The Oban Times & West Highland Times

OBAN EDITION

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HIGHLANDERS' FIRST CUP SUCCESS

ANNIVERSARY OF TRANSATLANTIC MILESTONE

SWEET SUCCESS FOR YOUNG CHOCOLATE MAKERS

Nightime warning for Oban women

POLICE have warned against women walking home through Oban on their own at night.

The warning follows allegations of a serious indecent assault on Saturday September 16 and an alleged assault and robbery on September 24 against young women.

The latter happened at 2.15am near Oban Service Station on Soroba Road.

Police are appealing for any information, particularly the movements of a man described as five foot, 10inches in height, in his early 20s and wearing a dark hooded top.

Police appeal for any witnesses, particularly taxi drivers, in the area to contact Oban Police on 01531 510500 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dalintart's ducks 'n drains

DRAINAGE problems in the Glencruitten and Dalintart areas of Oban are getting worse, according to Oban Community Council.

Members said it would be 'short sighted' of Argyll and Bute Council if it left the water problems unsolved for much longer.

The council spent more than £160,000 putting drains in each of the gardens in Glencruitten Drive, but the problem was not rectified and there are now ducks swimming in the gardens.

Driver appeal

POLICE want to speak to the driver of an Oban bound silver coloured car which was forced to take evasive action to avoid a head on collision on Sunday.

The driver had to swerve onto the grass verge at the A85 accident blackspot between the Halfway Filling Station and Pennyfuir at around 2pm.

Constable Davy Paterson, Taynuilt, is appealing for the driver of the silver coloured car to contact him on 01866 822721.

Dr Andrew Henderson with his dedicated team at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital.

Oban hospital heart team is UK finalist

A MEDICAL team based at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital is in the running for a top award.

Dr Andrew Henderson and his team have been short-listed for the UK Hospital Doctor Award for the Cardiovascular Team of the Year 2006.

The team from Oban has been selected from cardiovascular units across the UK because of its achievements in developing a high quality service for a scattered rural population, which is patient-centred and uniquely locally accessible.

Delight

Dr Henderson told *The Oban Times* of his delight at the award nomination: 'Provision of cardiac services is very much a team effort and reflects the work and dedication of staff within the hospital at all levels of care.

'We have been particularly pleased at the ability to provide a cardiac ultrasound service to many patients in their own local communities as a result of a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund in 2002, which allowed us to start up and provide a service to patients in Campbeltown, Islay and Mull. Patients can now have access to this important investigation without having to travel to Oban or other centres.

'We are also unique in having developed a locally based charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD), which is dedicated to the improvement of cardiovascular services in Argyll. Through hard work and with tremendous community support we have raised in excess of £80,000 since 2000.'

The Oban team will have to wait until November 23 to see if it has triumphed. Winners will be announced at a prestigious ceremony in London.

❒ Taynuilt's £1.2 million electricity project 'switch on' goes wrong

Blackout hits 10,000

AROUND 10,000 homes and businesses in North Argyll lost electricity on Tuesday when the switching on of a £1.2 million project to make the service more reliable went wrong.

The high voltage network at the Taynuilt relay station, serving as far and wide as Barcaldine, Mull and Kilmelford, has recently undergone improvements and Tuesday morning was the switch over from the old network to a new refurbished network.

However, Scottish Hydro Electric said it wishes to apologise to any customers affected as the changeover didn't go as planned. At around 9am, a power cut knocked out electricity supplies over half of Argyll from Ardfern in the south to Appin in the north.

Power was restored quickly to some properties but many homes and businesses in Oban were waiting until almost 1pm to get power back.

Schools in the area held out for as long as they could but some had to send children home. Drummore Learning Centre's water supply is powered by an electric pump and had no running water or working toilets. Easdale Primary School was closed for just over an hour when the power was cut off. The school said it closed because of poor lighting, cold classrooms and it was unable to provide lunch.

However, all the area's schools re-opened in the afternoon.

Businesses closed

The power cut also affected businesses in the area. One of the largest, Tesco, Oban, felt the cost of the power cut as it closed in the morning with customers waiting to get in.

Kenny MacCallum of Tesco, Oban, said: 'We closed at 9.30am for an hour-and-a-half but our customers were very understanding.

'It would have cost us some revenue but we have generators that kept us going so we didn't lose any stock.'

A Scottish Hydro Electric spokesperson said: 'We would like to pass on our apologies to customers affected.

'The work we were doing is a significant investment programme. We are spending £1.2million upgrading the high voltage network in Taynuilt bringing power to people in Oban, Mull, Barcaldine and Kilmelford.

'The final part of this work was switching over from one part of the network to another and the upgrade has now gone ahead.

'As soon as we realised there was a bit of a hitch we did all we could to bring customers back on as quickly as possible.

'It is a very robust network anyway but this upgrade is bringing an even safer electricity supply to people in these areas.'

Barra calls for another air ambulance meeting

'It's not just one concern we have, it's several.'

CONCERNS over Barra's air ambulance have resurfaced this week, with locals calling for the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to return to the island for a second public meeting.

Worries were first raised in April when the new state-of-the-art helicopter brought SAS members to Barra but was unable to take off because of adverse weather conditions - though the wind was blowing at less than 20 knots, a mere breeze in Barra. 'We are still very concerned and very worried, with the onset of winter, that it will not be able to cope,' said Marybell Galbraith, who also said that the helicopter has no room for an escort.

'Think of children going away. Should they require surgery, who will sign the consent forms? It's not just the one concern we have, there are several.'

These include the helicopter's lack of comfort and its need to refuel en route to Barra.

An SAS spokesman assured *The Oban Times* this week that strong winds in April were not the problem. Visibility was poor, and waiting for better conditions would have meant the pilot breaking strict Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) restrictions regarding his hours. 'Had that been a patient, we would have called the MOD, which has search and rescue helicopters and are not subject to CAA restrictions,' he said.

Hector MacNeil, chairman of Castlebay Community Council, is still concerned. 'Quite often we see the big helicopter from Stornoway, which seems to show that the small one is not suitable.'

'Shrinking' road loses four miles near Appin

IT APPEARS that Fort William and Oban are becoming closer than ever with the distance between the two towns shrinking, according to the Scottish Executive.

In the last few weeks Transport Scotland has been busy between Connel and Ballachulish installing new bilingual road signs giving both English and Gaelic place names.

One sign was replaced at South Creran giving the distance to Oban as 10 miles. All was well until local motorists driving through South Creran the day after the sign was put up realised Oban was becoming closer than usual as the old sign gave the distance to the town as 14 miles.

