



BUNESSAN FUN RUN

COASTGUARD DEAL WITH RECORD CALLS

PROMOTING GAELIC IN KILKENNY



Oban's pink seagull relaxing by the sea.

Oban seagull is tickled pink

AS NEAR as Oban Bay could ever get to hosting a pink flamingo was nonchalantly going about its business this week, unperturbed by the fuss it was creating. Local people and visitors to Oban watched on as a pink-painted seagull flew around the harbour. Despite the heavy rain showers there was no sign of the paint diluting the bird's eye-catching colour although one onlooker described the seagull's colour as fast approaching a 'peachy' shade. Investigations into how the seagull could have come into contact with such vivid colour are continuing and 'fowl' play has not yet been ruled out.

Lismore medical concern

ARGYLL and Bute Community Health Partnership is taking an 'inordinate' amount of time to find realistic of out-of-hours cover for Lismore. Julian Wormleighton, community representative in discussions with the partnership, said he could not emphasise enough how important a speedy result was. 'In the 14 months since Argyll and Clyde NHS agreed to discuss with the community its plans for a clinically safe and sustainable out-of-hours service no realistic proposals have been forthcoming,' he said. 'This vacillation is causing considerable anxiety on the island and is preventing our GPs and nurse practitioners from taking advantage of their right to opt out of providing round-the-clock cover. 'We can but hope our collective letter to the designate director of the partnership alerts him to the gravity of the issue and that our island community and potentially the safety and well being of its members are at stake.'

Bomb threat aircraft could be diverted to Campbeltown base

KINTYRE could become a designated centre in the war against terrorism if one Scottish Labour MP has his way. Ayrshire MP Brian Donohoe wants a meeting with defence secretary John Reid to discuss recent terror alerts. Mr Donohoe has suggested the Ministry of Defence (MoD) airfield at Machrihanish in Kintyre as an ideal site to re-route bomb-threat planes to. His call comes after two planes were diverted to

Prestwick Airport last week following bomb hoaxes. A Ryanair flight bound from Paris to Dublin was diverted to Prestwick after a message was found in an in-flight magazine stating that there was a bomb on board. Last Friday, another plane, this time an Aer Arann flight from Luton to Galway, was also re-routed to Ayrshire after a similar message was discovered. Now the MP, in whose constituency Prestwick lies, claims

that MoD airports should be used for such terror alerts, and that Machrihanish would fit the purpose. 'People living on the Prestwick flight path have obviously expressed concerns and I think we need to look at alternatives, in particular MoD airports. Machrihanish seems to me to be perfect because it is not near a built-up area and it's a relatively short distance in terms of air-flight times.' The only airports in the UK currently equipped to deal

with hijacked airliners are Stansted, near London, and Prestwick. The Department of Transport will not make any comment regarding such security matters. Chairwoman of Campbeltown Community Council Nancie Smith said: 'I can appreciate why they're considering it but at this moment in time it's something we would be strongly resisting. I'm quite sure there are other airports which are accessible and not near to large populations.'



Seven-year-old MacAulay triplets, Niamh, Jack and Beth and their friend Josh Smith aged 10. The children all attend Dunbeg Primary school.

Dunbeg's Field of Hope burst into colour

THE Marie Curie Cancer Care Field of Hope at Dunbeg is a mass of glorious blooms this spring. Children from Dunbeg Primary School helped to

plant the field of bulbs and last autumn alone more than 300,000 daffodil bulbs were planted in fields like this across Britain. Come spring they burst

into bloom in time for the Great Daffodil Appeal the charity's main fund raising event and bring a bit of sunshine into people's lives at the end of winter.

The Marie Curie Cancer care charity give people the opportunity to dedicate a daffodil, buy them and plant them in someone's memory.

Private search and rescue plan

PROPOSALS that the nation's search and rescue service be privatised have been met with disbelief and dismay by seafarers in Argyll. Whether they earn their living fishing, run commercial boats for tourism or just enjoy sailing the waters of the Inner and Outer Hebrides they would not want to see search and rescue in the hands of private operators. Reports in the national press that the RAF, Royal Navy and coastguard services are to be privatised have not been disputed by the Ministry of Defence, which has said there will be an announcement on the future of the services soon. Last July the Ministry of

Defence said it was considering unifying the service and privatising it. There are 12 bases stretching the length of the UK; West Highland services are almost exclusively from RAF Lossiemouth, HMS Gannet Prestwick, and the Coastguard base at Stornoway. American and Canadian companies are said to be amongst those who would be interested in winning the contract. One of the principle reasons for the move would be to cut costs as the existing fleet of Sea King helicopters is old and in need of replacement. Pat Maclean MBE, a former coxswain of Oban lifeboat, who has been honoured for his work by the

Royal National Life Boat Institution (RNLI) said he feared that privatisation might lead to people having to pay and that could lead to them thinking twice before making a call for help. 'Dangerous' 'The longer people delay in calling for help the more dangerous it becomes for them and for their rescuers,' he said. He likens any proposed privatisation to the closure of the Oban Coastguard station. 'As soon as things are privatised they are run by money rather than service it happens everywhere and I am against it. I cannot see it being an improvement.' He added: 'Any privatisation would not change the

service and role of the RNLI which is a charity.' David Wilkie, of Ardfem Yacht Centre, is also the president of the British Marine Federation Scotland and a member of the Royal Highland Yacht Club and Oban Sailing club. He has reservations about the idea of privatisation. 'Once things become privatised it all depends on how they are run and it is almost inevitable that pounds, shillings and pence become the first part of the equation,' he said. He added that in America yacht owners belonged to organisations like one called Sea Tow, which operate on the same principles as the RAC or AA. See also Page 4

Shortlist for marine park confirmed

THE SHORT list and full consultation for a national coastal and marine park has been announced this week by the Scottish Executive with the west coast unsurprisingly featuring predominantly. An action group, set up after a recent public meeting in Mallaig, bitterly opposes a marine park being set up on the west coast and will meet later this week to discuss how to approach the consultation. The Argyll islands and coast; Ardnamurchan, the Small Isles and South Skye coast; North Skye and Wester Ross; North Uist, Sound of Harris and South Lewis; and Solway Firth are all contenders. Environment and Rural Development Minister

Ross Finnie said consultation would begin in early summer. He said: 'I can give an assurance that we will be listening to all views and will take them into account before any decision about the designation of a park is made. 'I want to encourage all communities and stakeholders including the in-shore fishery management groups to take part in the consultation we are announcing today.' The minister said it was 'crucial' that activities were managed in a 'sustainable manner which integrates socio-economic and environmental factors for the long-term benefit of our natural heritage and people'. John Hermse, secretary of Mallaig and North-West Fishermen's Association,

said: 'There is no such thing as a consultation. Who is going to hold the consultation? Is it to be held by Scottish Natural Heritage which has a vested interest in it and which was also giving the subliminal message that it was in favour of one?' Mr Hermse likened Mr Finnie to the Lord Advocate character in the Robert Burns poem *Extempore in Court of Session* highlighting the lines: *But what his common sense came short, He eked it out wi' law, man.* Mr Hermse added: 'We don't see the need for it but if it is a consultation, we will make damn sure that all the facts are given.' He claims Liberal Democrat ministers are pushing for a park because it is a 'vote grabber' to sway 'green' voters.

Hillwalker's body discovered

A HILLWALKER whose body was discovered on Tuesday afternoon after a search of the Ben More area near Crianlarich has been identified as Corporal Alan Alcock of The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland. Corporal Alcock, aged 36, and from Alloa, had been a member of the regiment for 20 years. His commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel Simon West said: 'Alan was an immensely loyal and respected man. He was a fatherly figure to many recruits and young soldiers. His loss is deeply felt by family, friends and the battalion'. Two of Corp Alcock's four brothers currently serve in the Argylls.

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Deadline looms for private landlords

PRIVATE landlords in Argyll and Bute - and elsewhere - are being warned that they only have until April 30 to register with the local authority, unless they are exempt. After this date it will be an offence to let a property without being registered. The aim is to ensure that all properties that are let in the private sector are 'fit and proper' and the hope is that it will remove disreputable landlords from the market and protect tenants and their neighbours from anti-social behaviour. Exemptions may include holiday homes, letting to members of the landlord's own family or certain accommodation related to religious orders. For information e-mail envhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk or register online at www.landlordregistration.scotland.gov.uk.

Crianlarich park fails to survive opening

THE OFFICIAL opening of the children's knock-about pitch at Crianlarich turned into a mud bath on Easter Sunday. The newly created pitch for children's informal games of football was created behind the housing estate in the village. The whole area was seeded after new drains had been laid to turn a boggy piece of ground into a level playing field for the children. However, heavy rain showers over the holiday meant that the pitch was wet to start with and by the time the match had finished it was hard to tell that the area had ever been drained or seeded in the first place. It was also hard to tell the teams apart, or the boys from the girls for that matter, under the thick coating of mud. The Crianlarich homeside triumphed over a team from Killin to take the trophy. The easiest thing to do afterwards was to send the youngsters to sit in the burn at the bottom of the pitch to get some of the mud off before they were allowed into cars for the drive home. 'The next thing we'll need to do is get some showers!' said Joyce Russell from the Strathfillan Development Trust. The whole day had been planned by the trust and a barbecue and Easter bonnet competition for younger children was also held to mark the opening of the new pitch.

Somewhere under all that mud is Crianlarich football team.

Calum Kennedy dies

ONE OF Scotland's best-loved performers, the Gaelic singer Calum Kennedy, has died aged 77 at a nursing home in Aberdeen. Born in 1928 at Oronsay, Lewis, he made hundreds of broadcasts in the 1960s and 1970s for Grampian Television and Scottish Television. He won a Mod gold medal in 1955 and in 1957 travelled to Russia with an Irish singer named Richard Harris to take part in the World Ballad Championships. Mr Kennedy won out of 500 competitors. The late Mr Harris went on to take the acting world by storm. Calum Kennedy and his first wife, Anne Gillies, had five daughters, known as the 'Singing Kennedys'. Fiona still sings today. He and his second wife, Christine, had a daughter Eilidh, now 17. They divorced some years ago. After heart surgery, he continued to perform until he was 70 and battled his illness all the way. Fiona said the family was 'desperately sad' to have lost him. He had suffered a serious stroke a year ago and died on Saturday.

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Iartas ùr a' Chlo Hearaich

Tha gnìomhachas a' Chlo Hearaich air leth trang am bliadhna, chun ìre 's gu bheil a' sreadh luchd-obrach a bharrachd airson cumail an àirde ris an obair.

Tha an KM Group, a tha as cionn a' mhòr chuid dhen gnìomhachas, ag iarraidh gach cuid breabadairean agus daoine airson obrachadh anns na muileannan.

Tha an iartas a bharrachd air nochdadh sgàth 's leachaidhean anns a' mhargaidh Ameireaganaich agus anns a' Ghearmailt. B' àbhaist an t-uamhas dhen Chlo Hearaich a bhith a' dol a-nall dha na Stàitean Aonaichte uaireigin. Thuir stùiriche an KM Group, Derick Moireach: 'Nam faigheadh sinn breabadairean eile is daoine airson na muileannan bhiodh obair againn airson mu dà fhichead eile thairis air an t-seusan.'

'Tha sinn lona làn òrdughan suas gu na saor làithean ann am meadhan an t-Iuchair. 'S dòcha gu bheil sinn mar-thà anns an suidheachadh far nach fhaigh sinn air cuid de stuth a chrìochnachadh ann an ùine.'

The Harris Tweed industry is exceptionally busy this year, to such an extent that it is looking for new workers to keep up with demand.

The KM Group, which owns the vast majority of the industry, is looking for weavers and individuals to work in the mills.

The new demand is a result of developments in the American market and in Germany.

At one time a large quantity of tweed was sent to the United States.

KM Group director Derick Murray said: 'If we could find new weavers and mill workers we could maybe have work for another 40 people over the season. We're full up with orders up until the holiday period in mid-July.'

'We might already be in a position where we can't deliver in time on some of the goods.'

£600,000 do bhuidheann coimhearsnachd

Tha e a' coimhead coltach gum faigh coimhearsnachd ann ceann-a-tuath Leòdhais seilbh air an oighreachd aca an dèidh dhaibh taic airgid luach £600,000 fhaighinn.

Thatar a-nis a' sùileachadh gum tig aonta foirmeil a ruighinn eadar a' choimhearsnachd agus uachdarain Oighreachd Ghabhaisinn, anns a bheil 53,000 acair. Tha mu 3,000 duine a' fuireachd na bhoirn.

Thàinig an airgead, a chaidh a thoirt don urras ionadail a tha a' stùirich na h-ìomairt, bho Stòras Fearann na h-Alba agus bho ionad fearann coimhearsnachd Iomairt na Gaidhealtachd 'n an Eilean.

Thuir cathraiche Urras Oighreachd Ghabhaisinn, Tormod MacThòmais: 'S e co-dhùnadh miorbhaileach a tha seo. Tha mòran dhaoine air a bhith an lùib an leasachadh seo a thoirt air adhart thairis air ceithir bliadhna agus tha sinn fìor thoilichte gun deach an obair cruaidh sin aithneachadh.'

It is highly likely that a community in north Lewis will gain ownership of their estate after being awarded funding worth £600,000.

It is now expected that a formal agreement will be struck between the community and the owners of Galson Estate, which comprises 53,000 acres.

Around 3,000 residents live within its boundaries. The money, which will be awarded to the local trust overseeing the project, comes from the Scottish Land Fund and Highlands and Islands Enterprise's community land unit. Galson Estate Trust chairman Norman Thomson said: 'This is a fantastic decision.'

'Many people have been involved in taking this development forward over the last four years and we are delighted that all that hard work has been recognised.'

Seinneadairean Leòdhais ann an Èirinn

Tha còisir à Leòdhais ann an Dùn nan Gall an-dràsta airson pàirt a ghabhail ann a' Fèis a' Phan-Chèilteach.

Tha an tachartas ga chur air dòigh gach bliadhna agus tha luchd-ciùil air an tàladh bho Alba, a' Chòrn, a' Chumrigh, an t-Eilean Mhanach, a' Bhreatainn Bhig is Èirinn fhèin.

Thatar an dùil gur e seo a' chiad uair a-riamh a ghabh còisir à Leòdhais pàirt ann.

A choir from Lewis is currently in Donegal to take part in the Pan-Celtic Festival.

The event is held every year and attracts musicians from Scotland, Cornwall, Wales, the Isle of Man, Brittany and Ireland itself.

It is thought this is the first time a choir from Lewis has taken part.

New enterprise zones announced for Highlands and islands

TWO NEW local enterprise companies have been formed after changes at Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

HIE Skye and Wester Ross, HIE An Eilein Sgitheanaich is Taobh Siar Rois, covers Wester Ross as well as the former Skye and

Lochalsh Enterprise area. HIE Inverness and East Highland, HIE Inbhir Nis is Taobh Siar na Gaidhealtachd, is the new name for the local enterprise company (LEC) combining Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey with Easter Ross and the

Black Isle. HIE announced in March that it was embarking on a programme of organisational change aimed at improving service to customers, efficiency and effectiveness.

The most visible change was a reduction in the number of HIE's local en-

terprise companies from 10 to nine.

This has been achieved by merging three former LECs - Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey Enterprise, Ross and Cromarty Enterprise and Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise into the two new ones.

The existing LEC offices in Aviemore, Inverness, Invergordon and Portree are being kept open and will be renamed.

Careers Scotland locality offices in these areas will also merge, in line with LEC boundaries.

The new boundary will

follow the watershed between East and West Ross. Inchbae Forest, Aultguish, Gorstan, Lochluichart, Strathconon and Monar Forest will all be included in HIE Inverness and East Highland area, while, on the other side of the boundary, Strathvaich Forest,

Auldearg, Grudie, Achnasheen, Ledgowan Forest and land west of these will be included with HIE Skye and Wester Ross. The Inverness and East Highland area has 136,500 residents while HIE Skye and Wester Ross serves a population of 18,500.

Cash for culture in 2007

MORE money is being offered to local people to help them stage special events to celebrate Highland culture.

Highland 2007, which was set-up to promote the area, has launched the Cross Community Fund to mark the Highland Year of Culture next year.

It will support individuals or groups to stage events that will be held in more than one area within the Highlands - a touring arts exhibition for example - or those which will attract people from across the region.

An extra £200,000 is being made available in addition to the £3 million already being spent by Highland 2007 to promote the area's culture.

No limit has been set on the amount being offered although it is hoped the money will benefit a number of projects.

The latest funding programme is targeted at existing and new events in the Highlands that will form part of the year long celebrations.

Highland 2007 chairwoman Alison Magee, convener of Highland Council, said: 'The introduction of the Cross Community Fund will enhance the support that is already available for event organisers who want to play a part in Scotland's year of Highland culture.'

'The fund will build on and add to the ongoing success of the Regional Events Programme and Community Programme.'

'The establishment of the Cross Community Fund also recognises how strong many community-based events already are in the Highlands and how they are expanding throughout the area.'

There will be one round of awards from the Cross Community Fund with a deadline for applications of June 30 2006.

For further information contact Torquil MacLeod on 01463 702007.

New look for Co-op in Kyle

SCOTTISH Co-op has unveiled a new-look store in Kyle of Lochalsh following an £80,000 refit.

'This investment in the village endorses our commitment to serving the community. I am sure our customers will be really delighted,' said store manager David MacDonald.

The store now has a modern decor with a more shopper-friendly layout.



Lochgilphead pupils were invited to the site of their new school by construction company Mansell. Pictured above, project manager David Forbes shows Lewis Powys of Lochgilphead Primary Seven where the floor-level of his new classroom will be. The school currently under construction near the A83 at Kilmory will be a joint campus shared by Lochgilphead Primary and high schools and Whitegates Learning Centre. a14sch02

Kintyre to wait another year for Irish ferry link

IT'S TOO late for this year, hopefully next year is an all-too-familiar sentiment for the community on the Kintyre peninsula, which has now been waiting seven years in the hope that a ferry will once again link Campbeltown with Ballycastle, Northern Ireland.

Unfortunately, it would appear the same scenario is unfolding again in 2006.

It was revealed last week that the Scottish Executive expects to go through the same tender process as was tried in January, despite there having been no bidders at that time.

And that process could take around seven months to complete, meaning the earliest start date would be in November, even if a suitable company was chosen to run the route.

It is highly unlikely that any company would want



Pentland Ferries vessel MV Claymore could return to Campbeltown

to start the service in winter, leaving spring 2007 as the first likely date. James Robertson, the man behind the locally-based company hoping to run the

service, told The Oban Times sister paper The Campbeltown Courier: 'Myself and Donald Woodrow of Dalriada Shipping were invited to meet

with officials from the Scottish Executive recently, where we were informed that the current tender process will follow the same procedures as the previous one which failed.'

'Any company who wishes to be considered to tender had to complete a pre-qualifying questionnaire by 10am on April 19, and only the company or companies who have qualified will be invited to tender.'

'It is now more than likely that due to the timescale for these procedures no service will be operated this year.' However, Mr Robertson went on to say that his company does still intend to put in a bid for the service.

He added: 'Dalriada Shipping did not meet the qualifying criteria last time round as it was a newly-formed company and could not provide the requisite information sought by the Scottish Executive.'

'We are now looking at making a joint bid with Pentland Ferries, which is a successful ferry company which operate between Orkney and the northern mainland.'

At a meeting of Campbeltown Community Council, Mr Robertson blamed the failure of any of the four previously-shortlisted companies declined to submit a tender on the fact they could not find a suitable vessel.

Dalriada Shipping has already said that it plans to use the MV Claymore - the same vessel used on the route when it ran in the 1990s.

At the community council meeting, chairwoman Nancie Smith called on the community of Kintyre to put as much pressure as possible on transport minister Nicol Stephen and Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon in an effort to encourage the executive to try and speed up the process.

She said: 'I can't say how disappointed I am in the Scottish Executive. I feel that it could move a lot more quickly if the willingness is there to do it.'

Employment advisors to move into GP surgeries

EMPLOYMENT advisors are stepping into GP surgeries in Argyll in a bid to get people back to work sooner rather than later.

As part of various pilots around the country GP surgeries in Argyll will see employment advisors give advice and guidance to patients who may be on incapacity benefit to help them get back into the workplace.

Minister for Employment and Welfare Reform Margaret Hodge said: 'We know that the majority of people on Incapacity benefit actually want to work and we know that work is actually good for you.'

'It improves your self-esteem, bringing you into contact with other people in the workplace, is good for your health alongside the obvious financial benefits.'

The Pathways Support Advisor pilot schemes, which are also being tried in Somerset, East Lancashire and Gateshead, will establish an adviser service in parts of Argyll where the majority of claims are made by post.

Further strikes in Argyll unlikely

FURTHER strike action in Argyll by public sector workers has been ruled out for the time being as trade unions have entered into negotiations with government officials in England.

Last month saw public sector workers striking across the UK and in Argyll services were badly disrupted as workers protested against changes to pension conditions.

Trade unions were at loggerheads with government plans to scrap a rule letting some public sector workers retire at 60 with a full pension if their age and the number of years worked added up to 85.

John Duncan, vice-chairman of UNISON's Argyll branch, said despite differences in the reasons behind the strikes in Scotland and England, the negotiations down south were likely to have a knock-on effect.

Mr Duncan said: 'Their strike action is slightly different to us. The Local Government Association in England believes there is not enough money in the pension fund but in Scotland Finance Minister Tom McCabe is saying that the rule of 85 is in breach of European legislation.'

'If there is a settlement down there then it is likely the Scottish Executive will follow suit. That is what the smart money is on.'

On Monday April 24 Mr Duncan and John Dunlop, UNISON's Argyll services and conditions officer, will attend a meeting of all the trade unions in Glasgow where a decision is expected on the issue.

Mr Duncan said strike action had been pencilled in for April 26 and selective action was also planned for May 3-5 before it was suspended.

Podcasters of the Isle of Skye unite

PODCASTERS can learn more about the art of making their own online radio show at an event on Skye this weekend.

Channel 4 is hosting a free workshop for over 16s at An Tuireann Arts Centre in Portree on Saturday between 10am and 4pm.

Two of Scotland's foremost podcasters, DJ Dougal Perman and producer Peter Dowling, will demonstrate the latest craze.

A podcast is a radio programme that can be downloaded from the internet to MP3 players.

Some mainstream broadcasters, such as Radio One, turn their regular programmes into podcasts so listeners can hear them anytime they like but it also allows anyone to create their own, unique programmes and publish them online for everyone to hear.

Highlands and Islands Commissioning Editor for Channel 4, Lucy Conway, said: 'Making your own podcast is straightforward, cheap and a whole load of fun - and the whole world gets to hear you. The workshop is ideal for those with some computer skills already who want to break out into this exciting new format.'

An Tuireann's education officer Kath MacLeod added: 'We are keen to offer any opportunity for people to explore and learn about new media and this is a great chance for anyone interested in this fast-growing global phenomenon.'

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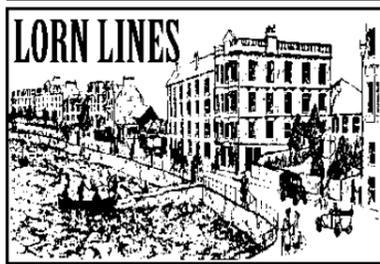
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OBAN and Lorn Lions Club is to apply for a market operator's licence in respect of this year's Oban Charities Day, an event which the club runs annually.

Provision of this licence will mean that all stallholders taking part will be able to sell food and drink as long as this is notified on their application forms. Individual stallholders will not need to apply for an individual licence.

Charitable organisations requiring an application form should contact John Lloyd on Oban 562762.

Following lengthy discussion concerning the need for such a licence, Argyll and Bute Council has agreed to grant the Lions a reduction in the usual licence fee.

MCTAVISH'S Kitchens, Oban, will be the venue on April 27 for an interesting evening with special appeal for those who appreciate antiques.

Specialists will lecture on Scottish silver, after which two experts from Bonhams, valuers and auctioneers, will conduct valuations and discuss with owners individual items brought in. There will also be a silent auction and a silent quiz. The bar will be open and snacks will be provided.

The venture is in aid of Save the Children and tickets, priced £6.50, are available from committee members including chairperson Catherine Shaw, Kilbrandon House, Balvicar, who can be contacted on 01852 300 400.

GATHERED in the Regent Hotel on Monday March 20, members of Oban Camera Club watched eagerly as Sandy Clelland, Pennycook, one of Scotland's most noted photographic judges, scrutinised entries in the club's 'Second Chance' competition.

This is confined to prints and slides which have been entered at previous club competitions and gives everyone a chance once again to reassess their merit.

Results were - all Oban unless otherwise indicated - prints: 1 John Douglas; 2 John Douglas; 3 Pete Hardy, Kilmore. Slides: 1 Ronnie MacKillop; 2 John Douglas; 3 Ronnie MacKillop. Winner of the Frank Walton Trophy for the best overall image on the night was Ronnie MacKillop.

At the annual general meeting held in the same venue on March 27, president Alex Clark reviewed what had proved to be yet another successful season for the club with a growing membership showing tremendous enthusiasm and continuing to produce work of the highest calibre.

Key office bearers re-elected were: president - Alex Clark; secretary - Katie Weir, Ledaig; competition secretary - Joan Allan, North Connel; and treasurer - Nevin Blackwood, Oban.

Though the club will now discontinue its normal Monday meetings, the Regent will continue to be a focus of the organisation's activities as members mount regular Monday night slide shows which prove highly popular with the area's visitors.

Featuring the best work of club members, these highlight the area's outstanding scenery and are of great benefit to holidaymakers who are made more fully aware of the options open to them.

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club ended its current session on a high note in McTavish's Kitchens on Thursday April 6, an evening recorded live both on Oban FM and the internet.

Welcoming a large attendance, club chairman Michael Garvin made reference to the death at his home in Falkirk of Murray MacKillop, an accomplished musician and former stalwart of the club. He conveyed everyone's sympathy to Murray's family.

The evening's guest artists were Ian Hutson and his Scottish Dance Band. The club will resume on Thursday October 5 when the guest artists will be the Roy Hendrie Trio.

A PUBLIC appeal, launched on behalf of Muckairn Parish Church at Taynuilt, with the aim of raising funds to repair the church roof as well as to address renovations within the church, has triggered an enthusiastic and generous response on the part of the local community.

To date the appeal has raised in excess of £10,000 and the organisers have received a further £5,000 from the charges at Kilchrenan and Dalavich, which are linked to Muckairn.

Session clerk Mary Nicolson said: 'The response has been overwhelming and we are absolutely delighted.'

Especially pleasing is the fact that many donations have been received from far-flung parts of the country and from contributors of all faiths. The appeal is to continue for some weeks yet. It is hoped to have the improvements at the church completed by the summer.

Mrs Nicolson added: 'We would like everyone who has contributed to come and visit the church.'

DURING the past year, the Oban branch of Cancer Research UK has been successful in raising £12,695.

Branch chairman Alistair Dewar said: 'The committee is extremely grateful to all the local people who contributed towards achieving this magnificent sum which will be used in the fight against cancer in Scotland.'

On Saturday April 29, the committee is organising a coffee morning in the Salvation Army Centre from 10am until 12 noon. Members are also looking for help during the annual street collection which will run from Monday May 1 until Saturday May 6.

Anyone willing to spare a couple of hours to help should contact Alistair Dewar on 01631 571066.

FOR FOUR Oban members attending a recent Inner Wheel Conference in Belfast, the Emerald Isle more than matched its magical reputation.

There to represent Oban were Carol White, North Connel; Christine Allen, Taynuilt; Christine Marlow, Taynuilt, and Ann Urwin, Kilchrenan. So overwhelmed were they by the kindness and hospitality they received at a conference which featured TV celebrities Gloria Hunniford and Anita Harris, the four stayed on for a few extra days to enjoy the delights of Ireland, exploring the country, east to west, and visiting the famous Giants Causeway. Highlights included an open-top bus tour of Ireland's former trouble spots, now happily at peace.

Carol said: 'The people were so welcoming.'

The Oban branch has recently despatched 21 backpacks filled with goodies to areas of the Third World where they will be much appreciated.

Substantial sums have also been contributed to local charities.

IT'S BEEN in steady demand since first it became available.

Hardy surprisingly, for the CD *Men of Argyll* epitomises Scottish traditional music at its best while also taking listeners into other fascinating realms. Featuring Oban accordionist Colin Campbell and his accordion playing-nephew Dunoon-based Colin Dugrieve, this is a superbly produced compilation incorporating many themes, all of it arranged by Colin Campbell himself.

Since it first went on sale a week or two ago, the CD has been selling briskly over a wide area, not least on the islands.

Colin Campbell, whose Highland Band dominated the airwaves in the 1970s when it starred on the Alasdair Gillies Show, said: 'I am surprised and delighted. It's such a long time since the band was prominent I thought today's Scottish dance music enthusiasts would have moved to support the bands currently popular on that scene. It's nice to think we still have our fans.'

Lottery windfall of £108,500 gets Luing centre on track

AN ARGYLL island's community trust had something to celebrate at its first annual meeting, held this week.

Isle of Luing Community Trust is to receive £108,527 from the Big Lottery Fund, through the Scottish Land Fund, towards the £500,000 it needs to build a heritage centre/museum.

The tiny island, along with Easdale, Seil and Belnahua, was one of the famous 'slate islands' and slate from its quarries roofed Iona Abbey, among other prestigious buildings.

The announcement about the grant was made on Monday night at the annual meeting by trust chairman Alistair Fleming.

'This gets us off to a flying start,' he said. 'It has been very hard work over the last two years to get to this stage.'

'Our major target is a heritage centre or museum. This all started with the local history group wanting to display, store and conserve artefacts.'

'There is a lot of material stored by people, and paper and photographic material especially have a limited life and need to be conserved properly.'

As yet no plans have been drawn up for the new centre although it is hoped they will be ready by the end of summer. Other grant applications are in to help the 200

islanders although they have to find some match funding themselves. The grant money from the Scottish Land Fund will be used to buy mineral rights to the slate quarries and also to acquire two plots of land for the heritage centre/museum.

The trust also hopes to have grants to be able to interpret the island's heritage - not just the slate industry for which it became so well known.

Interpretive panels will be set up throughout the island and it is also hoped to have leaflets printed for walkers. The money is a boost to the island which is hoping to kick start its economy.

A82 road promised £90m upgrade

AN ACTION plan to spend £90 million over the next 10 years on the A82 Tarbet to Fort William trunk road has been announced.

Scottish Executive Transport Minister Tavish Scott said on Wednesday (yesterday) that work worth £16 million, already design-approved, will go ahead over the next five years.

This will include removing the notorious bottleneck and 20-year-old 'temporary' traffic lights at Pulpit Rock and a new western bypass for Crianlarich that will mean traffic being able to travel north and avoid bridges, junctions and narrow roads in the town.

The rest of the 10-year action plan will include road safety measures such as more signs, better road markings, anti-skid surfacing, drainage improvements as well as work on carriageway widths and junctions.

Also proposed are road lay-bys at five-eight kilometre intervals along the road.

The move follows the publication by Transport Scotland, the new strategic transport agency, of two major studies on key routes to the Highlands that recommend investment of £350m. The A9 between Perth and Blair Atholl will receive £165m of long-term improvement too.

Coll man walks off with unexploded bomb

AN UNEXPLODED 'smoke bomb' possibly left over from a major military exercise was blown up on Coll after an islander carried it from the shore to the main road.

John Dowerr picked up the device on the shore at Friesland, which is in the south-west of Coll, and took it back to the B8070 road outside his house.

After police closed the road the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) from the Royal Navy at Faslane blew up the device.

Mr Dowerr said: 'It was actually a tourist who found it and the coastguard Frank Anderton rang me and asked if I had seen anybody about. He wasn't quite sure what it was.'

'Rightly or wrongly I picked it up. I have had a fairly good innings on this planet if it was going to knock me for

six. I had gloves on and I kept it facing backwards away from me so it wouldn't take my legs off.'

Mr Dowerr added: 'They [EOD] took it down my neighbour's road and although it was a mile away we could see it. It was tucked behind a rock and there was a great puff of smoke.'

'It took four seconds for the pressure waves to rattle the back kitchen windows.'

'Whatever it was, it hadn't been discharged because the caps were still on at both ends and there was no scorched marks.'

Sergeant Neil Owen of Strathclyde Police in Oban urged the public not to pick up any devices which looked like 'smoke floats' and to contact the police immediately if they found anything.

Sergeant Owen said he

leased in the sea by submarines or aircraft and were used for marking targets.

He said: 'It will remain on the surface of the sea for a period of an hour although can remain longer. If activated it omits clouds of smoke and high intensity light.'

Mr Dowerr said he was sorry if his actions had inconvenienced people who were faced with the road's temporary closure.



Oban Lifeboat arrives at the capsized speedboat near Easdale

Diver dies off Mull as others rescued

A DIVER died and three other people ended up in the water when their boat capsized in two separate accidents in the seas off Oban during the busiest Easter on record for Clyde Coastguard.

The 57-year-old diver from Durham, Fabian Gray, had been a member of a group on board the dive boat *Puffin 4*, diving from the wreck of the *Rondo* on rocks off Green Isle in the Sound of Mull. It is believed he could have developed a medical problem during the dive as he was coming to the surface.

Oban lifeboat launched at 10.40am and met the returning dive boat in the Firth of Lorn at 11.04am. Lifeboat crew member Dr

Colin Wilson boarded *Puffin 4* along with a Scottish Ambulance Service paramedic but pronounced the casualty dead.

The diver's body was taken to Oban by lifeboat. Strathclyde Police have confirmed that a post-mortem examination will be held and a report submitted to the procurator fiscal.

Tribute
Colleagues at Stockton-on-Tees Council paid tribute to Mr Gray who worked for the authority as a principal planning officer.

'Fabian was a very valued member of staff and a real character and great friend to all who met and worked with him. He will be greatly missed by colleagues

across the authority and within the Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Region of which he was an active member.

'Our sympathies go out to his family,' said Carol Straughton, head of planning for the council.

Oban lifeboat was called out again on Sunday when it received a message from one of two rigid-inflatable boats that had been in the company of a 16ft speedboat that had capsized some two miles south-west of Inch Island near Easdale. The occupants all were wearing diving suits though one was not zipped up.

All those who had been in the water were picked up by

the dive boat *Odyssey*. Oban lifeboat was on scene within 32 minutes and Coxswain Ronnie MacKillop reported that conditions were not good, with westerly winds of 30 knots, gusting to 40 knots and a two-metre swell. Once on scene the lifeboat transferred five people, including the three men and two other women from *Odyssey*.

The lifeboat then towed the upturned boat to Puffin Dive Centre at Gallanach. Mr MacKillop said: 'The tow was very slow with the tow rope parting three times during the passage.'

'Conditions were poor and most of the casualties were very sick and shocked.' None of those

rescued were injured or needed hospital treatment. 'They were very fortunate to have been in the company of other more capable craft as conditions were very poor for such a small vessel,' said Mr MacKillop.

