The Oban Times & West Highland Times

OBAN EDITION

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UIST ISLANDERS LOOK TO BUY ESTATE

SOROBA'S YOUNGEST 'MARRIAGE'

Shuna Terrace fire culprit detained for 16 months at Oban Sheriff Court

A TWENTY-year-old man, who could not think of a reason apart from too much drink for setting a fire in a block of flats in Oban, has been detained for 16 months.

First offender Ranald Clark's family gasped when sentence was declared by Sheriff Douglas Small, who told Clark he was 'indeed fortunate' that no-one had been injured.

Clark, Flat 3/2 83 Hyndland Street, Glasgow, had pled guilty to wilfully setting fire to a block of flats by igniting household waste in a drying area between 23C and 23D Shuna Terrace, Soroba, on August 30 2005.

Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most told Oban Sheriff Court on Tuesday that the tenant of flat 23D Shuna Terrace and two of his friends had woken around 4am to find the hallway in the flat filling with smoke. They fled to the living room where they called the fire services.

'They then threw a mattress from the first floor window to the ground below and Mr MacInnes and Mr MacLean jumped from the living room window on to the mattress,' said Mr Most. The third occupant of the flat had been rescued by the fire services.

The court heard Clark had been seen running away from 18 Shuna Terrace and suspicion had fallen on him when his mobile phone was discovered on the landing on the floor above where the fire had started.

He told police he remembered setting fire to some bin bags but didn't know where that was. Fire investigators said the fire had been started by someone lighting clothing or waste paper on the first floor drying area and it had spread to the next floor.

The fire was so intense that the brass valve on an empty gas cylinder had melted with the heat.

Defence agent Charles Sharkey said his client was under 'no illusions' as to the seriousness of the offence. 'As regards to a motive there does not seem to be a motive,' said Mr Sharkey, who added that the only explanation was that alcohol was involved and Clark had been at a party in the area. Clark was devastated by the consequences of his actions and was full of remorse, he added.

Traffic census tailbacks

A TWELVE-hour traffic census saw frustrated motorists queuing for even longer than usual coming in and out of Oban on Tuesday.

One motorist described the census being run by Argyll and Bute Council as 'having no 'sense' at all'.

Census points were set up at three places on routes coming into the town - on the A85 at the junction to Dunbeg; at the Corran Halls roundabout coming from Ganavan; and just under the railway bridge on Soroba Road, near Oban Community Fire Station.

Interviewers were asking drivers where they were going to and coming from and for what purpose as part of a survey being carried out for Argyll and Bute Council. Other motorists were handed cards to fill in and post back.

Taxi driver Mike Carroll began work at 7am and picked up a passenger going to work at Specsavers from McCaig Road but the journey took 20 minutes.

He said: 'I picked her up at 8.45am but I didn't get to the shop until 9.05am. She was panicking she would be late for work but her colleagues were only pushing up the shutters when she arrived.'

Late

Mike believes the morning rush hour was an unfortunate time for the survey and said most of his passengers thought it was some kind of census project.

One motorist said: 'Some staff members were slightly late in the morning so left work earlier to beat the rush home. One customer in our shop was saying he had been stopped several times by the survey because he was driving different vehicles.

'Another customer said that the people were asking different questions but we didn't know anything about it.'

John MacDonald of Alba West Coast Taxis said he had spent the whole afternoon being delayed by the survey with Soroba Road in particular being very difficult to negotiate. 'Is it something to do with a bypass? They haven't spoken to taxi drivers and not one of them told me what it is about,' said John.

Argyll and Bute Council said the lack of warning was crucial, so people did not change their normal driving habits.

The census ran from 7am to 7pm, with police from Strathclyde Police, Oban, on duty too.

Model

The survey is part of work to determine traffic patterns and levels coming through the town. This will be used to create a transport model that will be used to assess the viability of a number of alternative routes for a development road for Oban.

The council maintains that if Oban is to grow, as directed in the new Argyll and Bute Local Plan, the roads system in, out and through the town will have to change otherwise there will be 'unacceptable traffic congestion'.

'Surveys will also be carried out at the main car parks in Oban, as well as traffic counts of vehicle movements at many junctions in the town. These will cause no disruption to traffic,' said a spokesperson for the council.

Traffic tails back up Soroba Road, Oban, on Tuesday as Argyll and Bute Council carries out a traffic census. t21cen01

'Modernisation' sparks school closure fears

PLANS are in the pipeline to 'modernise' Argyll and Bute's schools but this is more than likely to lead to school closures.

Argyll and Bute Council has produced its annual document to present to the Scottish Executive on how it plans to manage and maintain its schools estate, which highlights issues facing the council.

These include a huge funding gap in the amount of money the council has to maintain and upgrade its schools and the amount it needs, outwith the 10 currently being rebuilt through the Not-for-Profit Distribution Organisation (NPDO).

To modernise the 83 remaining schools it is estimated that it will take £141 million and £33 million is needed for a backlog of maintenance alone.

Falling rolls

Director of Community Services Douglas Hendry told members of the Strategic Policy Committee last week: 'There is a projection in the short term and long term that leads us to believe that numbers [in schools] are going to go down. Primary school rolls in the next five years are facing a reduction of 10 per cent and over the next 10 years 20 per cent.'

Secondary schools were likely to be static until 2011 when they would decline.

He also said there was over-capacity in Argyll and Bute's schools, with almost 50 per cent of the capacity not filled in primary schools and 24 per cent in secondary schools.

'What we want to see are well-designed, well-built, well-maintained schools that support national and Scottish Executive and our priorities and provide a sound environment and inspires our young people in their learning and lets them move on,' said Mr Hendry.

He said that a document would be brought before the new council around June 2007 that would be, without prejudging any consultation, 'looking at a school estate that looks quite different from that at the moment'.

'This is not about bricks and mortar; it is about how we want to provide services for our young people in the schools in the future. The status quo is not an option,' he said.

Councillor Ian Gillies pointed out that the capacity, demography and population of schools was fickle in Argyll and Bute and the council had been down the same road before.

Closure

He pointed out that schools were essential to the economic viability of Argyll and Bute.

'I understand the director's problem, keeping the schools to a standard that we would all wish to support, but what we are talking about here is rationalisation or school closure and we should be looking at other ways to fund maintenance or up-keep of our schools without a rationalisation or a school closure programme.'

Council leader Allan Macaskill said: 'We are not signing up to a closure programme for schools.'

He said the council was outlining the needs for modern schools and it would be for the new council to decide what it would do.

Councillor Donald Kelly said the way capacity was calculated was out of date. 'It should be reviewed. It is not taking into consideration the way children are being educated now.'

'Modern methods of teaching do not sit comfortably with a lot of our old schools,' said Mr Hendry.

Bridge of Orchy speed camera catches drivers

SEVEN motorcyclists were among 40 drivers caught speeding at Bridge of Orchy on the A82 at the weekend by Strathclyde Police's mobile speed camera unit. The Strathclyde Police Camera Partnership caught the drivers on Sunday afternoon.

Speaking at an Oban Community Council meeting this week, Inspector Neil Wallace said: 'One of the biggest complaints we get from rural community councils is speeding. It is very high on their list.'

Inspector Wallace said magazines promoting Argyll as an area with roads for motorcyclists to 'push' their motorbikes were 'very careful' in their wording of articles.

Music festival to attract 2,000 to Dunstaffange

MORE than 2,000 people could converge at Dunstaffnage later this summer for a two-day music festival which has grown from the humble origins of an Achnacloich garden 14 years ago.

The Dunstaffnage Music Festival is being organised by Andrew Pike of Stonefield Events Limited and an application to Argyll and Bute Council for a public entertainment licence has been made. Inspector Neil Wallace admitted Strathclyde Police were initially concerned because of security and safety issues but having met the organisers have had those fears allayed. The festival has grown out of an informal party at Achnacloich in 1992 and the bill includes David Sneddon who won the BBC's *Fame Academy*, The Sensational Alex Harvey Band and The Peatbog Faeries.

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Dalmally pipes under repair

THE TAPS in Dalmally should be running better by the end of next month with Scottish Water currently upgrading more than three miles of water pipes.

Residents have been plagued with regular interruptions to the water supply and Scottish Water Solutions project manager Steven Duncan said Dalmally had been 'targeted' for the £250,000 investment because of its history of low pressure and bursts. He said: 'We started work at the start of May and we're making good progress. The work we're doing now will benefit the whole community for years to come.'

Most of the work is being carried out using a 'bursting' technique which means there is little need for digging. 'A device attached to the head of the new pipe smashes through the old water main and the new pipe is dragged through the resulting tunnel,' said Mr Duncan.

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Royal National Mod promotions manager Murdo Morrison joins Karen Weiniger of EventScotland, left, and Aoife Desmond of VisitScotland, right.

Argyll Gaels to go Dutch

AS PART of the international activity being undertaken by the Mod with the support of EventScotland and also VisitScotland, a group of Mod representatives and performers will this week be attending the Schotland Festival which takes place in the Netherlands.

The group will include Joy Dunlop, An Comunn Gaidhealach Gaelic Development Officer for Argyll and Bute and also Katie Evamy and Megan Marshall from Tarbert Loch Fyne, winners at Mod 2005 held in the Western Isles. The Schotland Festival is expected to attract 10,000 visitors to the two-day event.

Commenting on the EventScotland decision to support the Mod, Barbara Absolon, international events programme manager of EventScotland, said: 'The Royal National Mod is a national treasure. I believe that it is one of Scotland's best cultural events and yet still has great potential to grow and develop'.

Murdo Morrison, promotion manager for the Royal National Mod, said: 'The continued support of EventScotland is a major boost for the Mod and for Gaelic in general and confirms that we are heading in the right direction in our efforts to increase the international profile of the Royal National Mod and to promote the Gaelic language outwith Scotland.'

Novice bands do well at piping championships

TWO novice juvenile Argyll pipe bands claimed second and fifth places in the Scottish Pipe Band Championships at the weekend.

Pipe Major John Brown led a full complement of Kintyre Schools Pipe Bands in the novice juvenile grade at Levengrove Park, Dumbarton, with only one drummer missing.

The cold and wet saw them struggle through the first heats but by the final had got into their stride and took second place, with Methil and District Pipe Band from Fife taking the championship.

In the same competition, in their first major outing, Inveraray and District Pipe Band also came through the qualifying heats to take part in the final and were delighted to take fifth spot.

In the juvenile grade, Pipe Major Ian McKerral led 21 pipers and 10 drummers of Kintyre Schools Pipe Bands to play a lively march, Strathspey and reel set but despite a highly acclaimed musical performance were knocked into third place by George Watson's College and Bathgate pipe bands.

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Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, May 25, 2006
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date		am				pm	
Thur	04.08	3.8	10.21	0.9	16.22	3.6	22.44	0.8
Fri	04.50	3.8	11.02	0.8	17.00	3.7	23.30	0.8
Sat	05.30	3.8	11.42	0.8	17.39	3.8	**.**	*.*
Sun	00.15	0.8	06.09	3.8	12.22	0.8	18.17	3.8
Mon	01.00	0.9	06.47	3.7	13.02	0.9	18.55	3.8
Tues	01.43	1.1	07.26	3.5	13.44	1.0	19.34	3.7
Wed	02.27	1.3	08.05	3.3	14.26	1.2	20.15	3.5

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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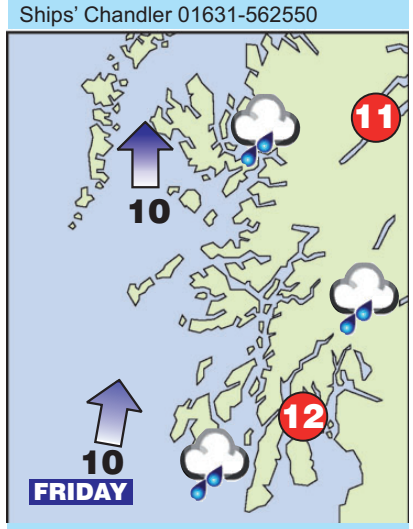

the weather

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Thursday, May 25
Will be cloudy with sunny spells and showers. Winds light westerly. Temperatures 5ºC to 12ºC

Friday, May 26
Cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and heavy showers. Winds moderate southerly or southwesterly. Temperatures 8ºC to 14ºC.

Weekend Outlook
Saturday and Sunday will see cloud increasing from the west to bring more persistant rain with few sunny intervals. Winds moderate southerly or southwesterly. Temperatures 4ºC to 14ºC.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree -As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Increased holiday home council tax puts £2.5m into coffers

THE NEWS that Argyll and Bute Council is expected to gain almost £2.5 million, as a result of the increase on second homes and holiday homes council tax, has been welcomed by councillors.

Members of Argyll and Bute Council's Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) heard last week that the money, an expected £1.45 million in tax in 2005-06 and £1 million from Communities Scotland, had to be used towards improving the housing situation in the area. Councillors agreed to use the funding, in principle, to set up a land bank to buy parcels of land that could then be sold to housing associations or developers to build affordable housing.

The second area agreed in principle was to use some of the funds to help get holiday or second homes back into the housing rental market by offering grants on top of those already available to make them habitable. The third scheme agreed by the members was to put money into infrastructure where there were large costs involved in trying to get a new development underway for affordable housing.

Tiree and Coll Councillor Ian Gillies said that the money could at last be directed into areas where assistance was most needed, like in his own ward where 30 per cent of the houses were holiday homes.

Councillor Robin Currie, Islay North, Jura and Colonsay, said: 'We very much welcome what is happening here. It is £2.45 million extra that is coming into the council's coffers to provide housing.

'We have to give cognisance to where that money is being raised and that is where there is pressure for housing,' he added.

Kintyre cemetery victim of council 'vandalism'

Funeral director Alasdair Blair views the gravestones in Kilkerran Cemetery.
c20cem01

ENDLESS rows of gravestones lying flat has shocked local people entering Kilkerran Cemetery in Campbeltown.

The headstones, many less than 20 years old, were taken down by Argyll and Bute Council because of safety concerns.

However, because of a limited budget, the council says it could be some time before these stones are restored. The cemetery is regarded as one of the finest in Argyll and Bute and a credit to the staff who work there. But, because of the cuts backs, staff at Kilkerran are unable to reposition the stones.

Alasdair Blair, director of Dalriada Monumentals, said: 'I can fully understand the council's policy to take down unsafe stones because there have been instances of people being hurt and, in some cases, even killed when headstones have fallen on top of them.

'The council is liable for any claims against an incident like that but the withdrawal of funding for re-erecting the headstones is causing a tremendous amount of grief for anyone visiting Kilkerran.

'If anyone other than the council had knocked down these stones it would have been classed as vandalism.'

Mr Blair continued: 'This issue will be a major blight on a beautiful, well-kept cemetery.

'Council employees are embarrassed by the state it is in.

'The cemetery will take four or five years to recover. This upset will be with us for a long time yet.'

Mr Blair stressed that the families of those buried in the cemetery have a responsibility to ensure that headstones were safe but he stressed this was also one of the services paid for by council tax.

A council spokesman said: 'A number of the gravestones at Kilkerran have had to be lowered because of the dangerous situation they were in - a course of action which is regrettable but necessary. Unfortunately the council has a very limited budget available for the work and not all the gravestones will be restored in the near future.'

First Minister to open Kenny's memorial centre

SEVEN years after his death Tobermory will remember one of its favourite sons with the opening of the Kenny Macintyre Memorial sports facility.

And a lot of famous faces who counted the BBC journalist as a friend will be there on the day, June 10, to dedicate the all-weather seven-a-side multipurpose pitch and refurbished tennis court at the King George V Public Park.

The Mull Sixes Football Competition will be held on the new pitch with teams being entered from far and wide and the event is being organised by Duncan Macleod and Iain Fraser.

Official opening

The First Minister Jack McConnell will officially open the centre.

Lord George Robertson of Islay, Lex Gold, chairman of the Scottish premier League, the Rt Hon Brian Wilson, John McCormick ex BBC controller and numerous colleagues from the BBC will be among the guests.

Kenny's family will also be there, including his sons Colin, the musician and songwriter, and Kenny, a sports reporter with the BBC. Both will bring a team to play in the six-a-side tournament and Colin hopes to perform a few of his songs before the competition kicks-off.

Teams playing will include Dukla Pumpherson, the team made up of ex-rangers and ex-Celtic players; Tony Roper from *Only an Excuse* will also be attending.

Colin said: 'I am really excited about the park opening because I have been involved in the fundraising by doing gigs on the island.

'The community and the people running things have done a fantastic job and I am really proud it is in my dad's name.

'People on Mull have worked really hard to get this pitch to happen, namely Mary Jean Devon.'

Mary Jean has been the chairwoman of the committee that raised the funds and lobbied for this scheme.

She will retire on the day and Donald MacCuish will take over as chairman; fund raising will continue.

Finally

'There was a letter written by the scholars of Tobermory 118 years ago asking for somewhere to kick a ball about; they were fed up with only playing marbles. Well we've finally got it,' said Mary-Jean.

'Tobermory was only one of four high schools in Scotland without its own playing field, now the school will be able to use the pitch and the tennis court.'

A ceilidh will be held on Saturday night at Aros Hall and will feature the Tom Orr Band. There will also be a barbecue and various stalls during the football competition. Tam Cown and Stuart Cosgrove are due to broadcast *Off the Ball Live* from the village during the sixes too.

On Sunday the pitch gets put to work with an athletics fixture and a junior shinty tournament.

There will be one face missing from the festivities. The late Ali Abassi, who died in July 2004, was a colleague and friend of Kenny's at BBC Scotland and he helped the fund in its early days and he will be sadly missed on the day.

Coll's new airstrip needs new road

THE ISLE of Coll might be having a brand new airstrip built - but the road to the airstrip is in such a bad state, visitors will need a 4x4 vehicle to get to and from it.

It is in such a bad way that a lorry taking aggregate to the new airstrip from the pier at Arinagour sank into the road at Uig and a digger had to lift it so it could move forward.

The road is full of potholes and although attempts have been made to fill them, they soon reappear. Coll councillor Ian Gillies said he had called for a report on the state of the road between Arinagour and Ballard, where the airstrip is being upgraded to take scheduled flights, for the June meeting of the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee of Argyll and Bute Council.

'I will be making the case for the complete refurbishment of the road from Arinagour to the new airport at Ballard at the west of the islands. We can't have a new airport and air services and a terrible road to the airport; it needs to be completely rebuilt.'

The airstrip is being built simultaneously with that on the island of Colonsay by contractors Ennstone Thistle as part of the Argyll Air Services project by Argyll and Bute Council.

The islands are to be connected with Oban Airport by scheduled services some time later this year.

Eye to Eye with John Wallace

Why we ask about your health

MANY patients find visiting their optometrist a daunting prospect.

You are asked lots of seemingly irrelevant, and possibly intrusive, questions about your health. Then you have to tell with which lenses you see better. Then some stranger intrudes into your personal space and shines very bright lights into your eyes.

So why does your optometrist need to know about your general health and what medication you are taking? The list of illnesses that can cause damage or manifest themselves in the human eye is endless. The eye is, in many ways, a window into your body. Many of you will have seen your own veins and arteries when I have taken photos of your retinas. Many diseases show effects on the back of the human eye and the list of drugs that can have side effects that induce changes in your eyes is endless.

Diabetes is a major health issue right now, causing irreversible blindness if untreated, and features widely in health promotion messages. Diabetes is an obvious question to be asked about.

Very few of you would know, however, of the link between some bowel diseases, rheumatoid arthritis and some eye diseases. They cause a variety of inflammatory eye diseases that can be potentially blinding.

Many medications you take, both prescribed and bought over the counter, can induce changes, some irreversible, in the health and clarity of your eyes. Your optometrist has received at least three years' training in these areas before being let loose on the public.

Your optometrist has a legal duty to ask these questions. If we fail to ask in detail we leave ourselves open to expensive malpractice claims. Likewise, if you don't tell us when asked, you will not obtain the full benefit of visiting your optometrist.

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Mull biscuits scoop double award

BISCUITS from the Isle of Mull have scooped a double in the Scottish Food and Drink excellence awards 2006.

Island Bakery Organics have been honoured in two categories, in the retail bakery and cereal product class and the food service sweet class.

The awards are for the bakery's range of biscuits.

This is the fifth year the awards have been run and they are organised jointly and co-sponsored by the Royal Highland and Agricultural society of Scotland and Scottish food and Drink in association with Scottish Enterprise.

Car sound systems on hit list

AN RAC Foundation report has discovered that loud music eminating from car sound systems is top of neighbourhood irritating noise hit lists.

The noise of cars and motorbikes come a close second.

Road noise as a result of poor road surfaces came top of the motorists' 'hate list'.

The crew of the Tobermory lifeboat prepare to tow off the *MS Island Sky*

Tobermory lifeboat refloats aground 300-passenger liner

TOBERMORY Lifeboat successfully refloated a cruise ship, which got into difficulty last week, but it proved a bit of a David and Goliath struggle.

The cruise ship, which has the capacity to carry 300 passengers, had run aground on Calve Island in the Sound of Mull near the entrance to Tobermory Bay after heavy weather had caused her to drag her anchor during the night.

The *MS Island Sky* is a Bahamas-registered 90-metre vessel and weighs 4,200 tonnes - but that didn't daunt Tobermory's Severn class lifeboat

'She was really put to full use in this successful refloating,' said John Wilshire, lifeboat operations manager for Tobermory.

The *Island Sky* is currently on a coastal cruise of the British Isles visiting some of the finest gardens in the world, from Scilly Isles to Scotland.

MSP tests her telephone hearing as part of Deaf Awareness Week

A HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP took part in Britain's Biggest Sound Check recently as part of Deaf Awareness Week.

Maureen Macmillan joined more than 14,000 Scots who telephoned the Royal National Institute for the Blind's Breaking the Sound Barrier telephone hearing check by phoning 0845 600 5555.

Mrs Macmillan told *The Oban Times* : 'The test is simple and does not take long and I would recommend it to anyone in the Highlands and Islands who has concerns over their hearing ability.'

More then 40 per cent of those over 50 years old have some level of hearing loss, said Scotland campaigns co-ordinator Doug Bradley, who added: 'It takes just five minutes and could be your first step on the road towards reconnecting yourself with friends, family and colleagues.'

You can email your Lorn news to
lornlines@obantimes.co.uk

AT A RECENT lunchtime meeting in the Regent Hotel, members of Oban Rotary Club enjoyed an interesting and informative talk given by representatives of Oban Youth Cafe.

Kirsty Jarvis, project coordinator, assisted by youth workers Lizzie, Joan and Lewis, outlined the main object which is to provide a drop-in centre for youngsters of high school age. Whether it be just for a quick visit to say hello or to stay for the whole evening session, everyone is welcome. The youngsters can listen to music, play pool, access the internet or simply chill out.

Obviously proud of their premises, the group showed slides comparing the location before and after extensive refurbishing, leaving viewers astonished by the difference.

Those attending have also enjoyed a weekend at Loch Eil and camping trips to Islay and Jura.

Also described were proposals which would see the premises made available to other groups with the emphasis always on youth.

Ms Jarvis thanked everyone who had provided financial support to the enterprise including the Rotary Club, which has been one of the main contributors.

Following questions from members, the young speaker was thanked by past president Phil Monteith.

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THE GAELIC Choir at Oban's Rockfield Primary School has been practising every week under the tutelage of Mrs MacCalman and Mrs Ferguson and is now looking forward to competing well in local and national Mods.

The choir needs both boys' and girls' kilts and the school has appealed to anyone with such items suitable for 10 to 12-year-olds, but no longer needed, to donate them to Rockfield.

The school is grateful to the Parent Teacher Association for raising funds to enhance educational opportunities for pupils. Recent fund-raisers included a sponsored silence, a race night and disco. The latter resulted in a substantial donation to Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill.

Thirty-two primary seven pupils passed their cycling proficiency test on Wednesday May 3.

Four primary seven pupils identified as having high potential as tennis players, Michael Campbell, Martin MacEwan, George MacMillan and Callum Young attended professional tennis coaching at Newlands Tennis Centre, Glasgow.

❐❐❐

MORE than five years of inspiring leadership came to an end when Dr Andy Henderson stepped down as chairman of Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) at the organisation's recent annual general meeting.

Dr Henderson was instrumental in setting up the trust in 2000, since when it has gone from strength to strength, raising £60,000.

The funds have been collected as a result of sponsored walks, Christmas raffles, donations and from many other sources. They have helped buy a range of medical equipment such as defibrillators and monitors, much of it supplied to isolated communities - as well as underpinning the promotion of activities leading to a healthier lifestyle.

In addition, in conjunction with Oban Burns Club, the group gifted a state-of-the-art model designed for training in resuscitation skills to Oban Ambulance Station.

Dr Henderson will remain a trustee of ABCD. He has been succeeded in the chair by Sister Caroline Henderson, Professional Development Support Nurse at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. She also has been a trustee from the outset.

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THE RECENT opening of Oban's much-acclaimed War and Peace Exhibition in a permanent location on the town's esplanade brings to a successful conclusion a significant chapter in the history of a prime asset, as popular with visitors as it is with locals.

The museum in its present form was opened 10 years ago in premises on the North Pier by the Hon Ray Michie, MP. But the first museum in Oban is understood to have been established in 1937 and was known as the Highland Gallery of History and Art.

It was located in premises on Craigard Brae and was a natural successor to Oban Literary and Scientific Society, the forerunner of today's Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society. This group met in premises currently occupied by Specsavers.

Since it opened 10 years ago, the present museum has attracted more than 250,000 visitors from all over the world, many of whom have left extremely complimentary remarks in the visitors book.

The museum is especially grateful to Frank Walton, the now-retired former owner of a well-known Oban photographic business who, with his staff, at no cost to the museum, copied all personally owned photographs so that the originals could be returned to their owners.

Since its establishment, the museum has been staffed by a team of around 50 volunteers.

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THE OBAN branch of Cancer Research UK is to hold its annual ceilidh this Friday, May 26, in St Columba's Cathedral Hall, starting at 7.30pm.

The venue is to be licensed and tea and home baking are included in the admission price of £3 for adults and £1.50 for children. Tickets will be available at the door. Compere Duncan Forgrieve will introduce a top class, well-varied programme featuring a range of popular artists including Oban High School Pipers, Audrey Paterson, Taynuilt; Peter Sinclair and Rosie Stevenson, Connel; Colin Felgate, Oban; local line dancers, piper Daniel Johnston, Oban; accordionist Alistair Currie, Oban, and Highland dancer Carrie Roberston, Oban. All the proceeds will go towards Cancer Research.

Recent house-to-house and street collections brought in the fantastic sum of £4,612.

Chairman Alistair Dewar said: 'We were delighted with the support we received.'

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THE LORN and Mid Argyll Members Group of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) recently held the last talk of its winter programme at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory.

The speaker was Dr Peter Stevick from the University of Southern Maine, USA, who was recently appointed Scientific Director of the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust, based at Tobermory. He described intensive studies of the distribution, ecology and feeding requirements of some of the great whales to be found in the North West Atlantic area such as Humpback and Fin.

On certain particular shallow banks, they herd and feed on abundant shoals of herring which, in turn, feed on planktonic krill. His talk was illustrated with fascinating aerial photographs and he was thanked by chairman Harry Powell, Connel.

At the annual general meeting of the group, held earlier the same evening, office bearers re-appointed were: chairman, Harry Powell; secretary, Elaine Walton, Benderloch; and treasurer, Kim MacLeod, Oban.

The chairman announced that the committee was arranging to install in the Shian Woodland Wildlife Reserve a commemorative seat in memory of the late Douglas Trigg, Benderloch, who did so much to acquire and look after this local reserve for SWT. Members and friends who would like to make a donation should contact Harry Powell.

The group is presently organising its main fund-raising event, the SWT Open Day at Achnacloich Gardens, courtesy of Mrs Jane Nelson, on Saturday May 27. In addition to the delightful gardens and woodland walks, lunches and teas will be available as well as a variety of stalls and exhibits.

The bridal party at Soroba Young Families' Friendship Wedding. t21fm01

'On behalf of my wife and I . .'

OBAN'S youngest bride and groom were 'married' last Thursday at a ceremony in Glencruitten Church of Scotland.

Emma Masterson and Jamie Anderson, and fellow members of the Soroba Young Families group, had a Friendship Wedding at the church.

The 'wedding' day was organised to celebrate the forthcoming wedding of Aileen Morrison, a member of staff at the group, to Sandy Cameron.

Janice Kay of Soroba Young Families said: 'Aileen is getting married in October and this wedding is to celebrate that but it also teaches the children about love and friendship and how a wedding day might go.'

There was a large turnout of friends and family at the church.

Soroba Young Families thanked local businesses The Halfway House and the Flower House for donating flowers and Lucken Booth for providing balloons for the big day.

Traffic 'playing Russian roulette' in Argyll Square

WITH summer traffic increasing into Oban, driving through Argyll Square has been likened to 'playing Russian roulette' by a community councillor.

Last autumn Argyll and Bute Council introduced an experimental give way junction at the roundabout which meant drivers had to watch for traffic coming from the left. The roads department introduced the measures to see if the traffic flow through the town centre could be improved.

But there has been criticism of the new layout with claims that drivers' vision is impaired at the junction by railings and at a meeting of Oban Community Council this week Neil MacKay said negotiating the square was now akin to playing Russian roulette.

Community councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'There are now tail-backs on both sides and buses going to the ferries are sitting in both lanes.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, who is the council's transport spokesman, said he was aware that the influx of summer traffic had caused congestion problems, particularly on George Street, but said the experiment had to continue in the summer for an accurate picture of the trial to be provided.

He said: 'The initial results were fairly positive in that it improved the traffic flow from Soroba into the town during autumn and winter. But Neil Brown [area roads engineer] said we would have to see how it was working during the summer months and we are about two months into that now.'

Donegal date for St Columba's feast

THE FIRST festival of its kind to celebrate the feast day of St Columba - June 9 - is to be held by Colmchille in Donegal.

'This is the first festival of its kind celebrating the true patron saint of the Gaels,' said Colmchille chief executive Deidre Nic An tSionnaigh.

'Féile Cholmcille will provide a wonderful opportunity for positive interaction between the Gaels of Scotland and Ireland and hopefully convert some new enthusiasts to our cause.'

Colmchille was formerly known as Iomairt Cholm Cille or the Columba Initiative, sponsored by the Scottish, British and Irish governments to encourage links between Gaelic Ireland and Scotland.

A new strategy of promotional projects to rebuild bridges across Gaeldom from 2006-2009 is to be launched at the three-day festival, June 9 to June 11.

Headlining will be Irish group Hothouse Flowers, with support from Lewis band Face the West and Mod traditional gold medal winner Isobel Ann Martin.

There will be guided tours of Glen Colm Cille and events, including traditional boatbuilding, a photography competition to depict Gaelic life, traditional dance and song workshops and an informal music session.

Attending in an official capacity will be Angus MacNeil, MP for the Western Isles and Irish Minister for Agriculture and Food Mary Coughlan TD.

Children to walk further to schools

CHILDREN under the age of eight, who live less than two miles from their primary school, will not receive free school transport as of the new school year in August.

At the same time children over the age of eight years will not get free school transport if they live less than three miles from their school.

Safe

But children will only have to walk - or make other arrangements - if their way to school has been assessed as being a safe walking route.

If a spare seat exists on dedicated school transport, a child who stays within the walking distance may be given a seat free, if there is no additional cost to the local authority.

Not enough thought

Argyll and Bute Council agreed at its budget meeting in February to the 'implementation of statutory walking distances to schools' in order to save £30,000 from the Community Services budget.

But some councillors did not realise the implications of this until the wording came before last week's Strategic Policy Committee (Education) as the revised policy.

Transportation spokesman Duncan McIntyre said: 'I don't think enough thought has been put into these recommendations because they have huge implications.'

Councillor Ian Gillies also felt that they were recommendations rather than being cut and dried.

But Leader Councillor Allan Macaskill said: 'Let's be quite clear; the council took the decision to change to the national distances at the budget.

'Every single councillor has agreed to the policy that we are now going through.'

No school transport

But Councillor McIntyre insisted there should have been consultation before the revised policy was put forward.

'There will be no school transport in Oban because there are no pupils more than three miles.'

He said pupils would be walking from the Dunollie area to the new school campus at Soroba, while pupils from Nant Drive in Soroba would have to walk to Park Primary School in Dunollie.