Peter McCorquodale and Ken Groom of Glencoe Design both use the road regularly and were tickled to see that the drive to Oban was now four miles less.

Peter said: 'We are getting closer to Oban but further away from it at the same time. But it's great the executive is trying to save us fuel!'

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times* that the old sign at South Crearan was wrong in giving the distance to Oban as 14 miles.

Ken Groom shows the 'shinking' mileage.

She said: 'Transerv has picked up an error that was in the previous sign regarding the mileage. This will be rectified in the new sign.'

If you spot any road signs that have 'moved' contact *The Oban Times* - telephone 01631 568000, 01397 703003 or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Inveraray band is Local Legends winner

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band has been named among Britain's favourite lottery-funded projects, fighting off tough competition to win at the National Lottery Awards.

Pipe Major Stuart Liddell travelled to London for the awards ceremony, returning home with the Local Legends trophy, which recognised the outstanding achievements of local people. The trophy was presented by former Olympic triple-jumper Jonathan Edwards.

The winners were announced live on-air during a special National Lottery Day programme, *Everyone's A Winner*, on BBC1. Inveraray's representatives joined 12 other regional and country finalists.

Accepting the National Lottery Local Legend Award on behalf of the Inveraray and District Pipe Band, Stuart Liddell said: 'We are absolutely delighted to receive this National Lottery Award.

'Winning this award is a great way to thank all our members, volunteers, funders and community for their commitment. I'd also like to thank everyone who voted for us including pipers and drummers from all over the world.

'I am very proud to be part of such an amazing band and thanks to Lottery funding we hope that current and future generations continue to benefit and are given the opportunity to learn bagpipes and drums.'

Inveraray and District Pipe Band is the area's first pipe band in 70 years. Stuart Liddell hit on the idea during weekly pipe lessons in local schools. With community support, Stuart's group of enthusiastic children were awarded £17,000 of Lottery funding from the Scottish Arts Council and £5,000 from Awards for All, enabling them to buy instruments.

Former Olympic triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, second right, presents the Local Legends trophy to Inveraray Pipe Band representatives, from left, Thomas Patterson, Douglas Campbell, Stuart Liddell and Jim McMillan.

Tiree gets turbine from Vestas

TIREE's quest for a wind turbine gained new momentum this week, after media reports spurred the manufacturer into action.

Tiree Community Development Trust wants to follow Gigha's example and erect wind turbines on the island.

However last week, Tiree's trust hit a brick wall: turbine manufacturers are being kept so busy with large orders that they refused the Tiree order immediately.

However, Mark Jennison, the trust's development manager, confirmed this week that he has received a call from Vestas, at Campbeltown, which will happily fill the order.

'What we are trying to do is create a source of income on the island,' said Mr Jennison, who wants to see the turbine providing power to be sold to the national grid.

The key step for the trust now will be gaining planning permission to erect the turbine on the east side of the island, on a site which has received approval from 60 per cent of the community.

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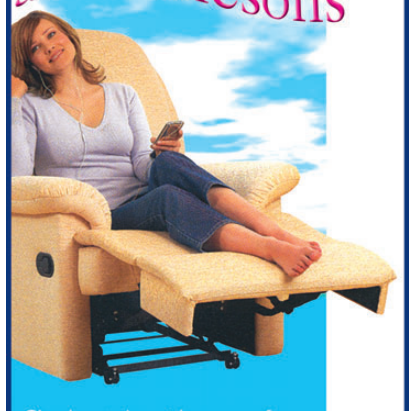

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Last posting dates for Christmas

THE ROYAL Mail has recommended the following last posting dates for Christmas:

Special delivery - Thursday December 21; First class - Tuesday December 19; Second class - Saturday December 16; International airmail - Friday December 8 for Australia and New Zealand, South and Central America, Caribbean, Africa, Middle East, Asia and the Far East, except Japan. Wednesday December 13 for Western Europe. Senders are advised to check www.royalmail.com for details per country.

Council wants your views

ARGYLL and Bute Council wants to hear people's views about their experience of council services.

They would particularly like to hear from people with a disability but also from people from all ethnic backgrounds, men and women, who live and work in the area. Questionnaires can be filled in on the council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Petrie on education

THERE is a need to place far more emphasis on core and extra curricular activities in schools, according to MSP Dave Petrie.

Mr Petrie told Patricia Ferguson, Minister for Education, Culture and Sport, that involvement in voluntary and sport related activity improves a child's educational attainment.

Inspector retires from Strathclyde Police after 32 years' service

AFTER a long and successful career, David Sutherland retired from Strathclyde Police 11 days short of 32 years' service.

The popular inspector was stunned to find himself the centre of attention at Lochgilphead police office last week, where former colleagues from all over Argyll and Bute had gathered to wish him well.

Inspector Sutherland, who is originally from Helensburgh, began his career as a cadet with Argyll County Police in 1974.

Two years later he joined the regular force and as a police constable was stationed in Lochgilphead when it was the county headquarters. He then had stints in Rothesay, Dunoon and Kames.

From 1987 until 1992 David Sutherland was an officer with the Argyll traffic department at Lochgilphead, where he was promoted to Sergeant. The next four years were spent working in Dunoon, before a final return to Lochgilphead beckoned in 2001.

Another promotion followed and for the last five years Inspector Sutherland has enjoyed working in his post as Argyll and Bute Unit Inspector for Transport.

He said: 'I've had a tremendous time throughout my police career and have enjoyed serving the people of Argyll and Bute. I would definitely recommend a career in the police force to youngsters. Although challenging and demanding at times, it is also very worthwhile and I look back on my career with a great deal of fondness.'

PSYBT regional winner Oban Chocolate Company's Helen Miller, with her brother Kenneth, back left, and runner-up Angus MacPhail, Skipinnish Sea Tours. t39psy01

Sweet success for young chocolate makers

OBAN Chocolate Company has tasted sweet success after winning this year's Argyll and Bute regional final of the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Business Awards.

Four finalists

Helen Miller and her brother Kenneth were on hand to pick up the Royal Bank of Scotland sponsored award last Thursday, where an unprecedented four finalists from Argyll and Bute were up for the accolade.

Following the announcement Helen, whose business partner Stewart MacKechnie could not be there, said: 'I am just so pleased because we have a great team that work with me and they all work really hard.

'You can't get complacent when you are running a business and have to keep working hard every single day and to get recognition for that is really great.'

