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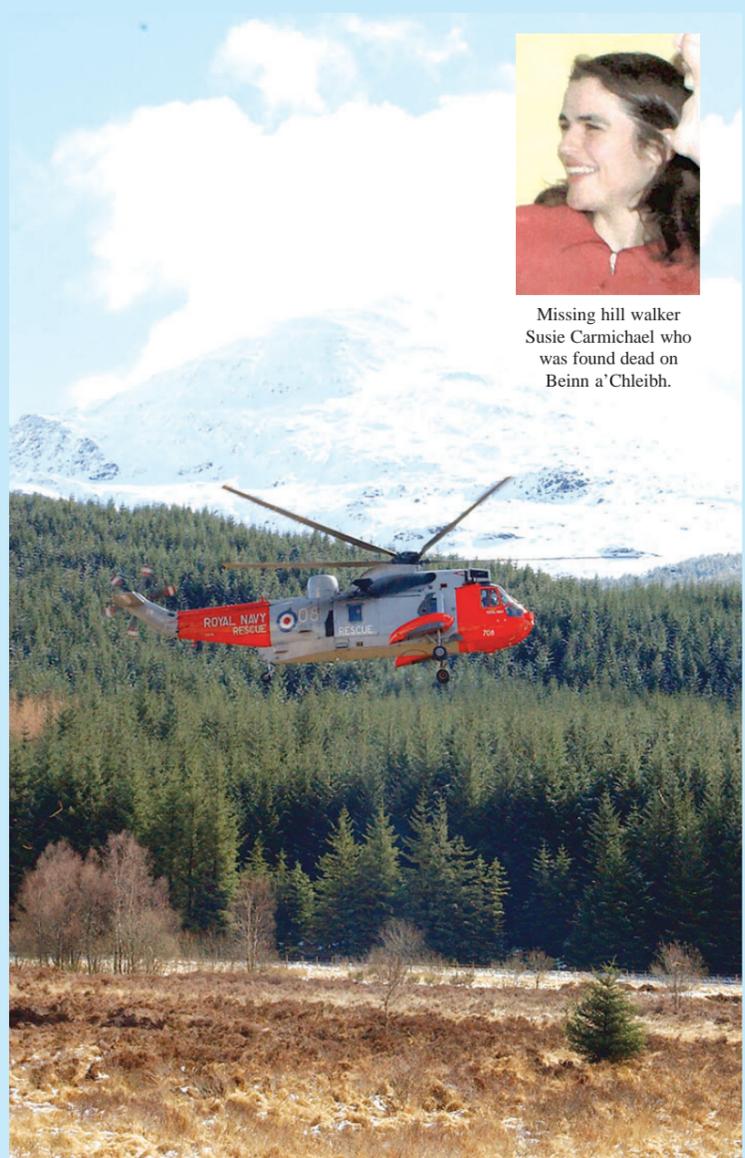


Councillors give Loch Awe side windfarm the nod while tourism group urge caution

IN THE same week that an Oban and Lorn council committee has recommended that a wind farm be approved on Loch Awe side, the tourism partnership for the same area has expressed its 'strong concern' about increasing pressure from wind farms elsewhere in Argyll and Bute. VisitScotland is lending its support to the members of Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Tourism Partnership who have said they are concerned about the potential impact of proposed wind farm developments for tourism as a whole but most especially in the Clyde estuary. The partnership is chaired by Councillor Billy Petrie who is also convener of Argyll and Bute Council. The latest meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee councillors recommended that a wind farm of 20 turbines be given approval at Carraigheal, Inverinan. The size of the wind farm is such that the final decision lies with the Scottish Executive; the council can only make a recommendation. Councillors visited the site and other locations around the area from where the turbines would be visible. At last week's meeting of the area committee members said that the route into the site would be via the Fearnoch forestry roads, to save disruption of the public road along Loch Awe side. The councillors felt the size and the openness of the landscape would 'absorb' the wind farms. But over in Cowal and Bute the tourism partnership is supporting two local industry associations, Dunoon and Cowal Marketing Group and Isle of Bute Marketing and Tourism Group which have made representations to the Scottish Executive about the impact on tourism when determining applications. James Fraser, area director for Visit Scotland said: 'We need to raise awareness now of the threat to the area's biggest industry or we run a serious risk of sleepwalking into a situation where we damage it irreparably.'

Walker dies in Argyll hills

A TENT seemingly left abandoned in a car park near Dalmally saw the alarm raised for a hillwalker who was found dead on Beinn A'Chleibh. Experienced hill walker Susie Carmichael, aged 33, from Edinburgh, went walking on Ben Lui last Wednesday. She said in a telephone call that day that she was halfway up the mountain. However later that day a forest ranger spotted a tent and mountain bike in the car park below Ben Lui and two days later he contacted police when the same equipment was still there. A major search and rescue operation got away on Friday with the Oban Mountain Rescue Team called out at midday. Oban team member Ian Campbell described the weather conditions on the Friday night as 'horrendous' and said the mountain was completely white with snow. He said: 'It was very cold up there and it was the worst conditions we have been in this year. Mountain rescue teams from Killin, Arrochar, Lomond, Strathclyde Police and RAF Kinross and two helicopters from the Royal Navy and police were involved in the search. Conditions improved on Saturday and Ms Carmichael's body was found at 4.45pm on Beinn a'Chleibh. Friends had told police that Ms Carmichael was an experienced walker and it is believed she would have been well equipped for winter conditions. A report is being sent to the Procurator Fiscal.



Missing hill walker Susie Carmichael who was found dead on Beinn a'Chleibh.

Royal Navy Rescue helicopters scan the hillsides between Dalmally and Tyndrum in a vain search for missing hill walker Susie Carmichael (15res01)

Pub curfew in the spotlight

HAS the licensing board made the right decision in scrapping the curfew on entry into pubs and clubs late at night in Oban? The weekend saw a spate of arrests for breach of the peace in the town and complaints are starting to arrive about the noise and nuisance being caused. The curfew originally meant that people arriving at licensed premises after 12.30am would not be allowed entry and those leaving would not be allowed back in again. The advent of the smoking ban has seen the curfew scrapped, so that people can go outside to have a cigarette. This has led to a split cross Argyll and Bute. The Lorn, Mid Argyll, Kinrye and Islay Divisional Licensing Board ended the curfew; the Bute Cowal and Lomond Divisional Licensing Board did not. Inspector Neil Wallace of Oban Police Station said this week that over the weekend eight men and one woman were arrested for offences of breach of the peace in Oban town centre. He said he was not convinced that the problems were as a result of the curfew ending; the town had been busy because of people attending a concert by the pop band Embrace at the Corran Halls on Saturday night. Inspector Wallace said: 'We need to look at this over a period of weeks. There were a lot of people in the town because of the concert. I would not like to say the lack of a curfew was the sole cause. We are certainly keeping an eye on this. Obviously there will be more people moving about between 12.30am and 2pm than there was when the curfew was in operation.' Complaints have started to be made to *The Oban Times*. One reader who lives on George Street said: 'Why, oh why has the curfew been lifted on pubs?' 'During the summer months it's going to be worse with the tourists joining the locals to see who can out shout each other. Yes, I know it's to do with the smoking ban and if people cannot enjoy their drinking and dancing for a short time between curfew and closing time they sure need help. When people - and it isn't just youngsters - come out of the of the late night venues they just seem to want to shout as loud as they can but as we all know with drink in us we are always louder and thoughtless. The noise just echoes all through George Street between Stafford Street and the Highland Theatre. If I was making that kind of noise inside my own home I would have the police knocking on the door to confiscate the offending stereo equipment.' Councillor Daniel Kelly who chairs the Bute Cowal and Lomond Divisional Licensing Board said: 'The main reason we decided to retain the curfew was because we thought it would cause quite a problem if we didn't, especially with the no smoking coming in, with the people in the streets having a cigarette and people moving between the pubs. We thought it better to keep it on.' But he admitted that the decision had been an unpopular one with the Dunoon and Rothesay members of the board and in the end it was decided on with a vote.'

Mull gets a million for new surgery

MORE than £1million has been allocated to NHS Highland by the Scottish Executive to build a brand new medical surgery on the Isle of Mull. Moira Newiss, NHS Highland's locality manager in Oban, said a bid for money to build a new surgery in Buinessan on the Ross of Mull was put in last year to the Primary Care and Community Care Premises Modernisation Programme. The executive has now granted £1.153m for the project but there remains a lot of work to be done on establishing where the new surgery will be built and other factors including planning have still to be taken into account, according to Ms Newiss. **New build** She said: 'We put forward our project plan to build a new surgery and the proposal at the moment is for a new build. It is a now a case of 'dotting the i's' and 'crossing the t's.' 'The current site is restricted so we are considering other sites.' Ms Newiss said the funds received from the executive was the bulk of the money required to create a new building. The money will pay for a new general practitioner and dental surgery, plus space for visiting consultants to Buinessan, including a joint base for social work staff. Argyll and Bute Council's health spokesman Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'The proposed funding will provide modern facilities for a range of health services aimed at improving patient care and the health of the local community.'

Quids in bows out

THE OBAN branch of the troubled retail chain of stores, Quids In, closed this week. But the demise of the Combie Street store is nothing to do with the firm being placed in administration, it has been claimed. Accountants KPMG have been appointed administrators for Quids In, which operates a network of 'pound-stores' across Scotland. The accountancy firm is still keeping other stores open. A spokesman for KPMG told *The Oban Times*: 'The Oban branch was sold off by the firm just prior to our being called in; its closure does not involve us at all.'

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Health services stay the same

IT'S BUSINESS as usual for NHS patients in Argyll following the transfer of NHS Argyll and Clyde between NHS Highland and NHS Greater Glasgow. The debt-ridden NHS Argyll and Clyde was officially abolished on April 1 but there should be no immediate effect on patients, according to the clinical director of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership. 'Patients are still being seen today by the same people, in the same hospitals and clinics as they were before,' said Dr Erik Jespersen. 'There is no big bang and no big changes as far as patients are concerned. We also have a new community health partnership to set up to manage services locally. But where it counts, at the frontline, patients will continue to get the same services and go to the same hospitals as they always have.'

Mull gains from Big Art Project

THE ISLE of Mull has been chosen as one of only six places to be featured in one of the most ambitious public arts commission programmes ever in the UK. The island has been chosen to take part in the Big Art Project along with five other sites in London, Northern Ireland, Wales and north-west and north-east England. Run by Channel 4 an initial fund of £2 million has been set aside and the resulting television documentaries will be shown in late 2007 and follow all six communities as they commission and produce the art works. Lee Hendrick, visual arts and crafts officer for An Tobar the Tobermory based art centre serving the communities of Mull, Iona and the neighbouring islands, said: 'We are delighted to be chosen. I think something that could bring the whole island together would work really well, whether it is a big performance piece that goes from one end of the island to the other or whether it is one particular piece in one area.' The pier at Craignure, the Aros Park home to Mull Theatre Company's new production centre and forest sites at Langamull and West Ardu are all being considered as possible sites for the work.



Lee Hendrick at Tobermory

Oban man dies in custody

A 48-year-old Oban man who was sentenced last week to three months' imprisonment has died. A fatal accident inquiry will now be held into the death of Alexander Paterson, aged 48. The Scottish Prison Service confirmed that Paterson had been taken ill but that his death 'did not look suspicious'. Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced Paterson to three months in prison last Monday and he was sent to HM Prison Greenock. He was seen by medical staff at the jail and transferred to Paisley Royal Infirmary on Friday; he died later that day. He had pled guilty to carrying a knife and breaching the peace in the accident and emergency department at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital on April 2. He was being treated for a head wound when a three-inch kitchen knife was found in his sock. His defence agent, Edward Thornton told the court that his client was an alcoholic.



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Clan Donald includes Gaelic at Armadale museum

THOUSANDS of MacDonald descendants the world over can once again hear the language of their forefathers – at a museum on Skye.

A new 'audiotour' of The Museum of the Isles at Armadale now includes Gaelic together with five other languages and is being offered free to all visitors.

It is devoted to 1,500 years of Clan Donald history and culture. Now open for the season, it launched the new MP3 audiotour in Gaelic, English, French, Italian, German and Spanish last week, with a version for visually impaired visitors also available.

It relates the story of Clan Donald areas, including the ancient sea kingdom of Dalriada the Lordship of the Isles, the Jacobite Risings and emigration.

Commentaries by experts from Glasgow and Edinburgh universities are also included together with specially commissioned music by piper Robert Burns and lutenist Rob McKillop.

Curator Maggie MacDonald said the audiotour ensured the award-winning museum was one of the best-provisioned museums in the UK.

'This is a major investment by the owners, the Clan Donald Lands Trust, in visitor facilities for its museum,' she said.

Grant funding came from the Scottish Museums Council, Bord na Gaidhlig and LEADER+.

The museum is in the grounds of Armadale Castle, set in the heart of the clan's traditional lands.

Alert skipper dies

WEST coast fishermen will be saddened to hear of the death of Daniel 'Boysie' More, skipper of the 65ft seiner *Alert* INS287.

Although from Hopeman on the Moray Firth, Boysie More mainly fished the west coast and was regularly berthed in the harbours of Mallaig and Oban.

He went top sea at the age of 15 on the family herring boat the *Achieve* and during the war years was a petty officer in the Royal Navy on air-sea rescue craft.

In 1954 he had the *Alert* built at Jones of Buckie and fished the west coast waters for 43 years with mate and business partner David More, who still lives in Hopeman.

A well-attended memorial service took place at Hopeman Baptist Church on March 25. Boysie is survived by his wife Elizabeth and sons Jeffrey and Raymond.

Uist harbour master fined for careless driving in front of police car

A SOUTH Uist harbour master, who overtook a car on the A85 at Lochawe on a blind uphill section, has been fined £400 and given eight penalty points on his driving licence.

Calum MacLeod of Rhuard, Clachan, pled guilty to careless driving on January 3 this year when he appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

The court heard that MacLeod, aged 59, had been the

second in a line of three cars travelling towards Oban, when he overtook the slow moving car in front while the view ahead was restricted.

The third car in the line had been a police car and MacLeod was stopped after carrying out the manoeuvre.

Defence agent Kathleen McMahon said MacLeod was not familiar with the road and produced photos to show

how he had been confused into thinking there was a clear view of the road ahead, when in fact there was a slight dip in the road which only became visible once he had started overtaking.

'He took the view that braking would have left him on the wrong side of the road for a longer time than accelerating past,' said Miss McMahon.

She said MacLeod, a harbour master for the local authority on the Western Isles, had a clean licence and had been driving for 37 years.

Sheriff Douglas Small said he considered the incident to be between half way and the top end of the scale of careless driving offences. Fining MacLeod, he said: 'You are indeed fortunate that there was nothing coming towards you.'



The film crew put Rian under the microscope at school. ©117901

Oban youngster wins unsung hero award

AN OBAN youngster, who is partially sighted, is looking towards a career in politics has already got one political ally in the First Minister.

Oban High School pupil Rian MacAllister, who won

the Unsung Award in the first Sunday Mail Young Scot Awards, was nominated by Jack McConnell.

The First Minister put forward Rian's name because he had been told about his renowned debating and

public speaking skills. Rian was took part in a debating competition in Inveraray last year which was won by the Oban high team.

The school's head teacher Linda Kirkwood told Mr

McConnell about Rian's ability, strength of character and enthusiasm.

A film crew and representatives of the awards visited Rian at school in February to assess his claims and as a result he

went on to become the first Unsung Award winner.

An excited Rian attended the awards ceremony in Glasgow and was introduced to Mr McConnell for the first time.

Area tourism leader announces move into private sector

JAMES Fraser, the VisitScotland area director for Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley is to take early retirement.

After nearly 30 years in tourism he has decided to move into the private sector and will be leaving at the end of June.

Philip Riddell, chief executive of Visit Scotland said: 'We are very sad to see James leaving as he has played a major role in promoting and developing tourism in the area.'

'We wish him every success in the future and look forward to hearing about the new venture he is pursuing.'

Mr Fraser started his tourism career in 1976; in 1983 he moved to Stirling to set



James Fraser

up the newly-established Loch Lomond, Stirling and Trossachs Tourist Board

before becoming chief executive of Argyll, the Isles, Loch Lomond, Stirling and the Trossachs Tourist Board 10 years ago. Last year he was appointed to the role of area director for VisitScotland. 'This is a wonderful area to promote and I have been lucky to work with many talented and committed people,' he said.

Billy Petrie, chairman of the Argyll, Loch Lomond and Forth Valley Tourism Partnership and Convener of Argyll and Bute Council said: 'James is well-known, well-respected and has been a tourism chief extraordinaire. We will be all the poorer without him. He has been an excellent ambassador for tourism.'

Port Appin woman says sorry

A PORT Appin woman has apologised to all the people she phoned during a series of calls which ended up with her appearing in Oban Sheriff Court.

The court heard last week that Patricia Wilson, aged 60, of Airds Lodge, Port Appin, had made the calls to a number of people in the health profession between November 30 last year and January 17 this year.

It had occurred at a time of considerable stress, the court was told, when she was struggling with caring for her elderly husband.

She had pled guilty at a previous hearing to causing annoyance and a nuisance by repeatedly making telephone calls.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin told the court last week that Wilson was 'mortified and embarrassed' about the circumstances surrounding the calls as those involved lived in the Appin community, where she herself had lived for a number of years.

He said she had either phoned or written to all those affected to apologise to them.

Sheriff Douglas Small said such behaviour was a nuisance, especially to health professionals who might be needed by other patients.

He deferred sentence on Wilson until January 9 2007 for her to prove she could be of good behaviour.

Lochgilthead couple win

A HOME safety review left a Lochgilthead couple not only happier in their home but £50 better off in Co-op vouchers.

Rowan McLean and her partner Ewan Paterson called in Argyll and Bute Council's Home Safety Unit for some advice, filled in a questionnaire which was entered into a draw and Rowan's name was pulled out of the hat.

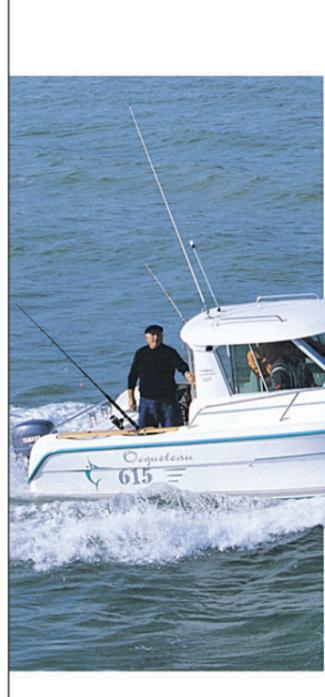
Vice convener of the council Councillor Donald MacMillan, who handed over the vouchers to Rowan, said: 'Response to the survey was very encouraging and all comments received were positive.'

'The results will enable further development and improvement of the service.'



Home safety officer Brian Robins with prize draw winners Ewan and Innes Paterson, partner Rowan McLean and councillor Donald MacMillan

Fishing/Leisure Boats



Ocqueteau Boat Sales are now operating from Dunstaffnage Marina where a range of outboard and diesel fishing/leisure boats are available for viewing and demonstrations.

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Falkirk first for national mod

THE ROYAL National Mod will be staged at Falkirk in 2008 for the first time ever.

The announcement was made at the Falkirk Wheel at an event attended by representatives from Falkirk Council, Provost Jim Johnston said: 'With the Mod coming in 2008, it will give us the opportunity to promote Falkirk as an area with a diverse musical and cultural heritage, on a worldwide scale.'

'As Central Scotland only gets the chance to host this prestigious event every six years, we feel very privileged to be chosen to help celebrate Gaelic language and culture.'

It was a difficult decision for the Board of Directors of the Mod Company to make, it was felt that Falkirk should be given the opportunity to host the Mod for the very first time.

Speaking on behalf of Falkirk Council, Provost Jim Johnston said: 'With the Mod coming in 2008, it will give us the opportunity to promote Falkirk as an area with a diverse musical and cultural heritage, on a worldwide scale.'

'As Central Scotland only gets the chance to host this prestigious event every six years, we feel very privileged to be chosen to help celebrate Gaelic language and culture.'

Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir regularly participates at the Royal National Mod and enjoyed individual and group success at Mod 2005 which was held in the Western Isles winning several trophies for choral singing and for Gaelic.

Falkirk Council representatives will also attend this year's event which takes place in Dunoon from October 13 - 21 and will ensure a major presence at Mod 2007 when it takes place in Lochaber.



Calum Iain Macleod, far right, back, with Murdo Morrison, third right, back, with representatives from Falkirk Council and Falkirk Junior Gaelic Choir, when the announcement was made at the Falkirk Wheel that the Royal National Mod will be held in the town.



Aiseag na Sàbaid

Sheòl a' chuid aiseag Sàbaid thairis Caolas na Hearadh aig an deireadh sheachdain.

Bha mòran chonnsaid mu dheidhinn co-dhùnadh Chaledonian Mac a' Bhruithain an t-seirbheis a chur air dòigh eadar an t-Òb agus Uibhist-a-Tuath, gu h-àraidh bho luchd dìon na Sàbaid.

Ach, air an là cha deach mòran aimhreit sam bith a dhèanamh, ged a chaidh tèip a chur thairis a chidhe agus chaidh dà bhratach a chur suas airson cur an cùimhne dhaoinne gum bu chòir dhaibh na Sàbaid a chumail.

Bha còig chàraichean is grunn luchd-siubhail air bòrd an t-aiseag, an MV Loch Portain.

Thuir Uisdean MacIlleicein, mansdair nan gnòthachan poblach aig CalMac: 'Ann an dòigh chan eil na h-àireamhan a tha a' cleachdadh na seirbheis seo gu bhith cudromach ri sin, o chionns gur e a th' air cul an rud a bhith a' dèanamh a' cheangal agus a' toirt a' chothrom do dhaoine ma tha iad airson an t-seirbheis a chleachdadh.'

Thuir a' chomhairliche Hearach, Morag Rothach, gun toireadh iad sùil air an lagh airson dearbhadh an urrainn dhaibh a chleachdadh airson a' cho-dhùnadh atharrachadh.

Thuir i neach deach mòran aimhreit a dhèanamh air an là oir gun robh daoine airson an t-Sàbaid a chumail, rud a tha iad airson a dhìon sa chiald aite.

The first ever Sunday ferry sailed across the Sound of Harris last weekend. Caledonian MacBrayne's decision to introduce the service from Leverburgh to North Uist attracted a significant amount of controversy, particularly from Sunday observance campaigners.

However, on the day there was little protest of note, although a tape was strewn across the pier and two posters were erected to remind people to keep the Sabbath.

Five cars and a number of passengers were aboard the vessel, the MV Loch Portain.

CalMac public affairs manager Hugh Dan MacLennan said: 'In a way the numbers

that will use this service is not that important, because what's behind the decision is to establish the connection and give people the opportunity to use the service.'

Harris councillor Morag Munro said they would be exploring legal avenues in a bid to reverse the decision.

She said there were no major protests on the day as people wanted to observe the Sabbath, the very thing they were fighting for in the first place.

Tide mhara a' cur miall air teicneòlas

Tha e air a thighinn am follais gu bheil an tide mhara a' toirt miall air seirbheis a' bhann-leathainn ann am Beàrnaraigh na Hearadh.

Chaidh rannsachadh a chur air dòigh agus chaidh dearbhadh gu bheil uachdar na mara, aig cuid a dh'amanan, a' tilgeil air ais na bannan rèidio.

Thuir Donaidh Mhoireasdan bho Iomairt nan Eilean Siar, a tha os cionn an t-seirbheis, nach eil e a' bualadh ach air duine no dhithis. Thuir e gun tèid a chur ceart ghe fhurasta a dh'aithghearr le bhith cur crann ùr suas nas fhaigse air na taighean.

Tha na siostaman againn ag obrachadh ann an iomadh aite air feadh nan eilean far a bheil a' dol thairis air a' mhuir, ach 's e Beàrnaraigh an aon aite far a bheil an duilgheadas beag seo ri fhaighinn,' thuir Mgr Morrison.

It has come to light that tidal conditions are affecting broadband services in the community of Berneray, south of Harris.

At low tide some island residents are unable to use the new technology. An investigation was conducted and it was determined that the surface of the sea, in certain conditions, reflect the radio waves off course.

Donnie Morrison from Western Isles Enterprise, which run the service, said it only affected one or two customers. He said it will be rectified easily by erecting a new mast closer to houses.

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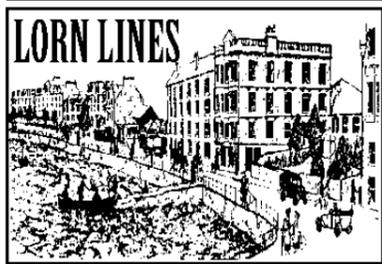
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OVERWHELMING support for Park Primary School's annual Daffodil Tea, organised as usual by the Parent Teacher Association, enabled the organisers to raise a fantastic £1,215.

The Easter Egg competition was judged by Jan Fowler while David Smith of Oban Rare Breeds Park, accompanied by rabbits, guinea pigs and a pet goat was a centre of attraction.

Once again the day started on a colourful note with the Easter Bonnet Parade.

A raffle, held to raise money to help fund this year's visit by primary seven pupils to Ardentinn Outdoor Centre, brought in £1,300.

Various fund-raising events, combined with a grant of £1,500 from Argyll and Bute Council, have enabled the school to raise a total to date of £4,300 for the Ardentinn trip.

THE SECOND last of the winter whists in Tainuill Village Hall was well supported when it took place on Friday March 24, with ten-and-a-half tables in play under the direction of cardmaster Leslie Servant.

Especially encouraging for the organisers was the fact that 16 of the participants were school-children.

Prizewinners - all Tainuill unless otherwise indicated - were: Gents - 1 Euan Livingstone; 2 Shona Griffiths, playing as gent; 3 Marjory McGregor, playing as gent; 4 Joan Howarth, playing as gent; consolation - Connie McNeill, playing as gent; travelling prize - Sheena MacKenzie, a visitor to the area. Ladies - 1 Cathie Reid; 2 Marina MacInnes; 3 Alice Campbell; 4 Isobel Grout, Connel; consolation - Alona Cameron; travelling prize - Janette MacMillan.

Everyone enjoyed an interval cup of tea and home baking. Including the proceeds of a raffle, the event raised £132 for the local Brownies.

The final whist of the series will take place on April 21 with profits earmarked for Erskine Hospital.

HONDURAS is one of the poorest countries in the world, with many of its population surviving on little more than 75p a day. In addition to extreme poverty the country suffers from lack of ready access to clean drinking water leading to a high death rate from diseases such as cholera. The appalling situation there was starkly brought home to members of Oban Rotary Club at a recent Tuesday lunch by guest speaker Jilly MacDonald.

Currently at university, where she is training to become a teacher, Jilly spent time teaching on the



Trophy winners at Oban Camera Club during the year 2005-2006 received their awards at the club's annual buffet in the Regent Hotel on Monday April 3. Our picture shows, from left to right, Alex Clark, president Jim Kirkpatrick, Ronnie McKillop, Anne Campbell, Steve Cross, John Douglas and Joan Allan, competition secretary, who presented the trophies.

Oban building trade on brink of crisis

THE BUILDING industry in Oban is on the brink of a crisis that could damage the economy of the whole town for years to come and all for the lack of water supply.

Development in Oban and most of Argyll and Bute is in a straight jacket because of Scottish Water's poor infrastructure.

Only Cardross and Rothesay in the whole of the council area are without constraints on either mains water or sewage.

In Oban this could force smaller building firms to close, force skilled

tradesmen to leave to find work and make major developers turn their backs on the area.

Leading local businessmen believe that it is the single most serious threat to the economy that Oban faces. 'Tourism aside, the only major industry in Oban is the building industry,' said John MacGregor a partner in MacGregor Hotels. 'If you consider the number of people not just building but involved in supplies, planning, architects, surveyors all their office

staff there must be at least 500 people.'

Mr MacGregor has plans for a hotel at Ganavan and a travel lodge-style hotel in Oban and both could stall because of the lack of water supply. 'And what have we got? Probably one of the highest levels of rainfall in Europe!'

Paul Nicoll, a director of DM MacKinnon Estates has been working with clients Dunstaffnage Estate and Argyll and Bute Council on a project that could add hundreds of new homes to Dunbeg, in a curve

around the outside of the existing village.

It would have affordable starter homes and come complete with extra sports pitches and coastal paths. The land has been zoned for development in the local plan which is due to go to a public inquiry this autumn. But even if the plans are approved the houses might not get built for decades if there is no water supply.

'The local, elected body of councillors don't have the final say, it's Scottish Water. They have the veto; they decide who can build

and this is wrong,' said Mr MacGregor.

Mr Nicoll said that the lack of supply of homes was having a crippling effect; the area would lose younger families. Low priced rented accommodation has all but dried up.

There are instances of families building homes and being unable to connect to the water supply. This means no completion certificate which means no money from the mortgage, which means overdue bills. 'The knock on effects are

being felt throughout the local economy,' said Mr Nicoll.

At its formation in 2002, Scottish Water's first investment programme saw the government give it the task of improving water quality; this second plan was to add more capacity for more new homes.

This month the next eight-year investment plan will be announced by Scottish Water and one of its priorities is to connect 120,000 new homes across Scotland at a cost of over £2 billion.

Man admits wilful fire setting

A TWENTY-year-old man admitted wilfully setting fire to a block of flats in Oban last August when he appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court.

Ronald Clark, Flat 3/2, 83 Hyndland Street, Glasgow, had previously pled not guilty to five charges of wilful fire raising but when he appeared at the first diet last week he pled guilty to one charge and not guilty to the other four, which was accepted by the Crown.

Clark admitted wilfully setting fire to a block of flats at 23 Shuna Terrace, Oban, on August 30 last year by lighting household rubbish in the drying area between 23C and 23D Shuna Terrace, to the endangerment of the occupants of the flats who were required to jump to safety and leading to the extensive damage of the flats.

The facts of the case, Clark's plea in mitigation and sentence were deferred until May 2 when background reports on Clark, a first offender, are to be available to the court.

Falling plasterboard costs driver £300

A NORTH Connel man has been fined £300 and three points added to his driving licence after admitting failing to secure a piece of plasterboard on to a roof rack properly.

The plaster board broke free from the van being driven by Robert Stratford, aged 47, 5 Benmore View, and landed on the bonnet of a car following, Oban Sheriff Court was told last week.

The incident happened on Dunollie Road, Oban, on February 4 this year and the car was not damaged.

Serious assault charge

A THIRTY-EIGHT year-old man appeared in private in Oban Sheriff Court this week charged with an alleged serious assault.

Malcolm Kerr, aged 18, of 1A Cawdor Place, Oban, appeared in connection with the alleged incident in Oban town centre.

Hangar approval

ARGYLL Aero Club has been granted planning permission for an extension to its hangar at Oban Airport.

The permission was granted under delegated powers by Argyll and Bute Council.

Warrant approved

HYDRO Seafood GSP is carrying out work at its site at Shian, by Benderloch. Argyll and Bute Council approved the building warrant for alterations and an extension to the fish processing plant.