'It is the parents' responsibility to get their children to school,' said Councillor Macaskill.

Councillors were told that the exceptions would be where free transport was recommended on health grounds; the child was assessed as having special needs; the route was assessed and deemed to be unsafe to walk; or where a child could not get a place at the school in their catchment area and had to be transported to another school.

Jack and Jill come to Dunmar Court

JACK and Jill Playgroup presented residents of Dunmar Court, Oban, with tubs of flowers and entertained them with a few of their favourite songs.

The children planted the flowers themselves with help from their parents, who bought the bedding flowers and compost for them.

On their visit to the sheltered housing last tuesday, the children sang *Bob the Builder* and *Welcome, Welcome*.

It is an annual event and is in its fifth year. There were 15 children at Dunmar Court with their play nurses and the playgroup's manager Wilma Cameron.

Wilma said: 'The children look forward to the event every year as well as the residents.' Cathy MacDougal, one of the residents of Dunmar, said: 'We look forward to the children coming every year, I think Dunmar Court is good for the children to come to because it is nice and cosy.'

Children from Jack and Jill Playgroup with residents of Dunmar Court. t21dmr02

Not guilty of assault

A TEENAGER was this week found not guilty of assaulting a 15-year-old girl in Oban earlier this year.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that Sean Johnstone, aged 16, had been accused of assaulting the girl on March 14 2006 at Atlantis Leisure, Oban.

Johnstone was accused of lifting the girl up on to his shoulders, seizing her by the waist, pulling her towards him and repeatedly kissing her on the face.

Following evidence led by a prosecution witness, the sheriff found Johnstone of Room 17, Kerrera Lodge, Oban, not guilty.

Sentence deferred on woman after sports centre assault

A BANK worker who had never been in trouble before admitted assaulting a woman at an Oban sports centre after being asked to escort her young cousin to an athletics class amid allegations of bullying.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday how Jane Dunn assaulted the woman at the foyer of Atlantis Leisure on December 7 2005 at or around 7.30pm.

The court heard that Dunn, aged 18, of 6B Soroba Park Terrace, Oban, pulled the woman by the hair, hit her on the head and kicked her on the body to her injury, after an athletics class for youngsters had ended.

Kathleen McMahon, defending Jane Dunn, presented Sheriff Douglas Small with a character reference from Dunn's manager and said her client had never been in trouble before.

Ms McMahaon said: 'There is a background to this, she [Dunn] had been asked by her aunt to attend. 'There had been suggestions that there had been some bullying on her aunt's son. She deeply regrets what happened and you will not see her in this court again.'

Sheriff Small told Dunn she couldn't take the law into her own hands and deferred sentence until February 6 2007 for her to be of good behaviour.

Breach of the peace in job centre

AN ANGRY single parent who warned a staff member in Oban's job centre that he would 'remember her face' after losing his temper during an interview was convicted of a breach of the peace this week.

Richard Sawers of 2A Corran Brae, was found guilty at Oban Sheriff Court of breaching the peace in Oban Job Centre Plus on November 11 2005.

Sawers, aged 41, went to the job centre at 2.10pm with his four year-old daughter because he was concerned about benefit reductions in his council tax payments and was interviewed by a female member of Job Centre Plus staff.

'Threatening'

She told Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most that the accused became 'quite threatening'.

She said: 'His manner changed and I felt very intimidated.

'He was pointing at me, shouting and waving his arms about. I was quite scared so I walked away from the situation.'

She went to get a security guard who asked Sawers to leave.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said his client had been merely asking questions and trying to find out information.

PC Carly MacCallum then attempted to diffuse the situation.

PC MacCallum said: 'The accused was very red in the face, very angry. He was saying "f*** off" and that it was 'nothing to do with me'.

'His daughter got more upset as the situation went on. The accused came back in and said he would also 'remember my face'.'

Sawers told the court: 'She [the Job Centre Plus staff member] seemed to be very hostile to me.

'I was just a bit perplexed, animated.

'I said I would remember what happened.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'My difficulty is that this was a public office.'

Sentence was deferred on Sawers until July 4.

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Patients could be charged to leave their cars at Belford Hospital

PROBLEMS with parking in Fort William could lead to patients being charged to leave their cars at the town's hospital, it has emerged.

NHS Highland has confirmed it is conducting a review of parking charges at hospitals across the region, including the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

It has been reported that patients are already being forced to park in a pay and display car park opposite the hospital, on the other side of a busy four-lane road, because staff take up all the spaces. Some workers in town are also said to be using the Belford car park to avoid parking charges.

The health board already charges patients at Raigmore £1 to leave their cars at the hospital car park in Inverness.

Speaking at Fort William Community Council last week, community councillor Anna Symmers said: 'Patients are having to park in the pay and display car park but some of them are not well enough to walk that far.'

The community council suggested changing a section of the hospital car park to 'short-stay' especially for patients and their carers or visitors.

Highland councillor Brian Murphy, Fort William North, said: 'One way to solve the problem at the hospital would be to introduce pay parking.'

Motorists using the pay and display car park opposite the Belford can pay around £1 an hour or buy a six-month permit for £50. The Highland Council's Lochaber roads manager Jim Tolmie confirmed many staff have enrolled in the permit scheme.

However, while many cars were double parked in the Belford car park on Monday, the pay and display car park remained almost empty.

An NHS Highland spokeswoman said: 'There are no plans to start charging for parking at the Belford Hospital but a review is currently underway and that has not been ruled out.'

Fort William ready to party

THOUSANDS of visitors are expected to converge on Fort William this weekend as the town gears up for its biggest ever party.

Most hotels and other tourist accommodation in the area are already fully booked as Lochaber plays host to three major sporting events - the UCI Mountain Bike World Cup, Sail Caledonia and the Scottish Raid and Wilderness ARC adventure races.

The town is also staging a massive free street party on Saturday, Party in the Fort, to welcome visitors to the area. Local residents are also invited to join in the fun.

The weekend of entertainment, which includes late-night shopping, is expected to boost the local economy by more than £1 million and enhance the town's reputation as a top tourist destination and the Outdoor Capital of the UK.

Biggest

Party in the Fort organiser Julie Green said: 'I'm predicting this will be the biggest event of the year in Lochaber and even bigger than the millennium.

'Up to 20,000 visitors are expected to visit Fort William this weekend and we are really keen for the local community to get involved too.

'The event is about putting the feel-good factor back into our high street so that everyone will come back to the town again and again.

'It will also promote the area as the Outdoor Capital of the UK and show organisers of other events elsewhere that this is the place to be.'

More than 450 of the world's best riders from more than 25 nations are expected to compete in the mountain bike world cup in Fort William this weekend - the first of the three-part UCI Mountain Bike World Cup series 2006.

The competition, which is regarded as the most extreme in world mountain biking, is officially launched in the town centre on Friday evening with a spectacular stunt show by a high profile mountain bike show team.

A record-breaking number of spectators are expected to watch the thrilling, adrenaline fuelled action when racing gets underway on Saturday and Sunday.

Gold

Among the competitors will be Fort William Downhill World Cup winner Steve Peat, Commonwealth Games gold medallist Liam Killeen and former junior world champion Rachel Atherton, aged 18.

Meanwhile, a flotilla of boats of all shapes and sizes will take part in Sail Caledonia, the Scottish Raid event, which has an early evening regatta on Loch Linnhe on Saturday, as a prelude to its race along the Caledonian Canal. A fun run is also being organised in Fort William ahead of the five-day Wilderness Arc event the following day - arguably the UK's toughest endurance race.

Party in the Fort will provide a variety of street entertainment in the town centre from midday to midnight on Saturday, with many shops remaining open until 10pm and the music continuing long into the night.

A bungee run, bucking bronco, climbing wall, sumo wrestling, fire swinging and an open air ceilidh will be among the highlights of the event.

Lochaber mountain bikers Wendy Chambers and Joe Barnes.

Lochaber riders reach world cup

TWO LOCHABER mountain bikers have qualified for this week's World Cup on their home turf.

Wendy Chambers and Joe Barnes qualified after gaining the requisite amount of much sought after International Cycling Federation points to compete in world cup events.

Wendy and Joe were both recent winners of Lochaber Sports Council achievement awards and were recently presented with their medals at the annual sports council awards ceremony.

Lochaber Sports Council is a strong supporter of the mountain bike world cup and over the last few years have supported giving free tickets to all high school children in Lochaber and have also supported a programme for primary school children which involves school visits to the event on the Friday warm up and practice day.

Joe and Wendy incur significant expenses in travel costs and bike maintenance to take part in events throughout Britain and abroad.

Lochaber Sports Council has also awarded Joe Barnes and Wendy Chambers excellence grants of £500 each to assist with competition costs this year.

Spean man's little bit of paradise

A SPEAN Bridge landowner has pledged to help local people looking for affordable homes by selling plots on his land in a specially designed 'eco-area'.

Alistair MacGregor of Achnobobane Farm near Spean Bridge has drawn up an ambitious scheme to provide 15 plots which will be sold at £35,000 each.

Mr MacGregor, whose family once lived as tenants on the land, said: 'I know how difficult it is for young people to get their foot on the property ladder and I came up with this idea to help them.

'The £35,000 will include services, which is much cheaper than the usual £90,000 asked these days, and that is without services.'

Mr MacGregor's scheme will see the houses built around an eco-friendly layout which will include a play area, fishing pond and bird sanctuary.

Already he has had 72 inquiries, including some from nurses who say they plan to leave the area unless they can find a suitable home.

'I want to encourage young people to stay in this area. I want to help them live a dream. It's quite understandable people from the south wanting to live in this area, and good luck to them, they can afford it, but local young people can't and I want to give them a chance.'

Mr MacGregor put his plans to Highland Council after reading its recent Lochaber Futures Development Plan which showed it was seeking to develop land for settlements along the A82 corridor.

He added: 'I hope they give this ambitious plan their support.

'Then I will ask local people to come up with an idea for a name for my new village, which will be a little bit of paradise.'

Harry Potter flies in to Lochaber

FILMING for the new Harry Potter movie is taking place in Lochaber this week.

Movie-makers Warner Brothers have sent production teams and a helicopter to Glenfinnan and Glencoe to shoot background scenes for *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, which is due to be released in cinemas in July next year.

It is the fifth instalment of a seven-part series based on JK Rowling's novels.

No actors are involved in filming on this occasion.

However, Glenfinnan Viaduct Glen Nevis are among the Lochaber locations featured in previous Harry Potter blockbusters.

Hillwalker found dead in glen

A HOLIDAYMAKER was found dead by a hillwalker near Glennachulish this week.

The 60-year-old man from Northwich, Cheshire, was discovered on a track between Sgorr Dhonuill and Sgorr Dhearg on Monday morning.

He had been renting a holiday cottage nearby with his wife and was dressed and equipped for hillwalking.

The man's body was recovered by Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

Police in Fort William said there did not appear to be any suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.

Laggan road race this weekend

THE VILLAGE of Laggan will be hosting a 10km Highland road race and fun run this Saturday, May 27.

The run starts at Laggan village hall and takes runners through some of the most spectacular scenery in the area including Corrieyairack Pass, made famous by the TV programme *Monarch of the Glen*.

There will be prizes for the top three times in each category and medals for each fun run participant.

The race starts at 2pm with the fun run starting at 2.10pm.

Charles and Camilla to visit Lochaber

PRINCE Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall are set to make their first public engagement in Scotland together in Lochaber next week.

The Duke and Duchess will make a flying visit to the area on June 1 during a three-day holiday at Holyrood in Edinburgh.

They will tour Sunart Oakwoods near Strontian before the royal helicopter whisks them over to Kinloch Castle on Rum.

Their Royal Highnesses were married at the Guildhall, Windsor, last April and although they spent their honeymoon in Scotland, they have yet to carry out an official engagement together in this country.

Charles and Camilla will see progress on the restoration of the Atlantic oakwoods on the Ardnamurchan Peninsula.

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75 years at Inverlochy

A PRIMARY school which was originally built to accommodate a rising number of children living in workers' accommodation in Fort William reached the grand old age of 75.

On Saturday the current head teacher and school pupils at Inverlochy primary celebrated with a special assembly.

Former pupils, teachers and guest speakers enjoyed singing, speeches and a photographic display.

The anniversary was celebrated in true Highland style with a traditional dance in the school hall with music from Donald Innes and his band.

Inverlochy primary was built in the late 1920s to house workers building the British Aluminium Company.

When the factory opened in 1931 many families moved into the area and over time 300 houses were built in Inverlochy.

In an extract from an article which appeared in *The Oban Times* of May 30 1931, the school was described by Lady Hermione Cameron, who officially opened it, as 'one of the finest school buildings one could see anywhere'.

The pupils also put together a 'time capsule' with a plaque marking the 75th anniversary, a school tee-shirt and tea towel and memorabilia from the early 21st century.

The capsule is to be buried in the school grounds.

Children from Inverlochy Primary School with the contents of their time capsule. f21inv01

Isle of Eigg looks to big switch-on

A PROJECT to provide householders on a remote Hebridean island with a reliable round-the-clock energy supply is expected to be switched on next year.

The Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust campaign has reached its funding target of £1.5 million after the announcement of more than £850,000 in funding this week. Work is expected to start on installing a mixture of wind, hydro and solar power schemes by the end of the summer.

Eigg is one of the few remaining communities in the UK not connected to the National Grid and residents have for years had to rely on diesel generators to power their homes.

This project will help provide an affordable energy supply from a range of renewable sources to more than 45 homes and businesses.

Ian Leaver of Eigg Heritage Trust, said: 'The electrification of Eigg is the single most important project to date for the islands and is crucial to its economic development.'

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Pròiseact Taigheadas Ùr

CHAIDH pròiseact ùr a chur air bhog sna h-eileanan gus taighean a lorg dha daoine òg a tha fuireachd anns an sgìrean iomalach.

Bidh Sgeama nan Taighean Dùthchail a' bualadh air trì aiteachan far a bheil an gàinnead thaigheadas na thrioblaid mhòr - Uig is Bearnaraigh agus na Lochan ann an Leòdhas agus na Hearadh.

Chaidh an iomairt a chur air chois le grunn bhuidhnean ionadail, le taic airgid bho Chomhairle nan Eilean Siar, Iomairt nan Eilean Siar, Coimhearsnachdan Alba, Tighean Innse Gall agus Ùghdarras nan Croitearan.

Thatar a-nis a' sireadh oifigear leasachaidh airson a' phròiseact a stiùireadh an dèidh chaidh taic airgid luach £240,000 fhaighinn.

Thuirt cathraiche na buidhne, Gordan MacAnndrais, gun toir an airgead an cothrom dhaibh 'rannsachadh mionaideach' a chur air dòigh agus iad an dùil obrachadh le comataidhean baile airson dearbhadh an gabh fearann a shaoradh airson taighean ùr.

A NEW project has been launched in the islands which will identify housing for young people in remote areas.

The Rural Housing Scheme will cover three areas where there is a big problem with a lack of housing - Uig and Bernera and Lochs in Lewis and in Harris.

The initiative was developed by a range of local groups with financial assistance from Western Isles Council, Western Isles Enterprise, Communities Scotland, 'Tighean Innse Gall' and the Crofters' Commission.

A project development officer is now being sought after financial assistance worth £240,000 was secured.

Group chairman Gordon Anderson said the funding would enable them to coduct 'in-depth studies' with the intention of working with common grazings committees to release land for housing.

Iomairt nam Pàrantan

CHAIDH iomairt a chur air dòigh le pàrantan ann an Leòdhas gus cur aghaidh molaidhean airson Àrd-sgoil a' Bhac a dhùnadh.

Tha sgoilearan na sgìre an-dràsta a' dol innte suas chun an dàrna bliadhna de dh'àrd-sgoil agus iad an uairsin a' gluasad gu Sgoil Ic Neacail ann an Steòrnabhagh aig aois 14.

Ach, tha Comhairle nan Eilean Siar a' coimhead ri goireasan àrd-sgoil a thoirt bho na sgoiltean dùthchail an dèidh chaidh a ràdh riutha gun robh cus toglaichean aca airson an àireamh sgoilear.

Thuirt fear de na comhairlichean ionadail, Iain MacLeòid, gun robh goireas na h-àrd-sgoile riatanach oir bha a' chlann a' faighinn oideachadh ann am buidhnean beaga, rud a tha na bhuannachd dhaibh.

'Cuideachd tha rudan air a' Bhac mar foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig nach eil cho làidir ann an Sgoil Ic Neacail,' dh'innis e.

'Tha cuideachd tachartasan as dèidh na sgoile. An dràsta tha grunn rudan gan tabhann do chloinn a' Bhac nan coimhearsnachdan fhèin nach biodh aca ann an Sgoil Ic Neacail.'

A CAMPAIGN has been launched by parents in Lewis in a bid to block proposals for the closure of the secondary facility at Back School.

The area's pupils currently attend the school up to the second year of secondary and then move to the Nicolson Institute in Stornoway at 14 years of age.

However, Western Isles Council is looking to remove secondary facilities from the rural schools after it was told it had too many buildings for the number of pupils.

One of the local councillors, Ian MacLeod, said the retention of the secondary facility was vital as it provided children with education in small groups, something which had proved beneficial.

' Also the junior secondary provides things like Gaelic medium education which is not so strong in the Nicolson,' he said.

'There are also after-school activities. At the moment the kids in Back get offered a whole range of activities in their communities which would not be available to them in the Nicolson.'

Là Croitearachd na h-Òigridh

CHRUINNICH còrr air 500 sgoilear bho air feadh Leòdhas is na Hearadh aig fèill-reic bheathaichean an eilein gus ionnsachadh mu chroitearachd.

Chaidh an 'Là Spòrsail le Croitearachd' a chur air dòigh le na buidhnean saor-thoileach a tha toirt taic do chroitearan - Comann Àrach Chruidh Leòdhas is na Hearadh, Comann Àrach Chaoraich Leòdhas is na Hearadh agus Comann Àrach Gàrraidheachd Leòdhas is na Hearadh.

Thuirt Yvonne Richardson, co-òrdanaiche buidheann a' chruidh, gun robh an là air leth soirbheachail.

'Bhon an fhiosrachadh a fhuair sinn air ais gu seo bha a h-uile duine dhen bheachd gur e là air leth a bha ann agus bha làn cholas ann gun chòrd e ris a' chlann agus gun dh'ionnsaich iad mòran mu dheidhinn beathaichean, biadh is croitearachd,' thuirt i.

MORE than 500 primary school children from throughout Lewis and Harris flocked to the island's auction market to learn about the local crofting industry.

The 'Fun Day Out with Crofting' in Stornoway was organised by three voluntary groups who play a key role in supporting local crofters - the Lewis and Harris Cattle Producers Group, the Lewis and Harris Sheep Producers Group and the Lewis and Harris Horticulture Group.

Yvonne Richardson, co-ordinator for the cattle producers, said the event had been very successful.

'From the feedback we have had to date everyone thought it was a fantastic day and the children seemed to have enjoyed themselves and learned lots about animals, food and crofting,' she added.

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Mull joiner fined and banned after dangerous driving on A85

A MULL joiner was banned from driving for two months after admitting driving dangerously by overtaking a car while approaching a blind left hand bend at Loch Awe.

John Paterson, aged 22, pled guilty in Oban Sheriff Court this week to overtaking a car on the A85 on September 23 2005 at around 2.25pm.

Procurator Fiscal Clifford Most said Paterson of 10 Jarvisfield Road, Aros, Mull, had been spotted by a couple who were in a line of traffic behind a car towing a caravan.

The fiscal said the couple were very 'shaken' by the accused's manoeuvre. Mr Most said: 'They became aware of the accused who was overtaking them on the approach to this blind bend west of Loch Awe.' They had to take evasive action to avoid a collision and contacted the police with a note of Paterson's car registration number.

David MacNeill, for Paterson, said his client had been driving for five years and heavily relied on his driving licence to work as a self-employed joiner on Mull. 'There was no question of speed in this case and there was no traffic coming.

'My client accepts he may have crossed double white lines after completing the manoeuvre,' said Mr MacNeill.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Paterson he took the offence very seriously as there were numerous accidents on that particular stretch of road every year.

Sheriff Small added: 'Potentially there could have been a head-on collision.

'I would be failing in my duty if I did not pose a period of disqualification.'

Paterson was banned from driving for two months and fined £350.

Tobermory musician hits the big screen

TOBERMORY pop star Colin Macintyre is making it in the movies after a track from his forthcoming album *The Water* was added to the soundtrack of a new Ewan MacGregor film.

The track, *Be My Saviour*, will play during the closing credits of *Stormbreaker*, set to be a summer smash hit when it is released on July 21.

Other artists on the soundtrack include chart toppers The Kaiser Chiefs and Gorrilaz.

Colin told *The Oban Times*: 'I have new management and through them I was asked if they could use *Be My Saviour*, which is quite an uplifting pop song.

'It's great. All these things help when you've got a new record coming out.'

It has been a busy year so far for Colin who is currently recording his fourth album, *The Water*, which he considers to be his best work yet and includes *Be My Saviour*.

This is the first album Colin has not produced himself and has pulled in Nick Franglen of Lemon Jelly to co-produce the record.

'It's the best record I've made and the best songs I have written so I'm really pleased with it,' said Colin.

'I don't know when the album will be out but the first single will be released later in the year.

'I've listened to a few of the songs already recorded and it has got more of a beat on it than the previous three albums.

'You can dance to this one, perhaps even ceilidh to it!'

However, Colin has a strong fan base, especially on his home island, and stresses his latest work will not be a change from his usual style.

He said: 'It won't be different at all but I am trying to use new sounds and a bit more beat. I wanted some music to dance to.'

The album will also be the first record since Colin dropped the pseudonym Mull Historical Society.

Colin, who will now write, record and perform under the name Colin Macintyre, added: 'It's important my fan base realises nothing has changed here on a creative front. They are still the society and I'm still from Mull.

'By dropping the Mull Historical Society name I've not suddenly gone solo - I was already solo.

'What I'm doing by changing to my own name is part of my creative journey and I won't be doing anything different from the way I've operated before, except that I think this change will help me grow more as an artist.

'For some time now I've thought about doing this and now it feels like I've shed a skin but I will always play songs live from all of my previous albums and maybe it was also time for me to give the real Mull Historical Society its name back.'

Dalmally women offers her locks for Inveraray Pipe Band

TO CUT or keep? That is the question posed by Dalmally woman Lynn Ferguson as she tries to raise money for Inveraray and District Pipe Band.

Lynn has put her hairstyle in the hands of the public who will decide whether her 30-inch red locks are cut.

People can have their say on whether Lynn should cut her long flowing hair, or keep it, by donating money.

Whatever opinion has raised the most money will determine the fate of Lynn's locks.

'If I had just gone for a sponsored hair cut people wouldn't have given me as much money,' said Lynn, who lives at Glenstrae, near Dalmally.

'My hair is over 30 inches long and people are always commenting on it. So I thought they could pay a donation and say whether I cut it or keep it.

'A lot of people are horrified that I would consider cutting it, while others are egging me on.'

Will Lynn Ferguson cut or keep her 30-inch locks?

Sponsorship

Sponsor forms can be found in Dalmally, Connel Surgery, Comrie, Lochgilphead and Inveraray. However, the deadline for potential sponsors is this Saturday, May 27.

Lynn says she will stick rigidly to the outcome - if the majority want her hair cut she will accept their decision and Pipe Major Stuart Liddel, Inveraray, will conduct the ceremonious chop.

'If that's what raises the most money, that is what has to happen,' added Lynn.

Scotland's best to play malt and music fest

SOME of Scotland's best bands and solo artists will visit Islay this weekend when Feis Ile, commonly known as the Islay Malt and Music Festival, officially kicks off.

The festival began 22 years ago but incorporated the malt aspect after the island's distilleries joined the festivities six years ago.

This year the headliners include Cliar, soloist Carol Lawler, Skerryvore and Deoch an Dorus, of which Jura man Simon Moran is a member.

Ileachs will be pleased to know there will be a strong local representation throughout the week-long festival with 95 Proof and the Islay Fiddle and Accordion Band, which will play at the Clootie Dumpling ceilidh.

Bruichladdich's Fraser Shaw was a finalist in this year's Radio Scotland Young Traditional Musician Award and widely regarded as one of the country's top young pipers.

Angus Rice, chairman of the festival committee, said: 'Carol Lawler is a renowned singer and the likes of Cliar are always a huge hit. Last week Cliar were in New York playing to the United Nations.

'When you contrast that with a small village hall in Bowmore, it shows their popularity and tells me their music transcends across the board.

'Locally we have the Islay Fiddle and Accordion Band. Two of their members have been playing together for 40 years and it is still one of the best bands on the west coast.'

The festival has become an international event since the collaboration with the distilleries began, with many foreign whisky fanatics paying a pilgrimage to Islay.

It is no surprise then that many of these visitors look forward to the Whisky Tasting event, chaired by Diageo's engineering manager Peter Campbell.

Angus added: 'The surprising thing about the whisky tasting is someone from outside of Scotland has always won it.

'The Japanese and Scandinavians will be the favourites.'

Angus credits the distillery managers, who have been ambassadors for Islay whisky, for the upsurge in foreign visitors to Feis Ile.

'Over the last 10 years our distillery managers have gone across the world to sell their brand.

'It has gone global and with the internet people are more aware of the whisky industry. People who have much more dispensible incomes see it as an excellent opportunity to see a distillery for themselves.

'Some of the distillery tours are booked up weeks and months in advance.'

Expecting a large influx of foreign tongues the festival will have a Gaelic chorus event in the Columba Centre where non-Gaelic speakers can learn a few of the more popular native songs. Angus thanked the hard work of the festival committee in planning the event and added a special thanks for the staff in Bowmore's tourist office.

'Janice Cunningham and her staff do a tremendous job finding places for people to stay. They don't have to go that extra mile but they always do.'

In only its second year of production, Kilchoman Farm Distillery will host a Kilchoman Bards Night which is being chaired by Hugh Smith, author of *The Oban Times*' Islay Letter.

For more information on the festival and a full timetable visit www.feisile.org.

Visitors touring Bowmore Distillery during the festival will be able to see its oldest cask of malt whisky dating from 1958. t21bow01

Islay full for festival weekend

THERE is not a bed to spare on Islay this weekend as visitors arrive in their hundreds.

This weekend is the beginning of Feis Ile, the Islay Festival of Malt and Music, and also a Bank Holiday weekend.

The influx of visitors has given staff at the VisitScotland tourist office an accommodation dilemma as they try to find beds for people.

Janice Cunningham, supervisor at the tourist office, said: 'Islay is completely packed out this weekend.

'Even the youth hostel is full and as far as we know, so is every other place.

'It's always busy at this time of year but we usually have some beds left.

'During the following week we have beds free here and there but it is still very busy.'

Janice said tourism is Islay's main trade with visitors now arriving all-year round.

Oban Lifeboat came to the rescue of the *Marna 4* at the north end of Seil Island last Thursday in force seven winds. The vessel had five people on board and was dragging its anchor with the chain wrapped round its propeller.

Calcutta Cup coming to Islay

THE CALCUTTA Cup will make its first appearance on Islay when the third Islay Beach Rugby Tournament kicks-off on June 10 on White Hart beach, Port Ellen.

The cup, which is contested during the Six Nations match between Scotland and England, will be brought to the island under the watchful eye of Kenny Murray, Scottish Rugby development manager for West (North) of Scotland.

Lagavulin Distillery will sponsor this year's beach rugby tournament for the first time and 24 teams will compete, including four ladies teams.

Lagavulin's general manager Steve McGingle said: 'We were only expecting 16 teams but the event is becoming so popular and we currently have 24 teams confirmed.

'Islay Rugby Club has done an excellent job of organising the event which is why it is so popular but I think because it is the only beach rugby tournament in Scotland, it catches the imagination.'

Although still in its infancy, the tournament has become a weekend event for teams.

On top of the competition itself, a ceilidh on the Friday night before play begins on Saturday which may leave some of the teams a bit worse for wear for the tournament.

Premier Division teams Stirling County, Cartha Queens Park and two-time winners Melrose will be joined by a West of Scotland Army team, a Legends team, made up of former international players, and the Army Air Corp team which will literally fly in on the competition.

The hosts will provide local interest, as will Oban Lorne, Mid Argyll and Cowal.

But perhaps the biggest crowd-puller will be the matches between Ardbeg, Lagavulin and Bruichladdich distilleries which are always very keenly contested.

In the women's tournament Islay and Oban Lorne are confirmed to play but organisers are expecting a total of four teams.

Port Ellen primary plays waiting game

PORT Ellen Primary School must wait to find out if it has won an award for its Brilliant Beginnings project.

The project has been shortlisted in the Community Wellbeing section of the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) 2006 Awards which will be presented at a dinner and ceremony in the Fruitmarket, Glasgow, on June 19.

The project, which won the overall prize in the Argyll and Bute Council Excellence Awards last December, encourages pupils at the school to be more environmentally aware by improving the school grounds.

Teachers Kath Johnston and Hazel Onions made a presentation to a panel of judges last Wednesday including representatives of the Scottish Executive and CoSLA chairman Peter Mair.

Hazel said: We gave a 15-minute presentation and were asked questions by the panel which gave us a chance to tell them more than we could in the 15 minutes.

'We were very happy with the presentation. We used a big sunflower as our logo and had a slideshow with voice-overs.

'We are up against Glasgow City Council and South Lanarkshire Council so Kath says it would be like Gretna winning the Scottish Cup if we could do it.'

The Brilliant Beginnings project is currently attempting to raise funds to build an astroturf football pitch at the school.

If successful it would be the only all-weather pitch on the island.

Big plans for Mini Market

THE MINI Market in Bruichladdich is under new ownership.

Debbie Macdougall from Ballygrant has changed the face of the market by bringing in an expresso machine, internet access and outside tables.

Debbie, who has more big plans for the future of the shop, said: 'I was really nervous as a 24-year-old taking over a new business but the locals really like it.'

Glencoe

Your correspondent is Ros MacDonald: 01855 811490

Glencoe fund-raiser

A COFFEE morning was held recently to raise funds for Flora Doogan of Glencoe.

Flora plans to spend her gap year in the Vietnamese town of Yen Bai where she will attend a teacher training college teaching English to Vietnamese students.

Flora's year has been organised by the Isle of Coll-based charity Project Trust.

Fund-raising has been on-going since Flora was first accepted to go on the trip.

Glencoe Heritage Trust, which arranged the coffee morning, helped by local volunteers, raised more than £200 to help Flora reach her £3,000 target.

Thanks go to everyone who helped or donated baking and cash on the day.

Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Kilchrenan without water again

KILCHRENAN villagers woke up recently to yet another morning without water.

Pupils at Kilchrenan Primary School had to be sent home or collected by their parents mid-morning and bed and breakfast establishments suffered yet again.

Since the beginning of the year there have been seven bursts to pipes in the village.

The head teacher of Kilchrenan school and residents who telephoned Scottish Water to complain were told that bottled water would be sent out to the village. This did not happen.

One resident said: 'Living in Kilchrenan is like living in a Third World country.'

The secretary of Kilchrenan Community Council telephoned Jim Mather at the Scottish Parliament and he immediately informed Scottish Water which repaired the pipe within an hour or two of the call.

At a community council meeting in Kilchrenan in March 2001, Scottish Water was asked if the new water treatment plant would help with burst pipes or would there be lots of geysers springing up in Kilchrenan? Scottish Water's reply was that as the pipes were old and would gradually crack, they would be replaced. This does not appear to be happening.

Lismore

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Children's author visits

MALACHY Doyle, the acclaimed Irish writer for children and young adults, recently visited Lismore Primary School.

He delighted the children by reading from one of his books, answering their questions and talking about writing, reading and finding suitable illustrators. He said he once counted how many versions of a book he had written and there were 187.

Malachy was staying on the island for a week's holiday with his wife Liz and sister Marie and they all took time off for the unscheduled event.

Marie sang the children a song about a mermaid in Irish Gaelic and the children reciprocated with their Mod songs.

Kyle of Lochalsh

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae: 01599 544359

South West Ross Field Club

SOUTH West Ross Field Club met in Kirkton Church Hall on May 5 when a large turnout of members heard an interesting illustrated lecture by Dr James Fenton, Botanical Society of the British Isles plant recorder, Wester Ross, whose lecture was entitled 'The Ecology of Wester Ross'. On Friday May 20, the club was planning to visit the Isle of Canna.