As well as being presented with a certificate by Royal Bank of Scotland Argyll Business Banking Manager Danny MacRae, Oban Chocolate Company was given a cheque for £600 that Helen said would be used to buy a new tempering machine, which makes sure chocolate is at the right temperature to set properly.

Runner-up

Runner-up was Angus MacPhail with his business Skipinnish Sea Tours, based on the island of Tiree, which runs on a seasonal basis alongside his record label Skipinnish records and his ceilidh band Skipinnish.

He received a cheque for £300 from Argyll and Bute Councillor Alistair MacDougall, which Angus said would be going straight into the business account.

He was delighted to have made the runners-up slot.

'I am very surprised really,' he said.

'I certainly didn't expect it as a seasonal business that only operates four months of the year. I am surprised to get placed when competing against year-round businesses.'

The other two businesses in the final were The Ironing Babe run by Christine Jackson from Ardrishaig and Gambit Gallery, Dunoon, run by Victoria Laing and Tiffany Boz.

Councillor Alastair MacDougall, Christine Jackson of The Ironing Babe, PSYBT regional chairman Murdo Macleod and Royal Bank of Scotland Argyll Business Banking Manager Danny MacRae. t39psy02

Special awards

Both businesses received a special award sponsored by MacLeod Construction.

Oban Chocolate Company now goes forward to the Scottish finals in Glasgow in November where six of 18 regional winners will compete for the national title.

Introducing this year's finalists, regional chairman of PSYBT Murdo MacLeod said it was the first time Argyll and Bute had had so many finalists, which was, he said, a testament to the calibre of those who entered the awards.

Those at the awards ceremony quizzed each of the finalists on aspects of their business before the final winners were announced. Angus told the panel, that included Kate Norman, regional manager for Argyll and Bute PSYBT, Rebecca Logan, PSYBT fund-raising manager, Councillor MacDougall, Mr MacRae and Mr MacLeod, that the biggest hurdle he had had to overcome had been the increase in fuel prices, which had nearly doubled since he started his own boss. If they had an idea they could just try it and if it didn't work, drop it and move on.

Christine told the audience that she had been very nervous about going it alone but was really glad that she had and would encourage anyone with an idea for starting a business to have the courage to go and do it. One of the difficult things about setting up a business in Argyll was 'getting people to try something new', according to Helen, whose business includes making wedding cakes, handmade chocolates to sell in the shop and contracts for hotels, shops and cruise ships. Tiffany agreed, saying in their business, where they do art classes for adults and children, sell their own hand-painted glass wear, paintings and handmade wedding invitations and cards, that people seemed to be scared of colour initially. All agreed that there was a strong market for each of their businesses, so they could see them growing and dveloping in the future.

Christine said that initially her business, collecting and doing people's ironing, was based on trust but she said she took them out to her van, showed them the finished items of clothing and now her phone never stopped ringing.

'I did operate from home,' she said, 'but because of the heat I decided to get dedicated premises built for work alone.'

She said it was a big step but one worth taking. The only down side, she said, was that her own pile of ironing was now four-foot tall!

Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust Business Awards have been sponsored by the Royal Bank of Scotland for the last 12 years. PSYBT has helped 8,941 young people between 18-30 years start their own businesses, 80 per cent of which have traded beyond their first year, by giving them support, loans and grants as well as working with the enterprise network throughout Scotland.

> One of the difficult things about setting up a business in Argyll was 'getting people to try something new'

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Secrets of Skye and Lochalsh as you walk

THE SECRETS of the landscape were unveiled last Monday throughout Skye and Lochalsh as visitors learned about the area as they walked.

Nine panels along a trail have information about everything from the geography of the area to local wildlife.

The panels are located at Kilt Rock, Lealt Gorge, Old Man of Storr, Scorrybreac, Coral Beach, Dun Beag near Struan, Calum Robertson Memorial, Kylerhea narrows and the Plock of Kyle.

Descriptions include how the geology of the area came about with the collision of ancient continents, the history of Skye marble, where to find dinosaur footprints and a coral beach on Skye and the story behind Diatomite from Lealt, once used in the manufacture of dynamite and exported to South Africa among other places.

Councillor Fulton, chairman of Skye and Lochalsh Area Planning, Development, Europe and Tourism Committee, said: 'The geology of Skye and Lochalsh is one of the things that makes this area unique with its magnificent landscapes created out of the bare rocks.

'This trail will not only be a great facility for many tourists to our area but I am sure it will inform the locals too of our geological history.'

The opening of the Secrets of the Landscape trail is a great way to celebrate Scottish Geology Month,' said John Philips, Skye-Lochalsh, Ross and Cromarty Senior Ranger, 'and it will provide a lasting resource for the area.'

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ON SALE NOW
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NEW HOMES SPECIAL

Arran coastguard Bill Currie with rescued sheepdog Cairn.

Cliff ledge rescue for Arran sheepdog

AN ARRAN sheepdog had a lucky escape after the local coastguard helped to pluck him from a 150-foot cliff ledge.

Missing 11-year-old collie Cairn was spotted by his owner Willie Robertson on a ledge near the famous Kings Caves, near the village of Blackwaterfoot.

Deputy Coastguard leader Bill Currie performed a hazardous cliff descent to free the dog and bring him to safety. 'My plan was to get to the dog, put him in one of our equipment bags and get him pulled to safety. But he was too big so I ended up having to descend to the shore with him in a make-shift stretcher.'

A delighted Cairn kept licking Bill's face and was rewarded as Bill fed him with biscuits. 'It was a text-book case and a good rescue for us,' said Bill. 'The training just clicked into place.'

The Kings Caves are said to be the place were Robert the Bruce had his legendary meeting with a spider which changed the course of Scottish history.

Strathclyde Police looking for someone special

IF YOU think you're special, now is the time to prove it as Strathclyde Police is on a drive to recruit 100 Special Constables.

By January 2007 you could be pounding the beat alongside regular police officers.

Community

With powers of arrest and comprehensive training, your work will go towards reducing crime in your area. All that's required is enthusiasm, dedication and an interest in your local community.

Special Constables are volunteers who assist regular police officers on the beat and in the community. The role is a vital part of police work and Special Constables have now become an integral part of the force.

Once your training is complete, you will have the same powers as regular police officers and be called upon to assist in all aspects of police work.

Most of special constables regularly work a minimum of four hours per week, which can be arranged to suit your lifestyle.

Strathclyde Police is holding a Special Constables Open Day on Sunday October 1 from 11am - 4pm at the Force Training and Recruitment Centre in East Kilbride.