The Easter holiday saw Clyde Coastguard deal with a record number of calls for this time of year; Coastguard Rescue Teams and Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) lifeboats throughout the district were very active, along with other vessels offering assistance.

On Sunday alone Clyde Coastguard co-ordinated the recovery of five drifting vessels as well as the rescue of the three men.

Citizenship first for Mull



THE OWNER of the Anchorage Restaurant on Tobermory's Main Street, Jason Cloete, has become the first person to take part in a Citizenship Ceremony on the Isle of Mull.

Originally from South Africa, Mr Cloete became a British citizen at the end of last month when he took the Affirmation of Allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Eliza-

beth the Second and a Pledge of Loyalty to the United Kingdom.

The ceremony took place in front of witnesses including, from left, Lord Lieutenant to Argyll and Bute Kenneth MacKinnon, Mull councillor Alistair MacDougall, his wife, Sarah, and daughter Erin and officiating registrar Iain MacKinnon.

Police seek help to identify Islay body

POLICE in Argyll have issued an appeal for information which could help them identify a body washed up on an Isle of Islay beach last week.

A dog-walker discovered the body at Lossit Bay on the west coast of the island last Monday afternoon (April 10).

Attempts to identify the male body have so far proved unsuccessful. The body is described as being that of a white man, aged around 40 years and approximately five feet nine inches in height. The man is of medium build with a thin face and short dark hair going grey, although bald-

ing on top. He was wearing brown lace-up brogue-style shoes sized eight or nine, grey, red and blue Argyll patterned socks, a black ribbed t-shirt, a blue, beige and white striped cotton jumper and a blue and white checked shirt.

The man was also wearing a Celtic-style ring on the middle finger of his right hand.

Anyone who has any information which could help the police is asked to contact DI Hardie or DI Anderson at Campbeltown Police Office on 01586 862200, or Bowmore Police Office on 01496 810222.

MV Argyle for Isle of Bute

THE NEWEST ferry in the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) fleet is to be called *MV Argyle* and will be a sister ship for *MV Bute*, which was introduced on to the Wemyss Bay-Rothesay route in July 2005.

The £9 million *MV Argyle*, built in Gdansk, Poland, will enter service by the end of 2006 on the same route. Calmac chairman Dr Harold Mills said: 'The name Argyle is singularly appropriate for the new Wemyss Bay-Rothesay ferry. It is important for safety reasons that the name is not held by any other vessel and Argyle, with the old spelling, fits the bill. The best known of all the Clyde paddle steamers named *Argyle* was actually the successor to the first Bute on the service from Wemyss Bay to Rothesay, as well as Innellan, Largs and Millport.'

Police files

Street arrest

DURING the early evening of Monday April 15, police in Oban received a report of a disturbance on George Street.

A 26-year-old male was arrested and charged with breach of the peace and assault.

A report was sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Pulpit Hill

OBAN Police are investigating repeated reports of youngsters in the vicinity of Pulpit Rock View throwing stones and other missiles on to houses and out-buildings below.

Sergeant Neil Owen urged parents to be aware of where their children were during the early evenings and said police patrols would be stepped up.

Tiree incident

ON APRIL 14 at around 8.55pm police were called to Baugh Farm, on Tiree.

As a result of police inquiries two men, aged 19 and 29 were arrested and appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday charged with an alleged breach of the peace and alleged assault. Both men were released on bail.

Soroba bridge

ADULTS and children have been spotted by local residents climbing over the barriers to the closed Soroba bridge on Drummore Road, Oban. Sergeant Neil Owen strongly urged people not to attempt climbing over the bridge. He said: 'It risks falling on to the steel spike rails or falling on to the bridge itself from 12 feet up.' Police will be stepping up patrols in the area.

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Welcome aboard the famous *WAVERLEY* - cruising amidst the spectacular scenery of the Western Isles. See and hear the mighty steam engines. Dine or relax in the warmth of the beautifully restored lounges and restaurant. Owned by a Scottish Charity and Registered for over 800 passengers. Recapture happy memories, visit new places and bring family and friends, young and old, for a trip to remember!

FOUR DAYS ONLY PADDLE STEAMER CRUISES from OBAN - North Pier

ISLE OF TIREE

SATURDAY APRIL 29 Leave 10 a.m., back 8 p.m.
Join us aboard the famous *Waverley* on her first visit to Oban in 2006! Steam through Sound of Mull to visit Tobermory; £18.95, SC £16.95. Or stay aboard and enjoy a cruise to the Inner Hebrides - sail the coast of Coll and visit Tiree; £33, SC £29.95. Or stay aboard for an afternoon cruise from Tiree; £35.95, SC £32.95. Steam home to Oban via Treshnish Isles.

SUNRISE CRUISE

SUNDAY APRIL 30 Leave 7 a.m., back 12.15 p.m.
Spectacular cruise sailing the peaceful waters of Loch Linnhe viewing Corran Narrows and Ben Nevis steaming to Fort William; £13.95, SC £12.

FOUR LOCHS AND A WHIRLPOOL

SUNDAY APRIL 30 Leave 12.15 p.m., back 5.30 p.m.
Sail past the Isles of the Sea and cruise the four Lochs of Shuna, Melfort, Craignish and Crinan as *Waverley* steams to the famous Corryvreckan Whirlpool; £22.95, SC £19.95.

EVENING CRUISE

SUNDAY APRIL 30 Leave 5.30 p.m., back 9.30 p.m.
Enjoy a stunning evening cruise on Loch Linnhe viewing Corran Narrows and Ben Nevis as you steam to Fort William. Inclusive coach return from Fort William; £14.95, SC £12.95.

IONA and IONA ABBEY

MAY DAY MONDAY 1 Leave 11.15 a.m., back 7.30 p.m.
Enjoy this unique cruise to the Sacred Isle of Iona - there's time ashore to visit the historical Iona Abbey and soak up the atmosphere of this world-famous island; £33, SC £29.95. Landing on Iona is by ferry and may not be suitable for the less agile.

MULL OF KINTYRE via CORYVRECKAN

TUESDAY MAY 2 Leave 9 a.m., back 7.30 p.m.
Steam past the Isles of the Sea and the famous Corryvreckan Whirlpool; view the islands of Jura, Islay and Gigha and sail round the scenic Mull of Kintyre to Campbeltown to join inclusive coach for the return journey to Oban; £23, SC £19.95.

from TOBERMORY Pier - MULL ISLE OF TIREE

SATURDAY APRIL 29 Leave 12 noon, back 6 p.m.
Don't miss the only cruise aboard the famous *Waverley* from Mull in 2006! Steam to the Inner Hebrides - sail along the coast of Coll and visit Tiree; £21, SC £19. Or stay aboard to enjoy an afternoon cruise from Tiree; £23.95, SC £21.95.

from TIREE AFTERNOON CRUISE

SATURDAY APRIL 29 Leave 2.15 p.m., back 3.15 p.m.
Welcome aboard the famous *Waverley* for the only cruise from Tiree in 2006. View the island's coastline from the decks of this magnificent steamship on a wonderful afternoon cruise - only £5!

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RESTAURANT • LOUNGES • STEAM ENGINE

Fledgling ferry company makes a splash on Skye in first spring sailing

A FLEDGLING ferry company made a splash after taking over the Skye Ferry at the weekend. The Isle of Skye Ferry Company has revealed the vessel enjoyed its busiest Easter ever - despite running aground on Friday. The company, which is bidding for a community buyout of the historic service, only took over the seasonal crossing between Glenelg and Kylerhea last week. Despite attracting a record number of visitors and locals alike on its first day of business, the operators of what is believed to be the last operating turntable ferry service in the world were left red-faced when the boat

floundered. The vessel, which was captained by experienced skipper Donnie MacDonald, ran into rocks on the Kylerhea Narrows on Friday afternoon at around 1.30pm. Three cars and nine passengers were on board when the drama unfolded. Lifeboats from Mallaig and the Kyle of Lochalsh were called out and the coastguard in Stornoway was alerted but a Kyle fishing boat, the *Polona*, was able to get a line to the stricken vessel and haul it off the rocks with only superficial damage. Skye Ferry Company director Jennifer Francis, who said the sailings returned to normal after the boat was

examined, said: 'It was a bit embarrassing but everything is ship-shape again. The ferry, which carried 69 cars on its first day, enjoyed its busiest Easter ever despite the slip up. It attracted both locals and visitors alike and with all the extra publicity this incident has caused we are confident we can raise the money we need to buy the boat.' The Isle of Skye Ferry Company, which already has £90,000 in the bank, is aiming to raise £150,000. It was feared the daily, half-hourly crossings, which operate between Easter and October, would stop after the vessel's owner, Roddy MacLeod, announced his re-

irement. However, the Isle of Skye Ferry Company, a mixture of local residents and businesses, is leasing the boat until it can raise enough money to secure the long-term future of the service. The local authority confirmed it is not in a position to support a community buy-out of the Skye Ferry because the building of the Skye Bridge means it no longer provides a lifeline service. Councillor William Fulton said: 'If the ferry was no longer there that would have an affect on the number of people visiting this part of the world and it is such a pretty place.'

Ballachulish says no to quarrying

COMMUNITY leaders in Ballachulish have said there is no appetite in the village for a return to slate quarrying. Last week *The Oban Times* revealed that a report by the Scottish Stone Liaison Group (SSLG) for Historic Scotland is to look at the question of re-opening quarrying at Ballachulish. The study was commissioned after a 'crisis' in the availability of Ballachulish slate which was used on many of Scotland's historic buildings. Community councillor Mel MacAskill said that no-one in the village wanted the opening of a commercial quarry. For the full story see page 13.

Helicopter hill rescues under threat

FEARS have been expressed that lives could be lost on Lochaber's mountains if a controversial plan to privatise Britain's helicopter search and rescue service gets off the ground. Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team (LMRT) - which provides a lifeline rescue service for climbers and walkers who get into difficulties in the area's popular hills - spoke out this week after it emerged that the Ministry of Defence is considering unifying the service.

The proposed change would make it more likely that mountaineers, hillwalkers and sailors will be asked to pay towards the cost of their rescue. RAF and navy aircraft were ultimately maintained for rescuing military personnel, even though more than 90 per cent of their work involved civilians. Risk LMRT leader Terry Confield said: 'This is not the right path to go down. I can't believe for one moment that it will improve the service in any way.'

number of outdoor enthusiasts attracted to this area, I would question whether it would be able to cope. 'We give our time free of charge every day of the year when called upon and we would like to keep the service the way it is just now. Any time officials or accountants move in common sense seems to go out the window.' The MoD confirmed it is expecting to announce a review of Britain's helicopter search and rescue service next month. Decisions However, it insisted no decisions had yet been made. An MOD spokesman said: 'We are potentially looking at improvements to the excellent search and rescue service provided in this country and an announcement will be made in due course.'



From left, Sammy White, aged 7 from Caol, Chloe MacDonald, nine, from Fort William and Syeda Chowdhury, seven, also from Fort William, at the Easter Egg Hunt in Glen Nevis. (16egg01)

Children flock to charity Easter egg hunt

THE UNSEASONAL weather in Fort William on Easter Monday did not deter hundreds of children from taking part in the annual Easter Egg hunt in Glen Nevis.

The hunt is organised by Lochaber Deaf Care, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. Hundreds of children, some of whom had travelled especially from Inverness, paid £1 to look for the hidden Easter

eggs. Jim Alness of Lochaber Deaf Care said that, as usual, the Easter Egg Hunt proved very popular with children. Lochaber Deaf Care was set up in 1981 to give help, encouragement and advice to hearing aid users and their friends.

The film, which is directed by Matthew Vaughn - who was also involved in Hollywood films including *Snatch*, *Lock Stock*, and *X-Men* - is about a young man who makes a promise to his beloved that he will retrieve a fallen star by venturing into a magical realm.

Hollywood stars to film on Skye?

SPECULATION is mounting that a star-studded Hollywood cast is heading to the Highlands for the filming of a new blockbuster movie. Actors Robert De Niro, Sienna Miller, Michelle Pfeiffer, Charlie Cox, and Claire Danes are thought to be heading to Skye next week to record scenes for *Stardust*, a fantasy adventure based on a Neil Gaiman novel, which is due for release next year. The film, which is directed by Matthew Vaughn - who was also involved in Hollywood films including *Snatch*, *Lock Stock*, and *X-Men* - is about a young man who makes a promise to his beloved that he will retrieve a fallen star by venturing into a magical realm.

All smiles at Kyle dentist

A KYLE of Lochalsh dental practice has won a top award at the British Dental Awards this year. The Kyle Dental Practice was highly commended in the practice environment category at the awards. The awards were announced at a ceremony in the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London.

Shellfish plans criticised

FISHERMEN'S leaders on the west coast have criticised a Scottish Executive decision to enforce shellfish fishing rules using the Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency (SFPA). The executive has tabled an amendment to the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill to give the SFPA powers to enforce regulating orders around the west coast. Highland Council has

given its full backing to the Highland Shellfish Management Organisation (HSMO) which has proposed an order to control and manage shellfish stocks on a six-mile limit from Nairn to Lochaber. The draft order, which is likely to be the subject of a public inquiry this summer, would be the largest in the UK. It would control oysters, mussels, cockles, clams,

lobsters, squat lobsters, queen scallops, crabs, whelks, razorfish, and crawfish. The amendment would give the SFPA powers to police all regulating order areas. John Hermse of Mallaig and North West Fishermen's Association said: 'The executive has used the problems with the Solway Firth cockle fishery as an excuse to try to make regu-

lating orders more acceptable, but these problems could have been dealt with using existing legislation. 'The executive has tried to say that it has taken cognisance of our views, but the first reading of the bill, including this amendment, occurred on the day the consultation ended. 'The amendment was obviously inserted at a stage where discussion would be limited.'

German tourist dies in Skye bunkhouse

AN INVESTIGATION is continuing into a fatal fire which claimed the life of a young woman and destroyed a boarding house on Skye at the weekend. Police, who are working together with the fire and rescue service, have confirmed 23-year-old German tourist Alexandra Schwenger - a second-year biology student at Aberdeen

School of Medicine - died in the blaze at Bellevue bunkhouse in Kyleakin's Muese Lane, on Sunday around 4am. Detectives are conducting door-to-door enquiries and have issued an appeal for witnesses in an effort to establish the cause of the fire. Alexandra, who was found dead in an upstairs bedroom, was touring Scot-

land with two members of her family and a friend at the time of the tragedy. The survivors, including the owner of the bunkhouse, were treated at Broadford Hospital on Skye for smoke inhalation and minor burns. A mother and her two children, aged five and nine, believed to be from the Gourcock area, escaped unhurt.

'Absent' tax to see second home owners pay twice?

SECOND home owners on the west coast could be facing a new tax after proposals were drawn up in England to protect rural communities against becoming 'ghost villages' in the winter. The Commission for Rural Communities is looking at methods of reversing a trend which sees areas deserted in the winter because of houses used as second or holiday homes. The commission is suggesting a business or 'absenteeism' tax or doubling council tax bills for second home owners in a bid to make it easier for young,

local people to buy houses. Although a Scottish Executive spokesman said the issue of second homes was 'not really on the radar' at the moment, a review into local government finance and local taxation was underway. He said: 'The review will be made public at the end of the summer but until then it is not really appropriate to comment.' Last year saw the 50 per cent council tax discount for second home owners was scrapped by the executive and in Argyll and Bute it is now set at 10 per cent. However, Loch Awe Councillor Allan Macaskill,

leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said there was a 'sting in the tail' from that legislation because the council did not receive the money raised. He said: 'It was to be used for affordable housing but that money went to Communities Scotland. We don't get it. I feel they [second home owners] should pay the same as other dwellings and not get a 10 per cent discount but the executive said they wanted it so they could tell how many second homes there are. Some councillors believe second homes should be set at a higher rate.'

Councillor Macaskill does not believe the executive will attempt to bring in a tax for second home owners as he believes it would be too complicated and difficult to enforce. 'We had a terrible time getting them to scrap the discount and I don't think they will get involved,' he said.

Barcaldine eggs-travaganza

BARCALTINE Community Association was overwhelmed by the support its Easter egg hunt and duck race received on Easter Sunday. The fun afternoon, held at Sutherlands Grove by kind permission of the Forestry Commission was held to raise funds for the association. Andrew MacKenzie, a member of the management committee, said: 'A great day out was had by all and 122 children went home wet, dirty but happy. Even the ducks enjoyed themselves and a little under £800 was raised for our

fund.' Forestry Commission workers Peter MacArthur and Jim Clark were busy on parking duty and the association team in charge of bacon sandwiches worked non-stop. Four-year-old Emma Masterton of Oban won the duck race and £50; the wild life quiz was won by Rene McColl, aged six and Sam Scott, eight. Angel Shaw, five, won the five-and-under egg hunt with nine and Calum McLuckie, three, found the golden egg. In the older children's egg hunt Beatty McColl collected 20 eggs and Helen Shimmiel, 12, found the golden egg.



Christine MacCaig in her Easter bonnet and Diane MacKenzie with Easter bunny ears and just a few of the 122 children who joined in the fun. (16egg01)

HOLIDAY

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Care home committee meets today

THE FUTURE of a Lochaber care home for the elderly will be discussed at a meeting of a Highland Council committee today (Thursday). The council's housing and social work care home sub-committee will hear an outline business case into the privatisation of seven care homes for the elderly across the Highlands, including Invernevis House in Fort William. The business case has to 'ensure that the decision to procure care home services is based upon a robust strategic and financial analysis of the options available'. Members of the sub-committee are asked to 'note' the contents of the business case before a full meeting of Highland Council in Inverness makes a decision on the privatisation of all seven care homes next month.

Newsdesks:
01631 568000
01397 703003

TV presenter enjoys 'slow food' in Lochaber

CHANNEL Four news presenter Jon Snow got a pleasant surprise during a holiday in Lochaber last week. His peaceful vacation away from the fast-moving world of television news was interrupted by hundreds of 'slow-food' aficionados attending the first West Highland Slow Food Fair at Ardornish House in Morvern. The respected journalist, who has reported from all over the world on wars and revolutions, recovered enough to give a welcoming speech to officially open the fair. One of the organisers, Jane Stuart-Smith, a member of the Moray and West Highland Slow Food Convivium said: 'Slow food is about respecting local tradition and promoting humane values in what we eat and how we produce it. 'This is not the fancy and exclusive stuff of pricey restaurants - it's about celebrating local distinctiveness and valuing everyday, local products that too often we take for granted.' Around 20 food producers from Lochaber and North Argyll set up stall providing lunch to some 200 guests with mutton, venison, lamb, beef and seafood all on the menu. See page 21 for more.

Fort William sold out of Easter eggs

VISITORS converged on the west coast of Scotland over the Easter weekend, undeterred by the miserable weather. Many hotels and guest houses were fully booked as thousands of tourists came to the area from around the globe during the holidays. Shops and businesses experienced one of their busiest days of the year on Saturday - by which time Fort William had sold out of Easter eggs. VisitScotland's Highland-based spokeswoman Elaine Bailey said: 'Tourism businesses throughout the west coast have been rushed off their feet and the visitor numbers in many areas is up on last year. 'The tourist information centre in Fort William was mobbed on Saturday, although that eased as the weekend went on.' Fort William Retailers Association confirmed early indications showed local traders had enjoyed 'a very busy Easter'.

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Seil

Mull Community Council

A MEETING of Mull Community Council was held recently.

Linda Cameron, chairperson and Fionnphort representative, introduced the following area representatives: Steve Barlow and Hazel Yule, Tobermory; Jim Corbett, Lochbuie; Tony Proud, Dervaig and treasurer; Fiona Brown, Pennyghael/Tiroran; Adrian Fitness, Craignure/Lochdon; Paul Forster, Salen, and Ronnie Campbell, Bunessan.

Also in attendance were Councillor Alistair MacDougall and Linda Dawson, minute/correspondence secretary.

Among items discussed were:

Affordable housing: A further letter had been received from residents expressing concern that affordable houses may be sold off for profit or rented out as holiday homes.

West Highland Housing Association has agreed to work with residents in the area. Houses built should be at an affordable price to enable youngsters to obtain property. Houses at Ulva Ferry and Lochdon have been repaired. Hopefully the repair work will last 30 years.

Website: Committee members' CVs are now on the website. Mull Community Council minutes can now be seen at www.mull-community-council.co.uk

Better Neighbourhood Services: Councillor MacDougall had been aware of funding for Better Neighbourhood Services coming to an end, but more funding from the Quality of Life Fund had been made available. Not all lunch clubs on the island are run or funded in the same way.

Argyll and Bute Transport Strategy: The need for more cycle routes and leaflets for cyclists travelling on single-track roads have been put forward as suggestions to Argyll and Bute Council by Mull Community Council. The community council had been asked to make suggestions with regards to the Argyll and Bute Transport Strategy.

The community council is aware of the cycle group on the island.

Re-cycling point: A new re-cycling point for Tobermory will be installed at Baliscate.

Dog fouling: A notice regarding dog fouling had been circulated in local press.

Ferry: Responses received from MSPs and concerns raised with Chancellor Gordon Brown and Tavish Scott MSP, Minister for Transport. This will also be discussed at the next local

Around the Rurals

Kilmallie

THE MONTHLY meeting of the Kilmallie branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute was held at Walter Cameron Way on Wednesday April 5.

After business was concluded, Morag McKell, president, warmly welcomed Alex Farquhar who had returned to give another of his brilliant slide shows. The programme included wonderful views of Slovenia, its woods, lochs and colourful houses and a short visit to Venice.

There was also a panorama of shots taken much nearer home showing places under various lighting conditions from the lochan looking Japanese in the dawn mists to the mountain top illuminated by the rising sun.

All this was accompanied by an interesting and amusing commentary. It was an uplifting end to a cold, dreich day.

After Mrs McKell had thanked Mr Farquhar and presented him with a gift, he joined members at an enjoyable tea provided by Joan Thomson, Valerie Metcalfe and Sheila Sutton.

The competition for a holiday souvenir was won by Mrs Metcalfe with a voodoo face mask. Chrissie Taylor was second.

Raffle prize winners were Mrs Taylor, Mrs McKell and Mrs Bruce.

ferry committee meeting. **Fencing:** Materials to fence round Suidhe Graveyard have now been delivered but the community council is still waiting for volunteers to build it. Anyone who can help is asked to contact Linda Cameron on 01681 700736.

Access Forum: Letter received from Argyll and Bute Council saying recruits were required for the Local Access Forum. Notices will be displayed in Craignure, Fionnphort and Tobermory.

Food festival: Mull and Iona Food Festival will not go ahead this year because of a lack of funding. It is hoped that some of the regular community fundraising events will still continue.

Fun fair: Because of increased charges, the fun fair would not be coming to Tobermory.

Car parking: Charges have been implemented at the car park at Craignure toilets. Disabled drivers/passengers who have a blue badge can continue to park at the back free of charge without a time limit. However, the two disabled spaces at the front of the toilets have a three-hour waiting limit.

Marquee: Mull Community Council's marquee is in need of attention. Jim Corbett suggested the community council should keep the marquee going as it would cost £11,850 to buy a new one. Upkeep of the marquee should preferably be done in winter.

Dervaig toilets: Argyll and Bute Council is proposing to take away a toilet block at Dervaig. Tony Proud has discussed this matter with Councillor MacDougall and is awaiting a reply.

Linda Cameron agreed to raise the matter at the annual general meeting of Holiday Mull.

Contact: Residents are invited to contact their local community councillor if they require more information on matters discussed at meetings.

Deer: Problems had been reported at Salen and Killechranon. **Power supply:** Following a power failure in March during very difficult weather conditions, Scottish Hydro workmen were to be thanked for restoring power to customers.

National park: A meeting, organised by National Farmers' Union members, about the proposed Land and Marine National Park, had been held in Salen Hotel. Hugh Raven had attended.



Luing pupils' delight at sports equipment

Primary one to four pupils of Luing Primary School pictured with the sports equipment donated by Tesco in exchange for tokens collected by families, friends and staff. The school ordered cricket sets, skipping ropes, beanbags, hoops, hockey sticks, rounder balls and an activity chest with skittles, cones, rings, balls and more beanbags. The children use the equipment in their physical education lessons and at intervals.

Colonsay

Your correspondent is Angus MacPhee: 01951 200228

Youngster airlifted

ON THURSDAY April 6, one of Colonsay's youngest residents took ill and the locum doctor decided he should be sent to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill, Glasgow.

As the ambulance service helicopter was unavailable, the Royal Navy stepped in and arranged for a Sea King to fly in to Scalasaig and take mother and child direct to Glasgow.

The island was delighted to hear next day that the patient was doing well. Everyone was even more delighted when mother and child disembarked from the ferry from Oban on Sunday evening.

Spring brings tourists

LAST week and this the spring influx of visitors has belied the cold winter weather and it was expected

that even more would arrive for Easter.

Easter will, as usual, see the start of the ceilidh season in the village hall.

Community council

A MEETING of Colonsay Community Council was held in the village hall on Tuesday April 4.

Present were Keith Rutherford, vice chairman Andrew MacGregor, secretary Angela Skrimshire, treasurer Kevin Byrne, Shirley Johnston and four members of the public.

An apology for absence had been received from Angus MacPhee.

Minutes of the meeting held on March 14 were approved and signed by the vice chairman.

Among the items discussed were:

Initiative at the Edge meeting: As Chris Nisbet was away on holiday the secretary reported that Andy Wightman and Neil Ross from the Scottish Land Fund were coming for the previously postponed meeting on the Land Reform Act on April 24.

Medical services: A letter had been received from George Lyon enclosing

letters from James Robb, Head of Integrated Care, Argyll and Bute Council, and Ron Arbuckle, Designate Director, Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership, which did not appear to advance the situation. No arrangement for accommodation for a visiting district nurse had been made beyond August.

On March 31 the secretary had written to Hilary Brown requesting a meeting on the island with the local health care co-operative or its equivalent. It was agreed that the secretary would write again if no reply was received from Hilary Brown by April 14.

Shirley Johnston asked whether transfer to NHS Highlands would lead to any changes here.

Airstrip: Robin Curry had told Andrew MacGregor that Peter Jackson had been appointed airport development manager, to be based in Connel. There was a discussion about staffing and the airstrip fire service and of a safety boat, mostly re-iterating how these matters were left at the previous meeting.

Kevin described arrangements suggested to and accepted by the contractors for ensuring safety in the pier area during the unloading of aggregate,

including provision of high visibility jackets for anyone with legitimate business in the immediate area, and otherwise closure of the pier to the public during unloading.

Ferry services and timetables: Kevin said the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) timetables for next year, and up to March 2008, were available, with apparently no change from the 2005-06 timetables.

Shirley Johnston said that, as far as she could see, the new timetables failed to make clear that caravans and motor homes were not normally permitted on Colonsay, and Kevin agreed to look into this.

She also raised the question of CalMac's enquiry into the Colonsay ferry service during October when evenings were dark, from which the community council had still not received the promised feedback.

Freight service: The current proposal, supported by Councillor Gillies of Tiree, for subsidy of freight to the islands for fuel and heating oil was discussed.

Andrew MacGregor pointed out that fuel was only one of many items affected by high freight costs. Kevin proposed that the community council seek to obtain free ferry passage for all islanders as foot passengers, regardless of age, and that one free car return journey per year be offered to each island resident or household.

Angela Skrimshire said this should not be instead of the existing six-journey ticket concession.

It was decided to pursue this. It was decided there should be co-operation with other islands to set up a working party to bring together wider support on this matter and that the secretary should contact Councillor Gillies and the Scottish Islands Network to that end.

CalMac's failure to provide a cage or a courtesy van on every sailing for passengers' shopping was also discussed. It was suggested that CalMac should routinely provide one free car space for community use on each sailing, able to accommodate a 5m van,

and the Colonsay Community Development Company (CCDC) should decide how best to use it. Andrew MacGregor reported that the CCDC was currently considering the question of freight.

Appointment of representative to hall committee: It was decided to ask the new member of the community council, when elected, if he would agree to take this on.

Timing of future meetings: It was decided that future meetings will be on Tuesdays at 7pm, to accommodate the badminton club whose members in the summer include hotel and estate staff.

Parking at Kiloran Bay: Donald Macalister complained that at present parking is overflowing onto the verges and lay-bys and blocking the turning access from the Uragai road to the cottages at Kiloran. Kevin Byrne suggested that, rather than destroy the environment of the existing car park, space could be made for a passing place on one side and some parking on the other, along the road

between the bay and Balnahaard Gate. He also suggested leaving the redundant cattle grid at the bay end of the Uragai to mark the limit of general vehicle access and place a small notice there saying 'No parking beyond this point'.

It was decided this should be discussed with the council roads department, whose workers are due to come over to re-surface the Uragai road.

Kevin questioned whether planning permission had ever been given for two new parking spaces across the road from Glassard, which he considered dangerous, and also for the entrance to the new house between 2 and 3 Glassard which had not been shown on versions of plans released to the community.

It was decided to ask the planning department to comment on this. Kevin also raised the question of the drainage work that had led to drastic lowering of the water level in Loch Fada.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on Tuesday May 2 at 7pm.

St Columba tourism trail stirs interest

A NEW tourism route following in the footsteps of St Columba was one intriguing idea to come out of a recent meeting of minds in Inveraray.

The workshop, held at the Argyll Hotel, brought together professionals from the creative and tourism industries to share ideas and invent fresh and creative approaches to designing the ultimate tourism experience.

Creating the trail from Iona to Loch Ness would require input from both industries, believes AIMHI, the trade body for the creative industries in the Highlands and islands.

David Drysdale, manager of the workshop's sponsor Skillsco, said: 'This is just one example of the many exciting possibilities that are open to this collaboration. Lots of tourism organisations around the world use literature, film and photography to their advantage - New Zealand

has created tourist trails around *Lord of the Rings*, for example.

'On a smaller scale the two industries can work together to bring St Columba's journey over land and sea from Iona to King Brude's fort in Inverness to life. These are early days yet, but we're calling on hotels, restaurants, galleries and other tourism stakeholders along the route to get involved and for local creative professionals to put themselves forward and turn ideas into reality.'

Michael Russell, writer, creative commentator and former MSP, was one of those behind the workshop: 'Scotland has many unique assets in terms of creativity and culture which we can use to draw people to us and deepen their experience of us.'

A follow-up session looking into the operational details of proposed projects has been planned for autumn.

New Argyll housing association opens first office in Ardrishaig



Councillor Allan Macaskill and George Lyon MSP open the first Argyll Community Housing Association office in Ardrishaig.

THE NEW Argyll housing association has opened its first office in the area with some help from Argyll's oldest sheltered housing tenant.

Ellen Lloyd, who lives at Caledonian Court, Ardrishaig, was the first tenant over the door of the first of 10 offices to be opened in Argyll by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

The office, in Ardrishaig's Chalmers Street, was officially opened by Argyll and Bute MSP George Lyon and leader of Argyll and Bute Council Allan Macaskill.

Norman Beaton, chairman of ACHA, said it was an important landmark following the successful ballot last December when council tenants voted in favour of ACHA taking over the local authority's housing.

'It is fitting that Mrs Lloyd should be first through the doors as the transfer will benefit both the older generation and many generations to come as we work hand in hand with tenants to improve their homes, their communities and thereby their lives,' said Mr Beaton.

Following the housing transfer, due to take place in the summer, ACHA will begin its £261 million programme of housing improvement to bring every house up to the new Argyll Housing Standard, which includes full central heating and double glazing, modern kitchens and bathrooms and safe wiring, among other things.



Coffee morning boosts Mod funds

The funds for Oban Provincial Mod were given a welcome boost recently thanks to a coffee morning at the town's Congregational Church. Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain members provided the home-baking and served the drinks and were rewarded with a full house. Left to right: Sarah Steward, F Ann Maclean, Morag Smith and Robin Banks were among those who helped

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Forests full of life

THE WEST coast's spring woodlands are now full of new life.

Birds are nesting, bees buzzing and buds unfurling. To share this vibrant energy, visit a wood or forest and drink in the natural world all around.

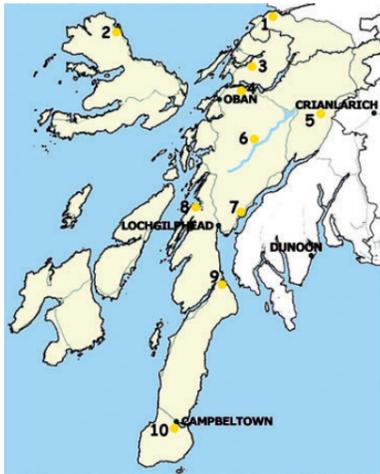
It's easy to find freedom among wonderful scenery this spring and summer. There are miles of waymarked routes to walk or cycle at Forestry Commission Scotland sites from Ballachulish to Campbeltown, Crianlarich to Tobermory.

Get out with the family and enjoy the benefits of healthy exercise, or simply relax at one of the many attractive picnic sites. You can explore on your own or join an organised event led by a ranger.

To come really alive this spring, use all your senses when in the woods. What can you hear? No doubt the sound of birdsong, and perhaps also a breeze through the leaves or the splash of a burn.

Feast on the sight of primroses and wood anemones, whilst keeping an eye out for wildlife - maybe a roe deer, pine marten or even a sea eagle. Remember to use your sense of smell as well. Breathe in the scent of a bluebell wood or the resinous aroma of a birch tree newly in leaf.

Children love to explore by touch. Let them feel the dif-



ference between soft willow catkins and rough Scots pine bark. Find out just how sticky horse chestnut buds are.

Fun and relaxation
For a spot of aquatherapy, seek out woodland walks beside lochs, rivers and waterfalls. Few things are more invigorating than the sight and sound of lively, crystal clear water. The River Lochy at Strone Hill near Dalmally and the waterfalls and sea views at Aros Park near Tobermory are great for refreshing the spirits.

Trees and their foliage act like a natural hide, enabling visitors to the woods to come much closer to the wildlife than they would be able to in the open. Go qui-

etly and you could surprise a red squirrel or an otter foraging for food. Sparrowhawk and buzzard fly between the trees, while heron and sandpiper frequent the loch shores.

If you need a bit of en-



Dog walking past the enormous Douglas firs at Sutherland's Grove, Barcaldine

couragement to get active in the woods, a ranger-led event can introduce you to new areas and activities. It might be searching for Easter eggs, participating in a family treasure hunt on bicycles or joining a guided

walk with a wildlife expert.

Inspiring experiences
Expect a fascinating time in the forest.

You can meet the giants of the tree world by walking amongst their soaring trunks. Douglas fir and other trees introduced from North America are well on their way to becoming record breakers at Sutherland's Grove in Barcaldine Forest on Loch Creran and at MacKenzie's Grove at Cruachan on Lochaweside.

Many woodland trails lead to sites of historical and archaeological interest. At Torinturk on West Loch Tarbert there are Neolithic and Bronze Age burial cairns. Or explore the remains of an ancient settlement, with a cross slab and holy well, at Kilmory Oib in Knapdale.

A short walk on Kintyre leads to Tarbert Castle, which was extended by Robert the Bruce after he became king of Scotland 700 years ago. The more recent history of the clearances is evident in several forests, such as Inniemore on Morvern, where the tales are particularly poignant.