Tainuill youth jailed for sawmill break-in

A SEVENTEEN-year-old youth has been detained for three months for breaking into a sawmill and stealing a power sander and power jigsaw.

First offender Stephen Kelly, 40 Achlonan, Tainuill, had been placed on probation by Oban Sheriff Court after admitting the offence in August last year.

But after breaching the terms of his probation order on several occasions, Kelly re-appeared last week at the court.

Kelly, who previously worked at Lorn Sawmills, had broken into the premises at Tainuill, causing £400-worth of damage on August 5 2005.

Sheriff Douglas Small told defence agent Edward Thornton: 'He has failed to attend four meetings and on one occasion swore at the social worker.'

'He was given this opportunity as a direct alternative to custody.'

Mr Thornton argued that the social work department did not feel that the situation was beyond redemption and that Kelly was beginning to get some stability in his life.

But Sheriff Small said he considered there was no alternative but to send Kelly to detention for the original offence.

Support project cash secured

FUNDING has been secured to continue the work of an Argyll bereavement support project.

The North Argyll Carers Centre based in Albany Street, Oban began the service three years ago and has secured funds to keep it running for several more months.

Carers who have lost a friend or family member can receive one-to-one counselling, palliative care provision or join support groups run by the project.

Support worker Jane Hewitt said: 'We are here to provide support. Some people just need to know that someone is there even if just to listen.'

The Bereavement Support Project is now seeking further funding to keep the service going long-term.

So far more than 80 people have benefited from the project that runs for a few hours each week.

Final closure notice

THE END is in sight for the bridge closures at Ardrishaig over the Crinan Canal.

British Waterways Scotland has issued its sixth and final closure notice.

The bridge over the canal will be shut from 10pm to 6am from April 11 and 13 inclusively. On the nights of Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th the bridge will be totally closed for approach road surfacing and end girder surface treatment operations that cannot be halted.

On Thursday April 13 HGVs will be able to pass at intervals during work breaks but may have to wait several hours for these to occur.

All the emergency services have been notified and arrangements are in



Provost and Mrs MacCallum, Drs Mac and Katie Armstrong, Janice McGhee and Steve Eccles at the ceilidh to mark Dr Katie's retirement.

Retirement ceilidh for Dr Katie Armstrong

A CEILIDH took place at Connel Village Hall to mark the retirement of Dr Katie Armstrong after 30 years' service to the community.

The ceilidh was held by the MedCats patient group at Tainuill Medical Practice and more than 100 patients and friends were entertained by 20 local singer sand dancers under the chairmanship of Provost Norman MacCallum of St

John's Cathedral, Oban. This was followed by a buffet which was also provided by the committee.

Steve Eccles, chairman of MedCats, gave a speech thanking Dr Katie for her work, and spoke of her dedication and many kindnesses shown to her patients over the years.

Professionalism He spoke of the calm, measured professionalism

with which she always approached new challenges and how she had run and developed the practice as it became one of the geographically largest in the country.

Painting Patients presented Dr Katie with an original painting by Trisha Hardwick, *Grapes, Bowl and Jug*.

The gift and bouquet were presented by Jane Nelson assisted by the children of the practice. Thanking everyone, Dr Katie said how much she had enjoyed being a GP and recalled poignant and amusing incidents from her career.

Dr Katie also described how the practice staff has grown from one part-time employee in the 1970s to the present complement of 30, including six doctors based in three surgeries in Tainuill, Connel and Dalmally.

The evening closed with a boisterous rendition of *Auld Lang Syne* accompanied by Ross McPherson on accordion.

Great send-off for Argyll council archivist

MURDO Macdonald, Argyll and Bute Council's archivist, has been given a great send-off after retiring at the end of March from his post of more than 30 years.

Friends and colleagues gathered to pay tribute to Murdo for his service not only to the council but to the people of Argyll and Bute.

Murdo was presented with gifts from his colleagues and friends and a civic quack from head of democratic services and governance Charles Reppke. He has also received presentations and thanks from societies and organisations that he has helped, advised, talked to and worked with over the years. A special presentation was made at Kilmartin House Museum last week from historical societies including Dalmally Historical Society, Inveraray and District History Society, Mid Argyll Natural History and Antiquarian Society, Lorn Historical and Archaeological Society, Three Historical Centre (An Iodlann) and Kilmartin House Museum.



From left, Dr Sharon Webb, Ian MacDonald, Trevor Baney, Marina Cowham, Murdo Macdonald, Angus Martin, Alison Blackwood and Jack Degnan. a15arc01

Temporary road junction faces up to toughest test

THE TEMPORARY give-way junction in Argyll Square, Oban, now faces its toughest test - the onslaught of summer traffic.

The re-design of the traffic flow around Argyll Square from a roundabout to a system with a give-way junction in the middle of a one-way system has not been without its critics.

When it first appeared

there were numerous near-misses and bumps as people got used to having one junction in the middle of the square's traffic system which went against the flow of the rest of the traffic. Drivers have to look left at this junction while all others around the square need them to look to the right.

Neil Brown, Argyll and

Bute Council's Neil Brown area manager for roads, said: 'We have said a number of times that the give-way junction is on an experimental basis.'

'It seems to be working quite well, better than expected.'

The big test was always going to be when the heavier volumes of ferry traffic arrived with the

summer season. With the arrival of Easter and the increase in ferry traffic, the white lines are to be repainted on the junction to make sure it is very clear but Mr Brown said people should not see that as an indication that the junction is a permanent fixture; it will be monitored for more time over the summer before a decision is made.

Connel pensioner banned for driving while unfit

A CONNEL pensioner has been banned from driving for two years after admitting driving while unfit through drink.

Witnesses had seen Alexander McPhee, aged 71, Stronsaule, Connel, driving erratically in Connel on the A85 and on the A828 between Barcalaine and Connel on the afternoon of August 31 last year.

Prosecutor Fiscal Jonathan Kemp said witnesses saw McPhee's car swerving on to the wrong side of the road on several occasions and he had problems negotiating roadworks at Benderloch, where a convoy system was in operation and he ignored the stop signs.

'Witnesses who spoke to the accused formed the opinion that he seemed to be heavily under the influence of drink,' said Mr Kemp, adding that McPhee's car seemed to be damaged, with the bumper hanging off.

Because of an accident elsewhere on the roads, Oban police were only able to speak to the accused after he had stopped driving the car at his home.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said McPhee had been socialising the evening before, got up the following morning, and went into his car to go and find his son and had driven around the area for sometime before returning home. 'When he returned home he consumed some

alcohol and was found in bed by the police and his wife. He accepts that he had drunk excessively the previous evening and accepts that he was not in a fit state to drive the following morning. He has not driven since the incident,' added Mr Thornton.

Sheriff Douglas Small told McPhee that he was lucky not to have been involved in an accident, driving in such a condition.

He fined the accused £450, banned him from driving for two years and told him if he completed the Drink Driver's Rehabilitation Course, the ban would be reduced by six months.

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

Police used CS spray to halt Caol shopping centre suicide attempt

POLICE in Fort William used CS spray on a man who was holding a scalpel to his neck and threatening to kill himself at a Fort William shopping centre.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week that police had found David Jason McBrier, aged 27, of 4 Patience Way, Caol, in Caol Shopping Centre holding a scalpel to his throat.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said that police had been contacted by McBrier's housemates at a flat he was then

living in to say that they were concerned at his behaviour and where he had gone.

Police then searched the Caol area and came across McBrier at the shopping centre.

Ms Wylie said: 'He was on a paved area next to the shopping centre.'

'Officers surrounded him and McBrier told them to let him die in peace.'

'Officers took out CS spray canisters.

'He refused to put the scalpel down and made short cutting movements. Officers deployed the canisters then managed to grab hold of him.'

McBrier was kept under guard in Belford Hospital where he required surgery on his neck.

McBrier also admitted charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest at Belford Hospital, Fort William, on January 10 this year.

He admitted disorderly conduct, brandishing a scalpel

and resisting arrest on Kilmallie Road, Caol, on February 8, 2006. Defence agent Hamish Melrose said that his client had mental health difficulties and had been offered employment in the Inverness area with a hotel chain.

Sheriff Robert Vaughan said: 'These offences are quite serious because they took place in a shopping centre in the presence of other people who were shocked by what you did.'

McBrier was placed on probation for two years.

Glencoe bridge now 20 weeks behind

WORK to replace Lairig Eilde Bridge in Glencoe is now 20 weeks behind schedule.

The project will not now be completed until November 2006.

Transport Scotland, which has taken over responsibility for trunk roads in the Highlands from BEAR Scotland, says a temporary bridge has been constructed for the duration of the work.

The previous bridge was in poor condition and strengthening was not thought to be economically viable.

Work began on the £3.7 million project last April.

Criticism expected at Portree High School

PORTREE High School's senior management team is expected to be criticised in the forthcoming HM Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) report.

HMIE inspectors were in the school for one week from March 13 with the report due to be published in late June/early July.

It is believed the school's rector John Howieson called a meeting at the school before the Easter break.

Mr Howieson is understood to have told staff that the senior management team had been criticised and there 'was a lot of hard work ahead'.

The school's hostel had received a favourable report last month. *The Oban Times* was unable to contact Mr Howieson as it went to press.

Ballachulish quarry could re-open

IT WAS once the capital of slate quarrying, producing 15 million slates annually, and now the old industry could return to Ballachulish.

A crisis in the availability of Ballachulish slate, which roofs not only much of Lochaber's housing stock but many of Lochaber's listed buildings, has led to a 'crisis' for Lochaber's built heritage, according to councillors.

The last quarry at Ballachulish closed in 1955 and with a diminishing stock of second-hand Ballachulish slate there is a need to ensure existing slates are salvaged for re-use in the repair of Lochaber's built heritage.

Ballachulish slate roofs are distinctive in appearance with a blue-grey colour, random sizes and a diminishing coursework, compared to modern machine-cut slate which is entirely regular in appearance.

Alan McKinnie, of the Scottish Stone Masons' Group, has taken 30 tonnes of core samples at Ballachulish which have been studied at the University of Paisley where they have a weathering chamber.

The results are to be passed on to Historic Scotland which, along with the Scottish Executive, will decide if quarrying at Ballachulish would be viable.

Character

Conservation architect John Duncan told a meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber planning committee this week: 'I think that a Scottish slate roof, as opposed to imported material, adds to the character of buildings and increases the attractiveness of buildings.'

'Historic Scotland is looking at the whole issue of materials and how we look after buildings.'

'If a quarry is opened up

at Ballachulish then more would be available, but if we use cheaper, imported slate the denigration we would have in this area would be great, unless we can get Scottish slate back into production.'

Planning committee chairman Drew MacFarlane-Slack said: 'For important local buildings in the vernacular style, built some time ago, we as a council are entitled to insist on conditions of style and materials. The executive could institute a policy that would suck out the Ballachulish slate from this area and we would like to have some sort of discussion with them about that. We may be approaching a crisis time.'

'We may need to produce a policy that allows us to measure and maintain the number of Ballachulish slates that come on the market in Lochaber and elsewhere, and manage this diminishing resource.'



The re-enactment of the famous Commando march at Spean Bridge. H5com01

Commandos turn back time at Achnacarry

TROOPS from across Europe turned back time when they marched into Spean Bridge at the weekend to re-enact a scene from yesteryear.

Around 40 soldiers and war veterans, dressed in

World War Two uniform, marched the seven miles from the former top-secret commando base at Achnacarry to the village train station on Saturday.

The event, which marked the 65th anniversary of the

Commandos' arrival in the area, was organised to raise money for a Combined Operations Memorial in Staffordshire, England.

The wartime commandos arrived in Spean Bridge by rail from all over the UK

and were then force-marched to the camp.

After the commandos earned their coveted green berets, they had to march back to the station to board the trains which took them to their units. Ex-

Commando Leslie Whipps, aged 83, from Birmingham, said: 'It meant a lot to me to be going back to our training area after so many years and I can honestly say this has been one of the best days of my life.'

Motorists block ambulance station

MOTORISTS are putting lives at risk by blocking the entrance to an ambulance station in Fort William, it has been claimed.

The concerns have been raised by Inverloch and Torlundy Community Council, which is pushing plans for road improvements in the area.

It fears motorists parking their vehicles outside the ambulance station, just off the town's Nevis Road,

could prevent paramedics responding to emergency calls.

The community council has asked for an extension to parking restrictions, including more double yellow lines and a new one-way system.

It has received support from the Scottish Ambulance Service and is lobbying the Highland Council's roads department to get the green light.

Community council secretary James Weir said: 'The concern is that if cars block the entrance to the ambulance station paramedics will not be able to respond to an emergency.'

'The problem arises mainly when parents drop off and pick up children at Inverloch Primary School. During certain periods of the day these parked vehicles hinder ambulances responding to 999 calls.'

The Scottish Ambulance Service has added its support to the community council's road campaign.

A spokesman for the ambulance service said: 'The community council has raised concerns that vehicles parking outside the station in Fort William could slow down an ambulance.'

'I'm not aware of that happening yet but I would ask motorists not to park too near the ambulance station

in future.' Highland Council admitted there are problems with parking in Inverloch and revealed it is looking at extending parking restrictions in the area.

Lochaber roads boss Jim Tolmie said talks are ongoing with the community council and parents to curb irresponsible drivers.

However, he said the local community would have to be consulted on any plans to change the road layout.

Two dead after road accidents in Lochaber

POLICE are appealing for witnesses after an elderly couple died and three other people were injured, one seriously, in two road accidents in Lochaber in the last week.

Anne Kinmount, aged 66, and her husband David Kinmount, 73, both of Elham, Kent, died as a result of a two-vehicle collision at about 3pm on the A82 near Cabernish by

Spean Bridge on Friday April 7. The road was closed for more than four hours, although local diversions for light vehicles were put in place.

Police request that anyone who witnessed this crash, or who was travelling on this section of the road at the time, contact Northern Constabulary on 01463 715555.

In a separate incident

three people were injured, one seriously, in a two-car collision on the A82 three miles south of the town at about 4.30pm on Thursday April 6. Fire crews had to use cutting equipment to free at least one of the casualties, a man and two women, who were taken to Belford Hospital in Fort William where one of the casualties was said to be in a serious condition.

New Lochaber recycling centre

LOCHABER residents will soon be able to recycle more household waste with the opening of a new centre in Ben Nevis Industrial Estate.

Householders will be able to take cans, car batteries, cardboard, engine oil, garden waste, gas cylinders, glass bottles and jars, paper and scrap metal to the centre which opens on April 19.

Environmental standard achieved by CalMac

FERRY operators Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) have been recognised for their commitment to improving environmental standards.

An ISO 14001 accreditation was awarded to CalMac who described it as a 'considerable achievement for the company.'

The ferry operator received the certification from Lloyds Register Quality Assurance for minimising environmental risks, meeting legislation requirements and demonstrating implementation of an effective Environmental Management System (EMS).

An ISO 14001 certification is a standard around which an EMS can be implemented.

Bill Robertson is the manager appointed by CalMac to supervise the process.

He said, 'Environmental issues have gained a high profile over the last few years. Concern for the environment and awareness of the need to improve management of finite resources and reduce waste is very much on the increase.'

'Now, very often, a com-

pany is judged as much on its environmental performance as on its operational service to its customers. This all creates additional pressures on a business to demonstrate a commitment to minimising its impact on the environment.'

Managing director of CalMac, Lawrie Sinclair, insisted that in receiving the certification CalMac was showing full conformance and fulfilling policy commitments giving the company a competitive edge over non-certified businesses when invited to tender.

Wood a viable energy source in Scotland?

IMAGINE a source of renewable energy that is cheap, has little planning or land use issues, could generate economic and environmental benefits in many rural areas, and is available in abundance right now in Scotland.

A team of researchers at the University of Dundee have just completed a pilot study in fuel-depleted rural areas and shown that locally-sourced wood fuel could offer a viable alternative to high cost rural domestic heating systems.

Wood as fuel is already common practice in Scandinavian countries and the Dundee researchers - based in the Geddes Institute in the School of Town and Regional Planning -

believe it could also work very well in Scotland and generate real economic and environmental benefits in some of the country's most rural areas.

This method of providing fuel focuses on meeting local energy needs with local energy resources rather than a dependence on centralised sources.

SCARF

The research was completed by Tony Jackson, Barbara Illsley and Bill Lynch and commission by Save Cost and Reduce Fuel (SCARF) with support from a range of other agencies including Perth and Kinross Council, Forest Enterprise, the Energy Savings Trust and WWF Scotland.

'It seems daft that we worry about the impending exhaustion of a non-renewable source of fuel in the North Sea when we are dumping into landfill or carting in lorries across the UK and the continent increasing amounts of sawdust and chips from our maturing plantations that could be used for local heating purposes,' said Barbara Illsley.

'Used for local heating, this endowment of renewable energy would offer a cheaper fuel to rural households, avoid landfill charges for sawmills and provide a better market price than sawmills can get by selling to the manufacturers.'

The research findings demonstrate why Scotland

has failed to emulate other parts of Europe with similar climates and timber resources, such as Austria and Sweden.

Guarantee

'Scottish households located in areas with wood industries remain uncertain of the heating opportunities available to them and local suppliers are unwilling to develop a domestic wood fuel market service without a guaranteed demand,' said Tony Jackson.

They encourage policy makers to promote local linkages and tailor energy efficiency incentives towards the construction of new low-cost renewable energy systems based on local resources and local needs.

ARGYLL and Bute Council has responded to concerns about the possible spread of bird flu by setting up a voluntary registration scheme for people who keep birds of any breed, which may spend all or part of their time outside.

Because this is not a traditional area for large poultry flocks and keepers generally have small flocks they fall into the 'less than 50 birds' category so are not required to be registered and do not receive updates from SEERAD.

The voluntary scheme will keep people informed and advised and there will be a registration form to download from today (Thursday) from the council website.

Susan Mair, head of the council's legal and protective services said: 'It is very much in people's interest to register and we hope the scheme will be of real benefit.'

Argyll and Bute introduce bird registration plan

HOLIDAY
west highland

Holiday West Highland, your complete holiday guide. Pick up a copy at Easter weekend from your local Tourist Information Centre and most tourist attractions

Published by The Oban Times Group

www.holidaywesthighland.co.uk

Highlands on bird flu alert

HOLIDAYMAKERS travelling throughout the west Highlands are being warned to look out for signs that the bird flu virus has arrived in the area.

With the Easter weekend approaching, walkers, cyclists and boat enthusiasts using the Caledonian Canal and other waterways across Scotland are being asked to report any sightings of dead animals.

It follows the discovery of a dead swan in Fife which was found to be carrying the highly infectious H5N1 strain of the virus.

British Waterways, which manages the Caledonian Canal, has put up posters pointing out that the risk to human health from bird flu is low. But it advises anyone who comes across a dead animal not to touch it and to call the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' helpline on 08459 335577.

NEWSDESKS
01631 568000
01397 703003

Record numbers at Fèis

A RECORD number of children from across Fort William went back to school during the first week of the Easter holidays to play a part in a musical extravaganza.

More than 160 youngsters, aged between four and 18 years, joined in the fun and games at the 16th annual Fèis Lochaber at Lochaber High School last week.

The event, which culminated with a colourful concert on Friday in Fort William, promoted the best traditional music on offer locally.

As well as art and dance workshops, children were also given the opportunity to learn the bagpipes, accordion, tin whistle, and Gaelic song.

Seven young people, who had been involved in previous events, returned this year to help tutor the record number of youngsters at the Fèis.

This year was the first time nursery-aged children had been invited to join in the fun. However, the increase in those attending has been attributed to the relationship Fèis Lochaber has built up with the local community in recent years.

Lochaber Feisean development officer Ingrid Henderson, who organised the event, said: 'It was a great event. This year we had a record number of youngsters joining in the Fèis.'

'It is always encouraging to see them getting together and coming back to school during the holidays.'

Elise Arnott and Sarah Johnson, front, and Elaine Reid and Eilidh Foggo at Fèis Lochaber.

Skye ferry sailings to continue

SAILING over the sea to Skye from the mainland is to continue at least for another year despite fears that a local ferry service was set to stop.

The Skye Ferry is to resume crossings between Glenelg and Kylerhea from tomorrow (Friday) after a £100,000 community buy-out of the service was mooted.

It was feared the daily ferry, which operates seasonally from Easter to October and had been up for sale, would close.

The removal of charges on the Skye Bridge, which has provided a new link to the mainland, was thought to have taken its toll on what is believed to be the last turntable ferry in the world.

However, local residents and businesses keen to ensure the long-term future of the service have set up the Isle of Skye Ferry Company and are leasing the ferry from its owner Roddy MacLeod, who is retiring as skipper after 16 years at the helm, until they can raise funds to buy the boat.

ARGYLL COLLEGE

Are you looking for an advanced IT qualification to improve your job prospects?

Are you an IT professional interested in the latest networking technology?

If so, Argyll College has the course for you

Starting in May 2006, Argyll College will be offering the latest Cisco Certified Networking Associate (CCNA) course, in partnership with Cisco Systems.

The course is highly respected throughout the IT industry and will run over four semesters (May 2006 - Spring 2007). The course can be delivered at any of our Argyll College learning centres, subject to local demand.

If you are between 16 and 25, Argyll College has a number of places available on the Skillseekers programme. Not only will the Skillseeker be paid a weekly allowance and travel and subsistence costs for attending the course, but Argyll College will also help find the Skillseeker a placement with a local IT company for the duration of the course.

A remote study option with compulsory Saturday workshops is now available for CCNA.

Argyll College can also offer the Cisco INTRO and ICND courses.

Places are limited so contact Argyll College by April 28th

For more information look at <http://www.argyllcollege.uhi.ac.uk/cisco> or contact Gordon Birmingham on 01631 559606 or gordon.birmingham@argyllcollege.ac.uk

Invergarry
Your correspondent is Gillean Sangster: 01809 511292

Wartime in Glengarry

THE HISTORY society in Glengarry has produced a booklet 'Wartime in Glengarry' which is packed with interesting photographs, information and reminiscences about life in Invergarry and the area during the two world wars.

The society felt it was important to capture the memories of the generation who lived through the wars in order that the stories they had to tell were not lost for ever or known to only a few. The booklet follows on from an exhibition held by the society in Invergarry Church where artefacts, newspaper cuttings and photographs went on display to the public. This attracted so much interest that the idea of putting it all on paper grew into the present 'Wartime in Glengarry' publication. Booklets are presently on sale in the filling station and Post Office in Invergarry and in Fort Augustus Post Office. Alternatively they can be obtained from Gillean Sangster, telephone number above.

Around the Rurals

Taynuilt

THE TAYNUILT branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute met in Taynuilt Village Hall on Monday March 8.

President Alice Campbell welcomed 12 members and five visitors.

After business was completed, the president introduced Sheena King, Taynuilt, who gave a jewellery demonstration. Sheena showed members and visitors lovely jewellery including necklaces, bracelets, rings and earrings, explaining from which countries the precious and semi-precious stones had originated. The pieces were all set in solid silver.

Medicinal benefits gained from some of the jewellery, which was passed around for everyone to look at, was explained.

At the end of the evening, everyone was able to purchase items which took their fancy. Sheena donated a percentage of sales to the Taynuilt branch.

Alice Campbell gave the vote of thanks for a most enjoyable evening and 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.

Glenorchy

MRS O'BRIEN welcomed eight members to the annual general meeting held on March 22 in the church hall, Dalmally.

The evening started with members having a secret vote whether to close the branch because of a lack of members or to continue as before.

The majority voted to continue and the following office bearers were elected: Mrs G Boardman, president; Mrs K Martindale, vice president; Mrs P Melville and Mrs V O'Brien, joint secretaries, and Mrs B Spalding, treasurer.

Thanks were extended to the two tellers Mrs T Orr and Mrs P MacLeod from Lochawe for their help.

A member then gave an interesting talk on 'Sea Glass'. Pieces of glass which have been weathered by the action of the ocean and sand can be collected and used to decorate vases and other items.

After tea the competitions were judged as follows: Items in a matchbox, 1 Mrs O'Brien; 2 Mrs S Boardman; 3 Mrs P Melville. Trinket box: 1 Mrs H Gibson; 2 Mrs K Martindale; 3 Mrs J Sutherland.

Plant sale

FOLLOWING the very successful plant sales of the last two years, this year's event will take place in the new community hall in Invergarry on Saturday April 22 from 11.30am to 4pm.

There will be competitions, refreshments, a raffle and an abundance of plants for sale. If anyone has surplus plants of any species, please bring them along, labelled and priced. Proceeds from the sale will go towards funds for the hall.

Glengarry Community Council

AMONG matters discussed at a recent meeting of Glengarry Community Council were:

Tomdoun Woods: Councillor Clark has been in touch with the various bodies involved in the timber extraction and has put forward the concerns of the community council regarding narrow roads and bridges in the glen. It appears that road use has already been taken into consideration in the planning stages.

Old hall site: Two entrances have been created at this site. The council had been led to believe that in the terms of the planning application, there could only be one main entrance. Councillor Clark is to be asked to check the planning details.

Wind farm community trust: With the guidance of Dot Ferguson, the community council is establishing community trust charitable status to handle the money which will come from the wind farm project. The council will be responsible for the initial setting up of the trust, members of which will come from the local community.

There will be a public meeting in the community hall on April 25 at 7.30pm.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Arable land

MUCH of Scalpay's once arable land has been lost to widespread wild growth. It has not been given enough attention to get productive results. Land where potatoes were once planted is now wild growth.

Church

MINISTERS expected to be assisting at the church's



Auchtertyre Primary Pupil Council celebrate the news their school playground is to get a £4,000 facelift.

Auchtertyre primary playground cash delight

A LOCHALSH primary school is celebrating after learning its playground is to receive a £4,000 face lift.

Pupils and staff at Auchtertyre Primary School have been looking for a long time at ways in which to improve the school grounds and extend the wildlife habitat and play area.

Now money from the Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) 'Supergrounds' programme will be delivered by Scotland's school grounds charity Learning Through Landscapes.

Supergrounds has been developed by the bank to strengthen the ties between the bank and the communities they work in. RBS staff nominate schools they are involved with and in Auchtertyre's case parent Lucy Grimson managed to get the award.

Lucy said: 'As a parent I know how difficult it is for schools to raise funds and this scheme seemed an ideal way for us to improve the school grounds to help the children develop. 'It's great that the Royal Bank of Scotland agreed to give its support to the school because of my involvement. When you give your spare time to support the development of a wetlands habitat area and a Challenging Play For All at Auchtertyre Primary, it's good that the bank is willing to give you its support.'

Golden Nugget Saloon for a three-night run of 'The Golden Nugget of Badrow'. Using the now familiar mix of students and staff, Ilona Munro crafted one of her slick and apparently effortless productions in the school hall.

The hysterically funny tale centred - more or less - on the legacy of the golden nugget. This was either the saloon itself, or a huge rock which only one of the quartet of dead-pan Indians could lift.

Along the way the audience met Prairie Belles, in spectacular costumes, Irish Nuns, two shady cowboys and assorted other characters, most of whom owed their origin in one western film or another.

The whole enterprise was narrated by Organza Bonanza, a confident Bryony Nelson, and

highlighted by music provided by The Antler Boys - a particularly evil looking trio, one of whom at least was in urgent need of a dentist. The enthusiastic cast sang a number of songs which again made reference to just about every Western musical ever made.

One of the most striking things about this production was the use of convincing accents. Quite apart from a ubiquitous American accent, the audience enjoyed broad Yorkshire, Irish, Mexican and a curious Spanglaise from Consuela, Rachael MacKenzie, who mixed a strong Mexican accent with broken English and a collection of Spanish names to produce a perfectly understandable performance with almost no sense at all in the words. Quite brilliant.

Mention must be made of

KINLOCHLEVEN High transformed itself into the

Kinlochleven
Your correspondent is Judith Brickwood: 01855 831955

Great show



Oban Hospice information open day

Oban Hospice held an information open day for medical staff to show what it can offer patients who are terminally ill. The hospice is based in the day hospital at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. Seen here at the open day are, left to right, Jennifer Clark, occupational therapy assistant; Glenda Critchley, staff nurse; Trixie Allan, occupational therapist; Jim Bowers, bank nurse; Gillian Lechie, staff nurse, and Sarah Williams, occupational therapist. t14hos02

Arisaig

Whist club

THE 2005/2006 winter session - 22 nights in total - of Arisaig Whist Club culminated with a celebratory dinner in the local Café Rhu where chef Ian Webb prepared a beautiful meal greatly enjoyed by the 21 club members who attended.

Angus and Nancy MacDonald then presented the following winners with their prizes:

Glencoe

Your correspondent is Ros MacDonald: 01855 811490

Senior citizens' whist

THE LAST whist drive of the winter season took place recently.

The £200 raised is to be donated to the Scottish Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Winners were: Ladies, 1 Jean Robertson; 2 Davina Plank; Travelling, Rosie Riznyk; Consolation, Hilda MacTaggart. Gents, 1 John MacDonald; 2 Kenny Duff; Travelling, Danny Ryan; Consolation, Corrine Allwood, playing as gent.

Glencoe meeting

A MEETING scheduled as a Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council meeting took place recently when top of the agenda was the proposed imminent closure of Glencoe Hospital.

Among those present were members of Ballachulish and Kinlochleven community councils. Such was the importance and concern of the proposed closure that members of the medical and nursing staff attended, along with members of the public. It was stated that Glencoe Hospital is the only hospital in the area which offers respite care to the elderly. In the interim, it was agreed that nursing staff would forego holidays and change their rota shift system in order that closure could be averted. It was agreed to offer a 90-day period of non-closure, to see if a longer term solution might be found.

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Safety cameras target speeders

A NUMBER of areas around Crianlarich and Tyndrum are being targeted once again for speeding motorists this year. Strathclyde Safety Camera Partnership has already announced that it is going to be using its mobile speed cameras in a van parked by the side of the road, on the A85, about three-and-a-half miles west of Tyndrum, and on the A82 at Bridge of Orchy.

Crianlarich, which falls within Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership, will also have mobile speed cameras in use on the A82 within the 30mph limits of the village itself.

Warning
Tyndrum and Crianlarich have warning signs between the two villages that speed cameras are in use in the area and the mobile units have been introduced as a result of the

number of accidents in the area. The safety camera partnership involves the police forces of each area - Strathclyde and Central Scotland - the local authorities and Transport Scotland, which oversees the trunk roads system for the Scottish Executive.

Inspector David Sutherland, head of Strathclyde's Road Policing Unit in Argyll, said: 'The camera partnership is an important, integral part of casualty reduction.

'It augments the work that roading policing officers are doing in the Oban area.'

Fatalities
The use of safety cameras on the A85 started in 2004 because of four accidents on the road, two of which involved fatalities or serious injury, between 2000 and 2002.

The camera site on the A82 at Bridge of Orchy was introduced in April 2003 because of four accidents in the area, three of which

involved fatalities and one serious injury, between 1999 and 2001.

Three court cases are pending in Oban Sheriff Court involving alleged speeding on the A82 at Bridge of Orchy.

The speeds allegedly reached were between 96mph and 112mph and all three drivers were aged over 50 years.