Anyone interested is invited to attend where there'll be an opportunity to speak to serving Special Constables. Whatever your background or age, we need your commitment and enthusiasm. You must be interested in police work, physically fit and at least 18 years of age.

You will require to be a member of an EEA State or have indefinite leave to remain in the UK, and you must have three years continuous residency within the country.

There'll be presentations throughout the day and opportunities to talk to special constables about what the role is really like.

For further information about the open day, contact the Recruitment Team on 01355 566352.

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

WITH arrangements neatly sewn-up by an efficient team of organisers, the success of the inaugural meeting of the new Oban Needlework Group, launched following the demise of the former Embroidery Club, was guaranteed.

Held in the Guide Hall, Soroba Road, Oban, on Tuesday September 12, the first meeting of the group augurs well for the future of this organisation.

A strong turnout included 10 visitors to the area and at the end of the meeting 24 of those attending had signed up for full membership.

Guest speaker Margaret Whitton, Kilmore, took as her theme 'Margaret's World of Embroidery' as she guided her listeners through from her initial interest in the skill to the present day.

On show, and much admired, was a display of work from past and new members.

The next meeting will take place in the Lorn Resource Centre on Tuesday October 10 at which the president, Margaret Duff, will give a presentation on 'Fabric Manipulation'.

Also playing a key role in guiding the club is secretary Valerie Marshall, Oban.

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MANNED by the Oban supporters group of the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, sales tables at last month's Dalmally Show raised £118 for the organisation's funds.

On duty were group secretary Margaret Parfitt, Oban, and Rita Gow, Taynuilt, a long-standing member.

So far this summer, the branch has mounted stands at the Highland Games at Taynuilt and Kilmore, the Lorn Show and the Argyllshire Gathering, taking in well over £500.

Last week was the branch's annual flag week, culminating in a street collection on the Saturday, which drew a generous response.

The organisation, as usual, plans to have a presence at Argyll Animal Aid's Christmas Fair in the Corran Halls on November 4 as well as manning a table at the Christmas Charities Sale on November 11 in the hall of St John's Cathedral, Oban.

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THE ANNUAL general meeting of Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club was held in McTavish's Kitchens on September 17.

Chairman Michael Garvin reported on another highly successful programme over the past session which had seen large attendances at the monthly club nights enjoying first class entertainment by a range of local and guest artists.

The society is now looking forward to an equally successful new season which begins next month.

The organisation has presented donations to Netherlorn Piping Society, the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival and Oban FM's Cash for Kids.

Office bearers appointed at the meeting were: chairman - Michael Garvin; vice chairman - John Simpson; treasurer - Ann MacDonald and secretary - Roddie MacLeod. They will be backed by committee members Archie Cameron, Charles Drummond, Alex MacKenzie, Anne MacFadyen and Morag Robertson.

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AT ITS first meeting, held in St John's Cathedral Hall on September 12, the audience at the newly-formed Lorn Garden Club listened to a talk on bulbs.

The committee of the club - formerly Lorn Rock Garden Club - realised that a much broader approach to the subject of gardening was required if the club was to flourish and the new programme reflects this as it incorporates, something for everyone, whether they be new or experienced gardeners.

The subject at the next meeting, which will take place in the same venue on Tuesday October 3 at 7.30pm will be 'Modern Day Plant Hunters'.

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LORN Archaeological and Historical Society completed its summer programme with a tour of St Conan's Kirk, Lochaweside, led by Robert Walker, on September 2.

The society was pleased with the interest shown in its stand at the Argyllshire Gathering in August. This was organised by Martin Petrie and Anne Houston.

The new season of winter lectures has been planned. These begin on Friday October 27, a meeting which will present an ideal opportunity for those wishing to join the organisation. Guest lecturer will be Martin Hadlington, who will speak on the conservation of local historical buildings.

Meetings take place in the Church Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban, at 7.30pm and members are always welcome.

Men from the Oban exchange pull in the second cable in March 1961.

Transatlantic milestone celebrated this week

A MILESTONE in transatlantic telecommunications in which Oban played a pivotal role has been celebrated this week.

Fifty years ago on September 25 the Post Office's purpose-built vessel *Monarch* began laying the first sub-sea transatlantic telephone cable at Gallanach Bay stretching 2,240 miles under the Atlantic ocean to Clarenville, Newfoundland, and then to Nova Scotia and the United States of America.

From Gallanach Bay it came ashore at Oban and continued on to Glasgow and then to London. The connection was split at Connel and another line went to Inverness, across to Iceland and onto Russia. This link provided crucial communication between America and Russia during the Cold War.

Eventually circuits were added to connect other western European countries.

Oban's Archie McGill worked as a field engineer on the cables for 35 years.

He said: 'During the years of the Cold War we called it the Khruschev/Kennedy (KK) Line.

Official Secrets Act

'We had to sign the Official Secrets Act because when we were working on the line you could clip into it to check is was working. You would sometimes hear the start of a conversation you weren't supposed to hear so we just disconnected ourselves.'

Archie said the exchange was built into a tunnel in a cliff at Gallanach Point to protect it from bombs and the entrance doors were steel and about a foot thick. Inside, the tunnel was split into two floors; the top floor was the exchange while below was an engine room to provide power to the exchange in case the national grid lost power.

The project, known as TAT1, revolutionised telecommunications between North America and Britain and trebled the number of telephone calls between them. Previously, only about 2,000 calls a year were made because they were expensive - about £15 for three minutes - and were made via unreliable radio links.

By the end of its first year TAT1 had carried 220,000 calls from Britain to the US and a further 75,000 were made to Canada, raising a total of £2m in revenue shared among the three countries.

Demand

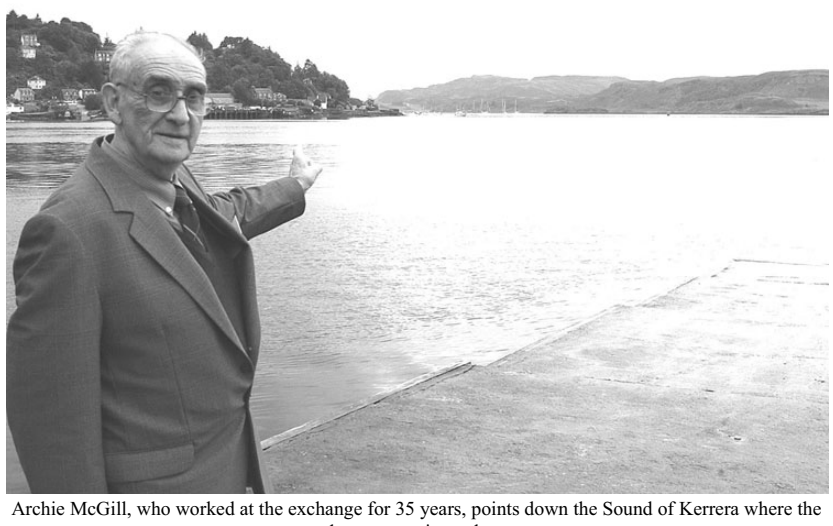
Such was the demand, another cable was added in 1961 and Archie McGill was there to help pull it in.

