly sizzle! For more, please call me.

**GEMINI** You have been showing much more decisive form. Yet this week, will this more assertive mode rub someone up the wrong way? Then again, you may be ready for this and be unprepared to back down. However, the best results could be gained through maintaining goodwill. If you can work on cultivating your contacts, some of those in the worldly arena could prove very valuable. For more, please call me.

**CANCER** Something could get under your skin. Perhaps you'll feel that someone is being less than transparent in their moves, but it doesn't mean that this won't affect you, because it can. Therefore, look out for subtleties. If you have responsibilities, it is important to keep people on-side, but then perhaps you'll feel the time has come for you to tell it how it really is. For more, please call me.

**LEO** With Saturn freeing its chains of restriction as it ends its backward mode, you can feel less encumbered. With expansion writ large in your scope, this can really give you the push to get going. Your fortunes can also benefit this week from the wise counsel of a financial consultant, or perhaps you will receive a pay out, possibly unexpectedly. Someone close could be generous. For more, please call me.

**VIRGO** The sleek and charming planet Venus, moves into your sector of relating. This could have a very positive impact on your love life in the next month, encouraging you to find a spirit of harmony, perhaps even being more compromising. And yet this week if there is anyone in your world that you don't rub along so well with, the sparks could really fly. It could be make or break time. For more, please call me.

**LIBRA** People see you as being a bit laid back, perhaps as your zodiac sign. Yet when something really engages your attention, you can show a much more passionate side. This can occur this week and in the arena of communications anyone who has underestimated you could be in for a surprise. Yet being an air sign, ideas are important too. Some of yours may be about to be taken more seriously. For more, please call me.

**SCORPIO** This is a time to concentrate on the finer details. If you get caught up in more than this, you can lose your focus, worse, end up feeling stressed out. And yet with the move of Venus this can help you to loosen up when it comes to your down time. A few outings and some sociability can actually be reviving and help you to have more energy to achieve things at a practical level. For more, please call me.

**SAGITTARIUS** There may be a house warming party in store for some Archers, or if you have resisted the temptation to up sticks and move, perhaps you'll find yourself in the mood to play mien host or finally get down to a spot of redecoration. In general, you can be feeling chirpy, yet a squabble can still blow up with you needing to resist someone's attempts to remake you. For more, please call me.

**CAPRICORN** You can find spending time with family members comforting and one relative you have had less to do with, could, in the next month, become a bigger player in your world. And if an off-spring is inclined to be a little moody, a visit to the movies together could see their outlook brighten, or might it be worth investigating the cost of music lessons? Extra stimulation is the key. For more, please call me.

**AQUARIUS** As far as your finances are concerned, you may have found yourself chasing your tail for quite some while. But this week can coincide with an improvement in your fortunes. Deals that seemed out of reach, now become a possibility and new sources of income can emerge on the back of your creativity. Daring to follow the less trodden path can see you enhancing your cash-flow. For more, please call me.

**PISCES** This can be a seminal time of the whole year. Struggle has been to the fore, but with your vitality improving, you can feel more outgoing too. Additionally, your love life could be about to move into a brand new phase. If you are smitten, new impetus can take a few towards, but if you're single, someone unusual or who you meet in an unexpected way, could make your pulse race. For more, please call me.

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**THE DARK**  
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Outwardly conventional, 'The Dark' becomes something far richer and much stranger. Directed by John Fawcett, who also directed 'Ginger Snaps', the movie is based on Simon Marginn's best selling novel 'Sheep' and stars Sean Bean, Maria Bello and Richard Elynn.

**PIERREPOINT**  
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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 had hoped. The children team up to plot the break up with the result that the two families find a way to work together, in order to separate.

'Yours, Mine and Ours' is a refreshing family comedy that is different and enjoyable.

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

Saulmore Farm Shop open again for the season. Lots of new lines. Open 9am - 5pm Mon-Sat; 9am till 7pm Thursday. Tel: 01631 710247.

**Wednesday 12th April**  
Music Feast, Strontian Village Hall, 8pm, Kris Drever, Martingreen and Aidan O'Rourke

**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**

**forthcoming events**

**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**



A unique musical partnership was celebrated in a talk at the Free Church Hall, Oban on Friday night. Bill Innes gave a talk to raise funds for Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain on the musical partnership of Sydney MacEwan and Duncan Morrison. They were on the brink of international fame when Sydney gave it all up for the Catholic church. As Father Sydney MacEwan he served for 17 years as Lochgilphead parish priest and his late performances helped to raise money to pay for the roof of St Columba's Cathedral Oban.

## Team JoLoMo walk for charity

TEAM Jolomo, a group who plan to tackle two charity endurance events, will walk 70 miles and cycle 40 miles 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 proceedings 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, Hazel Whiston, Richard Barrie, Lucy Masterton and Stephen Whiston.

All six will attempt to complete both the State Street Caledonian challenge and the Rob Roy challenge to cover the distance.

Mr Whiston said: 'I needed something to work off all those cakes and I thought it would help my cycling training for the Mid Argyll Triathlon, nobody told me I had to walk so far to get my bike.'

To help raise money the team are also planning to hold a Rob Roy ceilidh dinner and dance on April 22 at the Stonefield Castle hotel in Tarbert.

## RNLI supporters host coffee morning

Supporters of the Royal Lifeboat Institute in Oban turned out in force on Saturday for a coffee morning held at the Royal Hotel in aid of funds. Marion Stephenson, John Blaxter, Isobel Wolgemuth, Carl Ravn, Jennifer McEvoy and Ann Reid were amongst the people who helped out.

# LEISURE TIMES

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## Talented traditional trio play Strontian

A TRIO, described as three of Scotland's finest musicians, is to appear in concert at Strontian Village Hall on Wednesday, April 12.

Lau, who are Kris Drever, Martin Green and Aidan O'Rourke pull together their influences which span a triangle covering most of the UK, from the west coast of Scotland, up and across to Orkney and down to the east of England.

The combination is a modern sound with all the depths of these traditions backing it up.

Aidan, Martin and Kris are still in their 20s, but have a wealth of experience and finesse which give them license to play with a rare freedom. Despite the traditional music tag their combined efforts make something new. Great musicians doing something more than just showing their chops!

Kris Drever is an Orcadian multi-instrumentalist, from singing and guitar playing to banjo and double bass.

He has been in great demand since moving to Edinburgh in 1995.

Kris has done a myriad of different projects, quickly moving from traditional pub sessions to the gigging

circuit, playing large tours of the United States and Chile with dance show Celtic Fusion.

After leaving the show Kris began working with Fine Friday, and also worked as a session musician for a variety of artists including The Battlefield Band, John McCusker, Kathie Ryan, Harem Scarem, Clare McLaughlin and with his father, folk singer and guitarist Ivan Drever.

Since then Kris has toured much of Europe, Canada and Australia with Fine Friday and many other outfits. He has also toured Canada with trumpeter and fiddler Daniel Lapp and England, Ireland and Wales with folk superstar Kate Rusby.

Kris also performs with Eamonn Coyne and plays in the John McCusker band and Session A9. Martin Green grew up playing English and Irish traditional music in the south of England.

He has played with many of the great singers and players of English music including Martin Carthy, Norma Waterson, Kathryn Tickell, Linda Thompson, and a long-term collaboration with Eliza Carthy culminating in a duo al-

bum released to great acclaim in 2001.

Aidan is a fiddle player and composer from the Isle of Seil of the West Coast of Scotland.

He has toured extensively in Europe and North America from the age of 15 and has made his name as one of Scotland's most expressive and dynamic musicians.

At 19, Aidan formed Tabache with Claire Mann and went on to record the internationally acclaimed album *Waves of Rush*.

Aidan now performs with the hugely successful Blazin' Fiddles, Kevin MacKenzie's Vital Signs, the Unusual Suspects and the exciting folk fusion band Sunhoney.

He is much sought after as a teacher, composer and session musician having performed on over 50 albums, ranging from Runrig to Michael McGoldrick.

Recent writing commissions have included music for Dundee Rep Theatre; musician in residence for Folkworks in Tyneside and a commission entitled 'Mantra Alba' which welcomed the Dalai Lama to Scotland in June last year.

Currently Aidan is musician in residence at the Tolbooth in Stirling.



The cast of *Into the Woods* from Argyll Youth Theatre Group. (1490401)

## Argyll youth thespians go *Into the Woods*

*INTO The Woods* was the challenging musical performed on Thursday and Friday last week by the junior members of Argyll Youth Theatre Group.

Not only did the youngsters perform brilliantly it was enjoyed by the audiences, particularly those on Friday night who turned out to support the young cast at Oban's Corran Halls.

Around 20 members of Argyll Youth Theatre Group made up the cast of parts from Cinderella to Little Red Riding Hood to Rapunzel and others. *Into the Woods* is an adventure based on a book by James Lapine, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim, who wrote the lyrics for *West Side Story*.

The childless Baker and his Wife are cursed by the Wicked Witch and go off into the woods hoping to rid themselves of the spell and meet Cinderella, her Prince, Little Red Riding Hood and other fairy tale characters all trying to realise wishes of their own.

The story, as well as covering love, foolhardiness and relationships also touches on the moral consequences of actions and the power of tolerance, community and shared sacrifice.

The youngsters had been rehearsing the music and scenes since September last year and grateful thanks were made to all those who helped behind the scenes and with the production and fund raising.

The next item on the youth theatre group's calendar is A Concert in Cabaret on June 8 and 9 at the Corran Halls.

## New traditional music recipe is creating a stir

TIRED of the usual pub fodder? Fancy a taste of something different? Need something new to whet your appetite for traditional music?

Then try Pigtown Fling. Take the nourishing ingredients of Scottish folk music, mix in the exotic flavours of other European traditions and season with a dash of Old Time mountain herbs.

Mix them all together, stir vigorously and leave in the sun to cure.

Pigtown Fling is the result; a new duo serving up a musical dish designed to invigorate even the most demanding of palates.

Using various stringed instruments, whistles, bagpipes and voices, Pigtown Fling combine them all to produce a refreshing, cross-cultural sound.

Based in Argyll, Pigtown Fling comprises Robert Woods and Stephen McNally, who are no strangers to the Argyll music scene.

Contact Stephen or Robert to book them and let Pigtown Fling add a touch of traditional tang to the occasion.

To book the band phone Stephen on 01852 300 500 or email [stephen@pigtownfling.co.uk](mailto:stephen@pigtownfling.co.uk) or call Robert on 07725302307 or email [robert@pigtownfling.co.uk](mailto:robert@pigtownfling.co.uk).

Live at The Barn - Friday, April 7, 8pm - 11pm.

Puffer Bar and Restaurant, Eadale - Sunday, April 16, 9pm - late.



Inveraray Accordion and Fiddle club guests get feet tapping.

## Full house at fiddle club

THE INVERARAY District Accordion and Fiddle Club had yet another full house at the March club night in the Swallow Argyll Hotel. Supporting players were Fyne Folk, with Janette Gibson on accordion, Sally Hall and Alex John MacLeod on fiddle and Agnes Liddell on keyboard.

Missing from the line-up was Duncan Crawford on fiddle, presently recuperating from a knee operation and the good wishes of the

club have been conveyed to him for a speedy recovery.

Also on accordion were Allan McIntosh and Ivor Brown, with Jimmy MacDonald on keyboard and Jim Thompson and Sandy MacDonald on drums and they all delighted the audience with their varied selections. By popular demand, the guest artists were Hector MacFadyen and his Trio from Oban, with Hector on lead accordion, Alastair Currie on 2nd box and

Davy Cameron on drums. It was banter and laughter right from the start, with Hector irrepresible as ever, and the music was a real West Highland sound, many of the sets taken from his recently released CD.

Chairman, Niall Iain MacLean, gave a hearty vote of thanks to all the artists for a superb night. Next week sees the last of the winter sessions with yet another popular Argyll trio - Ross MacPherson & Co - make it a date.



Left, primary three to first year high school pupils enjoy the first of two Easter holiday roller discos held by the Atlantis Play Sport Initiative on Tuesday afternoon in Oban. The next session takes place on April 11 from 12.30-1pm. (1490401).

**The Oban Times HOTLINE**  
IF YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE. CALL US ON FORT WILLIAM 01897 703003 OBAN 01631 568000 WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

## Smokie sets Oban on fire with new songs



Oban was one of the destinations for Smokie on their current UK tour.

The band, famous for hits such as *Living Next Door to Alice* and *Don't Play Your Rock 'n' Roll To Me* also played songs from their new album *On the Wire*.

Pictured left, back stage

at the Corran Halls in Oban before the concert are, from left, Martin Bullard, Terry Urtley, Mike Craft, Mick McConnell, and Steve Binnell. (1490401)

**Lochnell Arms Hotel**  
Under New Ownership  
Lorraine and Kim welcome you to come along and enjoy your Easter Sunday in the comfortable and relaxing surroundings  
Book Now for Easter Sunday Carvery £10.95 p.p. and £5 for children  
Lunch Menu served Mon - Sat 12 - 2.30  
Senior Citizens Menu Served Mon - Fri 12 - 2.30  
Soup & Selection of Sandwiches served 2.30 - 6  
High Teas Served Mon - Sat 5-6pm  
Come along and try our exciting New Evening menu with favourites old & new!!!  
Starting Friday 14th April 6.30 - 9.30  
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Tel: 01631 710408 Fax: 01631 710239  
Email: [enquiries@lochnellarms.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@lochnellarms.co.uk)  
Web: [www.lochnellarms.co.uk](http://www.lochnellarms.co.uk)

**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.  
To enter the competition, simply answer the following question:  
**What is the name of The Singing Kettle's 2006 show?**  
Send your answers to Singing Kettle Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB.  
The closing date is 14th April and usual Oban Times rules apply.  
Answer.....  
Name.....  
Address.....  
Tel No.....

In association with **COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD** CGL PRINTING & OFFICE SUPPLIES  
At the heart of the community for 21 years

**HEATHER MACLEOD & 'THE HEALTHY MEASURES'**  
in Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern  
Saturday April 8th at 8pm  
Tickets - £6 from 01852 500689  
'A heady brew of Celtic, jazz & roots-pop influences'

**KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM**  
Children's Holiday Workshops  
Monday 10 April Rag Rugging & Weaving 10 - noon or 2 - 4pm  
Tuesday 11 April - Puppet Making 10 - noon or 2 - 4pm  
For further information, booking & diary of events contact 01546 510278 [www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org)

**OBAN AND LORN LIONS Table Top Sale**  
Saturday April 8th  
10am - 3pm  
Royal Hotel Oban

**Choral Concerts By CRUACHAN CONSORT**  
(choir of singers drawn from throughout the UK)  
Meditative Choral Music  
By Bach - Poulenc - Tallis - Bruckner  
Conductor - Stephen Williams  
(music director Chapter House Choir, York Minster, St Georges singers, Manchester and choirmaster RSNO)  
Two performances only  
Iona Abbey - 3.30pm Thurs. 13th April  
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe - 7.00pm Friday 14th April (Good Friday)

**COMUNN GAIDHEALACH AN OBAIN**  
Oban and District Local Mod  
Friday 2 June 2006  
Closing date for entries: May 5, 2006  
Contact secretary on 01631 710314 for syllabus and entry forms

**INVERARAY AND DISTRICT ACCORDION AND FIDDLE CLUB**  
Swallow Argyll Hotel  
Wednesday 12 April at 8 p.m.  
Guest Artists: The Ross MacPherson Trio  
Supporting musicians most welcome

**Cearcall Còmhraidh Conversation Circle**  
Diluain 23mh den Fhaoilleach-7f Monday 10th April-7pm  
Taigh-Osta Lancaster-An t-Oban Lancaster Hotel-Oban.  
Bidh ti is cafaidh ann le bar faisg air làimh.  
Tea and coffee provided with bar facility.  
Cothrom airson Gàidhlig a bhruidhinn ann an suidheachadh mì-thoireill.  
An opportunity to speak Gàidhlig in an Informal situation.  
Fosgailte dhan a h-uile duine-Fileantaich Agus Luchd-ionnsachaidh.  
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For more information contact Joy Dunlop 01631 565475 [joy@ancomunn.co.uk](mailto:joy@ancomunn.co.uk)  
Tha falte bhith romhaibh uile!

# Just £50,000 short of a new hall

SEIL Island Community Hall Charity is just £50,000 short of a new hall - and is hoping that Argyll and Bute Council will be able to make the community's dream come true.

The old drill hall on Seil Island, a focus for community life for so many years, is sadly coming to the end of its life after more than 135 years.

That is not bad considering it was probably not built to last that long - despite the re-inforced flooring at one end of the main hall to withstand the weight of artillery guns as

it was an artillery regiment of local volunteers who it was built for. It had been hoped to refurbish the original hall but around 2000, after an inspection by a structural engineer and work to re-inforce the roof and outward-collapsing walls, it became clear that this was not an option.

**Unsafe**

Chairman of Seil Island Hall trustees and the hall committee Mike Shaw explained: 'At that time, one of the beams cracked and the engineer came back and said the place was unsafe. When the builders

went in to do the work one of the beams fractured dramatically.

'There was no question that it was defunct.'

Temporary repairs and a quarterly engineering inspection have allowed the hall to continue to be used but the community had to think about raising enough funds to build a completely new hall at a cost of around £½ million.

An initial planning application proved too ambitious and the committee went back to the drawing board and different architects before the latest plans were devised, taking into account that where the present hall and games field are is the Ellenabeich conservation area.

**Fund raising**

The charity applied for a grant from the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund, administered by Argyll and Bute Council but was told to apply for lottery funding first, which it duly did while starting a community fund-raising campaign.

When lottery funding was finally granted last year, the hall committee went back to the council only to be told the rural partnership fund had been cancelled by the Scottish Executive and the authority did not have the funds itself to continue it.

'The lottery funding comes with two conditions,' said Mr Shaw, 'one is that we must have all the funding in place and secondly it has to start in August this year.'

The community has raised a staggering £107,000 towards the £558,000 needed, and everyone has pulled together to apply to 32 trusts and 10 other bodies that help with trusts and funding generally.

The National Lottery has awarded £250,000, the Robertson Trust £10,000, Gannochy Trust £15,000 and Argyll and the Islands Enterprise has pledged £56,000, which leaves the committee £120,000 short.

**Petition**

'The rural partnership funding was made up of £100,000 from the Scottish Executive and £50,000 from the local authority and what we have said to the local authority is that just because the Scottish Executive won't be giving us that money, doesn't mean the you can't give us the £50,000,' said Mr Shaw.

The council refused to include it in its capital programme at its budget meeting for 2006-2007 but

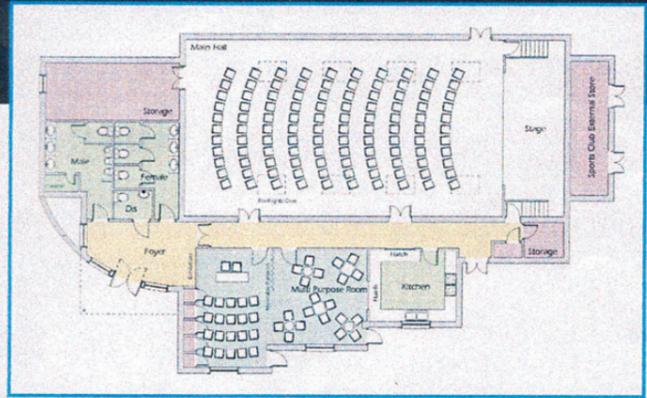
has agreed that Seil Island Community Hall Charity can petition the council in May with a presentation.

Although still £70,000 short, the charity has worked out that, given all the clubs that will use the new hall as well as the one-off events and the local lottery, it could afford to borrow up to a maximum of £70,000 from the Charity Bank.

'It is down to the council,' said Mr Shaw, 'if it says no, we have nowhere else to go. We can't borrow £120,000. 'The hall is the focus of the community,' he said.

'The school has a hall but it is too small and both pubs are minute; there is no other covered space in the community. The nearest hall is in Kilmelford or Oban.

'If we don't have anywhere for the community to meet, it will be very difficult to keep it cohesive.'



Bruce & Neil Chartered Architects

The new Seil Hall, to be built to the back of the original hall, closer to the games field and further away from the road, and its lay-out. The present hall, built in 1870, is home to badminton clubs for all ages, bowls, music groups, school children's concerts, belly dancing, keep fit, Seil and Easdale Community Council, concerts, the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, British Legion, games day dances and the sports club among many other things.



Seil Hall chairman Mike Shaw examines the reinforcement pillars at the old drill hall on Seil Island. t14ha01



Seil Hall is coming to the end of its 130-year-plus life. t14ha02

## Blogging is the new Highland hingin'

WEB BLOGGING is fast becoming the way to communicate with your neighbours and let rip on issues within the community which you might feel strongly about.

After all, this is the age of the computer and the Scottish Executive gave free computers to a large number of people living on the islands to give them an advantage where they are normally disadvantaged by distance.

With this in mind, one enterprising man decided to set up a community website three years ago - Oban and Lorn Online - as he and his wife were hoping to move to the area from Aberdeenshire, to find out what it was like, what business might be available for his company and to find somewhere to live.

Nick Bowles is now happily ensconced on Seil Island with his wife and his 12-year-old business Webrcraft UK Ltd, which designs and builds websites, but was quite surprised initially at the lack of interest in his community website.

'Although this was supposed to be the most computer literate part of the west coast, it wasn't used all that much and nothing much happened for a year or so,' he said.

Soon after he moved to Seil Island he heard that there was interest in setting up a community website, offered his website and said he would give access and links to other organisations in the area. 'It has taken off in the last few months,' said Nick.

Community groups post minutes from their meetings, advertise forthcoming events and test the water with ideas for potential projects by asking for feedback from the community via the website.

'There are certainly quite a few groups using it now,' said Nick of www.seil.oban.ws.

Organisations send Nick their copy which he posts on the website as his contribution to the community.

'The hall committee publishes its minutes on it; the community council also uses it and Easdale Island Residents and Property Owners Association. But the bit I'm delighted to see starting to get used is the bulletin board,' said Nick.

'It has reached a turning point and the people are using it themselves. I would like to see it really beginning to grow and being taken over by the different groups using it.'

And it is the forums or chat rooms that are the

really interesting bit in any community website. Perhaps this the modern equivalent of a good 'hing'- when wifies in the tenements in the cities used to hang out the windows or over the washing lines to exchanges news and views.

People can register under a pseudonym to protect their identity and 'sound off'.

The Seil website is certainly beginning to generate interesting topics from the problem of milk to fund raising ideas for the proposed new hall to recycling news to the merits of Seil appearing on television to national parks and more.

Some of it is serious and some irreverent but that is what makes it all the more readable and it is not the exclusive preserve of those who live on the island.

Register as a user and anyone can butt in - and many do, who also frequent web blogs on other community websites, helping to fulfil the ambition of the Scottish Executive to get communities interacting.

But even the Scottish Executive could not have expected a humorous vote on the future of mothers-in-law on Seil to lead to a quite serious discussion on ageism...

## It's definitely a dog's life at Kilninver primary

PUPILS in primaries one, two and three at Kilninver Primary School have been given their very own pet.

Pickles was presented to the composite class at the primary school, south of Oban, by head teacher Berni McMillan and he helps them to learn many different things.

Pickles even has his own web blog, which pupils update regularly to let the outside world know what Pickles has been up to and how he is.

The pupils also get a chance to take him home for the weekend, care for him, make sure he gets plenty of exercise and food and shares their weekend adventures with him.

Come Monday morning the pupil who has taken Pickles home gets to tell the rest of their classmates what he has been up to at the weekend.

Although a lot of fun, Pickles helps the P1-P3s with their information computer technology (ICT) skills, personal and social development and creative writing skills too.

Catch up with pickles and his adventures at <http://theadventuresofpickles.thepup.blogspot.com>



Pupils from P1-3 at Kilninver Primary School with their 'pup' Pickles. t14kin01



During design and technology lessons the senior pupils at Kilninver Primary School created their own set, puppets and story about a group of dinosaurs and performed it for their classmates and recorded it on to video. t14kin04



Kilninver Primary School has a pre-five unit and the wee ones, who enjoy being in the middle of school life, were recently learning about the story of the *Three Little Pigs* and the *Big Bad Wolf*. They built houses of straw, sticks and bricks as well as making pig masks which they enjoyed wearing while playing in the houses. t14kin03

## Moves to secure Easdale museum

MOVES are afoot by Eilean Eisdal Trust to purchase the building that houses Easdale Folk Museum on the tiny island on behalf of the community.