Another case pending involves alleged dangerous driving by overtaking, near Bridge of Orchy, in the face of on-coming traffic, which resulted in two cars leaving the road. The safety camera partnerships were set up to change driver behaviour and make drivers aware of the dangers of excessive and inappropriate speeds.

The cameras are used at sites where accident statistics suggest there is a need to reduce the number of casualties and make motorists aware of the need to reduce speed.

In Central Scotland in

2004, 904 people were killed or injured on the roads, 183 seriously injured and 15 killed.

Safer
Safety camera partnership programme manager for Central Scotland Inspector Bob Murphy said: 'Our goal is to assist in making the roads in our area even safer and to do this we will concentrate our efforts on those motorists who choose to disregard the speed limit and compromise their safety and that of every other road user.'

The three police forces whose boundaries meet at Crianlarich and Tyndrum, Northern Constabulary, Central Scotland and Strathclyde, have carried out joint campaigns in the past in Tyndrum to raise driver awareness, especially among the many motorcyclists who drive through and to the area in the summer.



One of the mobile camera units.



Front, Iain and Mairi Wilkie and Edward Robertson, with the IIP award and, from left, Carol Kelly, office manager; Andrew Watson, Whisky Galore manager; Corinne Marr, Goods and Gifts assistant manager; Lynne MacPherson, Perfect Present manager; Callum Marr, head chef; David Shaw, filling Station manager; and Bernadette Marno, restaurant manager. 1154/01

Green Welly celebrates IIP success

THE GREEN Welly Stop is now able to say that it is officially an investor in its staff after gaining the prestigious Investors In People (IIP) award.

After more than three years of hard work, the company, which employs more than 80 staff at its shop, petrol station, restaurant and gift shop in Tyndrum, can now proudly display the plaque.

Edward Robertson, who runs the business along with his wife Fiona, her brother Iain Wilkie and his wife Mairi, said becoming an IIP had first come to light when they decided they wanted to review the restaurant manual.

From there it seemed to make sense to review the whole company and with help from Forth Valley Enterprise, the Green Welly Stop embarked on the IIP process.

This involved an assessment of what was good - and could be improved - on how the staff operated within the business and how they were supported in their roles.

Training was carried out at all levels, a human resources system put in place, an employee handbook produced, among other things.

'IIP is very much about us investing in the employees,' said Edward, 'because they make the company more profitable and efficient by benefiting themselves through career development.'

It is a three-year workforce development plan and the company will be assessed again in three years to ensure that it is still operating to certain standards.

'From my point of view it has clarified everything for everyone. If a staff member doesn't understand something or is confused by something, they have a handbook to go and refer to.'

He said as a company they wanted to promote from within and wanted to offer their staff a career rather than just a job.

New pitch opens Easter Sunday

YOUNGSTERS in Tyndrum will be queuing up to form new football teams with the opening on Easter Sunday of the new kick-around area.

The ground was donated by Stirling Council in the Mansfield area but because it was in a boggy condition, Strathfillan Community Development Trust applied to various bodies for funding to make it playable.

Joyce Russell, development officer with the trust, said: 'There is fencing to keep the balls away from the houses and we also built a barbecue.'

Already pupils from Crianlarich have been using it for rugby practise and it will no doubt be popular as

one of the few pieces of flat land in the villages to play all manner of ball games on. The official opening on Easter Sunday will include an Easter egg hunt, Easter bonnet competition and barbecue as well as the first formal football matches to be played on the ground.

The trust is also looking at developing a five-a-side all-weather pitch at Tyndrum Lower Station yard.

This would also have car parking, a play area, barbecue and picnic site but it is early days in the investigations for the area and will involve applying to funding bodies for various grants.

New shelters at stations

TRAIN passengers travelling between Oban and Glasgow are set to see more improvements to the line this summer.

First ScotRail, which operates services on the West Highland line, has announced that new waiting shelters are to be installed at Tyndrum Lower and Connel Ferry, Connel, stations by August.

The train company is spending £870,000 installing new shelters at 25 stations across Scotland to provide a safe and secure environment for train passengers when on the platform.

Comfort

First ScotRail's commercial director Gordon Dewar said: 'The new shelters reflect our ongoing commitment to providing better facilities and greater comfort for our customers on the West Highland line.'

'Already this year, we have installed additional seats and cycle hoops at a number of stations, highlighting how we are driving forward improvements and there is still considerably more to come.'



Tyndrum Upper Station could be in line for a facelift. 1155/01

Plans on line to brighten stations

MOVES are afoot to brighten up the rail stations in Tyndrum and Crianlarich.

Strathfillan Community Development Group has agreed, in partnership with Highland Rail Partnership, to adopt-a-station.

The trust has agreed, with funding from the rail partnership, to provide tubs and plants and hanging baskets for the station in a bid to bring colour to the platform.

Development manager Joyce Russell said Highland Rail Partnership was to provide the funds and the trust would find the people to help plant and maintain the tubs.

The trust is also looking the possibilities of developing

the old wooden station building at Tyndrum Upper Station, in conjunction with the Friends of the West Highland Line. The listed building is no longer manned and has been lying empty for some years.

Other empty stations around the country have been turned into everything from cafés to bunkhouses to florists.

Joyce said the trust would also be happy to take Tyndrum Lower on board in terms of providing flower baskets and tubs. 'It is great to deal with an organisation with a 'can-do' attitude,' said Joyce of the Highland Rail Partnership.

'They will provide the funding if we provide the man power,' she said.

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Raising the roof in Killin

KILLIN Church is holding a 'Come 2 Sing' event on Saturday, with the popular band Born 2 Worship.

Although it may sound like a fund-raising event, organisers say it is not; it is an opportunity to go to the church and enjoy the musical talents of the band and worship at the same time.

Born 2 Worship has attracted audiences at various venues throughout the country and most recently 150 people 'rocked' for nearly two hours at a similar event in Alloa.

'There is more going on at the local church than sometimes we realise, including the Sunday School enjoyed by the school children who attend and also the '630', which is led by the Abernethy Trust every third Sunday of the month and features informal worship and guest speakers,' said a spokesperson for Killin Church.

Admission is free to see Born 2 Worship on April 22 in Killin and the band is also touring in Perth, Crieff, Auchterarder and Stirling.

Call for better approach to statistical reporting

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP is calling on academics, economists and others to 'clamour' for a better approach to statistical reporting in Scotland.

Following the announcement that Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown MP was considering removing the UK Office of National Statistics office from ministerial control, Jim Mather MSP said the absence of equivalent proposals for Scotland was worrying.

'Especially as we already have major concerns about the nature, completeness and veracity of the statistical data that is available at present in Scotland,' he said.

'The fact is that this Scottish Chancellor of the Exchequer plans to liberate the production of statistical data in England, yet seems willing to simultaneously turn off the statistical lights in Scotland.'

He said the Scottish Executive could end up presenting data to suit its own purposes and such an outcome was 'totally unacceptable'.

'I am therefore calling on academics, economists and any other people who care about the future of Scotland to clamour for an equivalent high-integrity approach to statistical reporting,' he added.

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Footbridge shut for four weeks

OBAN'S Soroba footbridge over the railway line will be closed for at least a month while major repairs are carried out.

It means another mile is added to people's journeys from the housing estate down into Oban and has prompted fears it will tempt more people to take the illegal and dangerous short cut across the railway line.

The bridge links Soroba estate to Drummore Road, via Mull Terrace. Its closure means there is only McCaig Road into and out of Soroba.

The footpath between McCaig Road and St Columba's School is also closed while work continues on the new school building; some people have been cutting through by the Drummore School building.

Argyll and Bute Council is responsible for the bridge which was blocked off as a safety precaution once the

problem was discovered. The bridge is inspected annually as part of the council's safety programme; consulting engineers are brought in on behalf of the council.

This year's inspection showed that there were problems and the council acted swiftly and closed the bridge in order to enable a further inspection to determine the necessary action.

Signs Signs advising that the bridge was to close were placed on the bridge and throughout Oban and the closure took place at 6pm on Friday March 31.

The council arranged for a further site visit by consultant engineers on Tuesday last week and afterwards a plan of action was agreed. The footbridge will have to remain closed to allow the support structure of the main bridge to be strengthened; this will

ensure that the bridge has adequate load bearing capacity.

A council spokesman spoke to *The Oban Times* after the consultant's second site visit.

'The council has been advised that the work will need to be as scheduled and it is anticipated that the bridge will re-open in approximately four weeks,' he said. 'Regrettably the bridge will have to remain closed until the strengthening work is carried out.'

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 short-cut.

'We would ask parents to stress to their children not to attempt to use the bridge or climb over the gate,' said Community Constable Jeremy Moore when the closure was announced.



Hypno-birthing practitioner Johan MacIver, back row second left, with members of Oban Maternity User Group who attended the presentation she gave at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. t14mat01

Hypno-babies are happy babies, Oban's maternity group mums are told

MOTHERS-to-be in Oban have been learning about hypno-birthing, intended to turn giving birth in to the beautiful peaceful experience nature intended.

The Oban Maternity User Group's own secretary Lyndsay Elliott is a perfect example of the technique.

She had to be taken by ambulance, on an emergency blue-light journey, to the Royal

Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. There she confounded the midwives by being calm and relaxed.

So calm that they thought labour had stopped and wanted to pump her full of synthetic hormones to get things started again. Then they looked at the graphs from the machine monitoring her contractions and realised she was progressing very well.

Her secret was hypno-birthing; Lyndsay was using deep relaxation techniques to allow her body to do what it wanted, free from the fear and tension that often accompanies labour.

Mothers in Oban learned about hypno-birthing in a presentation by hypno-birthing practitioner Johan MacIver from Glasgow. Johan will be working

with local mothers to help them achieve better birthing.

The presentation was arranged by Oban Maternity User Group, a group of mums and midwives working together to ensure that maternity care in the area is the best it can be.

The group is working towards producing a baby-friendly guide to Oban and

will be busy during Breastfeeding Awareness Week from May 15 to May 22. Mothers are welcome to attend any meetings; the dates are shown in the forthcoming events section of *The Oban Times*. Or you can contact Lyndsay at her email address:

Lyndsay.Swinton@unk.com or telephone Federica Rossi on 01631 563571 for more details.

Cocaine possession leads to £450 fine

AN OBAN man who says he bought cocaine while drunk but does not have a drug problem has been fined £450 at Oban Sheriff Court after admitting possessing cocaine.

Hugh Russell, aged 22, had been stopped by police at midnight in Queen's Park Place, Oban, on March 25 last year as he seemed to be under the influence of something.

Searched He was searched and 0.2 grammes of cocaine, worth around £30, was found on him.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said Russell, 25E Kerra Terrace, was drunk not under the influence of drugs and had bought the cocaine after a guy he didn't know offered it to him in a pub.

'If he had sobered up he would have thrown it away,' he said, adding that Russell was adamant he did not abuse drugs.

Paint thrower must pay

A MAN who threw a pot of paint at a house and wrote slogans on the wall of the house in Dunollie has been admonished after being of good behaviour for nine months.

Clifford Maguire, aged 38, 31 Ladyton Estate, Bonhill, Alexandria, had admitted vandalising the house on July 3 last year when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last year and had his sentence deferred.

He was also ordered to pay compensation last week of £100 to Argyll and Bute Council, which owns the property.

Window smash man 'very drunk'

A MAN who threw bricks through the windows of two Oban premises and kicked open the back door of the Oban Inn caused a total of £1,300 worth of damage.

Duncan McWhirter, aged 20, had been very drunk at the time of the incidents between 3am and 5am on March 10, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

McWhirter admitted throwing a brick through a glass door at Harbour Bowl on Shore Street and the End of Line Bargain Store in Craigard Road and also kicking in the rear door at the Oban Inn, setting off the alarm, with intent to steal.

Stopped When stopped and cautioned by police McWhirter, whose address in court was c/o McKay, 18 Nelson Road, Oban, said he had been trying to break in to get some 'fags'.

Sheriff Douglas Small ordered McWhirter to pay total compensation of £550 and put him on probation for 12 months, in order to help him deal with a drugs problem, and ordered him to carry out 100 hours' community service.

Teenager who drove into fence must pay

AN OBAN teenager who drove into a fence, damaging it, failed to report the accident to police within 24 hours.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that Ryan Carter, aged 17, was changing a CD while driving down Glengallan Road, Oban, on February 4. He failed to pay attention to the road and drove into the fence of West Coast Motors, panicked and drove away.

Defence agent Kathleen McMahon said he later had a fit of conscience, told his mother who then took him to the police station but by that time it was more than 24 hours after the accident. The fence repair had been paid for through insurance. Carter, an apprentice plumber of 2A Dalintart Drive, was fined £400 and had five points added to his licence.

CCTV for sports field

THE NEWS sports pitch at Oban High School will be named Oban Community Sports Field, members of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of Argyll and Bute Council have agreed.

A management group has also been formed to operate and manage the field.

This will comprise three local councillors, Robin Banks, who will be chairman, Donald McIntosh and Sidney MacDougall, along with four representatives of sports organisations and two members of staff from the high school with support from appropriate council officers. The councillors believe that the cost of pitch hire is affordable while still generating sufficient funds for the maintenance and eventual replacement of the surface.

The school's closed circuit television system will also be extended to cover the pitch. Councillor McIntosh said: 'When I visited the playing field recently kids were playing football on it; they'd climbed over the top of the fencing.'

Alterations

ARGYLL and Bute Council has approved a building warrant for work at the Church of Scotland at Corran Esplanade for alterations to the church to form a disabled person's toilet, a new concrete ramp and a wrought iron balustrade.



Performers at a 'celebration of dance', left to right, Joanna Kirsop, Stuart Brookes, Graham Scott, Christopher Knowles, Melissa MacFarlane and Gavin Nicol and, front row, Mhairi Still, Margret McKain and Kirsty Munro.

Moleigh's impressive dance moves

MOLEIGH Dance Company, a group that promotes dance and disability in the area, held the show 'a celebration of dance' at the Corran Halls in Oban.

For one night only the public was treated to seven contemporary dances performed by dancers who attend the Lorn Resource Centre for people with learning disabilities. The performance covered a variety of themes from Aboriginal body painting dance 'the awakenings'

to 'in dreams' the story of one man's desire to escape his disability. The company is run by day centre officers Ruth Claire Mallison, Jim Swain and Sue Baker.

Currently the company is in the process of setting up an independent charitable organisation that will enable them to apply for funding to continue its work.

The company will hold an open meeting at the Lorn Resource Centre on May 23 at 7pm.

Lions' licence go-ahead for big day

A MAJOR worry hanging over the ever-successful Oban and Lorn Lions Club Charities' Day has been lifted.

After lengthy discussions about the need for a market operators' licence, Argyll and Bute Council has said it will give the Lions a reduction in the fee for the licence.

The club is now in the process of formally applying for the licence for Charities' Day to be held on June 3 this year.

'This will mean all stalls will be able to sell food and drink as in previous years, as long as this has been notified on the application form and individual stall holders will not need to

apply for individual licences,' said John Lloyd from the Lions Club.

Any charity which needs

to apply for a stall should contact John on 01631 562762 for the necessary application form.



Shopmobility's dividend

Oban and Dumbarton Co-op committee community dividend co-ordinator Ian Malloy presents a £500 cheque to the disability service Shopmobility Oban. From left to right: Iain Strickland, chairman of Disability Forum, Ian Malloy, Anne Mossman, co-ordinator of Shopmobility and volunteer Judith Dugans. t15shop01

Oban FM goes slimline at The Beach

DO YOU think that Oban FM sounds a bit thinner these days?

That could all be down to The Beach Health and Fitness Club.

As part of the station's fund-raising for its Cash For Kids appeal, Ian and Lesley Blair-Simmonds and Joy and Campbell Cameron committed themselves to losing weight and improving their lifestyles.

Step forward the team at The Beach Health and Fitness Club who generously gave of their time and free assessments, dietary advice and free use of the club. They spent a lot of time advising the quartet and setting realistic

individual training sessions and targets. It was agreed that 10lbs weight loss over an eight-week period was best and they set to work. The official weigh in was on Saturday April 1 and they were pleased to announce that together the four lost an impressive 71lbs. In the process they gained £1,000 from donations and sponsorship which will be added to the running total at the radio station which stands in the region of £10,000 and there is more to come.

'Many thanks to all *Oban Times* readers and our listeners who have sponsored us and the general Cash for Kids activities,' said Ian Blair-Simmonds.

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

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

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

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

THE DARK
15 Certificate
93 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
7.00 EVERY DAY (INCLUDING SUNDAY) from FRIDAY - 2.30 SATURDAY MATINEE

This is a chilling psychological thriller, from the director of 'Ginger Snaps' about an estranged couple mourning the loss of their daughter Sarah. They are visited by Ebrill, who claims to have died over sixty years ago and who bears a strong resemblance to their daughter.

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 star Sean Bean, Maria Bello and Richard Eilfin.



La bohème was performed by Scottish Opera at the Corran Halls.

Scottish Opera comes to Oban

SCOTTISH Opera's production of La bohème played to a capacity audience last Thursday evening at Oban's Corran Halls.

Oban is one of eight towns that has been visited or is about to be on this tour by Scottish Opera, with eight cast members and a small orchestra taking opera out of its traditional home of the big theatres in the city.

Puccini's beautiful opera set in the Latin Quarter of Paris portrays the impoverished side of life for a group of struggling artists, including a poet, painter, philosopher and musician.

Rodolfo, played by Nicholas Ransley, falls in love with Mimì, Sarah Redgwick, a beautiful neighbour, who is dying of consumption, in the cold French winter.

Che gelida manina - this tiny hand is freezing - is one of the most poignant and famous love scenes of any opera and sent the tingles up the spines of the audience at the Corran Halls as it has audiences since 1896 when it was first performed.

Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES
(Mar 21 - Apr 20)
09111 767 272

With the Sun and Pluto in perfect union, this would be a brilliant week to take positive steps of any kind. And the move of your ruler, could put you in a determined frame of mind if you have been planning home improvements and you can power into action to make these happen. Then again, a restlessness to move homes could surface. Finances bounce back mind. For more, please call me.

TAURUS
(Apr 21 - May 21)
09111 767 272

Not everything that has been going for you has been doing so in an obvious way. By the end of this week you will be able to breathe a sigh of relief that recent strains and delays fade but also that you start to feel the full magic of the Spring. This can see you have, quite literally, a spring in your step! Put any timidity to one side, then you will really find your voice. For more, please call me.

GEMINI
(May 22 - June 21)
09111 767 272

People seem to be in touch from all directions. With that bright and breezy side of you assuaged, you can be happy with all the attention, but you still need to make some shrewd decisions about where you are going to direct your time and energies. Above all else is influenced by people's sincerity and someone very discreet can help you to build your fortunes from this week onwards. For more, please call me.

CANCER
(June 22 - July 22)
09111 767 272

Protecting your home, emotional and family interests is often the cornerstone of your instincts. Yet perhaps worldly demands have been creeping up. If this is so, you may need to reduce your commitments. Yet hugely pleasingly, the move of Mars into your sign ends a time when your mood may have been more up and down than normal. By the weeks end, your focus can be re-established. For more, please call me.

LEO
(July 23 - Aug 23)
09111 767 272

Some friendships and associations have come to the centre of your universe in recent weeks. Now you can find out just how durable some of these may be. Yet this is also a good week to reconnect with anyone you have had a longer standing affiliation with, yet have seen less of recently. There could be one particularly influential person, set to re-enter your orbit - and how so! For more, please call me.

VIRGO
(Aug 24 - Sep 23)
09111 767 272

If you have been experiencing a tightening up in your cash flow, don't be fearful of reaching out to others, this kind of networking could stimulate an excellent idea or see you enter a co-operative type of enterprise. At work, your team playing skills can be either tested or utilised. And generally, the thought of taking part in more vigorous activities can appeal. For more, please call me.

LIBRA
(Sept 24 - Oct 23)
09111 767 272

Your gracious ways often open the doors of opportunity. However, sometimes, do you get into the trap of being overly deferential? If you do, this probably doesn't trouble you on a daily basis, after all, it makes for a smooth life. Yet there's a point where you will make a stand if you feel people are taking liberties, and this week can be it - as someone may be about to find out. For more, please call me.

SCORPIO
(Oct 24 - Nov 23)
09111 767 272

You're not a machine, you're a human being, complete with the fallibilities and foibles that is part and parcel of person kind. If currently you're struggling with any element of life, but it work, your health or happiness, don't ignore any metaphorical flashing lights. If you apply yourself, this and the move of Mars and the Sun can do wonders and soon things can look brighter. For more, please call me.

SAGITTARIUS
(Nov 23 - Dec 21)
09111 767 280

An embarrassment of riches, a wonderful saying and it could be one that neatly fits with you right now. Except that any options you have could require decisions and these may not be so easy to make. Ah, well nothing is perfect. But if you keep your wits about you - and there is every chance that you can - you enter a new phase this week, when you can really sort out what's what. For more, please call me.

CAPRICORN
(Dec 22 - Jan 20)
09111 767 281

After a period of potential introspection, or at least when you may have been consumed with the inner dynamics of your world, you can emerge into the sunlight with greater vigour, more enthusiasm and perhaps even a bit of combative approach. However, perhaps your frustration has been quietly boiling away. Be assured, a more playful, fun and creative time awaits. For more, please call me.

AQUARIUS
(Jan 21 - Feb 19)
09111 767 282

With your aptitude for communications or anything of a technical or logical nature, the last three weeks have provided you with a superb platform to flourish. Yet you do need to keep an eye on the small detail of things. If you get ahead of yourself you could come unstuck. Yet what is true, is that your ability to work hard and really commit yourself, is boosted this week. For more, please call me.

PISCES
(Feb 20 - Mar 20)
09111 767 283

Both the Sun and Mars move into seriously helpful locations for you this week. This can do wonders for your spirits and can see you much more up for demonstrating what makes you who you are and good things can come to you in kind. Sociability, creativity and romance can all be positive arenas for you - if you seize the moment. However, for now, cash may still need care. For more, please call me.

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

The Oban 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.

Saturday 15th April
Easdale Island Community Hall, Rock Night, 7.30pm, Tickets £5

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

Oban Bach Choir and orchestra, Glencruitten Road Church hall, Oban, 7.30pm

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

Saturday 29th April
Loch Eive Shoreline Clean-Up, Start Ardchattan Church, 1-3pm. Further information 01631 569188

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

Saturday 22 July
Taynuilt Highland Games, Sports Field, Taynuilt

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



Roddy MacLeod hands over a cheque for £500 to Margaret Farmer of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

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COMMUNITY Noticeboard

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
Open Days at Bamaulagan Archaeological Dig 15-17 April
Geodesic Dome Building Workshop 22 & 23 April 9.30 - 4.30pm
for further information, booking and diary of events contact 01546 510278 www.kilmartin.org

PLEASE SEE CHANGE OF TIME
Choral Concerts By **CRUACHAN CONSORT**
Meditative Choral Music
By Bach - Poulenc - Tallis - Bruckner
Conductor - Stephen Williams
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Iona Abbey - 2.30pm Thursday 13th April
St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe - 7.00pm Friday 14th April (Good Friday)

Scottish Wildlife Trust
Lorn & Mid Argyll Members' Centre
Thursday 20th April **FROM WAVES TO WHALES**
An illustrated talk by Dr Dick Stevick
Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust
Talk to follow the AGM at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory at 7.30 pm
ALL WELCOME

Easdale Island Community Hall
fundraising **ROCK NIGHT**
with dillwagff & FRAMED
Saturday 15th April at 7.30pm
late return ferry
Tickets £5
www.easdale.org/hall for full info.

The Crucifixion
by Sir John Stainer
Good Friday 14th April 2006
7.30pm
St Oran's Church, Corneil

CAR BOOT SALE
Dalmally Auction Mart
Sunday 23rd April from 1pm
Tables £5
Teas
Bookings 01838 200600
(please note new telephone number)

Congregational Church
Easter Weekend
Saturday 15th April
Church open for flower display & reflection 12 - 4pm
Sunday 16th April
Family Service 11am
Monday 17th April
Coffee morning 10 - 12 noon
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Gallery Bletthers @ An Tobar
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Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £11.85 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number. All AGMs will be placed on the Public Notice Page. Please ask for details

Accordian club boost Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival funds

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club held its last night of the season last Thursday in McTavish's Kitchens.

The usual full house listened, feet tapping of course, to Ian Hutson and his Scottish Dance Band as well as 'the usual suspects' from Oban, Connel and North Connel.

These included, on accordion, Robert Robertson, club president Michael Garvin, Willie Buchanan, Hector MacFadyen and Scott Sinclair, with Duncan Campbell, Archie Cameron and David Cameron on drums.

As part of the evening's proceedings a cheque for £500 was handed over to the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival organisers.

This was the last of a number of cheques that have been given to local musical and charitable organisations by the club from its proceeds throughout the season.

Margaret Farmer and Riona MacInnes were on hand to accept the cheque and thank the club, for a third year in a row.

The money will go towards funding the prestigious Accordion and Fiddle Masters on the Friday evening of the festival.

'It helps us tremendously,' Riona told the club audience, 'It helps us to bring up these top players to the town, so thank you very much indeed.'

As part of the final evening, the audience was asked to vote for its favourite guest band of the season as part of the BAFFs run by the National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs.

They were also asked to vote for the best CD of the year, released in the last 12 months and club supporter of the year.

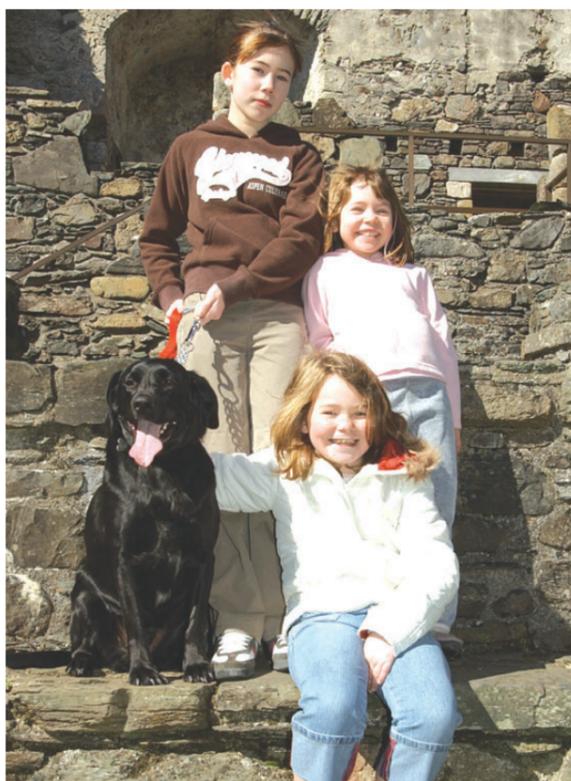
The results of the national vote will be announced at the national association's annual general meeting in Perth in June.

Finally, although the last night of this season, Roddy MacLeod was able to tell the audience that McTavish's Kitchens, which kindly allows the club to host its evenings upstairs, has been booked for the next season, starting with the Roy Henry Trio on October 5.

LEISURE TIMES



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Take a bus ride into history

The Munro sisters from North Ballachulish, Sian, Shaye and Kiera, seated, took their mum and dad Sybil and Craig along to Dunstaffnage Castle to enjoy the Historic Scotland open weekend and Drum the dog went too. Staff at the Historic Scotland visitor centre at the famous castle are looking forward to a busy season as there is a new bus service to Dunstaffnage. The 405 bus goes to Dunbeg every half hour and once an hour continues onto Dunstaffnage, to serve the marine laboratory, college and the castle itself.



Lorna Forbes of Kranenburg Fine Art Galleries shows off Davy Brown's 'Arran Sunset' painting. Two years of hard work from this Ayrshire artist is now on display in Oban. A preview of Davy Brown's new work was held in Kranenburg Fine Art Galleries on Stevenson Street. Davy, who is a former teacher, concentrates on landscapes with views of the Mull of Kintyre and Arran providing the inspiration for his latest work. He was unable to attend the preview because of a family wedding. The exhibition runs until April 29. 11Sat01

The return of Myrtle the turtle

A SEA turtle that was nursed back from the brink of death by animal care staff at the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary near Oban is set to return to the wild.

Loggerhead turtle, Myrtle, is to jet off to Gran Canaria on Monday, April 24, to be released back into the Atlantic Ocean.

Myrtle, who was missing a flipper (presumably bitten off by a shark) was originally washed up on North Uist in the Western Isles in June 2004.

'She was in a really bad way,' said Sea Life displays supervisor Jamie Dyer.

'She was clearly malnourished, she was hypothermic from days in much colder waters than she was used to, and she also had some nasty infections.'

Myrtle's initial care involved round-the-clock monitoring, tube feeding, courses of antibiotics and very gradual raising of her body temperature.

'It was a long haul, but eventually she was strong enough to feed herself, her eyes cleared and she was able to swim again in a shallow quarantine tank,' said Jamie.

More than three months after her initial rescue, she was declared fit enough to move to Scarborough to complete her convalescence in the big ocean tank.

Fittingly, she will be accompanied on her flight to freedom by both Jamie and Scarborough Sea Life's Lyndsey Crawford, who has overseen Myrtle's care since her move south of the border.

Myrtle has already been fitted with a special identification tag on her left shoulder to help identify her if she encounters humans again in the future.

She will be flown to Las Palmas from Manchester Airport and spend a night in a turtle hospital at the Centro de Recuperacion de Fauna on the outskirts of Gran Canaria's capital.

Provided she shows no signs of any adverse reaction to her journey she will be released into the surf on a quiet nearby beach in the early hours of the following morning.

'It will be a very poignant moment when she swims away to freedom,' said Jamie.



Jamie Dyer of the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary with Myrtle shortly after her rescue.

'I'm so glad I will be there in person to see her return to the wild.'

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Music is a strong feature-not least of which Good Friday evening sees the excellent Gail Golding perform, and an Easter Sunday afternoon treat of traditional music from Gabe MacVarish and friends. Music, good food and extensive drinks menu. The complete package!

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THIS INFORMATION AND MORE CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.ATLANTISLEISURE.CO.UK OR AT RECEPTION.

Homes and gardens



There's no better time than Spring to make those much needed home improvements. First things first. There may be structural changes you wish to make before you begin - the most sensible time really. Maybe now is the time to consider a new kitchen or bathroom. What about double glazing or replacement windows with specially insulated glass? They can make such a difference to your comfort. New specially insulated, exterior doors can do the same, and draught-proofing is simply sensible. Next, assess your home

as it stands and decide on the decor theme. Are you going for cool, uncluttered Mediterranean; warm,

original antiques beyond your budget. If this is the case, you can always plump for good, reproduction furniture.

Most of it is made in traditional ways, so you are really buying tomorrow's antiques today.

You must go on to decide what colours are to predominate. Do you want plants everywhere? What about the lighting - should it be direct or indirect, white or tinted? Are the walls and ceilings to be painted or covered, stippled or stencilled? Is the woodwork to be painted, or stripped and varnished?