He said: 'They wanted the second cable because the lines were jamming up and they did it in 1961. The HMTS Monarch laid that one as well. The cable was very heavy; there were tonnes of it. We had a winch that could take up to eight tonnes but we used manpower as well. It was quite an achievement and as I say to my grandchildren, I helped to make history.'

David Hay, BT's head of heritage and corporate memory, said TAT1 was a major breakthrough in telecommunications and heralded the age of reliable and cost-effective mass communications across the Atlantic Ocean.

'Using technologies developed during and after the Second World War, including new techniques for placing cable and booster stations on the sea bed two miles down, it cost £12.5 million and took three years to complete,' he added.

'By any standards this was a historically significant engineering achievement.' TAT1 was a joint initiative of the Post Office Engineering Department, the American Telegraph and Telephone Company, Bell Telephone Laboratories and the Canadian Overseas Telecommunications Corporation.



Archie McGill, who worked at the exchange for 35 years, points down the Sound of Kerrera where the exchange was situated. t39cbl01

Below: Bringing the cable ashore at Clarenville, Newfoundland, in Canada.

Ledaig woman appears in court on methadone charge

AN OBAN woman caught in possession of the Class A drug methadone was given a chance to prove that she can remain drug-free when she appeared at Oban Sheriff Court earlier this week.

Ann Gillespie, aged 24, of Carraig Mhor, Ledaig, had the drug in her possession on January 27 this year at Kerrera Lodge, Shore Street, Oban.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Sheriff Douglas Small agreed to place Gillespie on nine months' probation after hearing from defence agent David MacNeill that his client had been drug free for six months.

Sheriff Small said: 'I will defer sentence so that I can monitor you and ensure that you don't relapse.

'I hope that you manage to steer clear of trouble,' the Sheriff added.

RNLI rescues rise

SCOTTISH Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) crews experienced one of their busiest summers on record with the equivalent of one launch every five hours.

Barra lifeboat's rescues this summer more than doubled to seven, and above average rescues were also recorded at Oban (18), Mallaig (16), Portree (10), Kyle of Lochalsh (9) and Lochinver (9).

On Saturday, Oban RNLI Lifeboat took a diver with suspected 'bends' from the dive boat *Peregrine* to the re-compression centre at Dunstaffnage.

Within two hours of returning, Oban lifeboat was called out again, this time to a diver with suspetecd 'bends' at Lochaline.

With the Dunstaffnage chamber occupied, an ambulance transferred the diver from the lifeboat to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban.

Clarsach ceilidh

CLARSACH group Na h-uruisgean - The Pink Ladies - are holding a fundraising ceilidh to get them to the Royal National Mod in Dunoon next month.

The ceilidh, in the Regent Hotel, tomorrow (Friday) will start at 7.30pm and all money raised will go towards the girls' transport costs.

Police files

Over-revving

A NUMBER of complaints have been made about 'boy racers' in the Lora View area of North Connel with noisy exhausts.

Two cars have been reported to police for over-revving their engines. There will be on-going police action in and around Oban as such disturbances are viewed as anti-social behaviour. The vehicles will be rigorously examined and any defects found will result in the vehicles being put off the road. The driver may also be subject to court proceedings.

Aircraft crash

A SECOND light aircraft has crashed at Glen Forsa airfield, Mull, in as many weeks.

The most recent was at 4pm on Saturday. No-one was injured.

The undercarriage of the plane collapsed on landing and The Air Accident Investigation Branch is continuing enquiries.

Breach of peace

AS A result of police action five people were arrested for allegedly brawling, shouting and swearing in Breadalbane Street, Oban, at 2.22am on Sunday.

Oban assault woman given probation

AN OBAN woman who assaulted two people for no reason appeared for sentencing at court last week.

Margaret Gemmell, aged 26, of Miller Road, admitted the assaults, which took place in Tesco's car park on May 5 this year.

Gemmell first assaulted a man who was walking with friends. She approached him and began punching him on the head.

She then turned her attention to a group of youngsters who had just left a youth club and formed the view they were laughing at her.

Gemmell punched a 16-year-old girl on the head and body. The youngsters, who included a 12 and 14-year-old, were alarmed and distressed by Gemmell's conduct.

Defence agent Edward Thornton told the court: 'Miss Gemmell was not aware of what she had done until a month after the incidents, and she is extremely remorseful and has expressed sympathy for her victims. She has had a very difficult life, to say the least, and has had mental health and alcohol problems. She is a woman who needs assistance.'

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced Gemmell to one year's probation, 80 hours' community service and ordered the mum-of-two to pay each of her victims £100 compensation.

Sheriff Small added: 'These assaults were most unpleasant.

'They didn't know you and were attacked by you. I cannot ignore the nature of these assaults.

'After hearing the background, however, I am persuaded that you would benefit from a period of probation.'

Man arrested after alleged assault

A 54-YEAR-OLD Oban man appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court earlier this week.

Francis Yeoman of Port Lee, Gallanach Road, had been arrested last Friday, September 22, for allegedly assaulting Wajciek Michalczyk by seizing him by the neck and threatening to kill him. Yeoman was also charged with making threatening gestures to another man, being in possession of cannabis and breach of the peace.

Yeoman pled not guilty to the charges against him. He was released on bail and will appear in court for trial on November 21.

Ailsa Uganda bound

AN OBAN High School pupil is counting on the kindness of locals to help her fund a trip to Uganda, where she will teach African schoolchildren.

Ailsa MacLachlan, aged 17, from Luing will travel next August on behalf of the educational charity,Project Trust. Ailsa's placement will last 12 months, but to get there she needs the support of the local community to help her raise £4,000 to fund the trip.

During her year in Uganda, Ailsa will teach maths and English, as well as organising art and sports activities. Part of the project involves helping in orphanages and nurseries.

On her return home, Ailsa aims to study primary education at university and is hoping skills she gains in her 12-month placement will be beneficial.