Drama success

LOCHALSH Arts Network presented 'Good Reason', a play by Elspeth Murray and Tim Nunn including the 'Mosaic' by Anthony Minghella, in Plockton Hall on May 4.

A total of 35 people attended.

Sports quiz

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council recently held its annual sports quiz in Kyleakin Hall.

Six teams, five from Kyleakin and one from Portree, entered. Sadly no teams from Lochalsh took part.

Bill Edgar, Portree, set the 100 questions and acted as quiz master.

Sports council chairman Charlie M MacRae acted as scorer and presented the trophy to the winners, Kyleakin Football Club team which finished on a total of 69 points.

Team members were Keith MacKenzie, Lennie Chiffers, Michael Taylor and John Robertson. Runners up were Isle of Skye Hockey Club with 65 points and third was Kyleakin Bowling Club 'A' team with 60 points.

A buffet was served at the close of an enjoyable evening.

The annual general meeting of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council is in Portree on June 5.

Bowlers back

PLAY has resumed at the only outdoor bowling rink in Skye and Lochalsh at Plockton and new members are welcome.

Sarah Benfield, John Taylor, Karen Judd, Jane Dodd, Ken Buchan and Matt Lewis starting the Loch Etive beach clean-up. t18etv01

Loch Etive shoreline clean-up

A HAMSTER ball, a broken door and a bag of decomposing mackerel was among the rubbish picked up from Loch Etive's shoreline in a beach clean-up.

Around 20 bin bags of rubbish were collected from the shore in front of Ardchattan Kirk by representatives from the Group for Recycling Argyll and Bute, Argyll and Bute Council's Marine and Coastal Development Unit and Scottish Natural Heritage. The clean-up followed on work carried out by the mussel and fin-fish farmers who 'sweeped' the shore recently.

provided refreshments during the day.

Loch Tay Association

THE ASSOCIATION held its annual general meeting at the Kenmore Hotel.

Chairman Alistair Inglis informed the meeting that during the year contact had been maintained with the Lomond and Trossachs National Park staff regarding shared problems such as speeding, noise, vandalism, fly camping and litter.

Meetings had also been held with one of the directors of Taymouth Castle Development Group, mostly on the use of the loch and surroundings.

He had stated that his company was committed to co-operate with and involve the local community in the project, but as of the annual general meeting he was no longer with the company.

Various other lochside plans had been discussed during the year.

The chairman noted changes round the loch with a number of new homes being built and many more being planned, in addition to the 50 homes at the Taymouth Castle Development.

The main problems affecting the loch over the past year were vandalism, fly tipping and litter. The association is committed to tackling the litter problems and is currently involving as many bodies as possible in an effort to improve the situation.

Regarding the River Tay protection order, Mr Inglis urged all riparian owners to send their completed fishing returns to the Tay Liaison Committee. The protection order may be lost if there is insufficient proof of public availability of fishing.

David Noble then gave a brief summary of the results of the survey on loch use carried out by the association in spring 2005.

Community council

THE SEAT gifted by the family of the late Duncan Clark is to be sited at the pond at the foot of Fingal Road.

The council had no comment to make on the application by owners of Pink Cottage requesting the use of its barn for bed and breakfast.

Litter: Litter clearing work is to go ahead. Perth and Kinross Council is willing to help with the clean up of the shores of Loch Tay if Stirling Council will help. The council will write to Stirling Council seeking support for this.

Grass: Areas of grass in Breadalbane Park and Fingal Road to be cut by the council are to be limited, with more left to grow wild.

A decision will have to be made shortly as to whether the grant of £29,800 to Breadalbane Area Committee Planning Forum will be divided three ways - Strathyre, Balquhidder and Lochearnhead, Strathfillan and Killin - or be used to cover the area as one. A meeting of the councils concerned will formulate a plan before August.

Sylvia Jackson MSP is still in contact with BT regarding broadband in remote areas. The Breadalbane Area Community Plan is to be studied by council members and comments forwarded to Fiona MacLeod.

Learning group: Dr Elaine Turner gave an insight into the new Breadalbane Lifelong Learning Trust comprising Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Learning Group and Glen Dochart Adult Learning Group.

The drop in café and broadband at Tyndrum has proved successful, with access to accredited courses through Clackmannan and Falkirk colleges.

Above: Taynuilt Primary School pupils Diarmid MacKinnon, Ross McCullock, Poppy Honeyman and Becky Wilson proudly show off their recipe books.

Taynuilt school fair success

PUPILS, staff and parents at Taynuilt Primary School deserve full marks for their fund-raising efforts at the annual spring fair organised by the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA).

The huge sum of £1,200 was raised towards extra curricular activities. Among the projects to be funded are a new lending library, summer outings and games and equipment to encourage physical activity.

As well as the traditional stalls selling books, bric-a-brac, plants and home baking, visitors to the fair enjoyed taking part in an orienteering course, a golf challenge and having their faces painted. Nearly £200 was raised from the pupils' enterprising ideas, which included a recipe book compiled and produced by P6/7 pupils.

Head teacher Don McAllister praised the efforts of the outgoing PTA. 'This was the present committee's final event, and they went out in style. Their efforts over the past few years have really enhanced the experience of the children attending the school and we are now looking for new members to continue their great work.'

Delight at new school library

Craignish Primary School at Ardfern has a new library in its infants class thanks to a slave auction held by the Parent Teacher Association last year that raised £3,500 for the library and more books. Above are three primary three pupils enjoying their books. t20lib01

Treasurer honoured

AT A SOCIAL function in the Plockton Inn on May 13, a presentation was made to Geoff Webster who last year retired as treasurer of Plockton Small Boat Sailing Club.

Geoff, who held the post for 35 years, received a painting and life membership of the club.

Rosy McAndrew, retiring timekeeper, was also presented with a life membership for her service to the club.

This year's commodore Maggie Cunningham made the presentations.

The sailing season began on Friday May 19 with races for local boats and centreboards.

Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Breadalbane Tourism Group

KILLIN and District Tourist Association, Loch Earn Tourism Initiative and Crianlarich and Tyndrum Tourist Association were the joint hosts of a successful leaflet event in the McLaren Hall.

A new leaflet was launched for Breadalbane. It was produced in conjunction with Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park.

Visitor and activity providers handed out leaflets and gave demonstrations.

A display by Phoenix Falconry moved indoors because of the weather and this was much enjoyed by Killin Primary School pupils.

Killin Cancer Committee

Edinburgh Argyll Association

EDINBURGH Argyll Association held its closing ceilidh of the season on Friday May 5 in St Marks Unitarian Church Hall, Castle Terrace, Edinburgh.

President Mabel Munro Rowan welcomed the audience in Gaelic and English.

Alastair MacNeil, Tiree/North Berwick, was fear an taigh for the evening and told some amusing stories .

Another highlight was fine piping from Edward Seaman.

Mod Gold Medallist Wilma Kennedy delighted the audience with her artistic rendering of Gaelic songs and Calum Alex MacMillan, another Mod Gold Medallist, delighted the company with his traditional songs.

The folk group 'Sgorra breac', in the capable hands of Margaret Nicholson, Skye, entertained with a variety of Scottish, Gaelic and Irish music and song.

Tea and goodies were served at the interval.

Diane Boyd, the association pianist, has had another spell in hospital and best wishes go to her. The association also sends its good wishes for a speedy recovery to members Margaret MacLean, Kilchrenan/North Berwick, and Iain Strachan.

Votes of thanks were given by Mabel Munro Rowan to all the artistes, the fear an taigh and the committee for a splendid tea and to everyone who donated raffle prizes.

The association recently held its annual general meeting.

The 2005/2006 season had been favourable, although numbers were down on past years.

Secretary Tam Burke put in endless time and effort to make the ceilidhs interesting and introduced the 'Youth of Edinburgh and District' in music and song.

This year is the association's 70th birthday and to mark the occasion it is holding a dinner ceilidh dance on Friday September 22 at the Orwell Lodge Hotel, Edinburgh.

Office bearers for 2006-07: president, Mabel Munro Rowan; vice presidents, Flora Carmichael and Alastair MacNeil; secretary, Tam Burke; treasurer, Alison Feltham; auditor, Norman H MacDonald; pianist, Diane Boyd; committee, Elizabeth Williams and helpers, Hetty Craig, Hamish Robertson, Evelyn Eadie, Patricia Jackson, Rosemary and Bill Ross and Margo Baxter.

Happy smiles from the pupils of Lismore Primary School who stepped out in style at the recent Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

Lismore children step out in style

LISMORE Primary School had two country dancing teams in the recent Highlands and Islands Music and Dance festival.

It was the first outing for their new dancing shoes bought from the children's fund-raising and some generous donations. Looking very smart in their white shirts and black trousers for the boys, and kilts and white shirts for the girls, the older team danced A Jig for Mrs Dunn and the younger pupils a Cumberland Reel.

Dance teacher Anne Livingstone said the adjudications of their performances were favourable and encouraging. And they had many supporters to see and appreciate them both from Lismore and beyond.

Thanks go to everyone who supported the school fund-raising afternoon, to head teacher Freda MacGregor, Oban FM Cash for Kids and Health Walks Unlimited, visitors to the island who, hearing of the children's fund raising, had a whip round.

Celtic fans boost charity

John Neil MacInnes of Oban No 1 Celtic Supporters Club presents a £200 cheque to Archie MacDonald of the Breathe Easy charity. Breathe Easy, which was set up recently in the Oban area, aims to help people with lung and respiratory problems.

Around the Rurals

Kilbrandon

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI was held in the small hall, Easdale, on May 2.

President Janice Baxter welcomed the excellent turnout on such a terrible night.

Janice reported on her first year as president, which she had thoroughly enjoyed. There had been another varied programme covering a wide range of activities and with no need for any special skills or talents to come along and enjoy. Above all, the meetings had been a great chance to catch up with old friends and to meet new ones. Everyone is looking forward to welcoming new members next year.

The session started in September with June Stowe and her fascinating talk on lighthouses. In October Pamela Baker gave members advice on maintaining antiques and the next month everyone tried their hand at making fairies and gift boxes, led by Sue Moss, Margaret Willoughby and Meryl Fraser of the Kilbrandon branch.

Everyone enjoyed a super evening and Christmas dinner at the Tigh an Truish Hotel in December and started the New Year with a demonstration on making exquisite sugar roses by Margaret Whitton.

In February, Richard Allan entertained with a talk and slides on the birds of Africa and in March members had great fun taking part in a Beetle Drive. Liz Gordon spoke to the branch about the Fair Trade movement in April when everyone had the chance to buy some of the products, including delicious Easter Eggs.

After members had scratched their heads over a pictorial quiz, viewed the exhibits entered into the Federation Show at Ardrishaig and enjoyed supper served by the committee, the president closed the meeting by wishing everyone a very good summer.

Lochawe

THE APRIL meeting of the Lochawe branch of the SWRI was a combined business meeting and a Burns Supper since the January meeting had been cancelled because a large percentage of members were ill with a virus.

An enjoyable meal was provided by committee members Mrs Wylie, Mrs Orr, Mrs McLeod and Mrs MacKenzie with contributions by others.

The committee was re-elected for the 2006/2007 season.

The first meeting of the new season will take place in Lochawe Village Hall on Wednesday October 11. Visitors welcome.

To advertise on the LOOK AT OBAN page Call 01631 568000

LOOK AT OBAN

Play parks may go as residents display apathy

SOROBA Glen Residents Association needs help - from the residents of Soroba Glen.

At the annual general meeting of the association last week, barely a dozen people out of 200-odd houses in the area turned out to offer their support.

As a result the association is struggling to retain its identity and a committee to keep it running.

And if it collapses, there is doubt over what would happen to the two play parks at Etive Gardens and Feochan Gardens, which have recently been extensively refurbished and the kick-about area off Lawe Road that desperately needs to be improved.

Gifted

The play parks were gifted to the residents by the original developer as long as the residents maintained them.

If the association, which only has eight volunteers so far for a 12-member committee, does fall then it is unclear what would happen to the play parks as it is believed that the developer no longer exists.

At the annual general meeting, eight people volunteered their services on the committee, which it was agreed would more than likely solely be there to raise funds and apply for grants to maintain the parks.

Fallen

Various other activities that the association organised, from children's parties to bonfire night to sports day, have fallen by the wayside for various reasons, including Disclosure Scotland and lack of volunteers to help out at the events.

Former chairwoman Morvern Rokitta told the meeting: 'The committee needs some fresh blood and new ideas. The last sports day was the straw that broke the camel's back.'

She explained that the kick-about area needed money spent on it and any new committee would probably have to apply for grants and other funding to get it improved.

'I would hate to see the kick-about area going; the kids get a lot of fun out of it but it is full of potholes.'

The association is in the process of seeking legal advice on the position of the play parks and kick-about if it did disband but its biggest fear is that they would be turned over to housing and the area lose its only play areas.

The other thorny issue involved insurance of the play parks, which the meeting heard was costing in the region of £1,000.

An extra-ordinary general meeting has been called for Tuesday May 30 in the hope that more people can be persuaded to join the committee, which has a chairman, secretary and treasurer and prevent the areas being abandoned.

Mothers and babies enjoy a tea party at Dunmar Court. t20nct01

Dunmar Court hosts NCT tea party

THE OBAN branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) held a tea party at Dunmar Court to celebrate the charity's 50th birthday and promote Breastfeeding Awareness Week.

Around 30 mothers with babies and toddlers attended and helped to raise £120 for the charity.

The Oban branch of the charity is using Breastfeeding Awareness Week to encourage more mothers in the area to breastfeed.

Chairwoman of the Oban branch, Sarah Edwards, said: 'Research shows that the benefits of breastfeeding start right from day one so every day of breastfeeding is a reason to feel proud.

'This is especially important for women who stop breastfeeding before they want to.

'Many of these mums often feel they have failed but it is important they feel proud of any amount of breastfeeding they did as the benefits of it start from the first feed.'

Drummore Learning centre pupils and staff, past and present, say goodbye to the old school in style. t21dru01

Saying goodbye to Drummore

PUPILS and staff, past and present, said goodbye to Drummore Learning Centre on Friday at a Grand Finale ceilidh and dance to celebrate 32 years of the school.

The centre will be the first school of Argyll and Bute Council's Schools PPP/NPDO Project to move to new premises.

The project will see Drummore joining Rockfield and St Columba's primary schools in a joint campus and the current Drummore building will be demolished to allow part of the joint campus to be built on the site.

Sandy Galbraith was the first pupil to walk through the doors when Drummore Learning Centre opened in 1974.

He joined the school instead of going into Oban High School after seven years at Rockfield.

He said: 'I have fond memories because the staff and pupils got on so well together. There was a hostel so you had pupils from Ford, Salen and Tighnabruaich staying.

'Coming from Rockfield I felt I was in a safer environment. You didn't get picked on.

'All the pupils loved the place.

'It will be a sad day when the building is pulled down because this was my second home.

'I know the new campus is the way forward but I hope the pupils don't get picked on now they are in with pupils from the other schools.'

Head teacher Linda MacAllister said: 'I started teaching in Drummore when it opened in 1974 and although it is sad to see it go I am looking forward to the new more inclusive system.

'It was wonderful to see all the old friends who came to the ceilidh and would like to thank all the people who worked hard to make sure it was a success.'

Margaret MacIsaac, chairwoman of the school board, said the demolition of the school building was the end of an era and there were many mixed emotions at the Grand Finale, although everyone had a great night.

All the performers gave their services free-of-charge. They were: Hector MacFadyen with Davy Cameron and Alistair Currie; singers Freddy MacKenzie, Frances Grant and Colin Felgate; piper Scott Felgate and dancer Nicola MacFadyen.

The 22 pupils currently at Drummore will be split up for the first time when the move finally comes.

The primary children will join the new joint campus whereas secondary pupils will move to an additional building at Oban High School in December.

Carer completes course in record time

A CARER based at Crossroads North Argyll in Oban has completed a training course in record time to become a senior care attendant.

Annie Johnstone passed an SVQ Level 3 Care in the Community course in less than a year while continuing with her full-time job.

It usually takes two years to complete the course.

Elaine Robertson, chairwoman of Crossroads North Argyll, presented Annie, who has been with Crossroads since it started in Albany Street in November 2000, with gifts and flowers.

Mrs Robertson said: 'Annie has been very loyal to us and although she has been headhunted many times she has stayed.

'Her loyalty and skill should be recognised and in her job you have to build trust and a good rapport with clients and you have to have a sense of humour.

'That way you have continuity which gives you a consistent, reliable and well-motivated group of carers.'

Argyll and the Islands Enterprise (AIE) funded Annie's training and Annie worked closely with Tanya MacDougall of Argyll Training who provided the course.

Crossroads is a service which provides respite care for unpaid carers.

Heather MacKinnon, a colleague of Annie's, has also completed the same qualification but is waiting for her results.

Crossroads service user Alice Clark, third from left, presented Annie Johnstone with a bouquet of flowers for passing her SVQ Level 3 Care in the Community in record time as work colleagues and Elaine Robertson look on. t21svq01

Doing their bit for the Prince's Trust birthday bash

Oban High School pupils, from left: Robbie Kupris, Lauranne Gibson, Kirsten Black and Steven Kersley helped Linda Tighe, Prince's Trust area manager for Argyll and Bute, promote the trust's 30th birthday concert in Tesco Oban on Saturday. The group sold special glasses for the televised concert, much of which was in 3-D. Linda said: 'People have been really generous and interested in what the Prince's Trust is doing.' t21pri01

Third surgeon for Oban hospital

Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban is to have a third surgeon.

NHS Highland has confirmed this and the post is now being advertised, the members of the Oban Lorn and Isles health Forum were told at their meeting last week.

Another new development at the hospital will be the addition of digital imaging in the radiology department, to replace the traditional style of film x-rays.

Queens Hotel on market

THE QUEENS Hotel in Oban is on the property market, with offers invited in excess of £1.5 million.

Recently taken over by the London and Edinburgh Swallow Hotel Group, the Queens Hotel is one of five hotels to be sold following a recent review by the company of strategy and operations.

Others being offered for sale include the Arrochar Hotel on Loch Long and the Glenfield Hotel in Ullapool.

Alan Bowes, chief executive chairman of the London and Edinburgh Swallow Group, said: 'Although these five hotels are very successful and effective in their own markets, they are either duplicating locations where we are already active, or will respond quicker and more effectively to independant proprietors or developers.'

Glitz and glamour at the Coop

SCOTTISH Co-op shoppers could find themselves being served by staff in top hats, tails, cocktail dresses and tiaras when they call in at the Oban store on Friday.

The staff are 'dressing up for work' to raise money for local charities.

Oban store Manager Chris Taylor said: 'Our money will help fund the invaluable work carried out by BLISS with premature babies and we will be pulling out all the stops to raise as much money as possible for community facilities.'

Glitz and glamour will be the order of the day as big-hearted staff don their best outfits to launch the lastest Co-op charity campaign which aims to raise a total of £50,000 by October.

Stores across Scotland will be supporting causes in their communities, such as hospices and hospitals, children's charities and schools, as well as raising money for community facilities. In the coming months, Scottish Co-op staff will be involved in a range of fundraising activities from football matches to car boot sales.

Why Connel? asks MSP

HIGHLANDS and Islands MSP Dave Petrie has questioned the point of a £3.5 million waste water treatment system for Connel.

He raised the issue of pollution from private sewerage outfalls in the village, which are not being connected to the waste water treatment system, during Themed Questions at Holyrood.

He said the investment was being 'largely eroded' by pollution from private outfalls.

Depute Environment Minister Rhona Brankin agreed to investigate the situation.

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U.K. PREMIERE: 6.00 from FRIDAY – 2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE
THE THIEF LORD
PG, 99 minutes

8.30 DAILY from FRIDAY – NO SATURDAY MATINEE
The Da Vinci Code
12A, 149 mins (Under-12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)

6.30 and 8.45 until WEDNESDAY – 2.15 SATURDAY MATINEE
She's The Man
12A, 106 mins (Under-12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)

U.K. PREMIERE: 6.30 and 8.45 on THURSDAY 1 JUNE
1.30 and 3.45 MATINEES on SATURDAY 3 JUNE
POSEIDON
12A, 98 mins (Under-12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)

STUDIO CINEMA 01397 705095
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM

U.K. PREMIERE: 7.30 from FRIDAY – 1.45 SATURDAY MATINEE
EIGHT BELOW
PG, 120 mins

7.45 DAILY from FRIDAY – 2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE
Take the Lead
12A, 116 mins (Under-12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) ☎ 09111 767 272
The new Moon urges you to express what you really feel, and be less concerned by what others expect of you. By mid-week however, someone could accuse of you of being intransigent! Charming. Your thoughts and ideas on life are in a process of being transformed. Most of all you need to feel that you are stretching your mind to the max. Call me now to hear how learning new skills can help you...

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) ☎ 09111 767 273
This weeks move of your ruler into your sign, brings to an end a saga which has been unsettling for rather too long. Now, doubts about one relationship fade and it's time to start again afresh. And you can. Cash luck can be positive too when you can use a blend of charm and guile to make just the right moves. Call me now, to hear how you can grapple with life's goodies and stay self-disciplined....

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) ☎ 09111 767 274
Whether you are a trendy fashion conscious Twin, or someone who prefers a more classic look, this is an excellent week to put a new spin on your personal appearance. Even subtle, individual touches can draw admiring glances and add to your sense of attractiveness. Your creativity remains high so use your flair productively while you can. Call me now and avoid a clash with one important face...

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) ☎ 09111 767 275
You can be more patient than most, but even yours may have been a little stretched of late. However, by the weeks end, news you have been waiting for will finally emerge and you can get on the front foot. One friendship can seem to go from strength to strength even if there has been a disappointment with someone else. Call me now to hear how subtly is so important in career or financial moves....

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) ☎ 09111 767 276
Clarifying future plans will get easier. Ambitions alone won't be enough, but you'll have a sense for the things which will give you greater personal satisfaction. Someone could approach you and ask for some advice, or may even want you to take on a formal role. Where you can work well on common needs, you can shine Leo. Call me now to hear how Venus can bring such valuable advice your way...

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) ☎ 09111 767 277
A relationship can run on the hot side, especially if one partner is used to steering the decisions. Yet by midweek, this can be sorted, with a little bit of give and take. A more assertive you is coming to the fore, which can be good for business, but to get the best results, goodwill will be a vital ingredient. This means for now, building dialogue. Call me now to hear how a group outing can work out so well...

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) ☎ 09111 767 278
However diplomatic you try to be, it can seem as if someone will try to take liberties. Yet you know you can put your foot down if you need to, and this week you can. Someone will soon grasp that they need to take you more seriously. As much as anything, you're just letting them know that you're a free spirit. Links with overseas remain excellent. Call me now if you want to learn new educational skills...

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) ☎ 09111 767 279
You know those obligations you should be attending to, but the fact is, they can seem to impinge. However, from mid-week, letting someone down gently will get easier. Romantically, warmer relations are possible from then too. In fact you can find just the right way with words over the following month. Charm will be your middle name. Call me now to hear how Venus can become so influential for you...

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) ☎ 09111 767 280
If there are hidden niggles in a close interpersonal relationship, the Venus/Mars mix can bring these to the surface. Or will there be someone that you get a sudden and overwhelming fascination with? If so, concentrate on the basics if you want to avoid a quick burn out. Yet new starts of all kinds can come from appreciating the things you have in common. Call me now, for your detailed love scope...

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) ☎ 09111 767 281
With both Venus and Mercury on the move this week, what seems initially like a rather dour outlook soon brightens - especially from a sociable perspective. In fact, the chance to have fun encounters can come through people in your everyday world, such as workmates and other parents. Those barbeque embers could burn bright in more ways than one Cancer! Call now to hear who can light your fire...

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) ☎ 09111 767 282
If you'd like to know someone better, you'd best not to try too hard. Your sense of humour can help to bring the barriers down and you can always gain satisfaction from playing host. A pet can come into your world towards the end of the week, or a current member require a quick check over at the vets. An aunt or uncle could also pay an unexpected visit. Call now to hear how home changes beckon....

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) ☎ 09111 767 283
You can still find times this week, when you would rather do your own thing and potter around at home or in the garden, but others will be keen for you to join in more, so expect some invites. By the weeks end you can really enjoy an outing, or a gathering and this may even relate to your neighbours. Music can also be a great source of pleasure for Pisces folk. Call me now for more astro guidance....

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THE THIEF LORD
OBAN & UK PREMIERE
PG Certificate
99 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
at 6.00 DAILY FROM FRIDAY, INCLUDING SUNDAY
2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE

A great children's adventure story, set around the canals and alleyways of Venice, based on the best selling fantasy novel by Cornelia Funke.

Two boys escape to Venice, after being orphaned and dumped in the care of a cruel aunt. Hiding in the ancient floating city, the children are befriended by a gang of local youngsters and their enigmatic leader: 'The Thief Lord'.

From their base in an old cinema, the boys steal from the rich to support themselves and soon attract the interest of a bumbling detective. However, there is a greater threat to the children from the forgotten past - a beautiful treasure with the power to spin time itself!

THE DA VINCI CODE
OBAN & UK PREMIERE
12A Certificate
149 Minutes
(Under 12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
at 8.30 DAILY from FRIDAY, INCLUDING SUNDAY
NO SATURDAY MATINEE

The Da Vinci Code is a unique thriller, starring Tom Hanks as Robert Langdon, who receives an urgent late-night telephone call about the murder of the elderly Louvre curator. Near the body, the Paris police discover a baffling coded message.

Working on the mysterious cipher, Langdon is stunned to find that it leads to a trail of codes hidden in the work of the great Da Vinci, clues visible for all to see yet ingeniously disguised by the master artist.

Langdon joins forces with a gifted French cryptologist Sophie Neveu, when it comes to light that the murdered Louvre Curator was involved in a secret society, whose members included Isaac Newton, Victor Hugo, Botticelli and Da Vinci.

The Mystery thriller becomes a breathless race through Paris, London and beyond with Langdon and Neveu matching their wits with a faceless powerbroker, to discover an explosive historical truth before it is lost forever. Brilliantly directed by Ron Howard the movie also stars Audrey Tautou and Ian McKellen.

SHE'S THE MAN
OBAN and UK PREMIERE
12A Certificate
106 Minutes
(Under 12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
at 6.30 and 8.45 DAILY from FRIDAY to WEDNESDAY, INCLUDING SUNDAY
2.15 SATURDAY MATINEE

Amanda Bynes stars as Viola Hastings in this new comedy release from Dreamworks Pictures, inspired by William Shakespeare's Twelfth Night.

Viola is mad about soccer and as she wants to play in the boy's side, she decides to assume the identity of her twin brother Sebastian (Played by James Kirk) to join the team captained by her boyfriend Justin (played by Robert Hoffman).

The extra twist to the tale occurs when she falls in love with her new roommate Duke (played by Channing Tatum) whop just happens to like Olivia (played by Laura Ramsay) who actually likes Sebastian, not knowing that Sebastian is really Viola.

Oh, what a tangled web, but this is a romantic comedy inspired by the Bard himself!

POSEIDON
UK PREMIERE
12A Certificate
98 Minutes
(Under 12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
at 6.30 and 8.45 DAILY from THURSDAY 1 JUNE
MATINEES on SATURDAY 3 JUNE at 1.30 and 3.45

Warner Brothers Studios present an entirely new version of 'POSEIDON' when a rogue wave capsizes a luxury cruise liner in the middle of the North Atlantic and a small group of survivors find themselves as unlikely allies in a battle for their lives.

Determined to fight their way through the disorientating maze of steel in a liner which is now upside-down, each must draw on skills and strengths they didn't know they possessed, fighting against time for their own survival and for each other.

EIGHT BELOW
UK PREMIERE
PG Certificate
120 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
at 7.30 DAILY FROM FRIDAY INCLUDING SUNDAY
1.45 SATURDAY MATINEE

This is one great adventure not to be missed, which dog lovers will relish as a unique tale of survival and friendship and lead them to making a pledge - never to allow their dog (or dogs) to have to survive in such harsh conditions. During a six-month severe Antarctic winter, sled dogs have to struggle to exist.

'EIGHT BELOW' proves an adventure with a difference when, due to a sudden accident and in perilous conditions, three members of a scientific expedition and their sled dogs find themselves stranded in Antartica. The story, inspired by real events, proves that fact can be far stranger and harsher than fiction.

TAKE THE LEAD
12A Certificate
116 Minutes
(Under 12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA
AT 7.45 DAILY FROM FRIDAY
INCLUDING SUNDAY
2.00 SATURDAY MATINEE

Inspired by a real life story, Antonio Banderas stars as internationally acclaimed Manhattan dancer Pierre Dulane, in this unique and enjoyable musical drama.

The story revolves around the life of a professional dancer who volunteers his services to the New York City public school system, where he teams up with students to create a new style of hip-hop dance, becoming his students mentor in the process.

'TAKE THE LEAD' co-stars Alfie Woodward and marks the feature big screen debut of renowned veteran producer Liz Friedlander, who creates a musical drama with a difference that could be adapted to a major stage production.

Committee members past and present are joined by Stewart Adam, chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society, in the front row and Argyll and Bute councilors Elaine Robertson and Duncan MacIntyre. t21sco01

Lorn Scottish country dance celebrates 50th birthday

THE LORN branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society celebrated its 50th anniversary on Saturday in the best way it knows how.

Accompanied by the John Renton Band the invited guests danced the night away after a sherry reception hosted by Argyll and Bute Council and a meal.

Scottish country dancing societies from as far as Morayshire and Wales were represented and the guest list of 139 included Edinburgh's Stewart Adam, chairman of the Royal Scottish Country Dancing Society.

Also in attendance were six of the inaugural members of the Lorn society: Catherine McCulloch, Bunty Cameron, Grace Fraser, Helen MacMillan, David Fellowes and Helen Brown. The society was instigated by Miss McCulloch and the late Ford Spence and formed on March 24, 1956.

Secretary of the Lorn branch Sue Porter said: 'It was a great night and we had 50 guests from outside the Lorn area.

'We ran a big weekend school in March and we wanted to keep the two events separate. That is why we couldn't celebrate the 50th anniversary in March.'

The beavers and cubs from Inveraray, Tarbert, Southend, Oban and Ardchatten who enjoyed a fun day in Lochgilphead on Saturday May 13. a20cub02

Beavers and cubs Kilmory fun day

BEAVERS and Cub scouts from across Argyll and Kintyre travelled to Lochgilphead on Saturday May 13 for a day of fun and competitions.

Packs travelled from Inveraray, Tarbert, Southend, Oban and Ardchatten and met at Kilmory Gardens, with 48 beavers enjoying a fun day and 35 cubs competing for the John Logan Trophy. The cubs had several bases to go to, gaining points for their pack. At the end of the day, the points were totalled, with the Tarbert team of Christopher Johnstone, Callum MacDonald, Matthew MacDonald, Scott Jamieson and Declan Stevenson emerging as the winners. Beavers had lots of fun with face painting, an assault course, beat the goalie and other activities. Helping on the day were Heather MacPherson, Iris Kerr and Louise Holmes.

The Scout Association in Argyll is keen to attract more members, leaders and helpers. There are currently no beaver, cub or scout packs in Lochgilphead or Ardrishaig, and anyone who would like to help anywhere in Argyll is asked to call Louise Holms on 01546 602801 in the evening.

DINING OUT IN ARGYLL

COME rain or shine you can visit the Swallow Regent Hotel for a bar lunch with a difference.
The hotel has recently opened its bar lounge for non-residents to come in and sample the relaxing atmosphere and sample the fine cooking of the hotel's new head chef, Omale Arome.
Omale hails from Nairobi and had his training with Sheraton Hotels in the United Arab Emirates.
Hotel managers David and Janet Collings say Omale has maintained the high standard of cooking at the Swallow Regent Hotel but brings fresh ideas and experience to the kitchen.
The lounge bar has been redecorated to create a more comfortable atmosphere for the diner and a 52-inch plasma screen complements the ambient music.
However, if the sun is shining, why not dine with a view of Oban Bay at one of the hotel's outdoor tables.
The menu has a number of lunchtime specialties including the Regent sandwich and the Regent burger which have proven to be very popular with guests.
There is also a delicious selection of paninis and other lunchtime snacks and platters.
There are choices for the children including healthy pasta dishes and there is always a vegetarian option, with the hotel's Ceasar Salad proving a popular choice.
So, whether it's glorious sunshine or pouring rain you will always be welcome at the Swallow Regent Hotel.