The owner of the museum Chris Nicholson, who at one time owned the whole island and also ran the last of the puffer steam vessels up and down the west coast, is terminally ill and wishes to see it go to the community.

The museum was set up by Mr Nicholson but developed and run by artist Jean Adams, formerly of Easdale, now of Sri Lanka, who was honoured with an MBE for her services in running the museum.

She was instrumental in collecting many of the items, artefacts, amazing photos and archives as well as displaying them in the tiny museum, which has attracted thousands of people to the island over the years and won many awards.

Although closed at the

**Eilean Eisdal Trust hopes to 'mobilise' volunteers to open the museum this summer**

moment, Eilean Eisdal Trust has been asked by Mr Nicholson to open the museum for the summer until the negotiations and funds to purchase the building can be completed.

'We will be doing that through mobilising a team of volunteers from within the community,' said Mike MacKenzie, of the trust.

'The trust recognises the importance of the museum not just to the island but it is also essential to the wider area.

'People who come here stop off to look around and have lunch.

'It is also a reason for

people to come to the island,' he added. He said the trust wished to not only preserve it for the future but also to record the on-going social history of the area.

With digital technology it would be possible not only to offer employment to people on the island with the skills necessary to digitally record the archives but also make those archives more freely available to organisations beyond the island, he said.

'It is a skilled job and we have a number of people on the island who have the skills and background,' said Mike.

A consultation exercise on the island regarding the museum found that of the 60 per cent who responded, 97 per cent supported the museum and wished it to be maintained by the community.

The trust is in the process of discussions with the Scottish Land Fund and the owner regarding the building.



Mike MacKenzie of Eilean Eisdal Trust outside the award-winning Easdale Folk Museum which the trust hopes to buy to secure it for the community. t14mu01



Easdale pupils with their picture of Wotog, a very cool seal, and the badges he is helping them to earn. t14wo01

## Wotog the wonder seal

EASDALE Primary School has a new friend.

He lives in the sea outside the school and has lots of adventures that they learn about and discuss.

Wotog is a seal and he is a very 'cool' seal, with shades, a sideways baseball cap and a school bag.

He has been invented to help the children at Wotog time, which means Working Together, when the whole school comes together, is split into two groups and works on joint projects

across the ages. The pupils make up stories about what Wotog has been doing, his family - including his father who cuts seaweed for a living - and his friends.

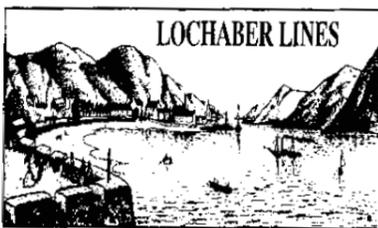
Sometimes Wotog time involves playing games or drawing pictures and at Christmas involved making Christmas cards.

After Easter, Wotog is going to help the youngsters plant bulbs in the garden and has already been involved in decorating Easter eggs.

Wotog also gets the youngsters working together on other aspects of school life, including road safety, and think about being a good citizen as Wotog himself is a very helpful seal.

The children have even made badges which they will earn and get to keep once they have earned three badges for being a good citizen too.

Wotog even plays with his brother and sister in his own band - Codplay!



email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

CORKY RECENTLY bought a vehicle for £100 and after some minor repairs sent it forth in roadworthy condition to the car auctions in Perth.

Unable to attend in person he entrusted Stan the Man with the task of selling the nice little earner for a modest profit. When the vehicle came into the ring Stanley was on his mobile to Spean Bridge to give a running commentary on the sale.

Each time the auctioneer announced a bid Stanley, with an involuntary nod of the head, relayed the amount to Corky. When the bid reached £650, a figure Corky was more than pleased to accept, Stanley informed the auctioneer that his instructions were to let it go at that!

The auctioneer, who had assumed Stanley was bidding on instructions over the phone, said: 'What do you mean? You've been bidding for it.' You can just hear how the telephone conversation ended: 'That's another fine mess you gotten us into, Stanley!'

**THE OVER 60s will be singing 'The wheels on the bus go round and round' with the good news that the Scottish Executive is issuing free passes for travel on buses throughout Scotland.**

**Further negotiations may result in the scheme being extended for travel throughout the United Kingdom. We should welcome this unconditionally but, and we know we are too cynical for our own good, we can't help linking the plans to the threat of closure to care homes for the elderly.**

**How long before the politicians realise the savings to be made by sending the elderly up and down the motorways for 24 hours a day in warm coaches with trolley hostesses and scheduled comfort stops.**

**It may even strike a chord with our councillors, who have yet to solve the problem of decanting the residents of Invernevis House whilst upgrading is carried out.**

TO BE fair to Lochaber's councillors, they may be secretly working on plans to save Invernevis House from being privatised but they continue to play their cards close to their chests.

We find it astounding that with four weeks to go before the decisive meeting in Inverness, last Monday's agenda for the area committee meeting contained no reference to Invernevis House.

For how long can this ostrich like mentality continue? Let there be no doubt that the majority view is for Invernevis House to remain under council control thus ensuring that facilities to care for the elderly locally are guaranteed for the future.

Having given up on the area committee showing leadership on this subject, the public deserve assurances that their representatives will represent their views.

We exempt councillors Brian Murphy and Bill Clark from our little tirade as they have publicly stated their intentions to oppose the sell-off of Invernevis to the silent six. We ask: 'Is it not time you showed your hand?'

**MEANWHILE down in Glencoe they were singing 'Donald where's your trousers?' after Donnie had a brush with a Highland cow when feeding the National Trust herd.**

**The bare facts of the case, we understand, are that the cow took a fancy to the tobacco pouch protruding from Donnie's back pocket. She hooked the offending pouch of the nasty habit forming drug with a horn and also took a mouthful of trouser for good measure. The bare-faced cheek of the animal, biting the hand/bum that feeds her! A health and safety incident report has been submitted to HQ in Edinburgh and the official appointed to investigate the matter might like to consider whether the cow is in the pay of the Scottish Executive.**

**We have heard of sniffer dogs but are the smoking enforcement officers using under cover sniffing cows? If so, like Donnie's backside, they should be exposed.**

THE TALE of a recent incident whereby a German National ran into trouble with the Dutch Authorities at Schiphol Airport triggered an embarrassing memory.

Mathias Kinkel was travelling home with haggis, black pudding and white pudding from Wynne the Butchers, Fort William, when the white pudding was seized for examination on suspicion of being semtex explosive.

Way back in the 1970s, when working in London an Irish lady told us of her love for haggis. We promised that on our next visit to the Gearasdan we would bring back one of Lachie Wynne's finest.

However, we forgot and on numerous occasions the colleen teased us for breaking our promise.

When, some time later, we arranged to meet folk from the Fort in Birmingham we asked them to bring a haggis.

After a few days in Birmingham the haggis resumed its journey to London where we caught the tube to Hamersmith Broadway.

On leaving the underground we realised that the much-travelled and much-wanted haggis was still abroad the tube bound for Turnham Green. It was red we turned when the next day we came out of Harrods with a haggis under our arm and read the Evening Standard placard: 'IRA campaign latest - Tube system disrupted'. Of course, it may have been somebody else's haggis which led to bomb disposal experts dealing with a suspicious package on a district line train in West London on the previous evening.

**Lochaber Past Times** - from the archives of *The Oban Times* - 100 Years Ago.

A MOST unusual incident was witnessed in Loch Linnhe off Stronchreggan last week, during the presence in that sheet of water of a school of bottle-nose whales. The leviathans appeared to be greatly perturbed from some unknown cause, and were observed at intervals to force a dark object from 10-20 feet out of the water.

The amphibia occupied themselves for some time, but ultimately vanished leaving the object of their venom floating on the surface. An eye witness afterwards rowed to the spot and recovered what proved to be a large seal, the skin of which he is having cured.

### Young people urged not to miss out on allowance

YOUNG people staying on their course and make good at secondary schools in the Highlands are being urged by Highland Council not to miss out on an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) which could be worth up to £1,500 to each pupil.

EMA is a weekly payment of up to £30 paid directly to eligible young people who stay on in further education after they reach statutory leaving age.

Young people may also be able to receive two bonuses of £150 if they remain on

their course and make good progress with their learning. EMAs were launched across Scotland in August 2005 by the Scottish Executive to provide financial support to young people from low income families.

In Highland up to 1,300 young people are at present receiving the allowance with 93 per cent of those eligible for the first bonus receiving this in February 2006.

Eligibility depends on household income and birth date.

# Portree to lead PPP for schools

WORK is to start at Portree High School in the next few weeks on a new school building under a public private partnership (PPP).

Highland Council have signed an agreement confirming the biggest building programme ever to be undertaken by a local authority in the area.

Alpha Schools (Highland) Ltd, a consortium of Morrison PLC and Noble Fund Managers, will begin work next month on the first three of 11 new rural and urban community schools to be built over the next three years under the second Highland education PPP.

Work will also start on schools in Inverness and Dingwall over the next few weeks following the financial close of the contract, which has a capital value of £134 million.

**Learning**  
In the PPP2 Initiative, new secondary schools are being built at Dingwall, Kinlochleven, Millburn, Inverness, and Portree which will include a swimming pool, community library and learning centre. There will also be a new primary schools at Kinlochleven.

The unitary charge for all 11 schools has been fixed at just over £15m per year.

The project is being funded through a package of bond finance and funding provided by the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The council says the use of bonds and the involvement of the EIB have been central to reducing the overall costs of the project.

**Contract**  
The Scottish Executive will pay a total of £215m in grants to the council over the life of the contract, which includes the capital cost of building the 11 schools as well as the interest on the capital, inflation, heating and maintenance of the building and janitorial and cleaning costs over 30 years.

Councillor Alison Magee warmly welcomed the conclusion of the contractual negotiations.

She said: 'This is the most significant investment this council has or is likely to make and demonstrates our commitment to Highland communities.'

'These are not only 21st century schools but very important facilities for the communities concerned.'

'There will also be a very considerable spin off for the construction industry in the Highlands. I am absolutely delighted that the contract

has now been signed and we can look forward to the construction of these eagerly-awaited new community schools.'

'A huge amount of time and effort has gone into these often complex negotiations and everyone involved deserves a very big thank you for concluding these with affordable limits.'

Councillor Andy Anderson, chairman of the education committee, said: 'We embarked on this ambitious programme because we want as many pupils as possible to receive their education in surroundings that match the quality of the teaching we provide.'

**Completed**  
Work will begin on Portree High School on April 10 this year with construction completed by May 2008 and playing fields available from September 2009.

At Kinlochleven high and primary schools work will start in May 2007 with completion in June 2008 and the playing fields ready in September 2009.

In the first PPP project new primary schools were built at Spean Bridge and Strathearn and new secondary schools at Strontrian and Drumnadrochit.

## Highland Council needs direction

HIGHLAND Council needs to do more to pull together its eight administrative areas and shape its direction.

That was the conclusion of a report by the Accounts Commission published this week.

The report revealed that while the council often delivered appropriate and effective solutions to residents' problems, there were areas in which it must make improvements if it was to be in a position to deliver 'best value'.

In particular, the report found that there was a need for stronger corporate direction from councillors and for corporate strategic management in the senior management team to complement the chief executive.

The report states that Highland Council residents are increasingly satisfied

with service delivery and the council engages well with its local communities and partner organisations such as the NHS. Another strength is that despite the high cost of service delivery, Band D council tax is below the Scottish average.

However the council needs to do more to pull together its eight administrative areas and shape their direction. It also needs to improve the information councillors receive about the council's performance, so they can make the most of their scrutiny role.

The council should also consider putting some of the services delivered by its 'significant trading organisations' out to competitive tender, and should make better use of options appraisal and benchmarking.

Alastair MacNish, chair of the Accounts Commis-

sion, said: 'The Highland Council's decentralised structure often delivers appropriate and effective solutions to local problems and residents are increasingly satisfied with the results.'

However, there is a need for stronger corporate direction from councillors. This should focus on making the council more cohesive, improving its centralised activities, such as workforce planning, and setting fewer, clearly articulated priorities. The council needs to ensure it is operating as efficiently as possible, given the pressure on its financial resources.'

The commission requires the council to produce an improvement plan that addresses the report and the report's findings and will continue to monitor the council's progress.

## Skye switches on to television festival

THE ISLE of Skye will welcome the Celtic Film and Television Festival next year which it is hoped will boost a new digital Gaelic channel.

A delegation representing the Highlands visited the festival which is being held this year in Falmouth, Cornwall.

Councillor Hamish Fraser, chairman of the council's Gaelic committee, said: 'We are delighted that the festival will be held in the Highlands in 2007 especially in Skye. The Highland Council sees the festi-

val as an opportunity to celebrate Highland culture and language through media.'

'Next year there will be a Gaelic digital channel which will offer tremendous opportunities for the whole industry, it is therefore very important that all the agencies work together to ensure that this new industry develops and thrives. The festival is part of that process.'

'It offers a good opportunity for people in the media industry to liaise, meet and recognise their achievements in production within

an increasingly competitive market.'

'The media is developing and entering a new and interactive phase as communication is rapidly developing on the internet and digital broadcasting is taking its share of the global market.'

Festival chairperson Maggie Cunningham said: 'We are looking forward to running the festival in Skye.'

'We know that it will attract participants from across all sectors and genres in the different countries.'

## Security van hits bridge



This security van crashed into a bridge parapet at Spean Bridge on Thursday, March 30, just after 9am. The driver was taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William.



James Rosie with the Jim Grace Cup and Alastair MacKellar memorial trophy with some of the other trophy winners at the piping competition.

## Amateur pipers compete in Fort

YOUNG pipers came from all over the Highlands to Fort William last week as Lochaber Piping Society held its annual amateur piping competition for boys and girls aged 18 years and under.

Competitions were held at Lochaber High School on

Saturday. The Jim Grace cup and medal and the Alastair MacKellar memorial trophy were both won by James Rosie.

The Miss MacRae Conchra Cup for the youngest competitor was won by Ryan MacDonald of Caol.

## Four-year ban for Glen crash driver

A NINETEEN-year-old man was banned from driving for four years after taking his father's car and crashing it into a tree in Glen Nevis while over the legal drink-driving limit.

Lewis George Walker Mckenzie, of 7 Morrison Avenue, Spean Bridge, admitted driving with 119mcg of alcohol in 100ml of blood and careless driving on Glen Nevis Road on December 9 last year. The limit is 80mcg.

It was Mckenzie's second drink-driving offence. Mckenzie, a supermarket checkout operator, had been drinking in two public houses that evening.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'For some reason which has never been explained he ended up in Glen Nevis in this vehicle where he lost control. He can't really explain it.'

Mr Kennedy added that after crashing the car into a tree and down an embankment Mckenzie had tried to

phone the police on his mobile phone but had then gone to a nearby house for help.

Mr Kennedy added: 'He suffers from ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) but it is not a defence as I can't say that it was a contributory factor.'

'He wasn't taking his medication at that time. It is a chronic disorder characterised by short term memory loss, but I can't suggest that it was definitely a factor.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said that Mckenzie was lucky that he didn't collide with another car and kill

someone. Sheriff Small said: 'Custody is one of the things that I have in the forefront of my mind. You took your father's car, drove it while drunk, put your life and the life of others at risk. It is even more serious because you were driving while disqualified. I am only persuaded by Mr Kennedy that you should be given the opportunity of being placed on probation.'

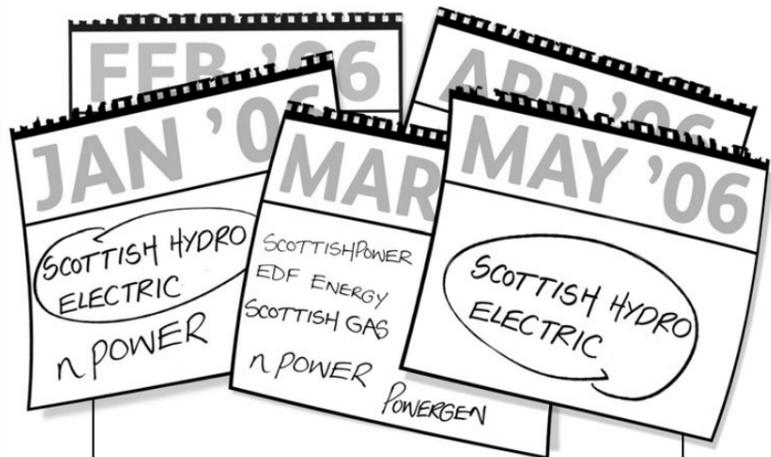
Mckenzie was banned from driving for four years, ordered to perform 240 hours of community service and put on probation for one year.

### New head of Highlands planning

HIGHLAND Council has appointed a new Head of planning and building standards.

He is Richard Hartland, currently development control and building standards manager with West Lothian Council. He is due to take up his new post in June. Mr Hartland started his career as a planning assistant with Gordon District Council in 1976 and moved to West Lothian District Council in April 1979.

Mr Hartland is currently the chair of the Scottish Society of Directors of Planning and sits on its executive committee.



## Scottish Hydro Electric have announced their second rise in 5 months, up over 30% on gas alone this year\*

Rising wholesale energy costs have now led to 6 major domestic suppliers increasing prices this year. Scottish Hydro Electric have now joined npower in raising their twice.

Scottish Gas could guarantee you no more price rises on your gas and electricity bills until 2009\*.

To fix your energy prices, sign up at [house.co.uk/fix](http://house.co.uk/fix) or call 0845 602 9028\* with your bill to hand.

Helping you control your energy bills.



**Scottish Gas**  
Doing the right thing

\* Compounded gas increase based on 1 Jan 2006 rates and quoted headline rates for their 1 May 2006 increase for an average customer. \*Price Protection 2009 rates are subject to a premium of 2.3% for domestic gas and a discount of 3.5% for domestic electricity customers on our standard variable prices and apply from date of registration until April 2009. Excludes VAT and regulatory charges. Conditions and cancellation charges apply. Limited availability. Subject to availability. Other suppliers may also offer similar price protection products. \*Calls may be monitored and/or recorded for quality assurance. BT customers will be charged a maximum of 3p per minute for this call. Non-BT customers should check the cost of the call with their provider.

**The Oban Times**  
& West Highland Times

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WE AT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands. It is the policy of *The Oban Times* Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 5PY giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications. *The Oban Times* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Oban Times* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

**GLASGOW LETTER**

**Time to remember**

ISUPPOSE it happens each time we return to our home parts and so I should have expected no different during a pre-Easter visit to Skye for a week.

We always look back and think of those who used to live there. We think of the hard life they experienced without modern day amenities; we think of the many happy occasions spent just listening to their stories and songs and we think, sadly, of all those who lost their lives serving their country and the toll that this had on families and villages.

The month of March had a couple of major items of news which brought those sad memories back.

The first of these was the anniversary of the Clydebank blitz of March 13-14 1943 and the second the formation of the Royal Regiment of Scotland. The burgh of Clydebank was devastated. Five hundred people were killed, about 1,000 injured and hardly a single street escaped without fatality.

On the first night it is estimated that 105,300 bombs fell on the burgh. It was envisaged that as well as the physical destruction to the town community life would also be fragmented, especially since 48,000 people had to be evacuated. But, not so. The 'bankies' are made of sterner stuff.

Community spirit was strengthened and it is that same spirit which ensures that each year the Clydebank Highlanders Association host a charity ceilidh in aid of Erskine Hospital, set up in 1916. Erskine Hospital gives specialist care and support needed by servicemen some long after they have left active duty and having cared for 70,000 ex-service men to date there is currently a demand to at least the year 2020.

I am sure many of those currently in the hospital will be saddened by what they see as the demise of their regiment but what better to cheer them up than to attend Clydebank Town Hall on Friday 7 April for this year's event. Last week in this column I wrote about fun and enjoyment and this is guaranteed at this charity ceilidh which is always a happy evening.

Chaired by John Fitzsimmons of the BBC the Gaelic entertainment will be provided by Ann Bone MacLean, Amanda Milne and Willie John MacAulay while Shonaiah Rostant will be the Scots singer. Billy, the box, MacPhee, Iain MacPhee, piper and Anna Cameron, accompanist, complete the list of artists. The season of ceilidhs is drawing to a close so with such a worthy cause this is one not to be missed.

**Post script to Skye man of Science**

HOW often have you heard somebody say 'it's a small world'.

You may recall that I reported on the Glasgow Skye Association Literary Evening which had as its subject Professor Magnus MacLean, who served as assistant to Lord Kelvin. It was an evening of great detail and yet it was after the meeting that I was informed of a possible close connection to the work of these

scientists. Lord Kelvin built an observatory in Jordanhill on a piece of land away from anything metallic so that his instruments would not be disturbed. It was a wooden and tiled construction which may explain why each year when I dig up my back garden I keep finding pieces of green tiles.

Yes, it's a small world indeed.

**Milngavie and Bearsden Shinty Club**

A FEW months ago I gave details of the above very successful shinty club and I am happy to report that they are continuing to impress the shinty world.

Representing the central area they attended the primary school age indoor six-a-sides where they competed against all the well known shinty names and reached the semi-finals, losing by the narrowest margin to the eventual winners.

Well done to all concerned.

Further details of the club are available from Douglas Luke 0141 339 5574.

**A new stramash**

Do you like to hear your music jazzed up? If so then the Tollbooth in Stirling on Wednesday April 5 or the Old Fruitmarket, Glasgow, on Sunday April 9 could be the place to be. Colin Steele's Stramash (nothing to do with the Glasgow folk group) will be playing those venues as part of a Scottish Arts Council Tune up Tour. Colin's original quintet will become a 10-piece band and will include three of Scottish traditional music's leading fiddlers - Chris Stout of Fiddler's Bid, Aidan O'Rourke of Blazin' Fiddles and Charlie McKerron of Capercaillie - plus Old Blind Dog's piper and whistle player Rory Campbell. It sounds interesting and different.

While not wishing to enter into the relative merits and drawbacks of the measure, I would respectfully like to point out that British Summer Time has been in force since 1916, and that it was only for the period of the Second World War that Double British Summer Time was instituted - thereafter we reverted back to the single variety.

Jim Cunningham, Dorus Mor, Clachan Seil.

Argyll council tax levels

Sir With reference to the letter from Councillor Robert MacIntyre featured on March 30, 2006 I would like to make the following comment.

The Independent Administration in Argyll and Bute Council always tries to keep the council tax levels as low as possible. At the council budget meeting on February 9, 2006 the three political parties (Liberal Democrats, Conservatives and Nationalists) tabled an amendment to increase the council tax by 4.92 per cent. If the council had accepted this we would have faced the highest increase in Scotland. It is very difficult to keep council tax down in Argyll and Bute. We are the second largest geographical area in Scotland with 25 inhabited islands. Orkney, Shetland and the Western Isles get Special Islands Needs Allowance - far in excess of what Argyll and Bute can access to help offset the additional costs incurred from delivering services across our sparse and remote area.

Allan Macaskill, Leader, Argyll and Bute Council.

Ballachulish line

Sir I greatly enjoyed the article on the Ballachulish branch railway in *The Oban Times*

on March 23. On the last day of service I travelled on the afternoon train and then had afternoon tea in the Falls of Lora Hotel with my Scottish Amicable colleague, Brian Haslehurst.

On the following day Gillesburg MacMillan, now minister of St Giles Cathedral, who at the time was Assistant Minister of Blackhall St Columba Church, devoted his children's address to memories of the school train from Appin (where his father was minister) to Oban.

George C Train, Edinburgh.

Ploughing on

Sir In response to the letter entitled 'Concerned Reader', I feel I must write on behalf of the North Lorn Ploughing Association to thank *The Oban Times* for its continued support.

One of the main trophies for this annual contest, which has raised several thousand pounds over the years for local charities such as Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease and the hospital, was kindly donated by *The Oban Times*.

Without such support and publicity, traditional local events such as ours would be unable to continue.

Similarly, it is only correct that a 'provincial' newspaper acknowledges the significant achievements of a local female athlete at the Commonwealth Games.

For a local girl to qualify and perform so well at such a prestigious international athletics event is surely an inspiration for many in our area.