At all these places, Forestry Commission Scotland interpretative boards and waymarked routes add an extra dimension to the experience.

Active Woods

Here are some great Forestry Commission Scotland woods and forests to explore:

1. Glenachulish - enjoy cycle routes with magnificent views of sea lochs and mountains - signed from the A828 one mile west of Ballachulish Hotel.
2. Aros Park, Mull - follow woodland walks with waterfalls, views of Tobermory and rhododendrons flowering in early summer - walk from the town, or drive one mile south on the A848.
3. Sutherland's Grove - choose from walk and cycle routes, or a wayfaring course - don't miss the waterfalls and a stand of giant Douglas fir - the forest car

park is signed off the A828 by Loch Creran.

4. Fearnoch Forest - ride out from Oban via Glen Lonan to cycle around the forest roads or go further west to walk in Glen Nant National Nature Reserve - car parks off the A85 west of Taynuilt and off the B846 south of Taynuilt.

5. Strone Hill - relax on gentle walks through mixed woodland beside the River Lochy - car park and picnic site off the A85, about 4km east of Dalmally.

6. Loch Awe - explore ancient oakwood and planted forest on the west shore on foot or by bike - start from Barnaline visitor centre, just north of Dalavich, or

car parks at Kilmaha, Cruachan or Inverinan.

7. Ardcastle and Glashan - visit the site of St Bride's Chapel and look for sea birds and seals on the shores of Loch Fyne, or watch dragonflies at Loch Glashan - signed on the A83 eight miles north-east of Lochgilphead.

8. Knapdale Forest - from Bamluagan visitor centre, walk in wildlife-rich native woodland or cycle to viewpoints overlooking the Faery Isles - on the B8025 south of the Crinan canal.

9. Tarbert - wander from harbour to castle in Tarbert

- on the A83, or walk from nearby Torinturk, on the B8024, to prehistoric burial cairns and a 1,000-year-old hill fort.

10. Campbeltown - take a walk up Beinn Ghulean, home to birds of prey and moorland flowers, for outstanding views over Davaar Island to Arran - waymarked from Tomaig Road.

* For great places to go and a host of healthy activities and events happening in Forestry Commission woods throughout Great Britain visit: www.forestry.gov.uk/activewoods.

active woods
naturally good for you



Wild cherry blossom



Cycle trails in Fearnoch Forest between Taynuilt and Oban



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Milestone money for Dochas Fund

COSTS for building Mid Argyll and Kintyre's new carers' centre can now be covered thanks to a £21,000 grant from Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.

The Dochas Fund gallery and carers' centre is currently under construction in Campbell Street, Lochgilphead.

The cash from the foundation comes through a special award scheme set up to mark its 21st birthday.

Catherine Paterson, co-founder of The Dochas Fund, said: 'We're absolutely delighted with this award.'

'The £21,000 will be used to complete the building and equip the carers' centre for all carers in Mid Argyll and Kintyre.'

'We will also be able to support people from across Scotland living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and Guillain Barré Syndrome, and The Dochas Fund was set up to provide hope for people in a similar position. It is his artwork that is used to fund the work of The Dochas Fund.'

'I know that members of the MND and GBS communities will be delighted at what we'll be able to achieve with this special award.'

Catherine said: 'What I think helped with our application is the amount of sup-

port we have from the public here. 'They were most impressed with the fact that so much money was raised locally.'

She added: 'This award brings a lot of joy to the local community and will make a difference to a great number of people.'

'My late husband had Motor Neurone Disease and Guillain Barré Syndrome, and The Dochas Fund was set up to provide hope for people in a similar position. It is his artwork that is used to fund the work of The Dochas Fund.'

'I know that members of the MND and GBS communities will be delighted at what we'll be able to achieve with this special award.'

Mary Craig, deputy chief executive of Lloyds TSB

Foundation for Scotland, said: 'We're extremely happy to be able to support The Dochas Fund and the work it will do with this award.'

'Our 21st birthday awards were put in place to celebrate our birthday in a way that will benefit communities and support the many volunteers who make a difference to people's lives across Scotland.'

'We've made awards in 15 areas and we're very confident the community in Argyll and Bute will get something really worthwhile.'

To celebrate the award, an event in Lochgilphead is being planned for the next few months, jointly funded by the foundation and Lloyds TSB Scotland.

This will let people find out more about how the £21,000 will be used.

New skipper for Kintyre to Isle of Arran ferry



Skipper Gavin Crawford on the bridge of MV Loch Tarbert. h15call

CALEDONIAN MacBrayne ferry MV Loch Tarbert has a new skipper. Gavin Crawford of Machrie, Isle of Arran who has served on the vessel for a number of years, is now the newly-qualified skipper of the Lochranza ferry.

He is joined by new crew member Bryce Walker and John van Bogerijen who joined the crew last summer.

Another face familiar to regular travellers is long-serving ship's engineer Dougie Munro of Pirmill, Arran.

The vessel commenced her summer season of nine return crossings-per-day and eight on Sundays between Claonaig on the Kintyre peninsula and Lochranza on the west coast of the Isle of Arran.

Sudden death of young man at Castle Sween

THERE are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the sudden death of a young man in Mid Argyll, police have confirmed.

Police at Lochgilphead received a report that a 21-year-old man had taken ill at Castle Sween caravan park on Thursday April 6.

Ambulance and fire services were in attendance and the man, a resident of the park, was taken by ambulance to Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead where he was pronounced dead.

A report is being sent to the Procurator Fiscal.

Crerar Hotels makes new appointments as part of £6m programme

THREE Crerar Hotels establishments in Argyll are undergoing rebranding and refurbishment as part of a £6 million programme for the company's five hotels. Planning proposals have also been announced for another three hotels, including at Glencoe and Ganavan Sands in Oban. Among the changes in the Crerar Hotel group, owned by North British Trust Group, are a number of new appointments. At the Loch Fyne Hotel in Inveraray, a new general

manager, John Campbell has been appointed along with food and beverage manager Paul Gerrard. Mr Campbell has 24 years' experience in the hospitality trade and worked most recently with Swallow Hotels. Mr Gerrard specialises in small four-star hotels, including Fairfield House and Uplawmoor Hotel and joins the Inveraray hotel from Ivy House in Ayr. In the Oban Bay Hotel, Australian Gregory Bultitude joins as head chef from the Swallow Group and was previously employed at the Caledonian Inn, Ullapool, a

former North British Trust Group establishment. In the Isle of Mull Hotel, Mull, Raymond Hervo and Carolyn Scott join as general managers after a short period with Swallow Hotels, which bought over a number of establishments from the North British Trust Group last year. Between them, they have more than 40 years' experience in hospitality, eight with Crerar Hotels. Also joining Crerar Hotels in the Isle of Mull Hotel are head chef Richard Cameron, from Principle Hotels; food and beverage manager Neil Goldie, recruited from

Showtech AV, where he was an events and conference co-ordinator; and housekeeper Christine McNeill, who ran her own three AA rosette hotel on Colonsay. Chief Executive Paddy Crerar said: 'The team now in place has formidable quality - the final appointments still to be made will complement and enhance this team further. 'We have a great deal to do to deliver the potential we all know the business is capable of and we are all determined to put our heart and soul into making it happen.'



Henri MacAulay and her son Tristan Jack, aged 3, with the new Gigha affordable housing in the background.

Gigha embraces housing dawn

GIGHA folk are now setting into the first social housing built on the island in 50 years. The keys for the first of eight houses were handed over at the end of last month and another 10 houses are in the process of being built.

The primary school roll will rise to 20 in August this year

Argyll and Bute-based housing association Fyne Homes, backed by Communities Scotland, is building the affordable homes at a cost of £2.9 million after being invited to do so by the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust. The homes are for rent and shared ownership and among the first to move in was Henri MacAulay, her three children and her partner Neil Holmes. 'I am knocked out by the house,' she said. 'The inside is beautiful and spacious and the views of Kintyre from our upstairs bedroom is stunning. 'I couldn't imagine a better home anywhere.'

Henri is moving her jewellery-making business, Smashing Glass, to Gigha from Campbelltown as well as her family, including Lachlan, aged 13, Catriona, 11 and Tristan Jack, 3. Other residents of the new homes are massage therapist Laura MacKenzie and her partner Mark Rennie, a farmer; Jennifer Brown, gardener Matthew Steele and their four children; re-

tired Calum MacNeill; and Lindsay Sheriff and Joe Teale, who run Gigha's Boathouse café bar. Most of the new householders were in desperate need of a new home; Laura and Mark had been living in a caravan on Mark's father's farm. 'With the population increasing since we bought the island, there was a great need for affordable housing,' said Jane Rennie, chairman of the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust. 'What is taking place is a symbol of our development and vital for our need to keep our young people here and to attract much-needed new residents to the island.'

Life Cycle launched to save lives and injury

A NEW cycling initiative to spread the word about being safe on the roads while cycling has been launched by Strathclyde Police. Life Cycle is designed to encourage cyclists to recognise their own vulnerability and to use practical but essential safety measures. Between 250 and 300 cyclists of all ages are seriously injured on Strathclyde's roads every year. Since 2000 18 cyclists have been killed, eight of those in 2005 and five were children. Strathclyde's Traffic Education and Support Team is to visit a number of local and national cycle events to give advice on safety issues and posters and information leaflets are to be distributed. Superintendent Pat Docherty, head of road policing, said: 'By wearing high visibility clothing and approved helmets, adopting defensive riding and carefully selecting their route, cyclists can dramatically reduce the chances of being involved in a potentially fatal or serious incident. 'Motorists must also play their part and allow cyclists the chance to ride safely. Show a little patience and leave plenty of room when passing a cyclist. 'Be aware of particular dangers faced by cyclists such as sunken drain covers, road debris and side winds, among others.'

He said parents could help by educating their children about the risks - such as suddenly leaving a pavement or coming out from a side road without looking. 'Superintendent Pat Docherty, head of road policing, said: 'By wearing high visibility clothing and approved helmets, adopting defensive riding and carefully selecting their route, cyclists can dramatically reduce the chances of being involved in a potentially fatal or serious incident. 'Motorists must also play their part and allow cyclists the chance to ride safely. Show a little patience and leave plenty of room when passing a cyclist. 'Be aware of particular dangers faced by cyclists such as sunken drain covers, road debris and side winds, among others.'

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He said parents could help by educating their children about the risks - such as suddenly leaving a pavement or coming out from a side road without looking. 'Superintendent Pat Docherty, head of road policing, said: 'By wearing high visibility clothing and approved helmets, adopting defensive riding and carefully selecting their route, cyclists can dramatically reduce the chances of being involved in a potentially fatal or serious incident. 'Motorists must also play their part and allow cyclists the chance to ride safely. Show a little patience and leave plenty of room when passing a cyclist. 'Be aware of particular dangers faced by cyclists such as sunken drain covers, road debris and side winds, among others.'

Fourth Mull wildlife week

THE ISLES of Mull and Iona are gearing up for their fourth annual Wildlife Week between May 6 and 12. With all the television publicity in the last year surrounding Mull's wildlife, including Bill Oddie's *How to Watch Wildlife* and Muileach Gordon Buchanan's *Eagle Island*, event tickets will be in high demand. Colin Morrison, boat operator of Turus Mara, said: 'The Wild Isles week is still an important event, when we gather together some of the best speakers, countryside rangers and wildlife tour operators to show Mull's wildlife at its best and run a week-long programme of events.'

Among the events are trips to the sea eagle hide, seafood suppers with puffins, a corncrake walk on Iona, a guided coastal walk, and a guided walk on the island of Ulva.

Mod reps invade Ireland

THE TWO traditional gold medal winners of last year's Royal National Mod are in Ireland this week for the 35th International Pan Celtic Festival. Kenneth Nicholson and Isobel Anne Martin are part of a Mod invasion at this week's festival in Letterkenny, which includes Oban's Joy Dunlop, a talented singer and An

Comunn Gaidhealach's Gaelic development officer for Argyll. Others who will be taking part in the event are Fionnar, the all-female group of Gaels from the Highlands, Fiona Mackenzie, ladies' Mod gold medal winner in 2005 and John A MacIver from Lewis, who is president of the festival. The Mod representatives

will be taking part in various competitions and performing at a joint Irish/Scots night tonight (Thursday) at St Eunan's GAA club in Letterkenny. Murdo Morrison, promotion manager for the Royal National Mod, said: 'The Mod is always looking at ways to increase its national and international profile and enhance its status as the

biggest Scottish Gaelic festival and we will have some top quality musicians and singers representing the Mod and Scotland in Letterkenny.' The festival runs until April 23 and the Mod musicians and singers will be performing throughout the festival. This year's Royal National Mod is in Dunoon from October 13 to October 21.



Mod gold medalists Isobel Anne Martin and Kenneth Nicholson will help promote Scotland at the International Pan Celtic Festival in Letterkenny.

Tobermory's site safety posters go on show

PUPILS at Tobermory's primary school have been drawing up site safety posters after being given a talk about safety on building and construction sites. Site manager Michael Pattison and safety officer Kenny Mowat of Bi-Water Leslie came to the school to talk to the

youngsters about safety as the company has been doing a lot of construction work around Tobermory to improve the waste water system. As part of their visit they set the pupils the challenge of coming up with a safety poster and came back to award prizes to

first, second and third prize winners in P1-2, P3-4 and P5-7. Michael and his team had a hard job picking the winners but eventually awarded the following pupils book tokens: P1-2 - 1 Amy Suggeney, 2 Ryan Ingram, 3 Alexander Anderson; P3-4 - 1 Louise Reade, 2 Leah

Goodwin, 3 Alasdair Currie; P5-7 - 1 Lewis MacLeod, 2 Fiona McAdam, 3 Jim Ratcliffe. Everyone was so impressed with the posters that Bi-Water Leslie has decided to laminate all the posters and display them around their works sites in Tobermory.



Pupils from the primary department of Tobermory High School, with their winning site safety posters.

You can email your news and pictures direct to:

editor@obantimes.co.uk

MSP hears of marine park fears

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP has added his voice to those calling for caution over the setting up of a marine and coastal national park in the West Highlands.

Jim Mather MSP says he has had representations from farmers and fishermen who are 'deeply concerned' about the way the initial consultation has been handled.

'I understand that a much fuller and wider consultation is to follow this autumn and I will encourage the widest participation in this process,' he said.

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) recently gave its initial report on areas suitable for a national park to the Scottish Executive.

There are fears from the fishing and farming community that legislation and planning restrictions associated with a marine and coastal national park could impact severely on their industries.

'SNH is on record as stating that a marine park will not be imposed if there is significant local opposition,' said Mr Mather.

'I have asked [minister for rural development] Ross Finnie to state clearly what that means and how it might be quantified.'

The Oban Times
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Tel: 01397 772100
Proprietors:
Linda & Duncan Carmichael
with returning chef Joan Kerr

Dining out guide

A WARM welcome and great food is the order of the day at The Steam Inn, in the heart of Mallaig, just yards from the bustling harbour, ferry pier and railway station.

The varied menu includes locally caught seafood and stonebaked home-made pizzas. Specialising in Continental cuisine, The Steam Inn also offers a number of mouth-watering Indian, Chinese and Tex-Mex dishes. Open daily from 11am till midnight, the Steam Inn serves food from 12pm- 3pm and 5pm-10pm. A superb beer garden seats up to 50 and is perfect for a weekend barbecue. The Inn has a children's licence and kids play area. The Steam Inn bar offers a wide range of quality malt whiskies and real ales, as well as satellite television, a pool table and live music entertainment every weekend. Resident cockatoo, JB, is just one reason why a visit to The Steam Inn will be memorable.

Old Library
Lodge & Restaurant
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Cheerful and welcoming Restaurant
Good food, spectacular views and excellent en suite accommodation
'Friendly restaurant with imaginative dishes'
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HIGHLAND THEATRE 01631 562444
GEORGE STREET - OBAN

6.30 DAILY, inc. SUNDAY - 2.00 FRI., SAT. and SUN. MATINEES
TALE OF A TIBETAN SHEEPDOG
THE SHAGGY DOG U
TIM ALLEN as a man who tries to lead a normal life, despite the fact he sometimes turns into a sheepdog!

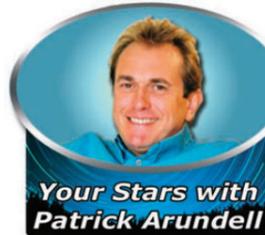
6.15 DAILY, including SUNDAY - 1.45 FRI., SAT. and SUN. MATINEES
THE PINK PANTHER PG

THURSDAY 4 MAY - OBAN and FORT WILLIAM PREMIERES
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

STUDIO CINEMA 01397 705095
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

7.15 DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAY - 2.15 SATURDAY MATINEE
ICE AGE 2: The Meltdown U

7.30 DAILY, INCLUDING SUNDAY - 2.30 SATURDAY MATINEE
THE DARK 15



Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) 09111 767 272
You can have a good sense of your self worth Aries, but do others concur? Does that make you wrong? Absolutely not. But who does, contributes or earns what, is up for discussion this week. Then something dear to your heart which has drifted can start to move forwards. If this is a small business, your timing is impeccable and subtle, can open doors too. Call my starline now for more predictions.

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) 09111 767 273
You may have had to wait, it seems for longer than you would have liked, to make something very important come to fruition. Perhaps not everything you want will be realised this week, but at least it can seem as if you're moving forwards. People are set to take more notice of you too Taurus, so don't be fearful of putting your best foot forwards. Call my starline now for more predictions.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) 09111 767 274
Someone could come into your world all bright and breezy and say all the right kind of things. However, this is a time when you should be attuned to undertones. Not everyone or everything is as upfront as you might imagine. Then again you may need to master your own fears, don't let these run away from you. Yet one friend will be a brick. Call my starline now for more predictions.

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) 09111 767 275
People are ready to push you into the limelight Cancer. Are you ready for all the praise and attention? Or do you naturally shy away from too much fuss and bother? If it is the latter, it may be time to have a little more trust in what you have to offer. If you are your usual disciplined self, grasp opportunities and create a firmer framework for your whole life. Call my starline now for more predictions.

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) 09111 767 276
Ever arouse any jealousy? Not everyone finds it easy to project the implacable impression you give out. What you feel is another matter. Yet when you come face to face with people this week, it might be a bad thing to retain a little humility. Some one may be all ready to try and knock you off your perch. Leave these games to those who thrive on them. Call my starline now for more predictions.

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) 09111 767 277
You have great acumen, not least because rarely does anything important pass you by. However, are you using the shrewdness you have to best effect? Perhaps you need to give yourself a nudge. After all, the feeling of a challenge can bring you to life and if you can pep up your existence by showing a bit of devilment, then why not? You could really enjoy it. Call my starline now for more predictions.

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) 09111 767 278
Is an off-spring about to drop a financial problem on your lap? Or are you harbouring the secret lust for a major purchase? A little bit of class and sophistication is right up your street, but just how far will you go to get what you want or just how flexible is your card? Then again, is someone rather glam about to spin you a tale, one you might want to believe. Call my starline now for more predictions.

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) 09111 767 279
As much as you may be ready to burst forth, someone close can be more hesitant. Try not to let this come between you, though you may have to grit your teeth if they seem overly moody or defensive. The fact is, it is you who can see the bigger picture now, so you need to assume the role of the leader, even if you don't seek this mantle. Soon things will turn. Call my starline now for more predictions.

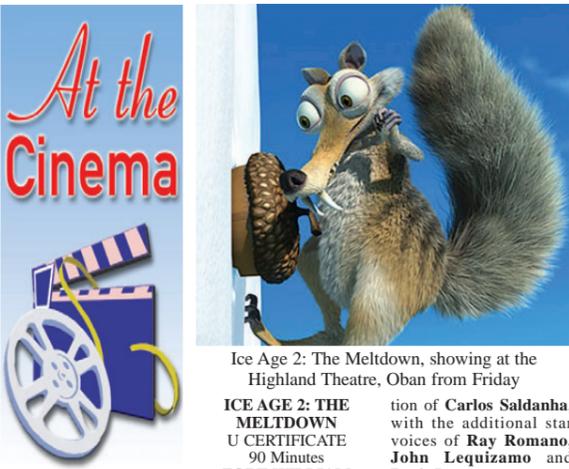
SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) 09111 767 280
There could be clash this week, or perhaps you're set to have a bit of a bit unsmooth one situation. Yet if you give this the time and space it deserves, you'll be glad of it. You are not unafraid of a frank exchange of views, generally, so why should this week be any different? However, if you are on the move, don't rush. A case of less speed more haste. Call my starline now for more predictions.

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) 09111 767 281
Steady, cautious moves are generally your scene, but instead are you going to get a surge of adrenaline and strike out on a bolder course? If you are thinking of spinning the wheel of chance, bear in mind that you could be just a tad more subjective than usual and anyway not everything that sparkles turns out to be a solid, freshly cut diamond. Scratch the surface first. Call my starline now for more predictions.

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) 09111 767 282
You've the capacity to work extremely hard. What is it that you would really like to achieve? Got it, then put all your resources into making this happen. Yet, there could be someone who seems intense on blocking you, stopping you at every turn. However, frustrating things get, remember that time moves on, situations change and your position will get stronger. Call my starline now for more predictions.

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) 09111 767 283
Spite creates its own energy, so why add to it? If there is someone around you who seems to delight in others' misfortunes or has little good to say, don't make the mistake of dropping your guard and letting them in. It's the same with anyone you don't know well. Not everyone shares your noble attributes and it's best to stick to those you know best and really trust. Call my starline now for more predictions.

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



At the Cinema

ICE AGE 2: THE MELTDOWN U CERTIFICATE 90 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO THEATRE
7.15 EVERY DAY (INCLUDING SUNDAY)
From FRIDAY - 2.15 SATURDAY MATINEE
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 because, despite trying to lead a perfectly normal life, he has the rather awkward habit of sometimes turning into a shaggy dog!

When in this strange reincarnation (or maybe when something else takes over) he finds himself drying off after a shower by shaking vigorously and when eating his breakfast cereal, he dunks his face into the bowl and chomps. All just a little crazy, this is a comedy that is entirely different than children will certainly lap up!

THE PINK PANTHER PG CERTIFICATE 93 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
6.15 EVERY DAY (INCLUDING SUNDAY)
From FRIDAY
1.45 MATINEES on FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY

A famous soccer manager has been murdered and his priceless ring has been stolen. The French Government require a master detective to solve the crime but he is not available, so they are forced to recruit Inspector Clouseau!

Steve Martin stars in this Clouseau comedy escapade with, a stunning pop star (Beyonce), a soccer start and, for good measure, a Chinese assassin. Clouseau and his trust assistant Ponton must unmask the murderer to keep their boss Dreyfus from taking the credit, all without bringing the French legal system to a grinding halt.

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

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

Friday 21st April
Spring Ceilidh Bash with Skerryvore, Argyllshire Gathering. Doors open 8.30pm. Tickets £8. Strictly over 18

Saturday 22nd April
Singing Kettle, Corran Halls, Oban, 2pm
Oban Bach Choir and orchestra, Glencruitten Road Church hall, Oban, 7.30pm

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

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

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

Sunday 7th May
Stramash, Orienteering Event, Craig Mhic Chailein, between the railway bridge over the main A85 road between Connel and Taynuilt, from 10 am till 12 noon.

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

Saturday 22 July
Taynuilt Highland Games, Sports Field, Taynuilt

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

Bach choir performs in Oban

SATURDAY gives music lovers a chance to hear an interesting choral and orchestral concert when Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra are to perform two Odes for St Cecilia by Handel and Boyce.

As the patron saint of music, Cecilia is depicted with various musical instruments, in particular the organ, by artists such as Raphael, Rubens and Poussin.

In the late 17th century Dryden and other poets began to write odes in her honour. Thus began a tradition in which her feast day was marked by performances of these odes set to music by Purcell, Handel and others.

These began in London, but soon spread to other cities such as Edinburgh, from 1696, whose St Cecilia Hall was built in 1762.

In the Oban concert, local countertenor Christopher Josey and three students from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama will join Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra at 7.30pm in Glencruitten Road Church Hall to perform two of these odes.



The Cruachan Consort, drawn from some of the finest voices across the UK and farther afield has delighted audiences over Easter. Conductor Stephen Williams took his 'dream team' to Iona Abbey on Maundy Thursday and St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe on Good Friday. They are drawn from choirs in Manchester, York, Glasgow, Birmingham and Barcelona. Their choice of works include pieces by Bach and Tallis. The Consort meets at Bonawe House, Taynuilt over Easter. Sopranos: Kate Faber, Sam Gainger, Katherine Lawson, Katrina Madden, Sue Taylor, Ann Windsor. Altos: Sylvia Glover, Ashley Hanney, Judith Robertson, Alison Syner. Tenors: Richard Dowling, Dan Hunt, Paul Mummery, Cliff Windsor. Bass: Ben Madden, Daniel Murfin, Rob O'Connell, John Syner and Geoff Taylor.



Children of all ages who went along to the hall on Easdale Island on Saturday were treated to a performance by Blueboat Theatre, as part of the festival of puppetry and animation. The company, the brainchild of Mark Pencak is also performing on Iona, Coll and Tiree. Mark describes the show as 'stand up comedy for kids' and certainly went down a storm with the young audience on Easdale. t16bbl01



Puppeteer Mark Pitman of the Garlic Theatre in *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*. t16pup01

Puppets in the Corran halls

MOVE over Sooty and Sweep there's a new puppet show in town.

Parents in and around Oban looking to let their children expend some of the energy built up during the school holidays headed in their droves to the Corran Halls.

For the second year the national Puppet Animation Festival came to Oban and around 90 mums and dads and children were in the Corran Halls to watch *The Sorcerer's Apprentice*.

The performance of a magical puppet which was interspersed with slapstick humour let the children forget about the rain outside.

The Pea, The Bean and the Enormous Turnip also played in Oban.

FLEETWOOD MAC
The Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band
Thursday 4th May
8pm Doors Open 7.30pm
Tickets £12 in advance/£14 on the door
Corran Halls, Oban

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KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
Lichens & Mosses
An illustrated talk with Peter Quelch
Wednesday 26 April 7.30 - 9pm
for further information, booking and diary of events contact 01546 510278 www.kilmartin.org

Save the Children, North Argyll
ANTIQUES EVENING WITH BONHAMS
McTavish's Kitchen, Oban
7.15pm for 7.30pm
Thursday 27th April
Information & Tickets phone 01852 300 400 or at door £6.50

Sahara Challenge Team
BIG CAR BOOT SALE
for Macmillan Cancer Relief
Coop Car Park, Oban
11am - 3pm
Sunday 30th April
Cars/table £5
No booking, just turn up

THE ANTHONY NOLAN TRUST OBAN AND DISTRICT FRIENDS GROUP
are pleased to announce a **FASHION SHOW**
by ASDA - DUMBARTON
Summer 2006 George Range
Sunday 23rd April 2006
Argyllshire Gathering, OBAN
7 for 7.30pm
Tickets £5 from Petals, George Street House and Home, Argyllshire Gathering
George Fashions available for purchase on the night

Oban Bach Choir and Orchestra
CONCERT
Glencruitten Road Church Hall, Oban
Saturday 22nd April at 7.30pm
Handel: Ode for St Cecilia's Day
Boyce: Ode to St Cecilia

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

Clay Pigeon Shoot
Kingairloch Estate
Saturday 29th April at 10.30am
£10 Entry
For more info call David Sturrock on 01967 411 211 or Bobby MacKellar on 01967 411 216

Church of Scotland Care of the Elderly Group is holding a **COFFEE MORNING**
on Saturday 22 April in The Church Centre, Glencruitten Road Oban
10am - 12 noon
in aid of Eadar Glim Residents' Fund
Admission £1.50

Appin Gaelic Information and Fun Day
Sunday 23rd April, Appin Hall, 2-4pm
Representatives from the Coleogon (Gaelic Playgroup), Gaelic in Home Classes, Gaelic Medium Unit, Sradagan (Youth Group), Gaelic Books Council, Feis and MOD.
Treasure Hunt, Art Activities, Teas & Coffees.
All Welcome

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The Oban Times
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LOOK AT OBAN



David Kettles, aged 11, who collects diecast models of Eddie Stobart lorries with the collection of fire service vehicles on display at the show. (1668001)

A model day out for enthusiasts

THE OBAN Diecast Models Association held its annual exhibition on Easter Saturday at the former Red Cross Building in Tweeddale Street.

Fellow model enthusiasts and holidaymakers packed out the hall to see the displays staged by 14 of the club members in the building which is now used by the Oban cadets' organisations. Amongst the highlights of the show were a collection of fire service vehicles and appliances from across the decades and an impressive array of buses

of all makes and liveries from Oban past and present.

A collection was held at the event and the money donated to the Oban High School Pipers and more than £400 was raised. One of the event organisers, George Berry, said 'We are a small organisation with no bank account of our own so we just had a bucket for donations and it is quite amazing how generous people were really. We'd like to thank everyone who donated including some local firms.'

Fighting fire with free safety checks

FIREFIGHTERS from Oban would like to come and pay householders a visit at home, so that they don't have to call on them again in the line of duty.

As part of their home safety advice everyone is entitled to a home fire safety visit where a qualified fire fighter will carry out a fire safety check of the home and provide and install smoke alarms if required.

It's free, it's quick and it could save lives. Danny Downie of Strath-

clyde Fire and Rescue is promoting fire safety visits in the Argyll and Bute Council area.

He said: 'We have a freephone number 0800 0731 999 and all you need to do is call and arrange for a time for one of our fire fighters to visit.'

Everyone The fire and rescue service stresses that this is not just for the elderly or vulnerable but open to everyone.

The firefighters who visit homes will use the Scottish

Fire Services Guide to Home Fire Safety, which talks householders through a series of questions that highlight potential risks in all parts of your home.

They will be able to advise on how to make the home as safe as possible and advise on how to have a fire action plan for each home.

'It is essential to plan what to do in the event of a fire, before it happens,' said Mr Downie.

'We have been handing out leaflets publicising this service and talking to groups around the Oban area and visiting schools. I hope *The Oban Times* can encourage as many people as possible to have a home fire safety visit.

'It only takes about 20 minutes and it really is 20 minutes well spent.'

As well as hoping to hear from people who would like to have a safety visit themselves, Mr Downie hopes that people will think of any elderly people or anyone else they know who might benefit from such a visit and urge them to give the fire and rescue service a call.

New technology now means that if you have someone at home who is vulnerable the fire service can be aware.

'You can tell us if there is someone in your family who is ill, or disabled, say hard of hearing or visually impaired and we can make a note.

'Then, should a fire break out and we are called out, this extra information can be sent out to the firefighters that there is someone vulnerable in someway at the location,' said Mr Downie.

Getting to the bottom of real nappy week

EVER wondered what the difference is between 'real' nappies and disposable nappies?

Well, the week of April 24-30 is the time to find out as the Real Nappy Week roadshow hits Oban.

Supported by The GRAB Trust and with the help of Terry Donovan, the roadshow will be visiting a number of venues in Oban, including Bumps and Babies at Dunmar Court and Atlantis Leisure on Monday and the Toy Cupboard, at the Undercroft in the Church of Scotland Centre on Tuesday.

It will also be going out to Appin to the Parent and Toddler Group in Appin Hall on Thursday.

Julie Fairbass, project worker for litter and waste minimisation for the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute (GRAB), said: 'Real nappies save money and waste and it's great to see how many styles and options are now available to parents.'

'I have been a supporter of real nappies since my little girl Evie was born in 2003 and she was a real nappy baby. 'The GRAB Trust has supported the Real Nappy Week for many years and is currently in the process of putting a feasibility report together, with the kind help of Terry, to see exactly what would encourage people to use real nappies over disposables in Oban, Lorn and the isles.'

Biba Hartigan of Women's Environmental Network, which is co-ordinating the nation-wide Real Nappy Week, said: 'There are nappies to suit all tastes - bright and funky day-glow, leopard skin and tie-dye prints, classic whites and pastels in fluffy fleece, silky-soft bamboo or organic hemp and a choice of snug-fitted styles.'

Ceilidh for REACT

ANGELA Anton of Oban is organising a ceilidh to help a charity that helps sick children. The event is to be held at McTavish's Kitchen, Oban, on April 22 to raise money for REACT - Rapid Effective Assistance for Children with Terminal Illness - which aims to help provide care and assistance to allow sick children to be treated in their own homes.

Oban all egged out at Easter

OBAN sold out of Easter eggs this year and last minute shoppers were left dashing from shop-to-shop as supplies ran out.

Whether it was the influx of visitors over the holiday weekend increasing the demand or the fact that Oban folk have a sweet tooth, the big stores like Tesco, the Co-op and Woolworths began to run out of eggs on Saturday and the smaller stores soon followed.

Thornton's shelves emptied of Easter eggs and at the other end of George Street, McColl's, the former Bayview Store, sold all its stock as well.

Joanne Wright, the new owner of Albany stores on Albany Street, said: 'When I arrived in on Friday morning I looked round and I thought, oh dear we've got all these eggs left but the staff all assured me that they'd go and they did. I couldn't believe it.'

'Just after Tesco's sold out word seemed to get round town that we had Easter eggs left. Woolworths sold out as well and we had sold out by the end of Saturday.

'Everyone seemed to sell out and we had people coming in from Connell to get some. I think we could have sold three times as many!'

Celtic band performs at rugby club

CHARLIE and the Boys, a Glasgow Celtic band, played at the Oban and Lorne Rugby clubhouse at Glenclruitten, on Saturday April 8. The night was all the more sweeter for the fans who turned up as it was also a title-winning celebration. The band performed songs such as *Willie Malley* and *Boys against bhigorry*.

GRAB helps to teach beach to kids

THE OBAN-based beach and marine litter project run by the GRAB Trust is now linked to an education website and CD-ROM to help in the fight to keep beaches clean.

With more than 3,000 miles of coastline it is important that Argyll and Bute keeps on top of any beach litter problem.

Working together The Scottish Local Coastal Partnerships have worked together to create the Beach Litter Education Pack which contains curriculum-based information about the types, sources and impact that beach litter has on our coastal and marine environment. It also tells children what positive action they can take to help reduce the problem.

There is also a range of fun activities that can be carried out by the children to help teach them about the part we can call play in changing our behaviour and reducing the impact that

beach litter can have on all our lives.

GRAB, the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute, launched its beaches and marine litter project last year and it is run by its own project officer, Karen Judd, who is based in Oban and covers the whole of Argyll and Bute.

The official national launch of the new pack took place on Tuesday in Perth and it will be promoted in Argyll and Bute later.

Calum Duncan, of the Marine Conservation Society, said: 'The Local Coastal Partnerships like GRAB have an excellent track record of helping to promote the society's Adopt-a-Beach project in their respective areas, to the ultimate benefit of Scotland's beaches and coastal communities.'

'The Beach Litter Pack is another marvellous example of raising awareness of the environmental impact of beach litter.'

Television help for start of season

OBAN'S television advert was sandwiched between Chris Tarrant's cliffhanger questions on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* but did it increase the numbers of Easter visitors to the area?