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Fun for all the family this weekend at Tarbert, Loch Fyne

Saturday 27th May
1pm - Childrens Entertainment In The Marquee including Juggling, Face Painting, Making Balloon Animals, Plate Spinning, Clowns and Music
3pm - Campbeltown Pipe Band
5pm-7pm - Shanks Mini Scottish Series Radio Control Lasers

Sunday 28th May
1pm - Childrens Entertainment In The Marquee
5.30pm - Mid Argyll Pipe Band
LIVE MUSIC IN THE MARQUEE FROM 10PM Every Evening
Thursday 25th May - So Driven
Friday 26th May - Soul Vaccination
Saturday 27th May - Random Strangers
Sunday 28th May - The Keelies

Don't Forget To Tune Into Scottish Series Radio 87-7 Mhz FM

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Scottish Wildlife Trust
ACHNACLOICH GARDENS
A85 east of Connel
OPEN DAY
Saturday 27th May
12.00 till 16.00
Refreshments, stalls (plants, baking, raffle etc)
Exhibits: MacDougall Collection, Lorn Model Club, SWT
Donations in kind welcome

CAR BOOT AND PLANT SALE
Sunday 28th May
from 1pm
Sellers set up from 12.30
SEALIFE CENTRE CAR PARK
£5 per car
Proceeds towards Barcaldine Community Association Village Hall

BRITISH LUNG FOUNDATION SUPPORT NETWORK
breatheeasy
BREATHE EASY OBAN
Next Meeting
Monday May 29th
Dunmar Court, Oban
at 2pm
Including a talk by a Pharmacist
Everybody welcome

SNX-SUNDAY NIGHT EXTRA
Modern informal worship led by H2O Praise Band with a talk from Fiona Marks, Alpha Scotland
7.30pm 28th May, Corran Esplanade Church
All welcome -no church, any church

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
Feather & Fibre from New Zealand
an illustrated talk with
Maureen Lander
Installation Artist & Lecturer in Maori Material Cultural Studies
Friday 26th May
7.30 - 9pm
for further information, booking and diary of events contact 01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org

SAHARA TREKKING TEAM
BIG CAR BOOT SALE
in aid of
Macmillan Cancer Relief
Co-op Car Park, Oban
11am – 3pm
Sunday 28th May
No booking - just turn up

LEISURE TIMES

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Lucky winner

Linda Robb of Dunbeg is the lucky winner of a weekend break in a holiday cottage in Skye, thanks to the Saulmore Farm Shop. Caroline Ronald, proprietor of the shop, which sells fine local produce, meat, vegetables, eggs, home-made meals for the freezer and a host of other good things offered a weekend break in a competition run through the shop and *The Oban Times*. David Buchanan of *The Oban Times* drew the winning entry in the competition and customer Linda will be enjoying a free weekend break. t21sol01

Send in your Leisure Times to editor@obantimes.co.uk

Children of the barley come home to Tiree

THEY came from South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, the Isle of Man, Sweden, Suffolk and Switzerland.

The week-long Tiree Homecoming - A' Bhuain - got under way this week with over a hundred 'Children of the Barley', as they have been dubbed, returning to the island, many for the first time.

More than 6,000 men, women and children left the island over the last 200 years, and now there are estimated to be over a million people of Tiree descent around the world from Patagonia to Palmerston.

It is now time for a family reunion and Tiree has laid on a week's festival with concerts, dances, a play, talks, a farmers' market, trips to the graveyards, and even classes to help Canadians brush up the steps of the Canadian Barn Dance!

The week began on Monday with an emotional reception, hosted by Argyll and Bute Council, followed by a spellbinding concert with Skipinnish.

There were hugs, tears, and the exchange of addresses.

On the Sunday both the Church of Scotland at kirkapol and Tiree baptists Church at Balemartine had emigration as the theme of their morning services.

Tuesday and Wednesday saw much of the focus at An Talla, where there was an introduction of Gaelic singing by Wilma Kennedy and an introduction to ceilidh dancing by John Holliday.

A talk and walk to the nearby beach on Tiree bird life by local warden john Bowler was followed on Tuesday afternoon by the Napier Play.

This was the re-enactment of the Napier Commission Enquiry into the conditions of crofters and cottars in the Highlands and Islands held at Kirkapol Church in 1883.

The Tiree 'family' is growing up nicely.

Joe Reid, Irene Robertson, Sharon Spooner, Jean Sutherland and Catherine Goodbrand, at the mini bazaar to raise funds for Argyll Animal Aid. t20aid02

Argyll charity aids animals

ALL manner of goodies were on sale at the mini bazaar held recently by Argyll Animal Aid in Oban's Royal Hotel.

The fantastic sum of £417.55 was raised as a result, which will go to help run the charity which looks after abandoned animals or pets that owners cannot look after any more for one reason or another.

The charity does sterling work in finding homes for all its waifs and strays and the funding goes towards looking after them until they can be rehomed.

Donations of cat and dog food were handed in at the bazaar, as well as people coming to browse around the stalls, try their hand at the lucky dip or have a go on the tombola and bottle stall.

Thanks were given to all who helped out on the day and to the Royal's manager John Braidwood for the use of the hotel's function room to hold the bazaar.

Craignish pupils enjoy healthy lifestyle

Pupils at Craignish Primary School in Ardfern have been enjoying the benefits of a healthy lifestyle this week during international 'walk to school' week.

All of the pupils have been walking to school, with those who arrive by bus getting dropped off before they reach their normal drop-off point.

To ensure they are safe whilst walking, the pupils have been wearing luminous vests kindly donated by Ardfern Yacht Centre.

The vests will be kept by the school for use on future school outings and activities.

a21cra01

Scottish Ensemble works with Argyll pupils on Eyeland piece

A SERIES of workshops sees musicians working with children this week from Rothesay, Campbeltown, Ghiga, Islay, Jura, Mull and Iona.

The workshops being run by members of the Scottish Ensemble include time devoted to preparing *Eye-Land,* a piece inspired by Argyll and Bute written specially for the youngsters by Paul Rissmann.

The concerts also include a specially designed, digitally animated film by Victor Craven played simultaneously with Saint-Saens Carnival of the Animals.

Mr Rissmann, the Scottish Ensemble's education director, added: 'It is a real pleasure for me to come home and work on this project with youngsters across Argyll and Bute.

'My new piece, *Eye-Land*, is inspired by this wonderful part of Scotland, and I am specially pleased that it will give youngsters from my home area the opportunity to take part in performances with one of Scotland's leading professional music groups.'

Heather Duncan, chief executive of the Scottish Ensemble, said: 'Inspiring new generations of youngsters to enjoy classical music is one of the Scottish Ensemble's great joys.'

There will be a workshop on Mull on Friday (May 26) and shows were held in Campbeltown, the Isle of Islay and Isle of Bute earlier this week.

Helping out at the coffee morning on Saturday were, from left: Irene Main, Carol Turnbull, Carol Harris and Agnes MacArthur. t21nol01

Youth conference to tackle community involvement

YOUNG people from across Argyll and Bute will gather at Stonefield Castle Hotel, Tarbert, on June 1 and 2 for the Youth Participation Conference 2006.

The event is open to anyone aged 11-18 years who wants to explore the ways of becoming more involved in community planning in Argyll and Bute.

The conference lasts for two days and will include workshops, at MACK & MAGS and the Templer's Hall, in community planning and promoting positive images of young people.

There will also be fun outdoor activities and an evening of local bands and disco. Day two of the conference will offer the chance to find out about International Volunteering, Young Scot, Prince's Trust, Communities Scotland and many other youth organisations and opportunities.

Anyone who would like to attend the conference or would like to know more information about the Youth Participant should contact their local community learning and development worker.

The annual general meeting of Argyll and Bute Youth Forum will also be incorporated into the Youth Participation Conference.

Hannah and Ghita win vouchers

Kilninver and Rockfield primary school pupils Ghita Craig and Hannah MacLeod both won 500 vouchers for Tesco's Computer for Schools and are now entered into a national competition with their designs of a mechanical hand and electronic diary respectively.

Both pupils are picured receiving the vouchers from Tesco Oban's Kenny MacCallum and Tracey Cassie. t19tes01

THE GLASGOW PHOENIX CHOIR
'Spring Festival of Song'
Conductor: Marilyn J Smith Accompanist: Cameron Murdoch
OBAN St John's Episcopal Cathedral
Friday 26 May 2006 at 7.30pm
IONA The Abbey
Saturday 27 May 2006 at 2.30pm
Free - included in Abbey Entrance Fee
MULL Salen Church
Sunday 28 May 2006 at 3.00pm
with MULL GAELIC CHOIR
Tickets: Unreserved £7 / £6 Concession from:
in OBAN - Oban Music, Tel: 01631 566304 • in MULL - the Gaelic Choir or at the Door

Walking for Anthony

FOUR women from the Lorn area plan to walk the Great Glen between Fort William and Inverness to raise money for Anthony Nolan Trust.

Carol Turnbull, Catherine Cakebread, Agnes MacArthur and Irene Main have to raise £700 each and a part of that total was raised on Saturday when they held a coffee morning in St John's Cathedral Hall, Oban.

Carol said: 'We hope to raise a few hundred pounds today and we will have a bottle stall on June 10 at the Anthony Nolan Trust's sponsored abseil to raise more money.'

BERT
4 year old neutered boy. Nice nature, needs companionship.

Please contact Jean on 01631 566406 after 8pm (please note new number)
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
www.smallpaws.co.uk
1

forthcoming events

Tuesday 4th July Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital at 7.30 pm
Tuesday 18th July Inveraray Traditional Highland Games
Saturday 22nd July Taynuilt Highland Games
Tuesday 8th August Oban maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and islands Hospital
Saturday 2nd September Dalmally Agricultural Show
Tuesday 5th September Oban Maternity User Group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital at 7.30 pm
Saturday 9th September Mod Ionadach na Dreolluinn, Tobermory
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
Tuesday 12th September Living with MS. Free course for people with MS, families and carers For details call Fiona on 01631 566602

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED CONTACT 01631 568000

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

Thursday 25th May – Saturday 27th May
Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival
Friday 26th May
Phoenix Choir, St John's Episcopal Cathedral, Oban, 7.30pm.
Saturday 27th May
Phoenix Choir, Iona Abbey, 2.30pm.
Saturday 27th May
Party in the Fort 12 noon till late, High Street, Fort William.
Saturday 27th May
Achnacloich Gardens, Connel, Open Day 12.00 till 16.00 SWT stalls, canteen etc
Sunday 28th May
Phoenix Choir, Salen Church, Mull, 3pm.
Sunday 28th May
Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon. Entry from from Atlantis Leisure.
Sunday 28th May
Car Boot and Nearly New Sale Taynuilt Village Hall 1.30pm.
Friday 2nd June, Chlachain Inn, Mallaig, Garry Innes
Saturday 3rd June
Paul Lamb and the Kingsnak Caol Community Centre 7pm – Blues, Soul and a bit of Rock and Roll.
Friday 9th June, Chlachain Inn, Mallaig. Murdo MacLeod, BBC Presenter World Cup Talk in. 8.30 pm final whistle 10.30 pm
Friday 16th June
Skipinnish live at Craignish Village Hall 8 for 8.30pm licensed ceilidh with finger buffet – Tickets £12.50. 01852 500277 or 01852 200371
25-27 June, Syke Accordion & Fiddle Club, Portree, Portree Festival
Saturday 22nd July
Taynuilt Highland Games, Sports Field, Taynuilt

WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Dealers in debt

REPORTS that the number of repossessions through the Scottish court system has risen by over one-third, despite a background of stable interest rates, should send alarm bells ringing throughout the country.

The figure represents almost double the number recorded during the house price crash of 1990 and can be used as a gauge to the rising tide of debt.

Behind the statistics are several factors. Home ownership is at an all-time high, the stigma attached to debt has significantly declined and, perhaps most importantly, there has been major industry investment in the sophisticated marketing of money to those on restricted incomes.

This sector of the market are driven into becoming 'equity borrowers', using their homes as security for loans that often attract higher rates of interest.

While the borrower has a responsibility to repay their debt, should the lender not also act responsibly to ensure that circumstances allow that repayment.

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.

'Baldy's Hill' footballers - 1935/36

This week we turn the clock back around 70 years and rekindle memories of football days on Oban's 'Baldy's Hill'. The photograph features some of the players who used to enjoy a kick-about every week. Robert Clark, of Pulpit Drive, Oban, who submitted the photograph, thinks it dates back to 1935/36. Included in the photograph are N Quinn; D MacCulloch; T MacEachen, J MacDougall, J B MacCulloch; R Clark; N MacEachen; H Blainey; Ian MacDougall; J Cameron; P MacDougall; W Cumming; J Hill; S MacInnes; J Reid; W MacPherson and D Watt. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Prints must be accompanied by a caption, name, address, stamped addressed envelope and telephone number. Each month a photo will win £10.

A View From The Tower

By McCAIG

Playing the ethnic card

ONE POLITICAL phenomena that has bedevilled the Westminster Parliament since Scottish devolution is the domination of two of the three major parties by Scots as leaders.

The Labour party, in particular, has a problem in that it is retained in office by the gaggle of Scottish Central Belt MPs who are little more than cannon fodder for the whips.

While a majority of backbench Labour MPs still publicly endorse the leadership of Tony Blair, privately they mutter that he should go and should not be succeeded by Gordon Brown because of the latter's nationality. They conveniently forget that Tony Blair was born in Scotland and educated here, but has insulted the Scots by claiming he is English and is always seen to be supporting English cricket, football and rugby teams.

Gordon Brown is a little more subtle, trying to use his 'Britishness' campaign as a smoke screen. He keeps his Scottish fervour low key but is, I'm told, very conscious of the antipathy to him and Dr John Reid, a potential challenger to him for the leadership, when Blair goes or is thrown out.

Perhaps the one saving factor for him is that a considerable number of MPs for English constituencies have very small majorities and are vulnerable to quite low swings. If Gordon Brown does flit from No 11 Downing Street to No 10 he is unlikely to call an immediate General Election whereas if there is a bitter contest and someone other than Brown wins that person will almost certainly be forced to call an early General Election to try to bring the warring factions together and stamp his or her authority on the party.

Let there be no dubiety about the new situation at the top of the Labour party.

While the two names now in the frame are Brown and Reid, both Scots, there are several very ambitious, younger English MPs who would throw their hats in the ring if only to set down a marker for next time round.

If this were to happen there really would be such internecine strife within the parliamentary party that finding a 'safe pair of hands' to take over would be very difficult indeed.

Maybe it will end up with Tony Blair going on to the end of this parliament to keep the would-be pretenders contained and let them take the blame when David Cameron leads the Tories to a successful return to power.

What makes a First Minister?

WHEN I was in Edinburgh last week, I read a column by Margo MacDonald, former SNP firebrand and now an Independent MSP.

I was a bit disappointed in the criteria Ms MacDonald set down for a potential successor to the current incumbent of the First Minister's post. I hardly believe that having an obsession with Scotland's performance in football internationals or the ability to laugh at Billy Connelly's jokes are necessary prerequisites for the top job.

But, Margo's qualities for a First Minister are so narrowly nationalistic that it set me thinking about what is required of anyone who sets their ambitions on being able to sleep in Bute House when the occasion arises.

Jack McConnell is the third First Minister and the longest to be in office and I admire him for much that he has done.

Despite what Margo and her former cohorts in the SNP say he has tried to look after the interests of all of Scotland, he added an international dimension and stood up to Tony Blair on occasion. He will be a hard act to follow.

With the single transferable vote system in next year's elections he may not retain office. But, no one can dispute that publicly and privately he has been and is a genuine grafter for Scotland.

'Spectacular Scotland'

COFFEE table books of photographs with a brief sub-text are numerous and, in many cases, pretty insipid.

I suppose I glance through 50 or more a year and rarely find one that I would be pleased to display or give as a present to a friend or relative.

However, when I first saw 'Spectacular Scotland' on a bookshop display I was immediately drawn to it for the outstanding photograph on the dust jacket. Indeed, it is one of a very small number that well-known landscape photographer Sue Anderson, who lives near Oban, did not take.

But turn to the back of the jacket and there are five of her photographs, all impressive in their own right and requiring considerable skill to get them technically perfect.

Inside, there are 140 pages with sensitive text by award-winning travel writer James Gracie.

I'm sure he won't mind me saying that it is the quality of the photography that stands out, especially that of Sue Anderson who did the majority of it.

If you buy one for a friend you'll buy a second for yourself.

At £30 a copy that is indicative of the quality about everything concerned with this outstanding volume.

'Spectacular Scotland' comes from London publishers Duncan Baird.

McCaig

Glasgow Letter

Enthusiasm to the fore

IT'S A fact that concerts or ceilidhs which star young children are inevitably successful.

Such was the case at Cothrom na h-oigridh, organised recently by the Glasgow Skye Association in the Woodside Halls.

About 60 children entertained the audience with a variety of musical instruments, dances, songs, poetry and drama. Such expertise and enthusiasm bodes well for the future of the Gaelic language and music in the city.

Traditionally pipes are played at the start of concerts and this event was no exception with Alison Buchanan, a member of the National Youth Pipe Band, taking to the stage.

Alison is already well-known to Gaelic audiences as a singer but she is clearly also an excellent piper.

Her spot, which featured tunes from the repertoire of the Youth Pipe Band, set the high standard for the rest of the evening.

Pupils from Meadowburn Primary and Condorratt primary schools performed short plays which kept the audience amused and Bunsgoil Gaidhlig Ghlaschu's Choir showed it will be competing with the best at both local and national Mods in the near future.

Some of the large number of participants proved they were multi-talented. Elidh Munro played cello and recited a poem, her brother Calum played accordion and recited a poem and Heather Kindness - one was almost tired just watching her - played clarsach, took part in the Highland dancing and sang solo.

If you add in the Highland dancing skills of Jane and Mairi MacRae and Kristina MacDonald to the piping of sister Mairi, the dancing of the Kate Jeffery School of Irish Dancers, Jamie Murray playing clarsach and Kristina Nicolson-Hunt entertaining twice with Gaelic songs you will appreciate the audience was not short changed.

The duties of chairperson for the evening were in the capable hands of Calum Ross and congratulations must also go to those backstage who made sure the programme ran smoothly.

This children's concert is now well established in the annual programme of the Glasgow Skye Association and it is to its credit that it continues to provide this opportunity for youngsters to perform on stage.

For many years Mairi MacLeod, past president, played an important role in organising this event and I am sure you will join me in sending best wishes to Mairi.

Piping X-Factor

IF LAST week's report on the first semi-final of the Piping X-Factor kindled your enthusiasm, make sure you don't miss the second semi-final in the Piping Centre tomorrow evening, Friday May 26, at 7.30 pm.

Can the contestants possibly improve on the first evening? Why not go along and find out? You will not be disappointed.

Agus an Cu

FOR SOME years now the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama has provided an array of young musical talent.

If you want to enjoy the skills of some current students then the place to be is the Guinnes Room of the academy on the evening of June 8 at 7.30 pm.

The event is the end-of-year concert by second-year students. The 15-strong group consists of an impressive line-up of fiddles, pipes, clarsach, accordion, piano, whistle, percussion and Scots and Gaelic song.

Put it in your diary as a concert which promises to showcase some future high fliers.

Diary dates

Thursday May 25: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, annual general meeting, Lourdes Secondary School, 7.30pm.

Friday May 26: Helensburgh Highlander's Association, annual general meeting, 7pm. Dance to follow at 8pm with Willie Paterson's Band. Piping X-Factor, second semi-final, Piping Centre, McPhater Street, 7.30pm.

Saturday May 27: Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club, buffet/ceilidh dance, Hillhead Sport's Club, Hughenden Road, 7.30pm. For tickets telephone 07774628342.

Wednesday June 7: Glasgow Skye Association, annual general meeting, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm.

Thursday June 8: Scottish Music Concert, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

THE NICKY McMeechan Ceilidh Band will be busy this weekend playing the Islay Inn on Friday and the Park Bar on Saturday.

On Friday and Sunday music in the Park Bar will be provided by Black Ridge and Gary Innes respectively while in the Islay Inn it will be Penny Dogs on Saturday and Four Provinces on Sunday.

Neil Murray. Telephone 0141 954 8105. Email neilfmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, 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 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
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www.obantimes.co.uk
Telephone: 01631 568000
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A reply to McCaig

Sir,

In last week's *The Oban Times*, in his worst non, nod, wink, wink mode, McCaig slimly tries to discredit efforts to reinstate the Campbeltown to Ballycastle ferry by casting doubt on our abilities.

Whilst McCaig has little credibility in these parts because of his failure to have the courage of his convictions and sign his real name, he has committed a cardinal sin, that is to publish near defamatory material in a newspaper.

So as to defend against McCaig's foundless remarks, the editor of *The Oban Time*s is welcome to visit Campbeltown and examine documents relating to our 18 years of effort to reinstate the Campbeltown ferry. On financial ability, the editor is also welcome to come and examine bank statements and the fact that none of our buildings have any mortgages.

On motivation, the editor is welcome to visit and review the 12 shops, two hotels, two light industrial units and one restaurant that were formerly closed and are now reopened with 60 jobs or preserved because of hard work put in.

That is hard work the sort of which McCaig isn't used to. Lazy journalism is the worst sort and McCaig needs to get his facts right and speak to people who have accurate information.

As for wanting fair competition in ferry services, yes we have poked the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) directors with a big stick. It would be nice if the current directors at CalMac would join the debate instead of remaining in the Gourock bunker. At least if CalMac joined in, we would have an informed debate, with forensic argument and some form of solution that satisfies the majority of islanders, visitors and CalMac employees. Instead, all we have is sniping by McCaig, hiding behind a folly of a name instead of having the courage of putting his real name to ill advised words.

Raise you game *Oban Times.*

Russ Mclean, The Old Cooperage, Coopers Lane, Campbeltown.

Gylen Castle

Sir,

When I heard the above castle was being 'restored' I was thrilled and thought how delighted the late Nigel Tranter would have been to hear this news.

However, when I bought last week's *The Oban Times* and saw a picture of the castle it was not restored at all. From the near distance it just looks like an unattractive, derelict ruin - a wasted asset. It stands out on the hill like a decayed tooth.

A private firm would have restored that castle in five years or less and by restored I mean walls built up, roofed over and apartments set up. That is what restoration means to me. Gylen would be a wonderful tourist asset if properly restored and capable of being floodlit at night.

'Ten years of restoration' - the original builders would have built a similar castle beside Gylen in less than 10 years and they had to depend on boats and horsepower.

Historic Scotland seems to have a thing about old buildings with broken walls and no roofs. A retired stonemason told me that Gylen, Urquhart, Kilchurn, Tioram etc should have the tower area roofed over as it is not good for the walls to be unroofed.

Kilchurn was supposed to have been restored over a period of 10 years and yet some visitors did not know what was restored about it.

Surely for the sake of our historic buildings, Scotland requires a more imaginative organisation to look after and develop old buildings.

Historic Scotland is not really making the most of our ancient assets.

Kenneth MacPhail, Glasgow.

The big recycling issue

Sir,

I am writing in reply to last week's letter by Robert McClymont.

Robert did a wonderful job collecting cans throughout Lochaber for several years and it was good of him to offer his contacts and advice to Lochaber Environment Group (LEG) when we got going.

From a low start we managed to build up the can collection to almost five tonnes in the last year of operation. Highland Council is now providing can banks throughout the area and a kerbside collection in Fort William but sadly there is no can collection at schools or for the private sector.

LEG was unable to fund the collection from sales alone and funders are always looking for new projects and unwilling to help existing ones to continue in the same vein.

We are delighted to see the new recycling centre in Fort William and to see that Highland Council plans to promote the sale of home compost bins this year.

The refurnishings project has allowed people in Lochaber to send goods to be used by others rather than be thrown away. It is currently struggling but we are fighting hard to maintain this service.

The amount of waste we produce is rising by two to three per cent. It is not sensible or feasible for us to continue to use the earth's resources in a wasteful way and this is the big issue we need to tackle.

Susan Carstairs, chairman of the board of directors, Lochaber Environmental Group.

Glorious Ganavan

Sir,

On holiday in Oban last week, during the lovely spell of weather, I was so pleased to go to Ganavan Beach and find that the shop there has re-opened.

It was just like it used to be; easy access, the beach full of people and ice-creams doing a roaring trade. Long may it continue.

Anita Bell, Connel.

Litter disgrace

Sir,

I have just spent a lovely few days in the Oban area with wonderful accommodation, food and company.

However, the visit was spoiled by the amount of litter encountered everywhere. Every stretch of road, large or small, was decorated with plastic/glass bottles and drinks cans obviously thrown out of vehicles. Even remote picnic sites had plastic bags of dog mess and the remains of carry outs.

Since tourism is the biggest money earner for this part of Scotland, locals should be aware of the damage this causes because I doubt all this rubbish is left by visitors.

Well done to those who take pride in their community and clear up after others.

M Foreman, Lanark.

Thank you

Sir,

Thank you for letting people know about our sponsored run in memory of our niece and god-daughter Jayne Maree Gray.

We ran the BUPA Great Edinburgh 10km Run. Although tired, the kindness shown to us, by everyone who sponsored us, helped us complete the run. To date we have raised more than £4,300 for meningitis research. Thank you to everyone who has sponsored us so far. If you haven't already sponsored us and would like to, you can sponsor us online at www.justgiving.com/jaynemareegray or by sending a cheque to Florence Nisbet, c/o Kinlocheil Post office, Fort William. Cheques should be made payable to the Meningitis Research Foundation.

Gemma Boyd and Ann Nisbet, Kinlocheil.

Islay Letter

Gaels get together

AN ENCOURAGING number of the island's Gaelic enthusiasts gathered at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile for an evening hosted by the Dualchas Ile project.

The group is collecting and collating much of the island's rich folktale tradition and recording some of the Gaelic words and phrases which are peculiar to the area. The evening was organised by project manager Emily Edwards and among the points of interest was a display of old photographs of local people, places and events which stirred memories.

Centre staff dispensed hospitality with their usual Highland generosity and the high wind and torrential rain which buffeted the lochside building did not dampen the enthusiasm of the guests.

Bureau closure

THE RECENT closure of the local branch of the Citizens' Advice Bureau has robbed Islay of an important and greatly used service.

Staff at the centre, based at High Street, Bowmore, were always helpful and friendly and were ever prepared to go the extra mile to help.

All is not lost, however, as some former members of staff continue to voluntarily provide support and advice to some former bureau users.

Kirk lunch

CARL Reavey, editor of the *Ileach* and mine host at Portnahaven's Taigh Seinnse hostelry, was guest speaker at Kilarrow Parish Church Men's Lunch Club in Bowmore's Lochside Hotel on Thursday.

Carl's well received talk gave an insight into the highs and lows of editing a local newspaper and covered the way in which the fortnightly publication has evolved and improved over the last 30 years.

Speaker at the next club lunch, to be held in the same venue on Thursday June 1 at 12.30pm, will be the Rev Angus Morrison, minister emeritus of St John's Church of Scotland at Port Ellen.

Singing success

MANY plaudits have been showered on Port Charlotte student Donald Feist following his singing success at the recent Highland and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban. Donald took top place in the classical singing class and also secured the silver medal by coming second in the 'songs from the shows' section. Congratulations Donald, keep on singing.

Feis Ile

THE ISLAND'S annual music and whisky festival kicks off on Saturday May 27 with the week-long programme catering for all tastes in both music and uisge beatha.

Visiting and local artistes will perform in a variety of venues throughout the island and among the star names participating are Cliar, Blazing Fiddles, piper Stuart Liddell, Skerryvore, the local accordion and fiddle club and Deoch'n Dorus.

The festival will culminate with a parade of floats on Port Ellen village green followed by the 'final fling', featuring the camels, in Ramsey Hall.

Meantime the island is bracing itself for the large number of visitors making their way to Islay to have themselves a Feis Ile ball.

Let's hope they find sufficient accommodation in an island filled to bursting during festival week.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX.

De tha Dol?

Dìleas Donn

THA SINN a' cur fàilte chridheil air nobhal ùr eile-'Dìleas Donn' anns an t-sreath Ùr-Sgeul fo stiùireadh John Storey aig Comhairle nan Leabhraichean.

Chan eil ach dà bhliadhna gu leth bhon a chaidh Ùr-Sgeul a stèidheachadh agus anns an ùine sin tha iad air ochd nobhalan fhoillseachadh ach seo a' chiad fhear dhiubh a chaidh a sgrìobhadh le boireannach - Norma NicLeòid.

Anns an nobhal tha Norma a' toirt dhuinn sgeulachd mu thriùir charactaran - Muriel, Ailig Iain agus Bellann. Buinidh an triùir aca do Leòdhas.

Tha Muriel na 'mnaoi bheag dhìblidh' pòst' aig Ailig Iain agus iad a' fuireach air an tuath. Bha Bellann pòst' aig Ailig Iain aig aon àm agus tha ise a' fuireach an Obar Dheathain.

Tha an nobhal air ainmeachadh air band, Dileas Donn, as am biodh Muriel a' cluich a' mheileòidian gus an deach a h-iompachadh.

Bha Ailig Iain e fhèin air iompachadh greis roimhe sin agus 's ann nuair a ghabh Muriel ris an eaglais a thòisich iad ri falbh còmhla, ged a bha a sùil-se annsan roimhe sin. Tha dìlseachd, ann an iomadach dòigh, cudromach anns a leabhar.

Tha Muriel ag obair na home-help - 's i a' home-help a bha a h-uile neach san sgire an dòchas a gheibheadh iad.

Tha dreuchdan proifeiseanta aig Ailig Iain agus aig Bellann agus bidh iad a' siubhal gu coinneamhan agus a' dealbh poileasaidhean.

Agus 's ann a-liub tè dhe na coinneamhan a thachair an euchd a chur an saoghal aig an triùir aca bun os cionn.

Tha alt sonraichte aig Norma Nic Leòid air dealbh charactaran agus tha Muriel agus Ailig Iain agus Bellann a' tighinn beò dhuinn air an duilleig.

Tha i a' toirt na sgeulachd air adhart gu siùbhlach agus gu h-innleachdach agus tha e a' cheart cho math dhan leughadair tìde chur air leth airson crìoch a chur air an leabhar airson cha tèid agad air car a dhèanamh co dhiù gus am bi fios agad dè tha a' dol a thachairt. Chan inns' mi an corr mus mill mi an sgeulachd oirbh ach gum feum mi aideachadh gu bheil 'a' mhnaoi bheag dhìblidh' a' cur gaoir tromham. Tha Norma am beachd dà nobhal eile a' sgrìobhadh mu bheatha nan daoine seo agus tha min dòchas gu bheil i air tòiseachadh oir tha fadachd mhòr orm gus an nochd an ath fhear.

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Phrases

Anns an t-sreath Ùr-Sgeul fo stiùireadh John Storey aig Comhairle nan Leabhraichean - In the series Ùr-Sgeul under the direction of John Storey at The Gaelic Books Council.

Ach seo a' chiad fhear dhiubh a chaidh a sgrìobhadh le boireannach - but this is the first one written by a woman.

Gus an deach a h-iompachadh - until she was converted.

Ged a bha a sùilse annsan roimhe sin - although she had her eye on him before that.

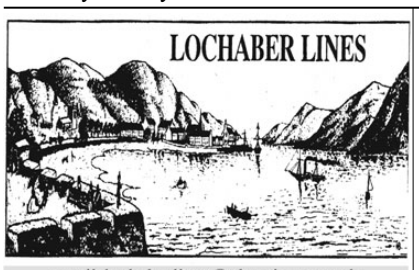
A' home-help a bha a h-uile neach san sgire an dòchas a gheibheadh iad - the home-help everyone in the disrict hoped they would get.

A thachair an euchd a chur an saoghal aig an triùir aca bun os cionn - that the event occurred which turned the world of the three of them upside down.

Tha e a' cheart cho math dhan leughadair tìde chur air leth - the reader might as well set time aside.