Ailsa, pictured below, has a challenging task ahead of her in raising the money and is hoping that staging events on the island of Luing will help her achieve her aim.

Sponsored events such as the Three Peaks Challenge, coffee mornings, soup lunches and a ceilidh are just some of the events planned. The fundraising is already underway, kicking off with a disco for the youngsters last weekend. Ailsa also ran a tea and coffee stall at the local fire brigade's annual car wash to raise money.

On Luing, kind-hearted locals also helped raise money in 2000 to send Ailsa's cousin Jamie to Hong Kong with Project Trust. Ailsa said: 'I am looking forward to experiencing a way of life that is different from my own. It is such an amazing opportunity for me and I can't wait to get involved in the community there.'

Project Trust was founded 39 years ago, and is based on the island of Coll.

Two of Gaelic's top names stand down at Isle of Lismore AGM

THE ISLE of Lismore hosted this year's Comunn na Gaidhlig (CnaG) annual general meeting (AGM) where two of the organisation's top names officially announced they were leaving the committee.

Chief executive Donald Martin and chairwoman Mairi Bremner are leaving their posts after four and eight years respectively, although Mr Martin was director of community development for the previous six years.

Forefront

Both have been at the forefront of the committee during years of considerable strides in the development and protection of Gaelic including the students' placement scheme, developing Gaelic medium units and the expansion of Gaelic television and radio.

CnaG committee members and employees met in Lismore's community hall last Thursday in front of a number of Gaelic enthusiasts from the island and spoke of the work the committee had done over the past year. There were updates on all aspects of the committee by Maggie Wentworth, Sheena MacLean, Fay MacDiarmid and Donald Morris.

National plan

There was also a presentation on the National Gaelic Language Plan by Bord na Gaidhlig's Language planning manager Peadar Morgan as part of the plan's consultation period.

The AGM was conducted in Gaelic but a translator was provided for the handful of non-Gaelic speakers.

Ms Bremner praised the efforts of Lismore for protecting the future of the language by building the new heritage museum.

The island has a Gaelic speaking population of around 40 in an island population of 180.

She said: 'If Gaelic is to survive, it has to be encouraged in places like Lismore.'

In response Donald Black, chairman of Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mor, thanked the committee for coming to speak to the islanders.

In his opening announcement Mr Martin told the audience the committee had hoped to hold the AGM in the heritage museum but as it was not ready yet, it gave him a good excuse to come back. Speaking about leaving the committee, Mr Martin told *The Oban Times*: 'I will be 60 in the spring and I thought it was time to hand over to someone else.

'It is an exciting time in Gaelic with the national plan and the time ahead will be beneficial and exciting for the future of the language and culture.'

Ms Bremner said: 'The reason I was on the board for so long was because I got caught up in the drive for Bord na Gaidhlig and the Gaelic Act.

'I was delighted to go to Lismore and the people have always been very supportive of the Gaelic language and Donald Black, in particular.

Ms Bremner said a new chief executive should be in place in January.

Jail sentence for traditional musician guilty of under age sex

A TOP traditional musician has been given a 67-day jail sentence after admitting having sex with a 15-year-old fan on several occasions.

But the sentence is to be appealed in the High Court in Edinburgh by the musician's retired deputy head teacher wife as being too severe.

Meanwhile Callum Iain MacCorquodale, aged 56, remains in Porterfield Prison in Inverness until a date is set for the appeal.

Portree Sheriff Court heard that the affair between MacCorquodale and the Skye teenager, which started in the months leading up to her 16th birthday, was continuing.

MacCordquodale, who has played for Runrig and is well known in the traditional music scene, has three children, all older than the teenager.

His wife, Anne, recently retired as deputy head teacher of Lionacleit Community School on Uist, where the couple live at Bayhead.

MacCorquodale, who pled guilty, might have received a stiffer sentence but Sheriff Alasdair MacFadyen was presented with several letters appealing for clemency and speaking well of the musician's character as a charity fund raiser and a popular and hard working member of the community.

Among the references were two from retired police officers, a church minister, the girl herself, taking the blame for the affair, and from the accused's wife. The court heard the under-age affair was only rumbled when police heard gossip in Portree that the girl was showing friends a mobile phone photograph of her with the older man.

Concealed

Defence agent Duncan Burd claimed the girl had concealed her true age to his client, saying she was 16 going on 17 years.

He said: 'The relationship continues notwithstanding the age gap being abnormal.

'Bookings for his music workshop have dropped away a bit since word of this case got out.

'This is a broken man you see before you,' he added.

It had been the girl who had made the running, he said. There was no question of him 'grooming' the girl for sex.

Passing sentence, reduced from 90 days to 67 days because he pled guilty at the earliest opportunity, Sheriff MacFadyen said; 'You are clearly a talented and hard working man, well thought of by the people who have written letters to the court.

'One might have expected a 56-year-old to proceed with caution. You were warned at an early stage in the affair that the vulnerable girl was only 15. In her letter the girl seeks to take responsibility. This is quite inappropriate in my view. You are responsible for your actions.'

Fort drug dealer killed client

THE SISTER of a Fort William man who was killed by a fatal overdose of heroin has said that her brother might be alive today if an ambulance had been called in time.

Linnie Quail, aged 24, was speaking after mother-of-five Beverley Mobsby was found guilty of culpable homicide by a jury at the High Court in Edinburgh on Monday.

Darin Quail, aged 33, died of a heroin overdose on August 20 last year at Mobsby's home at 105 Camanachd Crescent, Fort William.

The high court heard that just after 3pm Mobsby, 39, made a 999 call for help on her mobile phone but by the time a local doctor arrived, Mr Quail had been dead for some hours.

Ms Quail said following the trial: 'The way he was treated was disgusting. The only justice I have got out of this is that nobody can hurt him any more. And that is one drug dealer off the streets of Fort William.'

The trial heard that Mr Quail and another man had gone to Mobsby's home on August 20.

A post mortem confirmed that heroin had killed Mr Quail but no sign of regular drug use was found.

Supplied

During a question and answer session with detectives, Mobsby admitted she had supplied the heroin that Mr Quail had injected. DNA tests also linked her to the fatal syringe.

In court Mobsby tried to go back on her confession, claiming that she remembered nothing of the incident.

In the police station her mind was a blank, she claimed, and she would have said anything to get out.

By a majority verdict the jury found her guilty of culpable homicide. They also found her guilty, unanimously, of being concerned in the supply of heroin.

Police seized packets of the drug with a street value of £150 in the flat in Camanachd Crescent.