Whilst the Scottish Water infrastructure problems are obviously important, it is the coverage and value placed on such local events and local people that surely typifies any 'provincial paper' and one of the main reasons *The Oban Times* is enjoyed by so many.

Perhaps the reader's efforts would be best directed towards the local MP and councillors who have direct influence over such issues. Chairman, North Lorn Ploughing Association.

Achievements

Sir In response to Mr Gregory's letter 'Concerned reader' in *The Oban Times* of March 30.

What a shame Mr Gregory has no appreciation of the achievements of local people. I, too, have concerns regarding the planning and building issues facing our communities.

But does it really matter what page any news is written on? It's just nice to read some happy news. M MacCormick, via e-mail.

Marathon mother

Sir, As the mother of 'someone



**Oban Bowling Club opening - 1947**

J D Douglas of Dunuaran Road, Oban, sent us this week's flashback photo which shows James Slater watching his wife throwing the first jack of Oban Bowling Club's 1947 season as large numbers of Oban Bowling Club members look on. 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. The winner of our £10 prize for March was Christine Reid of Callander, Perthshire, for her photograph of Tobermory Bay, Isle of Mull, in 1926.

**Letters to the Editor**

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**Magic Grease**

Sir I had the pleasure to be in the audience of Oban High School production of *Grease* on Thursday March 23 in Oban's Corran Halls and what a professional show it was.

Congratulations to everyone involved. Oban High School pupils are a credit to their teachers and parents.

At the end I asked my young grandson what he thought about the show and his answer was 'magic'.

Catherine Ferguson, Connel.

**McCaig**

Sir, While in general agreement with a lot that appears in the McCaig column, occasionally I have to take exception to some of his pronouncements.

Such was the case in last week's issue in his diatribe against British Summer Time.

While not wishing to enter into the relative merits and drawbacks of the measure, I would respectfully like to point out that British Summer Time has been in force since 1916, and that it was only for the period of the Second World War that Double British Summer Time was instituted - thereafter we reverted back to the single variety.

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**Marathon mother**

Sir, As the mother of 'someone

**who came tenth in a marathon on the other side of the world**

may I respond to the letter from Simon Gregory in last week's *Oban Times*.

The marathon he referred to was at the Commonwealth Games.

This is a high profile international event which encompassed 71 nations, 4,500 athletes and had viewing figures of 1.5 billion around the world. An athlete must achieve a certain standard laid down by the governing body of their sport in their home country, before even being considered for selection.

Surely, it is not unreasonable to expect a local paper such as *The Oban Times* to highlight the achievements of local Argyll athletes who have achieved this standard and represented their country at international level.

Judging by the widespread response I have received to the report, many local people would agree.

Highlighting the achievements of local people can inspire young people to take up sport and to believe that they can succeed in this competitive arena and carry the commitment required with them into adult life.

I read the article about which Mr Gregory was so passionate and I agree wholeheartedly that this is indeed a matter of concern.

Perhaps the front page of *The Oban Times* was where the article should have appeared; it was in fact highlighted at the top of the front page. However, I feel Mr Gregory could have made his point in a tone which was not so gratuitously offensive to those concerned in the other articles.

In a world where many of our front page articles make very depressing reading indeed, articles in a lighter vein whether they be ploughing, shooting or any-

thing else have their place. The job of a local paper must be to balance the news they report on their front page.

Irene Partridge, Appin.

**Astonished**

Sir I am astonished that *The Oban Times* printed last week's letter from Simon Gregory, Ardfern regarding the front page articles in your newspaper.

I find the underlying tone of his letter offensive and his lack of understanding, or interest, of what is 'important' to the local community is clear for all to see.

*The Oban Times* is to be congratulated for maintaining its traditional balance of good, local news articles.

Long may it continue. John Stewart, Oban.

**National park democracy?**

Sir The proposed marine national park by the Scottish Executive and rubber stamped by its environmental henchmen Scottish Natural Heritage, seems to be a re-run of the creation of yet another quango dictatorship in Scotland.

Recently, a letter popped through the door of every household in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park inviting candidates to stand in what must be the biggest election scam perpetrated against a minority population in Scotland.

The 'democratic' make up of 'our' National Park Authority, which has 25 board members, is as follows: 10 are appointed directly by Scottish Ministers, a further 10 appointed by Ministers from nominations made by the local authorities and a final five elected by park residents. None of the five elected members has to live

in the park. Should anyone think that this is real democracy, I would suggest they consider the implications such pseudo democracy would have had on the devolved Scottish Parliament - 52 MSPs would have been directly appointed by Westminster, a further 52 would have been appointed by Westminster from nominations made by politically labelled MPs.

Only 25 out of the 129 would have been elected by the Scottish people, and each and every one of them could have resided in England.

What is good for the whole country should be good for any part it and it is time that national park authorities were recognised to be no more than devolved dictatorships.

They are no more than another expensive and unnecessary tier of government, consuming millions of pounds of taxpayers' money.

The current national parks should be scrapped and the idea of any more binned, with real democracy returned to the people who currently live in them by way of fair elections.

Angus Macmillan, Balloch.

**Road geography**

Sir, Regarding the letter 'Speak for Yourself', I would like to inform that person that he/she should get his/her geography correct.

The B845 does not run from Kilchrenan to Dalavich. It runs through Kilchrenan to the Taycreggan Hotel. The road from Kilchrenan to Dalavich is a C class road, therefore it does not justify a snow plough.

Regarding the views of all residents, does that person expect me to telephone round to all 230-plus residents? Marilynn Henderson, Kilchrenan.

**lands and Islands seat. But to do so, she will have to displace her successor: Oban's Dave Petrie, or Jamie McGrigor, if he does not wrest the Argyll and Bute constituency from sitting MSP George Lyon.**

When I spoke to Dave Petrie, the List MSP in choosing a candidate to keep the SNP flag flying with the most obvious candidate being the SNP Leader, Alex Salmond, who has pledged to return to the Edinburgh parliament as soon as possible.

But, not yet, it seems, despite the fact that Moray is in the party's north-east heartland and Mrs Ewing had a very comfortable 5,500 majority on which to build.

The reply to questions as to why Mr Salmond is not putting himself forward as the candidate is that he is standing aside to let Richard Lochhead, the adopted candidate for the constituency, have the opportunity to become a constituency MSP rather than a List one as he is currently. But, it's not as simple as that it seems. Mr Lochhead, being a perfectly dutiful party man would have, I have no doubt, been perfectly happy to let Mr Salmond return to Scottish politics somewhat earlier than he anticipated. He is committed to contest the Gordon seat at the Scottish General Election in May of next year but would have been permitted to stand down there in preference to a swift return to Edinburgh via Moray.

In addition, as a Westminster MP he is not required to resign to fight a Scottish Parliament by-election so he has nothing to lose unlike Mr Lochhead who has to resign his seat as a List MSP to enter the fray in Moray. Earlier this week, Mr Lochhead, despite now being adopted as the Prospective SNP candidate for Moray, has not yet resigned his seat as there appears to be a question-mark over who would take up his List MSP place.

**Tories first off the mark**

UNLIKE the SNP which seems to be having more than a little difficulty in identifying who will be fighting the Moray by-election on the 27th of this month, the Moray Tories and the candidate who was to take on her friend Margaret Ewing in May of next year, Mary Scanlon, was first out of the starting blocks and is now the prospective candidate.

This is indeed a great financial sacrifice for her as she receives no 'golden handshake' on quitting and is not known to be a woman of money or property. Her chances of winning are slim. Therefore, if she wishes to return to politics she will have to wait until next May and hope that she will be high enough up the List to get back her High-

lands and Islands seat. But to do so, she will have to displace her successor: Oban's Dave Petrie, or Jamie McGrigor, if he does not wrest the Argyll and Bute constituency from sitting MSP George Lyon.

When I spoke to Dave Petrie, the List MSP in choosing a candidate to keep the SNP flag flying with the most obvious candidate being the SNP Leader, Alex Salmond, who has pledged to return to the Edinburgh parliament as soon as possible.

But, not yet, it seems, despite the fact that Moray is in the party's north-east heartland and Mrs Ewing had a very comfortable 5,500 majority on which to build.

The reply to questions as to why Mr Salmond is not putting himself forward as the candidate is that he is standing aside to let Richard Lochhead, the adopted candidate for the constituency, have the opportunity to become a constituency MSP rather than a List one as he is currently. But, it's not as simple as that it seems. Mr Lochhead, being a perfectly dutiful party man would have, I have no doubt, been perfectly happy to let Mr Salmond return to Scottish politics somewhat earlier than he anticipated. He is committed to contest the Gordon seat at the Scottish General Election in May of next year but would have been permitted to stand down there in preference to a swift return to Edinburgh via Moray.

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**A VIEW FROM THE TOWER**  
By McCaig

**The Moray mystery**

LATER this month, there will be a by-election in the Moray constituency caused by the untimely death of Margaret Ewing and her party seems to be having a 'little local difficulty' in choosing a candidate to keep the SNP flag flying with the most obvious candidate being the SNP Leader, Alex Salmond, who has pledged to return to the Edinburgh parliament as soon as possible.

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**Tories first off the mark**

UNLIKE the SNP which seems to be having more than a little difficulty in identifying who will be fighting

# Aquaculture conference backs stability

**AQUACULTURE** Today 2006 was a major success, with delegates hearing an encouraging and confident story of a sector on the move.

Karen Galloway, market insight manager for SeaFish told the event organised by Fish Farmer magazine and held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel and Spa in Edinburgh last week, that the seafood sector was in a 'fantastic situation' and uniquely placed to take advantage of some consumer trends.

**'Massive trend'**  
The conference also heard that a 'massive trend' towards healthy foods was driving the market, although the challenge was winning increased frequency of purchase. Trade protection measures have stabilised the salmon market, the conference was told, but it was important to use stability to develop a strong market position.

David Wilson, Director of the Scottish Executive Marine Group said the introduction of the Minimum Import Price regime for Norwegian salmon has had an definite impact on the market.

'Trade defence measures have brought renewed stability to the market and it is important we use that stability, whether in Scotland or elsewhere in the EU, to make sure we have an industry that can show stability into the future and can evolve and develop a strong market position, which it has done,' he said.

On January 21 the EU gave the MIP regime the green light for a five year regime with a Minimum Import Price of +2.8 per kilogram for whole fresh and frozen farmed salmon from Norway. Commenting on Norway's decision to seek a resolution to the dispute through the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Mr Wilson said: 'Every one would have preferred a resolution through consultation and discussion, rather than entering into a dispute resolution.'

Juan Ronco, Director of Aquaculture, Maritime & Coastal Affairs, EU Commission agreed that, over the years, trade defence measures have led to price stabilisation.

Referring to a graph showing price fluctuations

for fresh Atlantic salmon he said: 'Every time there has been intervention, the price has stabilised.'

He said not only was the 'successful' minimum price regime supporting Community prices, a consumer surplus had been transferred to the Norwegian industry to its financial benefit.

Speaking of Norway's decision to pursue the matter through the WTO, Havard Tvinnerem, Project Coordinator with the Norwegian Ministry for Fisheries and Coastal Affairs said Norway was left with little choice but to take this action.

'We would have preferred to resolve the dispute through cooperation,' he added.

He said that the WTO trade dispute process is likely to take between a year and a year-and-a-half to conclude.

**Innovation**

The conference also heard that innovation is the key to the future success of the UK aquaculture industry. Addressing delegates on the second day of the Edinburgh conference, Skye-based session chairman Doug McLeod of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers said: 'Innovation is the lifeblood of any sector.'

'We need fresh ideas, fresh approaches and fresh scenarios.'

His comments were backed by Canadian seaweed expert, Dr Thierry Chopin, Professor of Marine Sciences at the University of New Brunswick, who said diversification is the key to successful and sustainable industry growth.

'Don't put all your salmon eggs in the same basket!' he told delegates.

Dr Chopin outlined his vision of the fish farm of the future, drawing on his experiences with Integrated Multi-Trophic Aquaculture - farming finfish, shellfish and seaweed on the same site - in the Bay of Fundy, Canada. He said that while the Chinese and Japanese have been practicing polyculture for centuries,

Western aquaculture companies are now starting to realise the potential of integrated aquaculture. In fact the project is supported by Eastern Canada's largest aquaculture company,

Cooke Aquaculture.

Delegates also heard from Hui Liu, Marie Curie Fellow and Associate Professor at the Yellow Sea Fisheries Research Centre who is currently based at the SAMS research centre near Oban.

She outlined the Chinese industry's growth, to its current position as the world's largest producing nation - responsible for around 70 per cent of global production. China now farms over 100 species of marine animals and seaweeds.

Scotland can learn from Chinese experience, Associate Professor Liu told delegates. Some of China's most successful species have been non-native species such as turbot, she added. Delegates heard that species development will also play a key role in the future of the UK industry.

The afternoon session featured presentations covering developments with species including tilapia, abalone, sea urchins and seaweed.

Dr Maeve Kelly, Senior Lecturer at the SAMS Oban establishment agreed that integrated aquaculture would feature prominently in tomorrow's fish farms. Highlighting an example from a site where sea urchins are grown adjacent to salmon cages, she said a tonne of sea urchins can consume up to 40kg of salmon feed a day - food that otherwise would have been wasted.

A second crop such as sea urchins or seaweed could lead to significant economic rewards, she added. Asked whether current Scottish legislation is too restrictive when it comes to the introduction of new species, Dr Kelly said that, while non-native species such as abalone present no risk to the environment themselves, there is always the risk of new diseases also being introduced.

'I think there is a good case to look at each species on a case by case basis and to examine the potential benefits to that species,' she said.

As well as the need to be constantly aware of the nature of the market, delegates heard a recurring theme: innovation creates the platform for future success, particularly for aquaculture.

Stuart's enthusiasm for ornithology was inspiring. He told delegates that this time of year was best for listening out for bird song as the birds were actively seeking a mate. He said that listening is just as important for bird watching as was looking for them.

Delegates were treated to lunch, which was provided by local caterers before heading for the Jubilee Bridge Walk. The group were treated to nine different bird species all feeding on the rich food found in the muddy gravel and mud flat habitats.

Delegates completed a survey leaflet which was developed in 2005 as part of an ERDF-European funded project.

The event finished at Appin Village Hall with a question and answer session over a cup of tea and cake.

Stuart Gibsonsaid that he was delighted with the outcome of the event and that he was very impressed with the variety of delegates and their knowledge and interest in birds.

Marina Curran-Colthart informed delegates about more training events and asked them to watch out for notices in the local press and the Argyll and Bute Local Biodiversity website - www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/biodiversity.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and roaring applause for Mr Gibson.



David Wilson, Harvart Tvinnerem and Juan Ronco on stage at the Aquaculture Today 2006 conference in Edinburgh

## Appin bird watching course voted a flying success

THE FIRST training event under the banner of the European and partner-funded Community Action for Biodiversity was heralded a success by the organiser Marina Curran-Colthart, Local Biodiversity Officer.

Forty delegates of all ages attended a birdwatching event lead by Stuart Gibson, a member of Argyll Bird Club, at Appin Village Hall and the Jubilee Bridge, near Loch Laich, Appin.

Stuart started the day with an excellent slide presentation on the variety of birds found in Argyll.

Delegates were encouraged to share their bird knowledge and ask questions.

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ornithology was inspiring. He told delegates that this time of year was best for listening out for bird song as the birds were actively seeking a mate. He said that listening is just as important for bird watching as was looking for them.

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Some of the many people who took part in the bird watching event at Appin last weekend. Delegates were presented with a combination of theoretical and practical tasks including a visit to the estuary of Loch Laich to view the many wading birds feeding there.



Fiona McArthur looking forward to the future at the Barrglen Equitation Centre

## Argyll horsewoman expands her business

AN ARGYLL woman is expanding her successful equestrian centre to offer horse riders and enthusiasts in the area a wider range of services.

With financial backing from Argyll and the Islands Enterprise (AIE), Fiona McArthur who has operated the Barrglen Equitation Centre for the past eight years is investing in training, upgraded facilities and new equipment.

The result will be an expanding customer base and a facility that operates all year round and in all weathers. The revamped centre will also allow Fiona to buy in young horse stock for breaking and developing, with the aim of selling on once trained.

Fiona McArthur said: 'I have built the business up around a core client base, but the new facilities will allow me to offer them a wider range of services as well as hopefully attracting more customers and teaching to a greater number of people at any one time.'

'A new rubber surfaced arena and jumps will create a much better impression which will help with schooling and training of horses. Developing the cross country aspect of the business is another future priority.'

Fiona has also received a Workforce Development Grant from AIE towards a qualification in equine muscle release therapy. This revolutionary holistic treatment is a gentle, non-intrusive hands-on therapy which manipulates muscles, tendons and ligaments in either horse or rider to maximise their joint performance.

When she completes the qualification, her business will be one of only two in Scotland that can offer this service.

Ken Abernethy, chief executive of AIE, said: 'The Barrglen Equitation Centre is an excellent example of a company that has utilised two different kinds of AIE assistance to move its business onto another level.'

'In growing her business and developing her skills, Fiona should make a real difference to her bottom line in the future.'

## Achvaich lambs lead Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2242 store and breeding ewes fully maintained the keen rates of the last sale.

Store lambs met an increased demand, prime and feeding ewes fully maintained the keen rates of the last sale.

Suffolk cross lambs from Achvaich sold to £58 with Cheviots from the same home to £56.50.

## Monzie Blackface hoggs to £60 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 6024 prime sheep including 25 spring lambs, 4997 hoggs and 1002 ewes and rams at Stirling on Thursday when Texel hoggs from Guardswell sold to £74.50 and Blackface hoggs from Monzie to £60.

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## SNH announce £30,000 to rid Harris of mink as Uist declared 'mink free'

THE REMOVAL of non-native mink from the Uists has been successfully achieved by the Hebridean Mink Project, and trapping and control officially ended at the end of March.

## Polnoon Limousin to 208p per kilo at Stirling

UNITED Auctions had forward 1246 store cattle and 45 cast cows store and 482 store hoggets and ewes with lambs at foot at Stirling on Wednesday.

Bullocks sold to 153p per kilo for a Simmental cross off Brackley to average at 124.1p per kilo.

Heifers sold to 208p per kilo for a Limousin cross off Polnoon to average at 115.2p per kilo.

Cast cows sold to 98p per kilo for a Aberdeen Angus cross off Meadowfoot to average 74.6ppk.

The population of mink on South Uist, North Uist and Benbecula has been eradicated, thereby helping to ensure the future of internationally protected ground nesting birds, claims the government agency tasked with the project.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has confirmed £30,000 has been approved for further work in Harris to halt the spread of the voracious predator which is alien to the Western Isles and the UK. This three month extension of Phase 1 of the Hebridean Mink Project will employ three trappers and will also prevent the spread of the mink back to Uist.

To date, 302 mink have been caught on Harris. In the Uists, the number is 230. The last known mink caught in the Uists was on March 8, 2005.

The Uists include some of Europe's most important areas for wild birds. Mink are non-native predators which take large quantities of eggs, chicks and adult birds. In addition to this, mink also impact directly or indirectly on crofting, fish-

ing, fishfarming and tourism.

Project chairman, David MacLennan of SNH, said: 'American mink is a non-native species and voracious predator and is also putting the future of protected ground nesting wild birds in the Western Isles at risk by eating chicks, eggs and adults.'

'We are pleased to report that the first phase of the Project in the Uists has been successful in terms of our objectives, and our policy of the control of mink has yielded satisfactory results.'

'Trapping in the Uists has officially ended bringing a successful conclusion to our work there, but SNH is committed to continue this vital Project to ensure that mink do not have an adverse environmental impact on the native species of the Western Isles.'

'We have secured additional funding of £30,000 which will allow us to keep trapping in Harris for the next three months to ensure that the mink do not spread back to Uist before we have the chance to set up the second phase of the Project in Harris.'

## Market reports

### STIRLING - United Auctions

Hoggs - Guardswell (Tex) £74.50, Easter Ochtermuthill & Guardswell (Tex) £73, Coulshill (Chev) £74, Boghall (Suff) £70.20  
Hoggs per kilo - Guardswell (Tex) 166.2p, Easter Ochtermuthill (Tex) 165.9p, Nether Strathkinness (Suff) 151.6p, Claymires (Chev) 148.7p  
Blackface hoggs - Monzie £60 BF hoggs per kilo - Knock O Romald 144.4p  
Ewes - Pathhead (Suff) £67, Wester Mye (Tex) £60, Flass (Cross) £55

### DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs  
Suffolk cross - £58 91/92 Achvaich; £54 Shewglie Farmers; £52 Cambusmore Estate.  
Cheviot - £56.50 91/92 Achvaich; £54 Glencannich; £49.50 West Syall.  
Cross - £52 Glencannich; £47 Upper Knockbain; £36 1 Borrodale and Millburn.  
Blackface - £51 Abersky; £50.50 Glen Cannich Estate; £46 Midfean Farms.  
Texel cross - £50 3 Eynort; £46 Badanloch Estate; £45 Carnoch, Erroigie.  
Mule - £47 Bochruben; £37 Farraline.

### Gimmers

Cheviot - £34.50 Scotsburn; £27 2 Sand.  
Ewes  
Suffolk - £75.50 Easter Templand; £68 Whitebog; £65 Ashton.  
Bleu De Maine - £65 Tighnahinch.  
Texel - £62 Easter Templand.  
Blackface - £60, £58 Culnasketh; £35 Abersky; £32 Balntraid.  
Cheviot - £54 Ospisdale; £53 Tighnahinch; £44 Carnoch.  
Mule - £43 Gleebe; £42.50 Scotsburn; £33 Balntraid.  
Texel cross - £33.50 Balntraid.  
Gritstone cross - £24 Millburn.  
Wedders  
Cheviot - £36 West Syall.  
Blackface - £35 Glen Cannich Estate and I&E Ose.  
Hebridean - £23.50 12 Kingsburgh.

### Rams

Suffolk cross - £44 17 Englishstonmuir.  
Cheviot - £43 Culligran; £42.50 Calrossie; £41.50 Lower Park.  
Leyn - £37 Corrimony.  
Suffolk - £35.50 Calrossie; £33 Struy Home Farm; £29.50 Millburn.  
Bleu De Maine - £30 Corrimony.  
Blackface - £29.50 Millburn.  
Blackface - £29.50 Gorthleck; £28.50 Knockandru.

### STIRLING - United Auctions

Bullocks - Yonderhaugh £52

### (CharX) £805, West Pokelly (SimX) £740, Dunrod (LimX) £705, Catslackburn (BBX) £670, West Mains (AAX) £655, Woodend (HF) £470.

Heifers - Upper Whitesone (LimX) £660, Berrybank (BAX) £615, Middle Coldrain (CharX) £590, Derrie (SimX) £585, West Mains (AAX) £570, Nether Braco (BBX) £525.  
Bullocks per kilo - Scalpsie (CharX) £18p, Polnoon (LimX) £15p, Castlehill (SimX) £14p, Bogside (BBX) £13p, Low Boydston (SAX) £13p, Titwood (AAX) £13p, Little Galla (BAX) £12p.  
Heifers per kilo - Howslack (SimX) £142p, Bogside (LimX) £137p, Polnoon (BBX) £135p, Berrybank (AAX) £126p.  
Cast cows - Rumbleton Law (SimX) £75.50, (BBX) £72.50, (LimX) £68.00, (HEX) £66.00, Est (Lui) £35.00, Alderston Law (Jer) £17.00.  
Cast cows per kilo - Rumbleton Law (BBX) 89p, (LimX) 87p, (SimX) 82p, (AAX) 80p.  
Hoggets - Inveroaden (SuffX) £55, Auchlyne (BF) and Raithhill (Mule) £50, Skernish (TexX) £44.50.  
Ewes - Skernish (Tex) £40 and (BF) £25, Raithhill (X and Tvin) £23.50.  
Rams - Auchlyne (BF) £23.50  
Grass Lets per acre - Wester Kerse £83, Lochend £76, Federland £72, Queenzieburn £52

# 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 HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE  
LOCHABER AREA

**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN SOUTH LOCHABER**

The Highland Council has issued a consultative paper in terms of the Education (Scotland) Acts regarding proposal to:

**Establish Gaelic Medium provision at Kinlochleven Primary School**

Copies of the paper may be obtained from the Highland Council Service Points at Fort William and Kinlochleven and also from Rosemary Bridge, Area Education Manager, Education, Culture and Sport Office, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7ND (Tel. 01397 707350) to whom written observations must be submitted **no later than Friday 5 May 2006.**

The relevant report and consultation document can be viewed on the Highland Council's website [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) under the Minutes & Agenda Section for the Lochaber Area. The Agenda for the Lochaber Area Committee Meeting dated 3 April 2006 Item 6.1 refers to this.