'a' mhnaoi bheag dhìblidh' a' cur gaoir tromham - the obedient wee wife puts shivers through me.

Criosaidh Dick.



email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

ONE OR two conversations brought a wee smile to our coupon this week.

There was a quick encounter with Hamish Loudon and we congratulated him for still winning trophies at the yacht club more than 40 years on from his first success. 'The young pups are pushing me,' said Hamish. 'But I tell them that age and treachery will always overcome youth and enthusiasm!'

Then we heard of the Inverlochy joiner who got a start at the £300 million plus hydro scheme under construction at Glendoe, Fort Augustus.

The main contractor is a German company and much of the workforce is drawn from continental Europe and South America. On his first day, Robert drew many puzzled looks with his frequent greeting of, 'How's the craic, matha?' We doubt if any language course had prepared Heinz and Pedro for English, Lochaber style.

❐❐❐

ANOTHER overheard conversation which brought an even bigger smile to our face went like this.

Duncan: 'What do you make of that green roof at the Lochaber College extension?'

Angie: 'I couldn't believe it. They tell me that green metal roof is the finished article.'

Duncan: 'That's right Angie. By gosh Dr Foxley and the planners will be after them.'

Angie: 'I don't think so. Dr Foxley is the chairman of the board of directors of the college.'

Duncan: 'Get away with you. Was Dr Foxley not threatening to refuse planning applications unless they used Ballachulish slates and was he not calling for the quarries to be re-opened?'

Angie: 'You're right, he was. It's a funny old world Duncan.'

Duncan: 'It is that Angie. I'll be looking out for the new houses with the green metal roofs in Ardnamurchan.'

❐❐❐

WE FELT sorry for the Inverlochy punter who, under our policy of naming and shaming himself, shall remain anonymous.

Into Ladbrokes he goes in time to watch the dogs parading on the screen.

The six men dressed in white coats should have acted as a reminder that he had forgotten to buy a car parking ticket.

Alas, they did not and as our friend cheered home his reverse forecast, two men in white coats were placing a winning ticket on the windscreen of his van parked illegally in Viewforth.

Elated with his £20.47 winnings he soon became deflated with his £20 fixed penalty. Straight to Lochaber House, where he deposited his ill-gotten gains, went the lucky gambler who returned to Inverlochy 47p better off.

❐❐❐

THERE appear to be countless theories as to how the piano which was found during a clean-up of Ben Nevis came to be there.

Thirty yodellers from Dundee are now the favourites for dumping the instrument on the Ben. But you will not be surprised that we have a couple of theories nearer home.

We thought that if Roddy 'Langal' MacDonald could more or less carry a horse up the Ben then a piano would be no problem for him. Is this where he practised for his numerous successes at the local Mod?

However, Roddy remained tight-lipped when we quizzed him about his altitude training for hitting the high notes.

Then there is Finlay Finlayson, the Outdoor Capital guru. Did Finlay latch onto the fact that a wee swan gave the East Neuk of Fife national media coverage to die for?

❐❐❐

CHARLIE'S Challenge 2007: We hear that Chrissie 'Von Trapp' MacEachen is being recognised for her singing work with Coisir Og Lochabair by receiving an invitation to a garden party at Holyrood Palace.

Charlie is working on: 'Yes, I will have another cucumber sandwich a 'bhallaich', and: 'No, you're right I will have the lemon tart.'

But in the meantime for anyone heading for the garden party Charlie is aware that you will be getting dolled up so you might want to say: 'I would like my hair streaked and a perm.' Bu mhath leam m'fhalt stiallach agus perm. Bu va lum malt shtee-al-ach agus perm.

Last week's Mod lotto jackpot of £100 was won by Marion MacDonald with numbers 4, 8 and 14.

Lochaber Past Times - from the archives of
The Oban Times

100 years ago

A NORTH Ballachulish man was caught up in a major earthquake which killed more than 1,000 people and destroyed most of the city of San Francisco.

A letter from Duncan Shaw to his sister Mrs MacKay was published in which he described feeling the first tremor which caused him to leave his bed and flee into the street in a dazed state.

Within a minute, the building which he had vacated was levelled to the ground.

His letter gives a vivid account of the devastation, death and looting that followed.

The Fort William correspondent was not one for writing that the weather was dreich: 'During the past week the clerk of the weather has come in for much censure, but the elements still remain unpropitious, and not a few are wondering where those balmy days of May have gone. An average of four inches of snow was recorded at Corrour last week.'

Mr Donald Cameron took over the tenancy of the Copach Hotel from Mr Colin MacPherson who was the licensee for 33 years.

Mr Cameron worked for Messrs D P MacDonald and Sons at the Long John Distillery, Lochybridge, where he learned all that is worth knowing about the manufacture and management of whisky.

40 years ago

DR THEODOR Frankel, managing director of Scottish Pulp and Paper mills, caused a stooshie when he attacked the cost of living in Lochaber.

His remarks were made in a speech to the Institute of Directors at a lunch in Inverness. It was feared that the adverse publicity could affect tourism and a counter-attack was being planned by Provost George Henderson who was organising a survey of the cost of living in Dulwich village, London, where Dr Frankel lived.

A mass radiography unit was in Lochaber for three weeks and anyone of 15 years or over was invited to attend for x-ray at the unit which could deal with 10 people every five minutes.

The new telephone exchange at present being built at the West End, Fort William, is to be too small for the needs of the rapidly expanding population of Fort William. Because of this the Post Office has bought the West End Garage which will be used as an extension to the building being built.

Today the building lies empty with the advance in technology requiring little more than a suitcase to house the equipment.

Lochaber MSP challenges executive on park referendum

LOCHABER MSP Fergus Ewing is to submit a list of written questions to the Scottish Parliament and Rural Development Minister Ross Finnie asking if the executive will agree there should not be a marine national park in his constituency unless local people approve it first.

Mr Ewing has also made a freedom of information request to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) asking if it will conduct a local referendum before any park is established.

Two areas in the West Highlands remain favourites to be the location for the park. These are the Argyll islands and coast and Ardnamurchan, the Small Isles and the south Skye coast.

Mr Ewing said: 'It is my view, as local MSP, that there is very strong opposition indeed to any park, and that was evident from the only meeting that SNH has held in my constituency on the topic, namely in Arisaig on May 4 this year.

'I would argue that no park should be set up unless the local people are in support of it, and by a very clear majority.

'My assessment is that there is very strong feeling against a park on many grounds. It would interfere with the locals and their excellent stewardship of the land and sea.

'It would be a new bureaucracy serving no clear purpose.

'It could not deal with real threats to the sea like ageing oil tankers using the Minch and it would cost millions a year to run. The money should be used to create housing for young people, or to support the National Health Service.

'I challenge Mr Finnie and First Minister Jack McConnell to come off the fence and tell us if they are going to create this park without consulting the locals in a referendum.'

A Scottish Executive spokesperson said that no decision had been taken, and would not be, until 'everyone with an interest in making the most of Scotland's marine and coastal assets has had an opportunity to have their say'.

Prayers lead Uist buyout

COMMUNITIES on Uist, Eriskay and Benbecula are looking to the islands' worldwide diaspora to raise money to allow islanders to take control of their own destiny.

Lochboisdale Harbour could be in line for massive redevelopment if the Uist, Eriskay and Benbecula communities are successful in the world-wide appeal to raise money for a community buyout of South uist Estates.

Angus Macmillan, chairman of Storas Uibhist, the community-owned company that last week finalised negotiations for a £4.5 million purchase of the largest crofting estate in the Western Isles, describing it as an 'historic occasion' which would give the people of the islands the chance, for the first time in 400 years, to control their own destiny.

Mr Macmillan described plans for the redevelopment of Lochboisdale Harbour with new leisure and fishing facilities as well as sites for affordable housing. None of this will be possible, he stressed, without community ownership of the land.

While it is hoped that the bulk of the funds will come from public sources, mainly Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) and the Big Lottery Fund, Mr Macmillan stressed the importance of raising at least £500,000 through the appeal, as part of the community's own contribution. A total of £50,000 has already been pledged to the cause.

Welcome

Brian Wilson, who established the Community Land Unit at HIE in 1998, said: 'The South Uist buyout is by mutual agreement between a democratically-elected buyer and a willing seller. That is welcome and the way it should be. However, there is no doubt that it is underpinned by the legal right of crofting communities to buy their own land.' The worldwide appeal was launched by Father Calum Maclellan, former vice convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, who had travelled from Eriskay for the occasion.

He said: 'The whole reason for this thing is to prove to the island people that they don't have to go anywhere. They can do it for themselves in their own islands.'

He added it had been a great day for South Uist, Eriskay and Benbecula when three-quarters of the people voted in favour of taking control of their own affairs and thereby taking the first step towards reversing the history of decline. He called for people with Uist connections throughout the world to support the appeal saying he had great faith in the board that had been elected to take the buy-out forward, adding, 'I will say a prayer for them now and then'.

Lochaber medal winners Martin Sabiu, Maryanne Michie, Mark MacLeod, Lisa MacIsaac, Michael MacInnes, Gary Donaldson, Jacqueline Wilson, Darren Harkins, Rebekah MacDonald, Ewen MacPhee, Gavin Rankin and Garry Whyte. f21spo01

Lochaber's gold medal winners

LOCHABER High School pupils swept the boards at the recent Highland Disability Junior Athletics Championships winning an impressive 10 gold medals, five silver and nine bronze.

In the run up to the annual competition, the pupils played football and other games with school teachers and staff.

The children also regularly take part in sports events run by Highland Disability Sports.

Teacher Lynne McAlister praised the pupils. 'The competition allows the children the chance to excel at something as well as helping to develop social skills through interaction and meeting new people,' she said.

She also commended Highland Disability Sports for the well-organised and enjoyable event held last week at Queen's park, Inverness.

Michael MacInnes, who won gold in the 100m and the softball throw, said: 'I was really pleased that I got two medals because I thought I wouldn't get any. I am really happy that everyone in the class got medals.'

Fellow pupil Maryanne Michie said; 'It was a hot day and we all had a really good time.'

In total there were 12 competitors from Fort William and they all won medals. For some of the pupils the sporting events have proved to be very valuable for training as Rebekah MacDonald and Gavin Rankin took part in the recent Special Olympics and Garry Whyte also plays for the Highland Disability football team.

Highland population rises

MIGRATION into the Highlands from Eastern Europe, England and Wales is reversing a trend of depopulation.

A population summit in Inverness last week heard that fears over trends of depopulation had been quelled as the population in the Highlands had risen to nearly 214,000, over 2,000 more than 2004 and 4,000 more than 2001.

Also discussed was the wide range of languages now spoken by children living in the Highlands.

This was highlighted by the fact there are now 627 pupils in Highland schools who do not speak English as their first language. The range of other first languages numbers 58.

The summit resolved that effective inter-agency working was essential to provide new workers to the area with good advice.

A ten point plan of action was drawn up which provides a framework of how communities can make the integration process for incomers easier and make the move to the Highlands more welcoming.

Highland Council Convener Alison Magee, who chaired the summit, said: 'We will move forward with a comprehensive plan of action following a very stimulating and informed discussion on the key issues facing the Highlands.'

Lochaber could be training ground for London 2012

LOCHABER could become a training ground for athletes competing at the Olympic Games in London in 2012.

That was the opinion of Highlands and Islands Conservative MSP Jamie McGrigor as he toured the area ahead of the Mountain Bike World Cup in Fort William this weekend.

He believes Lochaber could act as a training ground for athletes if Scotland is successful in its bid to host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. The Scottish Conservative's tourism spokesman visited Nevis Range with Jamie Halcro Johnston, the party's prospective parliamentary candidate for Inverness East, Nairn and Lochaber, to view the outdoor activities centre, which hosts walkers, bikers, skiers and climbers on Ben Nevis.

Mr McGrigor said: 'This is an area that depends on tourism.' A spokesman for Sportscotland said it was committed to the development of sport throughout Scotland.

Fort William Sheriff Court

Girls found drunk after quarry binge

A FIFTEEN-year-old girl was among a group of teenagers found intoxicated and in danger of being exposed to hypothermia after a drinking binge in Ballachulish Quarry, Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week.

Rhona Allan, aged 41, of Foyers Road, Kinlochleven, had already pled guilty to buying alcohol for the youngsters but sentence was deferred for her to make a personal appearance.

She was charged with buying a 'carry-out' containing two bottles of Lambrini, one bottle of Tequila and five bottles of Smirnoff Ice from The Village Stores and the Co-op in Ballachulish for the four girls - aged between 15 and 17 - on February 9 this year.

The court heard that it was 'common practice in the area' for youngsters to ask adults to buy them alcohol because the shops were 'getting better at asking for proof of age'.

On this occasion, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie revealed, the teenage girls, who cannot be named for legal reasons, became intoxicated after taking the carry-out to the quarry in Ballachulish to drink.

Miss Wyllie said: 'The girls were found drunk and two of them were being sick and unable to walk.

'It was a very cold night and there were concerns that hypothermia could set in so the girls were returned to their parents.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose explained that his client thought the girls were old enough to drink but the shops in Kinlochleven only sold alcohol to those over the age of 21.

Nevertheless, Sheriff Douglas Small fined the accused a total of £300.

Fort teenager broke curfew

A FORT William teenager who broke his curfew has been sent to prison.

David Harkins, aged 19, of Achintore Road, pled guilty to being outwith his home on April 26 around 11pm when he should have been serving a curfew order between 7pm and 7am.

The court heard that the accused - who also admitted giving police a false name and struggling violently with officers - was already serving nine months in detention for assault.

Harkins' defence agent explained his client had gone out to meet a friend who he had not seen for years who was home on leave from the army but blamed his problems with alcohol for his 'idiotic' actions.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced the accused to a further two months detention in a young offenders' institution.

Fine and points for apprentice

AN APPRENTICE roofer who drove his works van in Fort William without a licence has escaped a road ban because he's not old enough to drive.

Darren McCann, aged 16, of Arandora, Corpach, admitted driving without a licence or insurance in the West End Car Park, Fort William, on December 22 2005.

The court heard that the accused was caught driving as children from a nearby primary school prepared to head home and a parent, who spotted him, made a complaint to police.

McCann's solicitor, Hamish Melrose, said his client had been warned by his employers that he will be sacked if he misbehaves again. Mr Melrose explained that the teenager had been cleaning out the gutters at a nearby house when a heavy rain shower prompted him to take shelter in the van.

However, he pointed out the car park was empty when he took the vehicle for a spin.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined McCann a total of £400 and added six penalty points to his future licence.

Drink driver crashed into fence

A DRINK-DRIVER who crashed his car into a fence near Fort William while more than three times over the legal drink-drive limit has been fined a total of £700 and banned from the road for two years.

Pawell Zal, aged 26, of Inverlochy Court, Fort William, pled guilty to the offence when he appeared at the town's sheriff court last Thursday.

He was charged with driving near Lochy Caravan Park on the Camaghael loop road with 116mcg of alcohol in 100ml of breath on April 8 this year.

The court heard that the accused, who also admitted driving in the town without a seat-belt or insurance on January 14, confessed all to police.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said his client had made the mistake of driving to his work at a local fish farm after drinking the night before, but pointed out that he had already spent time in custody in connection with the offence.

Mr Melrose said: 'My client contacted the police following the accident in a remote area when he could quite have easily disappeared.'

Sheriff Douglas Small told Zal, through his Polish interpreter, that his driving ban would be reduced by four months if he successfully completes a drink-drivers' rehabilitation course.

Lorry driver warned of road dangers

A LORRY driver was warned of the dangers of falling asleep at the wheel after he was stopped in Onich after being on the road for more than six hours without a break.

John Steel, aged 32, of Hazel Road, Cumbernauld, admitted the offence when he appeared at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday.

He was charged with driving on the A82 road between Glasgow and Onich for more than four-and a-half-hours without taking a break of at least 45 minutes, as required by law.

The court heard that the accused was caught during a routine check of his vehicle's tachograph by the vehicle inspectorate.

Representing himself in court, Steel, who also pled guilty to a similar offence on the road between Glasgow and Perth, said: 'It's something I have never done before and that I'm not likely to do again.'

Sheriff Douglas Small, who warned the accused of the damage his seven-and-a-half tonne vehicle could do if he had lost control, fined Steel a total of £400.

Teenager caused disturbance

A TEENAGER who caused a disturbance in Fort William has been warned he will be locked up if he gets into any more trouble.

Unemployed Donald MacKinnon, aged 17, of Clunes Avenue, Caol, admitted committing a breach of the peace during an earlier appearance at Fort William Sheriff Court, but sentence was deferred until last Thursday to allow him to be of good behaviour. He was originally charged with conducting himself in a disorderly manner by repeatedly challenging people to fight outside a disco in High Street, Fort William on November 7 last year.

The court heard that the accused, who had been given a curfew which meant he had to stay at home between 7pm and 7am, had stayed out of trouble since committing the offence.

MacKinnon was admonished by the court after his mother confirmed to the court that the accused was trying to turn his life around.

Nevertheless, Sheriff Douglas Small warned the teenager: 'You run a real risk of losing your liberty if you behave like this again.'

Fine for driving without insurance

AN INTERIOR decorator caught driving without insurance during a weekend break in Ballachulish has been fined £250.

Self-employed Margaret Reilly, aged 46, of Strathmore Park, Irvine, admitted driving on various roads in Ballachulish without insurance on February 11.

The court heard that the accused had already been disqualified from driving and fined £400 in connection with the same incident after being caught drink-driving.

The insurance offence emerged later after she failed to produce her documents to police following her arrest.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said his client only drove around 800 yards to a nearby shop to get some snacks but thought she was covered by her boyfriend's insurance.

Sheriff Douglas Small also endorsed Reilly's licence with six penalty points.

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Reform bill creates split throughout crofting counties

'CROFTING communities will lose out if the Crofting Reform Bill does not become law,' claims David Green, chairman of the Crofters Commission.

But at least one MSP from the crofting counties strongly disagrees and states that if the Crofters Commission was willing to enforce the existing crofting legislation properly, there would be no need for new powers.

Mr Green, a crofter from Wester Ross, highlights how the Crofting Reform Bill would affect his neighbours: 'There is a buzz about the potential for new crofts from Cairngorm in the South to Shetland in the North. My neighbours in Assynt are waiting to grasp this opportunity,' he said.

Alasdair Macaskill, chairman of the Assynt Foundation said: 'This Bill by allowing new crofts, traditional or woodland will greatly assist our community to achieve our development aspirations.

'Crofts will provide a secure home base and a base for a business with positive opportunities for our young people.'

David Green also told *The Oban Times*: 'The Crofters Commission gave evidence last week to the Parliamentary Committee scrutinising the Crofting Reform Bill.

'One of the key questions was, 'does this Bill need to become law?'

'The answer is quite simple – yes!

'Without this Bill becoming legislation crofting will lose out with; no new crofts; no assistance with interposed leases; no more power with the planners to help protect crofting in bye land from development; no real ability to tackle neglect of croft land and no new independent body with simplified regulation and real powers to support crofting and give it a local voice.

New croft land

'Land is being decrofted every day throughout the Highlands and Islands so we need new croft land. New crofts will not be created unless, as proposed in the Bill they do not have the right to buy.

'There has been much press speculation about what is not in the Bill which contains nothing about the market value transfer of tenancies. The fact is this has been happening for years. Not only does the Bill include potential for new crofts but the 'proper occupier' proposal will help strengthen the hand of the Crofters Commission to free up crofts that are not being lived on and worked. This will make clear that all crofters whether they have bought their croft or not must take account of crofting legislation and will create an environment which puts a lid on market value. It will also create opportunities for people who want to live on and work the croft as opposed to second home owners who just want to retire to the Highlands by buying a croft.

'The Highlands and Islands also need croft land to be actively used. In this regard the Bill also includes simplified regulation and powers to tackle neglect of crofts and will challenge shareholders in a common grazing who don't follow the rules of the local committee. It will also allow for local advisory panels and a closer involvement in the planning process for the Commission to protect that 'Bull Park' or other prime land if that is the view of the local crofting community.

'It also creates a new Crofters Commission with more independence and accountability which can provide continuing support for crofters but in a more integrated manner or even help them achieve their diversification plans,' said Mr Green.

'Finally, the Bill allows for all crofters trying to take control of their land to tackle the thorny issue of interposed leases to their advantage.

'This all make for an attractive package for crofting communities which will assist crofting to continue and expand as a model of rural development across more of the Highlands and Islands and even Scotland.'

The end of crofting

But there are strong counter-claims that it will result in land speculation and the end of crofting.

Highland MSP John Farquhar Munro claims that the Bill contains nothing that could not be brought to fruition by amending existing legislation and by the Crofters Commission enforcing the legislation already passed in the Crofters Act 1993.

It is also his view that the introduction of a 'proper occupier' on which the Executive is pinning its hopes to resolve crofters' doubts and halt land speculation, is unnecessary, and a distraction from the negative aspects of the Bill. The environment and rural development committee, has also extended the consultation period for the Bill to get more views on the 'proper occupier' proposal.

Depute environment and rural development minister Rhona Brankin reacted strongly to claims by MSP Richard Lochhead that the Bill should be abandoned.

In a letter to the media, Rhona Brankin said: 'I want to make clear that without the creation of new laws virtually nothing in the Bill could be delivered through existing legislation.

'There will be no new crofts created in Scotland without this Bill as existing legislation only allows for the reorganisation of existing croft land. The Forestry Commission would not be able to create woodland crofts from forest land.

'The current laws do not encourage landlords to free up land for new crofts because of the crofters' right to buy. It must be possible to forgo this right on new crofts.'

Rhona Brankin added: 'Without new powers to tackle interposed leases crofters' ambitions to buy-out their crofting estates and benefit from their development will still be thwarted by landlords. There would be no 'Proper Occupier' amendment to dampen down croft values and speculation and no new powers for the Crofters Commission to address the neglect of croft land which, contrary to some ill-informed comments, are not currently available to them.'

But John Farquhar Munro simply does not accept what the minister is claiming.

'I don't think that the proposal to define a proper occupier is unnecessary and won't work,' he said.

'I don't think the ministers understand what they mean by a 'proper occupier' and it could just be a distraction to try to get the Bill through.

'There are other ways of stopping land speculation.

Enforced

'If the Crofters Commission enforced the rules it already has, it could keep control of the way crofts change hands.

'The Commission can choose who takes over a croft, and they should ensure that the people taking over a croft are from a crofting background, or are capable of doing croft work. That would control who takes over crofts. In recent times they have failed to do that, and the door has been left open for crofts to be sold to the highest bidder.

'Often these people had no idea of crofting and that has caused untold damage in crofting communities. They could have done that within existing legislation,' said Mr Munro.

He added: 'I simply don't agree with the minister's claim that new legislation is necessary and I agree with Richard Lochhead. Existing crofting legislation has protected the crofting way of life for over 100 years. What went wrong was that the Commission stayed in their ivory towers and let things go without using the legislation. We have sufficient legislation, if the Commission was willing to enforce it and we don't need a new Act.'

Crofters and interested organisations have been invited to send comments to the committee by Thursday June 8. The committee will also hold an additional meeting to take more oral evidence on the Executive's proposals.

John Farquhar Munro MSP

Crofters Commission chairman David Green

Beltex with lambs to £270 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1476 store and breeding sheep at its sale on Wednesday.

A feature of the sale was the dispersal from Whitebog of M V accredited Beltex ewes with Beltex and Charollais cross lambs at foot, which averaged £187, selling to a top of £270 for a one crop ewe with tup lamb at foot.

South Devon cross tops Dingwall prime

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 78 cattle (44 bullocks and 33 heifers) at its weekly sale.

Bullocks sold to a top of 134p per kilo for a 555kg Belgian Blue cross from J G Ross and Partners, Wester Cullicudden to John M Munro Ltd., Dingwall, and to £891 per head for a 680kg South Devon cross from MacIntyre Findon Farms to Woodhead Brothers, Turriff.

Heifers sold to a top of 131p per kilo for a 560kg Charolais cross from B MacIver, The Arches, Balnabeen, and for a 540kg Bazadaise cross from W D Mackenzie, Coul of Fairburn, both to John M Munro Ltd., and to £781 per head for a 625kg Charolais cross and a 615kg Simmental cross from A & F Grant, Georgetown, Ballindalloch to A J Ingram, East Comalegy and to John M Munro Ltd.

The company also sold 383 prime sheep with new season lambs selling to a top of 122.8p per kilo, £70 per head for Suffolks from K Gill & Company, Easter Templands, to A J Ingram, East Comalegy.

Old season lambs sold to a top of 132.1p per kilo for 42kg Cheviots from J S Fraser & Partners, Tore Mains, and to £62 per head for Suffolk crosses from Dunain and Kinchyle Farms to Fraser Brothers, Dingwall.

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Coll croft meeting moves closer

THE ONLY tenant crofter left on the Isle of Coll may be close to finally getting a meeting to resolve a common grazings dispute that has rumbled on for four years and has involved lawyers, crofting law experts, every department involved in rural affairs - and even the Scottish Land Court.

The Crofters Commission confirmed to *The Oban Times* that they intend to convene a meeting within the next few weeks.

Crofter Colin Kennedy applied for vacant shares in the Arninagour Common Grazings, shares that had lain vacant for at least 10 years. And here the trouble starter. For in the meantime, it appears that sections of the area had been sold off and boundaries altered without the relevant complex crofting law being adhered to.

'This issue needs to be addressed,' Mr Kennedy told *The Oban Times*.

'There is no use in pretending it hasn't happened, or that it will go away. It won't. And the sooner we can meet to get this resolved properly, the sooner a lot of people can be put out of the misery and anxiety this case has raised.'

A Crofters Commission board meeting in Benbecula in November 2005 accepted the recommendations of Commission director Andrew Thin who conducted a public meeting on the island and granted Mr Kennedy a share of the common grazings, minus areas of controversy.

But the question of boundaries for the 22 hectares was not confirmed and Mr Kennedy asks: 'Can anyone explain to me how I can erect a stock proof fence in the correct position given the absence of any definative map?

'I have offered the Crofters Commission that I would peg the boundaries where I believe they should be. But I may not be correct - and the result could just make an already very complicated situation even worse.'

It is understood that 'original' boundary lines may now divide houses, gardens, cut across commercial property and even dissect the public road.

For Colin Kennedy, this issue has become a quest - almost an obsession. It has taken over much of his life and he is doggedly determined to drive it to a conclusion - regardless of the eventual outcome.

'It is my contention that to resolve 'absolute' these many, many problems, full cooperation from all parties is the only way forward,' he claims.

'Standing alone I am unable to resolve the issues. Standing with those who, through little fault of their own, are now caught in the considerable crossfire, we would be unable to resolve the issues.

'It needs the Crofters Commission to stand up and allow an open and transparent approach to all the issues,' he pleads.

Since embarking on this now four-year-old mission, Kennedy is regarded by many of the islanders as something of an ogre. A bogeyman who has rocked their quiet island world by unearthing a complex legal time bomb that they believe should just be ignored.

But that's not in Colin Kennedy's nature.

He is, however, aware that the unrest will only get worse if not brought to a conclusion.

'While being the only tenant crofter on Coll I am fortunate to be in a position to protect my interests, many people in Arinagour are not so fortunate.

'With that in mind, I call on the people involved to agree to a meeting with myself, agree a way forward, then invite the Crofters Commission to come to Coll with a view to implementing the agreement.'

On contacting the Crofters Commission, chairman David Green told *The Oban Times* that he was actively trying to arrange a date with Mr Kennedy, 'within the next month.'

Mr Green said: Crofting is always looking backwards and what I am keen to do is to move forwards.

'Myself, Shane Rankin [Commission chief executive] and a minute taker will attend a meeting with Mr Kennedy on the outstanding issue of apportionment.'

Coll crofter Colin Kennedy points to where original boundary lines could effectively dissect extensions from buildings

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56 COLOUR PAGES

Dingwall conducts annual Highland sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts held its annual sale of pedigree and commercial Highland cattle.

Leading prices in guineas:

Pedigree (19)

Bulls – 800 Letterewe Lodge; 600 Roseneath Croft and Tordarroch Estate.

Cows with heifer calf – 700 Uvie Farm, Laggan.

Cows with bull calf – 650, 600 Tordarroch Estate.

Heifers – 500 Brough (Anderson), 300 Bogallan Croft.

Bullocks – 345 Ivy Cottage (Glass), 275 Roseneath Croft.

Commercial (25) –

In calf cows – 380, 340 Ribigill Farm.

Bullocks – 360, 330 Duirinish (MacKenzie), 280 1 & 2 Ose.

Heifers – 275 Lochletter Farm Cottage, 240 1 & 2 Ose and Eilburn (HIX).

Ardtornish cows at Stirling

UNITED Auctions had 836 store cattle and 68 cast cows plus store sheep and ewes with lambs at foot at Stirling on Wednesday.

Bullocks sold to 173p for a Limousin cross off of The Stand to average 134.6p while heifers sold to 148p for a Limousin cross off of South Moorhouses to average 120.5p

Cast cows sold to 104p for a Simmental off of Ardtornish to average 82.1p

66 dogs run in Great Glen Open trial

The Blackface hoggs proved a test for the dogs at the Great Glen f20dog01

THE Great Glen Open Sheep Dog Trials were run on May 13, when 66 dogs were judged by Tommy MacPhee from Wick.

Open

1 - S Davidson, Dunoon - Jim 91
2 - J A Macleod, Killin - Moss 87
3 - R McDairmid, Cairndow - Bill 85
4 - E McKinnon, Lochcarron - Nan 83
5 - C Davidson, Dunoon - Tweed 83
6 - A Emerson, Tyndrum - Gwen 81
7 - N McEacheran, Dunoon - Murphy 81
8 - A Carnegie, Comrie - Lark 80.

Local

1 - I McConnell - Jaff 78
2 - J McKillop - Craig 68
3 - J McKillop - Gus 67
4 -E Campbell - Lad 64
5 - M MacNally - Moss 63
6 - I McConnell - Dan 60
7 J H Weir -Scott 59
8 - B Strachan - Bonnie 57.

Markets

DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Breeding sheep;
Ewes with lambs at foot
Beltex - £250, £190 Whitebog.
Texel - £135 Woodside Croft; £90 Tyree.
Suffolk cross - £95, £90 Meddat; £76 Cuilaneilan; £50 Invernauld.
Texel cross - £94 Invernauld; £68 Balnakyle.
Cross - £92, £85 5 Tomich; £74 Glasha.
Blueface Leicester - £85, £70 Whitebog.
Mule - £83 Meddat; £74 Invernauld; £56 Glasha.
Cheviot - £63 Wester Alligan; £61 Glen Mor and 19 Strath; £57 Milltown.
Blackface - £50 Camusteil; £45 Cuilaneilan; £36 7 Ferrindonald.
Gimmers with lambs at foot
Beltex - £150 Whitebog.
Hoggs with lambs at foot
Beltex - £105, £100 Whitebog.
Blueface Leicester - £88 5 Tomich; £72 Whitebog.
Cross - £70 Insch.
Store sheep;
Lambs
Suffolk cross - £47.50 Mains of Croy; £43 Allangrange Park; £39 Insch.
Cheviot - £46 3 Braes; £45.50 19 Achfrish; £36.50 Tormuick.
Half bred - £38 Allangrange Park.
Blackface - £37.50 Blackford; £36.50 Rychraggan; £32.50 5 Aird.
Texel - £26.50 Tyree.
Cross - £26.50 5 Aird; £22.50 Woodside Croft.
Suffolk – £26 The Arr.
Feeding ewes
Suffolk - £53 Ankerville and Mountrich; £52 The Arr.
Cheviot - £50 Tighnahinch; £45.50 Ospisdale; £43.50 Charleston.
Suffolk cross - £48 Bog of Culicudden; £36 Woodside, Kilmuir; £35.50 Cuilaneilan.
Texel cross - £46 Ord Farm; £45.50 Conon Brae Farms; £44 Charleston.
Cheviot mule - £44.50 Dunain & Kinchyle.
Beltex - £42 Culnaskeath.
Mule - £40.50 Dunain & Kinchyle; £40 Ord Farm; £38 Ardjachie.
Texel - £40.50 Woodlands; £30 Tyree.
Blueface Leicester - £36 5 Tomich.
Blackface - £31 2 Camusterrach; £30.50 Dunain & Kinchyle.
Cross - £30 Seafield.
Wedders
Cheviot - £40 27 Portgower; £30 49 Mellon Charles.
Blackface - £26.50 Achlain Moor.
Rams
Cheviot - £54 Ospisdale; £48 27 Portgower and Conon Brae Farms; £30 Rhannich and Achley.