It all has to be decided because on these initial decisions will rest the way you furnish and on the furnishings you buy. For example, pine furniture, so much in mode, looks wonderful in nearly all the above settings. It fits in anywhere because the beauty of natural wood is so very adaptable. Another decision to be

made on the furnishing front concerns the seating arrangements. The three-piece suite is still very much with us and looks set to remain so for many years to come. You can alter the arrangement slightly though by having an extra chair perhaps, or two settees - a 2-seater and a 3-seater. Or you could have footstools for each chair. Make sure however, that whatever you buy, it is built upon a good, beech frame for lasting value. And while you are at it, why not order an extra set of loose covers to ring the changes and lengthen even more the life of your favourite suite? Loose covers naturally bring us to textiles in general. The soft furnishings you choose

pursuit is very much part of the general leisure scene. Gardens are as much extensions of the living accommodation as mere places to grow plants and laze on the lawn. As with all other parts of the home therefore, the garden is seen as representing the taste and decorative skills of the householders. Landscaping the grounds therefore is now an almost automatic consideration, on a par with installing replacement windows, having a new kitchen fitted or bringing the bathroom into the realms of luxury. Really there is nothing more attractive or comfortable to live with, than a professionally

required, there is the matter of knowledge. Basically there are three sorts of garden service you can call upon to bring your plot to perfection. The 'garden tamer' who will wreak havoc amongst the weeds, remove the rubbish and leave your garden like a new canvas ready for you to begin. Then there is the jobbing gardener who will maintain the status quo, dealing with plant rotation, mowing lawns, pruning, cutting hedges and removing weeds. Finally there is the full-blown, landscape gardener whose terms of reference can be as wide as the boundaries of your plot, or even wider. Landscape gardeners are many things, they have to be, because gardening is not an exact science. First of all they must know the job inside out. Every type of plant, weed, tree and shrub, and their growing habits, must be within their knowledge. Essentially the work

of a landscape gardener is a creative pursuit. Frequently will it be necessary to make something out of nothing, to turn the ugly into the beautiful, and to make the whole an entirely practical proposition for the householder who has to live with it. This means understanding the way of life of clients. If you have a garden that does no justice to your home, think about having it professionally landscaped. As with all other contract work, it pays to approach more than one operator. Talk over your plans, but choose the one whose ideas concur most nearly with yours, or you'll never be happy with the end result. Once the work is done, you will be able to enjoy that garden as you have never enjoyed it before. And you'll surely wonder why you've never previously considered having your garden professionally landscaped!

Create the perfect homely environment...

chunky Victorian; exotic, ornate Middle East; or just stark and plain Scandinavian? Do you want a home full of kitsch or are you aiming to fill it with original art work and antiques? You may of course favour some particular period of furnishing but find

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Question 1: When is a good time to make your home improvements? **Question 2:** What purchase could lengthen the life of your suite? **Question 3:** Who looks after plant rotation in your garden?

Now write your 3 answers in the space provided with your name and address and send to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll.

Answer 1

Answer 2

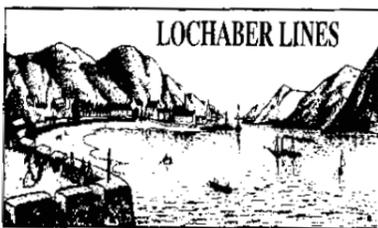
Answer 3

Name

Address

Tel No.

Normal Oban Times rules apply



email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

IF YOU'RE fed up with fast food then Ardornish House in Morvern is the place for you this Saturday.

In the splendour of the great hall, Lochaber Larder and the Highland and Moray convivium of the slow food movement, sort of eco-gastronomists, are providing lunch for an expected crowd of 200.

Being served will be products of Lochaber and Mull such as mutton, venison, lamb, beef, oysters, mussels, scallops, smoked fish, cheeses and much more, to be washed down with locally-produced beer, wine and whisky. Incredibly, the buffet lunch is free.

Aye, you're interested now, aren't you? Well, if you are, lunch will be served between 12 noon and 3pm but don't forget to bring money because the various stall holders will be selling their produce.

After lunch you could drive into Lochaline and take in the Strathdearn Cup tie between Ardnamurchan and Caberfeidh.

Come to think of it, we will make this a *Lochaber Lines* corporate day out with pre-match lunch and drinks at the big house followed by a grand challenge shinty match.

□□□

WE NEED to tidy up last week's story of Stanley's trip to the Perth car auction.

You will recall that Stanley's involuntary nods of the head as he relayed the bidding over his mobile phone to the owner of the vehicle in Spean Bridge resulted in the auctioneer believing that Stanley was bidding on instructions over the phone.

The outcome was that the ex-community bus purchased for £100 and entrusted to Stanley to take to the auction realised £650 of Stanley's hard-earned cash.

Two readers have been quick to point out that the day became worse when, on the journey home, the wheels on the bus stopped going round and round when it broke down at Fersit.

□□□

WE HEAR of another bargain that increased in value whilst on the road.

David bought a teddy bear for a fiver in a Fort William shop before a family trip to London. With hours to spare before their flight, mum, dad and daughter enjoyed a leisurely lunch in Nairn. On arrival at the airport, it was discovered that teddy had been left in Nairn and the tantrum started big style. Under no circumstances was Georgina leaving her friend all alone in Scotland. Not willing to risk missing the flight, dad ordered a taxi from the airport rank to collect the stranded passenger in Nairn.

The bear, now valued at £30, made the flight by the skin of its teeth!

□□□

OUR EYES are not what they were, as some of you will have muttered when reading your electricity bills, and last week they let us down again.

It appeared that the press had caught up with a three-year-old story when we read a billboard outside Claggan Stores: 'Murray In Lap Dancing Bar Shocker'.

When we got closer it was obviously Prince Harry who was the subject of a non-story. Why don't they leave the young fellow alone?

Anyway, you'll be wondering why we mentioned the 40-something-year-old ex-Fort William Football Club footballer and printer who frequents the Volunteer & Bricklayer Arms who, to save his anonymity, we will refer to only as Murray, Murray, or young Skeesh if you prefer, was on a stag weekend to Aberdeen and late in the evening the group entered a bar where scantily-clad quines performed dances.

Murray, although refreshed, felt tired and sat down quietly in a corner. When a lap dancer approached Murray with a 'fit like', for a fleeting moment he must have thought he was back in the Bricklayers listening to stewardess Doreen. The exotically-dressed dancer followed up with: 'Would you like a dance?' only for Murray in West Highland innocence to reply: 'No, it's alright, I don't dance!'

□□□

WE SPENT a lot of the weekend watching the US Masters Golf from Augusta and cheering on Phil Mickelson, the hero of many Highland left handers.

Perhaps Phil played shinty when he was a wee boy?

Golfers amongst us would have been intrigued that Mickelson's bag contained two drivers, one shaped to hit shots to the right and the other to hit to the left. We possess a single driver that can do both and would be willing to swap it with Phil or anyone else for one of those boring drivers that hits the ball straight down the middle. We had a small punt on Mickelson's win but we have to be envious of Irene Barr who incredibly had the winner of the Grand National, a win on the football coupon and a lottery win last Saturday. Irene has her feet firmly on the ground and has every intention to continue working with Lochaber Housing Association despite her success. Perhaps a wise move as her combined winnings of £80 would not take her far.

□□□

CHARLIE'S Challenge 2007: Last week's Mod Lotto numbers were 2, 13, 20. No winner, so Irene and others will be attracted by this week's jackpot of £800.

Lochaber Past Times - from the archives of *The Oban Times*

100 years ago

IN THE House of Commons, John A Dewar, Member of Parliament for Inverness-shire, asked the president of the Board of Trade if he was aware that the North British Railway Company had not yet carried out construction of the breakwater at Mallaig, part of an agreement with the government.

He also informed the minister that as a consequence of the want of a breakwater, the Mallaig fishing fleet had on several occasions been seriously damaged and boat owners were threatening to leave the district.

Schools in the area were due to close for 10 days 'to admit of the crofters getting in their potato seed'.

The building of a 30-pupil junior school in Mallaig was almost completed.

P MacLennan and Company was again awarded the contract for feedstuff for the burgh horse.

Brae Lochaber, with eight MacDonalDs, three MacKintoshs and a MacArthur, having been 1-0 up at half-time in a Camanachd Cup semi-final at Strathbungo, eventually lost 4-1 to a Kyles Athletic side not surprisingly containing four NicholsonS.

40 years ago

THE HEAVY bronze plaque recently reported stolen from Laggan Dam was found last week lying beside the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge.

Catriona MacPherson is one of two Scottish Guiders to have been chosen to go with a working party of Girl Guides to Israel this summer. Miss MacPherson will leave in July on her 22nd birthday to stay in a Kibbutz for four weeks.

The age of chivalry is not dead so we haven't worked out just how old Catriona Kearney is today but she doesn't look a day older than her photo in the paper in 1966.

It was announced that A & W Cargill would take over MacLean's Dairy, Menzie Square, Fort William.

Russell Johnstone MP was returned to parliament with an increased majority.

Croft plan could face land court

A PROGRAMME to revitalise crofting on the Ardnamurchan peninsula could be jeopardised by legal challenges.

A meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber planning committee heard this week that a plan to build four crofts at Lower Sanna in Ardnamurchan was only supported by the council's planning department on the basis that the crofts and their landholdings could not be sold on separately.

Lochaber area planning officer Dafydd Jones said: 'One of the croft houses has already been built and in all the others prospective tenants have been identified by the Crofters' Commission.'

He added there had been

a number of objections to the application from residents of Sanna with concerns about re-letting, overgrazing, landscape impacts and conservation issues.

None of the houses left in Lower Sanna remain in crofting use and the council says its policy is to focus on the need to retain crofting land uses.

Unique

'Sanna is a unique location and the council is striving to reinvigorate crofting. While the purpose is to safeguard crofting, if there is no legal safeguard then this whole exercise will have been worthless,' he said.

Two of the crofts are to be built between the north of the existing township at

Lower Sanna and the Allt Sanna Burn. Two other crofts are to be built to the south-east of the township.

The meeting also heard that the Sanna Burn is an internationally important site for its population of freshwater pearl mussels.

Full details of drainage are to be given to Scottish Natural Heritage to ensure that development will not adversely affect the mussels.

Councillors were told that an agreement between the council and the prospective crofters to ensure that the crofts cannot be separated from the landholdings could, like any other legal document, be open to challenge.

Mr Jones added: 'Like any other legal document, a section 75 agreement could be open to challenge and could only really be tested in a land court.'

'But in our opinion this is a document that will stand up to that test because it is backed by authority and precedent.'



Workers on the Mallaig line last week.

Mallaig line back on track

TRAIN services between Fort William and Mallaig got back on track this week.

Network Rail, which is responsible for maintaining the track, has announced that planned improvement work - which had closed the West Highland line for two weeks - was completed on

Monday. Train passengers using the service were forced to make the journey by bus before the timetable returned to normal.

The £2 million project included abseilers working on rock embankments to improve their long-term stability.

A Network Rail spokeswoman said: 'We have now completed the work on the Mallaig line. We had a lot of work to get through but our experienced team was ready for the challenge.'

'The investment is part of our ongoing commitment to Scotland's railways.'

Contact your councillor says action group

MEMBERS of an action group set up to fight Highland Council's proposed privatisation of care homes, including one in Lochaber, are urging local residents to tell councillors their views on the subject.

The council plans to privatise elderly care services at the 24-bed Invernevis House in Fort William along with six other care homes across the Highlands. Now members of Invernevis House Action Group are to join forces with a pan-Highland umbrella group to continue its campaign to keep services in the public sector.

Action group member Oswald Veitch said: 'Ten members of our group have agreed to join a pan-Highland group which will be formed along with members of the other six protest groups.'

'This group will decide what action is to be taken prior to two critical meetings, the first on April 20 when the sub group of the housing and social work committee sits, and the second on May 4 when the full Highland Council will

meet to decide whether or not the tendering process for privatisation should proceed.

'From the contact we have had with Highland and Lochaber councillors and from what we have heard at council meetings, it is apparent the committee has no intention from deviating from its decision on closing Invernevis House and should it have its way it will soon disappear.'

'Our message to Lochaber residents is much will depend on how your local councillor reacts on April 20 and May 4. If you do not want to lose Invernevis House then make it your business to contact your local councillor before April 20 and tell them your views.'

Highland Council says that independent providers can deliver residential care for £18,000 per person per year cheaper than Highland Council.

Invernevis Action Group contends the council's decision to base its calculations on bed occupancy levels and not the amount of beds available is flawed.



Lochaber arts development officer Ali Berardelli with artist Quentin Blake and Katie Eardley from the Nevis Partnership.

Lochaber's big draw success

AN ARTS project involving more than 150 primary school pupils in Lochaber has won a top award.

The Runes and Ruins Project received a prestigious Drawing Inspiration Award in recognition of the success of the event it created for The Big Draw in October 2005.

The project was based in Glen Nevis and focused on the ancient history of the area.

The project was within the

top 20 selected projects and was the only project in Scotland to receive an award.

The project was organised by Ali Berardelli, Lochaber's arts development officer, as part of an environmental educational work based in Glen Nevis.

Ali was accompanied to the awards ceremony by Katie Eardley from the Nevis Partnership.

The award was presented at a ceremony hosted by the

Campaign for Drawing at the British Museum last month, where they received £50 and a commemorative certificate drawn by top illustrator and Campaign patron Quentin Blake.

The project aimed to address some of the partnership's objectives which are to enhance awareness, understanding and care for the area's landscape, natural and cultural heritage and land uses through sensitive interpretation.

Boiler plan 'absolute disgrace', company told

THE COMPANY commissioned to build Fort William's new health centre has been told that a planning application to build a 15 metre chimney near a high school is an 'absolute disgrace'.

Councillor Olwyn Macdonald made the comments at a meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber area planning committee as councillors voted unanimously to reject the plan.

PMP Plus (Glasgow) applied to build a secondary

boiler to cater for cold morning starts and peak demand as it says the new health centre's woodchip system is 'not geared for fast responses'. Planning officials recommended refusal for the plan for the new centre, which is being built at Blar Mhor adjacent to Lochaber High School.

Councillor Macdonald said: 'This is going to be an important site in the future. It's going to have a lot more on it and to have that there is an absolute disgrace.'

Fish farm company plan to close Loch Sunart sites

MARINE Harvest, one of the biggest producers of farmed fish in Scotland, has applied for planning permission to 'rationalise' its operations on Loch Sunart.

The company plans to close seven of its nine existing sites and expand the two remaining fish farms at Invasion Bay and Camas Glas.

Councillors at a meeting of Highland Council's Lochaber area planning committee have agreed to visit the site within the next

month before making a decision on the application. A new site is also proposed at Glencripesdale.

The company envisage that production at Loch Sunart would decrease from 5,500 tonnes to 4,750 and the total cage area would decrease by more than 10 per cent. No details have yet been revealed about the possible impact on jobs in the area. Councillor Charlie King said: 'This has raised concerns as it is the main employer in the area.'

Fort William Sheriff Court

Painter attacked former foreman

A PAINTER and decorator who attacked his former foreman at a village ceilidh was ordered to pay £1,000 to his victim.

Fraser Jeffrey Watson of Manitoba, Inverie, admitted assaulting David Peter Brown to his permanent disfigurement on August 6, 2005 at a ceilidh dance marquee in Inverie.

The court heard that Mr Brown had been Watson's foreman during building work on a ferry pier.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie said that Watson had been drinking all day at the Knoydart Games.

Ms Wyllie said that Mr Brown, who went to the ceilidh at about 10pm, saw Watson and asked him if he wanted a drink.

Ms Wyllie said: 'The accused appeared to be mousing something and Mr Brown formed the opinion that he was having a go at him verbally. The accused then headbutted him.'

Mr Brown was taken to Mallaig on a friend's boat the next day after his girlfriend had noticed his face was disfigured.

After being taken to first Belford Hospital in Fort William and then Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, Mr Brown had to undergo an

operation on a fractured cheekbone. When interviewed by police, Watson told them it was 'a red mist sort of thing'.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'The motive behind this incident is that a week before he obtained information from his girlfriend and her parents to the effect that the victim had kicked his girlfriend and she sustained some bruising.'

Sheriff Robert Vaughan said: 'This is a serious offence. Because you have no previous convictions and reports consider you at a low risk of re-offending and you are in full-time employment I will make a compensation order of £1,000.'

Watson was also ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service.

Fish processor banned for three months

A FISH processor from Fort William was banned from driving for three months after admitting charges of speeding and driving without insurance.

Przemuslaw Janas, aged 23, of 12 Caledonian Road, Corpach, admitted driving without insurance and driving at 45mph in a 30mph zone on Achintore Road on January 15 this year.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy told the court that Janus was using the vehicle as his brother's vehicle had

broken down and he had decided to use his own vehicle to travel to Oban.

Sheriff Robert Vaughan fined Janus £240 for speeding and banned him from driving for three months for driving without insurance.

Fort man caused village bar fracas

A FORT William man who caused a fracas at a 1960s and 70s event in a village bar was fined a total of £500 at Fort William Sheriff Court last week.

John Alexander Hutton, aged 23, of 19 Torlundy Road, Fort William, admitted disorderly conduct, refusing to leave, resisting arrest, struggling violently with police officers and breach of the peace at the Lochaber Bar in Caol, Fort William, on December 26 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie said: 'At about 1am the bar steward noticed the accused opening the rear fire exit to allow other persons to enter. The front door had been closed at midnight. He was told by staff to stop doing it but was seen doing the same thing a short time later. He was asked to leave and then physically ejected by stewards. He took umbrage at this and 10 minutes later he got back in and appeared determined to fight with whoever got in his way.'

'He was described as going berserk, lashing out

with fists and legs and there was a melee with about 10 other people involved. The accused's behaviour was a catalyst for this.'

Defence agent David MacNeill said: 'Quite clearly he had too much to drink. The bar was very busy and he simply opened the door for fresh air. He claims that someone punched him on the face and there was a resulting fracas. By the time the police arrived he wasn't thinking straight.'

Mechanic banned from driving

A FORT William motor mechanic has been banned from driving for two years after admitting driving while three times over the legal alcohol limit.

John Gilmour, a father of three young children, of 6 Henderson Row, Fort William, admitted driving on the A82 at Three Mile Water with 109mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie told the court that Gilmour's vehicle had ended up 'off-road' at Three Mile Water and that he had admitted 'having two double whiskies' before getting on the Corran Ferry.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'He was planning to meet a friend during the Easter holiday and found out that his friend had died. He drank a quantity of alcohol

thereafter and intended to drive home.'

Sheriff Robert Vaughan also fined Gilmour £750.

Car collided with fence

A FORT William man has been banned from driving for 18 months after admitting careless driving

and driving while over twice the legal alcohol limit.

Gary Ronald Dobbie, aged 38, of 49 Lundavra Road, Fort William, admitted driving with 79mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath and driving without due care and attention on North Road, Fort William, on March 31

this year, colliding with a fence and a lamppost and damaging both.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'He was at home for a period after this offence and to his credit told police he had not consumed alcohol during that period. Sheriff Robert Vaughan also fined Dobbie £500.

He was also fined £500.

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He was also fined £500.



The Portree pupils with the new CD.

Skye youngsters on song

ENTERPRISING youngsters at a primary school on Skye, who boast some well-known local musicians among their family connections, have produced a CD with some of their songs to raise money for the school.

Pupils at Portree Primary School recorded a 15-track compilation album entitled

Music Song and Dance with their parents, including ex-*Runrig* singer Donnie Munro, Arthur Cormack and Blair Douglas.

The CD also features a mix of music from a number of local musicians including the town's Gaelic choir. The money raised is to be spent on improving

Gaelic and music provision in the school and a donation is to be made to a local charity.

Portree Primary School's headteacher John Finlayson said: 'A great night was had by all. The sales of the CD are going really well and having listened to it myself I would recommend it to anyone.'

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

High tax, low tax

A RECENT report on European social and economic trends muddies the water as far as our view of the oft heralded example of 'the Scandinavian solution'.

Sweden is held aloft as the economic role model that Scotland should mirror. High personal taxes in return for equally high levels of welfare provision.

But, according to an OpenEurope study, Sweden has achieved little or no growth in its employment market and now trails half of the ever-increasing EU member states in terms of prosperity.

In stark contrast, our Celtic cousins in Ireland operate a low personal tax scheme, the lowest in Europe. Employment between 1981 and 2003 increased by almost 60 per cent while the poorest in Ireland saw incomes rise six times faster than in the UK or Sweden.

But should we simply be following others?

press policy

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

GLASGOW LETTER

Weather fails to dampen success

IT IS always a nightmare when you have ensured everything is in place for an event then adverse weather conditions on the day threaten to decimate the attendance.

And so it was for the Erskine Hospital charity ceilidh organised by Clydebank and District Highlander's Association but, as I indicated last week, the 'Bankies' and their followers are made of stern stuff and turned out in good numbers.

Having made such an effort to be there they were not disappointed. In the presence of a good representation from the hospital, John Fitzsimmons of the BBC Greetings Programme amicably conducted proceedings and with artists responding well this was indeed a happy evening.

Gaelic singers were Anne Bone MacLean, Amanda Millen and Willie John MacAulay, with Seonaidh Rostant the Scots singer. For Willie John this was a return to the singing platform and while he admitted to being petrified, despite having sung in front of audiences of 20,000 in his heyday, he still showed why he was much sought after as an entertainer.

Excellent performances from all the singers were enhanced by the quality of the piano accompaniment provided by Anna Cameron.

To add to the vocals, brothers Iain and Billy MacPhee provided piping and accordion selections.

At many ceilidhs instrumentalists have to compete with much noise from the audience and since this is a practice which I abhor I was particularly pleased that Iain and Billy were afforded the same attention as the singers. Mind you their performances, particularly when they played together, were of the highest quality.

As the chairman stated there are pipers and there are pipers, a statement also true for 'box' players and we had the best of each.

Once again it was a most successful ceilidh from which a considerable donation will be made to Erskine Hospital.

Port Glasgow, from 10 am to 3pm.

As the event is free of charge and no knowledge of Gaelic necessary you can have no excuses unless, of course, you would prefer to attend the Scottish Song Day at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

Registration for this event takes place in the opera school foyer between 10.30am and 11.15am until 4pm. A concert will follow in the opera studio at 4.30pm.

Garry Allighan

READERS throughout the west coast will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Garry Allighan.

A professional cartographer, he set up Alba Cartographics with his wife Alison in Assynt.

I first came across their impressive maps at a craft fair held in association with the National Mod in Golspie but little did I know then that this was the work of an extraordinary man with whom I would have much contact in later years.

Having integrated into the Assynt way of life, Garry single-handedly set up Assynt Shinty Club and from that time his enthusiasm for shinty, despite having no background in the sport, had no limits.

Amove to Callendar meant only one thing for Garry and we now have Menteith Junior Shinty Club being represented throughout the shinty playing areas of Scotland.

To the sport he brought the same level of perfection as he brought to his profession. He was an expert organiser. Youngsters were encouraged to play and have fun and the adults, encouraged to assist, did so with the same enthusiasm as exemplified by Garry.

Hopefully, following his premature death, his good work will continue in both Assynt and Menteith as a fitting memorial to a gentleman who worked so hard and gave so much enjoyment to others.

Our thoughts are very much with his wife Alison and young Robaidh and Ciorstaidh at this very sad time.

Diary dates

Saturday April 15: Perth Gaelic Society, annual general meeting, Highlander's Club, dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8 to 11.30pm. Ian Muir Band, Clannaidhlig, Ceilidh Dance, Greenock St Luke's Church Hall, 7.30pm.

Tuesday April 18: Gaelic Society of Glasgow, Partick Burgh Hall, 7.30pm.

Thursday April 20: Gaelic service, Partick Downanvale Free Church, 7.30pm, with the Rev Kenneth Stewart.

Saturday April 22: Glasgow Skye Association, spring concert, 'Wee Skye', Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm. Clann Gaidhlig Gaelic singing workshop - see above. Scottish Song Day at the RSAMD (see above).

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by Deoch 'n' Dorus on Friday, Slip the Lead on Saturday and Pat Gillespie and Friends on Sunday.

In the Park Bar it will be Ballochmyle Band on Friday with Campbell Brown and Johnnie Scoullar on both Saturday and Sunday.

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



Removal van on its travels - 1938

Peter Richardson of Leeds sent us this week's flashback photograph. It was taken by his late father in 1938 who was the owner of this removal wagon. Peter has always thought the photo was taken in the vicinity of Glen Coe. Last year Peter stayed at Onich and North Ledaig and toured round the area. They asked various people to try and identify the location. They were told to go to Bonawe but believe this wasn't the place. Can any readers help? We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, 'Flashback' Photo, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name and address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

Letters to the Editor

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Lismore out-of-hours medical cover

Sir, I write regards the proposals to train a team of Lismore's volunteer firefighters as 'co-responders' to attend to medical emergencies on the island.

This proposed pilot project could never allay the considerable concern in this community about the consequences of our Port Appin-based GPs and island nurse practitioner exercising their contractual rights to opt out of the provision of out-of-hours services.

The original suggestion of a co-responding team, drawn from the volunteer firefighters, was conceived as a means of providing additional security and immediate help in a medical emergency, in support of the GPs and nurse practitioner. It predates the introduction of the new GP contracts, allowing an out-of-hours opt out.

There is a widespread view on the island that a team of co-responders must not be seen as a replacement for professional emergency medical cover.

Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership is responsible for providing out-of-hours services following an opt out by GPs, and there is no excuse for less than adequate arrangements for

meeting island patients' needs.

Lismore residents are extremely grateful to our medical professionals for putting their patients before their personal convenience and declaring they will only opt out of the provision of out-of-hours services when they and we are satisfied that the alternative arrangements to be put in place by the health authority are clinically safe and sustainable.

It is now well over a year since Argyll and Clyde NHS gave our community council an undertaking it would discuss the post opt out provisions with the community.

The concern of those living on Lismore was emphasised when 131 islanders, including more than 90 per cent of the adult resident population, recently signed a letter sent to the Designate Director, Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, urging that urgent and constructive attention be given to this vital issue, taking account of the difficulties of out-of-hours access to the island, particularly by ambulance crews and an Oban-based duty GP.

Julian Wormleighton, Isle of Lismore.

Many thanks go to young and old alike. Thanks also go to Iain Cameron from the council for supplying the skip, gloves and bin bags and to Hugh Dailey for preparing refreshments.

James McKinlay, chairman, Kinlochleven and District Angling Club.

Museum insight

Sir, I refer to the two articles in *The Oban Times* of last week about the Scottish Slate Islands Heritage Trust (SSIHT) and Easdale Island Folk Museum.

As someone who was employed in the folk museum with Jean Adams for the last 10 years, I feel

Kinlochleven clean-up

Sir, In response to the article in *The Oban Times* of March 23 regarding the clean-up of the river and surrounding area in Kinlochleven, it has come to my attention from members of the angling

club that they feel they didn't get the recognition they deserved.

They feel the article implied that it was the community council who had taken the initiative for the clean-up.

As chairman of the angling club I organised the skip, gloves and bags, also the lunchtime refreshments, for which the angling club paid. Only one community council member, Duncan Cameron, took part in the clean-up.

Had we been asked to write an article we would have submitted: 'On Saturday March 18, 25 angling club members and local people demonstrated their dedication to the village by filling a huge skip with old bikes, litter, car wheels, polythene sheets and wire etc that were removed from the river and surrounding areas.'

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Wind farm objection

Sir, Yet another large wind farm is proposed at Loch Awe. Some people may think this is environmentally

friendly, advanced technology which will provide reliable, cheap electricity, bringing employment to Argyll and help the government meet its targets on carbon dioxide emissions and global warming.

This is not correct. Wind farms only generate electricity for 30 per cent of the time, so other power generation sources have to be kept generating. During the long cold spell in January/February this year, wind farms would have contributed no electricity for heating because there was no wind. And they have to be turned off in strong winds.

There is little or no local employment in the manufacturing, construction or operation of this wind farm. Instead the local economy will be affected severely by the downturn in tourism as visitors reject areas visually blighted by wind farms, as prominent hoteliers will testify.

Golden eagles and other bird, animal and plant life will be decimated. Wind farms are banned in the national parks of Scotland and within sight of the Gleneagles Hotel. Why are they being dumped on the people of Dalmlally and around Loch Awe?

The Shira/Brackley wind farm is contrary to the Argyll and Lorn structure plans and policies and will waste taxpayers' money in subsidies. Objections have to be with the Scottish Executive by April 18 2006.

Alan W Thomas, Glen Orchy.

that a few comments from the 'inside' would be appropriate.

Firstly, the museum did not close when Jean Adams left for Sri Lanka. I took over the post of curator from Jean and kept the museum open last year, whilst the SSIHT and the Easdale Island Trust (EIT) looked into raising funds for the purchase of the museum following Mr Nicholson's decision to close the museum and sell the building. I did this because I was as committed as both trusts to ensure the museum was retained.

Secondly, the museum has operated with paid employees since its inception. In March this year Mr Nicholson decided to change this, insisting that the museum must run with volunteers, a policy that EIT agreed to implement, effectively terminating my employment of 10 years without notice. Had this not occurred I would have been opening for business as usual on April 1.

I note with interest the statistics provided by EIT showing the large local support for the museum to be maintained. It is unfortunate this enthusiasm was not evident last summer on the days when I was unable to open the museum as a result of a lack of help.

Pat Jones.

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What concerns me even more is that, while I can stand up for myself and know my way around the bodies who should deal with such behaviour, there are elderly and vulnerable people who will be thoroughly terrified of the consequences of not doing as requested immediately and be victims of these bully-boy tactics that are now all too prevalent among our public utilities.

'Whispering Children'

IF YOU do nothing else this Easter weekend, read Peter Minshill's first book 'Whispering Children' which could be described as a 'polemic novel'.

It's only 60 pages long, but powerful stuff.

It's a cracking good adventure story for children aged 10 years and upwards. For adults, it is also good superficial reading, but has a message that sticks in one's memory long after it has been put on the bookshelf. But make sure it is at hand as events will happen in some part of the world that will strike a chord of something that Peter Minshill has alluded to in his short treatise that can be summed up in the phrase 'blessed are the peacemakers'. He does not advocate pacifism but rather world harmony led by its children. Indeed, the hero of this seminal novel is a young, wounded soldier, a Scot and an Argyll man. Equally, he could be described as an urgently-needed universal power for good.

Seen a meter reader?

DO TELL me if you have as I haven't, nor have I had a card through the letter box to ask me to read the meter myself and return it.

Last Friday evening, I was assailed by one of the rudest

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG

Not a drop on tap

SINCE the provision of water and sewage services was taken out of the hands of local authorities and transferred to Scottish Water there can hardly be anyone in the country who has not had occasion to condemn their lack of understanding of the words 'urgent' and 'service'.

Over the past week, I have been enquiring about just what Scottish Water actually does.

The answer is very little, very slowly.

Across the road from my flat a hole was dug by Scottish Water staff on the verge of the road before Christmas. When I enquired of an employee why it had not been filled in three months later I was told there was a demarcation dispute between his bosses and staff at Argyll and Bute Council as to whose responsibility it was to do so.