They also found a 'tick list' of customers in a diary and scales for weighing heroin.

Burnt tin foil and syringes were in a wheelie bin outside.

After the jury's verdict Mobsby, whose record includes a minor conviction for drug possession, was remanded in custody.

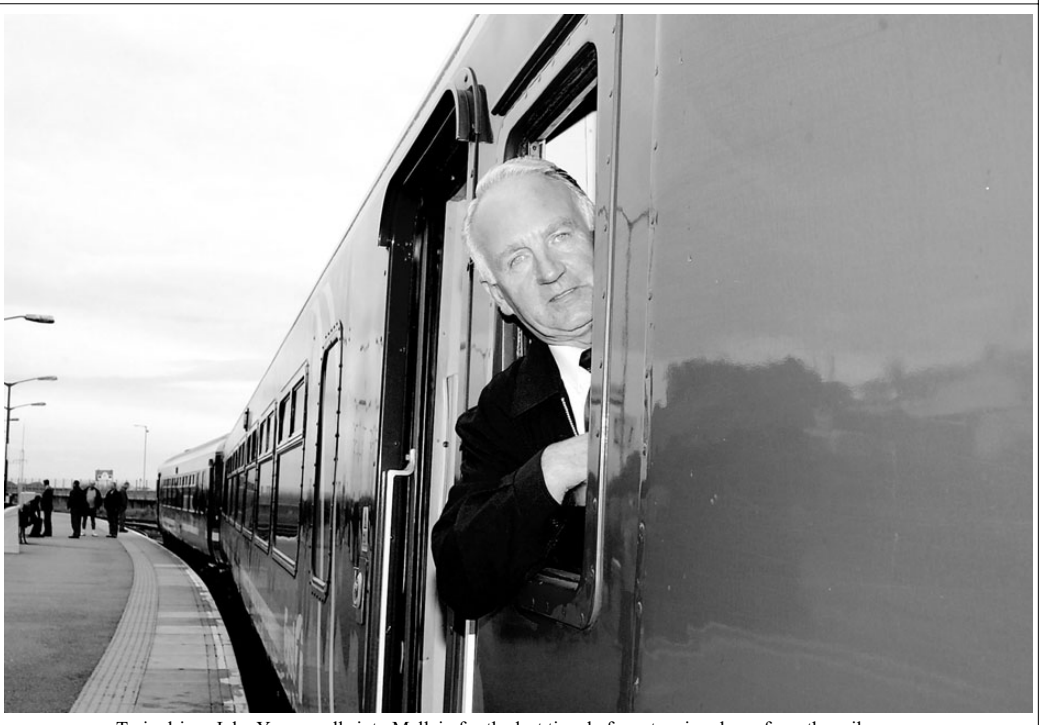
She will be sentenced next month when background reports have been prepared.

Speaking of Mobsby Ms Quail said: 'Obviously I hate her. She took my brother's life. All she had to do was phone an ambulance and he would still be alive and we would not be here today.'

Ms Quail said her brother, a mechanic, had taken to drinking after their mother died but had been receiving help and was turning his life around. He did not use drugs, she said.

'He would never hurt anybody. The only person he hurt was himself. He was his own worst enemy,' she added.

Ms Quail, a home carer, thanked the police who investigated the case for their 'endless support' and her employer and friends for the way they had helped her.



Train driver John Young pulls into Mallaig for the last time before stepping down from the rails. f39trn01

Mallaig train driver steams into retirement

AFTER 49 years, six months and 22 days of working on the railways a Mallaig train driver retired this week on his birthday.

Train driver John Young left Glasgow Queen Street at 8.20am on Tuesday morning for his journey back to Mallaig where he was greeted by family, friends, colleagues and passengers on his very last journey as he left the train as a driver.

Not only was John retiring but he was celebrating his 65th birthday. He and his wife, Geraldine, were presented with gifts as a battery of cameras captured John stepping off the train.

John started work on March 4 1957 as an engine cleaner in the days of steam and worked his way to become a driver.

He said the major change in his job was the type of trains now using the railway lines. He said: 'I have mixed feelings about retiring but I will miss the camaraderie at work. I'm planning on doing a bit more gardening.'

Also on hand to wish John well was West Highland Line driver, John Hynd, 47, from Fort William, who got word of yet another honour bestowed upon him this week.

He was awarded Outstanding Volunteer Contribution at the Community Rail Awards in Darlington, which follows his runners-up award for Outstanding Personal Contribution at the National Rail Awards.

He said: 'It is a very humbling to receive this recognition as I believe I am only doing my job.'

Fort cinema will close on Saturday

THE STUDIO Cinema in Fort William will close on Saturday after the final showing of the day.

Highland Discovery Centre Ltd confirmed the closure as *The Oban Times* went to press, saying that with the possibility of the Highland Theatre, which it owns, in Oban being sold, it was not economically viable to continue to lease the cinema in Fort William. Oban will, however, stay open.

Director David Webster said that it was 'with regret' that they were pulling out of Fort William after just two years and he hoped that someone in Fort William would continue running it as a cinema.

'Both cinemas have been in the marekt for six months and there has been a reasonable amount of interest in Oban, because it is a freehold, but there has been no interest in taking Fort William over as a cinema or anything else,' he said.

Stewart Maclean, chairman of Tourism Developments (Lochaber) Ltd that owns the Fort building, said they were disappointed about the closure and the unfortunate short notice.

'Our directors, all of whom have been involved in the tourism industry, fully understand the importance of the cinemas to the community and to tourism and are commited to finding a new operator,' he said.

Roy Bridge woman dies in fall

A WOMAN from Roy Bridge died on Saturday after slipping and falling while descending Sgurr na Creige, Glensheil.

Fifty-two-year-old Ruth Holgate, a retired teacher, was climbing with her husband at around 5.30pm when she slipped and fell a considerable distance.

Her husband attempted to revive her along with crew members of the HM Coastguard helicopter which had flown to their aid from Stornoway.

She was taken to MacKinnon Memorial Hospital, Broadford, but was pronounced dead on arrival.

A report is to be sent to the procurator fiscal at Dingwall.

Also at Glenshiel, police received a report that a 22-year-old woman had injured her leg at Loch na Bhealaich, around 11.35am on Sunday and a search was carried out by Kyle police and Kintail Mountain Rescue Team, helped by an RAF search and rescue helicopter. She was taken to Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.

A man who fell while walking on the Aonach Eagach Ridge in Glencoe on Saturday had to be rescued by helicopter Rescue 177 from HMS Gannet and eight members of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team.