Alternatively please e-mail Vivien Johnston at the Lochaber Area Education Office - [vivien.johnston@highland.gov.uk](mailto:vivien.johnston@highland.gov.uk) and a direct link to the report will be forwarded.

Arrangements have been made as undernoted for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss the proposals with the parents of children who may now or in the future be affected by the implications of the proposal.

| Date of Meeting      | Time    | Venue                    |
|----------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| Friday 21 April 2006 | 6.45 pm | Kinlochleven School Hall |

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
HILDEBRAND, S.A. (UK) LTD

Ross M. Lawrie is applying to decroft part of the croft at 3 Achosragan, Lismore and Appin, extending to 0.107 hectare, for the purpose of providing the site for a dwelling-house. Ref. C/8259.

If you consider that the decrofting of this area will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, by April 24, 2006, quoting the reference. Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account on this occasion.

### Alan Reid MP



Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Wednesday 12 April 2006, at the Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban, between 12.00 noon and 1.00 pm. Alan Reid MP will visit the Isle of Colonsay on the evening of Wednesday 12 April 2006. To make an appointment at either of these surgeries, please phone Alan Reid's office (01369) 704840

### COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949

**APPLICATION FOR 10 MOORINGS AND PONTOONS AT SOUTH OF PORT APPIN PIER**

Notice is hereby given that Mr Horne has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to carry out 10 moorings and pontoons at the above location in the position(s):

| Description                | Latitude  | Longitude |
|----------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| moorings-corner positions  | 56 33.17N | 05 24.98W |
|                            | 56 33.11N | 05 25.07W |
|                            | 56 33.19N | 05 25.08W |
|                            | 56 33.13N | 05 25.02W |
| pontoons-central positions | 56 33.19N | 05 24.95W |

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the Post Office, Port Appin, Argyll.

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made to:

Ports and Harbours Branch, The Scottish Executive, Transport Division 4, Area 2F North, Mailpoint 2B, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC/2/5252

Mr Horne, Pierhouse Hotel, Port Appin Argyll PA38 4DE

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 & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

- Ref No: 06/00629/OUT  
Applicant: West Key Properties  
Proposal: Small scale residential development of 5 houses  
Site Address: Drumfin Cottage Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 60B  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00612/DET  
Applicant: Dr Susan K Reed  
Proposal: Erection of a Dwelling House - Amended Design to that Approved Under 05/01440/REM  
Site Address: Site At Achnahard Ardtun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00541/DET  
Applicant: Ivor Mackel  
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: 29 Achnahard Ardtun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Bunnassan, Isle of Mull  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00568/DET  
Applicant: Mr B Pennock  
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House  
Site Address: Plot 8 Land At Ichrachan Tainuill Argyll  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00636/DET  
Applicant: Scottish Water Solutions  
Proposal: Erection of control GRP MCC and septicity dosing kiosk and ancillary works  
Site Address: Foreshore East Of Ferry Terminal Pier Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00583/DET  
Applicant: Mr Ralph Moreland  
Proposal: Erection of Two Dwelling Houses  
Site Address: Land Adjacent To Lios Mhoire Ardconnell Terrace/Rockfield Road Oban Argyll  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00630/OUT  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs A Colthart  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Tynribbie House Tynribbie Argyll And Bute PA38 40B  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledgig  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00617/OUT  
Applicant: William Dawson  
Proposal: Site for Proposed Housing (15 Units)  
Site Address: Site West Of Cranachy Farm Bridge Of Awe Argyll And Bute PA35 1HT  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00551/DET  
Applicant: Mr Lawrence King  
Proposal: Erection of 3 Holiday Cottages and Ancillary Landscaping  
Site Address: Land At Dun Na Cuaiche South West Of Achnacarron Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill  
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 05/02408/REM  
Applicant: J McFadyen  
Proposal: Erection of Two Dwelling Houses  
Site Address: Land South West Of Ambleside Salen Road Tobermory Isle Of Mull PA75 6NS  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00647/LIB  
Applicant: Diageo Distilling Ltd  
Proposal: Replace Existing Traffic Barrier with Automated Gates  
Site Address: Oban Distillery Stafford Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NH  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day
- Ref No: 06/00591/DET  
Applicant: Norman MacDonald - Builders  
Proposal: Building of Road for Future Development of Six Houses  
Site Address: Land South Of Fasdade Tobermory Isle Of Mull  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00652/OUT  
Applicant: A MacColl  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land South Of Balmackillchan Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UL  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore  
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00649/DET  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs D Mathieson  
Proposal: Erection of Chalet - Amended Design and Location for Chalet 2 Approved Under 02/00488/DET  
Site Address: Garden Ground South East Of Appin House Appin Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledgig  
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban**

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS**

- Ref No: 06/00541/DET  
Applicant: Ivor Mackel  
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: 29 Achnahard Ardtun Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnassan, Isle of Mull  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 06/00585/DET  
Applicant: James I M And Andrew D M Gully  
Proposal: Erection of Boat House with Accommodation above  
Site Address: The Boat House Isle Of Shuna Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford,  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan
- Ref No: 06/00622/DET  
Applicant: Mr D Rockley  
Proposal: Erection of a Private Dwelling House and Ancillary Buildings  
Site Address: Ardanel South Of Ardanasig Cottage Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan
- Ref No: 06/00630/OUT  
Applicant: Mr And Mrs A Colthart  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Tynribbie House Tynribbie Argyll And Bute PA38 40B  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledgig  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)  
Potential Departure from Policy HO22 of Lorn Local Plan
- Ref No: 06/00551/DET  
Applicant: Mr Lawrence King  
Proposal: Erection of 3 Holiday Cottages and Ancillary Landscaping  
Site Address: Land At Dun Na Cuaiche South West Of Achnacarron Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill  
Potential Departure from Policies HO20 and HO22 of the Lorn Local Plan  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 06/00110/OUT  
Applicant: Evan John Robertson  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Single Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Ardoran Lerags Oban Argyll PA34 45E  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office  
Potential Departure from Policy HO25 of the Lorn Local Plan  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- Ref No: 06/00652/OUT  
Applicant: A MacColl  
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land South Of Balmackillchan Isle Of Lismore Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5UL  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore  
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Lorn Local Plan  
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

**Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR**

### The Highland Council

**Provision of Local Bus Services and Home to School Transport**

Tenders are to be invited for the provision of local bus, dial-a-bus and subsidised taxi services, and school transport services (including both bus and taxi contracts) throughout the Highland Council area for the period 2 January 2007 to 31 December 2011.

Anyone wishing to tender should make contact to the following as soon as possible.

Invitations to tender will be posted around 10 April 2006.

**Local bus services:** To be included on the list to receive tender documents, please send your name, address and the area(s) you are interested in by Fax: 01463 702606 or e-mail: [publictransport@highland.gov.uk](mailto:publictransport@highland.gov.uk) or by letter to Mr David Summers, Transport Development Officer, Highland Council, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX. (Tel. 01463 702613)

**Home to School Transport:** To receive a list of contracts from which the operator will be asked to indicate those he is interested in tendering for, contact:

| Area                                    | Telephone    | Fax          | E-mail   |
|---|--------------|--------------|--|
| Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey | 01540 661009 | 01540 662330 | <a href="mailto:caro.munro@highland.gov.uk">caro.munro@highland.gov.uk</a>               |
| Ross & Cromarty                         | 01349 863441 | 01349 863994 | <a href="mailto:marjory.mackenzie@highland.gov.uk">marjory.mackenzie@highland.gov.uk</a> |
| Lochaber                                | 01397 707350 | 01397 705627 | <a href="mailto:ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk">ian.jackson@highland.gov.uk</a>             |
| Skye & Lochalsh                         | 01478 613697 | 01478 613698 | <a href="mailto:dee.ranica@highland.gov.uk">dee.ranica@highland.gov.uk</a>               |
| Sutherland                              | 01408 623906 | 01408 621126 | <a href="mailto:alister.macleod@highland.gov.uk">alister.macleod@highland.gov.uk</a>     |
| Caithness                               | 01955 602362 | 01955 602408 | <a href="mailto:christine.dodd@highland.gov.uk">christine.dodd@highland.gov.uk</a>       |

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### GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

TSL Contractors Ltd of Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6AY, is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To keep an extra six goods vehicles and six trailers at the operating centre at Torosay Sandpit, Craignure, Isle of Mull, Argyll, PA65 6AY; to keep an extra six goods vehicles and four trailers at the operating centre at Marine Resource Centre, Barcaldine, Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SE.

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.

### 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 Donald Daly<br>South Of Glengour,<br>Blamafoldach, Fort William<br>06/00126/FULLO | Erection of House  | Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)                       |
| Orange Attn: John Church,<br>Land By Insh Farm,<br>Spean Bridge<br>06/00127/TELLO    | Erection of 20M Mast and Installation of Telecommunications Antennae and Equipment and Formation of Footpath | Spean Bridge Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 days)                             |
| Sarah MacKinnon<br>Croft 214 Acharacle West,<br>Acharacle<br>06/00139/OUTLO          | Erection of House (Outline)  | Acharacle Post 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)**

### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**NOTICE OF INTENTION TO START PREPARATION OF REPLACEMENT OF LOCHABER LOCAL PLAN AND BADENOC 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 Mornern, Glenoece 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.

### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**SPEAN BRIDGE/ROY BRIDGE/ACHNACARRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**NOTICE OF ELECTION**

Nominations are invited for election to Spean Bridge/Roy Bridge/ Achnacarry Community Council. The Community Council has eleven members, comprising five from the Spean Bridge area, four from the Roy Bridge area and two from the Achnacarry area.

**The election will run from Monday 10th April 2006 to 24th April 2006.** Nomination forms will be available from the undernoted premises during normal opening hours:

**SPEAN BRIDGE POST OFFICE**  
**ROY BRIDGE SHOP**  
**ACHNACARRY POST OFFICE**  
**HIGHLAND COUNCIL SERVICE POINT, LOCHABER HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM**

**The Returning Officer is:- MRS MOIRA TREGASKIS, ST CLEMENT, LODGE GARDENS, SPEAN BRIDGE PH34 4EN, TELEPHONE - 01397 712657**

Completed nomination forms must be lodged with the Returning Officer, at the address shown immediately above, not later than Monday 24th April 2006 at 5 p.m.

If you wish further information please contact Elizabeth Toal, Corporate Services, Highland Council, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William. Telephone 01397 707235.

**REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM**

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Tel: 01631 568000



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**ENNSTONE THISTLE**

**Public Notice**

Please note that we will be blasting at Banavie Quarry, Fort William, on Monday 10 April at 1 p.m.



Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain

**AGM**

Thursday 27 April 2006  
7.30 p.m.  
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### THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

**NOTICE OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF PREPARATION OF A CORE PATHS PLAN**

Notice is hereby given under Section 18(1)(a) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 ("the Act") that the Highland Council ("the Local Authority") is commencing work on the preparation of a Core Paths Plan for Lochaber ("the Plan") under section 17(1) of the Act.

The plan will be drawn up, following extensive local consultation, to provide the public with a system of paths to give reasonable access throughout the Lochaber Area.

Core Path Planning questionnaires are currently being distributed to all household and business addresses in the Lochaber area, along with the Lochaber Local Plan newsletter. All responses will be collated and considered in developing a Core Path Plan for Lochaber. Questionnaires can also be filled in electronically on the Council's website at [www.highland.gov.uk/plintra/envirom/access/access.htm](http://www.highland.gov.uk/plintra/envirom/access/access.htm)

For further information or details of the consultation contact John Hutcheson, Access Officer (Lochaber), Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY or by phone on (01397) 707050 or e-mail [john.hutcheson2@highland.gov.uk](mailto:john.hutcheson2@highland.gov.uk)

To book this property space contact  
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# WEST HIGHLAND PROPERTY GUIDE

The largest weekly property pages, covering Argyll, West Highlands & Islands. Selling your property? Make sure your advertisement is here in *The Oban Times* - it works! (Seen by more than 40,000\* readers each week.) \*Source: JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC audit.

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## Excellent family bungalow set on the outskirts of Dalmally, near Oban

PERCHED on the fringe of Dalmally amongst the glens and mountains, Rowan Bank, Stronmilchan, draws the attention and diverts the eye from the surrounding glory. The accommodation is sumptuous, the decor superb and the fittings and furniture of the highest quality.



Rowan Bank . . . surrounded by lush gardens

The elevated location offers a high degree of privacy along with stunning views, and the property is surrounded by lush gardens.

Nearby runs the River Orchy, renowned for its excellent fishing as it winds through an area hugely popular with anglers, birdwatchers, climbers, walkers and those seeking peace and quiet. Dalmally has a village hall, local store, health centre, police station and fire station. There is a new pharmacy, post office and thriving primary school, as well as an hotel popular with visitors. The local nine-hole golf course attracts enthusiasts from a wide area. A school bus carries pupils who attend the secondary school in Oban. There is a regular bus service to Glasgow and a village railway station on the Oban-Glasgow line.

The expansive family accommodation includes vestibule, entrance hall, dining room, lounge, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms and family bathroom.

An impressive 24-foot lounge captures breathtaking views through an extensive range of windows and patio doors. A multi-fuel stove sits in a showpiece recessed fireplace. In a bright and sunny dining-room, the seating area is positioned in front of a large picture window overlooking the beautiful gardens.

An appropriately sized utility room, tiled to half-height, is fitted with a deep shelved storage cupboard, as well as a range of wall-mounted units. It is plumbed for an automatic washing machine and there is space for an upright fridge-freezer. A gleaming kitchen is generously equipped with a full range of units, including a large Rayburn cooker and wall-mounted display cabinet with leaded glass.

There is also display shelving. Ample work surfaces make for easy management. A window to the side overlooks the garden and nearby woodlands.

The four bedrooms are all spacious, with the master enjoying the added benefit of its own luxurious en-suite shower room replete with tiled walls.

Well-chosen decor adds to their charm. Patterned glass panels adorn the vestibule and a roomy

reception hall is fitted with a shelved cupboard in addition to a shelved airing cupboard. The lighting is ornate.

Lovingly cared for, the spreading gardens which, along with amenity ground, extend to two acres, are a credit to the present owners, providing an entrancing all-year-round harmony of colour. There is an abundance of flowering shrubs and trees

and the many enticing features include woodland and garden walks. The house is approached by a sweeping driveway with domestic stores.

The sale of this handsome property is being conducted by D. M. MacKinnon Estates, Oban, who are inviting offers over £295,000.

www.dmkestates.co.uk

01631 566122



From April 8 DM MacKinnon Estates existing website has been updated with user-friendly functions, new features and additions, making it easier for you to find your ideal home. Please visit us at www.dmkestates.co.uk and enjoy at leisure. Your feedback is appreciated and can be e-mailed to enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk or, alternatively, you can contact the office on 01631 566122.

Chartered Surveyors  
 Land and Estate Agents  
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 F: 00 44 (0) 1631 564 764  
 enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk  
 www.dmkestates.co.uk

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Price Guide: £265,000  
 Detached Dwelling-House

Fitted Kitchen Diner  
 Sitting Room with Wood-Burning Stove  
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 Oil Central Heating : Double-Glazing  
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 Garden

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 Fax: 01631 565434  
 www.macphee.co.uk  
 property@macphee.co.uk

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 Oban, Argyll  
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### PROPERTY TO LET

**HOLIDAY COTTAGE**  
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 Sleeps five  
 Available  
 June, July, August  
 Telephone  
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 or E-mail  
 vasedish@lineone.net

**TO LET UNFURNISHED SELF-CONTAINED APARTMENT TAYNUILT**  
 Carpeted, 2 bedrooms, private parking, stunning lochsides views  
 Minimum let six months  
 £475 p.c.m. (excluding council tax and utilities)  
 Deposit and references required  
 Non-smoker, no pets  
 No DSS  
 Telephone 07788 708684

**UPPER ACHINTORE, FORT WILLIAM ROOM TO LET in spacious flat**  
 Furnished large room  
 Striking panoramic views over Loch Linnhe. Beautiful pine wood interior  
 Non-smoker, no DSS  
 Telephone  
 0771 4764932

**TAYNUILT ONE-BEDROOM FLAT**  
 Superb location  
 Minimum six months let  
 £340 p.c.m. (includes Council Tax)  
 Suit professional person or couple  
 Telephone  
 07796 024 419

**LONG LET - TARBERT Two-Bedroom Fully Furnished HOUSE**  
 Small front and back garden and driveway  
 Centrally heated  
 Close to town centre  
 Immediate entry  
 Telephone 07886 431 574 any time  
 or 01631 710608 (after 6 p.m.)

**TO LET UNFURNISHED SELF-CONTAINED APARTMENT TAYNUILT**  
 Carpeted, two bedrooms, private parking, stunning lochsides views  
 Minimum let six months  
 £475 p.c.m. (excluding council tax and utilities)  
 Deposit and references required  
 Non-smoker, no pets  
 No D.S.S.  
 Tel: 07788 708684

**TO LET in CAIRNDOW VILLAGE**  
 Two-bedroomed, carpeted and double-glazed  
**SEMI-DETACHED COTTAGE**  
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**BLAVEN, CRANNAIG-A-MHINISTER, OBAN, ARGYLL**  
 Approximately 1 acre (0.405 hectare)



Large family house situated high above the major West Highland town of Oban enjoying excellent mountain and seascape views.

- **Ground floor:** Reception hall, sitting room, dining room, study, kitchen, breakfast room, utility room with W.C., cloakroom and domestic stores.
- **First floor:** Five bedrooms, dressing room (or sixth bedroom), bathroom and W.C. Extensive floored loft space.
- **Self-contained annexe:** bed-sitting room, kitchen and shower room. Attractive gardens, ample parking and two garages. Offers over £495,000

**ALLANBRECK, LETTERMORE, BALLACHULISH**

Allanbreck is an attractive and striking architect-designed four bedroom property. The accommodation on the ground floor comprises: family room, cloakroom, en suite master bedroom, formal dining room, kitchen with informal dining to the rear, plus large utility room, rear porch and toilet. First floor: Large gallery seating area, upper lounge, three bedrooms (all en-suite), large storeroom. Beautifully landscaped front and rear gardens. Range of out buildings including a detached garage. LPG central heating. Double glazing. Offers over £425,000

**CUAN HOUSE ARDFERN, ARGYLL**

Beautifully presented, contemporary six bedroom home, well situated amongst other substantial detached properties on the outskirts of Ardfert village and enjoying glimpses through the trees of Loch Craignish. The accommodation comprises: Central floor: Vestibule, hallway, open plan living area with kitchen, dining area and lounge, with sliding doors to large decking area, four bedrooms (one en-suite) family bathroom. First floor annexe: Open plan living area with kitchenette, study area, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Useful basement area. Garage. Oil central heating and double glazing. Extensive decking area and patio areas. Gardens to the front and rear. Driveway and parking. Offers over £345,000

**NEW BUILD AT MO DHACHAIDH, TAYNUILT**

An imposing six bedroom property situated in the heart of the village of Taynuilt and enjoying an open aspect from its elevated site, looking out towards Bonawe and Ben Cruachan. This home will be finished to a very high specification, with high ceilings and hardwood flooring throughout. Nearing completion, the accommodation comprises: Ground floor: Open porch, WC, living room, dining room, open plan kitchen and family room, utility room, bedroom one. First floor: Five bedrooms (three en-suite) family bathroom, study area. Integral garage. Garden ground. Offers over £295,000

**ROWAN BANK, STRONMILCHAN, ARGYLL**

Approximately two acres  
 Attractive detached bungalow enjoying immense privacy and a sunny location with views towards the nearby village of Dalmally and the wooded hills beyond. Elegantly presented accommodation comprising: vestibule, entrance hall, dining room and spacious lounge, kitchen, utility room, four bedrooms (master en-suite) and bathroom. Quality double glazing. Oil-fired central heating. Garage. Electronic gate opening to impressive driveway through beautiful mature gardens with possible development potential. Offers over £295,000

**BOTHANUAINE, ARDUAINE, ARGYLL**

An attractive three bedroom Scandianus detached bungalow, enjoying an enviable location, with fantastic views across the water to the islands of Shuna, Luing, Scarba, Jura and the Gulf of Corryvreckan. The well presented accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, kitchen/dining area, living room, bedroom and bathroom, inner hall, utility room, two bedrooms and bathroom. The Scandianus design is energy efficient, with triple glazing and substantial insulation. The property benefits from the attractive, established gardens with trees, mature shrubs, plants and fruit bushes. Driveway and detached double garage. Offers over £275,000

**TURNCROFT, BLACKCROFTS, NORTH CONNELL, ARGYLL**

Splendid five-bedroom detached property situated in an up-market rural location approximately six miles from Oban. The immaculately presented accommodation comprises: ground floor, vestibule, lounge with French doors to the dining area and open plan kitchen, sunny rear garden, utility room, three bedrooms (master en-suite) and bathroom. Upper floor: second lounge, two bedrooms, bathroom and box room. Two driveways, landscaped gardens including a private and sunny rear garden with lovely patio areas. Useful outbuildings. Double glazed. Gas central heating. Offers over £265,000

**CEOL NA MARA, 12 THE GLEBE, KILMELFORD, ARGYLL**

Brightly decorated, detached four bedroom property in popular village location. The well appointed and spacious accommodation on two floors comprises: Hallway, through living room/dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, cloakroom, bedroom. First floor: Bathroom, three bedrooms (one with en-suite). Fully double glazed. Night storage and electric heating. Lovely large corner plot, with easily maintained, fully enclosed gardens. Driveway and plenty of space for a garage. Offers over £175,000

**CREAGANTAIBH MHOR, KILMARTIN, ARGYLL**

A rare opportunity to purchase a traditional highland cottage in an idyllic and secluded location, only minutes from the A816 and the village amenities in Kilmartin. Currently utilised as a holiday home, but suitable as a permanent residence, this property would benefit from some sympathetic modernisation and upgrading. The accommodation comprises: Vestibule, dining kitchen, sitting room, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Immediate garden ground. Ruins. Grazing land extending to approximately 7.5 acres (three hectares). Offers over £150,000

**TIGH NA CREIGE, GLENMORE ROAD, PULPIT HILL, OBAN**

Well maintained detached bungalow, in a private cul-de-sac location within the popular Pulpit Hill area of Oban. The nicely presented accommodation comprises: Vestibule, entrance hallway, living room, kitchen, bathroom and 3 bedrooms. Easily maintained gardens to the side and rear. Double glazed. Separate garage. Offers over £150,000

**WOODLAND COTTAGE, TIROGAN, ISLE OF MULL**

Split level detached cottage situated in a delightful woodland environment with views towards Loch Scridain. The nicely presented and well appointed accommodation comprises: Porch, spacious living room with ample room for dining, kitchen, shower room, two bedrooms and bathroom. Electric storage heating and part double glazed. Small area of garden ground. Offers over £130,000

**SEABANK VILLA SOUTH, TIROGAN, ISLE OF MULL**

Charming cottage situated at the end of a terrace of three cottages overlooking Loch Scridain. Mainly stone-built under a slate roof, the accommodation consists of a porch containing the bathroom, inner hall, kitchen with solid fuel Rayburn, sitting room and two bedrooms. Open fire and night storage heating. Parking area, small formal garden to the front and natural hillside to rear and side. Offers over £125,000

**2 GLENQUACH HOUSE, ARDCONNELL TERRACE, OBAN**

Spacious apartment in a converted stone villa centrally located on Oban Hill in a sought after part of town and enjoying expansive views across the town, Oban Bay, Pulpit Hill and down the Sound of Kerrera. The accommodation comprises: Hallway, lounge, kitchen, shower room and bedroom. Secure entry system. Double glazed. Gas central heating. Area of garden ground to the rear. Private parking to the front. Offers over £85,000

**BUILDING PLOT AT LINDSAY CROFT**

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**NUMBER 18, THE OLD BOND HOUSE, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL**