STIRLING - United Auctions

Bullocks
Clydeside (CharX) £755 and (LimX) £750, Greenhills (AAX) £710 and (SimX) £705, Howpark (RomX) £690, Carling (BAX) £645, Carsloe (BBX) £625, Clydeside (Simx) £610, Meikle Finnery (Fr) £415
Heifers
South Moorhouse (SDX) £655, Clydeside (SimX) £645, Howpark (CharX) and Clydeside (LimX) £625, South Moorhouse (SDX) £590, Beechwood (AAX) and Woodcockdale (BAX) £570,

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For Sale: A charming compact **Detached Cottage**, conveniently located within easy reach of the town and amenities. Double glazing, electric and gas heating, carpets, curtains and white electrical goods included. Comprising Vestibule, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom and 2 Bedrooms. Small timber garage and garden shed. Level enclosed garden. **Offers over £130,000.**

DUNCRAGGAN ROAD, OBAN

For Sale: A most appealing traditional **Detached House** with fine open views over parts of the town to the seascape beyond. Gas central heating, double glazing, period features. The most comfortable accommodation comprises Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, newly refitted Kitchen, Bathroom, Shower Room and 3 Bedrooms. Garden with Patio and Summerhouse. **Offers over £230,000.**

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For Sale: An easily managed **First Floor Flat** in a modern centrally situated apartment building. Secure entry system, lift, communal drying room, refuse chute. Carpets, curtains and blinds included. The double glazed and electrically heated accommodation provides Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom and 2 Bedrooms. **Offers over £120,000.**

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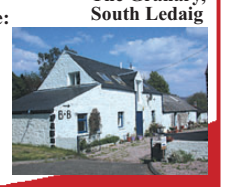
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Drive Times

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53 plate, tax'd Nov 06, metallic blue, low mileage, power steering, electric windows, central locking, airbags, CD player, alloys etc, very nice wee car, cheap to insure and run

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2001 X Reg, Silver, MOT'd till Jan 07 Full lirmscher body-kit, 17 inch wheels, electric windows and mirrors Sound system, excellent condition

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World rally blue, MOT May 07, just been serviced, FSSH, EW, WM, CL, AC etc. Full Thatcham Cat 1 alarm, 33,600 miles, stunning example

£11,000 o.n.o.

For full spec telephone 07917 788598

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Silver 05 Reg. Taxed September 06 4,300 miles

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R Reg, Mot'd until Aug 06, taxed until end July 06, 70,000 miles, excellent condition.

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5 door, 1st Reg 1/1/98 (R), Pepper Red Metallic, 51,000 miles, Mot Dec 06, Tax'd June 06. PAS, ABS, heated w/screen, a/con, sunroof, cd/cass/radio. Alloy wheels. immaculate

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Arctic, hard top and soft top, Sept 2004, only 2500 miles, one very careful owner, alloy wheels, razor blue metallic, blue leather interior, heated seats, electric windows, airconditioner, CD player and radio, mud flaps, stored in heated garage, no winter use, immaculate, as new condition

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Turbo A/C, 1998 MOT Jan 07, Tax Oct 06, Service History, 90k miles, Group 5 Insurance, CD Player

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2002, 180bhp, Black, Alloys, Traction Control, Abs, Power Steering. Leather Seats, 6cd, Cruise Control, Parking Sensors, Tax & MOT, 9 Months Warranty, 60k miles and full skoda service history.

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R Reg, Air Con, Electric Windows, New Exhaust, Good Car!

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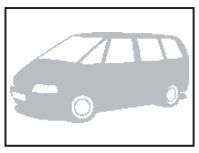
DAIHATSU 1.3 HIGH JET



W Reg, 6 Seater People Carrier MOT until 17th April 2007

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REGISTRATION NUMBER

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Telephone 01463 794400 07787 121171

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P REG 6 months road tax and one years mot. 12 disc cd changer, tape deck and radio, daily use.

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FORD ESCORT 1.8 TURBO DIESEL

N Reg, Mot April 07, heated front screen, electric windows, very good condition, superb engine, taxed.

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£800 o.n.o.

MGF 181 VVC

1996 on a private plate (value £1075) 53,000 miles. Flame red with black leather interior. 6 CD changer. Power steering, ABS, Electric windows. 5 spoke VVC Alloys. Air bags, new tyres and new twin exhaust. Remote central locking and immobiliser. New discs and pads. Full service history, 12 months MOT, 6 months tax. Always garaged, summer use only. Very good condition. Also available power flow performance exhaust wind stop, Tonneau cover.

£4775 o.n.o.
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2001 (51), 3 door hatchback. Metallic Blue, The proverbial one lady owner. Outrageously low mileage (14,000) Tax till Feb '07, MOT Sept '06, Immaculate condition

First offer of £1795 secures

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1998 (s) reg, 5 door, wine colour, diesel, 6months tax, 1yr Mot, 64,000 miles

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01880
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£1100 o.n.o.

ROVER 420 HATCHBACK

R reg, 1997, first class condition, MOT and tax till October

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01770
830277

£995

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TOYOTA HI-LUX CREW CAB 2.4 T/D

Ifor Williams canopy, tow pack, October 2000. Clean vehicle, regularly serviced, years M.O.T, Taxed.
Offers in region of

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07796 325274

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Black/Silver 23,000 miles, Bull bars- front, back, rear. Moulded black cover on back plus waterproof cover. Tow-bar, front spot lights, good condition, hardly used. Mot +Tax

£14,500 o.n.o.

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07719 158777

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1996, gunmetal grey, 7 seater, 6 months MOT, 6 months tax, cruise control, full electrics, tow bar, new tyres.

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603278

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X Reg 2000 Silver, seven seats. 39,000 miles F.S.H. Taxed and Mot'd

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01631 563987
07771 887468

£6400 o.n.o.

SEAT IBIZA 1.4 CHILL

2002 5 door hatchback mot January 2007, new cam belt fitted, full service history, air con, alloys, electric windows, powers steering, very nice car in black, only group 4 insurance. Absolute bargain at

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2

SAAB 2.0 TURBO 9000CS

(Metallic Green), 1992 (K) 111,000 Miles. New Headlights, Battery, Ignition Assembly, New Brake Discs Etc. Good Tyres. Taxed Until Oct 2006. MOT Until July 2006

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07979 774554
01586 552345

£1200 o.v.n.o.

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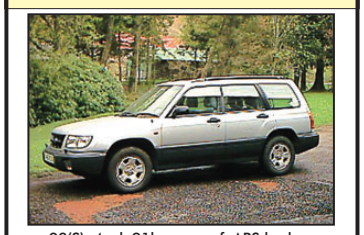
SUBARU FORESTER



98(S), 4wd, 91k, sun roof, ABS brakes, Silver, Subaru dealer service history. MOT: May 07, Tax: Sept 06.

£4250 o.n.o.

Telephone
01397 712587
Can be viewed in Oban.

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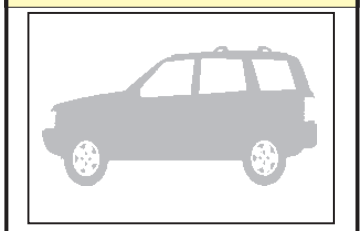
LANDROVER DEFENDER 110 TD5

Truck Cab Ifor Williams Canopy, Tow bar and Radio Cassette. Blue. Full service history, good condition. 42,000 miles, 1st Reg. December 2002

Telephone
01369
860249

£8500 + vat

RANGE ROVER 2.5DT

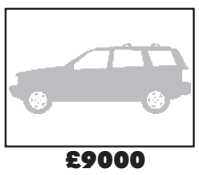


V Reg, Dog Guard, New Tyres, Metallic Green, Service History, Good Condition, MOT Feb 07, Tax Aug 06, Very Good Touring Car, Tow Bar, Service History

£8500 o.n.o.

Telephone
01583 421128

TOYOTA AMAZON LANDCRUISER



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01586 830236

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5 new tyres on alloy wheels. Spares or repair

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01770 600252

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07990 974026

£1250 o.n.o.

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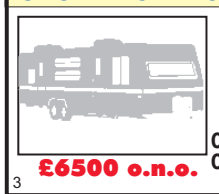
Telephone
01880 740218
(after 8p.m.)
07917 331504
07799 367538

£1600 o.n.o.

3

UNSITED STATIC CARAVAN



Willerby Granada, 1995 model, 35' x 12', 6 berth, 2 bedrooms, heated, excellent condition, great holiday home or self builder

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01397 772210
07718 900505
Fort William

£6500 o.n.o.

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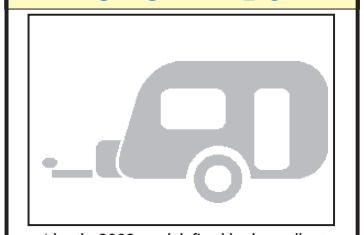
STERLING EUROPA 490



4 berth, 2002 model, fixed bed, excellent condition, reluctant sale, extras available

£8500

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07973 316273

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2004 04 Reg 1 owner from new, low mileage, comes with trail wheels and tyres, excellent condition

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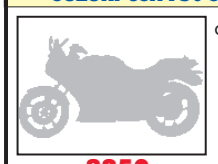
£3200 o.n.o.

SUZUKI GSX 750 SLINGSHOT



G reg, recent service, 12 months Tax and 12 months MOT.

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01855
811544

£850

VAUXALL ASTRA LS 1.4

N reg, Burgandy, sunroof, 78,000 miles, full years mot and taxed until Sept 06

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01631
570646

£700 o.n.o.

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R reg, 1.6E, 65,000 miles, Mot May 2007 tax end June

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730312

£1275 o.n.o.

NISSAN FIGARO LIMITED EDITION IMPORT

2x2 seat convertible, H125 PVW, 1991, 55,000 miles, 1000cc turbo automatic, blue / grey, tax August 2006, Mot November 2006, extras: A/C, leather seats, power assisted steering, electric windows, original radio/cassette/CD, catalytic converter, 2 rear seat belts, Reliable modern classic for summer fun

£4995 o.n.o.

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01546 510242

MGB 1972

Old English White, Black leather seats, wire wheels, overdrive, Unleaded engine fitted 1999, previously new sills, floor pan, subsequently new wiring. New MOT, free road tax

Price Guide £5000

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PaulWASmyth@hotmail.com

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S Reg, D.O.H.C. Turbo, 93,000 miles, full service history, just had full service, two new tyres.

£4800

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1997 High roof Minibus 12 seats with plenty of space left for luggage or golf clubs, one owner from new, only 36,000 miles one years MOT, would also make great mobile home

£1750

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£900 no vat no offers

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LDV WHITE VAN

LWB HIGH TOP R REG. FULLY LINED. 11 MONTHS MOT. 6 MONTHS TAX. CLEAN AND TIDY.

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01866 822593

£2300 - NO VAT

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SUZUKI DRZ 400 S

Taxed and tested, low mileage, excellent condition, Scott chain oiler fitted

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£2585 o.n.o.

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DUCATI MONSTER M600

1996 motor cycle, only 3500 miles, MOT April 2007

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YAMAHA TT 600R

2004. 2800 kms only. Twin spots. S/S luggage rack. Big tank. Bought from 'Ride On'. Superb bike. Must sell

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The Oban Times Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4HB.
Fax: 01631 568001.
Email: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

1

Advertising Sales Executive

HIGH BASIC & COMMISSION, EDINBURGH-BASED

- Established business magazines and directories.
- Ideal position to progress career or for the ambitious to start a career in media sales.
- Confidence and positive attitude essential.
- Occasional UK and foreign travel.
- Driving licence essential

Full cv to Ref: OT, Karen Wallace, Office Manager, Special Publications, Craigcrook Castle, Craigcrook Road, Edinburgh EH4 3PE or Karen@specialpublications.co.uk

JEAN AINSLEY & CO

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Have the following vacancies:

PART QUALIFIED or TRAINEE ACCOUNTANT
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
OFFICE JUNIOR

Please send C.V. with covering letter to
Audrey Carter, Office Manageress
21 Argyll Square, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AT
(01631) 567007
EMAIL: audrey@jeanainsley.co.uk

Groundskeeper (p/t) Glencoe Area

Experienced person required to undertake grass-cutting, strimming, hedge-trimming etc. 3-4 hours per week. Equipment supplied.

Rate neg. Apply with experience and telephone number to Box No 52

The Oban Times, P.O.Box 1 , Oban PA34 5DJ

1

John MacLachlan Group

Office Person required at our office in Oban. Computerised book-keeping experience an advantage though not essential. Pleasant telephone manner. Hours flexible. Competitive salary. Please send CV to John MacLachlan Ltd, Torran Gorm Industrial Estate, Oban, PA34 4PL

FOREMAN and CIVIL ENGINEERING LABOURERS

CHAP

Applicants are invited to apply for the above positions for contracts in the **INVERARAY, PORT ANN** and **TAYNUILT** areas. The contract period is approximately 1½ years and is due to start mid-June 2006

Experience in reinforced concrete work would be preferred but is not essential as training will be given

Apply to **CHAP Construction (Aberdeen) Ltd, Enterprise Drive, Westhill Industrial Estate, Westhill, Aberdeenshire, AB32 6TQ.**
Telephone **01224 748500** or contact **Bud Lawson 07879 491553**

FIREFIGHTER ISLAY AIRPORT

HIA
HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS AIRPORTS LTD.

Salary £15,394 to £19,243

Highlands and Islands Airports Limited are responsible for the management and operation of ten airports across the North of Scotland and the Islands, providing vital social, business and welfare links.

A vacancy will shortly arise for a Fire-fighter based at Islay Airport.

Applications are invited from both men and women who must be aged 21 or over and should demonstrate the ability to pass the Company's Medical/Fitness Standards.

Successful applicants will be required to attend the Fire Training College, Teesside, to undertake a six-week fully residential Initial Fire-fighter course. Applicants will also undertake further training courses, locally, to achieve the Fire-fighter competence level.

A full and current driving licence is essential. An LGV licence is desirable, however full training will be given.

Fire Service personnel are required to by "on call" for which additional payment is made.

There is a requirement for split shift working. There may be a requirement to provide Flight Information Service Officer duties for which training would be provided.

Due to the requirement for 'on call' working applicants should preferably live locally or be prepared to relocate if successful.

Please note our normal retirement age for fire-fighters is 60.

Airport Fire Service staff will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check for security clearance.

Should you be interested please apply for an application form.

Closing date for completed application forms: Friday 9 June 2006

Human Resources Department
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
Head Office, Inverness Airport
Inverness IV2 7JB

Telephone:01667 462445
Fax: 01667 464209
Email: recruitment@hial.co.uk
www.hial.co.uk

HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS AIRPORTS LIMITED - 10 AIRPORTS, ONE VISION

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM

Glebe Cairn Café & Restaurant
Part time Chef/Cook
2 or 3 days per week
Experience essential
Telephone Vanessa Lilof
01546 510278

J.M. BRECKENRIDGE

FortWilliam Depot
require
Driver/Storeperson
Permanent full time positions
Full clean driving licence required
Good rates of pay
Apply to Mr D MacDonald
01397 772143

Fisheries Research Services

FISH HEALTH INSPECTOR

Working as part of a small team, you will contribute to maintaining the health status of wild and farmed fish and shellfish in Scotland. This will include extensive regular travel to farms across Scotland to inspect and sample stocks for monitoring and certification purposes in order to comply with EU and UK disease legislation. You will play a key role in the administrative function of the team and will liaise with other FRS and Scottish Executive staff as well as Industry representatives. You will be expected to research, analyse and evaluate information and interpret complex guidance and regulations.

You will have a minimum of three Higher Grades or equivalent qualifications and have at least one years experience in fish/shellfish farming practices or fish health or medical/ veterinary laboratory work. You must possess excellent organisational and decision making skills and be capable of working calmly under pressure. Excellent communication skills are essential as you will need to establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues as well as fish farmers. You will also have experience of using word processing and spreadsheet software.

Although based at the FRS Marine Laboratory, Aberdeen, the field work requirement will involve travel to outlying areas not served by public transport for up to four nights per week for one to three weeks per month. This flexibility to travel is a key requirement of the post and a driving licence is essential.

The starting salary for this permanent post is £17,000 per annum. Salary is performance related, offering progression to a maximum of £22,791 and bonuses to high achievers. The Civil Service offers a choice of final salary and stakeholder pension, giving you the flexibility to choose the pension that suits you best.

For further details and an application form contact Human Resources on 01224 295689 or by emailing HR@marlab.ac.uk

The closing date for all applications is 2 June 2006

Fisheries Research Services is an Agency of the Scottish Executive. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified individuals and aim to employ a diverse workforce which reflects the people of Scotland.

PART-TIME GENERAL PRACTITIONER

ACHARACLE PRACTICE, ARDNAMURCHAN, WEST LOCHABER

A vacancy exists for a temporary (3-6 months) part-time General Practitioner in the Acharacle Practice in Lochaber.

Hours and rota negotiable;
some assistance with *out of hours* cover would be helpful.
Salary and allowances also negotiable.

For further information please contact
Dr. Maris Buchanan, The Pines Medical Centre, Acharacle, telephone 01967-431231
(email: administrator@gp55662.highland-hb.scot.nhs.uk)
or Melanie Aldridge, Primary Care Advisor, NHS Highland, telephone 01463-706819

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTS TIREE

The following three contracts are available on the Isle of Tiree. Combined, they could provide an income of approximately £10,900 for one person over two years.

Project Manager (£7680) over June 2006 to June 2008. To co-ordinate a hydrological study, loch monitoring, sluice and bird-hide construction, leaflet production.

Loch Monitor (£1105) over September 2006 to September 2007. To record loch water levels.

Bird Surveyor (£1920) over June 2006 to May 2007. To record bird movements.

For further information contact **Janet Bowler, Heylipol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6TY, (01879) 220748, janetmhunter@clara.co.uk**, by **1 June 2006.**

good with people

CIS CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE

Here's where your career takes off.

Financial Advisers

Opportunities Nationwide

Basic salary plus unlimited OTE

You can reach for the stars as a Co-operative Financial Adviser. You'll be advising on a variety of financial products that people actually want and need. Not only that, we'll give you access to an active and loyal customer database. We'll help generate leads for you on an ongoing basis and arrange for you to meet these customers. What's more, you'll benefit from structured training and development which in turn will lead to professional qualifications.

In short, our range of good-value, award winning and ethically sound products, combined with warm leads means that our customers find it very difficult to say no.

But the best reward of all is the huge earning potential: the bonuses are unlimited. There's a range of excellent incentives, and our top performers benefit from hospitality at a range of sporting and cultural events.

Now over to you. You'll have previous sales experience: flexible, confident, with excellent organisational skills. You'll have the drive to succeed, because the more business you do, the more rewards you'll take. You'll also be committed to the highest standards of customer care, and of course to finding the right solutions to your customers' financial needs.

To enjoy a great sales opportunity which offers uncapped earnings, visit www.bestjobinfinancialservices.co.uk for more information or to apply. Alternatively call 0800 731 1501 stating where you saw this advertisement.

Successful candidates will be subject to appropriate checks.

Our aim is to be good with people.

We value diversity in our workforce and actively promote opportunity for all.

Chairperson and Three Non-Executive Directors

Vesco [Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd]

Scottish Ministers are seeking to appoint a Chairperson and up to three Non-Executive Directors to a new board that is being created to direct the company managing the assets: vessels, piers, harbours, etc, that will be leased to the organisation winning the forthcoming tendering exercise for the Clyde & Hebrides ferry services. The appointments are a consequence of the restructuring of Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd that is being implemented in parallel with the tendering exercise. The board will be expected to be in place prior to the formal restructuring of CalMac which we expect will occur later this year. The company will retain the Caledonian MacBrayne name, will remain in full public ownership and will be responsible to Scottish Ministers. It is important that the new board establishes a good working relationship with the existing CalMac board during this period of enormous change for one of Scotland's oldest companies.

Remuneration

Chairperson: £15,961 for the first 6 months and £15,961 per annum thereafter.

Non-Executive: £7,034 for the first 6 months and £7,034 per annum thereafter.

The Time

- The Chairperson's commitment will initially average 8 days per month for the first 6 months, reducing to 4 days per month thereafter. Directors' commitment will average 4 days per month for the first 6 months, reducing to 2 days per month thereafter.

The Role – Chairperson

Leading the strategic direction of the company, with a focus on:

- Finance and business planning including the determination of appropriate leasing charges for the vessels and setting harbour access charges.
- Long term planning for capital projects (including vessel replacement and pier and harbour improvements).

The Role – Non-Executive Directors

Assisting the Chairperson in guiding the strategic direction of the company with a particular focus on:

- Advising on the recruitment of senior staff and on associated issues including pay, staffing levels and pensions.
- Contributing to the preparation of the Annual Report and Accounts.
- Working with the company's senior executives to ensure delivery of the financial and business processes that have been set in place.

The Candidate – Chairperson

- Excellent interpersonal skills and a proven ability to communicate effectively with stakeholders.
- Knowledge of transport issues, preferably including the ferry sector.
- An ability to evaluate complex issues and weigh up conflicting opinions.

The Candidate – Non-Executive Directors

- A background at senior level ideally in the maritime sector including vessel leasing and vessel management.
- The ability to think creatively and to challenge in a constructive and positive way.

The Scottish Executive is committed to appointing a diverse range of public appointees, reflecting the best of contemporary Scotland and to the principle of public appointments on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process. For more information about Public Appointments and other vacancies visit the Scottish Executive's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/government/publicbodies For a Chairperson information pack please go to, Chairperson: www.odgers.com/9689, or contact Odgers quoting Chairperson ref: IMM/9689. For a Directors information pack, please go to Directors: www.odgers.com/9690, or contact Odgers quoting Directors ref: IMM/9690. Closing date for applications is 30th June 2006.

Odgers Ray & Berndtson
Stock Exchange Court, 77 Nelson Mandela Place, Glasgow G2 1QT
t: 0141 225 6320 f: 0141 225 6321 e: info@odgers.com

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
making it work together

HOME DELIVERY NETWORK

Putting the customer

Come and join our Catalogue Delivery Team

If you'd like to earn some money delivering our famous Home Shopping Catalogues, we've got just what you could be looking for!

We have vacancies in many local areas and are currently looking for people to help deliver catalogues on a flexible basis for both our summer and autumn distribution campaigns.

If you have some spare time and are available to work from as little as a week or up to four weeks for each campaign, have a car and phone, and are prepared to work on a self employed basis then we'd like to hear from you.

Visit our website today and complete an application form at:
www.hdnl.co.uk
or telephone our recruitment line on:
0845 304 5700 Mon to Fri 9am to 5pm
or write to us at:
HOME DELIVERY NETWORK LIMITED
CATALOGUE DELIVERY TEAM
WHISTON ENTERPRISE PARK
FALLOWS WAY
WHISTON MERSEYSIDE L35 1RZ

We look forward to hearing from you.

Clinton Cards

Clinton Cards is the largest specialist greetings card retailer in the UK. We pride ourselves on the top quality service we provide each and every customer.

Due to our continued success, we are now looking for talented individuals to join our team.

ASSISTANT MANAGER
Oban

Are you a talented, energetic Sales Assistant looking for your first exciting step into a Management role, or an experienced Assistant Manager looking to take on a new challenge? If so, this could be the role for you!

In return for your ability to drive sales, achieve targets and motivate the team, coupled with your passion for retailing, we offer a varied, challenging role where no two days are the same, comprehensive training, ongoing development and competitive benefits.

Interested? Then call our Recruitment Hotline on 020 8502 8207 from Monday to Friday 9am to 5.30pm for an application form or complete our on-line application form at www.clintoncards.co.uk

Ref: 22.5.AWH

McINTYRE & COMPANY
Solicitors & Estate Agents

CASHIER/ BOOKKEEPER

Experienced Cashier/Bookkeeper required for busy legal practice

Duties include taking books to trial balance, preparing management accounts, payroll and VAT Returns
Attractive salary and conditions offered to the right candidate

Please apply in writing with full C.V. to
Staff Partner
McIntyre and Company
Solicitors
38 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT
Fax No. 01397 705070
E-mail: law@solicitors-scotland.com

RECRUITMENT

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

We are looking for a trainee sales representative interested in a career in advertising, based in the Oban office.

Are you an enthusiastic, creative and hard working individual who enjoys communicating with others and achieving results?

Do you realise the importance of attention to detail and customer satisfaction?

Would you like on-going training in a deadline driven environment?

If so, then we are interested in meeting you.

In return we offer an attractive salary, excellent benefits and great working conditions.

So, if you have a driving licence and a desire to be successful please apply in writing, with full CV, including contact details to:

Christine MacBryde,
Personnel Officer, The Oban Times Ltd,
P.O. Box 1 Oban, Argyll PA34 4XB Fax: 01631 568001
or email: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

North Lanarkshire Council

Education

Instructor (Job Share) (Temporary) (18.5 hours)

£20,808 – £28,632 pro rata

Located at Kilbowie Outdoor Centre, Oban, you will be required to instruct school children in a range of outdoor and field study activities linked with a residential stay. Additional equipment maintenance duties are also expected at times through out the year.

It is essential that you hold one of the following National Governing Awards: an SPL/MLC, BCU Level 3 or Ski Leader together with a first aid qualification, a driving licence, including D1 category for driving minibuses. You must have an interest in environmental subjects and a working knowledge of computers. You will be a team player, well motivated with good judgement and be able to work with a wide range of educational groups. The ability to work rotas and weekends is essential. Work pattern: alternate weeks.

This is a fixed term appointment until November 2007.

The successful candidate will be subject to a criminal conviction check through Disclosure Scotland. **Ref: NLC/ED/019/05/003A**

Tel: (01236) 812277 (24 hrs)
or e-mail: edpersonnel@northlan.gov.uk
Closing date: 9 June 2006

This post is subject to job evaluation review

For more information visit www.northlan.gov.uk

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

REPORTER

We are looking for a talented, qualified journalist, who is full of enthusiasm and has a good nose for a local story.
Knowledge of the West Highlands would be particularly useful.
A full driving licence is essential.
We are a progressive growing publishing company.
We offer an excellent salary, BUPA and a pensions scheme.
Interested?
Contact Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer,
The Oban Times Ltd, P.O. Box 1, Oban,
Argyll PA34 4HB.
Tel: 01631 568000 Fax: 01631 568001.
Email: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

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LANDCATCH LIMITED

Junior Plant Engineer

Landcatch Limited, which is part of the Lithgow Group of Companies, and is Scotland's leading independent producer of juvenile Atlantic salmon, wishes to recruit a Junior Plant Engineer for the installation, maintenance and operation of engineering plant and services primarily at the land based facilities at Ormsary, Lochgilphead, Argyll.
The ideal candidate will be apprentice trained with an HNC or equivalent in an engineering discipline, with hands-on experience within marine or process operations. Applicants should have the ability to work unsupervised as part of a small team on both electrical and mechanical tasks in a production driven environment.

The successful candidate will be mainly involved in work associated with land based salmon farming, hydro power plant and water treatment activities. All relevant mechanical and electrical training will be provided for the right candidate.

In return we offer a good employment package including salary, pension, and housing.

To apply, please write with comprehensive CV to:-

Matt Donald, Engineering Manager, Landcatch Ltd, Ormsary,
PO Box 7, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JH

Closing date for applications is 5th June 2006.

Lynn of Lorne Care Home

Benderloch
requires the following:

Full-Time Trained Nurses
£24,897 per annum
plus
Overtime and Weekend Enhancements
Also required:

Domestic/House Keeping Staff
Hours negotiable

Part-Time and Bank Nurses

Please contact Cathy Lee, Manager
01631 720278

SCOTTISH WATER

SKYE, INVERNESS, ARGYLL

TANKER DRIVER – 3 POSTS

£13,000-£20,500 pa

We are looking for a driver who has tanker experience at HGV 2 licence as a minimum, although HGV 1 is preferred.

Your main duties will be to uplift sludge from wastewater treatment plants, to assist in the emptying of public and private septic tanks, work as an active team member of wastewater treatment team and work efficiently with little or no supervision on a day to day basis.

You will have knowledge of the operational area, understanding of driver's rules and regulations and the ability to work outdoors in all weathers.

In return, you will receive a generous benefits package including occupational pension, life assurance and 31 days holidays.

For a recruitment pack please call 0131 445 6330 (during office hours) or email human.resources@scottishwater.co.uk
Please quote ref: SW/001274

Closing date for receipt of applications: 9 June 2006.

Shirlie Project
Supported Employment Agency

Spot the Opportunity

The SHIRLIE Project provides employment support to employers and more than 200 individuals throughout the Highlands. We are currently recruiting a job coach for our Lochaber team.

The successful candidate will receive extensive training to help people succeed in a wide range of settings. If you enjoy a challenge, have life experience and have an eye for people's potential you may be what we're looking for.

Telephone Ann Lee on 01463 716179 for more information or an application pack.

Closing date: June 2, 2006.

West Coast Motors
bringing people together since 1923

Mechanic
Campbeltown depot

A full time vacancy has arisen within our Campbeltown depot for a time served mechanic. Preference will be given to applicants with prior PCV or heavy vehicle maintenance experience.
Specific vehicle and regulatory training will be provided.
Salary package includes pension benefit and life cover.

To obtain an application form please apply in writing to:
The Fleet Engineer, West Coast Motors, Benmhor, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6DN or telephone 01586 552319.

1

Dental Nurse/ Reception Staff

required in busy dental practice.

Qualified/experienced preferred.

Enquiries to Argyll Square Dental Practice on 01631 562791

1

SEASONAL SATURDAY CLEANERS REQUIRED.

Would suit active mature couple or mother and daughter team

£95 for 6 hours work.

Telephone 01631 720219

1

Part time
childminder/ mothers help
required.

Now till Sept.
To look after 2 children aged 5 & 6.

Tel: 01631 562425

Social Work

General Assistants (2 posts)

Post 1: Dail Mhor House, 4 days on 4/days off 9am – 2pm, £5.71 per hr, Ref: L/62/06

Post 2: Relief post, hrs as and when required, Dail Mhor House, Strontian, £5.71 per hr, Ref: L/58/06

You should have a genuine interest in working with older people. Your tasks will include domestic duties, serving meals and the full range of care, ensuring that service users are assisted to remain independent and are treated with dignity and respect at all times. With a good basic education and an understanding of health and safety law and food hygiene you should be willing to undergo training as required.

Informal enquiries to Catherine MacKellar, tel (01967) 402481.

Application forms, quoting relevant reference are available from our website or by telephoning (01397) 703397.

Closing date: 9 June 2006

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gaidhealtachd
SERVING The Highland Community

Scottish Ambulance Service

South West Division

Auxiliary Ambulance Staff

Lochgilphead

You will support our full time professional staff by covering evening and weekend duties on an on-call basis. Since duties will not normally encroach on daytime hours from Monday to Friday, it will be possible for auxiliaries to hold other daytime employment.

With a full UK driving licence, which includes categories C1 and D1, you must reside within three miles of the station. Appropriate training will be provided locally, the successful completion of which will be a condition of employment.

Remuneration will be by way of standby and call out payments; further details regarding the salary will be available at interview. Total earnings will depend on demands placed on the Service.

Application forms can be obtained by writing to Jacqueline Smith, Training Administrator, Scottish Ambulance Service, Maryfield House, Maryfield Road, Ayr, KA8 9DF. Completed application forms should be returned to Jacqueline Smith at the above address. Please note that only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

NHS SCOTLAND

Closing date 9th June 2006.

RECEPTIONIST/ADMINISTRATOR
Wanted for busy Medical Practice

Full time, challenging and interesting post, To cover 36 hours per week.