The 20-second commercial featuring shots of McCaig's Tower, Oban Distillery and Oban Bay was set to music and broadcaster Cathy MacDonald provided the voice-over: 'Oban, closer than you think.'

Bill Matthews, chairman of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association, which was behind the £45,000 campaign, said early indications were that feedback to the campaign had been positive.

He said: 'It is still early days but I think it makes people sit up and take notice. We also had posters on the Glasgow Underground and it did make them [people] sit up and say 'gosh'.'

Mr Matthews said the association's advertising agency negotiated a pack-

age with the media company SMG and the advert was broadcast at various times on ITV 1, including peak-time slots during *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?*

He said it had boosted the number of visitors to the Oban website and a report into the campaign's impact would be carried out in due course.

As part of Scottish Tourism Week, the tourism association carried out a presentation to the Scottish Tourism Forum last month about its work to come up with the campaign.

Mr Matthews said that trade over the Easter weekend in Oban and Lorn had been 'okay'. 'The biggest factor is the weather but it was a later Easter and it has been quite cold,' he said.

David Finlayson, who owns The Jean Shop and is chairman of Oban Town Centre Traders' Amenity Association, said he hadn't noticed any change in the numbers of people coming into his shop during the Easter holidays. He said:

'There was absolutely no difference. The town was busy itself but it has been just a normal trading weekend for us. Restaurants, hotels and guest houses might have been busy but shop wise it was pretty much the same.'

'We're at the fashion end but people are still in their winter clothes so we need a really good spell of warm weather.'

Mr Finlayson said he had not heard visitors talking about the television commercial so far but had spoken to fellow traders in the town.

He said: 'It has been very positive and they have done very well and the advert can only help Oban.'

Bryan McGuire, manager of the Alexandra Hotel, said it had been a busy weekend.

He said: 'We are predominantly a coach hotel but any rooms left over were taken by people coming in off the street and there was a few telephone calls for rooms. People were taking them up pretty quickly.'



Ada Kirkpatrick and Helen Higgins in the prayer corner created in memory of Donald Beaton. (1668001)

In memory of Donald Beaton

THE MEMORY of a well-known and liked man who did so much for the town is being remembered in a church in Oban. Donald Beaton MBE was a devoted member of the Congregational Church and of the

Boys Brigade. He was also a life-long employee of *The Oban Times*, where he worked as a compositor.

Money given in his memory has been used to create a prayer corner in the Oban Congregational

Church and make a tranquil corner of the church for people to sit, contemplate and pray.

LOCH ETIVE Shoreline Clean Up

Start at Ardchattan Church
Sat 29 April 1-3pm

Warm/waterproof clothing and stout footwear required.

All equipment provided.

for further info contact:
Karen Judd 01631 569188
(Beaches and Marine Litter Officer)

(Beaches and Marine Litter Officer)

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We will transform your house into a dream home

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Orienteering Event

Sunday May 7th

Creag Mhic Chailein, Oban beside the railway bridge over the main A85 road between Connell and Taynuilt

Starts from 10am to 12 noon

Loch Eck Orienteers

EckO, Argyll's orienteering club is running this event. As well as being a national event, with top athletes from all over Britain, there will be courses for beginners and intermediates of all ages. Coaches will be on hand to give advice and instruction. All welcome. There will be food and drinks available to purchase on the day.

Come along and give it a go! An opportunity not to be missed!

Adults £5, Juniors £3, Car parking £1

For more information visit
www.ecko.org.uk

This event is being supported by Stramash and Active Schools both part of Argyll & Bute Council

Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival 2006

27th - 30th April



Come along to... **Atlantis**

HAVE YOUR CAKE AND EAT IT!

FREE LUNCH for attending an over fifties class. Throughout the month of June

Contact: Stuart on ex 203 for further info
www.atlantisleisure.co.uk
Tel: 01631 566800

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AULAY'S BAR

Before or after the festival enjoy a drink at Aulay's!

"The Bar that Cares"

Excellent Bar Meals served from 12 noon - 3.00pm
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FORT WILLIAM OBAN HELENSBURGH

The Palace Hotel

Wishing the Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival and all competitors the very best of luck!

20 George Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 562294

KELVIN HOTEL

Friday 28th April - Festival Fringe Session
Come along and enjoy a drink

Saturday 29th April - Ceilidh
Free sandwiches
West Highland accordion music
All Welcome

Cawder Place, Shore Street, Oban
Tel: 01631 562150 Fax: 01631 567040

so much more than a traditional music shop!

so much to see!
so much to play
strum rattle and hum!

so come along to.....

THE music SHOP

27 church street,
Inverness
telephone 01463 233374

OBAN will be awash with talent during the last weekend in April, when the town once again plays host to the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The annual festival takes place this year from Thursday April 27 to Sunday April 30 and during that time over 1,300 people will have competed in the events, some which are the most prestigious of their kind in Scotland.

Neil Sinclair of Connel, his wife Sheila and friend Jim Cooper of Oban started the festival in 1984; they developed the idea of promoting and celebrating the traditional music and dance of the Highlands and islands in the form of a short festival. Their dream became reality with the creation of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, which featured just four competition categories in its first year. How it has grown!

The festival aims to encourage young talent to participate in and develop the traditional and historical art of music and dance of the Highlands and islands of Scotland. The event is also a focus through which the local population and visitors to the area can come into contact with and appreciate these traditional arts.

Over the past two decades and more, thousands

of people of all ages have participated in competitions and special events at the Festival, and now the event offers over 125 competition classes in 12 disciplines including piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, recorder, woodwind and brass, singing, Scottish country dancing, Highland dancing and choreography. Competitions and special events are held at many venues throughout Oban, including Oban Distillery and the Corran Halls.

One of the highlights of the festival is the Concert of Champions to be held in the Corran Halls on the Saturday night. This year, as well as champions from the festival, there will be special guests including the Inveraray and District Junior Pipe band led by Stuart Liddell and Keith Dickson's Kodetta Accordion band.

This is followed by a dance where all 450 tickets have already sold out and there is a waiting list for cancellations.

The Festival begins on Thursday with Scottish country dancing and gets in full swing on the Friday with Primary Schools' Day.

DANCING COMPETITION

The Highlands and Islands Dancing competition is held in Atlantis Leisure and starts in the main hall with the entire Premier age groups including Premier Confined to Argyll and the

Western Isles. Results will be given out after the last dance of the morning has been completed.

The Primary Section will begin at 2.30pm. The beginners, novice and intermediate sections all start at 3.00pm.

THE SCOTTISH CHOREOGRAPHY CHALLENGE

This is the 14th year of the Scottish Choreography Challenge. The competition opens in the Corran Halls on Saturday afternoon with the choreographed set theme entitled Choreographed Irish Theme. The teacher of the dance school will decide the age of the dancers they wish to enter and may enter one team only in this section. The minimum number of dancers allowed in a team is three and the maximum amount is twelve.

On Sunday there will be three sections offered in the Scottish Theme: 12 years and under, 16 years and under and 17 years and over. For these sections, the minimum number of dancers is three and the maximum is eight.

This is a most spectacular team event with the highest standard of choreographed highland dancing and fantastic costumes being enjoyed by a capacity audience. Teams of dancers compete for the prestigious title using

innovative dance routines, which incorporate traditional highland dancing steps.

Participants make full use of sound, lighting, costume, scenery and special effects to create a spectacle worthy of national recognition. The Festival is indebted to the many teachers who have supported it over the years and who continue to do so, sending hours finding the right music, deciding the right costumes and of course teaching the finished article.

INVITATIONAL PIOBAIREACHD

One of the highlights of the piping section is the annual Invitational Piobaireachd Competition. Eleven of Scotland's top exponents will compete for the Reid Annual Trophy, the Cooper Salver and the Dugie MacColl Memorial Trophy, making this an evening sure to be remembered.

ACCORDION AND FIDDLE MASTERS

The 'Masters' is an event not to be missed. Prize-winning fiddle and accordion players from the main competition championships throughout the country are invited to take part in this unique competition. Six accordionists perform a traditional March, Strathspey and Reel and Hornpipe and Jig while six fiddlers perform a Slow Air, March, Strathspey and Reel, and Slow Strathspey, Hornpipe

and Jig. The evening is now an annual fixture for both competitors and spectators providing a feast of traditional Scottish music. Each year the standards are higher than before with capacity audiences making this another of the Festival's sell-out events. The 'Masters' is now seen as one of the major competitions in the country, second only to the world-famous Glenfiddich Championship.

This year the festival will not have a parade but has switched to a number of open air events everyone can enjoy.

On Friday the Oban High School Pipers will play outside the Corran Halls at 6pm; on Saturday Oban Pipe Band will be in Station Square from 2.45pm and the Inveraray and district Junior Novice Pipe Band will be outside the Corran Halls from 6.30pm.

The festival is a non-profit organisation with charitable status, and is organised by a volunteer committee. The Festival is self-funding through fundraising efforts, grants, charitable donations, sponsorship, entry fees and box office income.

Make sure you buy your copy of The Oban Times next week for coverage of this spectacular event, which brings so much talent and enjoyment to the town.



Competitors from the 2006 Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival

23rd

Highlands & Islands MUSIC & DANCE

THE FESTIVAL SHOWCASE

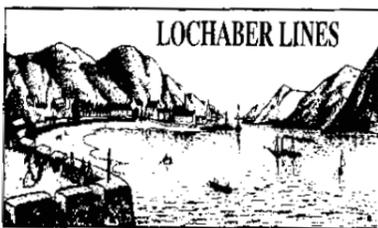
OBAN 27 - 30 April 2006

CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS FEATURING

Inveraray Junior Pipe Band
Kodetta Accordion Band

See and hear the best of the Festival talent.
Corran Halls Sat 29th April 7pm
Tickets available from Corran Halls Box Office
01631 567333

DIARY OF EVENTS		
Thursday 27 April	Scottish Country Dancing	Corran Halls
Friday 28 April	Primary Schools Day	Corran Halls
	Scottish Area Finals	Corran Halls
	Choreographed Solo/Duet	Corran Halls
	Highlands & Islands Accordion & Fiddle Masters	St. John's Cathedral
	Invitational Piobaireachd	Argyllshire Gathering Hall
Saturday 29 April	Accordion - Junior	Scout Hall
	Accordion - Senior	St. Columba's Cathedral Hall
	Clarsach	Congregational Church
	Fiddle	Regent Hotel
	Highland Dancing	Atlantis Leisure
	Piano	St. John's Cathedral
	Piping - Junior	Oban High School
	Piping - Senior	Argyllshire Gathering Hall
	Scottish Choreography Challenge	Corran Halls
	Singing	Corran Halls & Glencruitten Church
	Woodwind & Brass	Corran Esplanade Church
	Concert of Champions Festival Dance	Corran Halls
Sunday 30 April	Scottish Choreography Challenge	Corran Halls



LOCHABER LINES

email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

A BUSY Easter weekend in the town with more than a few people telling us that there were two things they could not find - a parking space and a chocolate Easter egg.

One cynical shopkeeper had no sympathy for the last-minute shoppers telling us: 'I've had Easter eggs in the shop since Boxing Day. How long do they want to buy them?'

The influx of visitors didn't cheer him up either: 'Ach, they're only passing through here from Oban on their way to Aviemore.'

We took it that this was a reference to the excellent television advertisements pitched at attracting tourists to those towns.

We hear that VisitScotland is planning a similar campaign for the Outdoor Capital, but they will have to get their fingers out otherwise the tourists might be as scarce as the Easter eggs.



MANY of you will have been saddened at the news of Calum Kennedy's death and you will have your memories of hearing the voice of Gaeldom's greatest singer in the Town Hall, at a Mod ceilidh or maybe on your first record player.

He carved out a long career in the entertainment business after winning the Gold Medal at the 1955 National Mod in Aberdeen, but that success was not universally forecast.

At a recent Royal National Mod in Dingwall the music adjudicator for the Gold Medal competition, Donald Barr the ex-Lochaber High School teacher, prefaced his marks for the competitors with the story of his father's adjudication at the 1955 National Mod.

Mr Barr senior expressed his disappointment at the musical standards of the competitors and warned that not even the winner, Calum Kennedy, should consider a career in music.

Well, Calum certainly proved him wrong with his versatility in Gaelic and English.

Was there ever a better performer of *Mo Mhathair* or *Dark Lochnagar*?



IT'S not often we talk about the weather but lately we have been thinking that we no longer get endless days of rain.

Yet ever since reading an advert for a west Highland hotel which contained a typographical error we have revised our opinion.

The ad read: 'Morar Hotel, Coastal Inverness-shire, enjoyable fabulous outlook towards the 'Small Isles' amidst breathtaking wet coast scenery.'

No worries from the trades description people there.

It's certainly an accurate description of late and it brings to mind the encounter between an American tourist and a local youth.

Elmer was dressed from head to toe in plastic rain gear as he shared a Gearasdan shop doorway with Shayne, who was clad only in tee-shirt and shellsuit bottoms.

The pair were staring forlornly at the rain stinging off the cobbles when the visitor ventured: 'Does it rain like this every day here?', only for the youth to mumble, 'I don't know. I'm only 14'.



WE don't wish to deflect the Lochaber Area Committee from its efforts to maintain the status quo at Invernevis House but there is another pressing matter to which it must attend.

But before we make mention of it we are still awaiting a reaction from our councillors to the accusation of employing ostrich-like tactics to HQ's bid to whip away locally-controlled care services for the elderly.

We have probably underestimated our democratically-elected representatives and live in hope that on May 4 they travel to Inverness united in their determination to express the will of the people.

An old-fashioned concept maybe, but come May 2007 the electorate, with events fresh in their minds, will express their will.

Oh, aye, the other matter which can wait until after May 4 is the commemoration of an important centenary. In our research for 'Lochaber Past Times' we have discovered that it is exactly 100 years since the first automatic flushing system was installed in Fort William's public toilets.

Now we know that the council is not awash with money but a motion from Councillors Neil and Brian to spend a penny or two to mark the centenary would go down well.



CHARLIE'S Challenge 2007: Charlie says that's the Easter recess over and it's back to work on learning the Gaelic, although from what we hear Charlie has been busy writing out the Mod Committee's health and safety risk assessment policy required for the siting of the fund-raising, portable building at Aird's Crossing.

With that in mind we decided to help Charlie with this week's phrases: Danger of death, 'Cunnart Beatha' (Cunnart be-huh) and Emergency Exit, 'Amach an Eiginn' (Uhmach uhn ayk-in).

Last week's Mod lotto numbers were 2-4-5. No winner so it's £900 up for grabs.



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

GOOD Friday, as is customary, was observed as a holiday, all the works and places of business being closed with the exception of the post offices.

Farewell parties were held for two young men who were off to the Orient.

James Reoch and William Rankin, who had served in the South African War, had enlisted with the Shanghai Police.

The first motor car dealership opened in Ballachulish. Messrs Anderson and Grant of Glasgow were agents for Albion Motor Cars and Launches and also for Cadillacs.

40 Years Ago

WORKMEN digging a water main for the new telephone exchange building at the west end Fort William uncovered an old gas main junction which had been unused since 1896.

Miss E MacGregor, an authority on Fort William history, said that Fort William was lit by gaslight for the 13 years from 1883 to 1896.

The gas system proved so unreliable and occasionally smelt so badly that in 1896 the Electric Light Company was founded and Fort William became the first town in the United Kingdom to be electrically lit by power derived entirely from water, other places relying partly on water and partly steam power.

Hamish Loudon won Lochaber Yacht Club's opening race of the season and 40 years on Hamish is still winning prizes down at Ashburn.

Fort William girls rescue orphaned otter cub

AN ORPHANED baby otter was thriving in a Scottish wildlife hospital this week after being saved from certain death by two holidaymakers in Ardnamurchan.

Susan Hall, a 32-year-old receptionist and her friend, Libby Robertson, aged 29, a radiographer at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, both formerly from Fort William, heard the cries of the abandoned otter cub when they arrived last Sunday for the first day of their holiday at Ardnamurchan Point.

Libby said: 'We had just arrived and were going out for a walk to stretch our legs after a long car journey when we heard this crying and whistling sound.'

'To our astonishment a baby otter emerged from under an adjoining caravan. We immediately took some photographs then started to walk away so as not to disturb it. However, it came running over and snuggled round our feet like a kitten.'

After trying to release the cub in a nearby rockpool and a river the two friends decided that the cub had

been abandoned by its mother.

Susan then made several frantic phone calls home to her father Tony in Caol in Fort William who put them in touch with Andy Christie from the Hesselhead Wildlife Rescue Trust in Beith, Ayrshire.

Next day Andy drove the near 200 miles north to collect the young otter.

Libby added: 'Andy told us to keep the cub warm overnight so we put it in a plastic basin with a towel-covered hot water bottle in it. The cub appeared delighted with this arrangement plus our company and just curled in the basin and fell asleep in front of the gas fire.'

Susan and Libby drove to Strontian and handed over the cub to Andy from the wildlife charity which cares for more than 3,000 animals every year.

Andy said: 'The girls did very well looking after the young female otter which is about six weeks old and not yet fully weaned. It would have certainly died but for their intervention.'



Susan Hall pictured with the otter cub she rescued.

'In our experience after about three days of no contact with the mother an otter cub will start roaming about for help and food.'

Andy immediately put the

cub on baby bottles of ledtade to re-hydrate it then fed it on small fillets of fish which it sucked or nibbled.

He added: 'We will keep it for about a year and pair

it off with another orphan otter and return them to the wild. The last thing you want is a tame otter.'

Over the years Andy said the charity had received

around 20 abandoned otter cubs.

'In this case the mother may have got trapped or drowned in an accident,' he said.

Police files

CCTV cameras smashed

SOMETIME between 6am on April 13 and 9.15am on April 15 two CCTV cameras at Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, were damaged. A window was also damaged.

Window smashed

SOMETIME between 4pm on April 7 and 6.30pm on April 10 a window was smashed on a digger which had been working in the Glen Nevis area near Fort William.

Garage damaged

SOMETIME between 5pm on April 9 and midday on April 10 damage was caused to a garage on Cameron Road, Fort William and an attempt made to enter it.

Any person with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000.

Members of the public may also report any crime or offence or anything suspicious by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Question time for Lochaber committee

LOCHABER area committee is holding a public question and answer session on Monday, May 8 at Lochaber House in Fort William.

Questions are to be submitted to the Lochaber Area Manager, John Hutchison, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William by the previous week.

Union steams into town for annual conference

A RAIL workers' union is on track to give Fort William an economic boost when it steams into town for its annual conference later this month.

More than 60 delegates and their families are expected to attend the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) workers' union's engineering conference in the Railway Club on April 27 and 28.

Fort William saw off competition from bigger places such as Brighton and

Bournemouth to stage the event following the success of similar rail conferences in previous years.

Union leader Bob Crow will be among the speakers at the event which is expected to attract members from across the country.

The lack of toilet facilities at Rannoch - believed to be one of the remotest stations in Scotland, on the line between Fort William and Glasgow - is among the more local items on the agenda to be discussed during

the two-day event. RMT local branch secretary Ronald Wegner said: 'Members always have a good time when they come up here.'

'We expect over 100 people to attend the conference. A lot of people are taking the week off work and bringing their families.'

'It's good for a place the size of Fort William to attract events such as this and bring more people into the area.'

'We always try to get a

conference up here at least once a year. The Highland Council's Lochaber Committee is hosting a civic reception in Caol Community Centre after the first day of the conference to welcome the RMT union back to Fort William.'

The local authority's area convener, Councillor Olwyn Macdonald, said: 'Any conference coming to the area brings economic benefits and encourages many to visit again in the future.'

Police lottery scam warning

POLICE in the Highlands are making a plea to the public not to be taken in by a lottery scam currently operating in the area.

Like most scams people are offered vast amounts of money in return for providing bank details or a sum of money to people who cannot be traced.

Police were recently made aware of an incident where a Highland man was conned out of a large sum of money with the promise of a return of hundreds of thousands of pounds through a letter allegedly from the Spanish Lottery.

Detective Superintendent Gordon Urquhart said: 'There is very little that the police can do when these cons take place. The cons use unregistered phones and are quite adept at conning people over the telephone or by letter and convincing them they will inherit large sums of money in return for a small outlay or administration fee.'

'Unfortunately we send

out these warning with monotonous regularity but still people are taken in by common and women with the promise of cash.'

Anyone who has been approached by phone or letter and is asked to part with money with promises of large sums to follow should contact their local police office.

Community service after assault on boys

A FORT WILLIAM man was told that he only avoided going to prison because there was no weapon involved in an assault he carried out.

David Mendel, aged 17, of 11 Glenkingie Terrace, Caol, Fort William, was ordered to perform 200 hours' community service after being found guilty of assault after a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court.

At a sentencing hearing last week, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie told the court

that Mendel had assaulted one 14-year-old boy when a teacher was trying to escort the boy away.

She said: 'David Mendel came running over to him and began punching him repeatedly.' Mendel was also found guilty of assaulting another 14-year-old boy by repeatedly punching him on the head and body and repeatedly kicking him on the head and body and pushing him into a fence.

Both offences took place on September 20 this year

at a car park near Lochaber High School.

Defence agent David MacNeil said: 'He hasn't been in trouble before and the accused has learnt an important lesson from the proceedings against him.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You were in the vicinity of the school and had no reason to be there. You went there and carried out these assaults. If there was a weapon involved I would have no hesitation in sending you to detention.'

Man appears in private for assault

A MAN appeared in private at Fort William Sheriff Court last week in connection with an assault to severe injury on April 2 this year at an address in the Corpach area.

Ronald Campbell, aged 20, of Aird's Villa, Alma Road, Fort William, made no plea, was fully committed and remanded in custody. His co-accused, Darren and William McCann, both from the Corpach area, appeared at Inverness Sheriff Court on April 7 and were granted bail.



Lochaber Fiddle Orchestra pictured before their final concert in Ammarnas, Lapland.

Lochaber's young fiddlers' trip to Lapland ends on a high note

A FIDDLE orchestra from Lochaber has returned home on a high note from an exchange trip to Swedish Lapland.

The Lochaber Fiddle Orchestra, which is made up of secondary school pupils from throughout the area - as far apart as Mallaig and Glencoe - played a series of concerts during the nine-day Easter tour after making friends with a similar group in Fryle.

It is now preparing to welcome its Swedish counterparts to Lochaber on a return visit later this year.

The link was established after local fiddle teacher Harriet Bovingdon met the leader of the Fryle fiddlers at a music school in Norway.

Lochaber's 13-strong, all-girl group, which meets

weekly, ended the trip to Sweden with a grand finale in front of an audience of 300 fiddle fans at a music hall in Sorsele.

Harriet said: 'The children had a great time. As well as performing three concerts during the trip, they also experienced dog sledding, snow mobiles and horse riding. It was wonderful.'

'The children were treated like royalty throughout the trip; the people of northern Sweden are among the kindest I have ever met.'

Lochaber Fiddle Orchestra is planning to stage concerts across the area this summer to raise money for the visit of the Fryle fiddlers in August.

Ambulance crew get training mannikin



Oban ambulance crews are presented with their new training 'friend'

IN CONJUNCTION with the most up-to-date piece of equipment of its kind currently available in any hospital in Scotland. It has a wide range of functions and should prove invaluable to ambulance crews.

The equipment, a new replacement training mannikin, was handed over at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. The training mannikin is

the most up-to-date piece of equipment of its kind currently available in any hospital in Scotland. It has a wide range of functions and should prove invaluable to ambulance crews.

The mannikin can be used to train crews in the correct response to a wide range of conditions. It will prove an important training tool for many years to come.



Oban Congregational Church was open over Easter for people to drop in for contemplation and prayer. A meditation trail was laid out around the church with flower arrangements based on a number of theses dotted around with accompanying reading material for people to use as part of their personal prayers and thoughts this Easter.

Ten-year-old Kirsten MacMillan of Oban is seen here in the children's corner of the church; Kirsten also sang at the church service on Sunday. 116x601

**Newsdesk
Fort William
01397 703003**

The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

press policy

WE AT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands. It is the policy of *The Oban Times* Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 5PY giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications. *The Oban Times* adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct. The views expressed in *The Oban Times* are not necessarily those of this newspaper.

GLASGOW LETTER

Creative holidays

HOW often at the beginning of this month did you hear: 'Oh no, it's the school holidays for the next two weeks. What can I do to keep them amused?'

Did you notice the number of grandparents encouraged into action?

You may have done but for many parents of children interested in the Gaelic language help was on hand at least for the first week of the holidays when Feis Glaschu took place in Partick Burgh Hall from Monday April 3 until Saturday April 8. This was no easy solution to child care but a dedicated group of children from dedicated parents making sure that school holidays were above all else to be fun.

The Feis movement came about when a group of parents and other individuals on the Isle of Barra became concerned that the local children were not being taught traditional music in the context of formal education. There was a need for this to be addressed in a fun and creative way and so the first Feis Bharraigh took place in 1981. From this beginning the movement has grown and there are 35 such community-led events throughout Scotland each year, involving over 130 tutors.

The end product of these events is quite evident and in this column I have tried over the past months to highlight successes of youngsters who started within the Feis movement and then continued their interest by attending the Traditional Music School at Plockton or the RSAMD. The future of Gaelic and the associated traditions lies with these youngsters and indeed many of those who have completed their formal education are now passing on their skills to the next generation of students.

The success of Feisean, ably supported by many volunteers, is to be applauded.

An unqualified success is the only way one could describe this year's Glasgow event. In 2004 only 22 youngsters attended, in 2005 there were 44 and this year 76 youngsters. They were able to choose from a wide variety of activities - percussion, clarsach, accordion, fiddle, Gaelic song, dancing, drama and shinty - and each child also took part in visual art and storytelling.

What an enjoyable way to spend your holidays! And with such an annual increase in the numbers attending it promises well for the future.

I often compare this type of opportunity with the early '50s when it was far from 'cool' to speak Gaelic as a youngster in Glasgow and therefore despite being able to understand everyday conversation my response would be in English. It still sticks in my mind when I recall returning from a two month summer stay in Lewis and being asked by my school pals who I stayed with for such a long break. My response of 'my seannair' was met with laughter and ridicule and was enough to discourage my use of Gaelic. Nowadays, of course, I think of how stupid this was and very much regret these actions.

Today, however, Gaelic is 'cool' and the success of Feis Glaschu is down to many people. Funding for the Feis was provided by Feisean nan Gaidheal,

Glasgow City Council-Arts Development, Community Learning and the Scottish Arts Council.

Worthy of special mention is Glasgow City Council, a council which has for years appreciated the contribution made by Gaels to the city, and which was an important cog in the wheel of success. Councillor Aileen Colleran, who opened the well attended family ceilidh, held in conjunction with the Feis, expressed her delight at having such an event within her ward and indeed she has been most supportive in the organisation of the Feis. I am sure the enjoyment shown will ensure the council's support in years to come.

It was interesting to see, as well as the tutors, so many others in attendance. Senior pupils from Hillpark Secondary were there showing that they are now willing to contribute just as others did when they themselves were attending a Feis and what can one say about Kenna Campbell, whose enthusiasm for the advancement of the Gaelic language does not seem to diminish.

There is no question that without Kenna much of the progress made in Gaelic education, both formal and informal, in the past 30 years simply would not have happened and yet here she was, when I saw her, sitting on the floor happily conversing in Gaelic with pre-fives while assisting with their art work. What an ambassador we have in Kenna.

Further reminders

□ The last date for entries to the Glasgow Mod is May 13. Eila Handyside, Tel 01475 676202

□ Scottish Song Day at the RSAMD on Saturday April 22. Registration 10.30am-11.15am at the Opera School Foyer.

□ Clann Gaidhlig Singing Workshop on Saturday April 22 at the Regeneration Centre, John Wood Street, Port Glasgow, 10am-3pm.

Gaelic Learners' Day

On Saturday May 6 Clann Gaidhlig is holding a Gaelic Learning Day in Paisley University, 9.30am-4.00pm. Price £15 includes tea and coffee. For more details contact Alasdair Law at 01475 715450 or e-mail alsadair.law@inverclyde.gov.uk

Diary dates

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

Saturday April 22: Glasgow Skye Association, spring concert. 'Wee Skye', Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm.

Monday April 24: Edinburgh Argyll Association AGM, St Mark's Church Hall, 7.30pm

Friday April 28: Helensburgh Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Commodore Hotel 8.00pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceilidh dance, Whitefield Road Community Hall, Ibrox, 9.00pm-1.00am.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Islay Inn this weekend will be provided by the Keelies on Friday, Face the West on Saturday and Donald MacDonald on Sunday while in the Park Bar it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Saturday to be confirmed and Deoch 'n Dourus on Sunday.

Neil Murray, Tel 0141 954 8105, e-mail neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk



On the week of the Queen's 80th birthday we look back to August 1991 and a Royal Visit to Lochaber. Above, Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh inspect a contingent from Lochaber Sea Cadets.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig

Recognising tartan officially

TARTAN Week, which started off just a few years ago as Tartan Day and has been successfully hi-jacked by the Scottish Executive to promote the best of Scottish products, has raised the hackles of some Americans who claim they were the founders and should control it.

At the same time, those who claim to have some sort of statutory power over tartan, such as a gentleman who describes himself as 'Director of Operations, Scottish Tartans Authority' are in for a rude awakening when Tory List MSP Jamie McGrigor sees his Bill passed through the Scottish Parliament by the end of this session in June.

And the guy with the fancy title to which I have just alluded will find that he has no standing whatever, and such as he claims is a myth.

When I spoke to Mr McGrigor a few days ago about the progress of his Bill, he told me that he is on the home straight and feels that it will be a valuable tool to giving tartan its proper status.

He is piloting the measure at the request of the established producers of the cloth to put an end to some of the fake tartans that are being produced currently.

He wants to see a regulatory body with its own mark and a Keeper of the Tartan, appointed by Her Majesty the Queen on the advice of the Scottish Parliament.

But, what is a tartan?

ONE OF the major problems in structuring the Bill is that thorny question: 'What is tartan?'

For an authoritative definition I turned to 'The Encyclopaedia of Scotland', edited by John and Julia Keay who live near Dalmailly.

Their substantial tome tells me: 'Like the cut and origins kilt the design and provenance of the patterns known as tartan are highly contentious.'

It goes on to say: 'It is curious the Scotti of Ireland, who were not colonised by the Romans, should have adopted a costume more suited to a Mediterranean climate. Their version of the Roman 'tunica', a form of shirt that ended a little above the knee, was marked with stripes which denoted the rank of the wearer. The garment was called a 'leine' in Gaelic and was generally made of linen.'

After much research, Mr McGrigor has decided that an acceptable definition within the Bill is all that is required - I suggest that some textile student will find much fertile research for a PhD into the origins of both tartan and the kilt - the current version being a far cry from the length of tweed or rough tartan in which the warrior wrapped himself and tied with whatever came to hand. The question of an undergarment came

somewhat later. The rise and rise of A B MacNeil

ALTHOUGH only elected to the House of Commons at the last General Election Angus Brendan MacNeil, SNP victor in the Western Isles contest, is a name on the lips of every MP, especially those who may have something to hide and occupy a seat on the government benches or did and are now further back.

Even more terrified are those members of the House of Lords who may have 'bought' their peerages. It was Angus Brendan, as he is colloquially known in his home island of Barra and many other places, who in a seemingly 'daft laddie' pose said to himself that if an offence had been committed then it was the police who ought to be catching the villains.

Having checked with one of his party's legal experts he then made the complaint to the Metropolitan Police and we all know what has happened subsequently and may yet happen as 'enquiries are proceeding'.

Goodness knows what these will produce but we all ought to take our hats off Angus Brendan for his commonsense, straightforward approach to wrong-doing no matter how high and mighty the accused may be.

NHS is failing the people

EVERY politician and many medical people I have talked to recently now admit the governments at Edinburgh and Westminster have failed dreadfully in providing a decent health service for the people, especially those who live in rural areas.

Throwing billions of pounds at it just hasn't worked; even worse no-one seems to know exactly where these mega-sums of money have actually gone.

Down south, doctors and nurses are being made redundant as fewer people are being admitted to hospital since day surgery and recuperation at home are now top priorities.

Last week, I went to Colonsay with local MP Alan Reid to find out for myself just how the really rural practices are faring. Is the provision of a nurse on that island for three days a month best practice in the 21st century? I think not but the islanders have been trying for more than a year to have the situation rectified without success. Time for health minister Andy Kerr to act.

And the new airstrips being created on Colonsay and Coll are not to be provided with landing-lights for night emergencies as the electricity company wants £40,000 to install each set of them.

McCaig

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Archivist sorely missed

Sir Many of your readers have been moved by the news that Murdo Macdonald, 'our' archivist, retired on March 31.

Equally, a great many have expressed publicly and privately total outrage that Argyll and Bute Council do not propose to replace Murdo with a full-time archivist.

It would be hard to find a replacement of Murdo's calibre, but councillors and the council's administration should be truly ashamed of themselves. Argyll and Bute Council has precious little to be proud of these days but our hard working, eternally obliging and distinguished archivist brought, through his office, a huge amount of goodwill to Argyll and its inhabitants, not least from expatriates and those seeking an Argyll connection. He also engendered a sense of belonging for those whose interest in Argyll persuaded them to live and work in this economically fragile area. It is short sighted and ignorant in extreme to effectively destroy one of the real assets the council was entrusted with, on behalf of us all.

The council has to rethink its priorities and strategies. There are scores of people working for Argyll and Bute Council at all levels and in many departments who would never be missed or even noticed if they were to lose their well-paid jobs tomorrow. The loss of the archivist's post, however, will be sorely felt at home and abroad.

I join with many others in wishing Murdo a very long and enjoyable retirement.

Neil Duncan, Stonefield Farms, Tarbert.

Argyll wind farms

Sir, I agree with Alan Thomas of Glen Orchy (*The Oban Times* April 13, 2006) and wish to add my name to all those who object to the expansion of wind farms in Argyll and in particular the farm proposed for Lochaweside.

The issue is confusing to many of us who have little inside knowledge and must glean our information from sources with widely differing agendas, opinions and statistics. Renewable energy sources seem to be the

way forward, but one thing is becoming clearer and clearer: wind energy is not efficient and does not answer the quest for alternative power.

Denmark, an accepted leader in wind energy research and provision, has now realised that the expense and unreliability of wind generated electricity does not make it a viable energy source for the future.

The negative effects of wind farms on tourism and wildlife are now recognised but the core problem is that, despite the impracticality of wind energy, wind farms are seen by the majority of the British population who live in cities and are unaffected by the wind farms themselves as a politically correct and environmentally friendly energy option and vote accordingly.

'Renewables' are now the language of politics and politicians use the 'green' card to obtain Brownie points.

So, to paraphrase James Lovelock (*The Revenge of Gaia*, 2006), ideology is now an excuse for rural vandalism.

Jackie Scott-Manderville, Lochawe.

Don't be proud of Scottish soldiers

Sir, With reference to your editorial of - we are not going to forget those who died for us in the past, as their memorials can be found in every small village, alas. Whoever won the First World War, the Highlands surely lost it.