Why do I relate this little incident? It is symptomatic of the sort of muddled thinking that has bedevilled the administration of the water utility since its inception. Everyone will remember that West of Scotland Water was to relay a sewer down Oban's George Street but never did. This task was taken over by Scottish Water and scheduled to be done at the end of last year or the beginning of this one.

Thereafter, BEAR (Scotland) was to resurface the road. Neither has happened yet again.

However, all of these pale into insignificance when one discovers that this ill-managed utility could bring the building industry to its knees as it will not provide water and sewage connections to new houses and new housing developments. I understand that Scottish Water claims it has insufficient borrowing powers to finance these connections.

Local MSP George Lyon, who happens to be the junior Finance Minister, told me at the weekend that the claims are nonsense.

The Scottish Executive has given it many millions of extra money for the purposes outlined.

Where is this money? Why is it not being used for the purpose it was given?

Auditor General for Scotland: methinks, there is an overpowering stench here that needs your immediate attention.

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Oban man's war grave mission fulfilled

HUGH MacLean, my mother's brother, went to France during the First War with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders' 1st/8th Battalion; Alex Lockhart, my father-in-law, went to France in the Second War with the 8th Battalion.

In 1919 my granny, who lived at 1 Buchanan Terrace, Oban, received the following letter:

22 General Hospital, BEF France, May 11, 1917.

'Dear Mrs MacLean, I am sorry you were not written to at the time of your son's death, but Private MacLean was unconscious when admitted to this hospital and we were unable to obtain any address.

'He was admitted April 11 in a serious condition with a severe wound of the head. The doctors felt from the first that there was no hope but in order to give him every possible chance he was operated on the day after he was admitted.

'However there was no improvement in his condition and he passed away very quietly during the evening of April 14 without ever regaining consciousness.

'He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery where so many of our brave men have been laid to rest.

Yours sincerely, A B Stevenson, Assistant Matron.

I still have that letter and many times over the years have read it and wished that one day I could visit his grave. Having reached my 70s, I doubted it.

Now, we go forward to the summer of 1940. Mrs Lockhart received a letter addressed to the family home in Balaclava, Dalriach Road, Oban.

Mr Petts, the postman, guessed it was war news and came in and sat with her while she read it. Dunkirk was past, the Highland Division had been captured; there had been no word of Alex.

She opened the envelope

Duncan Johnston worked on the production team of *The Oban Times* during the 1950s/60s before moving to Edinburgh and *The Scotsman*.

On April 14, 1917, Duncan's uncle Hugh MacLean died amid the bloody battle fields of France and for many years Duncan longed to visit the soldier's grave.

Now in his 70's, Duncan has achieved his wish.

This is his story.

and took out a sheet of toilet paper. The notepaper may not have been top quality but the pencilled message on it was the best possible news. Alex was safely back in Britain.

A mixed company of troops had been taken off by the Royal Navy at Le Havre. After landing in England, they were put on a train for Gales, near Irvine. Alex had spoken to railwaymen working beside the line, borrowed a pencil, scribbled the note and asked if one of them would post it.

Fascinated
My son Andrew has always been fascinated by his grandfather's stories, especially concerning a chateau which had been a place of mixed fortune for the 8th Argylls.

In February this year we decided to go to France on a dual mission; first, to find my uncle's grave and second, to find the chateau. Andrew did the planning via the internet. He booked flights, car hire and a hotel at Etaples. February 27/28 were the chosen dates.

Flying from Prestwick on Monday afternoon, returning Tuesday night, we had 30 hours to achieve our aim.

We collected a car at Beauvais Airport, north of Paris, and headed for Etaples. The town is on the coast near Boulogne. Guide books reckoned two hours from Paris.

As our journey progressed

we began to recognise names connected with war history - Amiens, Abbeville, Arras, St Valery, La Somme.

At Etaples it was a case of finding our hotel, having a meal and realising we were one hour ahead of British time, an early night in preparation for the big day.

The military cemetery lies north of the town. We set off on Tuesday morning, with printouts from the excellent Commonwealth War Graves Commission website to assist our search.

When we reached the cemetery I found it hard to believe I was really there. We went through a little gate and walked up to a terrace. The sight that greeted us took our breath away. More than 11,000 graves lay before us.

A team of gardeners was busy in one area. We had a plan of the cemetery, and a grave reference number. We made our way down. The head gardener is an Englishman and he greeted us.

Symbols
Our grave reference was XXII, H, 7. I had seen those symbols many times over the years and now I discovered they are the area, the row and the plot. The Commonwealth War Graves Commission cannot be praised too highly for the work they do. The grounds are immaculately kept. Suddenly we were there. A gravestone carrying the



Duncan Johnston hard at work at *The Oban Times*.

Argylls crest above 300314 Private H MacLean, Arg. & Suth'd Highrs., 14th April 1917. It was an emotional moment as I put my hands on his gravestone.

Now for the second part of our quest. In tape recordings of Alex recounting experiences, he speaks about 'the chateau'. We had a book with us, 'History of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders 8th Battalion, 1939-47', by Lt Col A D Malcolm, OBE, which was to prove invaluable.

The location of the chateau is pretty well pinpointed. The town we were looking for appeared to be Escarbotin. Before leaving Etaples we went to the tourist office. The official was keen to help us but his area did not extend to that which we wanted.

He also told us that a good place to inquire was the Mayor's office at Escarbotin.

Office
We arrived there in the early afternoon and, as luck would have it, parked very near the Mayor's office. This turned out to be similar to our municipal buildings.

We entered the main office. Four secretaries at screens and keyboards and a gendarme at a desk in the corner. We asked: 'Parlez-vous Anglais?' Five heads shook in negative.

Then the lady who appeared to be the senior member of staff came forward. Andrew and I dug into our school French memory and eventually she

understood why we had come. We showed her a page in Lt Col Malcolm's book.

'Ah, oui,' she said. 'Le chateau Belloy.' Then, speaking at a speed we could follow, she told us that her father had fought with the Resistance. She seemed eager to help.

And help us she certainly did. She went into another office and arranged for a council workman to get his van and guide us to the chateau. It was an answer to a prayer.

Before leaving Scotland my wife had warned me to keep my eyes off French 'cailleachs'. This lady had to be an exception. As we thanked her and said farewell, she received a resounding kiss on both cheeks - twice!

Chateau Belloy is a grand mansion set in extensive grounds.

The owner was absent while renovation work is taking place. When the senior workman heard from our guide who we were and why we had come he allowed us free access to the grounds.

Alex had been at the chateau with Battalion headquarters. However, as the German army approached it was decided to make a general withdrawal.

To cover the withdrawal, some units were given the task of holding up the German advance. One of these was C Company which, unfortunately, was surrounded and captured at the chateau.

One of their number, in

later years, sometimes met Alex and I in the streets of Oban. Invariably, at some point in every conversation, he said: 'Aye, you bugger, you were leaving just as we arrived!'

The story of the troops from various regiments who made it to Le Havre is well documented. Small, personal details are interesting.

The fact that Alex arrived back in Britain in his bare feet is one of them.

Boots
On tape, he explains: 'Major Lorne Campbell was leading us by compass. Hiding in grain fields and woods by day and travelling by night. I was tired. My feet were sore. I took

my boots off and lay beneath a tree. German tanks were heard approaching. I left the boots.'

However, back to the chateau. There was one final piece of the jigsaw to find.

The last thing Alex did before leaving was help to bury a soldier in the grounds.

The book states 14 men were buried at the chateau. We looked for graves but there were none to be seen. We inquired and were pointed to the town cemetery.

One area holds a long rectangular plot of 13 graves in a single line, backed by a flagpole. Ten



Duncan at the grave of his uncle Hugh MacLean.



Hugh MacLean's grave before extensive work on it by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

are named Argylls. The other three stones simply say: 'A soldier of the 1939-45 War'.

The ten names are: L/Cpl A Campbell, Privates J Strang, W Forbes, R Thomson, D Gillies, D J MacQueen, D MacIntyre, J A Logan, T W Campbell and J Mitchell.

Wonderful
It was now late afternoon and we had achieved all we had set out to do. We made it back to Beauvais in plenty of time for our flight home. It had been a wonderful experience.

There will now be an added dimension in reading Hughie's name on Oban's war memorial and listening to Alex's voice on tape.

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Chateau Belloy.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 428

ACROSS

- 1968 novel by Melvyn Bragg (3,5,3)
- 1983 novel by Bernard MacLaverty (3)
- Rocky island at the entrance to the Mediterranean (9)
- See 16 Across
- Town in Hertfordshire, England, associated with the film industry (7)
- Old Testament character murdered by King Ahab for refusing to sell his vineyard (6)
- 16 and 11 Across: 'A —', 1974 novel by Laurens Van Der Post (3-3,5)
- Wife of Oberon in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (7)
- Hastings, Malawi president 1966-94 (5)
- River which forms the boundary between Texas and Mexico (3,6)
- In Britain, member of a youth movement in the 1950's opposed to the rockers (3)
- 1930 novel by William Faulkner (2,1,3,5)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

1. Positive (11)
9. Flow (3)
10. Ruin (9)
11. Oneness (5)
13. Grave (7)
14. Invisibile (6)
16. At full power (3,3)
18. Sooner (7)
19. Eskimo canoe (5)
20. Pass judgement on (9)
21. Forefront (3)
22. Barrenness (11)

DOWN

2. Mr. Prince, stage director and producer whose Broadway musicals include *West Side Story* (3)
- William, leader of the Conservative Party in Great Britain (5)
- Match of three games in bridge (6)
- Salt-water lake between Israel and Jordan (4,3)
- 6 and 21 Down: 1931 novel by Anthony Powell (9,3)
7. System of inserting needles into the body to assist healing (11)
8. 'The —', 1984 novel by Ruth Rendell (4,2,5)
12. Large oceanic bird slain in *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (9)
15. Threadlike leaf or stem that attaches climbing plants to a support by twining (7)
17. Richard, hero of novels by John Buchan (6)
19. Wallace, Best Actor Oscar-winner for *The Champ* (5)
21. See 6 Down

QUICK CLUES DOWN

2. Sport (3)
3. Insinuate (5)
4. Bog (6)
5. Petty (7)
6. Empty pride (9)
7. Dishonesty (11)
8. Enterprise (11)
12. Parenthesis (9)
15. Building (7)
17. Painter (6)
19. Toll (5)
21. Tank (3)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Hart; 3 Parmesan; 9 Romanov; 10 Sable; 11 Clytemnestra; 13 Easter; 15 Kneale; 17 The Dying Swan; 20 Viren; 21 Hopkins; 22 Duodenum; 23 Kern.

Down: 1 Henschel; 2 Rumny; 4 Advent; 5 Moses in Egypt; 6 Siberia; 7 Noel; 8 Independence; 12 Tenyson; 14 Seherzo; 16 Vishnu; 18 White; 19 Ovid.

QUICK - Across: 1 City; 3 Campaign; 9 Noxious; 10 Level; 11 Second nature; 13 Exotic; 15 Afresh; 17 Superstition; 20 Twist; 21 Elevate; 22 Mutilate; 23 Retf.

Down: 1 Canister; 2 Toxic; 4 Assent; 5 Pilot Officer; 6 Inverse; 7 Null; 8 Coincidental; 12 Thundery; 14 Oculist; 16 Ascent; 18 Irate; 19 Stern.

30 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times Thursday April 16, 1976

Lochgilphead CID 'dog tired'
AFTER school teacher Geri MacPherson reported that pints of milk were repeatedly stolen from his doorstep on Manse Brae, Lochgilphead CID began investigating.

The thefts had been carried out sporadically until two weeks ago when the MacPherson household lost two pints on Tuesday, two pints on Wednesday and two pints on Thursday.

Exasperated and determined to catch the thief Mr MacPherson kept watch early one morning. He said: 'I looked out at 10 past seven and the two pints were there but when I looked again 10 minutes later there was only one pint.'

Thinking the thief had aluded him, Mr MacPherson abandoned his post. Then, going out at 8.30am to collect his remaining pint for his morning cornflakes, he found that it had gone too.

Believing the thief or thieves would not strike on Saturday he didn't keep a look-out but as well as stealing his own milk the thieves also got clean away with two pints belonging to the lady next door. Mr MacPherson contacted the police and the mystery was finally unravelled by CID men who kept the house under close surveillance on Monday morning. The culprits, caught red handed, were two thirsty collie dogs!

Slipway plan splits Skye
SKYE is divided over a marine development planned for Camastianavaig Bay.

Opposition has come from the estate owner, Skye Conservation Society, a local environment group and the policy and resources committee of Skye and Lochalsh District Council. And a protest petition sent to Highland Regional Council carries 130 signatures, many from people in the Braes area of Camastianavaig.

But the promoter Stuart Campbell, for years a marine engineer in Portree, has a counter petition signed by more than 500 people including most of the residents of Raasay, across the sound, and all the Portree fishermen. Mr Campbell wants to build a slipway and associated buildings on the site which once housed a boat building firm. The tenant of the land, Donald MacLeod from Achachork, is in favour of the plans and intends to run summer tours from the slipway.

Ferry fury in Morvern
FURY is mounting in Morvern over the temporary withdrawal of the ferry service between Lochaline and Mull. The ferry was due to be back in service yesterday after a new crankshaft had been fitted. The *Oban Times* correspondent said: 'With the breakdown of the car ferry *Coll* at the beginning of the month, confusion, frustration and anger reigns in Morvern over the non-substitution of a ferry to link Lochaline and Mull. Since April 3 the only link with Oban has been the Lismore ferry *Eigg*, which sails to Lochaline after visiting Lismore, and two calls by the *Arran* to take schoolchildren to Oban. Passengers for Lochaline arriving in Oban were given no indication when they boarded the *Arran* that there was no connecting ferry from Mull to Lochaline. At Craignure they were left with the choice of returning to Oban and waiting for up to five hours for the ferry to Lochaline.'

New managing director at Loch Fyne Oysters

LOCH Fyne Oysters has appointed a new managing director.

Bruce Davidson will replace current managing director and co-founder of the company Andrew Lane.

In a letter to customers Andrew Lane said: 'I can now step down as MD having at last met someone who has all the qualities and more to safeguard our soul while furthering our success and the livelihoods of all the employee owners of this company.'

Mr Lane will remain with the company as a non-executive director.

Mr Davidson has a wealth of experience, having been involved in international business development for 20 years, successfully working with companies such as, Timberland stores and Imperial Tobacco.

Mr Davidson will join the award-winning business in May at a time of celebration within the company.

At a recent business ceremony in London a gold award was received by Loch Fyne Oysters Ltd in recognition of its social responsibility to the local community.

The company has developed childcare facilities in the village of Cairndow to encourage new families into the area and support the community while boosting the local workforce.

HIE contracts

SUPPLIERS with experience in providing a range of advice services are being asked to tender for Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) contracts.

At the moment four companies - Development Partners Ltd, ROC Plus Ltd, Alasdair Bruce Associates and Business Partners (Scotland) Ltd - give advice to local enterprise company clients.

But these contracts are due to come to an end in October and HIE is now asking for 'expressions of interest' from potential contractors.

M&S honoured for contribution to UK aquaculture industry

UK RETAILER Marks and Spencer was honoured for its contribution to the aquaculture industry at a prestigious awards ceremony in Edinburgh.

The company was presented with the inaugural *Fish Farmer* magazine 'Fit for the Future' award at the Aquaculture Today 2006 gala dinner, held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Edinburgh.

The award, which recognises outstanding achievement and innovation in aquaculture, was judged by a panel of industry experts including Bob Kennedy, Senior Editor of *Fish Farmer* magazine.

Commenting on the award, Mr Kennedy said: 'The winners' shortlist demonstrates the diverse and innovative nature of today's industry.'

'Marks & Spencer has made a tremendous contribution to the UK aquaculture industry, and has in fact worked closely with several of our nominees, and it was only right and fitting that it be the first recipient of this award.'

The winners' shortlist consisted of: Karol Rzepkowski and Laurent Viguie of Johnson Seafarms for pioneering development; Walter Speirs of the Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group for helping to promote growth of the mussel industry; The SMILE project for addressing environmentally sustainable aquaculture by using an integrated ecosystem approach; Stirling Institute of Aquaculture for RAFOA - Research Into Alternatives To Fish Oils In Aquaculture; Marks & Spencer for co-op-

eration with the aquaculture industry in research and development covering a number of farmed species; Young's Bluecrest Seafood Ltd for commercial commitment to the future of seafood and raising the profile of aquaculture produce through effective promotion; National Lobster Hatchery, Padstow, for its innovative re-stocking project, funded through various initiatives, and Loch Fyne Oysters for promoting consumption of luxury aquaculture products.

Finalists in a new industry-backed awards scheme from the Crown Estate, which recognises innovation and best practice in salmon farming, were also announced.

The award winners will be announced at a ceremony in Inverness on June 1.



Marks and Spencer fish specialist Andrew Mallison with the *Fish Farmer* 'Fit for the Future' award.

Fish farming finalists announced

FINALISTS for The Crown Estate's new awards scheme for the salmon farming industry have been announced.

Among those announced at the gala dinner following the Aquaculture Today 2006 conference as finalists were Wester Ross Salmon and Loch Duart, Pan Fish, Scottish Sea Farms, Marine Harvest and Johnson Seafarms.

The companies are competing for Scottish Salmon Farmer Awards including best small/medium and large companies, entrepreneurial initiative, best kept farm, best environmental contribution and best community initiative.

The winners will be announced and presented with their awards on June 1 by Deputy Minister for the Environment Rhona Brankin MSP at a ceremony supported by the EnviroCentre.

The awards are sponsored by Fish Update publishers Special Publications, with individual awards sponsored by the Bank of Scotland, Fusion Marine, Skretting, Aurora Environmental, Scering-Plough and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Glycomar finds Oban's sea so sweet

OBAN'S life sciences industry has been bolstered by the success of yet another smart young company which is hitting the headlines at Dunstaffnage.

GlycoMar has been in business for just a year but already it has been hailed in the national press for its commercial success in extracting chemicals from starfish slime to combat allergies such as hay fever.

It is just one of the activities carried out by Dr Charlie Bavington's small staff at GlycoMar, but it plays a crucial financial role in the company's development after the product was snapped up by Canadian firm Rhinopharma which develops drugs to combat respiratory diseases.

Develop
GlycoMar, which means 'sweet sea', was set up by Charlie to develop work that he undertook when working as a scientist with the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunstaffnage.

Although educated and trained in Edinburgh, Charlie has found the SAMS centre in Argyll to be the ideal location to grow his company.

'Being here has been invaluable. It means I can rent time on equipment and hire facilities that I could never afford to buy myself.'

'There is also an enormous amount of interplay and collaboration which is extremely useful for all parties.'

GlycoMar specialises in extracting sugars derived from marine invertebrates. Such carbohydrates play a key role in how cells recognise each other and interact.

They are known to influence how many diseases behave including cancer, inflammation and infection.

However Charlie says it was never his intention to own a company, it came about when Rhinopharma wanted a supplier for the product which he patented, while at SAMS.

'It might not have been in my plans to run my own business but now I see it as the best chance I have to achieve what I want to do scientifically.'

'We employ 2.5 people at the moment and I don't see us becoming huge, but to remain a small, clever company.'

Argyll and the Isles Enterprise helped Charlie set up his business and Oban, he says, has been a good place for his family.

'My wife and I got married here and the children were all born here.'

'My wife works at the hospital and there are plenty of opportunities for the children to do the things they want.'

It's a move that he hopes other companies will consider.

'There is a lot of innovative work happening at the centre and it would be good for a company that could commercialise products to locate here.'

Pioneering
However, economic support, says Charlie, is essential to allow pioneering companies such as his the scope to identify new cures.

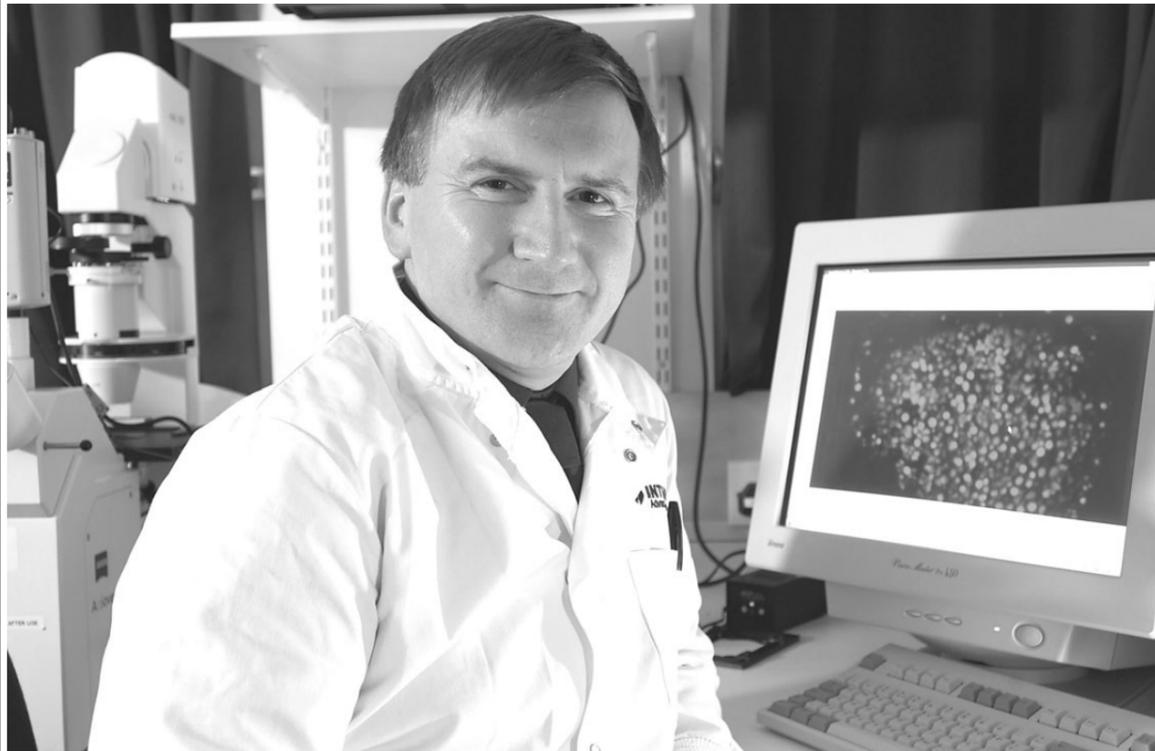
'What is happening here is good but it needs a lot of support.'

'There is enormous potential but it's hard to raise money for it because investors are wary.'

'They can see that it's a great idea but until they see a company making big money, they are reticent.'

Ken Abernethy, chief executive of AIE, commented: 'We are delighted that Dr Bavington has, with AIE assistance, been able to establish a company of such great potential here.'

'We would thoroughly endorse his view that Oban is an excellent place for other life science companies to locate, and we would urge firms to get in touch to talk with us.'



Dr Douglas McKenzie of Integrin is keen to keep his business base in the Oban area.

North Argyll science firm just keeps growing

AN ARGYLL company that will contribute salaries totalling more than half a million pounds to the local economy this year is still looking to expand.

Not only is the six-year-old firm Integrin giving the area an economic boost, but it is playing a vital role in providing quality jobs for local students wishing to return to Argyll after graduating.

Integrin has secured substantial contracts to test shellfish toxin levels for the

Food Standards Agency. To do this requires the most up-to-date laboratory equipment and skilled staff who use their scientific skills and meticulous attention to legal requirements to provide vital data.

Medicines
In addition Integrin works on behalf of drug discovery companies carrying out research on marine life and providing information that will help towards new and improved medicines.

Set up just six years ago by Dr Douglas McKenzie, Integrin now employs more than 20 graduates, nine of whom are doctors of science.

Argyll and the Isles Enterprise (AIE), a shareholder in Integrin, continues to be a strong supporter of the company.

AIE chief executive Ken Abernethy said: 'Encouraging firms such as Integrin is part of the agency's over-

all strategy to build a substantial life science sector in North Argyll which is bringing a broad range of benefits to the area.'

Integrin moves into profit for the first time this year which is good for Douglas, but also very good for Argyll.

Not only are skilled graduates able to return to well-paid jobs in Argyll rather than remain in the cities, but valuable young people are coming to work in the county, buying homes, raising their children and playing a full economic and social role in the area.

Far from the austere image of scientific research, the Integrin office has a warm atmosphere of fun, a young, enthusiastic staff and a constant chorus of laughter.

Douglas explained: 'Very often people qualified at this level have partners who are also well qualified and so local companies get the chance of employing some-

one in a specialist area that might not, otherwise, have been around. However, finding jobs for partners is also a major challenge for us to ensure that incoming staff are happy and settled.'

This includes people like Glaswegian Zahid Latif who acquired his PhD at Strathclyde University. He is operations manager at Integrin and came to live at North Connel, just outside Oban, in 2005 with his Trinidad-born wife Dr Momedea Deen. She is qualified both as a medic and as a dentist, and worked at Oban's Lorn and Island's District General Hospital before taking maternity leave to have their baby daughter Amna.

Twenty-three year old Judy Yip was able to return to her home town of Oban after graduating in immunology and pharmacology

at Strathclyde to take a job at Integrin, and Carole Shellcock was delighted to eventually be able to use her science degree to its full potential when she joined Integrin in 2003 after moving to Benderloch in 1987.

Permanent staff
'We are delighted to be able to welcome permanent staff and student placements from all over the world, but also to offer good jobs for people from this area,' said Douglas.

'I can honestly say it is a really happy working environment and we always recruit with that uppermost in our minds.'

'With the growth that we've seen, particularly in the last year, it isn't just scientists we are looking to employ, but people with a range of skills including IT,

marketing and administration.

'Moving into profit is extremely useful in terms of being able to plan further expansion. Managing this growth will be our number one challenge over the next year but we are keen to remain in the Oban area which has worked so well for us in terms of offering staff an enviable lifestyle.'

Douglas explained: 'In the early years we were working to survive, now we are able to take a more strategic view.'

'We have established our size and position in the UK and are able to consider the possibility of not just expanding further in the UK but also internationally.'

'You could say the sky's the limit!'

To find out more about Integrin, visit its website at www.integrin.co.uk

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Argyll photographer joins prestigious Masters

AN ARGYLL-based photographer has received a prestigious licentiate qualification propelling him into the ranks of the Master Photographers Association (MPA).

Nick Kirk has worked in the area for the last four years specialising in marine photography.

More recently he has moved into work that focuses on wedding, lifestyle, commercial and industrial themes.

Commenting on the award Mr Kirk said: 'I am extremely pleased to be awarded this qualification. It highlights the quality of imagery that I have been working on over the last few years and will help promote my business within the

wedding and social photography market place.'

The MPA is seen as the leading organisation in the photographic industry.

Eric Jenkins, chairman of the qualifying committee, stated it was a great achievement for a photographer to receive the award.

He said: 'A licentiate award indicates that the photographer is a qualified member of the association. It also demonstrates their competency in their chosen field of photography, which reassures members of the public that they are using the services of a qualified photographer.'

Nick Kirk is based at the Smithy Byre studio in Barbreck, near Lochgilphead.



CGL's sales manager Jim Edge presents a Golden Key award to Mrs Maureen Devine of Kilmore and Oban Church Centre

Church centre wins first CGL Golden Key award

PART of its 21st anniversary celebrations, CGL is holding a monthly prize draw for business account holders and is delighted to announce the first winner as Kilmore and Oban Church Centre, Oban.

Mrs Maureen Devine accepted a Brother printer and golden key on behalf of the winners from Jim Edge, sales manager at CGL's showroom in Lochside Street, Oban.

Smokehouse award

SMOKED organic salmon from Inverawe smokehouse received a prestigious award at a national food and drink expo.

The family-owned smokehouse, based in Tain, scooped the supreme champion's award at a ceremony in Birmingham.

The salmon won the overall prize ahead of 600 other food and drink products.

Smoked in brick kilns over two days for a distinctive smokey flavour, the fish was described by judge Jean-Christophe Novelli as 'the best organic salmon I've tasted'.



Nick Kirk, awarded a place with the Master Photographers Association (MPA)

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RICS

Detached house in Fort William site

POSITIONED on a predominantly residential development at Glasdrum, Fort William, is No. 21, a detached house.



Glasdrum Road... stunning views to loch and hills

The house is in an elevated position, with superb uninterrupted views over Loch Linnhe towards the Ardour hills.

The house is double-glazed and has electric heating, the fitted carpets and floor coverings throughout are included.

The district town of Fort William has a variety of shops and leisure facilities. As for the house itself, the external door with adjacent glass panels opens into the L-shaped hallway, which has two storage heaters and a ceiling-mounted smoke alarm.

There is a large cupboard with shelves and coat hooks. There is a further smaller cupboard with shelves. Pendant and wall lights. The use of wood door surrounds and skirting is continued through the house.

The lounge is a well proportioned room with large window to the front, providing plenty of natural light and superb uninterrupted views of the loch and mountains.

A central feature is the tiled hearth and surround. The electric fire is not included in the sale. Electric heater with convector. Telephone point. Television point and electric fire point.

The front-facing dining room benefits from the stunning views. There is a fitted shelf and light fittings with a dimmer control switch.

The modern fitted kitchen is situated adjacent to the dining-room. Various modern fitted units, including a three-drawer unit, stainless steel sink with drainer, ceiling light fitting with downlights. There are three recessed ceiling downlights above the main work surface. Space for cooker. Recycling cooker hood with light. Ceiling mounted extractor fan. Space for a fridge. There is also a fitted cupboard housing the large water tank and with shelf. Storage heater.

There is a utility area located adjacent to the kitchen. External door to the side elevation.

Bedroom One has a window to the side elevation, a cupboard with shelf and rail and a wall-mounted electric heater. Bedroom Two has wood tiled flooring, cupboard with shelf and rail, an electric heater and a telephone point.

Bedrooms Three and Four have cupboards with shelf and rail and electric heaters. The bathroom has



WC and wash-hand basin, a corner shower above the bath, Trilon shower, wall-tiling above the bath and an oil-filled heated towel rail.

Outdoors the garden is fenced with a gate at the driveway. The concrete driveway leads to the garage. There are various trees and shrubs in the garden and a path at the

side of the house. The usual services are in place - mains water, electricity and drainage.

Entry can be arranged through sellers McIntyre & Company, Fort William estate agents, from whom further particulars can be had. Offers over £189,000 are expected.

CIR MHOR
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Semi-detached bungalow (built c1991) comprising one public room and three bedrooms, kitchen, bathroom and additional separate WC. Small gardens to front, side and rear, with car parking space. Good views of surrounding hills. Council tax band D.