Immaculately presented top floor flat situated within the Old Bond Store. This one bedroomed flat enjoys panoramic views over Tobermory Harbour, across to Calve Island and over the Sound of Mull. Accommodation comprises: Entrance hallway, open plan living room and dining area, kitchen, double bedroom and bathroom. Offers Over £80,000

**7 AIRDS PLACE, OBAN, ARGYLL**

This first floor flat is situated in a traditional stone building within the town centre, close to Argyle Square and situated above retail shops on the ground floor. The surprisingly spacious accommodation comprises: L-shaped hallway, living room, kitchen, large double bedroom, useful box room and bathroom. Electric heating. Some contents are included in the sale. Offers over £72,500

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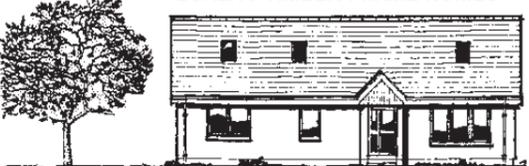
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**BUILDING PLOTS, LOCHAWA VILLAGE, ARGYLL**  
 For Sale: Newly released final phase of these attractive serviced **Building Plots** commanding superb elevated views of Loch Awe and the hills beyond. Full details available on request. **From Offers Over £65,000.**

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 For Sale: A well-presented and highly specified modern **Detached Home** delightfully situated with extensive views of the surrounding mountains. Entrance Porch with Storage, Large Lounge with Dining Area, Kitchen with Dining Area, Utility Room, Principal Bedroom with Private Bathroom, Guest Bedroom with En-Suite Shower-room. Commodious Upper Floor with provision for the development of further accommodation. Under-floor heating, double glazing, Garage and Greenhouse. Attractive landscaped garden and area of amenity woodland. **Offers over £200,000.**

**MORVERN HILL, OBAN**  
 For Sale: A well-appointed, easily managed **Detached Chalet-Style Villa** in a popular residential area of the town with Hall, through-Lounge/Dining-room, Kitchen, Bathroom, 4 Bedrooms. Oil-fired central heating (new boiler). Fitted floor-coverings, built-in cooker, etc., and most window dressings and light fittings included. Neat front and rear gardens, single Garage and gravelled driveway. **Offers over £160,000**

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**HOUSE PLOT, THE OLD ORCHARD, ARDOCHY, INVERGARRY, INVERNESS-SHIRE**  
 Development site of approximately three-quarters of an acre in beautiful rural setting overlooking Loch Garry. Outline Planning Consent for house. **Offers over £90,000.**

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# RECRUITMENT

**SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE**  
  
**AREA OFFICER**  
 Time limited until 31 March 2008 Ref: LG23  
 Based in Lochgilphead, you will work as part of the Area team, taking the lead for our work in Mid Argyll. Working closely with other organisations, the community and local industries, you will be responsible for the management and monitoring of various sites of natural heritage interest, as well as promoting environmental education.  
 With a background in a related subject and at least one year's relevant experience, you will have an understanding of rural industries, along with knowledge of our aims and functions. Good communication and interpersonal skills are essential, as is the ability to use your own initiative.  
 In return, we are offering a remuneration package including a starting salary of £18,219, with guaranteed progression based on satisfactory performance, generous leave allowance and a choice of final salary and stakeholder pension.  
**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**  
 20 hours per week, mornings preferred Ref: LG36  
 Based in Lochgilphead, you will provide administrative support for the office and area staff. You will have experience of working in a similar role, competent in the use of MS Office applications and have excellent ability to organise and prioritise your own workload. Good communication and interpersonal skills are important in this post, as is the ability to work as part of a team and on your own initiative.  
 In return, we are offering a starting salary of £13,705 pro rata per annum, with guaranteed progression based on satisfactory performance, generous leave allowance and a choice of final salary and stakeholder pension.  
 For both posts please go to [www.snhjobs.co.uk](http://www.snhjobs.co.uk) for a job description, person specification and the opportunity to apply online. Should you require any further information please call 01463 248055 or email [recruitment\\_inverness@snh.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment_inverness@snh.gov.uk) quoting the appropriate reference number and your address details. The date for receipt of completed applications is 21 April 2006 for both posts.  
 SNH encourages applications from all sectors of the community  
 WORKING WITH SCOTLAND'S PEOPLE TO CARE FOR OUR NATURAL HERITAGE  
 AG OBAR CÒMHAIR RI MUINN NTR na h-ALBA AIRSON AR DUALCHAS NADAIR A GHÈIDHEADH  
  
 www.snh.org.uk

**Highland Heritage Coach Tours TRANSPORT MANAGER**  
 We require an experienced and highly efficient person to be responsible for all aspects of the operation of seventeen, 14 metre coaches and 25 drivers. The successful applicant will have good experience in a quality fleet and prove their ability to apply all the EU & National regulations to the operation. Based at Dalmally. Salary will be based on experience and qualifications. Live in or out.  
**Apply to Mrs Thompson, Director, Highland Heritage Limited, Central Admin Office, Dalmally, Argyll PA33 1AY**

**TACT**  
 Thomas and Chikara Trust  
 INVESTOR IN PEOPLE  
**TACT Oban - Support Organiser**  
 Salary £17,000 per annum, 37.5 hour week  
 Responsible to Area Manager  
 Applications are invited for above post to ensure service delivery of the 'In Control' model.  
 Applicants should be able to work to deadlines and have good organisational skills, plus a sound knowledge of person centred planning and be a team player. Ideally, you will be able to lead and develop teams; you need to have a flexible approach to working and commitment to the development of TACT Scotland.  
 Application forms can be obtained from  
**Marjorie Hunter**  
 Tact Oban, Dunollie Halls, Dunollie Road, Oban,  
 telephone no. 01631 571311 and should be returned  
 by 21st April 2006

*"Thanks to The Oban Times Group recruitment page we have successfully filled the positions of driver/courier and reservations clerk. We recruit through The Oban Times Group every time a vacancy arises at Highland Heritage, opting for the excellent two-week discounted package. This gives us maximum coverage and a competitive price. It has never failed us: each time we have been successful in appointing quality members of staff. The advertising and design team give us excellent help and created a new colour design which we always use to advertise vacancies. Recruitment advertising in our local paper, The Oban Times, always works for us - we have no hesitation in using it"*  
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# RECRUITMENT

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You will undertake an important role in a special project, reporting to the Administrative Supervisor. You will undertake day-to-day control of scanning and electronic indexing of documents, which include, plans, drawings and other documents relating to the Planning and Building Standards functions. This project has been formed in response to a National Modernising Government initiative being driven by the Scottish Executive.  
You should possess good organisational skills, be experienced in the handling of data, and have good PC skills. You must have a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) including English or equivalent qualifications/experience. It would be beneficial if you have had office administration and electronic filing systems experience. Ref: DSP04100.  
For a recruitment pack call 01546 604225.

**Clerical Assistant \* (Temporary Maternity Cover) (3 posts)**  
£9,945 - £14,220  
Oban Area Team  
You will be part of a busy administration team and will need to be flexible, able to multi task and have a great sense of humour. The team offers a high level of professional support both to the public and their colleagues in the area team and take pride in their work. You will have good communication skills especially on the telephone and be able to work under pressure. You must also have the ability to work on your own initiative.  
You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) to include English and Arithmetic or equivalent qualifications/experience. Experience of dealing with the public and knowledge of Word and Excel would be an advantage. Refs: CSD02020 & CSD02017  
For a recruitment pack call 01631 563068.

**Dalriada House, Lochgilhead**  
You will be part of a team providing high quality clerical and administrative support to the Community Care team in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Department. Your main duties will include, dealing with incoming calls and reception, typing and filing.  
You must have a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) to include English and Arithmetic or equivalent qualifications/experience. Experience in IT systems and Microsoft Office or similar software packages are essential. You must also have good communication and typing skills and experience of minute taking. Office experience would be desirable. Ref: CSC02035  
For a recruitment pack call 01586 553536.

**Clerical Assistants \* (2 posts for a temporary period)**  
£9,945 - £14,220  
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You will be based within the Maintenance Section of Community Services; duties consist of providing clerical support for the maintenance process, customer communication and liaising with other departments. Tasks will also include a varied selection of all aspects of the section's output including data entry, support for the Income Maximisation Assistants, contractor payment systems and invoice processing, filing and general office duties.  
You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) including English or equivalent qualifications/experience. Working knowledge of Microsoft Office, good communication skills and keyboard skills are essential. Experience in an office environment would be an advantage. Ref: CSH03521/CSH03516.  
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You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) to include English and Maths or equivalent qualifications/experience and must be computer literate. Finance or administrative experience would be desirable, as would a good telephone manner. The ability to work on your own initiative would also be advantageous. Ref: CFF22109.  
For a recruitment pack call 01546 604034/604029.

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A valid driving licence and availability of transport, and experience of working with older people or other similar client groups are essential. You must be able to work flexible hours. A good basic education is desirable. Ref: CSC06164.  
For a recruitment pack call 01586 553536.  
\*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.  
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Please apply to  
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**The Lochgoilhead Centre,**  
**Shelter Park, Lochgoilhead, Argyll, PA24 8AQ**  
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To apply telephone 01631 574000 or write to  
**Margaret MacAlpine**  
Administrator  
Scottish Seafarms  
South Shian  
Connel PA37 1SB

**Trainee Financial Adviser**

A fantastic opportunity for self motivated confident outgoing individual.  
Full training, large client base, household name.  
Car essential  
OTE y1 £25K  
Tel 07739657723

**COOK/CREW PERSON REQUIRED**

Oban area  
For Charter vessel  
Catering for small numbers  
*Please apply in writing to*  
Box No 46, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban

**Hawthorn Restaurant**

Benderloch  
*Requires*  
**Kitchen Help and Waiting Staff**  
(mainly evenings)  
**Please Tel: 01631 720 777**

**STALKER & GHILLIE**  
required on a west coast island Estate from the first week in September to 20th October with the possibility of hind stalking to follow. Any interested parties must have at least DMQ Level 1. DMQ Level 2 preferable.  
Contact Managed Estates,  
1 Springkerse Road,  
Stirling FK7 7SN.  
Tel 01786 462519.  
email: [me@managed-estates.co.uk](mailto:me@managed-estates.co.uk)

**ARGYLL & BUTE**

Argyll College is a partner in the UHI Millennium Institute and provides access to a range of further and higher education opportunities.  
There are 11 Argyll College learning centres based throughout Argyll & the Islands.  
We now require the following posts, based in our Campbeltown Learning Centre:

**Assistant Centre Manager**

The successful applicant will provide local learning support to students as well as assisting with the management, administration and promotion of the centre in line with college policy and procedures. Excellent communication skills and a working knowledge of Microsoft Office are essential requirements of the post. The highest quality service to students will be of prime importance and a high standard of customer care is essential.

The post is equivalent to an average of 20 hours per week at an hourly rate of £8.55.

Initial applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by  
**Friday April 21<sup>st</sup> 2006** to:  
Dhonna McCallum, Argyll College,  
Campbeltown Learning Centre,  
Stewart Road, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AT  
E mail: [dhonna.mccallum@argyllcollege.ac.uk](mailto:dhonna.mccallum@argyllcollege.ac.uk)  
Fax: 01631 559671

Interviews will be held at Campbeltown Learning Centre on  
**Wednesday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**Full and part time tutors**

From August 2006, HNC Early Education and Childcare will be delivered at Campbeltown Learning Centre. Argyll College is looking to recruit tutors to deliver HNC units. Tutors will be expected to follow standard administration procedures and payment will be at Argyll College Higher Education rates.

Initial applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by  
**Friday April 28<sup>th</sup> 2006** to:  
Rena MacDonald, Argyll College,  
Dunstaffnage Learning Centre,  
Dunbeg, Oban, Argyll PA37 1PZ  
E mail: [rena.macdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk](mailto:rena.macdonald@argyllcollege.ac.uk)  
Fax: 01631 559501

Interviews will be held at Campbeltown Learning Centre  
**week commencing May 8<sup>th</sup> 2006**

**AN EXCITING AND CHALLENGING CAREER IN SALES AS A HEARING AID AUDIOLOGIST**

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE COUNTRYWIDE**

**Hidden Hearing is one of Europe's largest independent retailers for hearing aids. First year earnings potential £25,000+**

Hidden Hearing is one of the countries leading independent Hearing Aid retailers in the Private Sector.  
We are looking for dedicated, ambitious and self-motivated individuals who can achieve a recognised qualification and have a successful career as a Registered Hearing Aid Dispenser. Our next training course runs between 10th July and 24th November, residential Monday - Friday.  
You will need to have 2 A-levels or equivalent and ideally experience in a sales or commercial customer facing role. Experience of working with the elderly or in a regulated environment may be useful, but not essential. You will need to hold a full driving licence, and above all, have an aptitude for study and learning.  
In return, we fully fund your training to become qualified and pay basic salary. Once qualified, you will receive an additional commission package, a company funded car, structured ongoing personal development and opportunities for unlimited earning potential.  
**For further information and details of our application process, please log on to: [www.my-development.co.uk](http://www.my-development.co.uk) and follow the link to Career Opportunities.**  
Closing date 21st April 2006

**ISLAY ENERGY TRUST**

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**1 YEAR FIXED TERM CONTRACT**  
(continuation subject to further funding)  
37.5 hrs p.w. £21,732  
position base - Islay or Jura or Colonsay

Islay Energy Trust is seeking a dynamic individual to work closely with Islay, Jura and Colonsay to identify and develop renewable energy projects that are beneficial to the three islands, and to promote understanding of energy efficiencies and the role of renewables within communities. The funding package is part of a trans-national European project calling for joint work with Ireland and Denmark. The successful applicant is expected to have skills or relevant experience in renewable energy systems and project development, and a good understanding of community development processes in rural island communities. Application pack available from Islay Energy Trust Secretary - telephone 01496 810 743 or e-mail [anne.clark2@virgin.net](mailto:anne.clark2@virgin.net) Applicants to send application form and CV by Thursday April 27th. Interviews are expected to take place on Islay on 9th May  
This project is supported by LEADER + and SCHRI Funds through Alienergy and Highlands and Island Community Energy Company

**Are you interested in becoming a Volunteer Advice Worker?**

Do you have spare time and want a new challenge?

Argyll & Bute CAB is currently recruiting Volunteers to work from our office in Lochgilhead. Please call for an info pack on: **08456 123808**  
Full training will be provided.

**REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM**

**The Oban Times**  
Tel: 01631 568000

**TSI**

Craignure, Isle of Mull, PA65 6AY  
Tel: 01680 812475  
Fax: 01680 812393  
Email: [info@tsicontractors.co.uk](mailto:info@tsicontractors.co.uk)

The following job vacancies have arisen due to awards of several contracts in Mull and on the Mainland:

• **Bricklayers** • **Labourers**

Please telephone, fax or email to apply

**NHBC**  
Registered house builder

**Full and part time P.C.V. drivers wanted**

Dunoon area  
Must have full licence and minimum 2 years coach experience  
**Telephone: 01369 703500**

**Part Time Book Keeper/Cashier**

Required  
Hours flexible by arrangement. Would suit semi-retired person with banking or accountancy experience  
**Tel 01631 562425 (Oban)**

**Full Time Dental Nurse / Trainee**

*required for busy dental practice*  
Computer skills an advantage  
**Telephone Argyll Square Dental Practice on 01631 562791 for details.**

**Permanent - Full Time**

This excellent administrative role will see you producing and collating all necessary paperwork for busy fresh food packing and despatching department. You will work as part of a small customer focused team to ensure that orders are processed correctly and parcels are sent on time. You will need to be enthusiastic, well versed in all standard PC applications, show an organised and systematic approach to your work and possess a willingness to learn and develop your skills.  
Please apply in writing with a current CV to Ms E MacKay, Inverawe Smokehouses, Taynult, PA35 1HU.

**DESPATCH ADMINISTRATOR**

**CHEF'S REQUIRED**

All levels  
Good rate of pay  
Tel. 01866 822437

**GL HOTELS LIMITED**

**Parts & Service Advisor**

Required for busy vehicle repair workshop. This is a full time permanent position. Previous experience working with the public is an advantage and experience in the motor trade is essential as is an enthusiastic manner and proven ability of using your initiative. In addition you should be punctual, presentable, have a working knowledge of computers and a clean driving licence.  
Apply in writing to - Mr C MacKinnon, Heathercroft Motor Engineers, Unit 5, Ben Nevis Estate, Fort William, PH33 6PR

**Single handed working Farm Manager**

*Required for extensive Highland Perthshire farm, to manage the Benmore Highland fold and develop the hill sheep flock.*  
The successful applicant must have initiative, be able to work on their own, have a proven track record to date, and be able to turn their hand to all aspects of hill farming.  
Good employment package including 3 bedroom bungalow and vehicle.  
Apply with full C.V. to Mrs J Bowser, Auchlyne, Killin, Perthshire

**Argyll & the Islands ENTERPRISE**

*careers scotland*

Highlands & Islands Enterprise (HIE) is the Government's development agency for an area which covers more than half of Scotland. In addition to Careers Scotland and a network of 10 Local Enterprise Companies (LECs), HIE has wide-ranging responsibilities in the economic, skills, environment and social development fields.  
Careers Scotland provides a range of services to help people of all ages plan and develop their career. Our Argyll & the Islands team are seeking the following, to help carry forward our high quality client services.

**CAREERS SCOTLAND SENIOR ADVISER\* (KEYWORKING)**

**Fixed Term Contract** Ref: 2006-31  
**Part-time (21 hours per week)**  
**Lochgilhead**  
**Starting salary: £12,666**

You will work intensively with young people who are experiencing particular difficulties in progressing into post school education, employment or training. This will require working with the networks involved with the person in order to remove barriers to progress. The aim is to enable people to take control of their own career development and to become career-resilient.  
Applicants should be educated to degree level or equivalent. A professional or postgraduate qualification in a relevant discipline - eg Social Work, Youth and Community Work, Career Guidance would be preferable for this post. You should have at least 2 years' experience of working with the public. Excellent interpersonal skills, IT competence and organisational ability are essential.

**CAREERS SCOTLAND ADVISER\* (STRAND 1)**

**Campbeltown** Ref: 2006-29  
**Starting salary: £17,050**

You will develop ways to promote the benefits of career planning to people of all ages and work with a range of organisations to develop their capacity to provide services that support career planning. You will use a range of creative means to motivate people of all ages to participate in career planning and development activity in order to develop individual career resilience.  
Applicants should be educated to SVQ3 level or above and have at least 2 years' experience of working with the public. Excellent interpersonal skills, IT competence and organisational ability are essential.

**CAREERS SCOTLAND ADVISER\***

**Dunoon** Ref: 2006-30  
**Starting Salary: £17,050**

You will work with people of all ages to assist them to review their career planning and development, check their progress and identify and implement suitable development action to maintain their career resilience.  
Applicants should be educated to SVQ3 level or above and have at least 2 years' experience of working with the public. Excellent interpersonal skills, IT competence and organisational ability are essential.  
\* Appointment is dependent upon a satisfactory Criminal Record check through Disclosure Scotland.  
An excellent final salary superannuation scheme is in operation.  
For further information and an application pack, quoting appropriate reference number, contact: Audrey Cameron, Highlands & Islands Enterprise, Cowan House, Inverness Retail and Business Park, Inverness IV2 7GE. Tel No: 01463 244289 Fax No: 01463 244455 e-mail: [recruitment@hient.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@hient.co.uk)  
Closing date for completed applications: Friday 21st April 2006.

# Drive Times



## Cars and Commercial Vehicles

**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

**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.

**£10,400 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
01369 840183 or 07979 684167  
No Canvassers

**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, Ardrossan  
01294 607777  
Courtesy pick up from pier

**LAND ROVER DISCOVERY TD5**



2002, black 7seats 18"alloys 33200mils, 6cd changer tow bar 3 months tax&mot air/con exc/cond

**£13950 ono**

tel 01680 812318  
mob 07789952003

**RENAULT TRAFFIC CAMPER VAN**



1991, Reluctant sale due to relocation. Well cared for 1991 Renault Traffic Camper Van, 1700cc Petrol 52,500m. Taxed 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**

Telephone  
Appin (01631) 730253

**MITSUBISHI FTO 2.0L V6 GR COUPE**



outstanding looking sports coupe in black, 2 door, auto/tripronic 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

**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

Telephone  
07780 676782  
01631 570902

**VOLKSWAGEN CADDY 1.9 TDI**



2004 red, 17,500 miles excellent condition superb driver with diesel economy

**£5495 + vat**

Marina Trade Centre, Ardrossan  
01294 607777  
Courtesy pick up from pier

**HONDA CBR 600 F-W**



S Reg (98), excellent condition

**£2300 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
01546 603306  
07760 384939

**WANTED CARAVANS AND CAMPER VANS**

1998 on - any make any size also damp or damaged considered

Telephone  
07734 602449

**PEUGEOT 106 XSI**



1.6 8 Valve R Registration Very quick sporty car With cheap insurance, Alloys, Kenwood CD player Long Tax & MOT

Telephone  
01770 600488  
Or  
07917117338

**VW GOLF MATCH**



N Reg, 1.4 litre, 5 door, Mot and Tax, 100,000 miles

**£1000 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
01397 772771  
07786 160153

**LANDROVER DEFENDER STATIONWAGON 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

**SUNSTAR 4 BERTH CARAVAN**



16ft, reasonable condition, fridge, cooker, toilet / shower etc

Telephone  
01546 603327

**£500 o.n.o.**

**SUZUKI RV125 VAN VAN**



54 reg 3,000 miles One owner, great learner bike Suitable for rough tracks

Telephone  
07799271731

**£1,600**

**VAUXHALL CALIBRA 16V**



L Reg, 2L, Yellow, Full Year's MOT 4 1/2 months Tax New brake pads and discs, Full leather & Electric, Rear Spoiler with L.E.D.

Telephone  
01586 553758 or 07717896961

**TOYOTA 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. Gets 45mpg. 52k miles.

**£6600 o.n.o.**

Telephone  
01546 602117 or 07939 590875  
Lochgilphead

**TRIUMPH SPEED 4 600CC**



2003, 7,500miles, Roulette Green, Includes cowlings, data tag, Scott oiler and street bars, VGC. Swap / part X For an off road bike considered.

Telephone  
07901 843829

**£2300 o.n.o.**

**VAUXHALL FRONTERA SPORT**



R Reg 1998 46,000 Mot'd, Jan 07 P.A.S. Remote Alarm Central Locking, Sunroof, Electric windows

Telephone  
07833555987

**£3,200ono**

**ELDDIS HURRICANE GT**



1994, 2 berth blown air heating rear wash room with shower and cassette toilet, full size awning

Telephone  
01546 606610 / 07880 585251

**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

**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, Ardrossan  
01294 607777  
Courtesy pick up from pier

**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

**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, Ardrossan  
01294 607777  
Courtesy pick up from pier

**VAUXHALL VECTRA ESTATE 1.8 CLUB**



99 Y 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**

**FORD TRANSIT 190 2.5 DIESEL**



1998, S reg, ex BT fibre glass box van, 81,000 miles, V.G.C

Telephone  
01880 820273

**£2000 o.n.o.**

**PEUGEOT 405 TD**



M Reg, Tax and MOT, October 06, towbar

Telephone  
01586 553180

**£950 o.n.o.**

**SELLING YOUR OLD VEHICLE?**

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**www.obantimes.co.uk**

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000



# Drive Times

## Cars and Commercial Vehicles

**DARK RED PEUGEOT 206 GLX 1.9 DIESEL**



5 door, T Reg, 91,000 miles, CD Player, Power Steering, Remote Central Locking, 3 months MOT, 4 months Road Tax  
Telephone 01586 554754 or 07917095734

**£2,200 ono**

**BMW 525I TOURING**



1992, Full electrics, SH, New Mot, shocks, bushes, cd and four tyres, £600 spent.  
Telephone 01852500265 or 07881691613

**£1750**

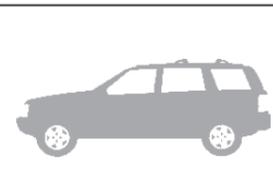
**PEUGEOT 306 TD ESTATE**



1998, Towbar MOT September 06, TAX 31 August 06  
Telephone 01852 316117

**£550 ono**

**G REG LANDROVER DEFENDER 110 TRUCKCAB PICKUP**



**£950**  
Telephone 01631 760337

**FORD MAVERICK 2.7 TD 4X4**



1996 Seven seater one years mot full service history, 90,000 miles very good condition any inspection welcome Alloys electric windows PAS  
**£2750**  
Telephone 01586 552283 or 07789034353

**NISSAN MICRA 1.2 03**



Low Mileage 17,300 one owner  
Telephone 01631 564150 (after 6 p.m.)