But 'the support of the people' for every neo-colonial adventure in Afghanistan or Iraq should not be taken for granted.

These onslaughts were illegal acts of aggression - and we established at the Nuremberg trials the principle that blindly obeying orders is not a defence.

Creating the 'Royal Regiment' finally achieves the British State's purpose, in using up the young folk of subject populations, lest they begin to call into question the rule of others over their own lands. Here is a force of paid hit-men that will do whatever they are told by the government, without even the minimal restraints imposed by history or custom.

As for the 'name they fight under' how about 'Halliburton's Hegemony'.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including e-mails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters Page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5PY. Fax (01631) 568001. E-mail editor@obantimes.co.uk

Or even, 'BP's Brigade'? The role of Highland soldiers in Iraq today is a disgrace to their forebears. I am heartily ashamed of them.

Mrs Janet MacDonald, Tarbert, Loch Nevis.

McCaig's concerns

Sir, Can I perhaps allay McCaig's concern about the selection of the SNP candidate to contest the by-election brought about in Moray by the untimely death of Margaret Ewing. There is no 'difficulty' in this whatsoever although we may expect the press to try to find one.

Margaret announced some time ago that she would step down as MSP in 2007 and this gave Moray SNP members ample time to carry out a candidate selection process. After a keen contest Richard Lochhead was selected by constituency members and he would, in happier circumstances, have been the PPC in May 2007.

In the same column McCaig comments on the welcome news that the Labour Party is to hold its conference in Oban. The reason for this is that with the long overdue move of the library from the Corran Halls there should now be more space for the media to cover a party conference there. Why McCaig should think that anyone should seek 'excuses' for not coming to Oban escapes me but I know that until recently the facilities at the Corran Halls were simply inadequate in terms of available space. The comment about venues for fringe meetings is difficult to understand as Oban is very well served with support halls and hotel facilities as any Mod supporter can testify.

May I ask your readers to condemn the Largie

European law, habitats directive 92/43/EEC articles 15 and 16, are quite specific. All indiscriminate means of killing of protected species are prohibited.

We must give these endangered birds the full protection they deserve or those responsible will face the consequences in the European courts.

Kenneth MacColl, SNP Argyll and Bute Constituency Association Secretary.

Easdale museum

Sir, Regarding Mrs Pat Jones' letter in *The Oban Times* April 13. She did indeed keep the Easdale museum open when Bert and Jean left.

She had occasional help from real volunteers but for the most part she was on her own. She can take consolation that she has been 'airbrushed' into good company.

In five years, when Eilean Eisdale Trust has acquired the building with public funds, it will become 'unviable' and 'obsolete' as part of the ongoing social history of Easdale. It will be closed, its various artifacts relocated to lofts around the island. How could this possibly happen when we can

see, all around us, the excellent use the trust has made of the almost £1m of funds they have had from the public purse. The improved harbour and mooring facilities. The nearly new trust Hall needing a few minor repairs, but not the complete 'white elephant' that some detractors predicted.

Above all, for me, is the feeling of belonging to a vibrant, dynamic, forward looking tight knit community. This is really worth its weight in slate.

I can assure Mrs Jones she will not be 'airbrushed' by the ferrymen, past and present, who all appreciated her sense of humour and courteous manner.

For me, her arrival with Fergus each day was always something to brighten the morning.

Gerry Doyle, Ferryhouse, Easdale Island.

Wind farm versus geese

Sir, I am appalled to hear that the developers of Largie windfarm are again trying for planning permission some 10 years after being turned down by the Secretary of State.

Anyone, councillor, planner or other interested body who contributes to permission for such a despicable development is knowingly going to kill our rare white fronted geese and should be just as culpable as any individual with a gun.

European law, habitats directive 92/43/EEC articles 15 and 16, are quite specific. All indiscriminate means of killing of protected species are prohibited.

We must give these endangered birds the full protection they deserve or those responsible will face the consequences in the European courts.

May I ask your readers to condemn the Largie

Windfarm application to the bin it deserves by objecting forcefully to Argyll and Bute Council.

Steve Stobie Achavit, Tarbert.

Gaelic action plan

Sir Day by day it grows ever clearer that a rising number of parents from all over Scotland wish their children to become fluent in Gaelic before they reach three years of age.

In order to achieve this commendable objective Comhairle nan Sgoiltean Araich (CNSA) have developed a raft of innovative and totally unique strategies that come under the heading of The Integrated Family Language Action Plan.

The plan seeks to achieve the following for parents and families:

Taking parents, families, friends, relatives and any other likely adults to a conversational Scottish Gaelic fluency within 200 hours.

The upgrading of existing and creation of new pre-school groups in which children are taken to a conversational Gaelic fluency in 400 hours or less.

The preparation and installation of Family Language Plans for families and the wider community. The setting up of new Bumps and Babies Gaelic Language Courses targeting expectant parents and those who have children up to the age of three years.

So if you and any of your friends are interested in The Integrated Family Language Action Plans, TIP courses, Family Language Action Plans or the aforementioned pre-school groups, are a parent, tutor or student all you have to do is contact CNSA at 01463 225469 or email derek@cnsa.org.uk and have a chat with us.

Findlay M Macleoid CNSA.

DE THA DOL?

Air an Fhearann

THA LATHAINE saora na Càisg seachad a-nis agus daoine a' tilleadh gu'n cosnadh, air an irrachadh airson greiseag eile, ged nach d' fhuair sinne lathain saora no fois oir thòisich na caorach ri breith Dhaioine na Càisg.

Bha an tìde fuar agus meallach agus cha robh sop feòir anns na pàirccean. Ach gu fortanach bha de ghliocas aig na h-uain nach robh cabhag orra tighinn chun an t-saoghail agus ma dh' fhanas iad latha no dhà 's docha gun tig grian agus gum fas am fear. Man tuir na Bodaich, tha dà bharr ann a dh' fheumas grian agus 's iad sin na h-uain agus am bunntà.

Tha sinne a-nis a' toirt nan caorach a-staigh às a' bheinn dha na pàirccean aig an am seach aig aon am bha iad a' breith air a' bheinn nuair a bhiodh trì no ceithir a chioibairean againn gan cuartachadh gach latha le 'n cois a' bharrachd air fear a bhiodh a' coimhead ris a' chrodh agus fear eile a bhiodh ri treabhadh is eile. Dh' fhalbh an latha sin agus an duigh chan eil ann ach am Bodaich agus Gilbert le quad-bikes a' dèanamh na h-obrach air fad le Sheila, companach Ghilbert, a' toirt hand-dhaibh nuair a thig i dhachaidh bho h-obair fhèin agus a' Chailleach a' cumail biadh riutha agus a' coimhead às dèidh nan dleachdainn agus nan caorach a' th'anns an mha a' feumachdian Intensive Care. Nuair a tha corra is mite caora ri breith, tha a h-uile rud eile ga chuir an darna taobh agus an am bidh iad ann nuair a bhios cothrom aca tighinn uir.

Chan eil mòran sheallaidhean ann a tha cho tarraingeach ri uain gan cluich fhèin ann am pàirccean gorm air latha grianach agus abair gu bheil e na thlachd don luchd-turais a bhith a' faicinn nan uan a' mire anns a' ghreìn ach nach beag tha dh' fhor aca an ùpraid agus an sàrachadh a th' ann

mas tig iad chun na h-ìre nach feum iad aire an latha 's a dh' oidhche agus tha seachdainean de riasladh romhainn fhathast mas tig an latha sin. Ach a dh'aindeoin na bhios sinn a' dèanamh de ghearrain chan iarramaid a chaochladh.

Phrases

AIR AN irrachadh airson greiseag eile - refreshed for another while. Thòisich na caorach ri breith Dhaioine na Càisg - lambing started on Easter Friday. Cha robh sop feòir anns na pàirccean - there was not a blade of grass in the fields. Gu fortanach bha de ghliocas aig na h-uain - fortunately the lambs were wise enough. Nach robh cabhag orra tighinn chun an t-saoghail - that they were not in a hurry to come into the world. Tha dà bharr ann a dh' fheumas grian - there are two crops which need sunshine. Gan cuartachadh gach latha le 'n cois - going round them each day on foot. A' toirt hand dhaibh nuair a thig i dhachaidh bho h-obair fhèin - giving them a hand when she comes home from her own work. A' Chailleach a' cumail biadh riutha - the Cailleach keeping them supplied with food. Tha h-uile rud eile ga chuir an darna taobh - everything else is put to one side. Chan eil mòran sheallaidhean ann cho tarraingeach ri uain gan cluich fhèin - There are not many sights more appealing than lambs playing. Abair gu bheil e na thlachd do luchd turais - indeed it is very pleasing to the tourists. Ach nach beag tha dh' fhor aca - but they have no idea. Mas tig iad chun na h-ìre nach feum iad aire a latha 's a dh' oidhche - before they come to the stage when they do not need attention day and night. Tha seachdainean de riasladh fhathast romhainn - there are weeks of struggle still ahead of us. Ach a dh'aindeoin na bhios sinn a' dèanamh de ghearrain - but in spite of all our grumbling. Chan iarramaid a chaochladh - we would not want anything different. **Criosaith Dick**

Ballachulish says no return to the old quarrying ways

AS YOU approach the village of Ballachulish, perhaps on the modern cantilevered bridge across Loch Leven, the first thing the traveller notices is how it is dominated by the old slate quarries, once a major industry in the area.

Slate from Ballachulish found its way onto the roofs of many of Scotland's buildings during the 18th and 19th centuries, but as these buildings get older, more and more of them urgently need new slate roofs.

The problem is that quarrying at Ballachulish stopped in 1955 and there is no appetite in the village for it to start again.

However, a new study by Alan McKinney of the Scottish Stone Liaison Group (SSLG), prompted by this 'crisis' in finding indigenous materials from Scotland, including Ballachulish slate, says the present situation could be extremely damaging for Scotland's historic buildings.

Historic Scotland is now to decide whether or not to look at re-opening slate quarrying at Ballachulish, or at Foudland near Huntly.

Mr McKinney was commissioned by Historic Scotland to look at ways to ensure the availability of indigenous materials for the future maintenance of historic buildings.

Slate

Just one year after the Glencoe massacre, slate was first quarried at Ballachulish in 1693. By the 19th century it was big business and was used to roof many of Scotland's historic buildings. These include the World Heritage Site at New Lanark and Morgan Academy in Dundee.

Any restoration of buildings on these sites would mean removing the Ballachulish slate from a roof, shipping it to the site with a loss of 40 per cent of the slate when the building is redressed. Alan McKinney

said: 'There are serious difficulties in ensuring the proper repair of Scotland's built heritage.

'Unless we can secure fresh supplies of Scottish slate we are going to have to accept that we will see our built environment dramatically changed. Material from abroad is cut to a regular size and you cannot do diminishing courses with it and this sets Scottish slate technically apart.

Repairs

'Where material comes in uniform sizes and with two fastening nails instead of one with the Ballachulish slate, it limits the ability to do repairs on roofs if we can't get Scottish slate.

'We extracted 30 tonnes of slate and had that analysed and it was of sufficient quality to justify further expenditure in doing a core sample, which has also been done.

'We have also undertaken exercises at Foudland in Huntly and done exactly the same extraction of material and a coring test.

'We have supplied copies of these reports back to Historic Scotland and it is now sitting on their desk. The matter is now in their hands.'

The Ballachulish community suffered significantly during the last period of quarrying.

There was significant expenditure to address the damage that was done from waste and slag tips reminiscent of the old, dark world of industrial Britain.

The new A82 road at Ballachulish and the new hotel on the lochside are built on recovered waste tips.

The water lapping on the shore is lapping up against waste slate that's been grown over by grass.

Suffered

Ballachulish community council chairman Mel McAskill, who is a slater to trade, said: 'We have no intention of sitting back and

watching people take control of our village. There has been no discussion with the community about re-opening the quarry. We have the west quarry here with an interpretive path running through it. This path is used extensively by local people and tourists and was finished just a couple of years ago.

'We suffered for years from the effects of the last quarry and the only people who benefited were the quarry owners and we have no reason to believe that would change.

'We would resist the opening of a quarry in a commercial sense but we have discussed with local residents the possibility of looking at opening the quarry as a tourist attraction - opening the quarry in the sense of taking out only enough slates to allow it to be seen as the way it was.

'We are not a 'no' community council. We have to make the best decisions for the local community and would certainly hope that other powers that be would pay attention to that; but this is something that has to be looked at and discussed with the community - but the opening of a commercial quarry, no-one wants that here.

'We have spent years of being called the dirtiest village in Scotland. The village has been cleaned up over the last 20 years, new hotels have been built and masses of work has been done to make the village as nice as it is now. Why would we want to go back to the old way?

Mr McKinney said he understood the concerns of people in Ballachulish that if quarrying were to return then the slag heaps would return as well.

'We recognise the concerns of the community. We have met with the community council and supplied them with reports



The village of Ballachulish is dominated by the old quarry.

on a confidential basis. Were a slating exercise to open it would not be conducted in the same way with the modern requirements placed on companies today,' he said.

'You can understand people saying, 'wait a minute, I've heard all this before', but we have attempted to be up front and honest with the community at Ballachulish.

'The primary concern of the community was the potential for re-opening to despoil their area. But on the other side of things, for every job on the surface of a quarry there are 10 underneath.

Museum

'One idea I have floated is for a heritage museum at the mouth of the East Quarry where people would be able to learn all about the heritage of the area and see on screens what is happening in the depths of the quarry.

'From the Khartoum Quarry you would be able to sit and look at the impressive East Laroch Quarry and understand what condi-

tion were like there all those years ago. Through a glass wall you could see new slate being cut.

'So along with meaningful output from the quarry at the same time you could create a visitor attraction and potential employment. That's a bit of a stretch from where we are at the moment and I know it would cost millions of pounds but that's the sort of thing that is possible.'

Many of the roofs in the village of Ballachulish are made of local slate and Mr McKinney added that eventually Ballachulish itself will face the challenge of accessing materials to re-roof its built heritage appropriately.

'That is a problem they will face unless Ballachulish or Foudland are re-opened,' he said.

'That is the challenge facing Historic Scotland. Unless the material is available we are going to have to look elsewhere or we will see a change to Scotland's built heritage.

'Wales did supply slate when the railways came in and that forms part of our built heritage just now but I personally do have a difficulty with bringing slate from Spain, China or Brazil to repair our built heritage when we have material in this country.

Sustainability

'If anything is going to be sustainable it's best to have the resources under your control. It's like a microcosm of Scotland. If you don't retain your built heritage why would people come and see Scotland?'

'If every church on the west coast had concrete tiles on its roof would that have the same attraction for people? 'Would tourists come and see that year after year?'

'So it is crucially important that we do maintain our built heritage or people may



Slate extraction by the Scottish Slate Liaison Group in 2001 at Khartoum Quarry.

stop coming to Scotland.' Mel Macaskill disagrees strongly with this view.

He said: 'The conservation architect says that Ballachulish slate makes buildings look pretty - who sees this? If a building in Edinburgh is so many storeys high, who is going to see if it has Ballachulish slates on the roof?'

'They want to please a conservation body and that could be devastating for the people who live in this village. 'We really have to be very careful and make sure that the interests of our community are looked after.'

'We aren't saying you shouldn't try and preserve buildings but you have to balance the need to put Ballachulish slate on buildings with the quality of life in Ballachulish.'

'The right way forward is to monitor the second hand slates coming off buildings and create a store to have these slates at hand.'

'When the 'cannon factory' at Kinlochleven was taken down there was a massive wastage of slate.

'It was criminal, they just knocked the building down to the ground and there was enough slate there to do any amount of buildings.'

'You have to look at how

people take the slates off the roofs and what they do with them.

'There is an argument that quarrying is so technical now that it would be a lot different but I don't necessarily agree with that.'

'We agreed to tests being done. The first tests done showed massive wastage of about 80 per cent.'

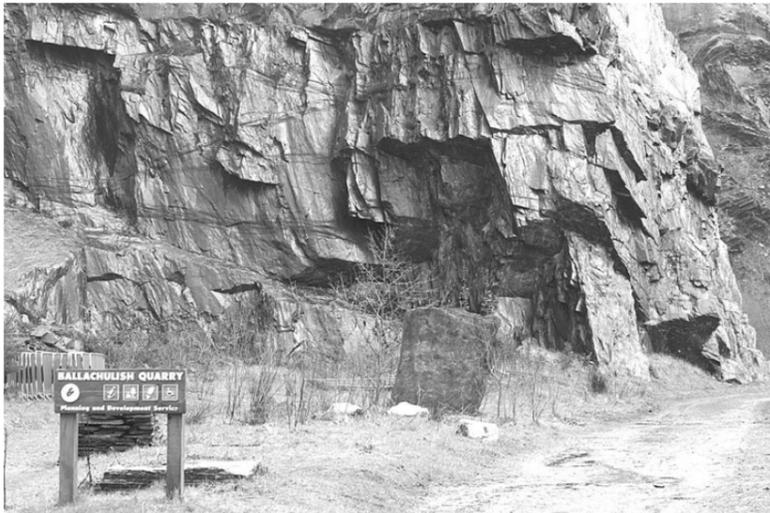
'The SSLG came back to us and said the tests weren't very good and they needed to do core boring because they thought good slate would be further underground. The sizes of slates coming out of the quarry

were too small, that's what happened in first tests and the slates weren't splitting properly.

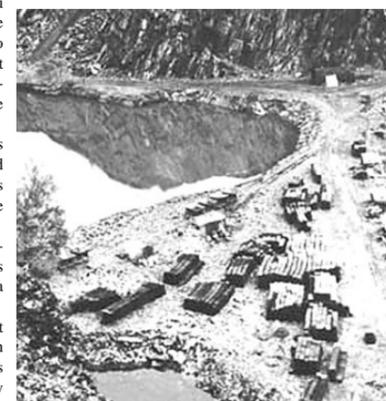
'After quite a bit of deliberation we agreed that they could do the core boring. The report said the results were better but there is still massive wastage and you can't tell by core boring how well they would split.'

'As far as we are concerned there is no talk about re-opening quarrying on a commercial basis.'

'There is nothing to discuss until we hear from the Scottish Executive and Historic Scotland.'



A new path network is proving popular with locals and tourists at the quarry in Ballachulish.



Ballachulish Quarry in the 19th century.

Ballachulish boat shed open day

AN OPEN day is being held today (Thursday) at Ballachulish Harbour to show the public an ongoing project to re-slate the roofs with local slate.

The harbour is home to a unique example of Scottish slate work and is a historic site threatened by erosion and neglect.

Members of the public are invited to the open day where they can see the restoration of the buildings and even try a hand at it themselves.

The open day runs from 10am-6pm at the boat sheds at Ballachulish Harbour.

Ballachulish Timeline

- Slate was formed over millions of years from mud which was heated and compressed to form rock.
- **7,000-2,000BC:** Bronze Age nomadic hunter-gatherers lived at Ballachulish.
- **400AD:** Kings of Dalriada take over in the Ballachulish area.
- **Circa 1500s:** Village of Laroch founded at North Ballachulish.
- **1640:** Ballachulish House built as a country estate. Building destroyed during Jacobite Rising and rebuilt in 1745.
- **1692:** Glencoe Massacre.
- **1693:** First quarrying at Ballachulish.
- **1733:** Ballachulish Ferry across Loch Leven established.
- **1752:** James Stewart hanged at Ballachulish for the 'Appin Murder', the killing of Colin Campbell. This event was used as the inspiration for Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*.
- **1791:** 74 families living in the village of Ballachulish and 322 workmen employed at the quarry.
- **1825:** 26 million slates quarried and shipped out of Ballachulish.
- **1845:** 300 men employed at Ballachulish and slates exported to England, Ireland and America.
- **1903:** Railways reach Ballachulish with opening of line from Corran.
- **1951:** 20 men employed at the quarry with half a million tonnes of slate produced annually.
- **1955:** Quarry at Ballachulish closed.
- **1966:** Railway closed.
- **1975:** Ballachulish Bridge opens.
- **1995:** Highland Mystery World theme park opens.
- **2003:** Abbeyfield Care Home opened.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 429

ACROSS

- Port in the Ivory Coast, capital until 1983 (7)
- Edna, author of *The Country Girls* (6)
- Part of a horse's leg between the cannon bone and the pastern (7)
- Plant cultivated for its spicy underground stem (6)
- Adolf, German dictator who became Chancellor in 1933 (6)
- Ceremony of the Spanish Inquisition including the execution of sentences passed on heretics (4-2-2)
- The — Current flows north along the coasts of Chile and Peru (8)
- Novel by Guy de Maupassant featuring Georges Duray (3-3)
- Name of the twin slaves in Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* (6)
- U.S. seaport between Puget Sound and Lake Washington (7)
- Sixth planet from the sun (6)
- Coniferous tree of the genus *Cupressus* (7)

DOWN

- Lord Alfred, poet associated with Oscar Wilde (7)
- Igneous rock widely used for building (7)
- 1986 Ridley Scott film with Tom Cruise (6)
- Type of King Charles spaniel with red and white markings (8)
- Port in Minnesota at the Wend of Lake Superior (6)
- Jeffrey, author of *Kane and Abel* (6)
- In Greek mythology, hero wounded in the heel (8)
- Mount —, highest peak in Greece (7)
- Capital of Antigua and Barbuda (2,3)
- Eurasian plant whose blanched leafstalks are used in salads (6)
- 'Get —', 1971 film with Michael Caine set in Newcastle (6)
- In Greek mythology, the god personifying the north wind (6)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- Endorse (7)
- To present (6)
- Comfort (7)
- Fastidious (6)
- Alleviation (6)
- Penitent (8)
- Clear (8)
- Fawn (6)
- Out-and-out (6)
- Against (7)
- Package (6)
- Archbishop (7)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

- Yield (7)
- Old (7)
- Restrain (6)
- Advance (8)
- Outcome (6)
- Date (6)
- Unbecoming (8)
- Babyhood (7)
- Majestic (7)
- Secmly (6)
- Tell (6)
- Menace (6)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 The Hired Man; 9 Cal; 10 Gibraltar; 11 Place; 13 Elstree; 14 Naboth; 16 Far-off; 18 Titania; 19 Banda; 20 Rio Grande; 21 Mod; 22 As I Lay Dying.

Down: 2 Hal; 3 Hague; 4 Rubber; 5 Dead Sea; 6 Afternoon; 7 Acupuncture; 8 Tree of Hands; 12 Abatross; 15 Tendin; 17 Hannay; 19 Beery; 21 Men.

QUICK - Across: 1 Affirmative; 9 Run; 10 Perdition; 11 Unity; 13 Shingle; 14 Unseen; 16 All out; 18 Earlier; 19 Kayak; 20 Criticise; 21 Van; 22 Infertility.

Down: 2 Fun; 3 Imply; 4 Mors; 5 Trivial; 6 Vainglory; 7 Fraudulence; 8 Undertaking; 12 Insertion; 15 Edifice; 17 Artist; 19 Knell; 21 Vat.

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25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times Thursday April 22, 1981

Blaze shatters hotelier's dream

A SERIOUS fire on Sunday afternoon caused extensive damage to the Carraig-Thura Hotel at Lochawe.

No-one was injured in the blaze which started at around 2.15pm but the second floor was completely destroyed, the first gutted and the ground floor ceilings are unsafe.

The voluntary fire unit from Dalnally was first on the scene followed by four appliances and around 40 firemen who battled to put out the fire.

It took until late afternoon to bring it under control. Station officer Adam McCracken was at the scene of the fire until 3am on Monday damping down the hotel and making sure the fire was completely out.

Hotel owner Ronald Holbrook said: 'My dream has gone. I worked for 50 years for this hotel and now it's finished. All the work we put into it, sometimes we'd work until two or three in the morning and now it's ruined. It is heartbreaking.'

But he added: 'I am so glad that it did not happen in the middle of night because I didn't know what would have happened then. Everyone has been so kind. All the locals have rallied around to help us.'

Mr Holbrook and his wife Penny took over Carraig-Thura two-and-a-half years ago. They have three sons. One of their family, Mark, arrived back from honeymoon on Monday morning with his bride to find that he had lost many of his own belongings in the hotel as he lived and worked there.

His brother Philip was also living in the hotel and lost everything he owned.

Showman's £10,000 plan

A GLASGOW showman plans to invest £10,000 at Ganavan Sands.

Argyll and Bute District Council's tourism, leisure and recreation department were told this week and agreed unanimously to interview him as soon as possible.

The man, whose name was given as Mr Evans, wants to see a children's amusement area of battery-powered ride-on cars, radio controlled models and a bouncy castle.

James Moran, director of tourism, said that in order to justify this type of expenditure a minimum of three years for any lease granted by the district council would be necessary.

The committee was told that a lack of money had restricted development of this kind in the past.

The area in question is around 800 square metres and incorporates a small parking area and the existing trampoline enclosure.

At present Mr Evans operates a similar venture in Strathclyde Region Park.

Mr Moran said: 'Mr Evans is prepared to offer a substantial sum of money for the rental of ground at Ganavan.'

'In the absence of any prospect of carrying out an overall improvement scheme at Ganavan, I feel the provision of these attractions would add a further dimension to this popular visitor location.'

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359



Indoor bowling

AT THE Skye and Lochalsh indoor triples competition held in Kyleakin Hall on March 11, 60 players - 20 triples - took part.

Winners were Roddy Morrison, Sandra Dew and Rosemary Finnie from Kyleakin who beat Kintail trio Roddy Gillies, Duncan MacLeod and David MacRae in the final.

Lochalsh Bowling Club held its end-of-season competition in Kyle Hall over three days.

The ladies singles champion was Claire Maclean, aged 15, of Badicaul, with Donalda Johnstone, Kyle, runner-up. Seven ladies entered.

The mens singles champion was Matt Sheddan, Balmacara, with Roddie MacKerlich, Kyle, runner-up. Nine men entered.

In the doubles competition, Alastair Maclean and Matt Sheddan, Kyle, beat Brian Easter and Donalda Johnstone in the final. Eight doubles entered. The season ended with a dinner in Lochalsh Hotel on April 14 when the trophies were presented.

South West Ross Field Club

THE ANNUAL general meeting of the South West Ross Field Club was held in Achmore Hall on March 23.



Kilniver Primary School Folk Group, including flutes, clarsach, snare drum and guitars, has been practising hard for the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival later this month. 11446/02

Kilniver pupils get their say

KILNIVER Primary School has its own pupil council, of which every pupil is a member.

The school was one of the first schools to instigate a pupil council under its previous head teacher and it is a project that has more than willingly been carried on by head teacher Berni McMillan, who came to the school 18 months ago.

The pupils, who each get a chance of being council chairman, come up with ideas of what they would like to see happening within the school and, with a little direction from teachers, how they can make these ideas come to

fruition. One of the latest ideas was to have a fruit tuck shop once a week, the result of which is that many of the pupils who perhaps were reluctant to eat fruit on a regular basis are now happily tucking into a banana, apple or sometimes more exotic fruit which the staff are asked to buy with school funds.

Another venture due to start when the weather warms up a little more is vegetable tubs in the school grounds, which will grow a variety of produce that the pupils will be able to eat themselves including carrots, radishes and spring onions.

Macmillan Cancer Relief

THE ANNUAL general meeting of the Lochalsh, Kintail and Glenelg committee of Macmillan Cancer Relief was held in Kirkton Church Hall on March 22 with the usual attendance.

All officials were re-elected with three new members added to the committee.

A car boot sale was held recently in Inverinate Community Centre in aid of the chemotherapy unit at Broadford Hospital.

Annual meeting

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Plockton Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society was held in Plockton Hall on March 21.

There was a satisfactory attendance with Geoff Webster in the chair.

Margaret Walker, treasurer for the past 12 years, nearly a quarter of the society's existence, resigned and was given a vote of thanks for her extremely diligent reports over the years.

Andy Will was elected new treasurer and all other officials and committee members were re-elected.

An extensive range of monthly talks has been arranged by Marion Love and Catherine Will.

The annual plant sale is on May 13 in Plockton Hall

and the annual show and tea is on August 12 at 2pm.

Piping

SOUTH West Ross Piping Society held its final recital of the season in the Lochalsh Hotel on March 25.

There was a good attendance to hear some excellent piping from Stuart Liddell from Invergarry.

Dr John Adamson was chairman.

Local piping competitions will be held at Plockton on May 6.

Broadband

BRITISH Telecom advertises that broadband is available in Plockton.

However, one resident who recently tried to get broadband was given a date and sent the box of cables by special delivery, only to be informed a week later that broadband is not now available in Plockton as the exchange is full.

Camera course

TWELVE people recently attended a digital camera course in Plockton Hall.



New owners

Ian and Anne James, who have just bought Plockton Stores. They presently run the popular Off The Rails restaurant at Plockton Railway Station.

Graduations



Mary Agnes Sinclair

GRADUATED from the University of Strathclyde with a BA in Arts and Social Sciences. Mary is the daughter of Mr and Mrs D A MacQuarrie and is a former pupil of Daliburgh School, South Uist.



Kirsty Norris

GRADUATED with a BN in Nursing from Glasgow University. Kirsty, from Clachan Seil, is now working as a staff nurse in the renal unit of the Western Infirmary, Glasgow.



Captain Dr Rory Norris

GRADUATED MBChb from Dundee University in 2004 and then worked as a pre-registered house officer at James Cook Hospital, Middlesborough. He recently passed out from the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, after completing his officers course and is now back working in accident and emergency at Middlesborough before being posted as a regimental medical officer in August.



Dr Andrew Nisbet

Dr Andrew Nisbet, consultant medical physicist, has qualified as a Professor of Medical Physics. Dr Nisbet, aged 39, of Caol, Fort William, who now lives in Oxford with his wife and young family, works at the Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Andrew, a former pupil of Caol primary and Lochaber high schools, is the eldest son of Donald and Pauline Nisbet, Kilmallie Road, Caol.



Dalmally presentation to retiring archivist

Dalmally Historical Association recently bade farewell to retiring county archivist Murdo MacDonald, right. At a dinner in Glenorchy Lodge, Murdo was presented with honorary membership of the association and a bottle of Glenmorangie whisky for his unstinting help over a quarter of a century.

Long road finally leads to new Plockton pontoon

THE DUNCANSON Report, commissioned by the old Skye and Lochalsh District Council in 1994, identified Plockton as one of the most popular destinations in Skye and Lochalsh for yachting and other marine-related activities and suggested development should be encouraged.

The report recommended the installation of six visitor moorings; the installation of a floating landing stage pontoon and better toilets and shower.

Through an initiative by

Plockton Community Council, a Plockton Moorings Association - a sub committee of the council - was formed in 1996 and with help from Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise six visitor moorings were installed.

In 2003 the moorings association merged with Plockton Pontoon Users Group to become Plockton Harbour Association and has successfully renovated a small shallow water pontoon. This is well used but is limited to small shallow draught boats and dinghies as it dries out for two hours either side of low water. This pontoon was initially built by Calum MacKenzie, who has been running trips to 'See the Seals' for more than 20 years, for his own use.

In September 2000 a telephone survey of all households in the community council area established 66 in favour and three against to the provision of a deep water pontoon. Two hundred copies of the questionnaire were sent out; 78 were completed and returned with 87 per cent requesting pontoons.

Projects

The community council then approached Catriona MacLean, Highland Council development manager at Portree, as similar projects in the coastal villages of Kyle, Kyleakin and Gairloch had been very successful and were provided and maintained by Highland Council.

However, it only agreed to maintain the Plockton pontoon if it got funding. The Highland Council Planning and Development Service commissioned Wallace Stone from Dingwall to carry out a feasibility study on the siting of a deep water pontoon.

The report in March 2001 recommended a site adjacent to the old stone pier, which was built as a relief project at the time of the potato famine. It is very uneven with a steep slope and a difficult curve.

It is also exposed to winds between north east and south east with the resultant big seas rendering the pier



Peter Davies, a committee member of Plockton Harbour Association, which will maintain the new community pontoon, examines the new pontoon on its first day open. Shore work is not yet complete so the official opening will be next month.

unsafe to use. The study then thought a pontoon could be built for £80,000 but this has since escalated due, in part, to the large increase in the price of steel, the tax on aggregate excavation and the associated civil works.

It is now costing almost £140,000.

Local enterprise company manager Jennifer Robertson gave funding to employ a community resource worker, Kristine MacKenzie, and the community council gave its chairman Charlie M MacRae and the then vice chairman Geoff R Webster the full powers to progress the pontoon and get funding with the help of Kristine.

This entailed a tremendous amount of work.

As several grant bodies turned applications down, hundreds of letters, faxes and emails were sent, and trips made to Gairloch and Inverness, at no cost to the community council.

Finally, after one-and-a-half years, funding was in place in June 2005.

However, the project received a major setback in April 2005 when Highland Harbour Trust, which had stated in November 2003 that it would take over the management of the pontoon and on-going maintenance, stated that council policy had changed throughout the region and they would no longer take on the management and maintenance of the proposed Plockton pontoons.

In June 2005 the community council, rather than return all the hard-earned grants, approached Plockton Harbour Association (PHA) requesting that it take over the administration and maintenance. The provision

of the funding was dependent upon there being a commitment to manage and maintain the pontoon. In addition there was a tight deadline which had been extended to the end of August.

After many meetings, which mainly hedged on the projected income and expenditure, PHA, in an extraordinary general meeting of the association, voted 22-4 to take over the management and maintain the pontoons.

Planning permission had been given on March 9 2004, but the National Trust for Scotland and local crofters said that the 33 square metres of 'rock' above mean high water springs was common grazing. So began two years of getting the area valued, which was £150, and getting it resumed from crofting. This meant the community council hiring a solicitor and many letters before acquiring the land for the walkway just recently.

The final cost was £2,300, which the local land unit is helping to pay for.

Grants

Grants were received from Plockton and District Community Council; Plockton Harbour Association; Awards for All; The Community Environmental Scheme; The Scottish Rural Partnership Fund; The Highland Council; The Highland Harbour Trust; and Skye and Lochalsh Enterprise.

A lease has been drawn up between Plockton Harbour Association and Highland Council Harbours and between Plockton and District Community Council and Plockton Harbour Association. Kishorn Specialist Contractors are doing the

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Stunning development overlooks Tobermory Golf Course



Plarmigan House
The Farways, Tobermory, Isle of Mull

THE location, adjacent to Tobermory Golf Course and commanding breathtaking views across Tobermory Bay and down the Sound of Mull, is sublime, but it is more than matched by the property which graces it.

Plarmigan House is a stunning development which even boasts its own leisure complex with cascade indoor heated swimming pool, gymnasium and changing room. Constructed around five years ago and extended two years later, this is a four-de-force of architectural styling. To describe it as a luxurious and spacious family home would be wholly inadequate. Its scale and layout make its commercial possibilities obvious and the current owners have been accredited with five stars from the Scottish Tourist Board while also featuring in the Conde Nast Johansens accommodation guide. Windows and doors are all double glazed and there is under-floor heating in the original part of the house and electric panel heaters in the extension.