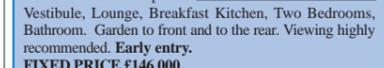
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For Sale: A substantial and significantly upgraded family sized **Detached House**, pleasantly situated in the upper part of Tobermory, commanding fine views over the rooftops to the bay, Calve Island and beyond. Double glazing, electric heating. Comprising spacious upper floor Lounge, recently refitted Kitchen/Dining room, Utility room, 5 Bedrooms (1 en-suite), Storeroom, Bathroom and Toilet. Garage, Summerhouse, Shed and Basement Store. Garden with patio and parking. **Offers over £210,000**



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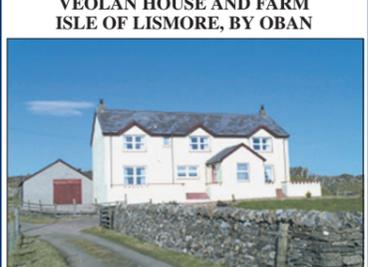
CULLIPOOL, ISLE OF LUING

For Sale: A charming **End Terrace Cottage** with excellent sea views, pleasantly situated within Cullipool village on the delightful and easily accessible island of Luing. Double glazing, electric heating. The accommodation comprises Living/Dining room, Kitchen, Bathroom, 2 Bedrooms. Two further attic rooms. Enclosed garden with off-street parking. **Offers over £100,000.**



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www.dmkestates.co.uk
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2 ARDCONNELL VILLA, ROCKFIELD ROAD, OBAN

Upper villa apartment within a substantial Victorian property on Oban Hill close to McCaig's Tower and commanding good views over the town to Oban Bay and round to the islands of Kerrera and Mull. Grand reception hall and staircase to the apartment comprising: hallway, lounge with splendid bay window, kitchen, dining room, three bedrooms and bathroom. Converted loft space with a large Velux window enjoying panoramic sea views. Gas central heating. Secondary glazing. Private garden to front, communal rear garden and share of external store. **Offers over £180,000**

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The Oban Times
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47 ACHLONAN, TAYNUILT, ARGYLL
 Well maintained semi-detached cottage style property situated within an established cul-de-sac within walking distance of the village amenities and enjoying a sunny south facing aspect and views towards Ben Cruachan at the rear. Well appointed accommodation comprising: through lounge, kitchen, downstairs toilet, three bedrooms and bathroom. Driveway and gardens to the front and rear. Double glazed. Night storage heating. **Offers over £110,000**

36 EASDALE ISLAND, BY OBAN, ARGYLL
 Charming stone built end-terrace cottage occupying a good location on the island and enjoying views over the picturesque harbour. The cottage has a sunny aspect and comprises: hall, open plan dining area and living room with a centrally located kitchen, double bedroom and shower room. Large floored loft space, in two compartments. The cottage is in need of some internal modernisation but offers versatile accommodation with great potential and suitable for use as a permanent home or a holiday base. Night storage heating. Garden and patio. **Offers over £80,000**

BONAWE, NORTH CONNELL, ARGYLL
Self-Build Opportunity in Rural Location
 A small development of five fully serviced buildings plots offered for sale with detailed planning consent for a traditional West Highland-style, four bedroom, detached dwelling house situated in the heart of the village of Bonawe and close to the shores of Loch Etive. Copies of the detailed planning consent, architect's drawings and site and location plans are available from the selling agents. **Offers over £50,000 per plot are invited for the remaining three plots.**

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 Bathroom with Separate Toilet
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Wedding Album



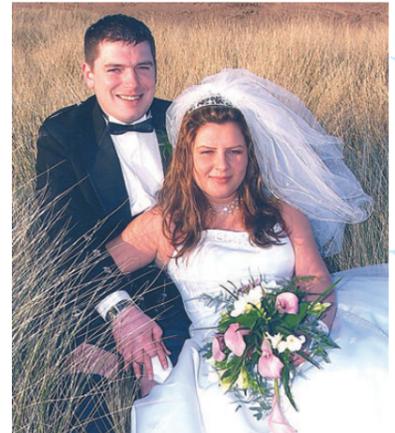
O'Connell - Saxby

Tracy O'Connell and Robert Saxby, both of Plymouth, were married at Barcaldine Castle, by Oban. The couple also held their reception there.
 Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Manson - Marelo

Elaine Manson and Russell Marelo, both of Nairn Crescent, Fort William, were married at Kilmonaig Church, Spean Bridge, by the Rev Donald MacQuarrie. The couple held a reception in the West End Hotel, Fort William.
 Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Shishkova - Shedden

Elena Shishkova of Belarus and Christopher Shedden of North Connel were married at St. Modan's Church, Benderloch, by the Rev Geoff McCormack. The couple held a reception in the Victory Hall, Benderloch.
 Photograph by Highland Photos of Oban.



Robinson - Nicholson

Laura Robinson and Norman Nicholson were married in St George's Church, Kendal.



Baltrunas - Bommen

Kerry Baltrunas, Grant Place, Fort William, and Joingle Bommen, of Norway, were married at St Margaret's Church, Roy Bridge, by Father John Paul MacKinnon. The couple held a reception at the Glenspean Lodge Hotel, Roy Bridge.
 Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Bancewicz - Sansom

Claire Bancewicz and Jamie Sansom, both from Glasgow, were married at the Visitation Church, Taynuilt, by the Rev Bancewicz. The couple held a reception at the Ardanaiseig Hotel and spent their honeymoon touring Scotland.
 Photograph by Highland Photos of Oban.



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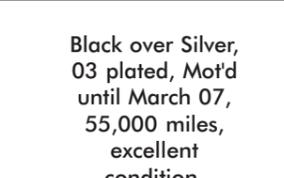


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 2005/05 Peugeot 206 SW Estate HDI 90, 11,000 miles NOW £9,595
 2004/54 Peugeot 206 S 1.1 3dr PAS C/L A/C 9,000 miles NOW £6,795
 2004/54 Peugeot 206 S 1.4 3DR pas c/l a/c 4,000 miles NOW £7,395
 2004/54 Peugeot 307 XSI HDI 136 5dr 17" alloys, 6 speed A/C 18,000 miles £11,995
 2004/04 Peugeot 206 SW Estate HDI 90 14,000 miles NOW £8,500
 2003/03 Peugeot 206 SW Estate HDI 90 A/C etc 28,000 miles £6,995
 1997 P Toyota Corolla Sportif 2dr etc NOW £995

THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS

2002/02 Vauxhall Astra Turbo Diesel Estate PAS, C/L, Alloys, Metallic ... £4,995
 2002/52 HDI 70 Diesel Estate PAS C/L, etc £5,395
 2002/52 307 S HDI 90 Diesel 5 door PAS C/L, etc £4,995
 1997/R Peugeot 406 LX 1.8 PAS C/L etc Long MOT £1295

CUSTOMERS' PROPERTY

2003/03 Ford Fiesta 1.1 Finesse 5dr PAS, metallic, 11,000 miles £4,995
 2001/51 Peugeot Partner Combi, 5 dr M.P.V. PAS, C/L etc 22,000 miles £4,695
 2000/X Landrover Freelander TD4 PAS C/L Alloys Metallic £8,695

COMMERCIALS

2001/51 Vauxhall Movano 2.5 Diesel Van PAS etc Very tidy £4,495 + vat
 1998 R Ford Escort 1.8 Diesel Van £1250 + vat

DEMONSTRATORS

2005/55 Peugeot 307 XSI HDI 136 5dr, Alloys, 6spd, A/C, etc 5000 miles £15,995
 2005/05 Peugeot 1007 1.6 Auto Electric Sliding Doors PAS A/C Alloys metallic 3,000 miles £10,995

ALL THIS AND MORE AT

CAMPBELTOWN MOTOR COMPANY
 BURNSIDE STREET, CAMPBELTOWN Tel: 01586 551144

SG Stewart's Garage

Japanese and 4x4 import specialists

Our vehicles are sourced directly from an importer with direct links to Japan - NOT from UK auction sites. They are of the highest quality and condition, usually with many non-standard extras. Meaning they are excellent value for money!

1994 Isuzu Bighorn 3.0TD - 4WD **£5,325**



65,000 miles, central locking, air conditioning, electric windows, electric heated mirrors, colour coded bumpers, front spots, alloy wheels. Lovely vehicle in first class condition

FEATURED CAR

A FURTHER SELECTION OF OUR QUALITY USED VEHICLES

1996 Mazda Bongo Frendee 2.5TD
 Manual 52,000 miles Newly arrived and still to be registered. Superb example of this excellent, 8 seat people carrier. Climate control, e/windows, drivers air bag, e/side curtains, e/mirrors. Rare manual gearbox. £5,695

M reg - 1994 Mitsubishi RVR 2.0 petrol 4WD auto
 61,000 miles Fun and sporty 4 wheel drive automatic, climate control, e/windows, alloy wheels, privacy glass, bull bars, spot lights. £3,695

1993 Toyota Hilux Surf 2.4 Td Manual
 61,000 miles Now registered and taxed, ready to go. 2.4 turbo diesel, manual gearbox, air con. £5,500

L Reg. 1994 Mitsubishi - Delica 2.8TD 4WD auto
 30,000 miles Versatile, low mileage, 4wd 7 seat people carrier, air con front and rear, e/windows, c. locking, side curtains, side steps, taxed April 06 £4895

1998 Landrover Defender 90 V8
 Selling on behalf of one of our customers, 50th anniversary limited edition, alloy wheels, roll cage, alarm. 73,000 miles £10650

If there is a particular make or model you are looking for, we will make every effort to find it for you.

50 Wellington Street, Dunoon PA23 7LA
 Tel: 01369 706053 Fax: 01369 705212
 Email: sales@stewartsgarage.com
 www.stewartsgarage.com

NEW CAR INDEX

BMW Calterdon Ltd Harbour Road, Inverness Tel. 01463 236566	RENAULT W.D Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150
FIAT Hazelbank Motors Lynn Road, Oban Tel. 01631 566476	SUBARU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
HONDA Helensburgh Honda 135 East Clyde Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 675777 www.helensburghhonda.co.uk	TOYOTA Helensburgh Toyota 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www.toyota.co.uk/helensburgh
ISUZU S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440	VOLKSWAGEN Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk
MINI Calterdon Ltd Harbour Road, Inverness Tel. 01463 236567	TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000

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04 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCI 100 3 DOOR, BLACK, 14000	P.O.A.
03 CITROEN XSARA PICASSO HD120 SILVER	£7250
03 RENAULT CLIO EXPRESSION 1.2 3 DOOR, SILVER, 25,000	£5150
03 FORD FOCUS 1.6LX 5 DOOR, BLUE, 17,000	£6950
03 RENAULT MEGANE H/B EXP 1.6 AUTO GREEN 16,500	P.O.A.
52 RENAULT MEGANE 1.4 DYN SPORT H/B 24000	£7750
52 RENAULT CLIO AUTH 1.2 5 DOOR, GREY, 16000	P.O.A.
02 RENAULT LAGUNA 1.8 DYN SILVER 31000	£6500
51 PEUGEOT 307GLX 5-DOOR, SILVER, 58,000	P.O.A.
01 RENAULT LAGUNA DYNAMIQUE 1.6 SILVER 45,000	£5750
V AUDI A3 1.6 AUTO - WHITE	£4500

VANS & PICK-UPS

RENAULT MASTER DIESEL
 RENAULT KANGOO DIESEL
 51 NISSAN VANETTE
 W MITSUBISHI L200 PICK UP 58,000 £7850 + VAT

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

New and Pre-Registered Renaults ready for immediate delivery. Here's just a small sample:

Pre-registered Renault Clio Extreme. with delivery mileage only



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Drive Times

Cars and Commercial Vehicles

SUZUKI DR-Z 400S

2004. 2,300 miles, £360 DEP Exhaust System, New Back Tyre, Recently Serviced Excellent Bike.
 Telephone 07793658589

£2,995 o.n.o.

110CC FOUR GEARS FOUR STROKE

brand new, never used, unwanted gift
 Telephone 01631 730269

£500 ono

KTM JUKE 640CC

1999 (V Reg) Tax end of August Mot February Good condition
 Telephone 01546 603237 07887 605870

£1,750

SWIFT CHALLENGER 600 - 4 BERTH

Twin Axle, Blown air heating Shower, Fridge, 4 Ring Hob and Oven Excellent Condition View Southend
 Telephone 07710444220 or 07714200945

£1750 ono

WANTED CARAVANS AND CAMPER VANS

1998 on - any make any size also damp or damaged considered
 Telephone 07734 602449

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.
 Telephone 01852 200268 or 07765 892558

£2,200 o.n.o.

SUZUKI COUGAR 100CC MOTORBIKE

Suitable for 10 - 14 year old
 Telephone 01855 831253

£475 ono

SUZUKI GSXF 750 SPORTS TOURER

1998 Black, FSH, excellent condition, only 16,093 miles, mostly dry miles. New tyres and battery. New Mot and Tax. All ready for the summer.
 Telephone 2 01631 569813 07788 135498

£1875 o.n.o.

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

£2850 ono.

WANTED TOURING CARAVAN

1990-1998 with cassette toilet, anything considered, private buyer.
 Telephone 017904 228568

SUZUKI RV125 VAN VAN

54 reg 3,000 miles One owner, great learner bike Suitable for rough tracks
 Telephone 07799 271731

£1,600

HONDA CG 125

4/stroke two years old, only 400 miles, as new.
 Telephone 01631 720380 Keil Engine Services, Benderloch

£1400ono

AVONDALE DART 510/5-S



2003 model, sleeps 4/5 with end bedroom, immaculate condition, hardly used, shower, air conditioning. Ready to go, many extras included. Dorema owning (used once) with Annex and inner tent. Must be seen, change of circumstances causes sale.
 Telephone 01855 821 338 MOBILE - 07723349529

£9,750 SECURES

COMPASS RALLYE 2 BERTH

hob, oven, fridge, shower and toilet
 Telephone 01631 564049

£2,500 ono

LAWN TRACTOR

Sabra by John Deere good condition
 Telephone 01770 303971

£400 + VAT

ECCLES JEWEL

14' caravan fully re-furbished good condition
 Telephone 01546 606102 07909 541500

50,000 POTENTIAL BUYERS

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000

RECRUITMENT

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

Work you can believe in.

CrossReach is Scotland's largest voluntary social work organisation, offering care and counselling to over 4,000 people daily. At Auchinlee in Campbeltown we provide the highest standard of care to older people.

Night Careworker

2 nights • £64.43 - £75.27 per night (qualification bar applies)

On the night shift you'll be working as part of a team providing continuous 24-hour cover spanning all aspects of the daily routine. Ideally you'll have some experience in care work and if you have a relevant qualification so much the better. In return you'll enjoy uncompromising support in developing your professional skills. On occasion you will be expected to undertake "Duty Senior" responsibilities.

Applicants for this post are required to have a Christian commitment and be able to uphold our Christian Ethos. This requirement is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Employment Equality (Religion or Belief) Regulations 2003.

Domestic Assistant

25 hours • £207.95 per week pro rata

This is a chance to be part of a team making a real difference to people's lives. You'll provide our clients with a clean and tidy living environment, which will include doing the laundry, washing up and general catering duties.

As we do our work in Christ's name, you must be in sympathy with and supportive of our Christian Ethos.

For both positions we offer a comprehensive benefits package, including employer's contributory pension. Both posts are subject to enhanced disclosure.

Make a difference in life - call 01586 552568 or email auchinlee@crossreach.org.uk for an application form. Closing date: 28 April 2006. Church of Scotland Social Care Council www.crossreach.org.uk



Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited Hebridean and Clyde Ferries

Port Assistant (Seasonal Post)

Oban Ref: 24-SB
£6.66 per hour

Oban Ferry Terminal is one of the busiest in the CalMac network, with four major vessels, one small vessel, one cruise liner and a large number of local boats using it on a regular basis. The completion last year of the company's flagship terminal building, the continual development in infrastructure and facilities, together with more than 800,000 passengers from home and overseas who pass through the port annually, make the port one of the most vibrant and interesting places to work in the summer.

We are now seeking to fill a number of positions for the summer season, for duties from mid-May until mid-September 2006.

Reporting to the Port Supervisor/Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will deal with customer enquires and assist in sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 24-SB no later than Friday 21 April 2006 to:

Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourcock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.

Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer.

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

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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.



Scottish Sea Farms

South Shian, Connel PART TIME CLEANER REQUIRED

20 hours per week, hours can be flexible

To apply telephone 01631 574000 or write to

Margaret MacAlpine
Administrator
Scottish Seafarms
South Shian
Connel PA37 1SB

COOK/CREW PERSON REQUIRED

Oban area
For Charter vessel
Catering for small numbers
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Box No 46, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban



SALES PERSON

Lochaber and Argyll
21 hours + per week

GO@L Training are an award winning training company who work in partnership with local enterprise companies throughout Scotland delivering nationally recognized qualifications to people working in the Hospitality and Tourism industry.

The successful candidate will have an enthusiastic out-going character and be able to convince employers to participate in our training programmes. A good knowledge of the local Hospitality and Tourism industry would be a distinct advantage.

Sales training will be provided as well as an attractive salary, expenses, phone and laptop. Full driving licence and car essential.

Apply by submitting full CV and hand written covering letter to Anne Cumming, Sales Manager, GO@L Training, 1 Bowerswell Road, Perth, PH2 7DL or e-mail: anne@goaltraining.co.uk attaching full CV.

Argyll & Bute CHP



Aros, Lochgilphead

Clerical Officer (Procurement)

Full-time, 37.5 hours per week
*£12,580 - £14,602 Ref: 06ab/3

To support the Buyers/Assistant Buyers in the provision of ordering goods and services, you will have at least 2 Standard Grades (or equivalent) including Maths and English, and a good knowledge of Microsoft Office packages and computerised ordering systems. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, the ability to work to tight timescales and a great deal of accuracy is essential.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB - Tel: 01546 606788 (24 hour answerphone) or by e-mailing: recruitmentlab@nhs.net quoting the reference number.

Closing date for completed applications: 28 April 2006.

*Subject to "Agenda for Change" review.



Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be.
www.show.scot.nhs.uk/nhshighland

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 07739 657723

SKIPPER WANTED

for passenger/workboat
Oban area

BML grade 3 or similar

Apply to box No 47

The Oban Times, P.O box 1, Oban

CHEF'S REQUIRED

All levels
Good rate of pay
Tel. 01866
822437



Full and part time PC.V. drivers wanted

Dunoon area
Must have full licence and minimum
2 years coach experience

Telephone: 01369 703500

Shop Assistant

£10,140 pro rata p.a. and excellent pension scheme
Permanent, 15.5 hrs p/w • Oban

Cancer Research UK is one of the largest charities in the UK and is focused on offering the highest standards of quality in its shops.

Your main duties will include operating the till, sorting, steaming and pricing stock. You will need to be flexible and work on your own initiative. Experience in fashion and/or quality control is an advantage. Training will be given.

To apply for this role, please call our national recruitment line on 01403 750072, quoting reference 5144. The closing date is 27th April 2006.

https://jobs.cancerresearchuk.org/

A culture of diversity. A focus on success.



Charity no: 1089464

Dental Receptionist/Secretary



£12,580 - £14,602 per annum pro-rata
(Under Review)

18.5 hours per week

Based in Lorne Street Dental Practice, Lochgilphead, you will assist in supporting the administration, secretarial and reception service to the Dental Practice. This will include maintaining an appointment diary, processing claim forms, typing of all correspondence, ordering of dental materials/ supplies and dealing with petty cash float.

For informal enquiries please contact Jane Monteith, Dental Services Support Manager on 01389 817026.

For an application form (quote ref: 06/81) please contact the recruitment team on our 24 hour answering service by calling 0141 314 0425 or email recruitment.line@achb.scot.nhs.uk Closing date 29th April 2006.

For a full list of current vacancies see our website www.show.scot.nhs.uk

SEASONAL STAFF WANTED

General Assistant

To carry out some housekeeping duties and Reception duties as necessary

Approx. 30 hours per week April to end September

Must be computer and numeracy literate and willing to help out wherever needed

Would suit student looking for seasonal work

Weekend and evening shifts involved.

Cleaner

To make bunk beds and carry out general cleaning duties

Approx. 15-20 hours per week April to end September

Weekend shifts involved

To apply telephone Linda or Kenny on 01397 700070 or e-mail application to bankstreetlodge@btconnect.com

Bank Street Lodge

PART-TIME EARLY MORNING CLEANERS

required for

local retail outlet in

LOCHGILPHEAD

Monday-Saturday,

two hours per day

Contact

0141 956 2400

for local interview

GUEST HOUSE HELP required

on Saturday

and Sunday

mornings

A good rate of pay

will be paid in

exchange for

commitment and

honest hard work

- telephone -

01631 564063

or

07749 717 976

FACTORY MANAGER

Ocean Nutritionals Ltd require a highly motivated, flexible person as Factory Manager for our new site in Fort William. The plant will produce high grade products for the pharmaceutical industry, animal and veterinary use.

Applicants must have practical experience in the food or chemical industry, ideally with evaporation and spray drying knowledge and staff management experience including employment legislation. Remuneration by negotiation with long term profit participation for the right candidate.

Apply in writing with C.V. by 28th April to

Dr Iain Cloughley
Ocean Nutritionals Ltd
Unit 5
Annat Point Industrial Estate
Corpach, PH33 7NA



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

Full Time Dental Nurse / Trainee

required for busy dental practice

Computer skills an advantage

Telephone Argyll Square Dental Practice
on 01631 562791
for details.



OBAN

offers the opportunity
to a young enthusiastic person
to join our team as a

TRAINEE CHEF

For further details contact

Patrick Freytag

01631 562087



Argyll Building Supplies (formerly Islay Timber) will soon be opening at Snipefield Industrial Estate, Campbeltown and are looking to fill the following positions:

Class 2 HGV Driver - Hi-Ab Hicket preferred

Driver/Forklift Driver/yard Worker

Trade Counter

Admin/Trade Counter

Where applicable, candidates must have a clean driving license and good working knowledge of principal Microsoft packages. Candidates should be enthusiastic, reliable, have a flexible attitude and be able to work as part of a team.

Please apply in writing stating relevant experience and current salary to:

Argyll Building Supplies

The Old Stables, Glenegedale, Port Ellen

Isle of Islay PA42 7UA

Closing Date: 24 April 2006

Oban Times Oban Times

RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

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LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

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RECRUITMENT

PUBLIC NOTICES

Scottish Health Council

The Scottish Health Council is a new body set up by the Scottish Executive to ensure that patients and the public are at the heart of improvements to NHS Services.

LOCAL OFFICER, SOUTH WEST HIGHLANDS including Argyll & Bute
(Ref: SHC65)

A&C Grade 5 £17,714 – £21,549 (PRO RATA)

Are you living in the South West Highland or Argyll and Bute area with a background in public/user involvement? If so, this post could offer you an exciting opportunity to locally promote the activities of the Scottish Health Council. Likely to be based from home, with travel throughout the region which covers Argyll & Bute and North to the Fort William area and beyond, you will work closely with the staff in the Highland Office and local volunteer members to develop productive working relationships with local public and patient representative bodies. These relationships will facilitate effective assessment of the Patient Focus and Public Involvement activities of Highland Health Board in its newly widened geographical area. You will have excellent oral and written communication skills and have the necessary motivation to work from home. This post is offered for up to 30 hours per week.

For an application pack please call 0141 225 6877 or email your request to SHCrecruitment@nhshealthquality.org quoting the above reference number.

Closing date – 28 April 2006.

The Scottish Health Council is subject to review under Agenda for Change, NHSScotland Pay Modernisation. Therefore terms and conditions outlined may be subject to change. Appointments will normally be made at the bottom of the salary scale.

The Scottish Health Council is an equal opportunities organisation.

For further information please visit www.scottishhealthcouncil.org



To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● Ref No: 06/00731/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs E McInnes
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Plot 5 Glenshellach Farm Glenshellach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QJ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00607/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs Robertson
Proposal: Erection of a Heated Conservatory
Site Address: Ferniehill Gannan Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5TU
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00627/OUT
Applicant: Anna Taylor
Proposal: Erection of three dwelling houses
Site Address: Land East Of Hill Cottage Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TB
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Coll Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00665/DET
Applicant: S Orr Esq
Proposal: Erection of Replacement Dwellinghouse and Installation of Septic Tank,
Site Address: Inver Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00672/DET
Applicant: Robert Morrison MacLeod
Proposal: Painting of Building to Black
Site Address: Mishnish Hotel Main Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00666/DET
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Donald Skinner
Proposal: Formation of Access Road from A85 Trunk Road Providing a New Private Access - Installation of Drainage System
Site Address: Site A And Cabbh Connel Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 1PT
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00648/DET
Applicant: John And Dolina Macdonald
Proposal: Extension to dwellinghouse,
Site Address: 1 Achnaferra Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00671/DET
Applicant: R Scott
Proposal: Proposed Alterations
Site Address: Corran House Hotel Victoria Crescent Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5PH
Location of Plans: Lorn Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00677/DET
Applicant: KMAP
Proposal: Alterations to Storage Unit (Installation of Roller Shutter Doors)
Site Address: McLeod Units Lochavullin Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4PL
Location of Plans: Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

● Ref No: 06/00668/LIB
Applicant: M And G Fraser
Proposal: Internal Alterations to Dwellinghouse,
Site Address: Luachraich Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4QB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day

● Ref No: 06/00601/DET
Applicant: Dunstaffnage Marina Ltd
Proposal: Erection of Staff Accommodation
Site Address: Dunstaffnage Yacht Haven Dunstaffnage Argyll And Bute PA37 1PX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dumbeg
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

● Ref No: 06/00661/DET
Applicant: Douglas Angus
Proposal: Proposed new dwelling (revision of approval 04/00702/DET dated 1st April 2004)
Site Address: 19-20 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SH
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven Development in Conservation Area 21 Days

● Ref No: 06/00661/DET
Applicant: Douglas Angus
Proposal: Proposed new dwelling (revision of approval 04/00702/DET dated 1st April 2004)
Site Address: 19-20 Shore Street Portnahaven Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA47 7SH
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a 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.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

● Reference No: 06/00437/DET
Applicant: Dr + Mrs Paul Green
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House
Site Address: Plot 4 Land South West Of Ardsshellach Farm Ardmaddy Argyll And Bute PA34 4QY
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

Potential Departure from Policy H022 of Lorn Local Plan

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, PA34 4AR

North Argyll Eventide Home Association
A.G.M
Wednesday April 26, 2006 at 7 pm
In the home
Members Only

Lodge St. Modan No. 985
Regular Meeting to be held on 19th April @ 7.45pm
Ballot
E.A. Degree
A.O.C.B.
Enquiry committee to be held on Sunday 16th April @ 7pm and Rehearsal to follow

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM
The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
Tel: 01631 568000



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
Orange Lower Glenfintaig Farm Spean Bridge 06/00129/TELLO	Erection of 10M Pole and Installation of Telecommunications Antennae and Equipment Cabinets	Spean Bridge Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Eigg Electric Ltd Isle Of Eigg 06/00118/FULLO	Installation of Community Windfarm	Eigg Post Office Potential Departure (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

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Saturday 29th April at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye from 11.45am.

For more information on the day or to book childcare, please contact Margaret Cameron (Tel: 01397 874204 E-mail: Margaret.Cameron@lochaber.uhi.ac.uk) or Lisa Wharton (Tel: 01397 874000 E-mail: Lisa.Wharton@lochaber.uhi.ac.uk)

Lunch and refreshments will be provided and childcare is available.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig
Colaiste Ghàidhlig na h-Alba

Sàite • An t-Eilean Sgìtheanach IV44 8RQ • Alba
Fòn: +44 (0) 1471 888000 Facs: +44 (0) 1471 888001
Post-d: sm.offis@uhi.ac.uk



www.smo.uhi.ac.uk

CROFTERS COMMISSION

UIGHEARRAS NAN CROFTARAN

Mrs Mary McNaughton is applying to decroft part of the croft at 175 Newton Ardtee, Ardnarmurchan and Sunart, extending to 0.354 hectare for the purpose of providing the site for a dwelling-house.
Ref: C/15704

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 May 1, 2006, quoting the appropriate reference. Representations will be copied to the applicant. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account on this occasion.

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949

APPLICATION FOR SINGLE MOORING AT COLONSAY

Notice is hereby given that Mr Johnston 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 single mooring at the above location in the position(s):

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 04.41N	06 10.68W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at The Post Office, Isle of Colonsay.

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: ZSPC/2/5/254

Mr Johnston, Fairmilelow House, Athelstaneford, North Berwick EH39 5BE



Followed by an illustrated talk entitled "From Waves to Whales"

The anatomy of a Marine Hot Spot by Dr Peter Stevick
Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust

Thursday 20th April
Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory at 7.30 pm
ALL WELCOME!

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 APPLICATION FOR SINGLE MOORING AT CAOL ILA BAY

Notice is hereby given that Mr Thompson 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 single mooring at the above location in the position:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	55 51.35 N	06 06.47 W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at the CalMac Ticket Office, Port Askaig.

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: ZSPC/2/4/44.

Mr Thompson
14 Grosvenor Crescent
Glasgow
G12 9AF

CROFTERS COMMISSION

UIGHEARRAS NAN CROFTARAN

Application for Apportionment
7 & 7a Bohuntin, Roybridge
Common Grazings, Inverness-shire
Intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 0.773 hectares for the purpose of adding to croft.

Grazings Clerk/Constable Ronald J Campbell has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ before 25 April 2006. A copy of any representations made may be forwarded to the applicant.

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Use your experience to enrich theirs - call 01738 783200 or email calum.murray@crossreach.org.uk for an application form. Closing date: 28 April 2006. Church of Scotland Social Care Council

www.crossreach.org.uk



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**Lethen Mains
Limousin is
Dingwall spring
champion**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 989 cattle at its spring show and sale.

An excellent show of quality cattle met extremely satisfactory prices.

At the show, sponsored by Ness Motors, Inverness, Robertsons of Tain and H I S, Inverness, judge T Stevenson, Balmacollie, made the following awards: Champion and First Prize bullock; J M Fraser and Sons, Lethen Mains, with a 605kg Limousin cross selling to £835, Reserve Champion and First Prize heifer; J H and S M Anderson, Cloy, with a 590kg Charolais cross selling to £760; Best Pen of Four bullocks or heifers; W J Jack & Sons, Woodend (530kg, £765), Second Prize Pen of Four; MacIver Partners, Easter Strath of Auchterflow (322kg, £510), Best Pair of bullocks or heifers; A & N Gordon, Achnahannet (457kg, £695), Second Prize Pair; W J Jack and Sons, Woodend (510kg, £740), Second Prize bullock; J H & S M Anderson, Cloy (565kg, £810), Second Prize heifer; W D Stephen & Co, Meikle Geddes (340kg, £760).

The 587 bullocks sold to a top of 165.3p per kilo for Belgian Blue crosses from Meikle Geddes, to average 132.6p, and to £850 for a Limousin from Woodend.

The 401 heifers sold to a top of 223.5p per kilo, £760 per head for the 340kg Belgian Blue cross Second Prize heifer from Meikle Geddes, to average 123.2p, and also to £760 per head for the reserve champion from Cloy.

West coast threat eases as migrant geese leave for far north

Avian flu risk results in west coast vigilance

CONFIRMATION that a dead swan found in a Fife harbour had the deadly H5N1 strain of avian 'flu' has caused a ripple of unease in the west of Scotland.

One Argyll poultry farmer remains pessimistic despite the Scottish Executive insisting that the likelihood of an epidemic is very low and no further cases being confirmed.

But Hew Service, who lives at Ardfern, says it needs only for him to have to keep his free-range geese indoors for his Highland Geese business possibly to go under.