**£4,250 ono**

**MITSUBISHI L200 4LIFE PICKUP**

Black over Silver, 03 plated, Mot'd until March 07, 55,000 miles, excellent condition.  
**£8750 + vat**  
Telephone day 01631 564022 01852 500 273 evenings

**VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 8 VALVE "CLUB" ESTATE**



99T registered with long MOT with less than average miles for the year. Only group 4 insurance! Metallic Blue with Air Con  
**£3,200**  
Phone John Heenan on (01631) 720767 or mobile 07802 985695

**VW GOLF**



M reg, 1.4 litre, 3 door hatchback, twilight blue, 81000miles, Mot'd until May 06, tax until July 06.  
**£500 ono**  
Telephone 01852 200294

**PEUGEOT 206 GTI**



42,000 miles, Sept 01, Moonstone Blue, Taxed until July, Mot'd until October, Climate control, S.P Pack, Excellent Condition  
**£4995 ono**  
Telephone 07876544158

**RENAULT LAGUNA ALIZA**



2000, x reg, 1800cc, petrol, tow bar, lights, MOT Oct, 06, sunroof, electric windows, CD player, many new parts, needs new water pump, can be viewed in Fort William.  
Telephone 07774 156356

**£950**

**BMW 320 I SE**



Grey Y Reg. (2001) FSH, multi function steering wheel, full electric pack, low mileage, 6 autochanger CD  
**£12,000**  
Telephone 01631 564852 or 07769905551

**WANTED**

4 wheel drive vehicle any age or condition, running or not. High mileage no problem immediate cash payment  
Telephone 07703490572

**CITROEN ZX ESTATE TURBO DIESEL**



P Reg, 104,000 miles, 4 month tax and mot.  
Telephone 01631 770209

**£500 ono**

**VULCAN CRUISER**



125cc: Learner Legal, June 2005 model, 1500 miles, 90+ m.p.g., Good Condition.  
Telephone 01631 564527 ask for Jane

**£1650**

**FORD KA 1.3**



R REG, Low Mileage, excellent condition, well maintained, mot and tax.  
**£1500 ono**  
Telephone 07974053835 (Oban)

**BMW 530**



L reg, Mot'd August 06, no tax, replacement engine fitted, Good condition  
Telephone 01546 606102 / 07909541500

**£800 ono**

**2004 HONDA XL125 VARADERO**



V Twin, Blue and Silver. 8000 good weather miles, full service history, still under warranty, smart water, new back tyre, tail bag worth £60. A stunning looking machine.  
**All reasonable offers considered**  
Telephone 01852 200 268 or 07765892558

**YAMAHA XT6602 'TENERE'**



13500 miles, excellent condition, taxed and mot'd  
**£2200 ono**  
Telephone 01631 720508 or 07919485167

**1987 SWIFT CHALLENGER**



4 berth/twin axel, good condition. View Southend  
Telephone 07710444220 or 07714200945

**£1750 ono**

**FORD FIESTA 1.6 SI 16V**



5 door hatchback, black metallic, very low genuine mileage, (36500 miles) Mot'd and taxed July 06. F.S.H. Sunroof, electric windows, sports seats, power steering, central locking, recent tyres, RDS radio cassette. Excellent condition  
**£1150 ono**  
Telephone 01631 565841 07801352184

**ECCLES JEWEL**



14' caravan fully re-furnished good condition  
Telephone 01546 606102 / 07909541500

**AUDI A4 2.4 SE**



V Twin, Blue and Silver. 8000 good weather miles, full service history, still under warranty, smart water, new back tyre, tail bag worth £60. A stunning looking machine.  
**All reasonable offers considered**  
Telephone 01852 200 268 or 07765892558

**HONDA LEAD 100CC MOPED**



04 plate, low mileage, excellent condition  
Telephone 07899 938147

**£1000 o.n.o.**

**SUBARU IMPREZA**



M Reg, 92,000 miles, dark green, hatchback, Mot until Oct, taxed end April 06, towbar, FSH, one owner from new  
**£1100 ono**  
Telephone 01360 850233

**VAUXHALL TIGRA**



Metalllic Navy blue, 1996 N Plate, low mileage for year (66k), cd player, e/w, e/s, alloys, central locking with alarm and front fog lights, in good condition for year, nice little car in excellent condition, taxed and mot'd.  
**£2200 ono**  
Telephone 07845660779

**PROTON PERSONA XLI 1.6**



5 door hatchback Red, 61,000 miles Service history very economical electric windows PAS, taxed & mot'd very reliable nice condition  
Telephone 01546 870336

**£950ono**

**1998 MK.1 RENAULT CLIO**



1.4 Sport Maxim. Burgundy, 3 door, 35k. 2 lady owners. Full Service History, 6 disc CD multi changer, new exhaust, insurance group 5. Taxed and MOT until August. Excellent first car.  
Telephone 01583 431291

**£1900 o.n.o**

**HONDA S2 X 50CC MOPED**



03 Plate  
Telephone 07979 791061

**£800 o.n.o.**

**FOR SALE, KAWASAKI ZX7R**



P Reg, Black, Double Bubble, Scorpion Race Can, Data - Tagged, MOT til August 06. 35,000 miles  
Telephone 01855 841216/ 07799263072

**£1800 ONO**

**CARS SELL QUICKER AND FOR A BETTER PRICE WHEN ACCOMPANIED BY A PHOTOGRAPH. OUR STAFF ARE HAPPY TO TAKE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS FOR FREE. JUST DRIVE TO ANY OF OUR OFFICES WHERE A PHOTOGRAPH CAN BE TAKEN**

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**

**Tel: 01631 568000**



**FORD TRANSIT MINI BUS**



15 seats, Diesel, 6 Months Tax, 3 months MOT. Would convert to camper.  
**£900+vat ono**  
Telephone 01546 810253 (office hours)

**50,000 POTENTIAL BUYERS**

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000



PRIVATE CLASSIFIED

Telephone 01631 568000 to place your advert + SECOND WEEK FREE Telephone 01631 568000 to place your advert + SECOND WEEK FREE

CALL 01631568000 FOR YOUR PAID FOR ADVERT TO RUN FOR A SECOND WEEK

BABY EQUIPMENT

WOODEN COT, makes child's first bed when sides removed, £40. Telephone 01880 820833. TANDEM PRAM - suitable for baby and toddler with cosy toes and raincover. Hardly used £49.99. Telephone 01546 602842.

BATHROOM

ROLL TOP cast iron bath, plain feet, £49. Telephone 01631 730398.

BICYCLES

BOYS AND GIRLS bikes both in excellent condition, age 3 to 7, £20 each. Telephone 01631 565143. BOYS BIKE 16", suit 5 to 8 year old, excellent condition, £40. Telephone 01631 565431. BOYS BIKE suit 12 to 16 year old, £20. Telephone 01631 563935. SCHWINN GENTS touring bike, large frame, rack, mudguards, 10 gears, good condition, £30. Telephone 01631 564527.

CAMPING AND CARAVANING

FOLD-AWAY sink and taps unit, suit boat or motor home, £30 ono. Telephone 07719 831369. GELERT TUNNEL Tent, sleeps 4, large lounge/kitchen area. Never used as new, £170 for details Telephone 01852 200332.

CAR ACCESSORIES

BLAUPUNKT CAR CD and Radio Cassette and 10 CD auto changer, £100. Telephone 01631 564598. IFOR WILLIAMS canopy to fit Landrover Defender 90, £20. Telephone 01631 770209.

CAR PARTS

VAUXHALL ASTRA van, mot failure for spares, good engine, gearbox, etc. Offers. Telephone 01631 740228.2

CURTAINS

HEAVY COTTON Terracotta mustard beige stripe fit 8' x 6' 6" drop, perfect. Telephone 01631 563317 after 6pm.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BOSCH SLIMLINE dishwasher, £30, good condition, buyer collects. Telephone 01631 710388. ELNA IRONING Press £49. Telephone 01546 603300. LEC 3 DRAWER freezer, excellent condition, £49.99. Telephone 01583 431377. UNDER COUNTER fridge, £20, good condition, buyer collects. Telephone 01631 710388.

DOMESTIC PETS

KERRERA COLLIE cross puppies available end of April. Telephone Jo or Andy to arrange a visit. 01631 570223.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

EXERCISE BICYCLE, £20, good condition. Telephone 01631 565142.

FURNITURE

BED, Z TYPE, in good condition, £35. Telephone 01631 565143. BEDSIDE CABINET, three drawer, pine effect, £10. Telephone 01631 730583 (evenings). FOLD UP bed £30. Buyer uplifts. Telephone 01546 603446. JAYBE STUDIO bunk bed alloy frame with under bed desk, pull out futon chairbed, vgc. £120 ono. Telephone 01631 565135. 2 SEATER SETTEE, £26. Telephone 01631 563935. 2 SEATER SOFA, green, £35. Telephone 01866 822058 or 07875 331949. SINGLE DIVAN bed, free. Telephone 01631 730583 (evenings). SOLID PINE chest of drawers and two bedside drawers, £49.99. Telephone 01866 822475. SOLID PINE double wardrobe plus drawer, £49.99, matching drawers and bedside drawers also

available. Telephone 01866 822475. STAG WARDROBE and matching bedside table, £49.95. Telephone 01631 562935. 3 PIECE SUITE, fawn/brown material, £49 for quick sale. Telephone 01586 810304. TWO SETTEES, 1 three seater and 1 two seater, beige, 2 years old, as new, £550 ono. Telephone 01586 554629. WARDROBE/DRESSER with drawers and mirror, £25. Telephone 01866 822058 or 07875 331949. WHITE 4 DRAWER tallboy, self assembled (Argos), still boxed, buyer uplifts, £40. Telephone 01631 562229.

GARDEN EQUIPMENT

HONDA HRB.475 MOWER (with clutch), good working order, professionally maintained, £300 ono. Telephone 01631 565957.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01463 235696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HEATING

VALOR CALOR gas heater, including gas cylinder, as new, £45. Telephone 01586 552955. DIMPLEX ELECTRIC storage heater, 31" long, good working order, £20. Telephone 01586 551526.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

SONY SURROUND system plays dvd's and cd's, very good quality. £80 ono. Telephone 01681 700692. 2

LIVESTOCK

PONY, 9 YEAR old, chestnut, registered Welsh section B, 13HH, good at everything, no vices, lives in or out. Including good

quality rugs and English leather tack. £1500 onvo. For more information Telephone Karen on 01852 300020.

MISCELLANEOUS

LARGE QUANTITY of white Quartz stones suitable for gardens or pathways etc. £100. Telephone 01866 822286.2 LARGE STORAGE cardboard boxes, ideal storage, stackable, Free, can deliver. Telephone 01880 820635. VICTORIAN (1898) WINDOW shutters, 2, 2.60 x 56cm and 1, 2.60 x48cm, £10 each. Telephone 01631 565878.

MODELS

RAPTOR 30 HELICOPTER £200 with radio or £100 no without. Telephone 01681 700692. RCV 60 engine £40 ono. Telephone 01681 700692.2

MOTOR CYCLE ACCESSORIES

FULL FACE helmet, Nolan X-lite, black, size medium, one lady owner, £40. Telephone 07966 143997.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

DRUM KIT mapex m series, 5 piece, green, including hardware, hardly used, excellent condition. £475 ono. Telephone 01546 603248.2

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

OFFICE CHAIR chrome and leather, castors, reclines, height adjustable, excellent condition, £90 new, bargain at £45. Telephone 01631 565957.

PRAWN CREELS

PRAWN CREELS second hand, £8.00. Telephone 07717 336315.

PRINTERS AND STATIONERY

BUSINESS CARDS, Compliment Slips & Headed Paper - Every business should have them, be professional and impress your customers. Contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

RAFFLE TICKETS - Organising a prize draw? We can supply numbered and perforated tickets to your requirements. Contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

CHILDRENS SKIS 100 and 120cm, Dynastar, £20 each. Telephone 01631 562711 (evenings). GOLF CLUBS and bag - full set. Ideal for beginner, £48 ono. Telephone 01546 602087. NEW NIKE black golf shoes, size 10. Cost £49.99 accept £29.99 ono. Telephone 01546 602087. SKI BOOTS, sizes 3, 4 and 5, £15 and £20. Telephone 01631 562711 (evenings).

TOYS

LARGE ROCKING horse, 48" high, 48" head to tail, 34" to saddle, Black & White, £40. Telephone 01586 551309 after 6pm. TOMY RAILWAY track, good condition, £5. Telephone 01631 565142.

WANTED

GOOD QUALITY winkle wanted. Telephone Bute Shellfish 01700 503419. WANTED SET of light weight vehicle ramps. Telephone 01546 606694.

WORKSHOP EQUIPMENT

DIESEL WELDER and other items. For details Telephone 01397 772729.

Advertisement for 'It Pays to Advertise in The Oban Times' with contact details and a small image of a newspaper.

PERSONALS

Happy 50th Lesley Ross from all the family

I would like to thank all my family for the great surprise party which they arranged for my 60th birthday. The night was enhanced by the music of Fergie MacDonald's Band. Thanks to all for coming and especially those who helped in any way to the success of the evening. Iain Dougall

PERSONALS PERSONALS

GOOD LUCK TO JO AND BECKY On your new venture in Tiree. Chocolates and Charms opening April 8th. Love from Mum, Dad and Mum and Family.

ANDY & DAVE Happy 40th Love as Always Mum and Dad xx

SELL YOUR ITEMS WORTH £50 OR MORE FOR AS LITTLE AS £11.28 You could have just what our 40,000 readers are looking for!

Form for advertising items with instructions and a table for listing items.

Photographic Orders advertisement with a coupon for ordering photos published in the newspaper.

TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH! UNDER £50 FREE! Advertisement with a coupon for selling unwanted items.

If you don't sell in the first week, we will insert your advert FREE in the next available issue

TRADE CLASSIFIED

Telephone John on 01631 568000 to discuss your advert - THE place to be seen + Telephone John on 01631 568000 to discuss your advert - THE place to be seen

CARAVANS

CARAVANS FOR SALE 20 second-hand caravans for off-site sale, two and three bedrooms (10' and 12' wide), from £1,000. Largest selection in Argyll. Ideal for holiday lets, B&B, seasonal workers accommodation, etc. Transport available. Contact Keith Campbell, Drimsynie Estates, telephone 01301 703457 (office hours) or 07768 647180 (mobile).

CLEANING

1ST CHOICE CLEANING SPECIALISTS Carpets and upholstery cleaning at its best! All work guaranteed Telephone: 07815 036684 or 01631 720322 01631 720297 Evenings

COUNSELLING & ADVICE

Argyll and Bute WOMEN'S AID Offers information and support and refuge (if needed) to women and children (if any) who have been or are being abused by their partner/ex partner Telephone: 08702 413548 This is a confidential service

COUNSELLING & ADVICE

OBAN FAMILY PLANNING AND WELL WOMAN CLINIC Lorn & Islands District General Hospital For appointments, telephone Oban (01631 567618)

FURNITURE

ALBA PINE quality furniture. Telephone 01852 316257 or visit showroom at Keltia, Main Street, Connell. Website: www.albapine.co.uk.

MOBILE PHONES

FREE MOBILE PHONES, free connection. For best deals telephone your local dealer Q5 on 01866 833374

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM advertisement with a clock image.

PLUMBERS

We install and maintain plumbing systems We install and maintain all types of central heating We maintain all types of boilers We install underfloor heating systems J M Gillies Ltd Plumbing & Heating Contractors Unit 6 Tweedmill Soroba Road Oban Argyll Tel: 01631 565638 Fax 01631 564724 Email information @jmgillies.co.uk

Will Currie Gas, Oil & Plumbing Services "Reliable expert service." Service & repair to all types of boilers and heating appliances. Natural gas, LPG & Oil systems. Repairs to all types of plumbing and heating systems. Installation of heating and plumbing systems and system upgrades. Tel: 01631 720188 CORGI Registered installer

PLUMBING AND TILING SERVICES

A WILKIE Plumbing and Tiling Services All types of plumbing and heating work Bathroom and kitchen installations Wall and floor tiling Free estimates Oban and surrounding area Tel: 01866 833319 Mob: 07834 997585

REMOVALS & STORAGE

MACQUEEN BROS Removals and Storage Full Packing Service Available Glengallan Road Oban, Argyll PA34 4HG Tel: (01631) 564848 Fax: (01631) 570627 e-mail: info@macqueenbros.com

SCRAP CARS

OLD CARS MOT FAILURES REMOVED AND LEGALLY DESTROYED £100 Telephone 01852 500 610 or 07979 56989

TREES AND HEDGES

GROW BAGS 99p (3 plant) each 60 litre Organic Garden Compost 4 for £10 TREESHOP Cairndow, Argyll (Next to Loch Fyne Oysters) 01499 600263 www.scottishtrees.co.uk

UPHOLSTERERS

Glencoe Design Upholstery Domestic and contract work, boats, caravans etc. Antique restoration and cane work. Telephone: (01631) 740281 Email: sales@glencoe-design.co.uk www.glencoe-design.co.uk

Graphic Design advertisement with 'REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM' and contact details.

WINDOWS & DOORS

Everest FIT THE BEST Up to 30% OFF WINDOWS & DOORS CONSERVATORIES GARAGE DOORS ROOFLINE PRODUCTS FLAT ROOFS Call Ronald Gordon (01631) 720074 07776402550

A TOUCH OF SCOTLAND EVERY WEEK!

The Oban Times SUBSCRIPTION RATES (one year) U.K. £48.00 EEC £57.00 WORLDWIDE via Surface Mail £85.00 or Airmail £131.50 The Oban Times Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB Scotland, UK www.obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES

Private Classifieds Lineage Rates Minimum charge £9.30 + VAT (up to 16 words) thereafter £1.85 per line Box Number Fee £4.15 (+VAT) Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments Minimum charge £8.75 (+VAT) thereafter £1.50 per line (+VAT) In Memoriam: Minimum charge £5.75 (+VAT) thereafter £1.30 per line (+VAT) Trade Classifieds: See Trade Classifieds Page for Rates Trade Display: £7.75 per single column centimetre Recruitment: £13.95 per single column centimetre Public Notices: £8.75 per single column centimetre Properties: £8.50 per single column centimetre Private Accommodation to Let/Wanted: £8.50 per single column centimetre (all rates exclusive of VAT) Personals: £5.00 per single column centimetre Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices) Please make cheques and postal orders payable to The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.co.uk or telephone your advertisement to Oban (01631) 568000 Lochgilphead (01546) 602345 Campbeltown (01586) 554646 Fort William (01397) 703003 Please note copy deadline: Monday 4.30 pm, in Oban HELPS TO HELP YOU... PRE-PAY SMALL ADVERTS!

CONDITIONS OF ACCEPTANCE FOR ADVERTISEMENTS

YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by The Oban Times Limited. Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, The Oban Times Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications. 1. Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes. 2. The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement. 3. The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice. 4. An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertiser's order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person. 5. Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement. 6. The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose. 7. The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement. 8. Errors must be notified to the Publisher in writing within fourteen days of publication. In no circumstances shall the total liability of the Publisher for any error, misprint or omission exceed the amount of a full refund of any price paid to the Publisher for the particular advertisement in connection with which liability arose or the cost of a further or corrective advertisement of a type and standard reasonably comparable to that in connection with which liability arose. 9. The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order. 10. Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance. 11. Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice. 12. A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions. Published by The Oban Times Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, PA34 5HB, (01631) 568000 Fax (01631) 568001 - www.obantimes.co.uk and registered as a newspaper at the Post Office

# BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

**THE OBAN TIMES**  
&  
**West Highland Times**

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsgents every week

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(01546) 602345  
Fax (01546) 602661

**Campbeltown**  
(01586) 554646  
Fax (01586) 553006

**LAWRIE** - Suddenly, but peacefully, on March 31, 2006, at the Lorne and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, Morag (née MacCorquodale), in her 85th year, beloved wife of Donald Lawrie, Glen View, Appin, much loved mother of Jessie and mother-in-law to Keith, dearly loved nana of Janine, Keith, Glen and Adrian and dear sister of Jimmy.

**MACKENZIE**, Angus - Peacefully, at Windy Hall Nursing Home, Ayr, on March 22, 2006, Angus, beloved husband of the late Margaret, dear father of Morven, Roddy and Crawford, much loved grampa to Iona, Gregor, Olivia, Pagan and Glasgow.

**MACKENZIE** - In Vancouver B.C. on March 30, 2006, Murdo, beloved husband of Vonda, dear dad of Carol and Morna and son of the late Alex and Mary MacKenzie of 29 High Street, Oban.

**MACKILLOP** - Peacefully on April 2, 2006 at Stirling Royal Infirmary, John Murray MacKillop, in his 74th year, dearest husband of Elaine, and loving father of Elaine and Andrew, loving grandpa of Robbie and Lewis adored brother and brother-in-law of Margaret and Neil and beloved son of the late John and Margaret MacKillop. Funeral service will take place at Falkirk Crematorium, on Saturday, April 8 at 10.30am, family flowers only. Donations if desired to Leukaemia Research Scotland.

**McDOUGALL** - After a long illness stoically borne, at the Lorne and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on April 3, 2006, aged 63, Bobby, dearly loved husband of Dilyc, father of Rory and Ewan and grandfather of Fiv - Marie and Tina. Funeral will take place at Kilchrean Church, Kilchrean on Friday, April 7 at 1pm. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Lorne and Islands District General Hospital.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

**CRAIGIE** - The family of the late Barbara Craigie wish to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers at this sad time. Grateful and sincere thanks to the Dunaros Care staff whose excellent care and devotion over the years was so appreciated. Sincere thanks to the Rev. Bob Nelson for conducting the service and to Nick Reed the organist. Special thanks to Billy McClymont for the funeral arrangements and John Archbold for his help, many thanks also to the Mishnish Hall for refreshments after the service, and to everyone for their generous donations to the Dunaros Comfort Fund, which amounted to £262.

**HERON** - Archie and all the family of the late Bella Heron, would like to thank all her friends and neighbours for their unfailing support and many kindnesses to Bella over the years. Special thanks to the Rev Nelson for his support and a very moving service, to D and A Munn for services, all delivered with great compassion and sensitivity. To the church organist, to Susan and her staff at The MacDonald Arms Hotel for catering and hospitality. Thank you all for attendance at the church and graveside and for all the lovely flowers and for the many cards, letters and phone calls which have been a great comfort to us all. Thanks to Pete and Christine of the Mull Ambulance Service, nursing staff at Dunaros, the crew of the Oban Lifeboat, Dr Campbell and staff at Ward B at the Lorne and Islands District General Hospital and the staff at the Tobermory Surgery who helped Bella over the years. God bless you all, 3 Morven View, Salen.

**LAWRIE** - Gregor and Ewan would like to thank everyone for cards, flowers and support following the death of Margaret Lawrie. Many thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside. More than £270 was collected for Highland Hospice.

**MACKELVIE** - The family of the late Janet MacKelvie, wish to thank her many friends for their help and kindness and for the flowers at her funeral service in North Connel, on March 31. They would like particularly to thank Morag Telfer and her colleagues at North Argyll House, for their care and understanding, during Janet's years with them. Dr Henderson and the sisters and nurses on ward B, of Lorne and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, for their care in

her final days and Sandie Edgcomb for all her help to Janet over many years and to the family during recent years and at this sad time. Thank you to Ian MacInnes and his colleagues at D & A Munn Funeral Directors for all their help, to organist Norman Nicholson and to Mrs Webster and Miss Innes at the Falls of Lora Hotel, for the hospitality provided after the service. Finally and with great appreciation, our thanks to Rev. Liz Gibson, for the beautiful service she conducted for Janet at Archdattan Parish Church. Thank you all. Following a collection at the church a donation of £251, will be forwarded to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

**MACINNES** - The relatives of the late Iain MacInnes thank most sincerely all friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy shown to them following their sad loss. They extend their grateful thanks to all doctors and nurses who attended Iain in his declining years and also to the staff at the Dailmhor and Invernevis Homes for their friendship and loving care. Many thanks to Mr J Fraser and Rev J Carmichael for their comforting service, to Mike MacFall and his staff for their help, to Janice and Alan for their kindness and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside.