Contemporary
External doors are finished in solid beech and fixtures and fittings throughout are contemporary in style. The extensive provision of large windows ensures a flood of natural light throughout the building.

The accommodation includes a reception hall, split-level lounge and dining area, conservatory-style breakfast room, fitted kitchen, five en-suite bedrooms and a master dressing area. There is generous storage and the house is set in landscaped gardens.

Entered via French doors, the vast and magnificent entrance hall boasts a matching rustic tiled floor and offers access to all the main rooms. In a superb lounge/dining room, once again entered by French doors, the upper level dining area steps down to an intriguing semi-circular lounge with windows on three sides enjoying superb panoramic views. Positioned centrally is a solid fuel open fire set into a cast-iron hearth with matching cast-iron canopy above.

The conservatory-styled breakfast room is again entered through French doors from the dining area. It has windows on three sides in addition to French doors which open onto a gravel path leading to raised timber decking, perfectly positioned to allow full enjoyment of those elevated views over the bay.

A dream kitchen - designed by the current owner, a 'brilliant chef' - is awash with high-gloss beech units with brushed steel and glass handles complemented by simple work surfaces in solid beech and matching wood effect. Every conceivable modern appliance is available including a four-plate ceramic hob with oven, integrated deep fat fryer and integral storage plus separate built-in oven and grill. Additionally, there is an island with matching units and work surfaces incorporating extra drawers and cupboards, open shelving and integrated wine racks. Equipment includes a Slott Benham Thermo wok. Built-in is a large walk-in larder offering extensive shelving and cupboards.

Perfection
An impressive carpeted staircase with timber spindles and banister sweeps majestically from the hall to the upper floor. A study is accessed from an open doorway leading from the landing. The bedrooms are little short of perfection with the brilliantly-chosen decor creating a delightful palette of colours. All, of course are en-suite with the master having its own en-suite bathroom and dressing facilities. The bathroom and shower facilities all have gleaming tiled walls and floors and display splendidly modern sanitary ware and power-showers with upmarket fittings.

The property is approached via a farm-style gate which opens to a gravel driveway leading to the garage and a designated parking area at the side of the house.

The gravel chips continue round to the rear of the house where there is a grassy bank backing onto the golf course. Situated to the rear of a large garage is a studio apartment containing a combined lounge and bedroom and en-suite shower.

This magnificent property is being sold through the Oban office of D. M. Mackinnon Estates, who have invited offers in excess of £775,000.

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CEO NA MARA, 12 THE GLEBE, KILMELFORD, ARGYLL



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A rare opportunity to purchase a traditional highland cottage in an idyllic and secluded location, only minutes from the A816 and the village amenities in Kilmartin. Currently utilised as a holiday home, but suitable as a permanent residence, this property would benefit from some sympathetic modernisation and upgrading. The accommodation comprises: Vestibule, dining kitchen, sitting room, two bedrooms and a bathroom. Immediate garden ground. Ruins. Grazing land extending to approximately 7.5 acres (3 hectares). **Offers over £150,000**

A Closing Date has been fixed for 12 noon on 28th April 2006

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STAFFA, 31 FOREST CABIN, DALAVICH, ARGYLL



This nicely presented forest cabin occupies a delightful woodland setting a short distance from the banks of Loch Awe. Number 31 is privately owned and offered for sale, on a freehold basis, for use as a holiday home or as a holiday letting concern and is fully furnished and equipped. Mooring on Loch Awe available. Shoreside fishing rights in certain designated areas. **Offers over £65,000**

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LAND ROVER 'GOES BEYOND' WITH NEW ADVENTURE WEBSITE THAT INCLUDES 24/7 BROADBAND TV

Gaydon, Warwickshire, 13 April 2006 – Land Rover is to launch a new website dedicated to the spirit of adventure and featuring high profile Land Rover drivers such as Maria Sharapova, sailor Sir Robin Knox-Johnston, England Rugby International Lawrence Dallaglio and celebrity photographer Richard Young.

Popham, managing director of Land Rover. "It amplifies the core brand promise of Land Rover. It will also enhance our dealer environments, and work in tandem with our landrover.co.uk website to drive sales and further improve customer loyalty."

people living lives much less ordinary and can be accessed on any computer with a broadband connection. It will also be displayed at Land Rover dealerships and major motor shows and will be ultimately available for download to mobile phones or hand-held consoles like the Sony PSP or iPod. A Go Beyond link on www.landrover.co.uk takes users to the new site. Six unique channels of Go Beyond TV will cover all aspects of 21st century adventure from travel, to amazing Land Rover off-road journeys, food and wine, and people and places. The content will be premium, contemporary and adventurous – three of the cornerstones of the Land Rover brand. Containing a blend of original content, material from the



Tennis ace Maria Sharapova at the launch of the Land Rover Go Beyond website.

Discovery Channel, Land Rover's award-winning One Life customer magazine and sponsored partners including Born Free, Biosphere Expeditions and the Royal Geographical Society, Go Beyond is a distinctive, premium, glossy, magazine style community of people who live the Land Rover brand.

Go Beyond life, and communicate with each other through our website. Of course, they can just read about it on our website or watch it on our TV channel but we hope that most will actively participate. Go Beyond TV launches in New York with four hours material running on a rolling schedule, with four hours of new content added every month. In addition, there will be live telecasts (from, for example, motor shows) and updates from special events. This will include the Land Rover G4 Challenge, which begins in Thailand on 23 April.

WHAT DOESN'T BREAK US MAKES US STRONGER!

VX Racing is champing at the bit to regain its place at the top of the MSA Dunlop British Touring Car Championship time sheets for 2006. In the last five years the team has won 13 of the 15 BTCC titles but its perfect record was brought to an end last year when Matt Neal snatched the drivers' title and Team Halfords took the teams' championship. If putting the rest of the grid back in their place is not incentive enough, VX Racing has the tantalising prospect of securing Vauxhall's 100th BTCC race win at Brands Hatch this weekend.

champion. Fabrizio Giovanardi, has been touted in the press as the greatest active touring car driver in the world. But the 39-year-old has never raced in Britain and admits he faces a steep learning curve with nine new circuits to get to grips with. "I've been practicing the circuits on my computer and I'm confident," said Giovanardi. "I needed a new challenge and I'm not shy of some hard work." There is no such disadvantage for British touring car prodigy, Tom

Chilton, who has already racked up six race wins in the BTCC and is a veteran of four years despite being only 21-years-old. Chilton is confident going into this weekend's race. Brands Hatch is only a stone's throw from his home town of Reigate, and he claims to know every nook and cranny of the exciting circuit. "I've probably done more races around Brands Hatch than any other circuit," said Chilton. "It's so close that every little bit helps. You have to know every bump and

turn and twist - and I do." Hopes are also high for VXR's third driver, 28-year-old Irishman Gavin Smith, who by the end of last season was regularly finishing races in the top six. Smith is now keen to cross the threshold from challenger to victor. "There's no pressure," said Smith. "I'm just going to give it the best shot I can and see what comes of it. I know Brands Hatch well but not compared to some of the other guys. I don't feel at a disadvantage though. The car is up to it and I'll find the speed."



VX Racing aim to regain top spot at the MSA Dunlop British Touring Car Championship 2006

A GRAND DAY OUT FOR FORD TRANSIT

BRENTWOOD, Essex – 18 April, 2006 - Britain's favourite animated characters Wallace & Gromit will be swapping their usual gadget van for the high tech cab of the new Ford Transit on 23 April when they take part in the London Marathon to raise money for needy children. Helping their marathon effort is the fact that the new Transit is only an inflatable replica of the one that will be unveiled for the first time at the NEC, Birmingham next week (Tuesday 25 April).



It's all the idea of the Wallace & Gromit's Children's Foundation – a national charity that raises funds to improve the quality of life for children in hospitals and hospices throughout the UK. The charity is famous for its special Wrong Trousers Day - which this year is on 23 June - when schools and businesses are encouraged to pay £1 to the charity for the right to wear the wrong trousers.

important fundraising event, which Ford is delighted to support."

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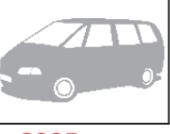


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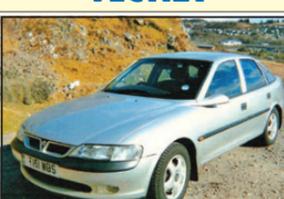


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16 hours per week, Fixed Term until 10 June 2006

£5.87 per hour

Required to work within our Support Services Department, no experience is required as you will be given training as part of induction.

You should have a friendly personality and be a team member.

We are also seeking Bank Domestic staff to work on an 'as and when required' basis.

Please quote the relevant reference number for the post you are applying for:

Ref: 06ab/5 - Bank posts Ref: 06ab/6 - 16 hours per week, Fixed Term post

Ref: 06ab/7 - 35 hours per week post Ref: 06ab/8 - 12 hour post

Ref: 06ab/12 - 15 hour post

Laundry Assistant - Band 1

37.5 hours per week Ref: 06ab/9

£5.87 per hour

You will provide a linen/laundry and uniform/clothing service to the hospital and patients. No experience is required as you will be given training as part of induction.

You should have a friendly personality and be a team member.

Unless otherwise stated, application packs are available from the HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Lorn & Islands District General Hospital, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HH - Tel: 01631 789008 quoting the relevant reference number.

Closing date for all posts: Friday 5 May 2006.

*Subject to "Agenda for Change" review.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. www.show.scot.nhs.uk/nhshighland

HOMEbase professional homemakers

Make a house a home



Brand new Homebase store opening in Oban

Homebase Recruitment Open Day

Tuesday 25th April 2006

10am - 8pm

Corran Halls, Oban

Brand new store means brand new team!

We have vacancies in all areas of the store, from Warehouse and DIY, through Garden Centre and Showroom to Homeworld and Stock Administration. With a range of flexible shifts available, each position offers a good hourly wage plus benefits and full training.

We are looking for energetic and dedicated individuals who can work well in a team and are committed to providing excellent customer service.

You will be able to meet members of the Homebase team and see a variety of Homebase products. Our management team will be there to provide information and discuss your application.

Application forms are available at the Recruitment Open Day and also from Oban Job Centre, from 20th April 2006.

forteith Foodservice

TELESALES OPERATOR

Full-Time position 0830 till 1700, Monday-Friday (occasional Saturday morning).

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following-
Be Friendly, Presentable, Hardworking, Team Player, Conscientious, Reliable, IT literate (or keen to learn), Numerate, Customer Aware.

RETAIL FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE

Full-Time salaried position, fully expensed company car.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate the following-
as above but also Field Sales experience (retail industry preferred), clean driving license.

-Immediate Start Available for both positions-

For an application form please contact-
John Forteith
Forteith Foodservice, Glengallan Road, Oban, Argyll. PA34 4HG
Tel- (01631) 569100 Fax- (01631) 570380
johnf@forteith.lis.com

Secretary - Glencoe & Dalness (R320)

20HRS PER WEEK, The National Trust for Scotland

£11,695 PRO RATA (1 post)

Our iconic property welcomes 180,000 visitors a year, and we're looking for someone to support us in our busy office. With your strong inter-personal skills you'll get a buzz from dealing with the public, taking telephone enquiries and bookings, and supporting the team with general administration. Highly organised, you'll have at least 2 years office experience, be proficient in MS Office products, and be able to demonstrate that you've got the initiative 'to get the job done'.

Call (0131) 243 9579 or email joints@nts.org.uk for details and an application pack.
Closing date 5 May 2006.

Visit us at www.nts.org.uk Charity SC007410

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer A 'no smoking' policy is operated

Relief Warden*

£14,466 - £16,116 pro rata Ford Spence Court, Benderloch
15.5 hours per week

You will be responsible to the Area Housing Officer for the provision of a high quality Sheltered Housing service to tenants. You will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively with tenants through regular visits; operate call and fire alarm systems and respond to emergencies; maintain clear and accurate records; liaise with partner agencies and encourage and promote social and recreational facilities for tenants.

You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) to include English and Arithmetic, or equivalent qualifications/experience. Homepoint accreditation is desirable whilst you should have experience of working with older people, excellent communications skills and a working knowledge of IT systems, including Microsoft Office. Ref: CSD04024.

For a recruitment pack call 01631 563068.

Waste Disposal Operative 2

£225.72 per week plus performance related bonus Glengorm, Isle of Mull

You will be responsible, individually or as a member of a team, for the operation of the waste disposal location, landfill site, transfer site or destruction site and the driving of associated vehicles.

It is desirable that you have an LGV driving licence and CITB Certificate. Experience in the use of waste disposal plant equipment and 360 excavators would be advantageous. You must be capable of working on your own or as part of a team and have the ability to deal with the public in a friendly and understanding way. Manual Handling training and Health and Safety awareness would also be an advantage. You must have a valid driving licence. Ref: OSR00539.

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604873.

*Applicants should note that this is an EXCEPTED POST, i.e. a post to which the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions)(Scotland) Order 2003 applies. Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting.

Closing date 5th May 2006.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

GO@L TRAINING

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.

Fife DIRECT

Clerical Assistant

£13,554 - £14,220 • 36 hrs/wk

Based at Ardroy Outdoor Education Centre, Lochgoilhead, duties include providing clerical support to the Head of Centre and Instructional Department and financial record keeping.

You must have three Standard Grades at Level 3 or above, or equivalent, including Maths and English. You will be able to work with numbers, have experience of general office administration, a proven record of computer literacy skills and good verbal and written communication skills.

Hours of work are Monday to Friday 8.48 am - 5.00 pm. Before an appointment can be confirmed you will be subject to a Scottish Criminal Records Enhanced Disclosure Check and a mandatory Health Assessment.

Ref: CS/2492B/OT

Closing date: 5 May 2006 • Tel. 08451 55 00 88

We value diversity and are striving towards equality of opportunity. All applicants will be considered fairly and on merit.

Information and application packs are on www.fifedirect.org.uk/jobs

Work Fife...Love Fife...Love Fife.

Scottish Sea Farms

MARINE HUSBANDRY PERSONNEL

Loch Nevis - Mallaig

Scottish Sea Farms Ltd are currently recruiting hardworking and dynamic individuals who wish to progress their future career in aquaculture. Working in a marine husbandry environment your responsibilities will span the full range of activities leading to successful farmed salmon performance namely: fish health and welfare, feeding routines, environmental monitoring and site security. Experience of working in such an environment is not essential but would be beneficial.

Opportunities for full time staff are now being considered for our Loch Nevis Site, Mallaig.

If you would like to play a part in the development of this exciting and progressive local industry then in the first instance contact our Personnel Office on 01786 445521 to obtain a copy of our job description. Then write, enclosing a CV, telling us how you would make the difference to our operations to:

Angela Hand
Scottish Sea Farms Ltd
Laurel House
Laurelhill Business Park
Stirling
FK7 9JQ.

Closing Date for Applications:
Thursday 4th May 2006

BÒRD NA GÀIDHLIG

*E amas Bòrd na Gàidhlig dèanamh cinnteach à seasmhachd na Gàidhlig agus a' cur an Alba san àm ri thighinn a rèir nan uallachan a tha a' nochdadh ann an Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005.

*E buidheann phoblach neo-roinneil a th'ann am Bòrd na Gàidhlig a tha stèidhichte le, agus cunntachail do, Mhinistearan na h-Alba. Bidh uallach air Bòrd na Gàidhlig airson stiùireadh is riaghladh Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

Chaidh Bòrd na Gàidhlig (Alba) a stèidheachadh ann an 2003, agus tha e suidhichte ann an Inbhir Nis. Chaidh Achd na Gàidhlig an gnìomh air 23mh An Gearran 2006 nuair a ghabh Bòrd na Gàidhlig thairis.

Stiùiriche Foghlaim

Tha uallach air Bòrd na Gàidhlig ro-innleachd nàiseanta foghlaim a dhealbh mar phàirt de Phlana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig. Bidh e an urra ris an Stiùiriche Foghlaim na h-uallachan a tha Achd na Gàidhlig (Alba) 2005 a' cur air a' Bhòrd a stiùireadh agus adhartachadh. Tha an dreuchd seo a' nochdadh fìor chothroman dhan neach dreuchd agus do dh'fhoghlam Gàidhlig aig ìre nàiseanta. Bidh eòlas farsaing aig an tagraiche soirbheachail air stiùireadh seirbheis foghlaim aig àrd-ìre. Coisnidh an neach seo aig ìre eadar £38,000 agus £42,000 no nas àirde a rèir eòlais. Tha am Bòrd deònach beachdachadh air iasadan cosnadh mu choinneamh na dreuchd seo agus tha làn-fhileantachd sa Ghàidhlig agus sàr eòlas air leasachadh foghlaim Ghàidhlig deatamach.

Oifigear Nàiseanta Trusaidh Luchd-teagaisg

Tha Roinn Foghlaim Riaghaltais na h-Alba agus Bòrd na Gàidhlig ag obrachadh còmhla gus fear de phrìomh mòlaichean Sìudaibh Farsaidh a' Tèaradh Thidsearan a chur an gnìomh. Tha am Bòrd a' sìreadh iarrtasan bhò thagraichean airson na h-ìomairt chudromaich seo a bhios a' foillseachadh chothroman cosnadh ann an raon teagasg is eile ann an Gàidhlig. Ged nach eil eòlas ann an saoghal foghlam air a mheas deatamach airson na h-obrach seo bhiodh dùil ri eòlas ann an co-luadar is foillseachadh poblach. Tha dùil gum bi tagraichean làn fhileanta ann an Gàidhlig, tha am Bòrd deònach beachdachadh air iasadan cosnadh mu choinneamh nan dreuchd seo. Bidh tuarastail eadar £26,000 agus £32,000 a rèir coimeas.

Neach-Taice/Rùnaire

Bidh an àrd-rùnaire seo a' cumail taice ris a' Cheannard agus cuideachd ri Cathraiche agus Buill a' Bhùird. Bidh an dreuchd a' gabhail a-staigh obair deasachaidh choinneamh a' Bhùird, deasachaidh chlàir, pàipearan-taice, slubhal, àitean fuirich agus gearr-chunntasan. Bidh dùil cuideachd gum bi an neach seo a' cumail taice ri luchd-rianachd eile mar a tha ìomhaigh ann an sgioba bheag. Roon tuarastail eadar £14,178 agus £20,647.

Rùnaire

Bidh an dreuchd seo fo stiùireadh làitheil Stiùiriche Ionmhais is Rianachd a' Bhùird, agus bidh uallachan àbhaisteach rùnaireachd co-cheangailte rìthe, agus cuideachd a' toirt seirbhis fàilte airson na h-oifis. Mar a bhiodh dùil ann an dreuchd co-cheangailte ri saoghal leasachaidh na Gàidhlig, feumaidh an neach a gheibh an dreuchd seo fìleantais ann an Gàidhlig agus eòlach air rianachd. Roon tuarastail eadar £14,000 agus £18,116. Tha am Bòrd deònach gabhail ri iarrtasan airson na dreuchd seo a roinn eadar dà neach ag obair còmhla.

Ma tha na sgilean agad agus ma tha thu den bheachd gun còrdadh e riut a bhith an sàs aig crìche ìomairt leasachaidh na Gàidhlig, cuir làn fhios gun dàil (agus aig a' char is fhaide ro 5.00f Dihaoine 05 Cèitean 2006) gu:

Aileen Cairnbeul, Ceannard, Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Darach, Fèith nan Clach, Inbhir Nis IV2 7PA

Comharraich do litir 'Dìomhair'

Tha cothrom ann air sgeama pèinneasan.

Tha Bòrd na Gàidhlig air a chomharrachadh fo sgeama Creideas nar Cosnaichean agus deònach trèanadh a thoirt seachad gus sgilean agus eòlas adhartachadh.

Tha co-ionannachd chothroman bunaitheach do Bhòrd na Gàidhlig is cuirear fàilte air iarrtasan bhò gach roinn den choinneamh.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, Darach, Fèith nan Clach, Inbhir Nis IV2 7PA
Fòn/Tel: 01463 225454 • Fios/bòrd-na-gaidhlig.org.uk
Tullachd fiosrachaidh agus pasgan tagraidh air www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk

Isle of Eriska

Hotel, Spa & Island

Breakfast Chef

5 day week 7 - 4.00pm
40 hours @ £6.25 per hour

Own transport essential
Preparing breakfast, staff meals and lunches

Phone 01631 720371
for application form

We are also seeking a keen Trainee Chef

PAN FISH

Pan Fish Scotland Limited, part of the Pan Fish Group, is one of the leading aquaculture companies in Scotland. Based in Argyll, and having a number of fish farms on the west coast, we now have vacancies for Fish Farm Workers at our sites within our South Production Region, encompassing Loch Fyne, Rothesay Sound and Isle of Gigha.

MARINE OPERATIVE(S)
(Ref. WRMO2)

Candidates will be self-motivated and be able to work within a close team in a constantly changing and challenging environment. Previous aquaculture and other relevant marine experience would be desirable but not essential, as extensive training will be given. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

To apply, please write enclosing an up-to-date CV to Mr R. Ferguson, Health and Safety Manager, Pan Fish Scotland Limited, Ardinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Closing date for applications: May 4, 2006.

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 50,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000

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**Imagine
a career at sea...**

Imagine graduating debt-free with great career prospects...

CP Ships, a part of Hapag-Lloyd, one of the world's largest container shipping lines is seeking recruits for our Officer Cadet Training programme.

If you are aged between 16 & 23 (or older in exceptional cases), you could join our fully sponsored training courses for school leavers and graduates or follow a Foundation degree programme at a leading UK Maritime Centre.

After you successfully complete the course, we offer you the potential for continuing your career to attain the rank of Captain or Chief Engineer by your early thirties.



Visit www.acareeratsea.co.uk for the full story.

Or contact our training services provider for more information:

Anglo-Eastern (IoM) Ltd, St George's Chambers, Hill St, Douglas, Isle of Man IM1 1EF
Tel: 01624 626582 Fax: 01624 624445 Email: cpcadets@angloeasterngroup.com

Abbeyfield

Where older people find care in housing

Abbeyfield Ballachullish is a purpose built building providing residential care, very sheltered housing and support services for older people.

Due to a recent reorganisation we now wish to appoint caring and dedicated people who are flexible and can offer commitment to our residents/tenants and the services we provide.

The services operate over 24-hour period and as a result a variety of positions are currently available to the right people. A rota system is in operation for all staff.

If you feel you can meet the challenge we would like to hear from you. We would particularly like to hear from people who are trained to SVQ level 2, although training will be provided.

Care Assistants	£5.80 p.h increasing to £6.00 p.h (with SVQ 2)
Senior Carers	£7.00 p.h An enhanced hourly rate will apply for night shift hours worked.
Driver/Handy Person	£7.00 p.h
Full Time Cook	£7.00 p.h
Part Time Cook	£7.00 p.h
Kitchen Porter	£5.50 p.h
Temporary Housing Services Advisor	£7.00 p.h
Relief Cleaner	£5.50 p.h

We may just have the right hours to suit you

For further details of the above positions please contact:
The Manager, Abbeyfield Ballachullish Society Ltd, Park Road Ballachullish PH49 4JS
Telephone No. 01855 812950

Email: abbeyfield@tiscali.co.uk website www.scotland.abbeyfield.com/balachullish
Closing date for applications Friday 5th May 2006

ARDFERN YACHT CENTRE

Vacancies exist for a

Cleaner

to clean and maintain the amenity block and site buildings and for a

Handyman/Engineer

for site works and maintaining yard equipment and tools. The positions may be combined and consideration will be given to full time and part time applications.

Pay dependent on experience and ability. These are permanent positions.

A vacancy also exists for an

Assistant

in our marina yacht chandlery. Apply with details of experience to

David Wilkie, Ardfern Yacht Centre, Ardfern PA31 8QN
Tel: 01852 500247 Fax: 01852 500624
Email: office@ardfernyacht.co.uk

North Ledaig Caravan Park Connell by Oban

Requires

CLEANER

for modern toilet/shower facilities at this 5* award winning park. Approximately 4-6 hours per day 5 1/2 or 6 days per week commencing at approximately 11.00am. Either one person or may suit active retired couple job sharing.

Rate of Pay £5.50 per hour. University Student requiring summer work. Duties will include a wide variety of activities including visitor reception, shop and office work, grass cutting, outside maintenance and cleaning. Hours to be agreed. Rate of pay £5.50 per hour.

Please telephone 01631 710451 for application form.

D A MACDONALD CONTRACTORS LTD

Have a vacancy for a
360° EXCAVATOR
OPERATOR

Please contact
Donald or Ian
During Office Hours

Tel: 01546 603 583

G. McNAUGHTON & SON Lochgilphead

**LGV Class 2
Tipper Driver**

required to work from our
LOCHGILPHEAD
SITE

Telephone
(01546) 602389
or apply in writing to the above address

DE SHOES

Senior sales assistant (full time) required for busy shoe shop in Oban. If you are confident and outgoing, please write to Mrs Catherine Cakebread, DE Shoes, 118 George Street, Oban, PA34 5NT or call in for an application form.

THE SMIBBY BISTRO

requires
Seasonal staff
May to September

Minimum of 21 hours per week
No Sunday or evening work
Competitive rate of pay to suit age and experience
(No school children need apply)
Call Brice after 6pm on
07796 862032

HELP WANTED

Self Catering
Cottages
Tarbert

Transport provided
and good rate of pay

Telephone:
01880 820 222

REMEMBER DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS MONDAY 4PM

The Oban Times
Tel: 01631 568000



DAB VJB

Dunbartonshire and Argyll & Bute
Valuation Joint Board

ASSESSOR AND ELECTORAL REGISTRATION OFFICER

Clerical Assistant 2/3 posts
(35 hours per week)
GS1/2 £10,260 - £14,220
Ref No: VJB/06/02

BASED AT KILBRANNAN HOUSE, BOLGAM
STREET, CAMPBELTOWN

You will provide general clerical and administrative support including reception duties, dealing with members of the public, computer input and routine correspondence. The main duties of the post will be to compile and maintain the Valuation Roll, the Electoral Register and the Council Tax Valuation List.

It is essential that you possess a minimum of 3 standard grades (level 1, 2 or 3), one of which should be English or equivalent qualifications/experience. You will require good communication and telephone skills and be able to work with minimum supervision and as part of a team. Experience in the use of personal computers and a working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Excel and Access is desirable.

Interviews will be held on Thursday 25th May 2006

Closing Date: Friday 5th May 2006

For an application pack please contact

Corporate Personnel (Admin)
Council Offices,
Garshake Road
Dumbarton
G82 3PU

Telephone Number 01389 737888

Or via E-mail:

recruitment@west-dunbarton.gov.uk

Please quote Reference Number
when applying

STAFF REQUIRED

Eaglesome Shop

Reform Square, Campbeltown

Part time staff required

to help serve the public during our busy lunchtime periods. Around 25 hours per week with exact hours to be confirmed.

Please apply in the first instance by contacting
Maureen Paterson, Catering Manageress
on 01586 551710 for further details.



Permanent and Seasonal Vacancies in
the following departments:

Front of House

Catering

Retail

Entertainments

Maintenance

Call 01631 720386 for more details and to
request an application form.

Ossians Care Home North Connell

We have the following vacancies:

Deputy Manager

We are looking for a dynamic, self motivated person for this position. Preferably a qualified nurse but alternatively an experienced carer with SVQ level 3. Hours and pay negotiable on skills and experience.

Activity Co-Ordinator

Needs to be outgoing and adaptable
Hours and pay negotiable depending on experience.

Staff Nurse

Must possess NMC Registration in Nursing.
Experience in elderly care preferable
£11.55 per hour to work on a shift pattern,
covering days and or nights

Relief Chef

18/25 part time hours per week.
Pay negotiable depending on experience.

Domestic Assistant

Experience preferred but not essential
£5.50 per hour - 10/15 hours part-time per week.

Please telephone 01631 710322
for further information

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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50,000 readers

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MacGREGOR - MacFADYEN

Christine MacFadyen and Stuart MacGregor, both of Oban, were married at Dungallan House Hotel, by Rev Andy Campbell on March 4, 2006.
Photograph by Highland Photos of Oban



ORMISTON - WILKINSON

Ruaridh Ormiston of Newtonmore and Joyce Wilkinson of Arisaig were married at the Glenfinnan House Hotel on March 3, 2006.



PHIMESTER - CAMPBELL

Fiona Campbell, Glamaig, Wellside Road, Balloch, Inverness, and William Phimster, Plumtree Cottage, Chivery, near Tring, Hertfordshire, were recently married in Cawdor Church, Cawdor. The bride's mother is from Salen, Isle of Mull and her father from Kilmelford, by Oban.

Stuart Photography, Dingwall, Ross-shire



O'BRYAN - PAYNE

The marriage took place on January 20, 2006 of Nicholas and Shelly at the Yarrowonga and Borders Club, Australia. Nick is the son of Ann and Michael and grandson of Mary and the late Hugh McCorkindale, Scammadale

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS BEST READ PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD SEEN BY MORE THAN *40,000 READERS EACH WEEK (* Source JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC Audit)

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 APPLICATION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF TWO-BERTH PIER AT FORMER ROBERTSON'S BOATYARD, SANDBANK

Notice is hereby given that Matthew Downs, on behalf of Seavision (Scotland) Limited, 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 construction of a two-berth pier at the above location in the positions:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Works	55 59.19 N	04 56.94 W
	55 59.24 N	04 56.95 W
	55 59.23 N	04 57.12 W
	55 59.19 N	04 57.05 W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at The Post Office, Sandbank. Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application, should be made to: Ports and Harbours Branch, The Scottish Executive, Transport Division 4, Area 2F North, Mailpoint 2B, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, within 28 days of the date of this notice, quoting reference: 2SPC/113/86.

Matthew Downs
Holy Loch Marina
Rankins Brae
Sandbank
Argyll, PA23 8QB

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TEC SERVICES

DAYWORK TENDERS FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORKS

The Council invites expressions of interest from suitably experienced Contractors for inclusion in a selected list of Tenderers.

Nature of the Work is very broad, and covers specialist business such as Welding, Tree felling, Fencing and Walling as well as such covered by general Civil Engineering and Landscape Maintenance.

Each contract will be let separately and will be awarded on the basis of availability and location as well as price.

Written applications should be made to, TEC Services, The Highland Council, Lochybridge Depot, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 6TL, marked F.A.O. Mr. J. C. Tolmie, Area Roads and Community Works Manager, no later than Thursday 11th May 2006.

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!



Find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @
www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PRIVATE LANDLORD REGISTRATION SCHEME

If you rent out a domestic dwelling, then you need to register NOW with Argyll and Bute Council. It is an offence to let property after the 1 May 2006 without having applied to register.

Further information on the registration scheme and exemptions, visit www.argyll-bute.gov.uk, telephone 01546 604361 or email enhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk with landlord registration in the message title.

To register online and get a 10% discount go to www.landlordregistrationscotland.gov.uk

HI LINKS **FUSION**

ATTENTION ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

...Lacking time and resources but want to innovate?

Event: 'The Innovation Roadshow' - Support for New Products and Processes
Venue: Craignish Village Hall - Ardfern
Date: Wednesday 26th April
Time: 11.00 to 12.45 with buffet to follow (optional 1 to 1 meeting clinics from 1 p.m.)
Attendance: Free
Format: There are a wide range of schemes in place to support both SMEs and large companies in the development of new products and processes. This seminar is the ideal opportunity to find out about the full range of support available.

To book please contact the HI Links Events Manager on:
Tel: 01463 667 357
Email: david.chapman@uhi.ac.uk

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Russ Craig Haulage Limited trading as Russ Craig Haulage Limited of Shiaman, North Ballachulish PH33 6SA is applying to change an existing licence as follows. To add an operating centre to keep 6 goods vehicles and 8 trailers at site 9, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, J Floor Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Oban High School Senior Prize Giving

S4, S5 and S6
Corran Halls, Oban
Wednesday April 26 at 7 pm
Guest Speaker: Councillor Dick Walsh

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORT SERVICE

SKYE & LOCHALSH AREA

PROPOSAL TO DESIGNATE SLEAT PRIMARY SCHOOL AS A DEDICATED GAELIC SCHOOL

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper in terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 regarding proposals to designate Sleat Primary School as a dedicated Gaelic School.

Copies of the above paper may be obtained from Mr L Young, Area Education Manager, Area Education Office, Elgin Hostel, Portree, Isle of Skye IV51 9EE (Tel: 01478 613697) to whom observations must be submitted no later than **Friday 16th June 2006**.

Arrangements have been made as under-noted for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss the above proposals with parents of children and members of the community who may now or in the future be affected by the implications of the proposal.

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
Thursday 1st June 2006	7.00pm	Sabhal Mor Ostaig



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (TAYNUILT) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 200

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) as read with section 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 30mph speed limit on the following length of road:

That length of the A85 Tyndrum - Oban Trunk Road at Taynuilt from a point 30 metres or thereby west of the centreline of Airds Bay Road eastwards to a point 108 metres or thereby northeast of the centreline of Brochroy Road, a distance of 1990 metres or thereby.

The A85 Trunk Road (Taynuilt) (30 and 40mph Speed Limits) Order 1995 is revoked by this Order.

Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan showing the length of road involved, a copy of the existing Order to be revoked and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge during normal business hours from 20th April 2006 until 18th May 2006 at Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Network Management Directorate, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ and Taynuilt Sub Post Office, Taynuilt PA35 1JE. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Network Management Directorate, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ by 18th May 2006.

J G BARTON

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ



SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

INQUIRY REPORTERS UNIT

NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

AIRDS BAY HOUSE JETTY, AIRDS BAY, TAYNUILT, ARGYLL

Scottish Ministers have appointed Mr Richard M Hickman MA BA (Hons) DipTP MRTPI to determine an appeal against the decision of Argyll & Bute Council to refuse planning permission for the change of use of private jetty to commercial jetty at Airds Bay House Jetty, Airds Bay, Taynuilt, Argyll.

The appeal is to be the subject of an inquiry and will be held in public. Any party wishing to take part in the inquiry proceedings should contact the Scottish Executive Inquiry Reporters Unit immediately, if they have not already done so. It should be noted that those participating will be expected to have provided any necessary supporting documents at least 4 weeks in advance of the opening of the inquiry, and a written statement of evidence (a "pre-recognition") at least 2 weeks in advance. The inquiry will commence at 10.00am on Tuesday 6th June 2006 within Taynuilt Village Hall, Taynuilt, Argyll. If necessary the inquiry will continue on successive days until concluded but is expected to last 2 days. You may wish to note that this venue has access for the disabled. Four weeks prior to the start of the inquiry, copies of the majority of inquiry papers will be available for inspection by interested parties at Taynuilt Post Office, Main Street, Taynuilt, Argyll.

DAVID HENDERSON
Scottish Executive Inquiry Reporters Unit
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park,
Callendar Road, FALKIRK FK1 1XR
Ref: P/PPA/130/154

Argyll & Bute Local Biodiversity Partnership

cordially invite you to attend our
Local Biodiversity Conference

Celebrating some of the best examples of Biodiversity in Britain with
Ken Macdonald- BBC Scotland and
Hugh Raven- Soil Association.