'The cost of feeding them inside rather than having them grazing would change the whole structure of the cost of the geese,' Hew said.

'As a result, if the west looks likely, we probably won't produce this year.'

'There is no point offering geese reared inside instead of free-range geese, it is a totally different concept.'

Hew said the National Farmers' Union (NFU) in Scotland told him that any birds dying of avian flu would not be compensated



Migrating geese will soon be leaving for the far north.

for, although birds destroyed in a cull would be.

'It is not a happy scene at the moment,' he said.

Poultry farmers within the protection zone emanating from Cellardyke harbour, Fife, where the dead swan was found, have been told to keep their flocks indoors.

Sir David King, the government's chief scientist, has said that farming practices might change if the virus spread among wild birds, in that there would no longer be outdoor birds.

That would effectively end the practice of free-range and organic farming.

At the moment poultry farmers can have their free-

range licence suspended for up to three months if they have to take their free-range flocks indoors.

Staff at the RSPB's Loch Gruinart nature reserve on Islay stepped up vigilance months ago with twice-weekly sorties to look for any dead or sick birds which might have the dis-

ease, an RSPB Scotland spokesman said.

The island has up to 50,000 migrating geese during the winter - 70 per cent of the world's Greenland barnacle geese and 40 per cent of the world's Greenland white-fronted goose population.

The geese are now being

compensation would be paid in the event of a cull but not if birds died from avian 'flu'.

However, depending of the gravity and extent of the situation this could change.

Defra (Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) urged anyone finding one or more dead wildfowl in the same place to contact its helpline on 08459 33 55 77.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is helping to coordinate a national surveillance operation of dead wildfowl.

It is also working with RSPB Scotland, Scottish Gamekeepers Association and several other voluntary conservation groups to ensure any dead wildfowl are reported and tested.

Scottish Countryside Alliance chief executive Tony Andrews stressed that the Cellardyke swan was 'an incident, not an outbreak'.

He said: 'We are calling for a measured and proportionate response to any cases in Scotland or the UK - a situation of widespread panic could do more damage to our countryside than the disease itself.'

An NFU Scotland spokes-

man confirmed that compensation would be paid in the event of a cull but not if birds died from avian 'flu'.

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An NFU Scotland spokes-

**Gartacharra
Charolais
top UA sale
in Islay**

UNITED Auctions held their annual April sale of 1476 cattle at Islay Auction Mart.

An excellent show of quality bred grazing cattle were on offer to a strong force of mainland buyers.

Charolais bullocks from Gartacharra sold to £648 per head whilst the same home led the top priced heifers at £652, also for Charolais crosses.

Leading the price per kilo for bullocks was Tallant for a pen of Limousin crosses selling at 160pence and Dunlossit Farms had the top priced heifers for a pen of Charolais crosses.

Overall, the 843 bullocks sold, averaged £469.45 per head or 133pence per kilo and the 633 heifers averaged £387.45 per head or 121pence per kilo.

Limousin bulls from No6 Bayview sold to £1600 and breeding cattle from Lorn sold to £920.

**Brae Edge
Limousins
lead
Dingwall
prime sale**

DINGWALL Highland Marts sold 91 cattle (64 bullocks and 27 heifers) at its weekly prime sale.

Bullocks sold to a top of 135p per kilo for a 560kg Limousin from D A Budge, Brae Edge, to Woodhead Brothers, Turriff, and to £839 per head for a Limousin from J and J Henderson, Udale, also to Woodhead Brothers.

Heifers sold to a top of 127p per kilo, £781 per head, for a 615kg Limousin from P and F Macrae, Teawig, to John M Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

The company also sold 2390 prime sheep with lambs selling to a top of 142.7p per kilo for 41kg Texel crosses from A D Jack, Kilcoy, and to £70.80 per head for Suffolk crosses also from Kilcoy.

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**Oban Times
FARMING**

Oban market marks successful year

THE 12TH Annual General Meeting of Oban Livestock Centre Limited took place recently at Oban Market, when the Board of Directors reported to shareholders on another successful year, based on both livestock sales and diversified activities.

Caledonian Marts continue to provide auctioneering services at the market, handling sales of cattle and sheep from many parts of mainland Argyll and the adjacent islands of Argyll and the Western Isles.

In addition, special sales of Highland cattle involve pedigree livestock from all parts of the country, attracting buyers and sellers from the UK and overseas.

Chairman of the board, Malcolm MacDonald, re-

ported that turnover of live-stock was still maintained at a high level over the year, despite prices being somewhat depressed overall, particularly in early lamb sales.

With the introduction of the Single Farm Payment in lieu of former subsidies for livestock and cropping, farm incomes throughout the country had suffered but it was hoped that returns from the market place would make up the difference, after an initial settling-in process.

'New buyers from the East of Scotland were now buying livestock at Oban sales and have expressed their satisfaction with the quality of store animals presented at Oban Livestock Centre, thereby ensuring

business tenants, agricultural engineering, storage facilities and advertising space, all of which shows a positive contribution to company turnover.

A substantial loan from Argyll and Bute Council for the construction of the Mart was repaid during the year clearing the last of the original loans. Shareholders at present numbered well over 500 individuals.

Re-elected

In accordance with the constitution of the Company, three members of the board of directors, Billy Ronald, John MacPherson and Duncan Buchanan, were standing down this year but had offered themselves for re-election. As there were no other nominations, all three were duly re-elected for the coming

year making a total of 10 elected board members.

Since the establishment of the market at the Upper Soroba site in 1994, Oban Livestock Centre has continued to provide a stable and dependable outlet for livestock sales in this area.

Despite the restrictions caused by nationwide incidents such as the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in 2001 and the cessation of live cattle exports as a result of BSE in cattle, marketing operations have continued throughout each and every year since its inception.

The directors are constantly seeking ways to maximise income and reduce expenditure whilst maintaining and expanding buildings at the market which represents a valuable and considerable asset to shareholders.

Nature Times

The spring seems to be very late in coming this year, at least in terms of the weather - I woke at the weekend to the strange experience of heavy falling snow, with the dawn chorus in full flow.

Several woodland plants are already in full bloom, despite the weather. Wood anemones and lesser celandines are amongst the most conspicuous, but on richer soils look out for dog's mercury, usually found where ash and hazel grow. The unbranched, leafy stems often grow in dense patches, 20-40 cm tall. The leaves are narrowly oval and pointed, with rough teeth round the edges, and grow in opposite pairs up the stem. Dog's mercury is 'dioecious', with male and female flowers on separate plants. The flowers appear in early spring but are far from spectacular - small and green, they grow in tassels on long stalks. Dog's mercury is a poisonous plant with a rather unpleasant smell that attracts tiny flies - these crawl over the flowers and help transfer pollen between plants.

The first dandelions are starting to open, and their vivid yellow flower heads are good places to watch for bees. The most likely bees to be seen on flowers this early in the year, especially in gardens and near settlements, are honeybees. Unlike bumblebees, the honeybee colony survives through the winter and so workers are able to emerge



Honeybees feed at early spring flowers such as dandelions whenever there is enough sunshine

in force as soon as the sun gives sufficient warmth for flight.

Honeybees are one of the few insect species which has been domesticated by man - or at least partly so. Most colonies live in man-made hives, but colonies do occasionally establish in the wild from escaped swarms.

Large hollow trees are probably the most typical home for wild honeybees, but old buildings may provide suitable niches, such as under roofs and in disused chimneys. I vividly remem-

ber once finding a colony in a roofspace when looking for bats. Crawling through a small gap I shone the torch above my head to discover the golden combs, crawling with bees - and beat a hasty retreat!

Away from a hive, a honeybee colony forms a very beautiful structure, with a series of hanging, rounded combs shaped to match the space in which they are constructed.

Unlike bumblebees, honeybees build up stores of honey in late summer to

enable the colony to survive through the spring. The worker bees form a dense cluster on the combs to maintain warmth, with the all-important queen in the centre.

The honey stocks are gradually depleted as the winter progresses, and one of the beekeeper's skills is to ensure that there are sufficient supplies to last through - a late spring presents quite a threat to a colony's survival.

Highland Darter

Market report

ISLAY -

United Auctions

Bullocks

Aberdeen Angus X: £552 Octomere £538 (10) and £488 (10) Craignis £482 Uiskeuntie £468 (8) Craignis £453 Calumkill and Craignis (4) £448 (4) Craignis £438 (3) Octomere £432 Gartnatra and Octomere £428 (5) Calumkill. **Belgian Blue X:** £608 Uiskeuntie £592 44 Stanalane £468 (3) and £468 Eorras. **Charolais X:** £648, £602 (2) Gartacharra £593 and £573 (8) Craigfad £568 (6) Dunlossit Estate £552 (10) Gartacharra £523 Craigfad £522 (6) Aoradh £518 Carrabus (4), Ballinaby and Dunlossit Estate (4) £512 Uiskeuntie £508 Carrabus £498 (2) and £492 Balimartin £482 (4) Aoradh £478 Craigfad £472 (2) Aoradh £468 Sunderland £458 Ballinaby (3), Gartacharra (3) and Sunderland £448 Octofad £442 Dunlossit Estate £438 (10), Ballinaby £422 Carrabus £418 Octofad and Carrabus (2) £400 Ballinaby. **Limousin X:** £638 (2) Lossit £632 Dunlossit Estate £622 Brybruch £618 (3) Uiskeuntie £612 Octofad (3), Uiskeuntie and Brybruch (3) £603 Eorras £602 Uiskeuntie £600 Neriby £598 Octofad £592 Brybruch and Lossit £588 Uiskeuntie and Kilchiaran (2) £578 (2) Lossit £573 Craigfad £572 Octofad (3), Uiskeuntie (3) and Lossit (3) £568 Octofad (2) and Lossit £562 Balaclava £558 Uiskeuntie (4) and Kilchiaran (6) £553 Bayview £552 Lossit £543 (3) Eorras £542 Lossit (8), Balaclava (2) and Neriby (2) £538 Octofad (13) and Eorras (5) £532 (7) Octofad £528 Aoradh and Uiskeuntie £523 Craigfad £522 Aoradh (2), Sunderland, Dunlossit Estate (10) and Neriby (6) £518 Carrabus, Uiskeuntie, Balimartin (10), Kilchiaran (8) and Neriby (4) £512 (6) Tallant £508 Brybruch (6) and Dunlossit Estate £498 Octofad (7), Aoradh (2), Uiskeuntie and Dunlossit Estate (6) £492 (7) Aoradh £488 Kilbride (4) and Duich (15) £482 (4) Sunderland £473 (5) Eorras £468 Carrabus (2), Eorras, Kilbride and Sunderland (5) £462 Aoradh (3), Tallant (2), Leorin (2) and Balaclava (3) £458 Carrabus £453 (2) Craigfad £453 Carrabus (3), Blackpark (2), Leorin (8) and Dunlossit Estate £448 Octofad (2), Carrabus (3), Tallant (5), Sunderland (3) and Dunlossit Estate (3) £443 Ballychattrigan (2) and Craigfad £442 Carrabus, Kilchiaran (4), Sunderland (9) and Neriby £438 Octofad (3), Ballychattrigan (5), Aoradh (4), Leorin (12), Dunlossit Estate and Octomere (12) £432 Carrabus (2), Kilchiaran (5), Sunderland (4) and Octomere £428 Carrabus, Tallant (6), Blackpark (2), Balaclava (3), Dunlossit Estate (4) and Smaladh (2) £425 (2) Balaclava £422 and £418 (11) Carrabus £418 Corray, Balaclava (4), Kilbride (3), Sunderland (5), Smaladh (3) and Octomere (6) £415 (7) Kilchiaran £412 Carrabus and Blackpark (3) £408 Eorras, Craigfad and Smaladh £402 Octofad, Uiskeuntie (8), Dunlossit Estate (4). **Saler X:** £448 (9) Duich. **Shorthorn X:** £378 (4) Kilchiaran. **Simmental X:** £602 Uiskeuntie £588 (2) Coillabus £578 Uiskeuntie £568 (3) Craigfad £562 Carrabus £558 Cladville £548 Corray (6) and Cladville (3) £542 Uiskeuntie, Kilchiaran (8) £523 Craigfad (4) and Corray (3) £518 (6) Cladville £508 (4) Duich £502 (12) Corray £498 Gartnatra and Island (3) £473 Craigfad £472 (9) Cladville £468 Uiskeuntie £462 (5) Kilchiaran £448 (4) Sunderland £443 Coillabus £430 (2) Kilchiaran £428 Coillabus and Sunderland (5) £418 (2) Corray £403 (2) Coillabus.

Prices per kilo

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 142p (2) Calumkill 139p (2) Ballinaby 130p (3) Calumkill 127p (3) Octomere 126p (8) Craignis 124p Calumkill (5) and Craignis (10) 123p Octomere 121p (10) Craignis 120p (3) Ballinaby. **Belgian Blue X:** 129p - 44 Stanalane 128p and 122p (2) Eorras. **Charolais X:** 149p (4) Carrabus 148p (4) Ballinaby 147p (6) Carrabus 146p (3) Ballinaby 145p (6) Dunlossit Estate 144p Carrabus 142p Octofad and Aoradh (4) 141p (4) Dunlossit Estate 138p Aoradh (6) and Uiskeuntie 136p (6) and 135p (3) Craigfad 133p Ballinaby and Craigfad (13) Gartacharra 131p Balimartin (2) and Sunderland 130p Ballinaby (7) and Carrabus (2) 129p (2) Craigfad 128p (3) Gartacharra 127p Octofad 124p (2) Aoradh and Gartacharra (2) 122p Gartacharra. **Limousin X:** 160p (6) Tallant 155p (3) Octofad 154p Aoradh (3), Tallant (8) 151p Kilbride and Aoradh 150p Neriby 149p Smaladh (3), Sunderland (4) and Carrabus 148p Leorin (8) and Dunlossit (3) 147p Aoradh (9), Carrabus and Leorin (3) 146p Dunlossit Estate (4), Octofad, Tallant (2) and Craigfad 145p Leorin (3), Sunderland (9), Ballychattrigan, Lossit and Dunlossit Estate 144p Sunderland (5), Carrabus, Brybruch (6) and Octofad (6) 143p Sunderland (3), Lossit (3) and Carrabus 142p Octofad, Aoradh (2), Dunlossit Estate (16), Duich (15), Carrabus (2), Calumkill (3) and Duich (3) 141p Octofad (13), Neriby (6), Brybruch and Octofad (4) 140p Carrabus (3) and Octofad (3) 139p Kilbride (4), Carrabus and Lossit 138p Carrabus (3), Balimartin (10), Leorin (12), Smaladh (2) and Kilbride (3) 137p Sunderland, Dunlossit Estate, Neriby (2), Uiskeuntie (2) and Balaclava (3) 136p Octofad (2), Lossit (3), Smaladh and Craigfad 135p Kilchiaran (6), Frederick Cress., Leorin (7) and Balaclava (3) 134p Carrabus (9), Octofad (7), Eorrad and Kilchiaran (2), 133p Sunderland (5), Carrabus, Kilchiaran (8) and Craigfad 132p Octofad (2), Carrabus, Smaladh (3) and Octofad (3)

Heifers

Aberdeen Angus X: £468 Coillabus £428 (2) Cladville £338 (2) Ballinaby £532 Carrabus £528 Sunderland £522 Gartacharra £513 Bayview £478 (9) Dunlossit Estate £468 (7) Balimartin £458 Aoradh (11) and Craigfad (10) £452 (8) Dunlossit Estate £448 Carrabus £438 Octofad (2) and Carrabus (2) £422 (3) Aoradh £408 Carrabus, Ballinaby (9) and Dunlossit Estate (2). **Limousin X:** £632 (2), £568 and £532 Lossit £508 Octomere £502 Brybruch £488 Uiskeuntie (3) and Lossit £482 (4) Neriby £472 Lossit and Neriby (3) £468 Kilchiaran (2) and Lossit (7) £458 Ballychattrigan (2), Uiskeuntie (2) and Neriby (6) £452 Octofad (4), Kilchiaran (7) and Neriby (7) £448 Octofad (13) and Carrabus £438 Octofad (5), Carrabus (2) and Kilchiaran (8) £448 (3) £428 Kilchiaran (8) and Neriby (2) £423 Bunanuisge and Eorras (5) £418 Octofad (2) and Corray £412 (12) Aoradh £408 Bayview and Sunderland (6) £402 Aoradh (14), Sunderland (7) and Octomere (2). **Simmental X:** £552 Island £538 (4), £512 (2) Corray £492 Gartnatra £482 (2) and £472 (2) Corray £472 Cladville £468 (2) Coillabus £462 (9) Cladville £450 (2) Kilchiaran £448 (3) Island £443 (4) Coillabus £430 (2) Kilchiaran £428 Coillabus and Sunderland (5) £418 (2) Corray £403 (2) Coillabus.

Heifers

Aberdeen Angus X: 119p (4) Ballinaby. **Charolais X:** 139p (9) Dunlossit Estate 135p (5) Ballinaby 134p (8) Dunlossit Estate 132p Aoradh (11) and Bayview 131p (2) Mansefield Rd 128p Ballinaby (2), Dunlossit Estate (2) 127p (3) and 126p Carrabus 124p Gartacharra and Carrabus (3) 123p Ballinaby (6), Octofad (2) and Aoradh (3) 121p Craigfad (4) and Ballinaby (9) 120p Balimartin (7) and Craigfad (6). **Limousin X:** 132p (2) Neriby 131p (6) Leorin 130p Sunderland (6), Lossit (3), Leorin (4) 129p Octofad (3), Carrabus, Smaladh (4), Uiskeuntie (9) 128p Aoradh (26) 127p Sunderland (13), Mansefield Rd (4), Calumkill (2), Carrabus, Duich (16) 126p Lossit (2), Sunderland (5), Leorin (10) 125p Bayview 124p Neriby (2), Octofad (8), Smaladh 123p Lossit, Smaladh (2), Lossit (4), Neriby (6), Tallant (6), Corray, Sunderland (6), Carrabus (6) and Balaclava (3) 122p Balaclava (9), Sunderland (7), Neriby (3), Octofad (5) and Kilchiaran (2) 121p Tallant (11), Lossit, Octomere (11), Leorin (4) and Neriby (4) 120p Mansefield Rd (7), Balaclava (4), Kilchiaran (12), Balimartin (5), Kilbride (5). **Saler X:** 127p (13) Duich. **Simmental X:** 136p (2) Kilchiaran 135p (2) Corray 132p (2) Kilchiaran 129p (3) Island 128p (6) Cladville 127p (2) Corray 123p Ballinaby and Corray (2) 122p and 121p Balaclava 120p Gartnatra and Sunderland (5).

**DINGWALL -
Dingwall and
Highland Marts**

Bullocks - Up to 250kg - £355, 142p Bogallan (Lim); £345, 143.8p Easter Strath of Auchterflow (Lim); £340, 140.6p Westfield (Smx), 251 - 300kg - £420, 144.5p Westfield (Smx); £420, 140p Shewgile (Chx); £390, 136.8p 5 Easter Kilmachallanag, 301 - 350kg - £535, 152.9p 7 Balranald (Lim); £520, 148.6p Dunain & Kinchyle (Lim); £510, 158.4p Easter Strath (Lim), 351 - 400kg - £605, 154.3p Alvie Estate (Lim); £600, 154.1p Meikle Geddes (Bbx); £575, 147.8p Clashinglag (Lim), 401 - 450kg - £695, 154.4p Alvie Estate (Lim); £670 Conon Brae Farms (Chx), 153.1p Glebe (BAX); £655 Upper Latheron (Chx), 151.9p Clary (Lim) and Mureud Croft, Aldean (Lim), 451 - 500kg - £705, 152.1p Achnahannet (Lim); £680 Eorrad (Chx) and Easter Strath (Lim), 144.7p Easter Strath (Lim); £675, 144.5p Conon Brae Farms (Smx) and Heathfield (Chx).

Bullocks - Up to 250kg - £355, 142p Bogallan (Lim); £345, 143.8p Easter Strath of Auchterflow (Lim); £340, 140.6p Westfield (Smx), 251 - 300kg - £420, 144.5p Westfield (Smx); £420, 140p Shewgile (Chx); £390, 136.8p 5 Easter Kilmachallanag, 301 - 350kg - £535, 152.9p 7 Balranald (Lim); £520, 148.6p Dunain & Kinchyle (Lim); £510, 158.4p Easter Strath (Lim), 351 - 400kg - £605, 154.3p Alvie Estate (Lim); £600, 154.1p Meikle Geddes (Bbx); £575, 147.8p Clashinglag (Lim), 401 - 450kg - £695, 154.4p Alvie Estate (Lim); £670 Conon Brae Farms (Chx), 153.1p Glebe (BAX); £655 Upper Latheron (Chx), 151.9p Clary (Lim) and Mureud Croft, Aldean (Lim), 451 - 500kg - £705, 152.1p Achnahannet (Lim); £680 Eorrad (Chx) and Easter Strath (Lim), 144.7p Easter Strath (Lim); £675, 144.5p Conon Brae Farms (Smx) and Heathfield (Chx).

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 newsgirls every week

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MacBrayne. Interred Pennyfuir Cemetery, Oban on Wednesday, April 12, 2006. Sadly missed.

PATERSON - Suddenly, at Inverclyde Hospital, Greenock, on Friday, April 7, 2006, Alexander (Nab), treasured son of Mary and the late George, beloved brother, brother-in-law and uncle to the family.

RUSSELL - Peacefully at the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow on April 4, 2006, Grace, beloved wife of the late John Russell, dear sister of Jetta and much loved aunt of Kay, Derry, Calum and Isobel. Sadly missed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

BISSET - Arthur (Jock), Janet, Mary and all the family of the late Maggie Bisset would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes and cards received at this very sad time. Grateful thanks to The Lynn of Lorne Care Home whose excellent care and devotion over the years was so much appreciated. Sincere thanks to Rev J Beaton and Mr D Graham for their comforting service, H Hoey & Son and Catriona for all their help with the funeral arrangements and to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. Sadly missed by all.

CAMERON - The family of the late Margaret Cameron, Strontian, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their kind words of comfort, phone calls, cards and flowers, also to doctors Buchanan, Houston and nursing staff for their unfailing attention and to the doctors and nursing staff of the Surgical ward Belford Hospital for keeping Margaret comfortable to the end. Many thanks to Rev Ruth Lawson, James Carmichael and Charles Tongue for their comforting service and to everyone who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. Thanks also to Mike McFall for his efficient funeral arrangements and to the Benview for the catering.

DICKIE - The family of the late William W Dickie, Musdale Farm, Kilmore, would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy following their sad loss. Thank you all for your attendance at the church and the graveside and for the many cards, letters, telephone calls and flowers which have been a great comfort to us all. We would like to extend particular thanks to Mr Scobie and the staff of Ward A at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, to doctors and district nurses at the Lorn Medical Centre, to Pat MacKay, Marie Curie Nurse and to Rachael Evans, Home Carer for their unfailing support, care and attention. Sincere thanks to the Rev Jeff McCormack for his support and comforting service, to Margaret Fletcher, the organist and to Donald Morrison for his inspired tribute. Sincere thanks to Ian MacInnes and his colleagues at D & A Munn, Funeral Directors, to Donnie Files, piper, and to Archie and Margaret of Kings Knoll Hotel. Following a collection at the church a donation of £670.36 will be divided between the Marie Curie Nurses and the North Argyll District Nurses Equipment Fund.

GILLIES - Margaret's family wish to thank everyone for cards, mass cards, telephone calls, flowers and gifts received on the loss of their mother. Grateful thanks to Monsignor MacKinnon, Tweeddale Surgery, Belford and Belhaven. Special thanks to Father Roddy Johnston for visits and uplifting requiem mass, Mary and Ian Kennedy and Mike McFall for efficient funeral arrangements; to all who paid their last respects at church and graveside and donated the sum of £410 for Belford and Belhaven. Thanks to all friends who visited Margaret at home and in hospital. God bless you all. - 8 Guisach Terrace, Corpach.

LAWRIE - Donald and all the family of the late Morag Lawrie wish to thank most sincerely relatives and friends for the kindness, help and sympathy extended to them at this sad time; also for floral tributes, letters, cards and baking received; their thanks also to all who paid their respects at the service and graveside; to the Appin doctors, district nurses and home helps whose care and devotion was so appreciated; to the Rev J Murdoch for his support and moving service; to Ian MacInnes and colleagues for the funeral

arrangements; to the staff of the Stroke Unit at Oban hospital. Thanks also to the caring Appin community who arranged the catering after the service and to everyone for their generous donations to Cancer Research, which amounted to £362. We were overwhelmed by the kindness and compassion shown to us. Thank you everybody. Glenview, Appin.

MINNIS - Nina and family would like to thank all friends and relatives for their love, help and support following the sudden passing of our dearest Ellen. For the many cards, flowers and kind donations to Diabetes UK (£ 355). Thanks to all who attended St. Paul's Church for the memorial service and at the grave side. Special thanks to the Rev Peter Rice for a comforting service. Thank you to Helen MacIntyre and Douglas, Funeral Directors, for all their help and support. A big thank you to the ladies of St. Paul's Guild for refreshments.

God Bless You All.

IN MEMORIAM

BELL - Treasured memories of our dad John, who died April 11, 1999. We miss you and always in our thoughts.

- Christeen and Fiona.

BUCHANAN - In loving memory of Dr Mary C Buchanan who passed away at Tigh-na-Drochaid, Banderloch on April 14, 2005. Forever remembered.

- Lizzie, Alasdair, Jean and families.

CAMERON - In loving memory of my dear husband, Alexander, father and grandpa who passed away April 10, 2005. Always in our thoughts.

- Ann, Sandy, Bernard, Sean and Natasha.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear mother and nana, Betty Cameron, who died on April 11, 2005. Still loved, still missed and so very dear to us all.

- Kate, Marilyn, Malcolm, Hamish and families.

CAMPBELL - In memory of John 'Ian' Campbell who died on April 14, 2000. Though we know you're gone You do not seem to be beyond the boundaries of our love Our souls do not abide in days or hours But in a love that never ends You will be with us till life is over Then us with you somewhere beyond the stars. - Tess and girls.

CASSIDY - Treasured memories of Robert (Bobby), who died April 14, 2002. No words or verse can ever say How much I miss you everyday - Rosa. Time passes, memories stay Loved and remembered every day.

- Stella, Colin and family. Always in our thoughts - Cynthia and family.

FUIN - In loving memory of a dear dad, father-in-law and grandpa, Peter, who died on April 16, 1991. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

- Marina, Kenny, Julie and Stephen.

LIVINGSTON - Cherished memories of Hughie, died April 16, 1982, beloved husband of the late Cathie died November 25, 2005. Much loved parents, grandparents and great grandparents of Minnie, Helen, Hughie, Ian, Betty, May, Cathie, Divy, Linda and Douglas and families.

LIVINGSTON - In loving memory of Hugh, died April 16, 1982. At this time when hearts remember It's natural to find That warm and loving thoughts of you Keep coming into mind. - Linda and all the Livingston family home and away.

MACCORQUODALE - In loving memory of, Nettie, wife, mother and gran, who died April 12, 1998. Always in our thoughts. - Jimmy and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Chrissie MacDonald, 22 Camus Road, Dunbeg, died April 15, 1998, and her husband George, died November 9, 1985. - Together again.

MACDONALD - Precious memories of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Maree, who died April 18, 2005. We miss your smile Your cheery ways We miss the things You used to say And when old times we do recall It's then we miss you most of all Love you. - Duncan, Phyllis, Diana and families.

MACGREGOR - Treas-

ured memories of a dear dad and grandpa Alastair, who died on April 13, 1994, also our dear mum and granny Jean who died on June 23, 2001. We cannot bring the old days back Your smiles we cannot see We treasure all the memories of days that used to be. - Alastair, Donnie, John, Lorna and families.

MACINTYRE - Cherished memories of our dear parents, grandparents and great-grandparents, Duncan, who died December 19, 1981 and Betsy, who passed away on April 16, 1988. Remembering also our precious sister, Margaret, nephew Diarmid, and dear departed ones gone before and after. Called to glad awakening In heaven's cloudless day Stepped from earth's rough places To walk the King's highway To live in the hearts Of those who loved you Is not to die. - Inserted by all the family, late of Kilvee, Connel and later of Cruachan, Strathyre, Perthshire.

MACKENZIE - Cherished memories of our dear mum, gran and great-gran, Betty, died April 15, 2002. Love and miss you always. - Donald, Alex, Betty, Gina and family at home and away.

MACKINTOSH - In loving memory of my son, Alfie, who passed away on April 12, 2004. Always in our thoughts. - Love dad xxx.

MACKINTOSH - In loving memory of our grandson, Alfie, who passed away on April 12, 2004. Always in our thoughts. - Love granny and papa Tosh xx.

MACLELLAN - In loving memory of my dear parents, Donald MacLellan, who died April 22, 1955 and Margaret Scott, who died on April 20, 1977. Always remembered.

- Mary.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents, John, who died April 3, 1984 and Cathie, who died April 11, 1989. Deep are the memories Precious they will stay No passing of time Shall take them away. - Inserted by their daughter, Catherine, son-in-law, John, granddaughters, Catriona, Mairi and Fiona, Craobhag, Spean Bridge.

MACLEOD - Happy memories of a dear mum and granny, Sheila, who died April 17, 1996. Quietly today Your memory we treasure Loving you always Forgetting you never. - With love from all the family in Kinlochleven and away.

MARTIN - Treasured memories of our dear son, Neil, died April 10, 1996. Always in our thoughts. - Mum and Dad, Gairlochhead. We love and miss you dad. - Ruth, Donald, Aileen and James. Love you grandad - Kirsty and George. We miss you. - Anne and family.

SCOBIE - Treasured memories of Roy, a much loved husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, who died April 16, 1997. - Morag and the family, Kinlochleven, Alloa and Edinburgh.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 13 April 2006
Maundy Thursday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist 1930

Christ Church, Lochgilhead
Holy Eucharist 0900
Holy Eucharist 1900
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist 1900
Friday 14 April 2006
Good Friday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Children's Service 1000
The Good Friday Watch
1200 - 1500

Christ Church, Lochgilhead
Ecumenical Three Hours' Devotion 1200-1500
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins, Litany and Ante-Communion 1100
Devotional Service 1400
Saturday 15 April 2006
Holy Saturday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
The Easter Vigil 2000

Sunday 16 April 2006
Easter Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion 0800
Sung Eucharist 1015
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
Norman MacCallum,
Provost
☎(01631) 562323

St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist 1100
All Saints, Inveraray
Holy Eucharist 1500
Christ Church, Lochgilhead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Poltalloch, Kilmartin
Holy Eucharist 0900
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 0800
Evensong 2000

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Easter Sunday
Family Service 11 a.m.
Argyll College,
Dunstaffnage
All welcome
Telephone
(01631) 710208

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 16 April 2006
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Wednesday 19 April 2006
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

DESTINY CHURCH
OBAN
Sunday 16 April
Drummore School
Lower Soroba
Oban
11 a.m.
And meeting on
Thursday evening,
7.30 p.m., in the Lorne
Telephone:
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564283
www.destiny-church.com

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In memory of Dawn Jayce

Oban Times
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Thought for the week

What price new life in Jesus?