**THOMSON** - The family of the late Lachie Thomson would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Dr Hall, Dr Leask and the staff of the Acute Ward, Campbeltown Hospital for the kind care and attention they gave to Lachie. Many thanks to Mrs Agnes Stewart for a very moving and comforting service, thanks also to Alasdair and Kenneth Blair for their much appreciated guidance and professional services, Balinakil Hotel for catering and lastly, to everyone who paid their last respects at Clachan Church and graveside. The retiring collection for the Acute Ward, Campbeltown Hospital was £367.34.

**MACDONALD** - Allan and Emma (née Cruickshank) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Aidan Duncan, on March 30, 2006, a wee brother for Beth, special thanks to Oban Maternity Unit and the Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow.

## BIRTHS



**COOK** - William and Anita (née MacLean) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Isabella Ada (Ella) on March 8, 2006, at The Simpson Maternity Unit, Edinburgh, first grandchild for Ada and the late Minola MacLean and Isobel and John Cook.

**MACDONALD** - Allan and Emma (née Cruickshank) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Aidan Duncan, on March 30, 2006, a wee brother for Beth, special thanks to Oban Maternity Unit and the Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**LAURENSON - CAIRNS** - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement between Robbie, formerly of Kilmore and Sandra of Glasgow.

## MARRIAGES

**HAYES - McLELLAN** - at Leith Registry Office on March 31, 2006, Joe, middle son of David and Sal Hayes, Aviemore, to Ailsa, only daughter of James and Alexis McLellan, Lochgilphead.

**PHIMESTER - CAMPBELL** - On March 18, 2006 at Cawdor Parish Church by Rev Duncan MacPherson, William only son of John and Pat Phimester, Chivery, Buckinghamshire to Fiona only daughter of Iain and Nancy Campbell, Balloch, Inverness, formerly of Skye and Mull.

## GOLDEN WEDDING

**HENDERSON - THORBURN** - Their family announce with pleasure and gratitude the Golden Wedding anniversary of their dear parents Charles and Dorothy Henderson, for many years resident at the Manse and now of Springbank, Low Askmoil, Campbeltown. The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise. Psalm 96:4.

## DEATHS

**BISSET** - Peacefully, in the presence of her daughters Janet and Mary, at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on Sunday April 2, 2006, in her 85th year, Maggie Bisset, formerly Macintyre nee Stewart, beloved wife of Arthur (Jock), dear mother-in-law of Johnny and Billy and a devoted nana of Scott, Lorne and Stewart.

**CAMERON** - Peacefully at the Belford Hospital on Sunday, April 2, 2006, Margaret Ann beloved wife of the late 'Bobby Post' and dear mum to Duncan and Heather. Grandma to Alistair, Neil and Stewart. Sadly missed.

**DICKIE** - Peacefully, on March 30, 2006, at home, Musdale Farm, Kilmore, by Oban, in his 88th year, William (Billy) a much loved father and grandfather (papa). A gentleman to all who knew him. Interred at Pennyfuir Cemetery.

her final days and Sandie Edgcomb for all her help to Janet over many years and to the family during recent years and at this sad time. Thank you to Ian MacInnes and his colleagues at D & A Munn Funeral Directors for all their help, to organist Norman Nicholson and to Mrs Webster and Miss Innes at the Falls of Lora Hotel, for the hospitality provided after the service. Finally and with great appreciation, our thanks to Rev. Liz Gibson, for the beautiful service she conducted for Janet at Archdattan Parish Church. Thank you all. Following a collection at the church a donation of £251, will be forwarded to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

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**KENNEDY** - In loving memory of Flora, who died April 9, 2000. Dearly loved and sadly missed.

- By her sisters, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews and their families.

**LAURIE** - In loving memory of Bobby who passed away April 6, 2004. A loving husband, father and grandpa. Forever in our thoughts and so sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving wife Isobel and family, Lochaline and away.

**LAURIE** - In loving memory of my father, Bobby, father-in-law and grandpa, who passed away April 6, 2004.

David, Elizabeth, Cameron and Alasdair.

**LIVINGSTONE** - In loving memory of mum, Bessie, died April 5, 2005 also dad, Alec, died September 27, 1985.

A page in our book of memories is gently turned today.

- Alan, Caroline and families, Inverloch and Invergordon.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Remembering with love our mum, Bessie, died April 5, 2005 also our dad, Alec, died September 27, 1985. Sadly missed.

- Sandy and Gina.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Treasured memories of our parents and grand parents. Bessie, died April 5, 2005 and Alec, died September 27, 1985. For those we love, but see no longer, heavenly father grant them thy peace.

- Gillian, Mike, Emma and Eilidh.

**MACARTHUR** - With loving memories of our mum, Morag, who died on April 6, 1991.

- Lorna, Neil and Donald.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Alister, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha passed away April 13, 2003.

Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.

- Inserted by Alister and Angus, Cath and family.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Alister, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha passed away April 13, 2003.

Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay.

- Inserted by Lottie and family at home and away.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Archie, died April 11, 1998.

Always in our thoughts.

- Donald, Ina, Anne and Peter.

- May and family, Canada.

**MACLENNAN** - Loving memories of our brother Norman, died April 9, 2003.

Time passes, memories stay Loved and remembered everyday.

- Jessie, John and family.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents. John who died on April 3, 1984 and Cathie who died on April 11, 1989.

The years are passing by but we will never forget the happy years when we were all together.

- Inserted by their son Ewan, Daughter-in-law Rosemary, Grandsons, Ewen & Ross, Tigh-Na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

**McPHEE** - In loving memory of my darling husband, Willie, who died on April 8, 2005.

Willie, death can never part us You love is still my guide As I travel on life's journey You are always by my side.

- Your loving wife, Margaret.

**McPHEE** - In loving memory of my dear dad, who passed away on April 8, 2005.

One year has passed since that sad day When the angels came and took you away.

I miss you more than words can say. But I know your always with me

In your own little way. - Donna and Mike.

**McPHEE** - In loving memory of my dad, Wullie, who sadly passed away on April 8, 2005 age 67 years. Gone is the face I long to see

Gone is the voice I long to hear No words or tears could ever say how much I miss you everyday Whatever else I forget to do I'll never forget to remember you

**McPHEE** - In loving memory of my father, Donald McPhee, died April 12, 1979 and my mother, Margaret Campbell, died December 21, 1970.

In fond remembrance. - Katie and Ian, Flora St, Bowmore.

**MORRISON** - In everlasting memory of Christine Morrison, a loving partner and devoted mother who passed away on April 8, 2003.

Loved and remembered every day. - Love from John, John and Conor.

**MORRISON** - Remembering Christine who died so suddenly on April 8, 2003. Always in our thoughts.

- Duncan, Mary and family.

**MORRISON** - Precious memories of a loving daughter Christine, who died suddenly on April 8, 2003.

Our darling daughter up above Be at rest with gods love In our hearts she'll always stay

Loved and remembered every day. - Miss you always Dad and Mum xx

Precious memories of a dear sister and sister-in-law. Always smiling, happy and content

Loved was my sister wherever she went A beautiful life came to a sudden end

She died as she lived Everyone's friend. - Love you always Bessie xx

- Forever on my thoughts Ronnie xx

In loving memory of our dearest aunt Christine. Though her smile is gone forever

And her hand we cannot touch Still we have so many memories

Of a dearest aunt we loved so much. - Jamie Neil and Kerry xxx

Christine, when angels came and took you away You left a gap

A hole in many that day. Your memories are with us Through laughter and tears

There is always a special place in our hearts For you that's clear

For your life came to an end Too early, too soon We were all beside you That fateful day.

Your many roles in life can't be filled As a daughter, sister and mother you thrilled.

Thanks for the special times you gave us all Your up there with the best of them

Never to fall. Missing you always - Angus and Jackie xx

**PROSSER - MAXWELL** - In loving memory of my darling daughter, Yvonne Elizabeth, called to Jesus on April 6, 1989, aged 3 years.

A rosebud, petals tightly furled Was lifted from her mortal clay

And firmly planted in a world Where full blooms grow in rich array.

- Love always, Mum, Tommy, Michael and Leanne, xx

**PROSSER MAXWELL** - In loving memory of Yvonne.

It's many years since that sad day

When the angels came and took you away My heart was broken

It's never healed No one can ever take your place

I miss and love you. - Inserted by Dad.

**SKINNER** - In ever loving memory of my dear parents Alick and Chrissie, who died April 7, 1977 and April 3, 2004 also my uncles Dick, Colin and Donnie and their wives Ina, May and Peggie, and also my aunt Agnes.

- Inserted by Richard, Westgrove, Ochilview Gardens, Creiff.

**THOMSON** - In loving memory of Douglas, who passed away on April 5, 1994.

Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Grace and family.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of Archie Walker, a dear father and grandfather who passed away March 29, 1996. Always in our thoughts

- Allan and family - Islay.

**WALKER** - In loving memory of my dear father Archibald, who died March 29, 1996. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by his loving son Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

## Cruachan Consort Choir dates

THE CRUACHAN Consort Chamber Choir will be visiting Argyll this Easter and giving two performances.

They will be singing at St Conan's Kirk and Iona Abbey. The choir will be putting on two performances on Good Friday April 14 and will be conducted by Stephen Williams.

## ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**  
Sunday 9 April 2006  
Palm Sunday

St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0800  
Sung Eucharist ..... 1015

Loop System  
Large Print Hymn Books  
All welcome  
Norman MacCallum,  
Provost  
☎(01631) 562323

Holy Spirit, Ardhattan  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1215

All Saints, Inveraray  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1500

Christ Church, Lochgilphead  
Loop System  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0900  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1100

St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1100

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0800  
Evensong ..... 2000

Advance Notice  
Thursday 13 April 2006  
Maundy Thursday  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Sung Eucharist ..... 1930

Christ Church, Lochgilphead  
Holy Eucharist ..... 0900  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1900

St Columba, Gruline, Mull  
Holy Eucharist ..... 1900

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)**  
LOCHABER AND LORN  
MEETING FOR WORSHIP

held the Second Sunday of each month  
11 a.m. - 12 noon  
Port Appin Hall  
Visitors welcome  
For further information  
telephone 01631 730594  
or 01631 730429

**ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN**  
Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 9 April 2006  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Wednesday 12 April 2006  
7.30 p.m.  
Prayer and Bible Ministry

Rev. Archie McPhail  
MA, MTh  
☎(01631) 567076  
All welcome

**DESTINY CHURCH**  
OBAN  
Sunday 9 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

In memory of Dawn Joyce

**CHARITY DONATIONS**

**Macmillan cancer relief**  
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer

Macmillan Cancer Relief  
79-81 Lauderdale Gardens  
Hyndland, Glasgow, G12 5QU  
Freephone 0800 100 6000

# TIMES Sport

## Lochaber lose Caledonia league decider at Banavie

A CROWD of over a hundred supporters turned out at Banavie on Saturday to watch the Caledonia league deciding match between Lochaber and Panmure from Dundee.

BT National League Division 5 (Caledonia B) has been tight at the top this season with only seven points separating the first and third places.

A win for Panmure would see them secure the league title whilst Lochaber were gunning to spoil their party and finish in second place behind RAF Kinloss.

The Panmure forwards dominated the opening ten minutes of play, making ground with their driving mauls and forcing Lochaber back into their own twenty-two.

This resulted in a try for

### Rugby

flanker Gary Grant, which was converted by full-back George Stewart. Shortly afterwards Lochaber's number two lineup jumper was David MacFarlane went over his ankle in the mud and had to be replaced by Robin Morgan.

Lochaber's lineup was a scrappy affair but the home forwards had the edge in the loose play and won some good turn-overs.

Lochaber worked themselves into a several try scoring positions in the first half but were kept out by some desperate cover defence.

The half-time score remained 0-7 to Panmure.

In the second half the crowd were entertained by more end to end rugby.

A darting run by Tom Baxter saw him held-up just short of the try-line.

In the next phase of play a pass was dropped in mid-field, the Panmure fullback put a long speculative kick down the pitch, which his winger kicked ahead and looked like scoring under the posts but was out-paced by Lochaber's Ben MacGillivray.

Lochaber again fought their way back up the pitch and Robin Morgan crossed the line but was held-up by a wall of Panmure bodies.

At the other end of the pitch the Panmure forwards drove close to the line on several occasions but were repelled by some fierce Lochaber defence.

A mazy run by the Panmure stand-off Lee Hockley and several missed tackles by a tired Lochaber brought a score under the posts, which Stewart easily converted.

This took the wind out of Lochaber's sails and the Dundee men were happy to see out the final 10 minutes by playing safe around the half-way line.

Panmure were worthy 0-14 winners and Lochaber, gracious in defeat, helped them celebrate their title in style in the clubhouse afterwards.

Lochaber's last league match of the season is away to Carnoustie next Saturday (fancy dress obligatory).

The next match at home is a club friendly before the annual players dinner on Saturday, April 22 and the Lochaber Sevens tournament is the week after on Saturday, April 29.

Lochaber squad: A Sutherland, J Milne, I Smith, A Rivetts, D Macfarlane, S Whitaker, C Macpherson, I Macfarlane, R Wallace, K Turnbull, B MacGillivray, B Hess, T Baxter, N Alexander, R Morgan, D Smith, F Taylor.



Action from the Lochaber versus Panmure game at Banavie at the weekend.

## Opening of Brown Trout season on Loch Awe

THE OPENING day on Loch Awe was very cold with a gusting NE wind and a water temperature of 4°C.

The conditions were less than ideal for fly-fishing but a total of 11 hardy souls turned up at Ardbrecknish for the opening day ceremony and to compete for the Opening Day Quaich and the MacKellar Quaich.

The weather forecast had deterred many of the regulars but those who were there caught 14 brown trout, one rainbow trout and one pike all on fly and all returned.

The best basket of four brown trout, best 1¼ lb was caught by David McAllister of Greenock, who was awarded the Ardbrecknish Quaich, Robert Fullarton, who had three brown trout, one rainbow trout and one pike won the MacKellar Quaich.

Most of the fish were taken in sheltered bays and slow sinking lines.

The trout generally were in good condition but a water temperature of 4°C meant that there was no surface activity. Prospects for the rest of the season remain good.

The average weight of the Loch Awe brown trout continues to improve and the enlightened policy of most Loch Awe anglers of returning most of their catch and the work of the LAIA will hopefully continue to ensure that Loch Awe remains a top brown trout water.

### Fishing

The first big Ferose brown trout was caught and carefully returned by Steven Pounder, who is no stranger to big fish.

This trout weighed 20lbs, was revived in an oxygen tank and returned none the worse of the experience.

Fly-fishing for pike is becoming an increasingly popular activity.

The quality and sheer size of many of the Loch Awe pike make them an exciting fish to hook on fly-fishing tackle.

As with the brown trout this is a valuable resource and the fish should be treated with respect and barbless hooks should be used.

The competition for the McGrigor Salver will take place on Sunday April 23 out of Ardbrecknish and all hope that the water temperature will have risen a few degrees.

## Oban Otter swims for charity

### Swimming

OBAN Otter Colin Cameron, aged 14, has completed a 2,500 meter National Swimathon at Atlantis Leisure.

The second year Oban High pupil, from Iona Drive Dunollie, swam 100 lengths in just over 44 minutes.

The keen swimmer's aim to attract as many sponsors as possible, paid off when he received a total of £300 for NCH, the National Childrens Charity.

NCH supports children and young people who face difficulties such as poverty, disability and abuse.

Of the total sum, 20 per cent will go to local charities.

## Junior golf coaching at Glencruitten

### Golf

TOP golfer Ian Nicholson of Kilmacollm Golf Club and Glencruitten's junior convener David Devine will be running an Easter 'taster' session at Glencruitten Golf Club for junior members only.

Any junior members wishing to take part can add their names to the list on the club notice board.

There is still an opportunity to become a member before the summer coaching swings into action.

The under-12s coaching introduction will take place on Sunday April 9 from 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.

## World cup work moves up a gear

WORK is continuing on the mountain bike courses at Nevis Range in preparation for another thrilling week of World Cup action on May 27 and 28.

There will be a new Steve peat-designed wall-ride and a re-shaped hip jump at Tower Five which should see action this year.

A new short technical loop is being introduced at the bottom of the ridge run that will make this section even more testing.

Nearer the World Cup village some big trees are being felled to make a river crossing to replace the bridges that were washed away during the winter.

Phil Saxena and his crew

### Mountain Biking

are also back in action reshaping the first berm and grooming the course to perfection. They might even start work on a major extension for the 2007 world championship course.

The Forestry Commission have also been working on a compact and interesting skills trail close to the world cup village as part of its trail network in the Leanachan Forest.

VisitScotland also have a new television advert hitting the screens this month with some footage of the 2005 world cup which will be screened close to the start of the world cup.



Pictured are some of the winners at the Lochaber Primary Schools Cross Country Championship.

## Primary pupils brave the elements in cross country championship

NEARLY 100 pupils from 18 of Lochaber's Primary schools braved the wild weather last week to compete in the interschools cross country event held at Nevis Range.

Thanks go to Samuel and Partners who sponsored the event.

### Athletics

**Results:**  
**Boys:** 1st Michael Currie, Arisaig  
2nd Christopher Currie, Arisaig  
3rd Logan Barker, Fort William RC  
**Girls:** 1st Rosalieke

Baak, Spean Bridge  
2nd Lauren Haran, Upper Achintore  
3rs Isla MacKay, Banavie  
**Team Event:**  
1st Fort William RC  
2nd Upper Achintore  
3rd Caol

## Cousin and aunt tackle Great Edinburgh Run in memory of Caol youngster

TWO runners are to compete in the Great Edinburgh Run this year in memory of their niece and god-daughter who tragically died of a rare disease.

Jayne Maree was a lively, happy, and healthy little four year old girl, she had just started Caol Nursery School, which she loved, and adored pink and dancing.

But in October 2004, she contracted a rare form of meningococcal septicaemia and after battling for over a week in Yorkhill hospital, Jayne Maree tragically died leaving her family and friends devastated.

In memory of their niece and god daughter, Jayne Maree, Ann Nisbet and Gemma Boyd are running the Bupa Great Edinburgh Run next month, followed two weeks later by the Britannic Asset Management Run, to raise money for the Meningitis Research Foundation.

The frightening thing about meningitis is that it can happen to anyone, with no warning.

The Meningitis Research Foundation are helping to fight meningitis by funding research into treating these diseases.

They are also working hard to raise awareness of the signs of meningitis and septicaemia, in both the public and health professionals. The foundation also offers support and information through their free 24 hour helpline 080 8800 3344.

### Athletics

Jayne Maree's cousin and god mother, Gemma, aged 18, is at Glasgow university studying mathematics and statistics and Jayne Maree's aunt, Ann Nisbet, aged 27, works in Glasgow as an architect.

They've been pounding the streets together, three times a week since January, in preparation for their two events with runs at 8.30am

on Saturday mornings there's not even a sniff of a glass of wine on the Friday night for the pair.

"The hard work will all be worthwhile if we can succeed in raising as much money as we can for the Meningitis Research foundation," said Ann.

"We're at the half way point in our training, so hopefully we can progress steadily until the first run in May."

## Fort man is Caley Thistle ticket winner



Fort William man, David Orr, was the winner of The Oban Times competition for tickets for the Inverness Caledonian Thistle v Aberdeen match on Saturday which the Dons won 1-0. f14da01

## Runaway success for Lochaber

### Athletics

LAST Saturday, a team of local athletes, Lauren Haran, Lucy MacGillivray and Esther Nassaris from Upper Achintore Primary School took gold in the Highland wide interschools cross country championships.

The girls raced as individuals in a field of more than 150.

When combined their results won them first place in the team competition for small schools (those with 150 pupils or less).

A boy's team from Upper Achintore and two teams from Caol Primary School also travelled to Inverness to compete in what turned out to be a very tough and muddy event.

The race was organised by the North of Scotland Athletics Association with the help of Highland Council's team of Active Schools Coordinators.

## New local cricket competition

### Cricket

FORT William cricket club have announced a new competition for this season.

The Crofter Cup, sponsored by the Crofter Restaurant and Bar is being organised for this season by the local cricket club.

Club members have been divided into four teams who will play each other in a round robin format during the season.

Matches will be played on a Wednesday evening at the BA Club in Fort William with the first round of games due to be held, weather permitting, on April 5 at 6pm.

Peter Shepherd, club captain, said: "This will help us sharpen our skills. We want to be really competitive when our first league season starts in May."

The four teams are West Endies, Northern Battlers, Central All-sorts and Southern Softies.

Anyone wishing to become involved in the club in any way can find out more by contacting Derek Spencer, club chairman, on 01397 712112.

## Sailing season underway

### Sailing

THE Fitting Out Supper heralded the start of the sailing season at Lochaber Yacht Club on Saturday, April 1.

Sixty club members and friends enjoyed an excellent meal in the clubhouse followed by a most interesting and informative talk by weather expert Geoff Monk.

Sunday saw the first race of the season take place in excellent conditions, bright Sunshine and a cool North-north-east force four wind.

The results of the first race for the Frostbite Trophy were:  
1 Wayfarer Artful Dodger  
2 Wayfarer MCP Hamish Loudon and Dawn MacRae  
3 Bosun Prestissimo Liz and Iain Loudon  
4 Topper Eeyore Lewis Fyfe

Congratulations are due to Dawn MacRae who last week received the Junior Volunteer of the Year award from the Royal Yachting Association Scotland.

Nominations were open to all 126 Scottish clubs recognised by the sport's governing body.

This is a considerable achievement for Dawn as she has been awarded the club trophy for the junior who made the biggest contribution to club activities.