**30 May 2006
Craignure Hall- Isle Of Mull
11.00- 4.30pm**

The Conference will be on Biodiversity activity, with presentations from Mull & Iona Community Trust, Richard Fairbairns, SEERAD, SAMS and Business & Biodiversity Partnership. A Question and Answer Session with invited panellists will reflect on Biodiversity issues. The conference will end with a tree planting ceremony to celebrate Mull Tree Week and for delegates returning on the 19.00 ferry after a visit to view the Sea Eagle at Loch Don

Booking essential (as places restricted to 80) by 28 April 2006 - by contacting Linda Brown on 01631-562125 or Marina Curran-Colthart. e-mail: linda.brown@argyll-bute.gov.uk
Refreshments and Lunch provided.



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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 06/00613/COU
Applicant: Dunstaffnage Marina Ltd
Proposal: Change of Use of Old Seawork Building to Form Staff Accommodation
Site Address: Dunstaffnage Marina Dunbeg Argyll And Bute PA37 1PX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dunbeg
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00785/LIB
Applicant: Superdrug Stores Plc
Proposal: External Alterations and Internal Shop Fit
Site Address: 28 George Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5SB
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day
- Ref No: 06/00637/DET
Applicant: M And E Price
Proposal: Erection of House and Garage
Site Address: Fishing Gate Isle Of Coll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle Of Coll
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00775/COU
Applicant: E Macdonnell
Proposal: Siting of Mobile Catering Unit (Renewal of Previous Temporary Consent Reference 01/00653/COU)
Site Address: Land North West Of Tulla Cottage Bridge Of Orchy Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00758/DET
Applicant: L F Jacobsen
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 2, Arduaine Caravan Park Arduaine Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00733/DET
Applicant: L F Jacobsen
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 1, Arduaine Caravan Park Arduaine Argyll And Bute PA34 4XQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00719/DET
Applicant: Edward Watling
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse with Self Contained Annex
Site Address: Plot 1 Gieneshlach Farm Gieneshlach Road Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00696/COU
Applicant: Macdougall Trust
Proposal: Partial Change of Use from Class 9a Residential to Class 10d Museum
Site Address: Dunollie House Ganavan Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5TT
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00698/LIB
Applicant: Macdougall Trust
Proposal: Partial Change of Use from Class 9a Residential to Class 10d Museum
Site Address: Dunollie House Ganavan Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5TT
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day
- Ref No: 06/00744/DET
Applicant: Northern Lighthouse Board
Proposal: Erection of security fence
Site Address: Commissioners Of Northern Lighthouses Gallanach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4LS
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00747/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs W Owens
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Plot 9 Gieneshlach Farm Gieneshlach Road Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 4OJ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00776/DET
Applicant: James Heward
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house (amended design 04/00611/DET)
Site Address: Former County Hospital Site 5 Benvoulin Lane Benvoulin Lane Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services,
Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979

In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may in each financial year award grants of such annual value as they think fit to assist applicants of either sex:-

- to obtain qualification additional to degree associateship, diploma of certificate of a University or other institute of further or higher education already obtained.
- to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present.
- to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered or are about to register.
- to undertake training in leadership and initiative.
- to benefit from recreational holidays in cases of physical or mental disability, whether permanent or temporary.

In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Government Body shall:-

- satisfy themselves that the applicant is a protestant, has completed his school education, but is not at the time of the award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll.
- Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under this scheme.

Applications under this scheme with the full details on the foregoing matters can be obtained from and must be submitted to the Clerk to the Governors, no later than 31 May 2006, and applications received after this closing date will not normally be considered except in exceptional circumstances.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust,
160 Argyll Street, DUNOON, PA23 7NA

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL CIVIL ENGINEERING TENDERS, FORT WILLIAM

TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

VARIABLE MESSAGE SIGN FOUNDATIONS FORT WILLIAM, OBAN & AVIEMORE

Applications are invited from experienced Civil Engineering contractors who wish their names to be included on a select list of firms who will be invited to tender for the above Works. Estimated works cost £50,000.

The Works comprise the construction of reinforced concrete foundation bases, associated earthworks and erection of safety fencing for three Variable Message Signs (VMS) located adjacent to Trunk Roads. The sites are located at Fort William, Oban and Aviemore.

It is anticipated that the Works will commence in June 2006.

Applications should be made to the Director of TEC Services, The Highland Council, 38 Harbour Road, Inverness, IV1 1UF, marked F.A.O. Mr D Barber, Principal Engineer, Contract Law & Site Supervision, (Tel: 01463 228740/Fax: 01463 223 723/ e-mail: dave.barber@highland.gov.uk), no later than Friday 28th April 2006.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

An Comunn Gaidhealach Glasgow Branch

Partick Burgh Halls (Room 7)

Tuesday 2 May
7.30 p.m. All members welcome

CORPACH, BANAVIE AND CAMAGHAEAL COMMON GRAZINGS

FORMAL INTIMATION UNDER THE CROFTERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1993

Notice is hereby given that Donald Angus Cameron has applied to the Scottish Land Court for an Order authorising resumption of approximately 0.676 hectare of the Common Grazing of the Townships of Corpach, Banavie and Camaghael, for the purpose of conveying the said area of ground to R. E. Campbell (Joinery) Limited to provide access to a residential development to the east of Riverside Park, Lochyside, Fort William.

On 4 April 2006 the Court appointed this intimation by newspaper advertisement and ordered the Applicant to send to the Clerk to the Grazings Committee copies of the application, associated productions and the Court's Practise Note No. 4 (which emphasises the need for crofters to protect their own rights).

The Court ordered any shareholder or other person having a legal interest who opposes the Application or who wishes to claim compensation or a share in the value of the land to be resumed, to lodge Answers, including details of any such claim, with the Principal Clerk, One Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, EH12 5ER, within fifteen days from the date of the final advertisement.

Copies of the Application, productions and Practise Note have been sent to Mrs M E Dennison, Torri, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JR, and these documents may be inspected either there, at the Court's offices in Edinburgh, or at the offices of the Agents. Copies of the Practise Note may also be obtained from the Principal Clerk (Telephone 0131 225 3595).

Lindsays, WS, Edinburgh
Agents for Applicant
of which intimation is hereby made.
'K H R Graham'
Principal Clerk

PROTECT YOUR BIRDS FROM THE RISK OF BIRD FLU VOLUNTARY REGISTRATION

Do you keep poultry, gamebirds or other birds such as finches or canaries?

Are they kept outside for all or part of the time?

Join Argyll and Bute Council's voluntary registration scheme and you will be kept informed of local and national changes. You will also receive advice to help you protect your stock.

Registration is FREE.

To register please contact:
01546 604795 email: animalhealth@argyll-bute.gov.uk
or you can download a form from the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/birdflu or write to:
The Animal Health and Welfare Team,
Legal and Protective Services, Argyll and Bute Council, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead PA31 8QU

For all other enquiries about bird flu contact Debra on 08459 33 55 77.



Oban Times Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES



Highland Council vice-convenor Michael Foxley

Aberdeen Angus heifers to 160.9p per kilo at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1015 store cattle including 656 Aberdeen Angus at its special show and sale on Wednesday.

The principal sale of Aberdeen Angus cross cattle met an excellent demand from a large ringside of buyers.

All other classes continued to sell at recent keen rates.

At the show, sponsored by the Aberdeen Angus Cattle Society, Scottish Fuels and Neil Ross Tractors, Aberdeen Angus judge A Booth Esq., Savock, Newburgh, made the following awards:

Champion and First Prize Bullock; J Cowan and Son, Gordonhall, with a 640kg animal which sold to £770.

Reserve Champion and First Prize Heifer; J M Whiteford and Co, Wester Rarichie with a 420kg animal selling to £560.

Best Pen of Four; W J and P D Mackenzie, Hilton (535kg, £670), Second Prize Pen of Four; Midfean Farms (566kg, £700).

Best Pair; A and M McIntyre, Dalchalloch (570kg, £680), Second Prize Pair; Messrs Forbes, Lochdhu (595kg, £725).

Second Prize Bullock; Messrs Forbes, Lochdhu (725kg, £815), Second Prize Heifer; J Cowan and Son, Gordonhall (380kg, £450).

Continental judge John D Gill, Brucefield, made the following awards: Champion and First Prize Bullock; R Taylor, Meikle Geddes with a 475kg Limousin selling to £640.

Reserve Champion and Second Prize Bullock; W D Stephen and Co, Meikle Geddes with a 400kg Limousin selling to £600.

First Prize Heifer; W F Cruickshank and Son, Clury (355kg, £480, Lim), Second Prize Heifer; Castle Craig Farms Ltd. (325kg, £415, Lim).

Best Pair; W D Stephen and Co, Meikle Geddes (397kg, £565, Chx), Second Prize Pair; W D Stephen and Co, Meikle Geddes (467kg, £555, Chx).

Aberdeen Angus bullocks sold to a top of 154.5p per kilo for 233kg crosses from J A Bremner, North Calder, to average 129.1p, and £815 per head for the Second Prize Aberdeen Angus from Messrs Forbes, Lochdhu.

Continental bullocks sold to 154.1p for 292kg Limousins from A and M McAngus, Glenaldie, to average of 131.8p, and £770 per head for a Limousin from J M Fraser and Son, Lethen Mains.

Aberdeen Angus heifers sold to a top of 160.9p per kilo for 373kg crosses from Braelangwell Estates, to average of 116.1p, and £670 per head for 450kg crosses also from Braelangwell.

Continental heifers sold to 166.7p for 330kg Belgian Blue crosses from A and M McAngus, Glenaldie, to average of 123.6p, and £700 per head for 452kg Saler crosses from H A Ross, Torran.

Young bulls sold to a top of 115.2p per kilo for a 330kg Aberdeen Angus from Mrs P A Macdonald, Craggan Shegga.

The company also sold Over 30 Month cattle to a top of 94.6p per kilo for a 555kg Limousin cow from Messrs Forbes, Lochdhu, to an overall sale average of 73.9p, and to a top of £650 per head for an Aberdeen Angus cow from J and D Stark, Aiten.

Results
1 B Strachan, Bonnie 96
2 E Campbell, Lad 94
3 E Campbell, Bud 92
4 J MacLachlan, Taff 90
5 M MacNally, Moss 87
6 B Strachan, Cap 83

Older dogs
1 B Tennant, Lynn 92
2 I McConnell, Dan 85
3 I McConnell, Jaff 85
4 B Strachan, Rags 83
5 E Campbell, Kyle 80

Shellfish farming offered as the way forward for the west coast economy

HIGHLAND Council's vice-convenor has called for a move away from the political and financial support for salmon farming in the Highlands and Islands, and instead to examine the possibilities of developing shellfish farming while ensuring it remains in local ownership and control.

Councillor Michael Foxley, who has already drawn attention to the huge decline in salmon-farm based jobs, down to a sixth of levels 10 years ago, said that the proposed Norwegian mega-merger between Pan Fish, Marine Harvest and Fjord Seafood, cast a different light on the benefits of the salmon farming industry.

Councillor Foxley said: 'This latest merger puts the vast majority of Scottish salmon production under Norwegian control. It is inconceivable that Norway would have allowed something similar to happen.'

'Coupled with the loss of control of yet another of our natural assets, is the serious decline in jobs in remote areas, as farm sites are rationalised.'

'The Council gets more and more applications for fewer larger sites, where production will be concentrated and fewer workers are required. Already these companies are starting to lose the political support they had in the remoter rural areas, because they're cutting jobs. Neither does it wash with people that they provide processing jobs, because most of these jobs seem to be taken up by East Europeans.'

Councillor Foxley said the whole aquaculture sector and support for it from local authorities and Highlands and Islands Enterprise should be reviewed.

He said: 'We will have to examine if there are other fin fish species that can be developed on a smaller scale than salmon, as well as developing the shellfish farming industry.'

'That will require loch systems to be identified where salmon farms no longer operate, or reserving some loch systems for new species.'

'Shellfish farming provides the ideal model for small-scale operations, but again we have to ensure that shellfish companies are locally-owned and run and that they employ local people.'

'We should perhaps investigate how we can help them to work cooperatively on marketing, and ensuring they can sell their product as cost-effectively as possible.'

'We will have to look long and hard at our options, while there are still options open to us.'

Doug McLeod, chairman of the Association of Scottish Shellfish Growers, welcomed the proposed shift in support.

But he cautioned against pursuing alternative fin fish species. Mr McLeod said: 'Other fin fish species will develop the same problems as have been seen in the past with salmon.'

'Salmon is prone to diseases and although it is claimed that cod is relatively disease-free, diseases will arise as densities of new farmed fish species increase. Investment in fin fish is apparently a bottomless pit and public investment would be far better targeted at shellfish farming.'

'There are far many jobs per public pound in shellfish farming than there is in salmon farming and we have the opportunity to build a world-class industry'

Doug McLeod said: 'Shellfish cultivation takes a different approach. These are micro-enterprises, and that remains the best model for anyone trying to get into the industry. Once the business is going well, you have to hire people to take it onto the next stage.'

'The Executive should help set up regional cooperatives based on natural geographical areas such as the Western Isles, Skye, Orkney, Shetland and sections of the coastline. These areas could be together to provide common laboratory and depuration facilities, and also to organise transport.'

Executive scientists have highlighted the potential for the existing shellfish farming industry to be increased 100-fold with no adverse effects on the environment. According to Executive

figures, the industry was worth £6m in 2004 and provided 150 full time and 253 part-time jobs.

'The value of production is probably an under-estimate and the figure is more likely to be closer to £10m. But the scale of employment is impressive.'

'Many people combine shellfish farming with other employment. This work is like working a maritime craft.'

'In Shetland the industry has grown tremendously and many of the people in it have pulled out of salmon farming. I don't see the same kind of consolidation happening in shellfish as happened in salmon farming, but there is huge potential.'

'On the Mediterranean coast of France, shellfish production went from virtually zero to 15,000 tonnes in 10 years. This is an industry that is 100 per cent natural, there are no artificial feeds or additives, and it could provide significant employment in remote areas well into the future,' said Mr McLeod.

'This work is like working a maritime craft'



Slow Food at Ardtornish proves big success

MORE than 600 people from across Lochaber and the Isle of Mull took part in the West Highlands Slow Food Fair at Ardtornish House, Lochaline.

Slow Food is a movement whose principal aim is to encourage the production and consumption of good, local, fresh food. Through events such as the Ardtornish fair, producers and consumers are brought together, encouraging more local production and greater local consumption.

Slow Food is also about the enjoyment of good food in convivial company. While the west coast has always been well known for its sea food, Saturday's fair demonstrated a rich diversity of food and drink, all produced in the area. Cheese, beer, sweet and savoury baking, bread, beef, mutton, smoked fish, fungi, venison and whisky all featured with only the time of year preventing the appearance of fruit and vegetables.

Guests were given a plate and invited to 'graze' their way around the hall. At the door Paul Burton and Jane Stuart-Smith of the Whitehouse Restaurant cooked scallops and razor clams plus 55 kilos of mussels from Inverlussa Mussel Farm, Isle of Mull.

From Jan-Jacob Baak of Great Glen Game came smoked venison from the Great Glen Estate and Rural Chef of the Year Sukie Barber served local venison from Ardtornish Estate and Highland beef from Ulva farm. There was organic Mull mutton from the Ardalish Farm of Minty and Aeneas MacKay, who also offered some of their woven products including organic tweed and stylish hats made from their own sheep's wool.

There was Isle of Mull Cheese from Chris and Jeff Reade, served on Isle of Mull Bakery biscuits prepared by their son Joe. And a new goats' milk cheese from Jo Gunnell in Strontian could be sampled on oatcakes from Tanya Warner.

Locally grown rowan jelly, plus piquant Ardraich Chutneys complemented meats and cheeses

from Norrie and Anna McLaren and it could all be washed down with homemade mead from Allan Davidson, Ardtornish or perhaps some of the cask-conditioned ales from the Tobermory Brewery.

The event, which was a great success - and almost ran out of food such was the demand, received support from Lochaber Enterprise, Argyll and the Isles Enterprise, Lochaber Larder and Highland Council.

Pam and Nick Rodway of Moray and Highlands Slow Food convium helped stage the event and a huge vote of thanks went to Ardtornish Estate for hosting the day.

It is now hoped to form a local Slow Food group to celebrate local produce.



Michelle Woods and John MacLean of 'Pure Iona' kept smiling while answering hundreds of enquiries about the produce from their flock of 150 Hebridean sheep.

Nature Times

I AM ALWAYS AMAZED how many birds manage to nest undetected in my garden.

When cutting back shrubs in winter, or pruning climbers on the house wall, I am often surprised to discover how many nests I have walked past the previous summer without being aware of their presence.

The nest of a songbird such as a thrush or a robin is a remarkable feat of construction.

Each piece of material must be found, carried into place without attracting attention, and attached or secured; and this must be repeated hundreds of times before the nest is complete.

After all this work, the nest may well be used only once - a blackbird for example might build three different nests in a season for consecutive broods!

Blackbirds and song thrushes both build similar, substantial nests, with an outer layer of grass, small twigs, leaves and moss. Starting construction must be quite tricky especially on a branch, and a base layer of moss is usually laid down first. Both birds weave a dense outer layer then use mud to create a firm cup in which to lay the eggs.

The song thrush is unique amongst British birds in



A blackbird may construct three nests like this in one season

creating a smooth nest lining, rather like the inside of a coconut shell. This plaster-like 'bowl' incorporates rotted wood and dung, mixed with saliva, to create a firm and well-insulated structure.

Blackbirds add an inner layer of dry grass and leaves, which helps with identification if you come across a disused nest.

The chaffinch is another expert nest builder.

The nest is constructed with an outer layer of moss, bark and lichen, which makes it superbly camouflaged - vital in a deciduous tree or bush before the leaves have fully emerged.

A deep cup is made using grass and stalks, with a soft lining of rootlets, animal hair and feathers. Spider silk is even used to bind nest material together.

I have been watching a

busy, female robin in my garden. Male and female robins are virtually identical, but I know the gender of this one because she was carrying nesting material - like many other songbirds, only the female robin constructs the nest. She is building it somewhere behind the woodshed - robins are renowned for their 'creativity' in finding nesting sites, and as well as bushes or dense under-

growth, man-made spaces or platforms in neglected corners are often used.

If you happen to discover the location of a nest it is important to resist the temptation to investigate further - this will cause stress to the occupant(s) and may even lead to desertion.

Better to wait until the young birds emerge!

Highland Darter

Tore Simmental tops Dingwall prime sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 80 cattle (56 bullocks and 24 heifers) at its weekly prime sale.

Bullocks sold to a top of 135p per kilo for 550kg Limousins from J G Ross and Partners, Wester Cullicudden, to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall, and from J and J G Hannan, Tore Farm, to John M Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and to £838 per head for a Simmental from Tore Farm also to John M Munro Ltd.

Heifers sold to 126p per kilo for a 475kg Limousin from Messrs Campbell, Docharty, to John M Munro Ltd, and to £750 per head for a Charolais cross from J and B McCallum, Mountrich, to Woodhead Brothers, Turriff.

The company also sold 2261 prime sheep with lambs selling to a top of 147.1p per kilo for 43.5kg Bextex crosses from Conon Brae Farms to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall, and to £66.80 per head for Suffolk crosses from E Macrae, 30-32 Tomich.

On the Mediterranean coast of France, shellfish production went from virtually zero to 15,000 tonnes in 10 years. This is an industry that is 100 per cent natural, there are no artificial feeds or additives, and it could provide significant employment in remote areas well into the future,' said Mr McLeod.

Executive scientists have highlighted the potential for the existing shellfish farming industry to be increased 100-fold with no adverse effects on the environment. According to Executive

figures, the industry was worth £6m in 2004 and provided 150 full time and 253 part-time jobs.

'The value of production is probably an under-estimate and the figure is more likely to be closer to £10m. But the scale of employment is impressive.'

'Many people combine shellfish farming with other employment. This work is like working a maritime craft.'

'In Shetland the industry has grown tremendously and many of the people in it have pulled out of salmon farming. I don't see the same kind of consolidation happening in shellfish as happened in salmon farming, but there is huge potential.'

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'On the Mediterranean coast of France, shellfish production went from virtually zero to 15,000 tonnes in 10 years. This is an industry that is 100 per cent natural, there are no artificial feeds or additives, and it could provide significant employment in remote areas well into the future,' said Mr McLeod.

Executive scientists have highlighted the potential for the existing shellfish farming industry to be increased 100-fold with no adverse effects on the environment. According to Executive

figures, the industry was worth £6m in 2004 and provided 150 full time and 253 part-time jobs.

'The value of production is probably an under-estimate and the figure is more likely to be closer to £10m. But the scale of employment is impressive.'

'Many people combine shellfish farming with other employment. This work is like working a maritime craft.'

'In Shetland the industry has grown tremendously and many of the people in it have pulled out of salmon farming. I don't see the same kind of consolidation happening in shellfish as happened in salmon farming, but there is huge potential.'

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

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West Highland Times

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illness. Very dear and deeply loved wife of Robert and a very much loved mum of David and Alison. Proud and loving grandma who took great delight in her grandchildren, Rebecca, Hugh, Annabel, Jonathan and Philippa. Supportive and caring mother-in-law to Guy (Stenhouse) and a lifelong friend to Bette Graham. All friends respectfully invited to a short service of celebration and thanksgiving in the Garden at Mansefield, Kilmacoll at 11am on Saturday, April 22, 2006, to be followed later at 5pm by a burial at Crispie, Kilfinan, Argyll. Black not required. **MACCOLL** - Peacefully at Home Farm Nursing Home, Portree, Isle of Skye, on Tuesday, April 18, 2006, Lachlan (Lachie), 77 Glamaig Place, Portree, devoted husband of Mary MacLean and a dear uncle to all the family, both his own and Mary's. Funeral service from Church of Scotland, Portree, on Saturday, April 22, 2006, at 1.30pm, thereafter to Portree Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to Portree Hospital League of Friends and Home Farm Residents Fund. **MACCONNACHER** - Peacefully at Glencoe Hospital, Glencoe, on Wednesday, April 12, 2006, John Donald (Jay), aged 65 years, formerly of Glencoe Hotel and Glenmorven, Ballachulish, second son of the late Sandy and Joey (née MacDonald) and dear brother of Alexander. The funeral Requiem Mass was held on Tuesday, April 18, in St Mun's, Brecklet, Ballachulish, followed by interment at Duror Cemetery, R.I.P. **MACDONALD** - Suddenly, but peacefully, at her home on February 26, 2006, 4 Ardmor, South Uist, June MacDonald, in her 53rd year, dear wife of Ian, daughter-in-law and dear mother and gran. Formerly of Glasgow and Tiree. Sadly missed R.I.P. **MACLEAN** - (Mallaig) Suddenly on Monday, April 10, 2006, Ian (MacLean Deliveries), beloved husband of Anne and dearly loved father of Lindsay and Kirstin. Wonderful brother, brother-in-law and uncle. **MACLEAN** - Peacefully at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on April 17, 2006, Catherine (Cathie) McCormick MacLean (née Duncan), dear wife of the late Hector MacLean. Much loved mum and granny. Funeral in Portnahaven, Islay to take place next week. For funeral arrangements please call Jean McAffer Funeral Directors 01496 302428. **MACLURG** - Suddenly at home in Dalmally on Saturday April 15, 2006 in her 79th year, Margaret Jessie nee Murdoch, beloved wife of the late John MacLurg, a dear mother and grand mother, sorely missed. Funeral will take place at Perth Crematorium, Creiff Road, Perth on Friday April 21, 2006 at 3pm. Family flowers only please, retiring collection/donation if desired for Save the Children. **MACCALLUM** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on Friday, April 14, 2006, in her 98th year Elizabeth Kennedy MacCallum (Lizzie), eldest daughter of the late Duncan and Mary MacCallum. Funeral will take place from the Congregational Church, Oban, on Monday, April 24, 2006, at 10.30am thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please, retiring collection/donation if desired for Oban Hospice Ltd. **MCGREGOR** - Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on April 16, 2006, Tyson McGregor, aged 83 years, of 1 Powdermills, Furnace and formerly of 42 High Bank Park, Lochgilhead, beloved husband of the late Jeannie Blair McKenzie and much loved father of Adele, Ann, Eileen, Shona and Sandra, a dear father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church today, April 20, at 11.30am followed by Cremation at Cardross Crematorium at 2.15 p.m. Family flowers only please. **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** **DUFFY** - Pat and Jackie, daughter and son-in-law, of the late Patrick Duffy (Paddy) wish to extend their deep gratitude to family and friends, especially those who travelled from Ireland to support them during this very sad time. To all who supported us in prayer, sent Mass cards, flowers, cards and telephone calls. Our sincere thanks to Monsignor MacKinnon, Fort William, for his dedication and love to dad over many months, his regular visits brought a comfort and peace. To Canon MacKay for the Requiem Mass, also the organist and choir at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. To Stan Lupton, Funeral Directors, Tarbert, for dignified service delivered with compassion and sensitivity. To Rev. Doctor Ruth Lawson, Fort William, and Tina Morrow, Highland Carers Project, Inverness. To King's Knoll Hotel, Oban, for hospitality after the interment. Heartfelt thanks to Mary and Danny MacDougall and Iain Darling

'The Butler'. Oban, whose friendship and support allowed dad to stay at home for so long. To all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. No more pain. Safe in the everlasting arms. **MACDONALD** - Ian and family of the late June MacDonald would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their kindness and support, all cards and flowers received at this very sad time. Special thanks to Fr. Michael MacDonald and Fr. Roddy MacAulay for their comforting service, MacPhee Bros. for funeral arrangements and for all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. Sincere thanks to Lachie and staff at Dark Island Hotel for catering and refreshments, this has been very much appreciated. We were overwhelmed by the kindness shown to us. Thank you everybody, 4 Ardmor, South Uist. **MCDUGALL** - Dilys and family of the late Bobby McDougall would like to thank relatives and friends for all their kindness, flowers and cards. Thanks to the doctors and district nurses from Connel Surgery and doctors and nurses from Ward B The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital who have looked after Bobby over the past few years. Thanks to the Hoey family for the efficient funeral arrangements, many thanks to the Rev Margaret Miller for the comforting service and Mrs Doris Leitch for playing the organ, to Christine and Neil at Kilchrean Inn for their refreshments and lastly thanks to everyone who came from far and wide to pay their last respects at Kilchrean Church and graveside. A collection for The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital raised £407. **TAYLOR** - Helen, Eilidh and Neil would like to express their sincere and heartfelt thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for the many kind expressions of sympathy and the many cards, letters and flowers received following the sad loss of John. Sincere thanks to Dr De Laat of Killin Medical Practice for her caring attention and support given during John's illness, and to the medical staff of Ward F3 The Beatson, Glasgow and Strathcarron Hospice. Also thanks to the Rev John Lincoln for his kind words and comforting service and to Mr A Anderson & Sons for their valued support and guidance. Thanks to all those who paid their last respects to John at the church and Ardeonaig and gave so generously to Strathcarron Hospice raising a sum of £1258. Thank you all. **PURDEN** - Precious memories of our son Angus. They say that hearts don't really break My God that's not true The day you took our son away You broke our hearts in two If tears could build a stairway And memories could build a lane We would come to heaven And bring you home again The tears in our eyes We can wipe away But the pain in our hearts is here to stay. Love you always Angus. - Mum and Dad xxx. **STEELE** - Precious memories of our sister Morven, who died April 20, 1984. - Morag and Alan. **STEELE** - In loving memory of a dear niece and cousin Morven, who died April 20, 1984, aged 11 years. Treasured memories we will always have. - Inserted by uncle Donald, auntie Morag, uncle Neil, Gregor and Euan in Killin. **STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather, Jimmy, who died on April 25, 1989. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families. **SWAINSON** - My dearest wife, Rachel, who died April 18, 1997. If love could have saved you You would not have died If tears could bring you back You'd be here by my side I will always love and miss you. - Tony. **SWAINSON** - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled In heaven she rests God bless you, mother You were the best. You will always be our hero We miss you so much. - Jacqueline and Marie. **TIMMS** - Precious memories of our dear dad and loving grandad, Arthur, who passed away April 17, 1984. Deep are the memories Precious they will stay No passing of time Shall take them away. - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

MACCALLUM - In loving memory of my dear wife, Agnes, who died so suddenly April 17, 1998. Dearly loved and sorely missed. Did not have time to say goodbye But safe in the arms of Jesus. - Willie, 74 Glenkingie Street, Caol. A loving mother and grandmother Always in our thoughts. - Donald, David and families, Hemel Hempstead and Banavie. **MCDONALD** - Precious and everlasting memories of our dear parents and grandparents, Vena who died on February 25, 1995 and Jackie who passed away on April 12, 1999. No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you always there. - Hugh, Brenda, Liz, John, Alison, Alan, Iain and Karla. **MCGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of my dear husband, John, who died April 23, 2000. Forever remembered. - His loving wife, Margaret. **MCGREGOR** - In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Robert, who died on April 25, 1999. Always in our thoughts. - Mum, Dad, Annie and Duncan. **MCGREGOR** - In loving memory of Robert taken from us on April 25, 1999, a loving brother, brother-in-law and uncle to Ally, Kathleen, Ewan, Jamie and Rachel. - Until we meet again. **MACINTYRE** - Cherished memories of my loving husband and devoted father and grandfather, Archie, who died as a result of a tragic accident on April 22, 2001. Gone from my life I loved you so My grief and heartache You'll never know How I miss You smiling face You made the world A better place. - Frances xxx 17 Glenview, Dalmally. **MACINTYRE** - Fond memories of our loving dad, taken from us on April 22, 2001. Always in our thoughts. - Keith, Sharon and families. **MACLEOD** - In fond memory of Don, who passed away on April 15, 2002. God knew that you were getting tired Cure was not to be He took you gently by the hand And whispered come with me Always in our hearts. - Inserted by loving wife, Mary, family and grandchildren. **PURDEN** - Precious memories of our son Angus. They say that hearts don't really break My God that's not true The day you took our son away You broke our hearts in two If tears could build a stairway And memories could build a lane We would come to heaven And bring you home again The tears in our eyes We can wipe away But the pain in our hearts is here to stay. Love you always Angus. - Mum and Dad xxx. **STEELE** - Precious memories of our sister Morven, who died April 20, 1984. - Morag and Alan. **STEELE** - In loving memory of a dear niece and cousin Morven, who died April 20, 1984, aged 11 years. Treasured memories we will always have. - Inserted by uncle Donald, auntie Morag, uncle Neil, Gregor and Euan in Killin. **STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather, Jimmy, who died on April 25, 1989. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families. **SWAINSON** - My dearest wife, Rachel, who died April 18, 1997. If love could have saved you You would not have died If tears could bring you back You'd be here by my side I will always love and miss you. - Tony. **SWAINSON** - Mum. She was a mother so very rare Content in her home and always there On earth she toiled In heaven she rests God bless you, mother You were the best. You will always be our hero We miss you so much. - Jacqueline and Marie. **TIMMS** - Precious memories of our dear dad and loving grandad, Arthur, who passed away April 17, 1984. Deep are the memories Precious they will stay No passing of time Shall take them away. - Love Catherine, Lachie and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 23 April 2006
First after Easter

St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion 0800
Sung Eucharist 1015
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome

Norman MacCallum,
Provost
☎(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich

Holy Eucharist 1100
Christ Church, Lochgilhead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist 0900
Mattins and
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Groulle, Mull
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 0800
Evangelist 2000

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 11 a.m.
New Venue:
St Moluag's Centre
Croft Avenue, Oban
All welcome
Telephone
(01631) 710208

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 23 April 2006
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Wednesday 26 April 2006
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

DESTINY CHURCH OBAN
Sunday 23 April
Drummore School
Lower Soroba
Oban
11 a.m.
Guest Speaker:
Liam Smith
Telephone:
01631
564283
www.destiny-church.com

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

Macmillan cancer relief
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Macmillan Cancer Relief
79-81 Lauderdale Gardens
Hyndland, Glasgow, G12 9QU
Freephone 0800 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK
Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

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, R.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

Our mission is to leave no-one entombed

ANCIENT tradition tells us that the resurrection began when Jesus 'descended to the dead'. This moment is called 'The Harrowing of Hell'. Most of you will know that a harrow is a farming tool with spike-like teeth that breaks up the ground. So, in this 'harrowing of hell', Jesus is breaking up death, and breaking up alienation and separation from God. Let me quote part of an ancient homily text: 'Out of love for you and for your descendants I now... command all who are held in bondage to come forth... I did not create you to be held a prisoner in hell. Rise up from the dead, for I am the life of the dead... Rise, let us leave this place...'. As Christ's Easter people, he wants us to harrow hell; that is, he wants us to break up the hardened ground, the tombs, and the dark places that we have all slid or fallen or dived into ourselves. Christ did not create us to be held prisoners of hell - the empty tomb is exactly what we need to see each Sunday: empty tombs. Easter is not a day, it is our life; it is not simply for the hereafter, it is for here and now. I know that some of you may be feeling like you are in hell right now - in darkness, cold, lonely, lost, anxious. If this is where you are, my fervent prayer for you is that you will begin to hear the liberating tones of the harrow above you and within you. The hard earth is being broken up; hope is on the way. If you are not there right now, please give thanks to God - but don't relax too much. If we are not in hell, then we must be harrowing hell for someone else. Our mission is to leave no one entombed. We have the cross of victory. None of us are created for hell, we are to empty its precincts. Let us arise together and leave that place. Alleluia, the Lord is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia.

The Rev. Irene Gillespie, Tiree.

BIRTHS

HUTCHISON - COLTHART - Fiona and Alasdair are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Marsaili Mairi Morrice, on March 23, 2006, a sister for Domhnall Aonghas, at home at Achosrigan, Appin. Very special thanks to midwives Caroline Walker and Annette Petrie.

HUTCHISON - To Andrew and Jules a son, Finn Richard Spencer, at Addenbrooke's Cambridge, on April 9, 2006. With sincere thanks to all staff. A cousin for Domhnall Aonghas and Marsaili Colthart of Kinlochlaich, Appin.

KING - Stephen and Jennifer are delighted to announce the birth of their twin daughters, Rowan and Becky, on March 28, 2006 at the Royal Alexandra, Paisley. Two little sisters for Josie.

ENGAGEMENTS

HOOKER - BRIGHT - The engagement is announced between Joshua, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Hooker of Ardsay, Isle of Mull and Shona, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Bright of Shipston on Stour, Warwickshire.

MACKAY - BROWN - Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Laura, daughter of John and Joanie, Tobermory, to Nick, son of George and Barbara, Cumbria.

SILVER WEDDING

SCOTT - MUIR - Congratulations. Happy Silver Wedding Anniversary to Sandra and James Scott, who were married on April 19, 1981. Love to you both from all the family. Present address 'Verulam' Drummore Road, Oban.