'WHERE God is concerned, today's world appears fairly incapable of wonder, of awe, of excitement - can we go so far down the road of faith that we cannot go back?

If being a Christian was a criminal offence, would we be acquitted for lack of evidence? Are we like John Wesley's 'Almost Christians' denying the real call on our lives to sacrifice all we have for the sake of Jesus Christ?

What price, then, new life in Jesus?

Becoming like Jesus in his death (Phil 3:10) means we are unaffected by the attractions of this world and constantly on red alert against Satan - we have passed the point of no return and there is no holding us back - remember when Mary broke the seal on the

perume (John 12: 3) all the guests in the room were alerted - however confused Mary may have felt, there was no way she could have revealed the jar - her work and her love for Jesus had to go ahead.

With Holy Week upon us, how do we think we can best serve Christ - not in the longer term but now?

Let us not be afraid, then, of casting the die, of taking that irrevocable step for God - every day. He will bring us to the point of decision - in His Name, we will choose His Way or someone else's.

Which way will you go?

What will you be prepared to give up in the knowledge that Jesus Christ is worth the sacrifice?

Peter Jameson
St Oran's Connel.

Fifty at final Free Church service

AROUND 50 people attended the final service in the Free Presbyterian Church, Plockton, on Sunday March 19.

The church was built in 1953 and latterly the associated Presbyterian Church held services there once a month. These were conducted by Mr Van Woerden who came to Plockton in 1977.

Mr Van Woerden is now selling his house and going to live in Inverness with Mrs Van Woerden where they will be near their son Bernard.

Mr Van Woerden conducted a very moving final service with the congregation made up of all denominations. He was helped by the Rev J M MacDonald, Church of Scotland, and the Rev Roddie Rankin, Free Church, who also acted as Presbyter. The service closed with the 23rd Psalm to the tune Amazing Grace.

The Free Presbyterian Church has sold the church to a local builder who will build two houses on the site which will be let by Skye and Lochalsh Housing Association.

The good wishes of the community go to Mr and Mrs Van Woerden in their new life in Inverness.



An annual Easter egg hunt is held by the Friends of Ardrattany every year, free of charge for the children of Bonawe and the surrounding area. This year there was an Easter bonnet competition as well as the egg hunt and a potato and spoon race. Lots of Easter eggs were won and refreshments enjoyed by all the children.

Argyll charities benefit from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland grants

THE LATEST round of awards made by Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland on April 6 saw 116 charities sharing over £2 million and £30,000 of that money was spent in Argyll.

The foundation began life to support local community groups and time has only served to cement its identity as a community charity; most of the awards being made by the foundation are still given to grassroots charities.

The foundation is governed by a board of trustees who meet six times a year to consider applications and grant funds.

When it was set up in 1985, the Foundation for Scotland became one of four independent charitable trusts that annually receive one per cent of the ten TSB's pre-tax profits, averaged over three years.

The Foundation receives 19.46 per cent of this amount from Lloyds TSB Group plc.

To mark its 21st birthday this year Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland is also carrying out a special awards programme in 2006 with 15 awards of £21,000 being made across Scotland. This latest round of awards saw 1st Connel Brownies receive £300 to help cover the costs of their educational visit to Edinburgh.

Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled was given £8,700 to cover the costs of the instructor's fees for one year.

The Dochas Fund was given £21,000 to complete the building and equipping of its centre for people in Mid Argyll ad Kintyre living with Motor Neurone Disease and Guillan Barre Syndrome.

Charities which would like more information about applying to the Foundation for an award should ring 0870 902 1201; the next deadline for applications is June 20.

Muckairn Church Guild

THE FINAL meeting of the season of Muckairn Church Guild was held in the Church on Monday April 3.

Members and friends were welcomed by Stella Huntingford who read from 1 John, Chapter 4, including the verse 'God is Love, and he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God, and God in him'.

The hymns Holy Spirit Hear us and To God be the Glory were sung.

Quiz

Everyone took part in a musical quiz devised by Evelyn Campbell.

Daphne Campbell played the tunes on the organ and some hilarity ensued as people strove to write down the words of each first verse, with disparate success.

Tea was followed by business of the AGM.

A coffee morning will be held in the village hall, Tynait on May 6 to raise money for the Tearfund Project, Silent Hunger.

Obituaries

David McClounnan

THE PASSING of David McClounnan, Balephuil, at the age of 90 after a short illness was deeply felt by his family and many friends. David was an authority on the past, particularly the west end of the island.

Brought up in Balephuil he lived most of his life there except when he worked as a shepherd in Mull. He had many talents and could turn his hand to many tasks including repairing radios, which he taught himself. But it was as a family man he will be most remembered by. All his family were with him when he passed away which showed their care and love for him.

His funeral service was held at Hyllipol church and was well attended. Rev P Williams lead the service

of the late A M Porter, licensed grocer of Breadalbane Street and sometime proprietor of Glencampa Hotel (now the Queens), Esplanade, Oban.

Alice's husband predeceased her by 17 years. For most of his working life, he was with the Royal Bank in various locations throughout Scotland. He was a keen member of Lochaber Motor Cycle Club and involved in the early establishment of the now famous Six Day Trial. During his wartime service, he was with the RAF with the Air-Sea Rescue Service in Oban and Ceylon (Sri Lanka).

Alice is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren and numerous nephews and nieces, two of whom still live in Oban.

All of her extended family deeply regret the passing of a dearly loved, and much respected lady.

WLP

Mrs Alice Porter

THE DEATH of Mrs Alice Porter in her 99th year in Berwickshire, marks the passing of the eldest direct connection to an old Oban family.

Alice Porter (nee Mitchell) was born in Medicine Hat, Canada and brought up in Callander, Perthshire. She married Allan Muir Porter, elder son

TIMES Sport



Newtonmore finally end their Fort William hoodoo

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Fort William	5	4	0	1	23	7	8
Newtonmore	5	3	2	0	11	5	8
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
Beauly	3	3	0	0	10	1	6
Lovat	4	2	1	1	11	5	5
Caberfeidh	1	1	0	0	6	0	2
Lochaber	1	1	0	0	4	0	2
Glenurquhart	3	1	0	2	3	2	2
Skye	2	1	0	1	1	2	2
Kinlochshiel	1	0	1	0	2	1	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
Ballachulish	5	2	1	2	13	6	5
Lochside	3	2	0	1	7	3	4
Bute	3	2	0	1	4	1	4
Kyles	2	0	2	0	4	2	2
Kilmory	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Tayforth	4	0	0	4	2	21	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	13	5
Lovat	4	2	0	2	9	11	4
Glenarry	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
Bolaskine	3	0	1	2	11	1	1

SOUTH DIVISION 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Strachur	6	3	3	0	24	5	9
Edinburgh	4	2	1	1	9	12	5
Kyles	3	2	1	0	4	4	5
Inveraray	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Oban Celtic	3	1	2	0	10	2	4
Glenorchy	2	1	0	1	5	2	2
ColGlen	1	1	0	1	1	2	0
GMA	2	0	0	2	7	0	0
Aberdour	5	0	0	5	2	26	0

NORTH DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Naim	4	4	0	0	18	4	8
Lochcarron	3	3	0	0	15	1	6
Lochaber	2	2	0	0	13	2	4
Kincraig	4	2	0	2	7	12	4
Kinlochshiel	2	1	1	0	7	2	3
Beauly	3	1	0	2	7	9	2
Glenurquhart	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Lochbroom	3	1	0	2	7	9	0
Inverness	3	0	0	3	2	9	0
Ardnamurchan	4	0	0	4	2	27	0

The Strathdearn Cup Preliminary Round

Fort William P Inverness P
Skye P Beauly P

Marine Harvest Premier League

Kingussie P Inveraray P
Newtonmore 2 Fort William 0
Oban Camanachd P Lochcarron P
Strathglass P Kilmallie P

North Division One

Aberdeen Uni P Glenurquhart P
Beauly 2 Lovat 1
Inverness P Lochaber P
Kinlochshiel P Skye P

South Division One

Bute P Lochside Rovers P
Kilmory P GMA P
Kyles P Glenorchy P
Tayforth 0 Ballachulish 6

North Division Two

Bolaskine P Caberfeidh P
Glenarry P Kingussie P
Kilmallie P Strathglass P
Lovat P Newtonmore P

South Division Two

Aberdour 2 Strachur 12
ColGlen P Inveraray P
Edinburgh EL 1 Kyles 8
Oban Celtic P Glenorchy P

North Division Three

Lochaber P Glenurquhart P
Lochbroom 4 Ardnamurchan 1
Lochcarron P Kinlochshiel P
Naim 6 Kincraig 2



Above: Newtonmore's David Cheyne and Fort William's Adam Robertson battle for the ball. Below: Cameron Binnie and Danny MacRae combine to deny Fort William's Gordie MacKinnon, left and James Clark, right.



NEWTONMORE move joint top of the Premier division after they defeated league leaders Fort William for the first time since November 1, 2003, during shinty's interim season.

Fort William now lead the sport's top eight clubs by virtue of their higher number of goals scored.

Starting Saturday's tie at the Eilan as firm favourites, Fort William took the early play to their opponents with Victor Smith forcing a save out of Michael Ritchie as early as the second minute. Smith had pulled another volleyed shot wide before Newtonmore launched their first attack - Scott McNeil turning Glen Mackintosh's effort around the post for a corner.

With action swinging from one end to another, Ritchie then made a great double save from Gordie MacKinnon before 'More swept upfield exhibiting the pacy, interpassing style expected from their opponents.

Fort William may have enjoyed greater possession over the opening half-hour but they were not allowed into their customary rhythm as a tactically aware

Shinty

Marine Harvest Premier League
Newtonmore 2 Fort William 0

Newtonmore denied them key areas of the park. Norman Campbell shadowing the every move of Fort's hit-man James Clark.

Over the final 10 minutes of the first half, the home side gained the initiative with David Cheyne, then Ricky Ross, narrowly missing the target after good approach play.

In the 38th minute Newtonmore seemed to have made the breakthrough as Ross and Fraser Mackintosh combined to force the ball into the Fort net - but the goal was chalked off for offside and Fort William took a boost from this let-off and, with the home defence living dangerously, James Clark and MacKinnon both came close.

With a cold swirling wind gathering in strength, it took Newtonmore just six minutes of the second period to get their noses in front.

A bouncing ball caused panic in the Fort defence and Orston Gardiner

The final 10 minutes proved frantic as Fort William probed for a late share of the points while Ricky Ross had McNeil in action with a low shot which the keeper did well to get down to - but in the 90th minute McNeil was left exposed as Cheyne was allowed to run onto a through ball from Ross and smash home the goal which sealed the victory.

This was a very different Newtonmore performance, with a degree of discipline and tactical awareness that many teams lack. Playing MacRae and Binnie in defence introduces a balance of pace and power while, with several players returning from injury, manager Norman MacArthur has the luxury of squad players who are equally effective in several key positions.

This week both teams are in MacTavish Cup action. Newtonmore head north-east to play Aberdeen University, while Fort William have a home tie against Lochcarron, who seem to attract the Fort in cup draws like metal to a magnet.

Spectators should note that this week's cup ties will all be played to a finish.

Beauly leap to top of North Division One

Ballachulish hit Tayforth for six

IN THE only North Division One fixture to beat the wintry weather, Beauly leap-frogged Lovat at the top of the table.

Player/coach Steven MacLean led by example and put Beauly ahead after 22 minutes and, in an evenly contested tie, the slender lead kept the teams apart at the interval.

MacLean doubled Beauly's lead after 22 minutes of the second-half and, despite James Gallacher drawing a goal back 16 minutes off the final whistle, it was too little too late for Lovat to salvage a point.

South Division One also saw only one tie played with Ballachulish proving too powerful for bottom of the table Tayforth in a six-

Shinty

Two's other match where Grant Irvine hit a hat-trick and Ronny Martin and Euan MacDonald doubles as Kyles won 8-1 away to Edinburgh East Lothian.

In North Division Three, Steve Munro claimed a hat-trick as Nairnshire maintained their unbeaten record with a 6-2 home win over Kincraig.

In the battle between shinty's new clubs, Lochbroom scored after five minutes thanks to Mark MacDonald with Andy MacLennan doubling the home side's lead midway through the half. Further goals from McDonald and Davy MacKay had 'Broom 4-0 up before John Nudds netted a 75th minute consolation goal for Ardnamurchan.

Saturday's fixtures

Shinty

Saturday April 15 2006

Tulloch MacTavish Cup First Round
Fort William v Lochcarron
Inverness v Beauly
Caberfeidh v Lovat
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Kilmallie v Lochaber 12 noon
Kingussie v Strathglass 12 noon
Aberdeen Uni v Newtonmore

Tulloch Celtic Society Cup Preliminary Round
GMA v Kilmory

Strathdearn Cup Preliminary Round
Beauly v Skye
Inverness v Fort William
First Round
Kincraig v Lochcarron
Newtonmore v Lovat
Ardnamurchan v Caberfeidh
Kingussie v Glenurquhart
Lochaber v Kinlochshiel
Bolaskine v Strathglass

Marine Harvest South Division One
Kyles v Tayforth
Lochside Rovers v Ballachulish

South Division Two
Aberdour v Col Glen
Glenorchy v GMA
Inveraray v Oban Celtic
Strachur v Edinburgh EL



Spot The SHINTY BALL Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

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Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...



This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Helen Gordon, 43 Lundavra Road, Fort William and Rhona Sinclair, 57 Union Street, Lochgilphead

TIMES Sport

Heads up at Ross County's soccer school Paddlers stream to west coast



It was a case of heads-up as Fort William's football stars of the future were put through their paces at an Easter Soccer School last week. The soccer school was organised by Ross County Football Club and took place at Lochaber High School. The course at the school proved so popular with the young footballers that it was fully booked. Dingwall-based Ross County run soccer schools throughout the Highlands during the Easter and summer school holidays for local youngsters.

Kayaking

PROBLEMS for canoeists and kayakers trying to access rivers in England and Wales could lead to Scotland's rivers attracting more and more so called 'paddlers' to the area.

To that end the Scottish Canoe Association is to endorse a new interactive CD ROM which shows the rivers at high and low water and provides information on where to stay, where to eat and where to get boat repairs.

The CD is being produced by Active Focus Productions which has spent the winter months filming rivers throughout the west coast of Scotland.

The resulting guide, will be the first of its kind in the UK.

Murray Trail of Active Focus Productions says the concept provides a fantastic option for all white water paddlers travelling to Scotland.

He said: 'The guide has been produced to encourage more paddlers to utilise these much under-used water systems of Scotland and where else to start but the west coast.'

'Although books have the information and paddlers throughout the globe read them, they don't motivate many due to the lack of specific local information.'

There are an estimated two million people taking to the water each year with 13,000 qualified coaches and 1,000 clubs.

The main focus of the CD will be video clips of the major rapids on the rivers covered, which include the Etive, the Tummell, Kinglas, Falloch, Spean Gorge, Orchy, Coe, Nevis and Pottack.

Jon Wheeler, who had the original idea for the CDs, said: 'This is designed to bring more southern paddlers to Scotland who can't use English rivers due to access issues. We are saying don't just go to Europe, go to Scotland, the rivers there are closer and better. When you get open access on a river you get more than 1,000 people turning up. Up here the rivers are totally under-used.'

'But at certain times of the year you can't get on the rivers down south. There is quality water up here which is rarely used.'

'For instance, everyone wants to do the Falls of Lora, which is one of the most famous, with a series of 30ft drops, one after the other. Etive is one of the best runs in Scotland.'

The British Canoe Union has initiated a campaign to provide access to rivers.

It says that even wading in a river in England and Wales could lead to trespass.

The BCU's website states: 'Opening up the countryside has begun to and will continue to provide greater opportunities for participation, income and employment generation.'

'A considerable amount of research work has taken place concerning the impact of sport and leisure on the economy at various levels.'

'Canoeing is a sport which is growing year on year. The increasing participation can really enhance the economy, particularly in rural areas with low levels of income.'

'Greater access to our rivers can not only assist with increasing participation but also all the associated social and economic benefits.'

Welfare football meeting

LOCHABER Welfare Football Association is to hold its annual general meeting tonight (Thursday) in the BA Club, Fort William at 7.30pm.

Anyone who wishes to enter a team should send a representative to the meeting. It is hoped that the league will start on Monday, May 8. For more information contact Ronald Wegner on 01397 773006.

Glenfinnan gun club shoot

THE WEATHER was bitterly cold but dry at the recent Glenfinnan Gun Club shoot.

There was a very good turnout of 32 guns. The first competition was won by Ewen MacColl of Blaich.

The second competition, the Tennent Shield was won by Graeme Nairn of Fersit and the local trophy, the Donnie Strang Memorial Quaich was won by Ross MacLean.

The High Gun for the day, the Glenfinnan Gun Cup, was also won by Graeme Nairn of Fersit and the Dewar Cup was won by Fort William's David Hatch.

Sailing season underway

THE FIRST race of the Points Series for Dinghies was sailed on Wednesday, April 5.

The wind was SW force 3-4 with intermittent showers.

The results of the Fast Handicap were:

1 Wayfarer; *Artful Dodger*; Brian Fallows
2 Wayfarer; *Mr Blue*; Martin Faulkner
3 Laser; *Chatterbox*; Dawn McRae

No fuss for 10 under the Ben numbers

NO FUSS Events is reporting that entries for the 10 Under The Ben race in Lochaber in June this year continue to pour in.

As of this week entry numbers were at 510 which is only 34 short of last year's total of 544.

Frazer Coupland of No Fuss is urging local riders to get there entries in now as the numbers will be capped and April was the busiest month for entries in 2005.

Frazer said: 'This year's event promises to be bigger and better than last year with the opening of some new sections of single track sections and more available space in the transition area.'

There will be a big screen and PA system to keep riders up to date on the progress of their teams.

'On the Saturday evening there will be a massive party with music by the Raggae's, who many will have heard playing at the Hogmanay Gig in Glasgow's George Square.'

April also saw No Fuss launch The Big Triathlon at the annual triathlon show at Sandown Park through its main backers - Specialised.

Interest has far exceeded expectations and local athlete Damien Forster was first in to grab the racer number one.

The event will see competitors swim 1,900 meters in Loch Linnhe before a 90km mountain bike race round four laps of the Cow Hill and Glen Nevis.

The final stage is a run up and down Ben Nevis.

Bruce Sharratt, a local triathlete, said: 'This is a pilot event and numbers will be restricted to 100.'

'The potential for this type of event is massive with the iron man competition in Devon attracting 1,500 competitors. I think No Fuss will have to fight to keep participants away once the word gets out.'



A rider taking part in last year's 10 Under the Ben digs deep. Other forthcoming events include a ladies 5km race at Nevis Range on April 22 and back by popular demand the Cross on the Croft on May 12. This event was a huge success in January and with some interesting new twists in May this promises to be a cracker. For further detailed information on any of the aforementioned events visit the website on www.nofussevents.co.uk.

Fort face fixtures backlog

FORT William are facing a backlog of fixtures before the end of the season after their match against champions-elect Deveronvale was rained off at the weekend.

The bottom-of-the-table Claggan Park club still have five home games left to play in the Highland League - despite some other teams having already hung up their boots for the summer.

However, with Wick Academy, Brora Rangers, Rothes, Keith and Cove Rangers still to visit Fort William, there are doubts over when the Lochaber side's season will end.

Highland League rules state that clubs should not be forced to travel more than 110 miles to play mid-week games.

Fort William travel to Forres on Saturday to Steve Paterson's Mechanics side in their postponed Fosters Cup first round tie.

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Argyll athletes shine at UK final in Birmingham

DESPITE a gruelling nine-hour journey to the Midlands, Argyll athletes did the area proud at the UK Final of Sports Hall Athletics.

The squad travelled to Birmingham at the weekend with a team of six under-15 boys and twelve under-13 boys.

The Argyll team scored 1,010 points finishing in sixth place out of 13 regions from England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

To put the Argyll team's achievement into context, a team from Birmingham, with a huge population to choose from, won the final.

Oban High School pupil Sam Jesperson was the top Argyll athlete and he set his stall out from early on coming third in the four-lap time trial as he clocked a time of 43.4 seconds.

He then moved across to the speed bounce event where he recorded 85 jumps in 30sec. to finish just outside the medals in

Sports Hall Athletics

fourth place.

Sam's last individual event was the standing long jump and his leap of 2.56 metres saw him come in at 12th and his excellent all-round performance gave him an individual points score of 266 points which was sufficient to gain fourth place in the individual rankings and only 13 points behind third place.

Sam also won a silver medal when he and North Connell's Jonathon Roched excelled in the eight-lap paarlauf relay to finish second.

Jonathon also ran well in the four-lap time trial to finish in fourth place in a time of 43.6sec.

The standard at this UK Final was very high and the Argyll under-15 boys did extremely well to finish in the top half of the contest. The only other top 10 place was achieved by John

best. Argyll had three other top 10 rankings with Strachur's Ian Hamish Paton in the vertical jump who recorded 53cm in the vertical jump for sixth place. Struan Carmichael from Tobermory was eighth in the six-lap time trial in 76.2sec. and Lochgilphead's Fraser Meechan came 10th in the standing triple jump with a 6.58m jump.

Coach Bill MacCallum said: 'The success of two Argyll teams reaching the UK Final in 2004, 2005 and again in 2006 has hopefully not gone unnoticed by personnel at Scottish Athletics in Edinburgh and Argyll and Bute Council.

The Argyll team qualified for Birmingham after winning the Scottish Final in Dundee in February.

Right: The Argyll team who competed in the UK Final of Sports Hall Athletics. (15/5/14)



Susie takes on F1 champion Mika at Hockenheim

Motor racing

OBAN'S Susie Stoddart put in a tremendous performance to finish only six places behind former Formula One world champion Mika Hakkinen in her German Touring Car Championship (DTM) debut.

After racing in British Formula Three last year, Susie made the step up to compete against the world's top saloon drivers in the championships which are generally viewed as Europe's premier touring car series.

Drivers such as Hakkinen who won the F1 title in 1998 and 1999 when he drove for McLaren and former Williams F1 driver Heinz-Harald Frentzen are among her rivals in a highly competitive field.

Susie, aged 23, started from 17th on the 20-car grid at the legendary race circuit Hockenheim in Germany. She doggedly worked her way up to finish an excellent 10th posting a time of one hour, 36 minutes.

Veteran DTM rider Bernd Schneider won the race with Frentzen third and Hakkinen fourth.

Susie said she was satisfied to finish in 10th driving her Mücke Motorsport Mercedes C-Class.

'The car had a good speed and we had good pit stops. I'm happy and look forward to the next race,' she said.

Nerves affect Dee at World Masters in Linz

Athletics

DESPITE coming a creditable 12th in a world athletics championships, Oban shotputter Dee Bradbury believes she could have thrown better.

The World Masters Indoor Athletics Championships took place in Linz, Austria and saw more than 3,000 competitors from all over the world in action.

Dee said: 'I could have thrown a bit better. It was very nerve racking. You are taken to a 'call room' where you wait before you get called but you end up feeding off the other athletes' tension.'

Although the championships are recognised by UK Athletics, athletes over the age of 35 don't get funding and Dee had to find around £1,000 to allow her to compete.

Dee said she was indebted to her sponsors Ronnie Campbell, Outside Edge, Jean Ainslie, Oban and Lorne Rugby Club, The Oban Times, Derek Coates, Halfway House Filling Station and Oban and Lorn Lions.

Tides

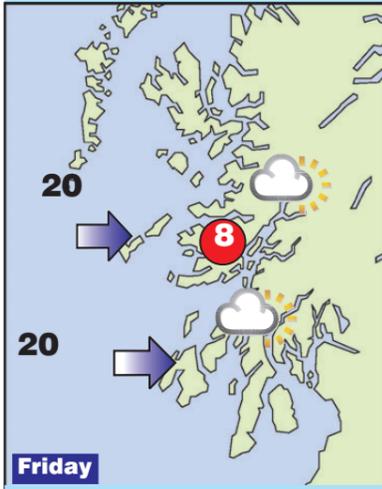
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, April 13, 2006 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	**	**				
Thu	05.34	3.8	12.05	0.9	17.55	3.8	**	**
Fri	00.01	0.8	06.02	3.9	12.31	10.9	18.20	3.8
Sat	00.30	0.8	06.29	3.9	12.56	0.9	18.45	3.8
Sun	00.58	0.8	06.54	3.8	13.18	1.0	19.12	3.7
Mon	01.28	1.0	07.22	3.6	13.45	1.1	19.44	3.6
Tues	02.02	1.1	07.55	3.5	14.20	1.3	20.21	3.4
Wed	02.45	1.3	08.34	3.2	15.04	1.4	21.08	3.2

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardriahaig	-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 13
Will be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers. Winds will be fresh to strong westerly.
Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Friday, April 14
Will be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds will be a moderate westerly.
Temperatures 3°C to 10°C.

Saturday and Sunday
The weekend is expected to be cloudy and overcast days with brief sunny spells and showers. Winds will be a moderate to fresh south-westerly in direction.
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Jacks away for bowling season



Saints league game called off again

Football

THE Premier Division clash between league leaders Greenock HSPF and Oban Saints was called off for the second Saturday in a row when a pitch inspection found the playing surface at Battery Park, Greenock, to be flooded.

Due to the Easter holiday weekend there are no games this Saturday. Saints will be back in action again on 22nd April.

Along with the Saints match at Greenock, the games between Campbeltown Pupils and Moorcroft and Campbeltown Boys versus Cumbernauld also fell victim to the weather.

However, the other three Argyll teams managed to play. Dunoon drew 2-2 away from home against Shawlands 'B' and Lochgilphead Red Star had an impressive 2-0 away win against Postal United, both in the Colin Munro Cup, but unfortunately Tarbert went down 2-0 away to Cambria 'B' in the quarter final of the Coronation Cup.

Saints midfielder Keith Millar played for the Scottish League Select twice last week but was on the losing side on both occasions. On Monday he played against Maryhill Juniors at Lochburn Park, Glasgow, and lost by the odd goal in three and on Sunday the Scottish side lost by the same score against Ayrshire in a John Smiths Inter-League Trophy match played at Irvine. This result meant that Ayrshire retained the handsome trophy they won last year.

The SAFL needed at least a draw against Ayrshire to keep their hopes of winning the trophy alive, but now they will fight it out for second place against the Central Scottish League at Lochinch, Glasgow, on Sunday 23rd April.

Keith Millar

Oban bike riders follow winner home in Lochalsh

Mountain biking

TWO OBAN mountain bike riders came second and third in the penultimate West Highland Wheelers Winter League race in Balmacara near Kyle of Lochalsh.

Thirty riders from the mountain bike club entered the race on Sunday which was complemented by a good turn out of local riders from Skye and Lochalsh.

The 12-kilometre course through Balmacara Forest includes over 450 metres of climbing as well as testing single track sections, and is regarded as the toughest challenge of the nine venues for the winter series.

New sections of trail had been built by volunteers from the local SLAMB mountain bike club and the Forestry Commission.

That work made the course slightly longer than last year, and recent wet weather added a generous amount of mud to make things more interesting for the riders.

A heavy snow shower added some spice to the start, and the top of the course had riders pounding through lying snow.

However the weather cleared and there were four seasons in one day as the race went on. At the finish sunshine was baking the mud to flushed faces and tired legs.

Plockton rider Alex Glasgow lead from the start and used his knowledge of his local trails to head the 30-strong field home in 50 minutes, 30 seconds. He was followed by Oban duo Michael Bossard and Tom Smith who posted times of 53.35 and 54.28 respectively. Another Argyll rider, KT Tuer, all the way up the National Trust for Scotland.

The final race of the season will be at Leanachan Forest on the 23 April.

Results 1 Alex Glasgow 50:30 2 Michael Bossard 53:35 3 Tom Smith 54:28 4 Ben Thompson 55:56 5 Gavin McLean 56:09 6 Grant Watkins 66:05 7 Andrew Foggo 67:07 8 Dougal Deans, 67:52 9 Jimmy Melvin 68:06 10 Graham Brooks 68:25 11 Colin Johnstone 70:05 12 KT Tuer 70:50 13 Peter Grant 74:20 14 Colin MacTavish 74:29 15 Andy Rogers 76:28 16 Johnathon Trout 76:42 17 Charlie Parsons 78:57 18 Phil Kyle 79:18 19 Chris Townsend 79:28 20 Colleen Foggo 80:15 21 Gus Loudon 83:08 22 Fraser Struthers 84:37 23 Gavin McQueen 85:29 24 Fraser McGlennon 88:47 25 John Thompson 93:48 26 Marian Austin 93:47 27 Trent Townend 95:15 28 James Standen 97:12.

Lochalsh youngster Dougal Deans came a very creditable eighth overall and was first youth, ahead of Johnathon Trout and Charlie Parsons.

High praise must also go to Balmacara local Fraser McGlennon who is just 12 years-old. The plucky youngster powered his way through the muddy conditions to come in a very impressive 24th and is one to watch for the future.

The West Highland Wheelers thanked the local SLAMB squad for a smoothly organised event, the marshals who manned the gates, the Forestry Commission for support with trail building and to

Tackle Ben Nevis with explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes

Hillwalking

INTREPID explorer Sir Ranulph Fiennes is calling on people to follow in his footsteps and help raise money for the British Heart Foundation (BHF) by tackling the highest mountains in Scotland, England and Wales as part of 'Britain's Biggest Mountain Challenge.'

Ben Nevis, Scafell Pike and Snowdon provide the dramatic setting for Britain's Biggest Mountain Challenge on the weekend of June 23-25 2006.

Teams will need to consist of between four and seven walkers and for those who would rather take a less active role, each team will also need at least one designated driver.

The British Heart Foundation is looking for 60 intrepid teams to help raise vital funds to help the fight against heart disease.

Teams will register at Fort



Beach set for Oban 10k

Left to right, Beach Club owner Robin Morton, Colin Rowan, Stanley Jeffrey, Andrew MacAulay and Samantha Payne are all set for Oban's 10K race on May 7 with members running to raise money for children's cancer care charity CLIC Sargent. Anybody interested in running for CLIC should contact the Beach. (15/5/14)

Football League

Football

Five-a-side Works League sponsored by Markie Duns

	P	W	Pts
Forteths	15	13	40
Atlantis	16	13	39
Foster Yeoman	14	10	32
Teachers	13	9	28
Oban Times	15	7	22
AM Transport	15	6	19
Burnside Joiners	15	5	15
The Hotels	14	4	13
Hydro Board	15	2	6
Hospital	12	0	1

Tobermory golf

Golf

THE JACKIE Memorial Trophy was played for at Tobermory Golf Club at the weekend.

The hardy souls who set out in a sleety shower arrived home in bright spring sunshine. The ladies trophy was won by Catherine-Ann MacCrae with an outstanding 34 Stabelford points while Eoghann MacLean was the victor in the gents with a hard fought 32 points.

1 CA MacCrae (31) 34pts
2 E MacLean (14) 32pts 3 Graham Davison (6) 30pts
4 Gordon Chalmers (12) 30pts