**SPORTSDESK**  
**01631 568000**  
**01397 703003**

Coming next week - your chance to win free tickets to a top SPL match

# TIMES Sport



## Saturday's fixtures

**Shinty**  
Saturday April 8 2006

**The Strathdearn Cup Preliminary Round**  
Fort William v Inverness  
P Cassidy  
Skye v Beaulieu  
R Matheson

**Marine Harvest Premier League**  
Kingussie v Inveraray  
D Kerr  
Newtonmore v Fort William  
T MacDonald  
Oban Camanachd v Lochcarron  
D Mitchell  
Strathglass v Kilmallie  
C MacDonald

**North Division One**  
Aberdeen Uni v Glenurquhart  
N Ferguson  
Beaulieu v Lovat  
D MacRae  
Inverness v Lochaber  
C Duff  
Kinlochshiel v Skye  
W MacLachlan

**South Division One**  
Bute v Lochside Rovers  
G Hay  
Kilmory v GMA  
D Cameron  
Kyles v Glenorchy  
R Campbell  
Tayforth v Ballachulish  
TBA

**North Division Two**  
Boleskine v Caberfeidh  
R Ross  
Glengarry v Kingussie  
M Cameron  
Kilmallie v Strathglass  
R Kennedy  
Lovat v Newtonmore  
C Duff 11.30am

**South Division Two**  
Aberdour v Strachur  
A Johnston  
ColGlen v Inveraray  
E MacRae  
Edinburgh EL v Kyles  
J Innes  
Oban Celtic v Glenorchy  
P Jackson

**North Division Three**  
Lochaber v Glenurquhart  
TBA  
Lochbroom v Ardnamurchan  
J Smith  
Lochcarron v Kinlochshiel  
J MacPhee  
Nairn v Kincriag  
G Irvine

**South Division One**  
Fort William 4 4 0 0 23 5 8  
Newtonmore 4 2 2 0 9 5 6  
Kingussie 4 2 1 1 15 5 5  
Kilmallie 4 2 1 1 8 7 5  
Inveraray 4 1 2 1 9 10 4  
Strathglass 4 0 2 2 5 17 2  
Oban Cam 5 0 2 3 5 21 2  
Lochcarron 3 0 0 3 7 11 0

**NORTH DIVISION 1**  
P W D L F A Pt  
Lovat 3 2 1 0 10 3 5  
Beaulieu 2 2 0 0 8 0 4  
Caberfeidh 1 1 0 0 6 0 2  
Lochaber 1 1 0 0 4 0 2  
Glenurquhart 1 0 2 3 2 2  
Skye 2 1 0 1 1 2 2  
Kinlochshiel 1 0 1 0 2 2 1  
Aberdeen U 3 0 1 2 0 10 1  
Inverness 4 0 1 3 1 16 1

**SOUTH DIVISION 1**  
P W D L F A Pt  
Glenorchy 4 3 1 0 10 4 7  
GMA 4 2 2 0 16 7 6  
Lochside 3 2 0 1 7 3 4  
Bute 3 2 0 1 4 1 4  
Ballachulish 4 1 1 2 7 6 3  
Kyles 2 0 2 0 4 4 2  
Kilmory 2 0 0 2 0 5 0  
Tayforth 3 0 0 3 2 15 0

**NORTH DIVISION 2**  
P W D L F A Pt  
Fort William 3 3 0 0 11 3 6  
Newtonmore 3 3 0 0 13 5 6  
Skye 4 2 1 1 14 15 5  
Lovat 4 2 0 2 9 11 4  
Glengarry 4 1 1 2 11 9 3  
Kilmallie 4 1 1 2 9 12 3  
Kingussie 2 1 0 1 7 3 2  
Strathglass 2 0 1 1 5 6 1  
Caberfeidh 3 0 1 2 5 13 1  
Boleskine 3 0 1 2 1 11 1

**SOUTH DIVISION 2**  
P W D L F A Pt  
Strachur 5 2 3 0 12 5 7  
Edinburgh 3 2 1 0 8 4 5  
Inveraray 3 2 1 0 5 1 5  
Oban Celtic 3 1 2 0 10 2 4  
Kyles 2 1 1 0 6 3 3  
Glenorchy 2 1 0 1 5 5 2  
ColGlen 1 1 0 1 1 2 0  
GMA 2 0 0 2 2 7 0  
Aberdour 4 0 0 4 0 14 0

**NORTH DIVISION 3**  
P W D L F A Pt  
Lochcarron 3 3 0 0 15 1 6  
Nairn 3 3 0 0 12 2 6  
Lochaber 2 2 0 0 13 2 4  
Kincriag 3 2 0 1 5 6 4  
Kinlochshiel 2 1 1 0 7 2 3  
Beaulieu 3 1 0 2 7 9 2  
Glenurquhart 2 0 1 1 2 4 1  
Lochbroom 2 0 0 2 3 8 0  
Inverness 3 0 0 3 2 9 0  
Ardnamurchan 3 0 0 3 1 23 0

## Saturday's results

**Shinty**  
Saturday April 1 2006

**The Strathdearn Cup Preliminary Round**  
Fort William P Inverness P  
Nairn O Lochaber 5  
Skye P Beaulieu P

**Marine Harvest Premier League**  
Inveraray P Fort William P  
Kilmallie 2 Oban Camanachd O  
Lochcarron P Newtonmore P  
Strathglass 1 Kingussie 5

**North Division One**  
Beaulieu 7 Inverness O  
Kinlochshiel P Glenurquhart P  
Skye P Lochaber P

**South Division One**  
GMA P Bute P  
Kilmory P Glenorchy P  
Lochside Rovers P Kyles P

**North Division Two**  
Lovat 3 Glengarry 1  
Caberfeidh P Kingussie P

**South Division Two**  
Edinburgh EL 3 Aberdour O  
GMA P Col Glen P  
Glenorchy 2 Kyles 1  
Strachur 1 Inveraray 1

**North Division Three**  
Ardnamurchan P Lochcarron P  
Kincriag 4 Kinlochshiel 5



Strathglass defenders Barry John Phimister and George Phimister aim to stall the progress of Kingussie's Ronald Ross at Cannich on Saturday. Picture: Ern Emmett

## Ross strike four as Kingussie win at Cannich

THERE was another four goals to add to the season's tally for Kingussie's Ronald Ross after Saturday's tie at Cannich.

The high scoring Ross took 19 minutes to open his account against Strathglass but added a second four minutes later as the roof threatened to fall in on the latest team to join the ranks

of the Premier eight. Ross's hat-trick came on the half-hour and the half-time score was extended to nil-four when Russell Dallas found the net in the 37th minute.

Strathglass regrouped after the interval and offered stiffer opposition. Indeed they got on the scoresheet in the 63rd minute when Robert Geddes snatched a goal back.

However, Ross was on hand to net his fourth of the tie with 12 minutes left to play to leave Strathglass still searching for their first win of the season. Premier shinty returns to Cannich this Saturday when Kilmallie are the visitors while Kingussie have a home tie against Inveraray at the Dell.

## New style Marine Harvest awards

THE CAMANACHD Association has once again teamed up with league sponsors, Marine Harvest, to run a monthly award scheme.

The reintroduced scheme takes on a revised format as the Marine Harvest Club of the Month Award.

Association Club and Volunteer Director, Donnie MacKenzie said: 'This award is about much more than getting good results on the park!'

'Of course fulfilling fixtures is important, but we want to hear from clubs who feel that they or others deserve to be recognised as much for their off-the-park activity, such as fundraising, improving their facilities and working with the local community.'

Association administration manager, Allan



Oban Camanachd could not find a way through a well marshalled Kilmallie defence at Canal Park on Saturday

MacLeod, has written to every club with details of the scheme.

The final decision will rest with a panel drawn from the Board of Directors. Each month's decision will be announced early in the following month.

Marine Harvest are continuing to support shinty through their sponsorship of both this award and the league competitions at national and area level.

Their technical development manager, Steve Bracken said: 'We are de-

lighted to be supporting shinty in its first official summer season.

'The sport is very important to the communities in which we operate.

'Many of our staff play the game or support it in other ways.'

# Massie maintains Kilmallie's home record

WITH 50 per cent of the weekend's fixture card affected by the wet weather, Saturday's tie at Canal Parks took place on a surprisingly good surface although there were several areas where the weather had taken its toll.

**Shinty**  
Kilmallie 2  
Oban Camanachd 0

Both sides showed changes from the previous week with Kilmallie's Donald Lamont and Scott Rodger missing, Keith Blackhall and Ian Robertson returned to the squad.

The game started with the visitors having the advantage of the wind but it was the home side that made the early running.

The home forward line of MacNichol, Rodgers, Massie and Stewart continued their free flowing shinty of previous matches and creating a number of chances but wayward finishing prevented Scott Buchanan being tested.

Camanachd began to gain a foothold but with danger man Fraser Inglis well marked by home skipper Ewan Stoddart they struggled for fluency in attack.

However, Oban had the first effort on target but Kevin Toye expertly dealt with the snapshot.

Kilmallie opened the scoring after 28 minutes when another fine passing move found Fraser Massie at the back post and with Kilmallie's first real effort on target, he dispatched the ball past Buchanan.

A long range effort from Daniel Macintyre was shielded by a cool and calm keeper Toye despite the crowd's heart being in their mouth as the ball floated towards the goal.

Kilmallie introduced Keith Blackhall for John Macphie and this galvanised the home side as Blackhall dominated midfield physically.

Kilmallie's lead up play was excellent but the finishing remained poor and Buchanan dealt easily with any efforts that were on target.

With six minutes remaining another fine move involving Michael Rodgers and MacNichol found John Stewart in space but he mis-hit his effort due to the turf.

He had, however, the presence of mind to flick the ball to Massie who blasted the ball past Buchanan to seal victory for his side.

This deflated the visitors and the match reached a conclusion with neither side looking like adding to their tally. Oban showed good determination but the underfoot conditions ham-

pered their efforts.

The match was well handled by referee Calum Duff.

The home side remain unbeaten at home this season and travel to Cannich next week to face a Strathglass side yet to win a game and keen to get their season back on track.

Oban Camanachd have a home tie against Lochcarron and this has become a basement battle with the Wester Ross men losing all three of their starts so far and Camanachd with only two home draws to their credit.

## Squad managers wanted

THE CAMANACHD Association has announced that the Association are seeking a head coach for the international shinty team.

This follows Duncan Kelly stepping down following the successful Shinty-Hurling Internationals in Inverness last October.

In addition to the Scotland job, the Association are also seeking expressions of interest for various representative positions.

The jobs on offer include: Scotland senior squad head coach; South senior squad head and assistant coaches; North senior squad assistant coach; North U-21 squad head and assistant coaches.

The head coaches of the North and South teams will automatically become assistant coaches with the international squads.

The closing date for submissions of interest is Monday April 10. The Representative Committee will then discuss the nominations and notify the successful applicants

## Women's shinty fixtures

**Women's shinty**  
Sunday, April 9  
2.30pm

**Women's league Division One**  
Tir Connail Harps v Forth

**Division Two**  
Inveraray v GMA  
Lilithgow v Kintyre  
Tir Connail Harps v Dunadd

## Phone in results

**Shinty**  
The Camanachd Association would remind all home clubs that they must phone in match results as soon as possible after the final whistle.



**WIN £2400**

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Catherine McEwen, 1 The Flats, Bunessan, Isle of Mull and Essa MacFadyen, 5 Tor Mor View, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull

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**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.

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enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box)  The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

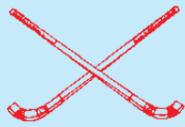
How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB



# TIMES Sport

## Cricket receives £300,000 boost from sportscotland

LOCAL cricketers have welcomed the news from the National Cricket Academy Easter camp of a £317,000 sportscotland investment in Cricket Scotland.

The funding, of which £144,000 is sportscotland Lottery cash, will target coaching, junior cricket development, club and organisational development.

Announcing the funding, Sports Minister Patricia Ferguson said: 'Cricket has a long history in Scotland and this investment will help to ensure the sport has a bright future.'

### Oban bowlers start season

THIS Saturday sees the first jack of the season being thrown at Oban Bowling Club as new president Brian McGleish leads his team to face vice-president Janice Fraser's team.

Following the competition, the bowlers will enjoy a meal in the clubhouse.

Oban Bowling Club welcomes new members and has bowls and shoes for hire should you wish to give it a try. There are always members on hand to coach and encourage.

### Junior squash competition at Oban

ATLANTIS Leisure Centre, Oban will host a junior squash tournament on Friday, April 14 with rackets worth £75 as the main prizes.

Competition details and entry forms can be obtained from Atlantis Leisure.

#### Bowling

'Funding will help to develop the youth game and support clubs as they promote cricket at a local level as well as providing a boost for the Scottish team as they prepare for the 2007 Cricket World Cup in the West Indies.'

Joining the Sports Minister and Cricket Scotland Chief Executive Officer Roddy Smith in Edinburgh was national team captain Craig Wright, fresh from World Cup pre-competition and training in Barbados.

Last year's ICC Trophy win in Ireland helped Scotland secure a world ranking of 12<sup>th</sup> and a place in the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies and has been instrumental in raising the profile of the game nationally.

Cricket in Scotland has made tremendous progress in recent years and the governing body is working with clubs and local authorities to expand the game into new areas.

The Cricket Scotland development team has grown from three to 10 in the last three years and now covers the whole of Scotland, promoting and delivering a wide range of cricket programmes.

By 2006 all 200 Scottish cricket clubs will aim to have teams in at least one junior age group as part of Cricket Scotland's TOPclub programme.

The key work of Cricket Scotland's new position of Head of Education and Training will be supported by sportscotland funding.

Andy Tennant will be taking on this role, to improve coach education, ensure the development and delivery of the United Kingdom Coaching Certificate (UKCC) programme and to work towards long-term development in the sport. Tennant will oversee the work of the youth development manager, his previous

position. The remit of this development role is to work closely with clubs and schools so that all young people in Scotland can experience the game, and to increase participation in the sport via such programmes as the Easter camps.

Nearly £100,000 of this year's investment will go towards coaching development and support, with £50,000 allocated to the medal success programme for the provision of elite coaching support and pre-World Cup fitness and training assistance.

Roddy Smith, Cricket Scotland chief executive officer, said: 'Cricket in Scotland continues to progress in all areas. The support of sportscotland is invaluable in assisting us to put the structures and programmes in place to drive our game forward.'

Julia Bracewell, chairman of sportscotland, said: 'The £317,000 investment will support key areas of Cricket Scotland's long-term development plan, with the aim to encourage people of all ages to participate at a recreational level and to drive the sport, its coaches and officials to a higher performance standard.'

'sportscotland is also committed to making sure that all our talented players and teams have the development and support needed to play on a world level for Scotland, and we wish the national team good progress in the lead up to the 2007 World Cup.'

#### SPL ticket winners

WINNERS of the pairs of tickets to see this week's SPL match between Rangers and Motherwell at Ibrox on Saturday are: Leeanne Fraser, Cairndow; R Sneddon, Mallaig and I Heap, Oban. Watch out for your chance to win tickets with *The Oban Times*.



## Lohcarron win Meldrum Trophy for the first time

#### Badminton

LOHCARRON won the South West Ross Badminton League's Meldrum Trophy for the first time when they came top of the league table against stiff competition from Kyle, Kyleakin and league favourites Plockton.

The local badminton league trophy was first introduced in 1963 with Plockton dominating the league and winning the competition 29 times. Kyle have won the cup 10 times and Kyleakin three times.

To win their first Meldrum Cup, Lochcarron defeated Kyle 6 - 2 at Lochcarron.



## Round Lismore race returns for West Highland Week

TENNENTS West Highland Yachting Week will see the return of the Round Lismore Race this year, although this time the island will be circumnavigated clockwise.

The re-introduction of the race on Tuesday during the Series comes after an absence of a number of years

due to unfavourable tides.

Although not perfect this year, if wind conditions are right on the day, the fleet should enjoy what is a spectacular round the island race. Entries are already trickling in for this major regatta that starts on July 28 running till Friday August 4.

#### Sailing

Again there has been international interest with a New York owner hoping to campaign his yacht during the week. The introduction of the Gigha feeder race two years ago has proved popular and will run again this year, as will the feeder races

from the Clyde and Oban. The main week's series starts on Sunday with the first passage race to Oban followed on Monday by the Firth of Lorne Races.

There'll be the usual two Olympic style races for the spinnaker classes and one

longer race for the white sail fleet. After Tuesday's Round Lismore race the fleet heads to Tobermory with racing in the Sound of Mull for both spinnaker and restricted sail classes on Thursday.

The traditional passage race back to Oban from Tobermory completes the Series on Friday.

Once again a Classics Class will be on offer that will be a 'classics' will race alongside the restricted sail classes. Entry fees will this year be raised by £1 per race and £5 per series. The Notice of Race and Entry Forms can now be downloaded from the website [www.whyw.co.uk](http://www.whyw.co.uk)

# SAILING TIMES

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## Saints travel to take on league leaders

### Football

THE Premier Division clash between league leaders Greenock HSP and Oban Saints was called off last Saturday morning at 9.15 am when a pitch inspection found the playing surface at Battery Park, Greenock, to be flooded. The game has now been re-scheduled for this Saturday at the same venue with a 2.30 pm kick-off, referee Alan Lamb in charge.

The Oban side could be without keeper Tim Woodcock for the rest of the season.

He sustained an ankle ligament injury during a match between the teachers and pupils on the new all-weather pitch at Oban High School last Friday.

After several days of



Tim Woodcock

heavy rain, Scottish League match secretary Robert Bowman had 14 games called off last Saturday with only eight surviving.

Of the three games that did survive - in the Premier Division Campbeltown Pupils went down 4-1 away to Kilpatrick. Dunoon lost 2-1 at home to Glencastle Sparta in Premier Division Two while Lochgilhead Red Star lost 6-2 at home to St Joseph's in the Colin Munro Cup.

The games involving Oban Saints, Campbeltown Boys and Tarbert were all postponed.

Saints Under 19s game against Renfrew Burgh due to be played at Glencruitten on Saturday was called off as the pitch was waterlogged and the Under 17s away game against Calder-side was also postponed.

This Saturday Oban Saints Under 19s are away to Cumbemauld Rovers and the Under 17s are at home to Morton Supporters.

The Scottish Football Association's Level Two Youth Coaching Course which had to be cancelled a few weeks ago due to the heavy snow has been re-scheduled for Atlantis Leisure on Sunday 23rd April, starting at 10 am.



Duncan Scott tackles the Brimms Ness bowl

## Surfers head for Thurso in UK tour

### Surfing

THE SECOND leg of the BPSA UK Tour takes place from April 23 - 24 with the O'Neill Scottish BPSA Challenge at the legendary Thurso East.

The O'Neill Scottish BPSA Challenge will precede the five Star WQS O'Neill Highland Open Event and is a two day event with a one star rating and £2000 prize purse.

The event will also offer a wild card place into the five Star WQS for the highest rated Scottish Surfer, giving him the chance to pit home break knowledge against the best in the World.

With the cold temperature this should be a big advantage and could cause some serious upsets! Also confirmed for this

event is the UK's most successful competition surfer, Russell Winter. Two years ago this event was the highlight of the Tour and after last year's less than perfect conditions the competitors will be psyched to get inside some of Thurso's trademark barrels that have likened this break to a cold water Nias.

Thurso East breaks over kelp covered slate reef for 50 - 100 metres and is a World class break just waiting to be ripped apart by a World class surfer, however even when Thurso is not working there is always

surf to be found in the area. Brimms Ness Bowl, just around the corner, picks up any swell available and can be four feet even when Thurso is flat. Other quality breaks that can be used for competition include Castletown, Murkle and Sandside Bay.

The main difference to the event for 2006 is the time of year. If the competitors found the water cold at the last BPSA stop in Croyde for the Saltrock Open, they are in for a shock. This is one of the factors that make this such an interesting event with temperatures resting at a chilly eight degrees.

man said: 'This is great news for British surfing, with the support of O'Neill the event will be one of the best we have held in Scotland if not the UK and can only get bigger in the future'. Adding: 'The contest will be a showcase for surfing and will allow Local and Scottish surfers a chance to compete at the highest level in the sport'.

Dave Reed BPSA Chair-

## Tides

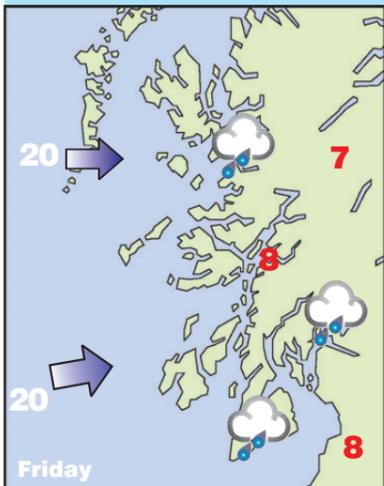
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, April 6, 2006 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am    | pm  | ****  | **  |       |     |       |     |
|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| Thur | 06.00 | 1.9 | 13.24 | 2.5 | 18.07 | 1.8 | 19.38 | 1.8 |
| Fri  | 01.07 | 2.7 | 08.49 | 1.9 | 14.56 | 2.6 | 19.38 | 1.8 |
| Sat  | 03.36 | 2.9 | 09.47 | 1.7 | 15.40 | 2.9 | 21.01 | 1.6 |
| Sun  | 03.38 | 3.1 | 10.20 | 1.5 | 16.04 | 3.1 | 21.51 | 1.3 |
| Mon  | 04.02 | 3.3 | 10.49 | 1.3 | 16.28 | 3.3 | 22.29 | 1.1 |
| Tues | 04.32 | 3.5 | 11.16 | 1.1 | 16.56 | 3.5 | 23.02 | 0.9 |
| Wed  | 05.03 | 3.7 | 11.41 | 1.0 | 17.26 | 3.7 | 23.32 | 0.8 |

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, April 6

Cloudy and overcast with rain at times some of which could be heavy. Winds will be moderate or fresh westerly. Temperatures 5°C to 11°C.

### Friday, April 7

Remaining cloudy and overcast with rain and sleet. Winds will be moderate to fresh westerly. Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

### Saturday and Sunday

Remaining cloudy with showers over Saturday and Sunday with sunny intervals. Winds will be moderate north-westerly. Temperatures -1°C to 7°C.

### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
 Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
 Kennacraig to Islay - As above

## Argyll team for Scottish sportshall finals

### Athletics

A GROUP of 18 athletes from Argyll make the long journey south this weekend to compete in the UK Final of Sports Hall Athletics.

The Final is held in the National Indoor Arena in Birmingham this Sunday, April 9 and the two Argyll teams of under 13 and under 15 boys qualified for this event by winning at the Scottish Final in Dundee in February.

The boys will be representing Argyll and Scotland and will be up against another 12 teams from 10 regions in England plus the Welsh and Northern Ireland representatives.

The other Scottish teams are Shetland in the under 13 girls contest and North Lanarkshire in the under 15 girls competition.

This is the third year in

succession that Argyll has had two teams qualifying for the UK Final.

The Argyll boys come from all parts of the county with the Isle of Mull providing a third of the squad. In the under 13 team five out of the 12 boys are from Mull with four from Tobermory High School.

The under 13 team is Iain MacDowell, Struan Carmichael, Steven Higson and Eoghan MacLachlainn [all Tobermory High], Angus MacCallum from Fionnphort on Mull, Fraser Meechan and Ben Boss from Lochgilhead, Ian Hamish Paton from Strachur, Ross Robinson from Lochgilhead, Rhys Campbell from Dunoon,

John MacPhee from Connell and the furthest travelled is Innes Muir from the island of Jura.

The under 15 team consists of Sam Jespersen and Aiden MacLaren from Oban, Jonathon Rothead from North Connell, John Kennedy from Lochgilhead, David Beckett from Tobermory and John Lamont from Campbeltown.

The Argyll boys will be accompanied by a large travelling support of parents and coaches and most of the group will travel all the way in a West Coast Motors coach which leaves Station Square in Oban at 10am on Saturday morning April 8.

We wish the boys every success in the UK Final on Sunday.

## Tobermory tees off

### Golf

DESPITE poor weather conditions there was a healthy number of players teeing off for Tobermory Golf Club's summer season.

The Jim Laverty Trophy, which is contested by gents with a lady or junior partner, was won by vice president Olive Brown and captain Gordon Chalmers with a net score of 64.

The 'Hairy Legs' trophy for those gents drawn with a fellow gent was won by Alasdair MacLeod and Donald Allan MacLean. More than £60 was raised for the British Heart Foundation from competitors' donations.

## Ninety tee-off at Glencruitten

### Golf

THE FIRST major competition of the year at Glencruitten Golf Club attracted 90 competitors.

The Britannia and Stokes Cup competitions were stroke play qualifiers for match play with 35 players

## Cadets

### Rugby

THREE ARMY cadets from Oban will represent Scotland at rugby in the army cadets equivalent of the 5-Nations tournament when they play against the English, Irish and Welsh at Cardiff on Sunday. Jamie Cannon, aged 12, and Sandy and Robert McKellar have been in training with assistance from Oban Lorne Rugby Club

qualifying with net 67 or better.

In addition the Monthly Medal was an added incentive for keen competition.

|                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Britannia and Stokes      | 70-12-58                   |
| D MacLean                 | 67-8-59                    |
| B Wotherspoon             | 65-5-60                    |
| M Fraser                  | 67-6-61                    |
| J Plunkett                | 66-5-61                    |
| D Robertson               | 71-10-61                   |
| C Cumming                 | 73-12-61                   |
| K MacKenzie               | 69-6-63                    |
| K MacLean                 | 73-10-63                   |
| J Hyde                    | 61+3-64                    |
| D MacCuish                | 77-13-64                   |
| Gal Galbraith             | 82-18-64                   |
| H May                     | 88-24-64                   |
| H MacIver                 | 88-24-64                   |
| Monthly Medal Qualifiers: |                            |
| 1st Class                 | B Wotherspoon and M Fraser |
| 2nd Class                 | D MacLean and C MacKenzie  |
| 3rd Class                 | H MacIver                  |

## Am-Am golfers for Oban in June

### Golf

THE ROTARY Club of Oban is to hold its annual Am-Am competition at Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban on Sunday June 4. Last year 58 teams took part in the event and £6,200 was raised for charity. It is hoped this event will be as well supported as pre-

viously and a similar sum can be raised for local causes this year.

This is the 21st year of the event and it is estimated £100,000 has been raised in this period. All the funds raised are to

be distributed to local good causes, with particular emphasis on helping youth activities. Local organisations are asked to contact the rotary club if they have projects which are suitable for financial support.

## Tobermory Ladies Golf

The weather for the first ladies medal of the season at Tobermory Golf Club was better than forecast but most of the golf was not! 1 Catherine Ann MacCrone 101-31-70 2 Jenny Smith 108-26-82 3 Olive Brown 122-34-88

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