- Advanced computer skills preferable
- Ongoing training and courses available

Informal enquiries welcome Please ring 01320 366216

Applications in writing, enclosing CV and names of two referees to:
Dr I Farmer & Dr J Skeoch
Cill Chuimein Medical Centre, Fort Augustus PH32 4BH

Closing date: Friday, June 8, 2006

1

MACLEOD
MACLEOD CONSTRUCTION

Require

360º Tracked Excavator Operator

CITB certificate holder preferred
Also

HGV Class 1 Driver

Clean driving licence required for both positions
Applications, in writing please, to
Harry Ross
or
E-mail - jobs@mkmacleod.co.uk

1

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited has a requirement for

Port Assistant

Location: Port Askaig Ref: 37-SB

Salary: £6.79 per hour

Reporting to the Port Supervisor/Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will deal with customer enquiries and assist in sales of passenger/vehicle tickets; cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 37-SB no later than Wednesday 31 May 2006 to:

Caledonian MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited

Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP

t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

Caledonian MacBrayne Limited is a modern, dynamic company providing lifeline ferry services to 22 islands and four peninsulas on the west coast of Scotland.

Caledonian MacBrayne is an equal opportunities employer

Full Time Office Administrator required.

Applicants must have experience of Excel. Sage Accounting would be an advantage.
Salary £13,000 to £15,000 per annum depending on age and experience.

Please apply in writing with C.V to:
The Highland Woollen Company, 29/31 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6DH

1

Lamlash Garage
Isle of Arran

Motor Mechanic/ MOT Tester

Experienced motor mechanic required to work and manage a busy MOT Testing station and vehicle repair workshop. MOT testing certificate not essential as training can be provided. This position offers an excellent opportunity for a self-motivated individual wishing to progress.

Applications in writing to:-
John Thomson Construction Ltd, Lamlash, Isle of Arran KA27 8NB

1

THE FISH MARKET RESTAURANT

STATION ROAD
MALLAIG
require
CHEF AND
SECOND CHEF
Immediate start
Telephone
01687 462299/462387

1

Wanted
Fully qualified
CARPET FITTER
excellent rate of pay for suitable applicant
Apply in writing to:
Mr K MacKenzie
MacKenzie Flooring
Loch Bridge
Fort William
Telephone 01397 706130

REMEMBER
DEADLINE
FOR ADVERTS
MONDAY 4PM

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

Tel: 01631 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk

RECRUITMENT

Any Questions?

Part-Time Customer Adviser

From £7,750 - £8,750 (including Saturday working) + bonus + benefits

Oban

If you needed an answer, you'd ask someone. If you were unsure, you'd want reassurance. However wouldn't it be great if the person you spoke to had all the answers and always gave advice that was in the customer's best interest?

It is this idea that defines customer care at Yorkshire Building Society. You'll get to know our customers and understand their needs, because the more you know, the better advice you can give, which means our customers benefit fully from our range of products and services.

If you've four GCSEs at grade C or above – including English and Maths, we want to talk to you. You should have some face-to-face customer service experience, be able to use a keyboard, be confident when speaking to customers – and relish developing closer relations with them.

You will work 22.5 hours a week, exact hours to be confirmed.

Now our part. We will commit to your training and development and a salary increase is payable upon completion of a development programme. We will provide a supportive environment in which to work. We will provide you with a competitive salary and a whole host of benefits. We will invest in you.

So what next? Please telephone the Recruitment on 01274 472291 for an application form or download one from our website www.ybs.co.uk Alternatively email your details to recruitment@ybs.co.uk

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5 June 2006. For further job opportunities within Yorkshire Building Society, please visit our website at www.ybs.co.uk

Yorkshire Building Society, an employer that's with you 100%.

Yorkshire Building Society is an equal opportunities employer and operates a no smoking policy.

Yorkshire BUILDING SOCIETY
With you one hundred percent

ETIVE TAXIS
North Connel

Drivers Required
Full/part time

Excellent rates of pay
Company cars available.
Partnership possible

Tel: 01631 710100

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTION

Team Required For Weekly Work In The Oban, Connel, Benderloch And Taynuilt Area
Earn £500+ Monthly
Admail Distribution Services
0141 570 2134 1

The Oban Times
OBAN OFFICE, CRANNOG LANE

CLEANER REQUIRED

for open plan modern office.
Flexible hours to be discussed at interview.
Minimum 6 hours over four nights, Monday to Thursday plus some home ironing.
Weekend work also required from time to time. Rate £7.00 per hour. References essential.

For further details, please apply to:
Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer, The Oban Times Ltd. P.O.Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB.
Tel: 01631 568000.

JOB SEARCH

EXPERIENCED RECRUITMENT MANAGER/ CONSULTANT

seeks any new job opportunity except commission only. Good on phone, admin, sales, development, sleeves rolled up attitude. Do you need dedicated hard worker wanting Oban Life style then phone

01423 770037 1

JOB SEARCH

MOBILE CRANE OPERATION ON 360 DEGREE OPERATOR

Looking For Work West Coast Area

Tel: 01880 820 426 after 5pm or **07769 625 613** 1

TAYNUILT GAELIC CHOIR CONDUCTOR

Enthusiastic, dynamic rural Gaelic choir, healthy membership (34), requires conductor / musical director from October 2006, to work in conjunction with Gaelic tutor in preparation for provincial and National Mod competitions. Vacancy due to present conductor retiring. Knowledge of Gaelic helpful but not essential. Post unsalaried but honorarium and expenses paid.
Informal enquires to Sheena McTighe, President 01866822695 or Audrey Paterson, Secretary 01866822565

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
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Oban Times RECRUITMENT
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TSL CONTRACTORS LIMITED

LGV1 DRIVER
Based Lochaber Area

LGV 1 Driver required for general and timber haulage.Timber loading experience an advantage

Tel: 01680 812475
Fax: 01680 812393
email:info@tslcontractors.co.uk

FORTNIGHTLY LIVE-IN CARER POSTS AVAILABLE.

Requirements: NVQ 2 plus clean driving licence.
£750 -£1200 per fortnight per fortnightly plus expenses.
Tel: Able Community Care 01603 281923 1

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

(KILCHOAN SPEED RESTRICTIONS) (30/40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Highland Council has made an Order, in terms of Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 entitled as above.

The order was previously advertised in the Oban Times on 2 March 2006 and was made on 19 May 2006. The Order comes into effect on 19 June 2006 and will as described in the earlier advertisement provide for 30mph and 40mph speed limits over various sections of the public road network in the village of Kilchoan and Ormsaigbeg, as follows:-

30MPH SPEED LIMIT

B8007 Kilchoan Main Road
Commencing from a point 832 metres or thereby west of the cattle grid 210 metres east of 6 Glasbheinn Cottages, Kilchoan in a westerly direction for a distance of 615metres or thereby.

B8007 Pier Road, Kilchoan
From the junction of the said B8007 at the Kilchoan Primary School southwards for a distance of 820metres or thereby

40MPH SPEED LIMIT

B8007
Commencing from the cattle grid 210 metres east of 6 Glasbheinn Cottages, Kilchoan in a westerly direction for a distance of 832 metres or thereby

B8007
Commencing from a point 1447 metres west of the cattle grid 210 metres east of 6 Glasbheinn Cottages, Kilchoan in a westerly direction for a distance of 337 metres or thereby, (to the junction with the "Glebe Hill Road") thence northwest for a distance of 713 metres or thereby.

U88 Ormsaigbeg Road
Commencing at the junction with the B8007 extending in a westerly and north westerly direction for a distance of 572 metres of thereby.

A copy of the Order, as made, together with a copy of the relevant plan and the Council's statement of reasons for to making the Order (also noted below) can be inspected at the Service Point in Fort William, Monday – Friday 9am-5pm. A copy will also be available at Kilchoan Community Centre.

Any person who wishes to question the validity of the Order or any of its provisions on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, or that a requirement of that Act or of the relevant regulations made thereunder has not been complied with may, within six weeks from the date on which the Order was made, make application for that purpose to the Court of Session.

Mr K D Falconer
Area Solicitor/Administrator
The Highland Council
Lochaber House
High Street
FORT WILLIAM

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (KILCAMB PADDOCK, STRONTIAN – REVOCATION) ORDER 2006

TAKE NOTICE that the Highland Council as Planning Authority for the area of Highland has made an Order under Section 65 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 entitled as above to revoke planning permission for the erection of the northeasternmost holiday cottage at Kilcamb Paddock, Strontian, Argyll (Ref LO/1992/216) insofar as it relates to said cottage.

The Council have been notified in writing by the owner, lessee and the occupier of the land and by all other persons who in the Council's opinion will be affected by the Order that they do not object to the Order.

If any person wishes an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed by the Scottish Ministers you should give notice in writing to that effect to the Scottish Executive, Development Department, Planning Division, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ, not later than 23 June 2006.

If no such notice has been given by that date, the Order shall take effect by virtue of section 67(7) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 on 10 July 2006.

Mr K D Falconer
Area Solicitor/Administrator
For and on behalf of Highland Council
Lochaber House
High Street
FORT WILLIAM PH33 6EL Dated 16 May 2006

GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE

Stephen Howitt trading as Stephen Howitt of Tom-A-Mhuillin, Salen Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull PA75 6QA is applying for a licence to use Argyll Commercials, Glenshellach Road, Oban PA34 4PP as an operating centre for one goods vehicle and one trailer. 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. 1

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

ROADS

A848 GUALAN DHUBH - SALEN ROAD
REALIGNMENT, ISLE OF MULL

DETAILS OF FINAL ROAD SCHEME

You are invited to meet the project team on - Saturday 3rd June 2006, 12pm - 5pm at Salen Primary School, Salen

Please come along to view the plans of the proposed 10km realignment, and air your views to the staff.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

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: 06/00987/DET
Applicant: J & J MacKays Garage
Proposal: 30000 litre steel bunded fuel tank
Site Address: Ledaig Boat Park Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00964/DET
Applicant: Mrs V Archbold
Proposal: Extension of dwelling for needs of disabled occupant
Site Address: Tigh Bainne Lochdon Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA64 6AP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00975/OUT
Applicant: Mrs C Ritchie
Proposal: New Croft House
Site Address: Land South Of Eorabus House Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DH
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/01012/LIB
Applicant: Colin + Frances Davron
Proposal: Alterations and Extension to Guesthouse
Site Address: Kilchrenan House Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AQ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Day
- Ref No: 06/00990/DET
Applicant: Mr A Riley
Proposal: Alterations and Extensions to Create New Kitchen, 8 Bedrooms, Conservatory Lounge, Owners House and New Access
Site Address: The Tight Line Lochawe Argyll And Bute PA33 1AQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/01013/DET
Applicant: Colin + Frances Davron
Proposal: Alterations and Extension to Guesthouse
Site Address: Kilchrenan House Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AQ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00929/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs Craig
Proposal: Proposed Alterations and Change of Use to form New Dwellinghouse
Site Address: 13 Breadalbane Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA75 6PD
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Development in Conservation Area adv 21 days

Ref No: 06/00935/DET
- Applicant: James Robertson
Proposal: Extension and Septic Tank to Oyster Farm Shed - Amended Proposal to 06/0549/DET
Site Address: Rubha-Nan-Ron Seafoods Land North East Of Winterton Farm Balvicar Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00942/DET
Applicant: Hamish Hoey + Son
Proposal: Alterations to undetakers premises and conversion of stores to residential flats
Site Address: 37-39 Stevenson Street Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5NA
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00895/DET
Applicant: Catriona McLeod
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house and garage
Site Address: Land North East Of Machair House Cornaigmore Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00957/DET
Applicant: Fiona Murray
Proposal: Alterations to form attic extension
Site Address: Machair Cottage Cornaigmore Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6XA
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00948/DET
Applicant: David Shaw And Andrew Boden
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Alltfearna Dalmally Argyll And Bute PA33 1AX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/00961/DET
Applicant: North British Trust Hotels
Proposal: Alteration to existing window to form door, deck over existing patio and entrance areas incorporating balustrade
Site Address: Oban Bay Hotel Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AE
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/01014/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs R Bryant
Proposal: Erection of Dwelling House and Installation of Septic Tank
Site Address: Land North West Of Tigh Ghael Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/01030/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs R Shuff
Proposal: Removal of Existing Utility Room/Outhouse and Extension of Dwellinghouse and Erection of Storage Shed
Site Address: Gorsten Blackmill Bay Isle Of Luing Argyll And Bute PA34 4TZ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullipool
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/01000/DET
Applicant: Sandy MacIntosh
Proposal: Single Storey Side Extension to Existing House
Site Address: Urvaig Caolis Isle Of Tiree Argyll And Bute PA77 6TS
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 06/01002/DET
Applicant: Strathclyde Joint Police Board
Proposal: Erection of interactive police information point
Site Address: Car Park Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Development in Conservation Area 21 Days
- Ref No: 06/00818/OUT
Applicant: Keith Watson And Janice Watson
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Glenfraoch West Portsonachan Argyll And Bute PA33 1BJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 06/00975/OUT
Applicant: Mrs C Ritchie
Proposal: New Croft House
Site Address: Land South Of Eorabus House Bunessan Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA67 6DH
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunessan Isle of Mull
A18 Local Plan Potential Departure adv (21 days)
Potential departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
- Ref No: 06/01031/OUT
Applicant: Nicholas Harris
Proposal: Erection of Dwellinghouse and Garage
Site Address: Land North West Of Drive Cottage Gruline Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA71 6HR
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of Mull Coll and Tiree Local Plan
- Ref No: 06/00818/OUT
Applicant: Keith Watson And Janice Watson
Proposal: Site for Erection of Dwellinghouse
Site Address: Glenfraoch West Portsonachan Argyll And Bute PA33 1BJ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmally
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Lorn Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

(QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2006

On Monday 22nd May 2006, Argyll and Bute Council, made the above named Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place and Station Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of Charities Day on or near those roads.

The Order, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will come into operation between the hours of 0600 hours and 1800 hours on Saturday 3rd June 2006.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyl

CROFTERS COMMISSION

Ivor MacLeod is applying to **decroft** part of the croft at 29 Auchinahard, Kilfinichen & Kilvickeon extending to 0.0625 ha for the purpose of providing the site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.1681; C/56

Joseph S MacLeod is applying to **decroft** part of the croft at 12 Shielfoot, Ardnamurchan and Sunart extending to 0.0507 ha for the purpose of providing additonal amenity ground for an existing house. Ref: 4.86.1688; C/20006

If you consider that the decrofting of these areas will adversely affect your crofting interests or that of the local crofting community, please make written representations to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 12 June 2006 quoting the appropriate case number. Representations will be copied to the applicant concerned. Comments on any earlier applications cannot be taken into account. 1

An Comunn Gaidhealach Meur Chruachain (Cruachan Branch)

A.G.M

Taynuilt Hall Committee Room
Monday May 29, 2006 at 8 pm
All welcome 1

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY, between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Builders Select Ltd Land North Of Garadh Buidhe, Camisky, Torlundy, Fort William 06/00207/OUTLO	Erection of house	Spean Bridge Post Office Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)
Church Of Scotland, Arisaig and The Small Isles, The Manse, Mallaig PH414RG 06/00212/FULLO	Extension to House	Mallaig Post Office Article 9 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Permitted) (Scotland) Order 1992. Vacant Land Advert – 14 Days
Helen Hatfield Land South Of Craiglinnhe, Clovullin, Ardgour 06/00174/OUTLO	Erection of 2 houses	Fort William Planning Office Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Lochaber Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Ft William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022. E-Mail planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A85 TRUNK ROAD (CONNEL) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) VARIATION AND ACHALEVEN PRIMARY SCHOOL (PART-TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that on 15th May 2006 they made the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and (c) as read with section 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

The effect of the Order is as described in Notice 1501/268 in the Edinburgh Gazette Number 25961 dated 16th December 2005 and in the Oban Times dated 15th December 2005. The Order comes into force on 1st June 2006.

A copy of the Order as made, together with the relevant plan and a copy of the existing Order which is being varied, may be inspected free of charge until 26th June 2006 during normal working hours at the offices of Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Network Management Directorate, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ; and Connel Post Office, Grosvenor Crescent, Connel, by Oban.

J G BARTON
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ.

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BABY EQUIPMENT

MAMAS AND PAPAS high chair, good condition, hardly ever used, £30 ono. Telephone 01631 566141.

BICYCLES

BOYS BICYCLE Suit, 6-9 years Good Condition, offers under £50. Telephone 01586 554329.

BOOKS

HOW TO study by Derek Rowntree. 2001 Distance Learning approach, £5. Telephone 01631 720377.

SCIENCES GOOD study guide by Andy Northedge. 2002 OU publication, £5. Telephone 01631 720377.

BUILDING EQUIPMENT

BLUE QUARTZ kitchen worktop 4000x600x40mm, brand new still in packing 45kg, £49.99. Telephone 01631 565841.

USED WINDOWS /doors/ velux/roof tiles in return for donation to Oban Mountain Rescue Team. Telephone 01866 822365.

CAR ACCESSORIES

CAR TRAILER 6ft 6" x 5ft, drop tailgate good tyres, £45 ono. Telephone 07786 885654(Dunbeg).

K & H ROOFRACK for escort van, £40. Telephone 01546 600247.

P REG Astra for spares or repair, offers. Telephone 01546 810228.²

RENAULT CLIO mark one alloy wheels 14" very good tyres and condition, £49.99. Telephone 07798 630154.

RENAULT CLIO mark one rear lexus lights new, £49.99. Telephone 07798 630154.

RENAULT CLIO mark one towbar brand new with electronics and towbar cover, Bargain £49.99. Telephone 07798 630154.

ROVER 214 Sli, M Reg-good working order, mot'd end June, 2 new tyres, full electrics, cracked windscreen. Sold for repair or spares, £150. Telephone 07833 780610.²

5 TYRES Size 175-70Rx13, £49.99. Telephone 01586 820326.

CHILDRENS PLAY ITEMS

QUADZILLA micro RV Buggy, brand new, bright blue, 40cc, electric start, fully automatic transmission, twinseats, suit 6-8yr olds, £800 new, sell for £650. Large wooden climbing frame, swings, slide, sandpit, bars, great condition, £600 new, sell for £300. Telephone 01852 200209 or email for photos of either item arduainefs@aol.com

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

COFFEE MACHINE Morphy Richards Coffee 2 go. Unused still in box, unwanted gift. Makes coffee tea and chocolate, £20ono. Telephone 01631 566726.

LEC LARDER Fridge 20 inches by 21 inches by 33 inches, £15. Telephone 01880 730244.

SLOW COOKER Gordon Bleu, brand new in box unwanted gift, £10. Telephone 01631 563584.

WHIRLPOOL FRIDGE, excellent condition, £40. Telephone 01631 564245 or 07968 634725.

DOMESTIC PETS

AFRICAN TIMNEY parrot, female, 4 years old, very friendly and talks. Genuine interest only. cage and accessories included, £450. Telephone 01880 821130.

BEAUTIFUL CHOCOLATE Labrador pups, superb pedigree, home reared and ready to go now. Fully Vaccinated and wormed. Call evenings only on 01586 830120.²

BORDER LAKELAND cross puppies. Ready now. Telephone 01852 300487.

CAVALIER KING Charles spaniel pups, 3 bitches, KC registered, ready now. Telephone 01880 820818.²

COCKER SPANIEL puppies liver roan and blue roan, ready now. Telephone 01631 720311.

COLLIE PUPS, 9 weeks old, black and white, of good working parents. Telephone 01546 850239.²

COLLIE PUPS, off good working parents, ready now. Telephone 01631 760236.

FREE TO good home, male 9 year old black lab cross collie, good natured dog. Telephone 01631 562623.

JACK RUSSELL pups, one dog, one bitch, 9 weeks old, tri coloured, £150. Telephone 01866 844238.²

JACK RUSSELL puppies-lovely markings, happy, healthy, wormed pups. Both parents owned, £150 each. Telephone 01546 603770.

KC REG black Labrador puppies, excellent pedigree, from exceptional working strain but would make ideal pets. Telephone 01397 712530.²

SPRINGER SPANIEL puppies, KC reg, brown/white dogs, black/white bitches, £300, ready now. Telephone 01880 820026.²

SPRINGER SPANIEL PUPS for sale, full pedigree, ready next week. Telephone 01866 844311.

EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

DELTA MANTA rowing machine, little used, £49.99 Telephone 07990996927.

EXERCISE BENCH complete with weights excellent condition, £35. Telephone 01680 300254

EXERCISE BIKE good condition, £25. Telephone 01631 563935.

EXCERCISE BIKE, £40. Telephone 01586 554847.

FIREARMS

ARMY COLT 1860 Model 44 CAL. £80, F.A.C holders only. Telephone 01586 820474.

RUGER 10-22Semi-Auto Rimfire rifle, £200, F.A.C. holders only. Telephone 01586 820474.

FISHING EQUIPMENT

SHAKESPEARE invicta salmon fly rod unused RRP £169.99, Offers under £50. Telephone 01546 600247.

WADERS Neoprene, size 7. New and unused. Lined boot and high back, £35. Telephone 01586 552071

FURNITURE

BLACK DROP LEAF dining table with 4 folding chairs which store neatly within table. Space Saving, £15. Telephone 01631 564848 office hours.

CHEST OF drawers dark solid wood four drawers, £20. Telephone 01546 602974.

DINING TABLE drop leaf solid light coloured wood Circa 1937, £30. Telephone 01546 602974.

DINING CHAIRS four solid light coloured wood leather seats Circa 1937, £10 each. Telephone 01546 602974.

DRESSING TABLE six drawer mirror Schrieber Teak, £30. Telephone 01546 602974.

ELITE SINGLE divan bed clean and in good order, extra firm mattress, £19. Telephone 01631 564848 office hours.

JAY-BE STUDIO BUNK alloy frame underbed desk pull-out futon chair bed VGC, £49.99. telephone 01631 565135.

LEATHER CORNER sofa, cream, as new £500 ono. Telephone 01546 886387.

MAHOGANY FINISH furniture with leaded glass - TV/Video unit, Lounge unit, Stereo unit and Nest of tables, £290 the lot ono Telephone 01852 200220

MODERN LIGHT coloured open shelved bookcase, £5. telephone 01631 564848 office hours.

PINE BUNKBEDS, 3ft, good condition, £100. Telephone 07834 640989.

SIDEBOARD solid light coloured wood Circa 1937, £45. Telephone 01546 602974

THREE DRAWER chest of drawers, £20. Telephone 01631 565135.

TWO SEATER cottage style couch, brown patterned, £45.00. Telephone 01583 421366.

TWO SEATER settee, suit conservatory, £25. Telephone 01631 563935.

WARDROBE TWO door full length mirror Schrieber Teak, £30. Telephone 01546 602974.

2 BED plus extra mattress, £15. Telephone 01546 602974.

GARDEN EQUIPMENT

BELFAST SINK garden feature or plant holder, £20. Telephone 01631 563188.

GREENHOUSE GLASS Complete set of 4 (8ft x 6ft), £10. Telephone: 07798630154.

MCCULLOCH PETROL strimmer, 2 years old, brush cutter, visor, etc. Condition as new, cost £300 will sell for £200 ono. Telephone 01631 565206.

QUALCAST CONCORDE E35 deluxe electric mower includes brand new belt, good condition, £25. Telephone 01631 564358.

GENERATOR

PRAMAC C6000 diesel Generator Yanmar engine 5.3KVA Key start and fully encased ,£1,300. Telephone 07795 026087.

GO-CARTS

GO-CART fit 5 to 6 years, £20 ono. Excellent condition. Telephone 01546 606923 evenings.

GO-CART fit 7 to 8 years, £25 ono. Excellent condition. Telephone 01546 606923 evenings.

GOLF EQUIPMENT

DUNLOP GOLF clubs 4, 5, 6, 7, irons plus wedge 1, 3, 5 woods bag suit lady or youth as new, offers under £50. Telephone 01546 602972.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and speyed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01463 235696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

PANASONIC 28inch prologic TV with speakers and stand, £49. Telephone 01631 564690.

HOUSEHOLD EQUIPMENT

FOLDING FIRE screen 4-panel black frame and black mesh, H55cm,W21cm, good condition, £10. Telephone 01631 564704.

BRABANTIA IRONING board, £9. Telephone 01631 564848 office hours.

LADIES CLOTHING

DRESS & MATCHING jacket rose pink, size 16 as new. Suitable for evening wear or wedding, £40. Telephone 01631 565108.

LIGHTING

FAN AND light combination, £30. Telephone 07834 640989.²

MISCELLANEOUS

DEWALT 12V combi drill 2 batteries and charger, £49.99 Telephone 01546 600247.

INFLATABLE MATTRESS brand new can be used for beach or as extra bed,£10. Telephone 01546 606658.

SUN LOUNGER used only once, £10 Telephone 01546 606658.

WET SUIT , chest size 36-38 with size 9 boots, hardly used, £45. Telephone 01586 554847.

MUSICAL EQUIPMENT

KINGSWOOD upright piano, £150 ono. Buyer uplift. Telephone 01397 712357.

MP3 PLAYER 256MB, unwanted gift brand new, still in original packing, £20. Telephone 01631 565957.

YAMAHA ELECTRONIC keyboard potatone PSR 170 vgc in box with stand, £45. Telehpone 01546 605373.

OUTBOARD MOTORS

CUDDY FOR 16ft Orkney Longliner, £250. Telephone 01397 772679.²

POULTRY

SKYE – Pullets, Brown, Black, Pure, Ducks, Geese, Shed, Feeders, Drinkers. Deliver Oban and Islands. Telephone 01470 572213.

PRINTING AND STATIONERY

MULTIPURPOSE PAPER - For use on all copiers, laser and inkjet printers. Also available coloured paper and board sizes to order. Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

WRITING PAPER & envelopes - personalised and matching, an ideal present, contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

RETAIL EQUIPMENT

RETAIL EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

36 lin ft pine shelving
17 ins deep 6ft high Till
2 flexible pavement signs
3 fibreglass flagpoles approx 28ft high
8 metal folding chairs
Telephone 01546 602044 Office hours
01546 870614 weekends.

SEWING MACHINE

SEWING MACHINE good working order with carry case, instruction book, extra bobbins and zip foot, £40 ono. Telephone 01631 566726.

SHOES

PAIR DRESSY SHOES size 5, Brooke Van Dal make (new) colour black, bargain £25. Telephone 01631 564784.

SCAFFOLDING

NEW TOWER SCAFFOLDING
6ft x4ft 24ft access
Pre galvanised, Heavy Duty
£185 per set or 2 sets for £350
Free delivery
Telephone 07876121119

TOYS AND GAMES

X BOX 360, like new, premium system with 2 wireless controllers and 3 games, Kameo, Project Gotham Racing 3 and Perfect Dark Zero, £300 ono. Telephone 01631 570581 or 07738 493887.²

WANTED

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PERSONALS

LOOK WHO'S 40

Happy birthday Lynn
Lots of love
All the family

I wish to thank most sincerely my family, friends, neighbours, directors, colleagues past and present and customers for their good wishes conveyed to me by card, telephone, gifts and flowers on the occasion of my retiral from Hazelbank Motors. Thanks also to Ann Watt, nice one Ann, good choice. Special thanks to my rock Sue Blackwell for all her help. I am completely overwhelmed by your kindness. Thank you all.
Margaret MacLeod,
10 Longsdale Terrace,
Oban.

HAPPY 80TH BIRTHDAY
To a much loved mum, nana and great nana
CATHIE MACDONALD

Rebecca Brown would like to thank family, friends and neighbours for the many beautiful cards, flowers and gifts which she received on her 80th birthday and Ian on his 86th.
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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by The Oban Times Limited.

Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, The Oban Times Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.

1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.

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3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.

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6 The parties submit to the jurisdiction of the Scottish Courts and Scots Law. In the event of any dispute or action by the Publisher to recover payment from an advertiser, it is agreed that matters will be settled in the Oban, Argyll Sheriff Court or such other Court as the Publisher may choose.

7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.

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9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.

10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.

11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.

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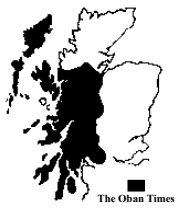
BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

THE OBAN TIMES & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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BIRTHS

BURGESS - McMULLAN - Lee and Sonia are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Bernadette, on April 5, 2006. A little sister for Cameron. Many thanks to all concerned.

FOTHERGILL - John and Morag (née MacDonald) are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Ruaraidh Alasdair on May 15, 2006 at St John's Hospital, Livingston. A lovely grandson for Lindsay and Ian and Julie and Alan.

MACDONALD - Donald and Irene (née Whitefield) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Isla Rachel, on May 16, 2006, a little sister for Caitlin and Eoghan. Thanks to all the midwifes at the Mid Argyll Hospital.

McKENZIE - Dave and Gillian (née Smart) are delighted to announce the early arrival of their daughter, Niamh, on May 10, 2006 at The Royal Alexandra, Paisley. A first grandchild for Gordon and Jeanette, Lochawe and Davey and Winnie, Glasgow. A huge thanks to all staff at S.C.B.U. where Niamh is being looked after.

DEATHS

BISSET - Peacefully with his daughters, Janet and Mary by his side, at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, Benderloch, on Tuesday, May 23, 2006, in his 90th year, Arthur (Jock) Bisset, devoted husband of the late Maggie, respected father-in-law of Johnny and Billy and grandpa of Scott, Lorne and Stewart.

CAMERON – On Monday, May 22, 2006 at Stirling Royal Infirmary, Janet (née Hannah) aged 86, formerly of Clashgour, Bridge of Orchy. Dearly loved mother of Margaret and Donald.

GIRVAN (GRACE) – Peacefully at home in Fort William on Sunday, May 21, 2006 surrounded by her family, Mairi Margaret (née MacLellan) aged 72 years. Loved by all her family and many friends, she will be sorely missed. Requiem Mass takes place at St Mary's Church, Fort William on Friday, May 26, at 10.15am, thereafter to Cille Choirill, Roy Bridge, to which all are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations for Lochaber Palliative Care and Marie Curie may be given at the church or forwarded to the funeral director Mike McFall at John MacLellan & Co, Dudley Road, Fort William.

McINTYRE – William "Goonga" McIntyre, at Abbey Vale, Elgin on May 17, 2006. A dear brother-in-law and much loved uncle, who will be sadly missed. Agnes McIntyre and family.

MONTGOMERY - Mrs Agnes Montgomery formerly of 35 Stafford Street, Oban, passed away peacefully in Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, on Saturday, after a prolonged and brave battle with her illness. Agnes or Nan as she was known as was a well kent figure in the town having run a bed and breakfast at George Street and then 35 Stafford Street for some 25 years, as well as being an "Avon" lady around town. Nan and husband, Hugh (Monty) were enthusiastic supporters of the British Legion, involved with running fund raising dances, collections and of course the bingo in the Masonic Lodge in recent years. They had moved back down to Erskine to be closer to their family. She is survived by husband Hugh, daughters Linda, Pearl, son Iain and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

PATTERSON - Peacefully at St Vincent's Hospital, Kingussie, on May 22, 2006, Archibald Patterson, dearly loved husband of the late Jamima Powell, formerly of Corrie Road, Kinlochleven. Funeral service at Church of Scotland, Kinlochleven on Friday, May 26 at 2pm, thereafter to Kinlochmore Cemetery.

RALSTON - Very suddenly at home, Lorn Cottage, Dalmally, on May 18, 2006, in his 79th year, James, beloved husband to Margaret, devoted and loving father to James, Alison and the late Daniel, much loved brother, brother-in-law, grandfather, great grandfather, uncle and friend. Sadly missed.

THOMSON - Peacefully at home after a long illness bravely borne with great dignity, Janet Robertson Thomson of Seaview, Port Appin on May 22, 2006. Remains will be received at Appin Parish Church on Thursday May 25 at 7 pm. Thereafter the funeral will take place on Friday, May 26, 2006 at 12 noon.

WILLIAMS – Peacefully at Cradlehall Nursing Home, Inverness on May 17, 2006, Violet Amelia Williams, aged 90, formerly of Cuil Bay, Duror. Enquiries to the Funeral Directors, John Fraser & Son, Chapel Street, Inverness. Tel: 01463 233366.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late John Cameron, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their caring support following our sudden loss. Many thanks to Craig Nevis Surgery for their commitment and support, also to Ian and Mary Kennedy and piper Graham Buchanan for their moving and fitting music, the Rev Dr Richard Corbett's service was both comforting and memorable and we are grateful to him, grateful thanks also to Mike McFall for his dedication and caring manner. The sum of £303.79 was raised at the service and will go to Craig Nevis Surgery.