DEATHS

CAMERON - Peacefully, at Anfield House, Stirling on Friday, April 14, 2006, in her 87th year, Edith Agnes Cameron, formerly of Crawford Drive, Drumchapel, beloved daughter of the late Rev. Hector and Mrs Edith Cameron, dearly loved sister, sister-in-law and aunt of the family. Fondly remembered. Funeral service on Monday, April 24, 2006, at 12 noon at Falkirk Crematorium to which all friends are respectfully invited. **CAMPBELL** - It is with great sadness that Allan and Rona announce the peaceful passing on April 6, 2006, of their dearly loved mother Morag, greatly missed Granny and beloved wife of the late Colin. Deobedal, Scarinish, Isle of Tiree. **CAMPBELL** - Peacefully, at Canniesburn Care Home on April 14, 2006, Catriona, beloved wife of the late Allan, much loved mother of Morag and dear mother-in-law of Donald and loving sister of Mary Ann. **GRANT** - Peacefully, at Ossian's Retirement Home, North Connell, on April 16, 2006, in her 91st year, Phyllis, beloved mother of Jenny and loving grandma and great-grandma to Stefan, Matthew and Callum. Funeral will take place at St John's Cathedral, Oban, on Monday, April 24, at 1.30 p.m., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donation, if desired, for Chest, Heart and Stroke, Scotland. **GRAY** - Audrey died peacefully surrounded by her family at her daughter's home in Kilmacoll on Saturday, April 15, 2006 after a short

DEATHS

MACDONALD - Suddenly, but peacefully, at her home on February 26, 2006, 4 Ardmor, South Uist, June MacDonald, in her 53rd year, dear wife of Ian, daughter-in-law and dear mother and gran. Formerly of Glasgow and Tiree. Sadly missed R.I.P. **MACLEAN** - (Mallaig) Suddenly on Monday, April 10, 2006, Ian (MacLean Deliveries), beloved husband of Anne and dearly loved father of Lindsay and Kirstin. Wonderful brother, brother-in-law and uncle. **MACLEAN** - Peacefully at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh on April 17, 2006, Catherine (Cathie) McCormick MacLean (née Duncan), dear wife of the late Hector MacLean. Much loved mum and granny. Funeral in Portnahaven, Islay to take place next week. For funeral arrangements please call Jean McAffer Funeral Directors 01496 302428. **MACLURG** - Suddenly at home in Dalmally on Saturday April 15, 2006 in her 79th year, Margaret Jessie nee Murdoch, beloved wife of the late John MacLurg, a dear mother and grand mother, sorely missed. Funeral will take place at Perth Crematorium, Creiff Road, Perth on Friday April 21, 2006 at 3pm. Family flowers only please, retiring collection/donation if desired for Save the Children. **MACCALLUM** - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on Friday, April 14, 2006, in her 98th year Elizabeth Kennedy MacCallum (Lizzie), eldest daughter of the late Duncan and Mary MacCallum. Funeral will take place from the Congregational Church, Oban, on Monday, April 24, 2006, at 10.30am thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please, retiring collection/donation if desired for Oban Hospice Ltd. **MCGREGOR** - Peacefully at the Mid Argyll Hospital, on April 16, 2006, Tyson McGregor, aged 83 years, of 1 Powdermills, Furnace and formerly of 42 High Bank Park, Lochgilhead, beloved husband of the late Jeannie Blair McKenzie and much loved father of Adele, Ann, Eileen, Shona and Sandra, a dear father-in-law, grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral service will be held in Lochgilhead Parish Church today, April 20, at 11.30am followed by Cremation at Cardross Crematorium at 2.15 p.m. Family flowers only please. **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** **DUFFY** - Pat and Jackie, daughter and son-in-law, of the late Patrick Duffy (Paddy) wish to extend their deep gratitude to family and friends, especially those who travelled from Ireland to support them during this very sad time. To all who supported us in prayer, sent Mass cards, flowers, cards and telephone calls. Our sincere thanks to Monsignor MacKinnon, Fort William, for his dedication and love to dad over many months, his regular visits brought a comfort and peace. To Canon MacKay for the Requiem Mass, also the organist and choir at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. To Stan Lupton, Funeral Directors, Tarbert, for dignified service delivered with compassion and sensitivity. To Rev. Doctor Ruth Lawson, Fort William, and Tina Morrow, Highland Carers Project, Inverness. To King's Knoll Hotel, Oban, for hospitality after the interment. Heartfelt thanks to Mary and Danny MacDougall and Iain Darling

MEMORIAL SERVICE

MACCUISH - Murdo John, 49 years, Freemantle, Australia (formerly Morvern), youngest son of the late Malcolm MacCuish and of Katie MacCuish, Larachbeg, Morvern. Memorial service at Keil Church, Morvern, on Saturday April 29, at 1pm and afterwards at Lochaline Hotel.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of David Campbell, passed away on April 18, 2005. We hear your voice We see your face But you're not there. We miss you so much. - Inserted by Mum, Elspeth and Helen and family. **CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of dear wee Duncan Campbell, who died April 25, 2002, in his 34th year. It's four years since you left us But you are loved and missed everyday. - Inserted by his aunt Jean, Breadalbane Street, Oban. **CURRIE** - Remembering you always, Caroline, who died on April 17, 1992. Our hearts are full of memories. With pride we speak your name Though life goes on without you It will never be the same. - Mum, Dad and family at Mallaig and Kelso. **GIBSON** - In loving memory of Mary, a dear wife and much loved mum and granny, who passed away on April 21, 2003. Deep are the memories Precious they will stay No passing of time Shall take them away. You left us quietly Your thoughts unknown You left us memories We are proud to own. - Iain and family. **GILLIES** - Cherished memories of my dear mother, Morag, died April 24, 2002. Also remembering with love my dear father, Duncan, died November 14, 1987 and uncle Angus, died August 1, 2005. Always in my thoughts and prayers - Maureen. **HAMILTON** - In loving memory of Brian, who sadly passed away, April 22, 2003. Your resting place I visit Flowers I place with care No one knows the heartache As I turn and leave you there. - Jim and Pamela. Gentle Jesus up above Please give papa all our love. - James and Christopher.

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CoS coffee boost for Oban Hospice



Thanks to a Church of Scotland coffee morning in Oban, the Friends of Oban Hospice has received a cheque for £600. The ladies of Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland Guild held their annual dinner and AGM in McTavish's where Mary Black, deputy chairwoman of the friends, thanked Margaret MacLean, Christine Pearson, June Campbell and the rest of the guild for the cheque. (16/6/06)

Alcoholic to speak in Fort of finding God

A REFORMED alcoholic, who claims her life was transformed after finding God, will visit Fort William next weekend to give hope to others affected by alcohol addiction. Fifty-six-year-old Mary Nicholson - now a project leader at the Glasgow-based Preshal Trust, which offers a lifeline to families whose lives have been blighted by drink, drugs, depression, poverty or personal tragedy - will reveal how her life spiralled out of control before she was converted to the church. She became a notorious fighting drunk after she tasted her first drink aged just 15 years old and, less than a year later, found herself locked up in a mental hospital receiving electric shock treatment for her behaviour. Paisley-born May, who has done outreach work for the church in Dundee and Glasgow for the last 22 years, will talk about the two decades of her life she believes were ruined by alcohol abuse as she retraces her steps on the road to recovery. She is promoting a book, *Miracles from Mayhem*, by Irene Howat - about her experience. May is due to speak at a supper evening in Kilmallie Free Church, Caol, next Friday April 28 at 7.30pm; the Faith Mission Centre, Fort William, on Saturday (April 29) at 7pm; and return to Kilmallie Free Church for a road to recovery meeting the following Monday May 1 at 7.30pm.

Easter Sunday service on Pulpit Hill



Christians from all denominations joined together on Pulpit Hill early on Sunday morning for an Easter service of praise. Angus Smith of the Free Church, Rev Liz Gibson from the church of Scotland, Captain Connie MacCallum from the Salvation Army and Andy MacCulloch of Destiny Church took the service. The reading was from St John's Gospel. (16/6/06)

Blaze of light welcomes Easter in Oban

BISHOP Ian Murray, assisted by Fr Donald MacKay, celebrated Holy Week at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. They led large congregations, augmented by visitors, through services known as the Triduum. Thursday evening's Mass of the Last Supper was followed on Good Friday afternoon by the solemn remembrance of the Passion and Crucifixion. Then, on Saturday evening, a darkened cathedral gradually gave way to a blaze of light signifying the Resurrection and the beginning of Easter. An extra touch this year came from several Polish families now resident in the area. In accordance with a national custom they brought decorated baskets of produce to the Saturday vigil. These were blessed by Bishop Murray. Next day the eggs and bread, symbolic of new life, became the first meal of Easter.

TIMES Sport



PREMIER DIVISION

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Fort William	5	4	0	123	7	8	
Newtonmore	5	3	2	011	5	8	
Kingussie	4	2	1	115	5	5	
Kilmallie	4	2	1	18	7	5	
Inveraray	4	1	2	19	10	4	
Strathglass	4	0	2	25	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	
Beaulieu	3	3	0	10	1	6	
Lovat	4	2	1	11	5	5	
Caberfeidh	1	1	0	0	6	2	
Lochaber	1	1	0	0	4	0	
Glenurquhart	3	1	0	2	3	2	
Skye	2	1	0	1	1	2	
Kinlochshiel	1	0	1	0	2	1	
Aberdeen U	3	0	1	2	0	10	1
Inverness	4	0	1	3	1	16	1

SOUTH DIVISION 1

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Ballachulish	6	3	1	2	14	6	7
Glenorchy	4	3	1	0	10	4	7
GMA	4	2	2	0	16	7	6
Kyles	3	1	2	0	13	5	4
Lochside	4	2	0	2	7	4	4
Bute	3	2	0	1	4	1	4
Kilmory	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Tayforth	5	0	0	5	3	30	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
Boleskine	3	0	1	2	1	1	1

SOUTH DIVISION 2

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Strachur	7	4	0	0	25	5	11
Kyles	3	2	1	0	14	4	5
Inveraray	3	2	1	0	5	1	5
Edinburgh	5	2	1	2	9	13	5
Oban Celtic	3	1	2	0	10	2	4
Glenorchy	3	2	0	1	9	5	4
ColGlen	2	2	0	1	10	2	2
GMA	3	0	0	3	3	11	0
Aberdour	6	0	0	6	2	35	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
Beaulieu	3	1	0	2	7	2	3
Glenurquhart	2	0	1	2	4	1	2
Lochbroom	3	1	0	2	7	9	0
Inverness	3	0	0	3	2	9	0
Ardnamhan	4	0	0	4	2	27	0

Tulloch MacTavish Cup First Round

Fort William	P	Lochcarron	P
Inverness	1	Beaulieu	2
Caberfeidh	1	Lovat	2
Kinlochshiel	2	Glenurquhart	1
Kilmallie	P	Lochaber	P
Kingussie	5	Strathglass	0
Aberdeen Uni	0	Newtonmore	6

Tulloch Celtic Society Cup Preliminary Round

GMA	P	Kilmory	P
-----	---	---------	---

Strathdearn Cup Preliminary Round

Beaulieu	0	Skye	7
Inverness	2	Fort William	8
Kincraig	1	Lochcarron	0
Newtonmore	4	Lovat	0
Ardnamurchan	0	Caberfeidh	7
Kingussie	1	Glenurquhart	0
Lochaber	P	Kinlochshiel	P
Boleskine	3	Strathglass	0

Marine Harvest South Division One

Kyles	9	Tayforth	1
Lochside	0	Ballachulish	1

South Division Two

Aberdour	0	Col Glen	9
Glenorchy	4	GMA	1
Inveraray	P	Oban Celtic	P
Strachur	w/o	Edinburgh	EL



Strathglass defender Lee Bain tracks Ronald Ross at the Dell on Saturday

Phimister sent off as Strathglass go out of MacTavish Ross in stitches after first-half cup tie stroll

IF THIS MacTavish Cup first round tie at the Dell, Kingussie had been a boxing match, referee Calum Duff would have had few complaints had he stopped the contest by half-time.

Kingussie were simply unstoppable from the first whistle and, although Strathglass deserve credit for reorganising during the half-time break and making more of a match of it, the damage was done.

Red card

A late sending off for Strath's George Phimister after a wild lash at Ronald Ross, which later resulted in the star striker receiving stitches in a shin gash, just about summed up what proved a frustrating afternoon for the visitors.

By the time Kingussie's Russell Dallas had opened the scoring with a fierce shot to the roof of the Strathglass net within the first minute - the home side had already hit the crossbar and produced a good blocking save from keeper Stuart Geddes.

If it was Strathglass's intention to keep it tight at the back over the opening 20 minutes then the game plan went seriously off the rails as Kingussie forced the early pace and, with the Strath defence chasing

Shinty

Tulloch MacTavish Cup 1st Round
Kingussie 5 Strathglass 0

shadows, David Borthwick stroked the ball under the keeper for number two in the sixth minute.

Kevin Thain's direct running at a now nervous rearguard repeatedly caused panic and before the 12th minute he was unlucky to see a shot deflected for a corner and another well saved by Geddes.

Ronald Ross's ability to turn defenders was brought sharply into focus and his movement off the ball carved open the Strath backline as Geddes worked overtime to keep Kingussie at bay.

Little was seen of Strathglass as an attacking force, with most moves breaking down in midfield or becoming increasingly scrappy in the final third of the park.

With Strathglass unable to get the pressure off their defence, Ross had a corner, then a neat passing move between Ross and Thain saw Thain tumbled and the ball smuggled away for another

corner which David Borthwick met unmarked but pulled his finish wide.

It was after the half-hour mark before Strathglass produced their first real attack a Garry Reid's shot turned round the post for a corner by keeper Andrew Borthwick.

But the Cannich-side's forward movement was short lived as David Borthwick's shot was well saved by Geddes, Thain pulled the rebound wide and Ross clipped the post before Thain collected the ball on the left, made room for a shot and left Geddes with no chance of saving.

Ross hit the post again in the 36th minute and then provided a clever touch and run move which resulted in David Borthwick through pass being smashed home by Ross for number four.

Paul Gow set-up Ross for an easier chance minutes later but this time Geddes matched the move with a great save.

Strath came back at the start of the second-half with Garry Reid's shot after two

minutes well saved by Borthwick but they failed to find the fluency required to sustain their attacks and play was scrappy for long periods.

George Phimister's red card, Ronald Ross missing a penalty then netting Kingussie's fifth goal one minute off the final whistle concluded the action in a tie that was over after 35 minutes.

Strathglass will aim to pick up the pieces away against Inveraray in the premier league this week while Kingussie have a free weekend ahead of a second round MacTavish Cup against rivals Newtonmore at the Dell on the 29th.

Saturday's fixtures

Shinty

Saturday April 22 2006

Tulloch MacTavish Cup First Round
Fort William v Lochcarron 12 noon
Kilmallie v Lochaber 12 noon

Tulloch Celtic Society Cup Preliminary Round
GMA v Kilmory

Strathdearn Cup First Round
Fort William v Lochbroom
Kilmallie v Skye
Lochaber v Kinlochshiel

Marine Harvest Premier league
Inveraray v Strathglass
Oban Camanachd v Newtonmore

Marine Harvest North Division One
Aberdeen Uni v Beaulieu
Kinlochshiel v Glenurquhart
Lovat v caberfeidh
Skye v Inverness

South Division One
Ballachulish v Glenorchy
Bute v Kyles Athletic

North Division Two
Glenarry v Boleskine
Kingussie v Lovat
Newtonmore v Strathglass

South Division Two
Col Glen v Glenorchy
Edinburgh EL v Inveraray
Kyles v Aberdour
Oban Celtic v GMA

North Division Three
Glenurquhart v Nairn
Inverness v Ardnarmurchan

Kyles continue to climb league table

Shinty

Marine Harvest
South Division One
Kyles 9
Tayforth 1

KYLES will continue to climb the South Division One table if they can take both points away from Bute at Rothesay this Saturday.

Last weekend's 9-1 thrashing of Tayforth at Tighnabruich saw seven different Kyles' players get their names on the scoresheet with doubles for both Grant Irvine and Matthew MacColl.

The win sees a Kyles team, which has netted 13 goals from only three games, move to within two points of third-placed Glasgow Mid Argyll, with the Glasgow-based club in re-scheduled Celtic Cup action this Saturday against Kilmory.

Last Saturday's Kyles victory also leaves their opponents Tayforth at the foot of the South Division One table and without a win in five league starts this season.

Beaulieu stutter but still go through

Shinty

BEAULIEU's expectations of another high-flying season almost came adrift at Inverness when the team at the bottom of North Division One almost caused a MacTavish Cup upset against the league leaders.

Simon Holmes gave Beaulieu the lead after 35 minutes but they failed to play like a settled team and the slender advantage was all that separated the sides until Steven Christison made the tie safe 20 minutes from full time.

Callum MacLeod drew a goal back for Inverness with two minutes to play but it was too late to snatch a dramatic draw.

Two first-half goals by Steven Cameron took Lovat through to the next round after a 2-1 away win against Caberfeidh.

place on Saturday was in Aberdeen where North Division One side Aberdeen University faced Premier division Newtonmore.

Two goals each for Paul MacArthur and Orston Gardiner, plus one-a-piece for Fraser Mackintosh and David Cheyne earned Newtonmore a 0-6 win and a quarter-final slot against Kingussie.

With the quarter-finals of the MacTavish Cup due on Saturday, April 29, the outstanding two first round fixtures are re-scheduled for this weekend.

The second round draw is: Kingussie v Newtonmore Fort William or Lochcarron v Lovat

Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel Kilmallie or Lochaber v Skye

Ballachulish go top at Oban

Shinty

Marine Harvest
South Division One
Lochside Rovers 0
Ballachulish 1

A GAVIN Whyte goal in the 73rd minute against Lochside Rovers at Oban takes Ballachulish to the top of the South Division One table on goal difference.

For the opening period at a wet and slippery Mossfield Park, Lochside created the better of the few chances but failed to find a finish when it mattered most.

minute a simple defensive error allowed Whyte the opportunity to fire the ball in at the near post from a very tight angle on the right.

Ballachulish looked to have scored a second when Scott Henderson forced the ball over the line in the closing minute but he was ruled offside and the slender victory was enough to take both points.

This week Ballachulish are at home to joint league leaders Glenorchy while Lochside Rovers have no fixture.



Lochside's Alan Paterson donned some nifty headgear after an injury saw him move from defence to forwardline at Mossfield on Saturday

Young Oban Camanachd Ganavan friendly

Under 14s Shinty

FORT William's Under 14s met Oban Camanachd Under 14s in a friendly match at Ganavan, Oban on Sunday in an entertaining and skilful tie.

With Fort William starting as pre-match firm favourites, Oban Camanachd took the lead in the first-half and held out until the interval.

In the second period, Fort William threw everything at the home side but found keeper Duncan in inspiring form.

Oban then went two ahead before Fort drew a goal back in the final 10 minutes.



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Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

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TIMES Sport

Best spring skiing for 10 years

Amateur league needs more teams

Football

SCORES of footballers across Fort William will be left kicking their heels on the sidelines this summer unless more teams join the local amateur league.

Only seven teams have so far registered for the Lochaber Welfare League ahead of the big kick-off next month.

Organisers of the summer tournament, which attracted 10 teams last year, have appealed to local football fans to at least even up the sides.

Mallaig, Mallaig Magpies, Ballachulish, Celtic, Lochaber Bar, Caol, and Buckie United are already lined up ready for the action.

Speaking after the league's annual general meeting last week, match secretary Ronald Wegner said: 'Surprisingly only four Fort William-based teams are competing so far and it would be good if another team would come forward to make it an even eight teams.'

But he added: 'If no more teams come forward I would imagine there will be a lot of players sitting about doing nothing this summer.'

Lochaber Welfare League, which was sponsored by Claggan-based Corbett Builders last season, is also still trying to secure a sponsor this year.

However, the league officials are due to hold another meeting in Fort William's BA Club on Tuesday, April 25 at 7.30pm.

Teams interested in joining must bring along a £20 registration fee.

For more information call Ronald on 01397 773006.

SNOW is causing a problem for a popular ski resort in Lochaber this week - albeit a welcome one.

With the Mountain Bike World Cup being staged in Fort William on May 27 and 28 and the skiing season extending past Easter there is only a limited time to prepare the track for the cyclists.

Nevis Range marketing manager Katrina Dexter said: 'With the snow staying later this year and the World Cup arriving earlier it means we only have a limited time to prepare the track.'

Skiers, boarders and bladers are still enjoying the mountain after Easter and walkers and climbers are also taking advantage of the weather.

The winter conditions at the top of Ben Nevis could see the skiing season continue into the month of May for the first time in five years, bringing a welcome boost to the area.

Last weekend, the resort

Skiing

enjoyed its busiest weekend in over a decade.

Katrina said: 'It can be difficult for people to envisage that there's still snow for skiing when it feels like spring in town.'

'We've had the best spring skiing in 10 years. Last weekend we had 2,400 visitors, of which 1,100 were skiers.'

Family
Around 300 outdoor enthusiasts joined in a family fun day, with face painting and egg decorating, at Nevis Range on Easter Sunday.

The fun is set to continue with more snow forecast this week.

Bike enthusiasts are also being invited up Ben Nevis to experience the ride of their lives.

Nevis Range, the outdoor activities centre on one of the UK's highest mountains, on the edge of Fort William, is offering mountain bikers the chance to

trial its downhill track ahead of the World Cup next month.

Professional riders will be on hand to offer cyclists some tips on the day, Saturday May 13.

However, full suspension bikes and body armour are essential for the course, which is rated among the most challenging - and dangerous - in the world.

Katrina said: 'We are offering bike enthusiasts of all ages and abilities the chance to try out the World Cup course before the professionals take over.'

Dangerous
The downhill track boasts spectacular views over Fort William and Loch Linnhe, drops 525 metres in 2.6 kilometres and can be completed in breakneck speed.

Katrina added: 'It is probably the most dangerous kind of mountain biking - the professional riders can complete the course in under five minutes, although less able riders can also do it in sections.'



Skiers enjoying some Easter ski-ing at the Nevis Range in Fort William.

Long-awaited Caol sports pitches get go ahead

LONG-awaited work on the refurbishment of the five-a-side sports pitch in Caol is expected to start soon.

Cash-strapped Highland Council, which is behind the £26,000 project at the back of the local community centre, has quashed concerns that the money

has already been spent elsewhere.

New goalposts, floodlights, which will remain on until 10pm, and a fence are to be installed in the make-over of the well-used sports pitch.

Welcoming the news, the Highland Council's area convener

Sports Development

Macdonald, who is councillor for the area, last week told Caol Community Council: 'This is something I and the community have screamed and screamed for.'

But she added: 'I was annoyed by suggestions that

the money had been lost - that was a load of nonsense.'

Meanwhile, the disused BMX track in Caol is to be brought back to life in time for summer.

Caol Players, which was set up to raise money for

a new community swing park, is to spend some of the £6,000 it raised on transforming the waste ground, behind the homes in Kilmallie Road. Caol Players abandoned its original project because of rising costs - with a new play area estimated at £190,000 - despite already

spending money on gaining planning permission.

The new BMX track has been dreamt up by the same person who designed Fort William's World Cup track on Nevis Range and will be put together by experts from Offbeat Bikes, the cycle shop in town.

Lochaber marathon this Sunday

FIVE HUNDRED runners will take part in Lochaber Athletic Club's Lochaber Marathon this Sunday (April 23).

Registration for the race, which starts at 11am, is from 3.30pm to 7pm on Saturday and 8am to 10.30am on Sunday in the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

More than 70 prizes are on offer including medals and tee-shirts to all the runners who finish the 26-mile course.

The men's and women's winners will receive £200 and there is a prize of £350 plus a holiday for a new male or female course record.

The course record for men of just over two hours, 21 minutes is currently held by Simon Pride of Metro Aberdeen.

The women's record is held by Claire Pauzers of Hernehill Harriers, who set a time of two hours and 50 minutes.

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Saints back in action at home

OBAN Saints get back to action on Saturday after a three week lay-off due to bad weather and the Easter weekend break with a tough home game against Kilpatrick.

The match will be played at Glencruitten, 2.30 pm kick-off, and will be refereed by Ian Smith from Greenock.

Although making good progress on an ankle injury the Oban side won't risk goalkeeper Tim Woodcock for this match. David Dunlop will be back between the sticks, making his first appearance of the season.

Apart from Tim, Saints manager Iain Jackson hopes



David Dunlop

Football

to have a full squad available and reckons the team should be champing at the bit to get going again after the lay-off.

Iain said: 'The weather over the last three weeks has meant that we haven't managed to play and it's also hampered our training, so hopefully the lads are raring to go on Saturday after this enforced break, but it will be a difficult match as Kilpatrick are going well in their first season in the Premier Division. We still need to pick up some points to ensure we don't get dragged into a relegation battle and Saturday would be a good time to start.'

This weekend's fixtures: Premier Division - Campbeltown Pupils v Mourcroft; Duncanrig v Gourrock Athletic; Greenock HSFP v Gartcosh United; Oban Saints v Kilpatrick. Premier Division Two - Campbeltown Boys v Cumbernauld. Division One - Kings Park Rangers 'B' v Lochgilphead Red Star. Division Two - Millerston Thistle v Tarbert. Colin Munro Cup - Dunoon v Centre.



Argyle and Bute football development officer Dylan Kerr, the coaches and youngsters at one of the SFA's coaching schools at Oban's new pitch. (15/6/01)

Argyle's football development progress

Football

AFTER more than 10 months in the job, Argyle and Bute's football development officer says he is heartened by the progress being made by youngsters and local coaches in the sport.

Former Leeds United and Kilmarnock full-back Dylan Kerr became football development officer in July 2005 with the post being funded by the Scottish

Football Association and Argyle and Bute Council.

Dylan spent a week of the Easter school holidays in Mull and Oban running football coaching schools with coaches for youngsters aged between five to 15.

He said: 'From the football point of view it is improving every single time. There are more coaches, more coaching of skills and there is more struc-

tured SFA coaching. We have got coaches, more volunteers and we want to build on this and keep pushing for the kids in Argyle and Bute.'

'The week was absolutely fantastic. I had three coaches in Oban and it gave me a chance to see what they could do. Jim Lynch, George Campbell and

Stuart Gibson. Stuart stepped in after one of my coaches couldn't work and he asked if he could help and he did very well.'

'They were all very enthusiastic and put their point across without slaughtering the kids which I have seen before. It is good to see them get involved.'

But what are youngsters in Argyle and Bute doing right on the football pitch?

'The technique has not been bad but the thing about that is kids think they can do it all. They can control it but they can't do step-overs. There are very few kids who could control the ball in the air,' said Dylan.

He said the coaching schools provided the opportunity to press home to kids

the need to practise on their skills.

'In the mornings we did non-stop skills drills which is what I did when I was young and in the afternoon we played games.'

Dylan wants young Argyle footballers to practise and practice if they are to improve their technique. 'If you wanted to become a serious footballer you have to have good technique,' he said.

Aulay's win domino league

Dominoes

THE WINNERS of the Oban Isle of Skye Dominoes League 2005-06 are Aulay's Bar after they beat the Tartan Tavern in a play-off.

Both teams had finished the season on 14 points after 10 games.

The Lochavullin won the Skye Cup while Aulay's also picked up the League Cup.

The Smokers competition will be held on Thursday May 4 in the Lochavullin starting at 8pm.

Any teams who still have trophies are asked to return them to Ken Barnes c/o Aulay's as soon as possible.

Ken is looking for the Zena Dickie Shield, Sharp McKinley Cups, Dunn Pairs Trophy, the Ronnie Scott and Crerar Singles Cups.

MacBrien wins archery inter-club shoot

Archery

THE SCOTTISH Inter-Club Shoot at Ardmaddy Castle's traditional archery field Lorn a 'Chuspair and organised by Lorn Longbows was won by Hugh McBrien.

Lorn Longbows wish to thank Duaine Wylie for donating the trophy, Charles and Minette Struthers for the use of the field, Henry Tarbatt for shifting the bosses and Mary and Hilary for the teas and coffees.

- Results**
- 1 Hugh McBrien 96-470-7
 - 2 Duaine Wylie 87-409-12
 - 3 Sean O'Byrne 84-384-10
 - 4 Neil Oliver 82-364-7
 - 5 Bill Campbell 79-361-5
 - 6 Bosco Hazard 78-340-6
 - 7 Martin Ward 71-341-5
 - 8 Barbara Campbell 63-241-3
 - 9 Fede Walls 62-282-6
 - 10 Henry Tarbatt 61-235-6
 - 11 Gary Nelson 60-228-1
 - 12 Liam McBrien 50-192-5
 - 13 Ian Fisher 48-186-2
 - 14 Susan Fraser 43-179-3
 - 15 John McCaffrey 43-179-3
 - 16 Kim Oliver 39-133-2
 - 17 Chris Mooney 32-112-2
 - 18 Jay Valls-Morgan 27-111-4
 - 19 Hilary Hannah 27-105-2
 - 20 Green Hollow Bowmen 346-1512-25 (Combined Top Five)
 - Lorn Longbows 330-1474-35 (Combined Top Five)
 - Highland Longbows 311-1265-20 (Combined Top Five)

Sailing

- OBAN Sailing Club**
- Race no. 5 Icticle Series Five (Eight competitors crew)
- 1 Richard Shellock - RS 400 447
 - 2 Owen Hoey - Payback Laser Redial
 - 3 Andrew Chapman - ZZAAP Laser 47
 - 4 Thomas Claverie - Purple 470
 - 5 Race no. 6 Icticle Series Six (Four competitors crew)
 - 1 Richard Shellock RS 400 RS 400 447

Golf

THE APRIL Stableford of Tobermory Golf Club's Ladies Section was won by Catherine Ann MacCrone. Catherine won by 31 points (31), Fiona MacLean was runner-up on 24pts (19) and Margaret Ingram was third on 20pts (31).

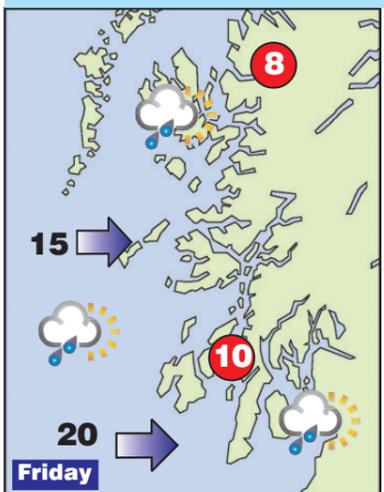
Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 20, 2006** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm	**	**				
Thur	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

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

Thursday, April 20

Will be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers. Winds will be fresh to strong southerly. Temperatures 5°C to 10°C.

Friday, April 21

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 with brief sunny spells and showers. Winds will be a moderate to fresh south-westerly in direction. Temperatures 4°C to 12°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above



The youngsters who took part in the Bunessan Fun Run.

Grenway wins Bunessan Fun Run

THE BUNESSAN Road Race which sees local runners tackling a distance of 11.3 kilometres on the Isle of Mull was won by Craignure's Stuart Grenway.

Athletics

Stuart won in a time of 40 minutes, 35 seconds and was followed home by Pennyghael's Sean Morgan in 40 minutes

24seconds and Oban's Alastair Hall was third and first veteran home as he posted a time of 46 minutes 50seconds.

Mallaig's Claire Kennedy was first lady home with Thomas Kennedy the under-11 winner.

Salen's Finlay Carmichael was the over-11 winner.

Lochaber marathon this Sunday

Athletics

FIVE HUNDRED runners will take part in Lochaber Athletic Club's Lochaber Marathon this Sunday (April 23).

Registration for the race, which starts at 11am, is from 3.30pm to 7pm on Saturday and 8am to 10.30am on Sunday in the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

More than 70 prizes are on offer including medals and tee-shirts to all the runners who finish the 26-mile course.

The men's and women's winners will receive £200 and there is a prize of £350 plus a holiday for a new male or female course record.

The course record for men of just over two hours, 21 minutes is currently held by Simon Pride of Metro Aberdeen. The women's record is held by Claire Pauzers of Hernehill Harriers, who set a time of two hours and 50 minutes.

Glencruitten season gets off to good start

DESPITE the poor weather of the last couple of weeks, Glencruitten Golf Club has enjoyed a solid start to the new season.

Alastair Brown, club honorary secretary, said: 'Once gain the competitions attracted more than 100 competitors and although the course has suffered from lack of growth and treated greens some of the scoring was excellent.'

'In these conditions a scratch level par round of 61 by club champion David MacCuish playing off a handicap of plus 3 was quite remarkable.'

Saturday 8 April
Captain's Prize winner Ian Birt 71-8 = 63.

Golf

- MacKay Cup Winner Craig Aitken 61-65 = 126.
Runner-up Ian Birt 67-63 = 130
- Saturday 15 April**
Terry Ng 1st round leading scores:
Ian MacCuish 69-11 = 58
John MacEachen 70-10 = 60
Dougie MacLean 74-11 = 63
Dale Robertson 68-5 = 63
Graham MacColl 65-2 = 63
Craig Aitken 65-2 = 63
Ronnie Frew 88-25 = 63
Senior Championship
Leading scores:
John MacEachen 70-10 = 60
Ronnie Frew 88-25 = 63
Allan Morrison 74-9 = 65
William Bell 81-15 = 66
Peter Tait 73-7 = 66
Phil Monteith 73-7 = 66
Charles Evans 85-19 = 66.

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Home win at Machrihanish for Ross Currie

Golf

MACHRIHANISH Golf Club's Ross Currie made the host of home advantage as he clinched his first Argyle and Bute County Championship beating Rothesay's Chris Timms.

In an 18-hole final Ross beat Chris by four and three and his long, straight driving and sharp, short game kept Chris at bay for most of the round.

Ross and Chris's route to the final was not without incident with Ross having to go up to the 18th and 18th in two of his matches before beating the reigning champion Graham Bolton in the semi-final. Chris's route was also difficult having to see off Jim O'Donnell and Gordon Lundie on-route to the final with narrow victories on the 18th hole.

The organisers of the championship thanked Machrihanish Golf Club for the use of their course and

were delighted with its condition.

The performances of Ross, Gordon and Chris will give the selectors food for thought and the six-man team to play the Lothians in the area team championship next month. Full results can be viewed on www.argyleandbutegolfunion.com

Argyle and Bute take on Renfrewshire this weekend in the annual friendly and the team selected is: C Timms, L Pirie, J O'Donnell, G Lundie, R Currie, D Weir, G MacLean, A McKie, C Aitken and AN other.

The closing date for entries to the spring meeting is April 28 and can be made on club noticeboards or by calling area secretary Graham Bolton on 0772 062 7397.



The competitors at the junior squash competition at Atlantis. (16/6/01)

Brydon brothers tackle Atlantis Leisure's squash tournament finals

A JUNIOR Easter competition in Atlantis Leisure saw two brothers competing in the two finals.

The 'A' competition for youngsters aged between seven and 11 was contested by Ruairidh Walton and Gregor Brydon.

Squash

Ruairidh beat Gregor 10-8, 9-4.

In the 'B' competition for players aged between 12 and 16, Gregor's brother Fraser beat Stuart Darling in the final 10-9, 9-3.

The Oban Times **CHOTLINE**

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