CAMPBELL - The family of the late Angus J. Campbell, would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy by way of cards and floral tributes. Thanks to Fr D. McKay and Fr Hakett, the organist and choir of St Columba's Cathedral. Thanks to the doctors at the Lorn Medical Centre and the doctors and nurses at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Hamish Hoey funeral directors and Kings Knoll Hotel. A special thanks to Romano Capocci for his uplifting words and to all who attended the service.

CLYNE - Flora and family of the late Jimmy Clyne would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the support, cards, flowers and kindness following their recent sad loss. Thanks to Rev Bob Nelson, Dr Linneman, Dr Jack, Billy McClymont and all medical staff. A collection for Dunaros Hospital comfort fund raised £350.

MEMORIAMS

CAMPBELL - Remembering with love our treasured mum, Joey Millar, who passed away on May 29, 1987.
Blossoms are scattered by the wind
But blossoms of the heart no wind can touch.
- Avril and John.

CHILDS – In loving memory of my husband, Larry, died May 26, 2002.
They say that hearts don't really break
My God that is not true
The day you called my husband home
You broke my heart in two.
Loved always.
- Margaret x.

CRAWFORD –Treasured memories of a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, Seonaid Crawford, who died May 25, 2005.
Loved and remembered every day.
Ailsa, Billy, Paul, Gayle, Charis, Blair and Vicky.

DEVINE - In loving memory of Jessie, a dear mother, mother-in-law and granny who died on May 22, 2004.
Forever in our thoughts
- Kevin, Margaret and the girls.

DEVINE - 2nd Anniversary.
In loving memory of my pal Jessie.
The memories I have of the days gone by.
Are treasured ones of you and I.
R.I.P. Bella.

GILLIES – John Archie Gillies, died May 23, 2005.
Fondest memories of a dear uncle.
- From Angela and David.

HARRIS – In loving memory of our beloved son, Michael, tragically killed on May 27, 2001 aged 16 years.
We think of you in silence
And make no outward show
Just how much we miss you Mike
No one will ever know
Lonely is the home without you
Life has never been the same
All the world would be like heaven son
To have you back again.
Love always.
- Mum and Dad x

No longer in my life to share
But in my thoughts Mike
You are always there.
- Auntie Cathy x.

HARRIS - In loving memory of our nephew and cousin, Mike, tragically killed on May 27, 2001 aged 16 years.
We think of him as living
In the hearts of those he touched
For nothing loved is ever lost
And he was loved so much.
Always remembered.
- Mo, Michael and Scott. x

In my heart your memory is kept
To treasure, to love and never forget
No verse, no flowers, no tears can say
How much I miss you everyday.
Loved and remembered always.
- Michelle xx.

LAMBIE - Treasured memories of Jimmy, a precious husband, dad and grandad, who died May 29, 2004.
Forever in our hearts.
- Kathie and family.

MACCORMICK - In loving memory of my dear son and our brother , Iain, who died so tragically on May 24, 1990. Also remembering my dear husband and our father, who died in 1968.
Sadly missed
And lovingly remembered.
- Inserted by Morag and family, Newcroft, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.

MACINNES – Loving memories of our dear parents, mother, Janet Tyson, who died May 27, 1980 and father, Alexander MacInnes, who died October 9, 1975.
There comes a time for all of us
When loved ones have to pass
But loving memories linger on
Forever in our hearts.
- Molly and Jim.

MACiNTYRE – Angus, died May 26, 1986 and Kenny died, May 30, 1999.
As always and especially in these days of early summer
We celebrate the memory of father and son
Alike in their compassion, energy and fun.
Angus, Lorn, Eric and all the family.

MACiNTYRE - Kenny, taken from us suddenly on May 30, 1999. Your spirit lives on through our delightful grandchildren.
Forever in our thoughts
- Elizabeth and Family.

MACLEAN – In memory of my dear father and grandfather, John, who passed away on May 27, 1996.
Always in our thoughts.
All the family, Soroba Farm.

MACLEAN – In loving memory of our dear father, grandfather and great grandfather, John Keith MacLean (Jonaks) who died on May 27, 1996.
Late of Achnachullan Croft, Easdale.
A cattle man deep in his heart
Of our land he was a part
Those strong ties will never sever
His memory lasts forever and ever.
Love from Ronald, Karen and family.

McDOUGALL - In loving memory of my dear wife, Elizabeth, who passed away on May 27, 1991.
Deep are the memories
Precious they will stay
No passing of time
Shall take them away.
- Allan, Arivoulchallum, By Port Ellen.

McFALL – In loving memory of our dear son, Lee, who died on May 27, 2001.
Five years have passed we wonder why
We never got to say goodbye
We often shed a silent tear
And think of the son we loved so dear.
- Love mum and dad x.

McFALL - In loving memory of our dear brother, Lee, who died on May 27, 2001.
We cannot bring the old days back
When we were all together
But secret tears and loving thoughts
Will live with us forever.
- Love Michelle and Alena x.

McKENNA – In loving memory of our dear father James (Scouse) who was suddenly taken from us on May 25, 2005.
We will always love and miss you dad.
- Lisaann and Cheryl.

NICOLSON - Precious memories of our dear father and grandfather, Donald, (Dan) who died on May 22, 1981, also our dear brothers and uncles, Joseph, died April 30, 1987 and Alister accidentally drowned on September 16, 1965.
Always remembered.
Sadly missed by all the family.

SINCLAIR – In loving memory of our dear son and brother, David, who died May 27, 1994.
Loved and remembered always.
- Mum, dad, sisters and their families.

WILSON - Precious memories of my dearly loved and devoted husband, George, who passed away on May 25, 2003.
R.I.P.
The years we shared together
The happy times we knew
Are lived again so often
In my memories of you
Of all the gifts in life
However great or small
To have you as my husband
Was the greatest gift of all
So rest in peace dear loved one
And thanks for all you've done
I pray that god has given you
The crown you've truly one.
Loved and remembered everyday.
- By your loving wife, Effie, 13 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie, Oban.

WILSON - In loving memory of my dear father, George, who passed away on May 25, 2003. R.I.P.
I did not know that morning
The sorrow that day would bring
When a heart of gold
Stopped beating
And I could not do a thing.
I miss you dad and always will.
- Your loving daughter, Sheena.
Ours is just a simple prayer
Keep our papa in your care
Your loving grandchildren.
- William and Fiona.

WILSON - Fond memories of a dear brother-in-law, George Wilson, who passed away on May 25, 2003.
God saw you were so tired
A cure was not to be
He put his arms around you
And whispered come with me.
- Flora, Glasgow.

YOUNG – In loving memory of Mary, a dear mother, gran and great gran, who passed away on May 27, 2005.
Loved and remembered always.
- Don, Ailleen and family.

CHARITY DONATIONS

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Please send to **Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**

Freeze on offerings from local churches

THE COUNCIL of Assembly is asking this month's General Assembly to freeze the total amount paid by congregations to the Church of Scotland's overall budget next year.

This is in line with the General Assembly's policy of maximising resources available for local parish work.

The council believes that this significant move will be of great assistance to congregations as they develop local initiatives.

Open air service includes baptism

THE ANNUAK Service at the open air Church Site aat Plockton was held on Easter Sunday April 16 at 8am.

This year a Baptism was held.

Despite the unsettled April weather, the rain stayed away and around 80 people attended.

The Service was conducted by Rev J M MacDonald assisted by Rev R Rankin.

The infant son of Mr and Mrs Angus Fergusson C/O Achivurin Plockton, was baptised William Jack by the Rev J M MacDonald.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 25 May 2006
Ascension Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist..... 19.30
Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist..... 1000
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 1900

Sunday 28 May 2006
Sunday after Ascension
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 0800
Choral Mattins..... 1015
Sunday School and Creche
Parish Eucharist 1130
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost
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St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist 1100
Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist 0900
Mattins &
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 0800
Evensong 2000

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
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11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'Worship Link'* available
Wednesday 31 May 2006
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
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Thought for the week

Practising what we preach?

IT is easy to feel so overwhelmed by the enormity of the injustices in the world that we do nothing. So, we think:

❒ what difference will my sending an Amnesty International letter off to the President of Uruguay really make?

❒ what difference in the global context will my refusal of plastic bags when offered them in shops make?

❒ what is the point of my registering my protest about international debt?

Can we really make any difference?

Well, let me invite you to look at this a different way, a sacramental way.

To see that the doing of something is as important as the difference it makes.

So that whether the things we do, or the lifestyle we adopt, make any difference at all, nevertheless the doing of them is still important. They are part of our witness, part of the way we are called to be.

For us here at Iona Abbey this is expressed in what we do in relation to the environment. Earlier this month, we were assessed and awarded Eco Congregation status. This is a programme and award scheme which encourages churches to take seriously the need to be good stewards of creation (information www.ecocongregation.org/scotland). It would be easy to feel that what we are doing in this regard is so limited that it wasn't worth bothering with.

However, I believe that our attempt to honour creation in this way points beyond itself to the fulfillment of God's Kingdom on earth.

Richard Sharples, Warden Iona Abbey

Rt Rev Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, at the sale of work in Taynuilt Village Hall with the Taynuilt Christian Aid committee, from left, Anne Weavind, Mary Scott, Marie Wright and Eleanor McBain. t21tay01

Bishop opens aid sale of work

TAYNUILT added its weight to the Christian Aid Appeal when the Rt Rev Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, opened a sale of work at the village hall.

A hard-working committee formed from the churches in the area also organised a house-to-house collection. The sale was an ecumenical effort and the Bishop and Mrs Shaw visited all the stalls despite having to travel to Assisi the following day.

The sale alone raised a total of 728.48 for Christian Aid. The Rt Rev Shaw, who quoted St Francis of Assisi as an example of working with the poor as well as for them at the opening, said: 'There are several people here who are members of St John's Cathedral and they asked me to open it.

'The fact this is called Christian Aid, with the emphasis on Christian, does not mean it is Christian. It is a non-denominational organisation.'

Speaking before the sale of work he said: 'This sale may not raise a huge amount of money but the fact these people gave up their time is a little sign of sacrifice which is what charity is all about.'

As usual the white elephant stall was manned by Caroline Jamieson, now 90-years-young. Fairtrade coffee was served during the day.

Peter Macintyre, past president of An Comunn Gaidhealach, presented a posthumous award to honour Hugh Macintyre, to Sarah, his wife.

Award to Hugh

AN HONOUR has been presented posthumously to Hugh Macintyre of the Oban branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach.

Although Hugh was a member he was not a Gaelic speaker but he loved the language of his mother, who was from Daliburgh.

He was a most regular member of the Oban choir and Hugh willingly undertook whatever was required to be done to help the comunn. He was treasurer of the local branch and also undertook this office for the Roinn (Argyll region).

Hugh died before he would have been presented with a scroll in honour of his work and in the circumstances his wife, Sarah, was pleased to accept the award at a private ceremony. Robin Banks, chairman of the Royal National Mod and the local branch accompanied by Peter Macintyre, president in Hugh's final years, met Sarah at her home in late January, where Sarah was delighted to receive the framed scroll, signed by the current president, Angus MacDonald.

Obituaries

The late Captain Archie MacQueen - a tribute

ARCHIE MacQueen, known throughout the Highlands and Islands as 'Archie Mor' was born on 1st. July 1925 at Lonfern in Staffin.

The oldest of John and Christina MacQueen's four children, he never lost touch with his roots or the crofting way of life into which he was born.

Archie left Skye at the age of 15 to work as a ghillie at King's House in Glencoe.

However, his chosen career favoured the sea rather than the land, beginning with David MacBrayne's and ending with Caledonian MacBrayne, a company in whose welfare he always retained a deep interest.

Married to Katie Cameron from Oban, Archie was a familiar figure in the town where the couple had their home until Katie's premature passing in 1982.

On March 30 1943 Archie joined David MacBrayne's as a galley boy and worked in the Catering Department until December 1945, displaying the characteristics of diligence and commitment which were to be evident throughout his long career.

Archie transferred to the deck department on the December 3 '45 signing on as a seaman aboard the *New Fawn* a ship on charter to David MacBrayne's.

Thus began the long climb up the marine ladder studying for the tickets needed to become a ship's officer.

He joined the Lighthouse Service in May 1948, sailing as an able seaman where he remained until November 1950.

During the early fifties, Archie began his studies achieving his Master's certificate in August 1954.

August 1954 saw Archie's return to David MacBrayne as 2nd.

Mate aboard the Lochcarron, the first of many MacBayne ships on which Archie would serve as an officer.

Archie's Discharge Books contain memories of many well-known vessels, once so familiar on the west coast of Scotland-names such as *Lochmor, Lochearn, Claymore, Loch Arkaig* and *Loch Seaforth* which Archie joined as 1st Mate in November 1960.

However, it is with the *Hebrides* and *Hebridean Isles* that Archie's name was synonomous for many island people.

Archie first sailed aboard the *Hebrides* in May 1969, and was to spend most of the rest of his career as 1st Mate or Master of the Hebrides or her replacement ship, the *Hebridean Isles*.

The arrival of the *Hebridean Isles*, a modern state of the art ferry to serve on the triangular route caused great excitement throughout the area.

Archie's pride in, and enthusiasm for the new ship was typical of a Master who rose to whatever challenge technology provided, and it quickly seemed that her bridge had always been his home.

Dedicated to his work and to serving the people of the islands, Archie always strove to provide the best service possible, always conscious of the safety of his crew and his passengers.

Archie liked nothing better than to mingle with the travelling public and many crossings flew by for numerous passengers who became engrossed in conversation with a born raconteur.

A man with a great interest in people and a tremendous conversationalist, Archie has left behind a wealth of interesting and highly amusing stories of his career and the many characters he met.

Archie retired in 1987, and devoted his time and attention to his croft at Lonfern, an interest which he had pursued during his off-duty time whilst at sea. Widely read, particularly in Biblical matters, a deep-rooted faith in God was always evident in Archie's dealings with his crew, his employers and the many friends and neighbours to whom he was always so willing to offer assistance.

A life-long adherent of the Free Church, Archie's faith never wavered no matter what storms he endured in his life.

A big man, with a big heart, Archie MacQueen was a true Highland gentleman whom it was a pleasure and privilege to know.

Archie passed away on April 6 2006 at Portree Hospital following several months of declining health.

TIMES Sport

Saints almost snatch victory with second half fight-back

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
GOUROCH ATHLETIC 3
OBAN SAINTS 3

Football

FOR THE second week in succession Oban Saints travelled to Battery Park, Greenock, this time to take on Gourock Athletic in a Premier Division League match and what a game it turned out to be. The Oban side found themselves 3-0 down but staged a tremendous second half fight back to pull the scores level at 3-3 and if the game had lasted a few minutes longer they would surely have collected all three points

This was an important game for Gourock as they needed at least a draw to secure their Premier Division status for next season. A win for the visitors would mean that Gourock would have to depend on other results if they were to stay in the top flight of the Scottish Amateur League.

Saints had to make three changes from the team that drew 1-1 away against Greenock the previous Saturday. Big Mark MacCallum and Colin Carswell were unavailable and Willie Gemmell started a two game suspension.

Keith Millar came back into the squad and John Carmichael was given the chance to show what he could do at this level of the game and the youngster certainly made a big impression when he came on in the second half.

Saints, sitting in mid table, started the game slowly and it was the home side who took the early initiative and they took the lead in the 18th minute when Keith Millar carelessly gave the ball away in the middle of the park. Craig Addison played a pass through to Scott Sinclair who got to the ball at the same time as David Dunlop, but the Saints keeper was unlucky as it spun loose to James McClure who steered it home from close range.

The visitors found themselves two goals down when Alex Grindlay slipped while trying to clear his lines, allowing James McClure to cross into the box for the unmarked Barry Jackson to head the ball high into the net.

Saints created their first real chance in the 40th minute, but Ross Maitland pulled his shot wide of the target.

Worse was to come for the visitors nine minutes into the second half when James McClure, who had been a thorn in the flesh all afternoon, scored a well take goal to put Gourock 3-0 in front.

The Oban side threw themselves a lifeline in the 66th minute when Keith Millar slipped a pass through to Ross Maitland who shot for goals. Sean Ford got in the way of the shot and the ball deflected past Gourock keeper Paul Gault who was going the other way. Certainly a lucky goal, but it sparked a tremendous fight back from the Oban lads.

Saints manager Iain Jackson took off his two wide midfield players - Ross Graham

John Carmichael

and Sean Ford and replaced them with Donald Campbell and John Carmichael, pushing them forward to make a four-man attack alongside Allan MacKay and Darin Bryars.

With his first touch of the ball Donald was unlucky to see a right foot curler go inches past the post. John was tormenting the Gourock defence with his pace and clever play down the right hand side and from one of these runs he got to the byeline before squaring the ball to Donald, who in turn slipped it to Allan MacKay and Saints top scorer made no mistake thumping the ball high into the net - game on.

Gourock were pinned back now as the Saints midfield of Keith Millar, Dante Lopez and Ross Maitland pushed forward at every opportunity and the Oban side levelled the scores when Paul Gault failed to hold a Ross Maitland shot and the ball squirmed under his body and into the net.

Saints smelt victory as the game drew to a close and John Carmichael just overran the ball after another great run down the right flank from deep in his own half.

Gourock were on the ropes, but all credit to them they held out, thanks to some sterling defending by Brendan Doyle and Craig Graham to gain the point they needed to stay in the top flight of the Scottish Amateur League.

Saints manager Iain Jackson was delighted at his team's comeback but disappointed in the way they lost the three goals. He said: 'I thought we were in for a right hammering when the score was 3-0 as we just never got going in the first half, but all credit to the lads they buckled down and turned in a superb second 45 minutes. I thought youngsters Donald Campbell and John Carmichael were excellent when they came on and will certainly be pushing for a place in the starting line-up next season.'

Saints have no game this Saturday, but finish off their league programme against Scottish Amateur Cup holders St Pat's at Glencruitten on Sunday 4th June.

More information on the Oban Saints club website www.obansaintsafc.co.uk

Oban too strong for Mid Argyll

Cricket

Oban were comprehensive winners by 70 runs at last week's Argyll and the Islands Cricket League match against Mid Argyll at Dunadd.

Duncan Campbell hit his best ever batting score to lead Oban to a comfortable win.

Mid Argyll won the toss and gave Oban the first opportunity to bat.

Overall, the bowlers were on top except for a man of the match performance by Campbell who scored a career best 58 runs.

Mid Argyll opening bowlers Aftab Talpur and Phil Hemmings contained the Oban batsmen and ensured that scoring was slow in the first eight overs.

After lunch, Mid Argyll started their innings needing a shade over three runs an over for victory.

It looked a difficult target from the outset. Good accurate bowling by Oban pegged Mid Argyll back and after Brocklehurst top scored with only 18 the tail did not put up much resistance.

From a Mid Argyll perspective there were few highlights. Six batsmen scored ducks and were never in the running.

Narrow winner of the www.gbcgroup.co.uk 'Champagne Moment' was the catch of Chris Maddox when he caught John Roberts at the second attempt at deep square leg.

Oban 120 (D Campbell 58, A Laycock 11, C Maddox 3-21)
Mid Argyll 50 (B Brocklehurst 18, G Lyburn 17, J Roberts 2-6, A Leach 2-6). Oban won by 70 runs.

Scottish Rugby development manager West (North), left, and Oban High School PE teacher Colin Nicol are joined by the captains of each team and the Calcutta Cup. t20cal01

Calcutta Cup in Oban

Rugby

THE OLDEST trophy in world sport was shown in Oban when the Calcutta Cup came to town.

The trophy, which was first played for by Scotland and England during the Six Nations competition, was escorted by Kenny Murray, Scottish Ruby development manager West (North), who will cover Argyll and Bute in his new post.

The cup arrived for the Oban Rugby Gathering which allowed youth teams of S1-S3 age to play against each other.

There were teams from Pitlochry, Callander, Crieff, Tarbert, Rothesay and the hosts Oban Lorne.

All of the 120 players would have liked to be playing for the 127-year-old Calcutta Cup but, instead, there was another beautifully crafted trophy made by former Oban High School art teacher Ian Gowdie.

r 30 club members were present at the Oban Lorne RFC AGM on May 10.

All posts were re-elected and the position of chief executive was created.

This committee member will look after the club finances.

Golf club championship tests golfers

Golf

Head greenkeeper Dougie MacIntyre set the usual tight positions for the first round of the Glencruitten Golf Club Championship.

Familiar names appear at the top of the leaderboards.

The leaders are: David MacCuish 64, John MacCallum 65, Kenny MacCallum 65, Dale Robertson 65, David Devine 65, Allan MacKie 66.

Handicap Championship 2nd Round: Colin Campbell 64+62=126, Dale Robertson 67+60=127, Craig Aitken 63+66=129.

Ginty Trophy 1st Round: Dale Robertson 65-5=60, David Devine 65-5=60, Colin Campbell 73-11=62.

Argyll sunk at rainy Duddingston

Golf

ARGYLL and Bute's six man team slipped to a heavy defeat at the hands of the Lothians.

Played in cold damp conditions over a wet Duddingston course last Sunday the team trailed 2 -1 after the morning foursomes with Chris Timms and Chris Carson gaining the sole point with a one hole victory over Steven Armstrong and Keith Nicholson.

The afternoon singles started brightly with Argyll and Bute ahead in three matches and down in three.

However the Lothians seized the initiative winning the opening two singles.

Argyll and Bute's only singles winner was Graham Bolton who won narrowly by one hole over Mark Kerr.

Millport's Gordon Lundie deputising for late call off Ross Currie capped his debut by securing half a point against Lothian's champion Armstrong.

Defeats in game five and six for Les Pirie and Chris Timms resulted in a final score of 6.5 - 2.5 for the Lothians.

Connel bowling club prizes

Bowls

PETER Henderson and Roddie MacLeod were the main winners at the Connel Carpet Bowling Club 2006 annual prize giving.

The winners were: **League Rinks** - Winners (Skip) Peter Henderson, Agnes MacPhee, Caroline or Neil Ronald, Marion Fisher.

Mr & Mrs A. B. MacPhee Cup (Club Singles Championship) - Winner Peter Henderson, Runner up Roddie MacLeod.

MacPherson Shield (Doubles) - Winners Ronnie MacIntyre and Donald Skinner, Runners up John Sutherland and Mike Perrett.

Doubles Shield (Doubles Championship) - Winners Roddie MacLeod and Ian Miller, Runners up Ronnie MacIntyre and Jamie Fraser.

Albrecht Cup (Ladies)Winner - Caroline Ronald, Runner up Jan Lowe

The Dugie Boyd Memorial Trophy (Singles) - Winner Roddie MacLeod.

Cruachan Cup (Singles)Winner - Jamie Fraser, Runner up Ian Miller

Club Rinks - Winners (Skip) Sandy Carr, John Sutherland, Jamie Fraser, Jan Lowe.

Winners from the Connel Carpet Bowling Club prizegiving.

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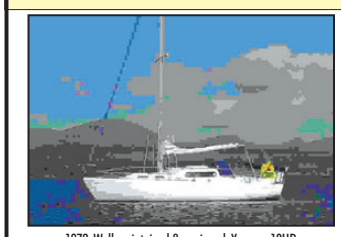
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'More manager plays down 'shock' result at Kingussie

Shinty

Marine Harvest Premier League
Kingussie 2 Newtonmore 6

'THIS isn't a shock result - just a long time coming,' said Newtonmore team manager Norman MacArthur after watching his side record a historic Premier league victory against rivals Kingussie at the Dell.

'Newtonmore have outplayed Kingussie in every game this season,' points out MacArthur. 'But we haven't been able to turn outfield superiority into goals and it has cost us.

'Today we proved to ourselves, and everybody else, that it can be done - and let's face it, we could have won by a lot more.'

Last Saturday, Newtonmore discovered the missing ingredient and were quicker to the ball, firmer in the tackle and on-target when it mattered.

The margin of victory could have been much higher but MacArthur was well satisfied by a performance which gave him a perfect birthday present. It also kept Newtonmore at the top of the Premier table.

Had Ronald Ross's first minute shot not come off the post and keeper Michael Ritchie not produced a great save to thwart Kevin Thain, the outcome may have been different. But Newtonmore took control of midfield and pinned Kingussie back in the own half for long periods.

Glen Mackintosh spurned two good scoring chances in the opening 20 minutes as the visitors began to stretch the home defence and when, on the half-hour, keeper Andrew Borthwick was judged to have kicked the ball clear, Mackintosh's weak penalty failed to produce the breakthrough.

However, instead of letting their heads go down, Newtonmore upped the pace and opened the scoring five minutes later when a sweeping move from midfield carved open the Kingussie defence with John MacKenzie's pass to Mackintosh culminating in a clinical low finish.

Six minutes later Newtonmore doubled their advantage as David Cheyne created the opening and Orsten Gardiner pounced on the loose ball to slip it under the keeper.

Kingussie tried to regroup at the start of the second period but found space in which to operate at a premium and Borthwick had to produce a top class save to deny Fraser Mackintosh at the expense of a corner.

Five minutes into the restart, Fraser Mackintosh netted Newtonmore's third as Rory Fraser and his defence got in a real muddle on the edge of the box allowing Mackintosh time for a calm finish.

Although starved of meaningful possession, Ronald Ross appeared the only Kingussie player comfortable on the ball and a 54th minute low shot was well saved by Ritchie at the near post.

After 70 minutes the visiting support went wild as MacKenzie again stalled Kingussie's progress in midfield and pressed forward before releasing Gardiner on the right who fired the ball into the net from 25 yards.

There then followed a dramatic 10 minutes.

Kingussie finally got on the scoresheet when, for the first time in the match, a well marshalled Newtonmore defence lost their concentration and Ross punished them with a chipped shot past Ritchie. However, any thought of a late comeback was dashed when Newtonmore struck back straight from the restart with Glen Mackintosh blasting the ball past Borthwick from the right.

The ball then went back to the other end and Paul Gow reacted first to make the score 5-2. But within another minute Kingussie were reduced to 11-men when Ian Borthwick lashed out after coming second best in a tough clash with MacKenzie. Referee Calum Duff consulted goaljudge DA Fraser before rightly issuing the Kingussie player a straight red card.

With three minutes of a pulsating tie remaining, young substitute Martin Hall scored the goal of the game when he turned to half-volley the ball home from 20 yards on the left - and the youngster almost snatched another before the final whistle but for defender Rory Fraser's acrobatic block.

At 6-2 the final scoreline doesn't flatter a Newtonmore side which have played better shinty this season - and lost. But they produced an impressive team effort linked to organisational and fitness standards that were once regarded as the main assets of their local rivals.

Newtonmore's John MacKenzie closes down Kingussie's Michael Clark in midfield at the Dell

Saturday's fixtures

Shinty

Saturday, 27th May, 2006
All throw up times are 2.30pm unless otherwise stated
Tulloch MacTavish Cup Semi-Finals
At the Dell, Kingussie
Fort William v Beauly
David Mitchell, Edinburgh

At the Eilean, Newtonmore
Kilmallie v Kingussie
Callum Duff, Kirkhill 12 noon

Tulloch Glasgow Celtic Society Cup - Semi-Finals
At Mossfield Park, Oban
Inveraray v Glenorchy
Colin MacDonald, Oban

At the Winterton, Inveraray
Kyles Athletic v Bute
Graham Cameron, Caol

Strathdearn Cup Semi-Finals
At the Dell, Kingussie
Caberfeidh v Newtonmore
John Sloggie, Invergarry 12 noon

At the Eilean, Newtonmore
Kingussie v Kilmallie
Willie MacLachlan, Spean Bridge

Marine Harvest Premier League
Lochcarron v Oban Camanachd
Duncan Kelly
North Division One
Kinlochshiel v Skye
Neil Ferguson
Lochaber v Lovat
Joey Smith
South Division One
GMA v Lochside Rovers
Ted MacDonald
Kilmory v Tayforth
George Hay
Ballachulish v Glenorchy
Duncan Kerr
North Division Two
Boleskine v Lovat
Astie Cameron
South Division Two
Col Glen v Edinburgh EL
Robert Baxter
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Inveraray
Dougie Cameron 12 noon
Kyles Athletic v Strachur
Andrew MacGregor
Oban Celtic v Aberdour
Peter Jackson
North Division Three
Kincraig v Lochaber
Laurie Skuodas
Ardnamurchan v Lochcarron
Patrick Cassidy
Lochbroom v Glen Urquhart
Russell Ross

Late Whyte goal earns away win for Ballachulish

Shinty

South Division One
GMA 1 Ballachulish 2

A LATE strike from veteran forward Gavin Whyte gave Ballachulish a 2-1 victory over Glasgow Mid Argyll.

In a spirited second half performance at Peterson Park the visitors came back from a goal behind to steal the points and go top of South Division One.

That outcome seemed unlikely after a first half completely dominated by a home side who were unlucky to go in leading by just one goal.

Several chances fell to Sorley Macdonald and Scott Gordon before GMA took the lead on the half hour when Fulton Ross came deep and from wide on the right drilled the ball high into the top corner.

Moments later the same player had a chance to double his side's advantage after a Ballachulish defender slipped allowing a free shot on goal.But from the edge of the dee the keeper pulled off an instinctive save low down at the corner.

The last action of the first half saw Macdonald spurn a gilt-edged opportunity and the misses came back and haunt Mid Argyll.

Whatever was said at half time it was a different Ballachulish who came out after the interval. Inspired by John Macdonald at full-centre the Balla forwards mounted wave after wave of attack but all too often the finishing was wayward.

With Andrew Watt and Yogi McSween breaking up countless promising moves it seemed the equaliser would never come.

But with 65 minutes played a rebound off the keeper went straight to Macdonald who returned it to the roof of the net.

Once the breakthrough was made the game took on a certain inevitability, underlined when Whyte replace Trevor Jackson with 15 minutes remaining.

It was hardly surprising when the big forward netted from an acute angle with five minutes to go to give his team an excellent victory.

Oban draw at Cannich

Shinty

Marine Harvest
Premier League
Strathglass 2
Oban Camanachd 2

OBAN Camanachd recalled veteran striker Dougie MacIntyre for their Premier league tie at Cannich and he opened the scoring - then could have won the match.

Without suspended Fraser Inglis, MacIntyre led the line and got on the scoresheet afger 37 minutes but Raymond Fraser levelled for Strathglass and the sides remained equal until Ian MacMillan put the visitors ahead for the second time. Again the lead was short-lived, with Darren Reid equalising for Strathglass on the hour.

Dougie MacIntyre had the opportunity to steal the points when awarded a penalty but he pulled his shot narrowly over the crossbar.

Massie hat-trick at Inveraray

A FRASER Massie hat-trick gave Kilmallie full points in a seven goal thriller at Inveraray.

Without keeper Graeme MacPhersion or defender Douglas Dando, Inveraray took the lead through Garry MacPherson after only nine minutes but John Stewart levelled after 34. Four minutes later Euan McMurdo put Inveraray back on top only for Kilmallie to equalise again this time through Massie. MacPherson netted Inveraray's third two minutes into the second-half but Massie was on hand to snatch the points with two goals in the 53rd and 62nd minutes.

Fort William hit Lochcarron for six

Shinty

FORT William maintained their quest for a Premier title with a convincing 6-1 victory over bottom-of-the-table Lochcarron.

Chris Bamber fired home two goals within the opening 14 minutes but as the game became over physical it was not until the stroke of hal-time that Victor Smith extended Fort's lead.

Within three minutes of the second-half starting, Lochcarron had two strong penalty claims, the first turned down, the second awarded, with Kenny Ross pulling a goal back from the spot.

Again over-robust challenges became the norm with Smith further extending Fort's lead before James Clark smashed an unstoppable shot home for Fort's fifth.

With Lochcarron heads now firmly down, Smith netted his hat-trick with the goal of the game as he turned the defence and fired the ball into the top corner to seal a comfortable win.

This Saturday, Fort William are at the Dell, Kingussie for a MacTavish Cup tie against a Beauly side which has disappointed in recent weeks.

Lochcarron have a must win home league tie against Oban Camanachd.

Chris Bamber fires home Fort William's first goal at An Aird r21for01

Spot The SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £2700

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB **by 12noon on Tuesday.**

You may hand it into **The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban** by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.

The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) ❑ The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.
How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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Send to **'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB**

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Mrs Helen MacDonald, 22 Cara View, Tayinloan, by Tarbert and R McGillivray, Airds Croft, Pennyghael, Isle of Mull