The man, who had been walking alone, had fallen around 200 metres on the north side of the ridge and was found conscious but with serious injuries.

He was taken by helicopter to Belford Hospital in Fort William. His details have not been released.

Three men became cragfast on Tower Ridge, Ben Nevis, around 7.30pm on Sunday after becoming disorientated and were unable to continue in the dark.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team, helped by helicopter Rescue 137 from RAF Lossiemouth, found the climbers, who were winched on board the helicopter.

A Northern Constabulary spokesman said the climbers, although well equipped, were inexperienced for the route that they had chosen and had failed to allow enough time to complete it.

Deal signed on Lochaber biomass power station

AN AGREEMENT has been signed by energy specialist Tanaris Ltd with Alcan Aluminium to develop a £30 million biomass combined heat and power station on land in the Fort William area.

The deal could see 200 jobs created during the construction stage on former industrial land owned by Alcan and once completed the power station would have 30 permanent staff and would produce enough electricity to power the equivalent of 40,000 homes. Tanaris expects the development to boost the local economy by several million pounds year.

Planning permission has yet to be applied for but Tanaris hopes that construction could begin in early 2007.

Left luggage back on the agenda

OBAN's Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal's lack of left luggage facilities was back on the agenda at a meeting of the Caledonian MacBrayne Shipping Services Advisory Committee in Inverness on Friday.

Councillors Donald Manford and Angus MacDonald, of Barra and South Uist respectively, spoke up for their constituents who are often stuck in Oban for hours awaiting travelling connections.

Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) argues that the rule prohibiting left luggage facilities comes from a government TRANSEC agency. It is due to meet with TRANSEC in the near future.

'We do insist that whatever the security requirements are needed the finance must be found to meet it,' said Mr Manford, who also argued that travellers bound by their luggage could otherwise be spending money in the town, boosting Oban's economy.

'We have asked CalMac to calculate the cost and make it known,' Mr Manford added. 'It would seem reasonable that the development agencies should assist in meeting these costs.'

Taste of Mull and Iona Food Festival sees visitors spoilt for choice as event proves another gastronomic success

THE TASTE of Mull and Iona Food Festival's sixth year was wild in more ways than one: the weather was less than co-operative, but the sheer plethora of events may have been what caused most of the dizziness.

The food festival, which ran this year from September 17-23, has been enthusiastically supported on the island since the first event in 2001. As expected, it has grown year on year.

Event organiser Susie Chalupa of Mull and Iona Community Trust has been overwhelmed by the community's support. 'I'm quite fortunate that people come to me with events,' said Susie. 'People want to join in.'

This year, the bandwagon was full and visitors were spoiled with options.

Farm tours were also well attended, with demand outstripping supply in many cases, and nearly every type of food was on offer.

Jeff and Chris Reade's cheese tour was one of the most popular, and the Inverlussa Mussel Farm played host to more than 140 visitors and raised £1,290 for Mull's Royal National Lifeboat Institution branches. Rosie Burgess's Crofters' Kitchen provided lunch from soups and salads made from ingredients produced on the croft, which is, in the end, the point of the festival.

'All of the goods for sale at the markets were made on the island, most of them from locally sourced ingredients,' said Susie.

The Whitehouse Restaurant in Lochaline, which uses Mull produce, became the first mainland eatery invited to Mull and all of the usual suspects were involved as well. The Isle of Mull Hotel provided a carvery lunch and Reef in Bunessan welcomed guests with champagne and oysters. Duart Castle focussed on soups and home baking and the Sagar Balti House in Tobermory had a very busy buffet.

Javier's in Tobermory used local produce, but spiced it up a bit with entertainment from the Loretto School Pipes and Drums, which travelled to Mull from the Borders.

For those who wanted to eat and spot porpoises at the same time, there were sunset cruises with shortbread and Tobermory Malt; afternoon sailings with more shortbread and Drumgray Liqueur and an afternoon tea sail along the north coast which offered up home baking.

There was even a trip to the Isle of Carna, with the reward of a BBQ in the byre on arrival.

The organisers thank all the sponsors, restaurants, hotels, halls, guides, rangers, tour operators and attractions for their support.

Jo Currie of Highland Cottage, Tobermory, demonstrated her cooking at the Tobermory Producers Market on Wednesday.

Fort store wars hot up

FOOD retailers Aldi have lodged a planning application to build a new store on land north east of Nevis Square, North Road, in Fort William.

Plans lodged this week with Lochaber Area planning of Highland Council indicate that the German-owned food chain wants to build one of its food stores, with car parking, services and access on a site currently owned by BT, near to Nevis Garden Centre.

Another German supermarket chain, Lidl, is in the process of trying to gain an agreement to lease the ground of the former Motorway Cars site at An Aird but has come up against an agreement between the former Lochaber District Council and Morrisons precluding direct competition from a neighbouring business. Aldi is in the proces of building a new store in Oban.

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Clydesdales migrate from Skye

A GROUP of Clydesdale and Shire horses from the Isle of Skye are undertaking a marathon trek from the West Highlands to Cumbria lasting six weeks.

Annie Rose, her two children and Tim Ancrum of West Highland Horses have decided to move, lock, stock and horses to Chappels Farm in Cumbria where they will continue to run their business.

But rather than boxing all their horses up and transporting them by truck to Broughton-on-Furness, the pair decided to ride eight-12 of them, along with some of their paying clients, from Skye to Cumbria in a venture Christened The Great Clydesdale Migration and raise funds for Macmillan Cancer Care and horse charities on the way.

The migration started last Thursday taking the horses along old drove roads and forestry tracks in short stages, passing from Spean Bridge to Fort William tomorrow (Friday), covering 450 miles in six weeks.

Annie Rose and Tim Ancrum with Max, one of their Clydesdale horses.

They believe that a journey like this has not been carried out in the last 80 years and it will be the longest commercial trail ride the UK has seen.

Annie told *The Oban Times*: 'It is not until you get into doing something like this that you realize what a gargantuan task it is.' The idea came about as a casual comment during a conversation with an old farmer who was inquiring about the move and how they were going to transport the horses.

Annie said: 'I said it was going to cost a fortune and that we would might as well ride them down. I looked at Tim and he looked at me and said, 'Why not?'.'

The team set off from Sleat in Skye last Thursday heading towards Fort William and will travel via parts of the West Highland Way, through the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park towards Glasgow and then east towards Edinburgh and south to the Southern Uplands Way, over to the Cheviots, across to Carlisle and on into the Lake District by October 31.

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Ardfern man given second driving ban

DRINKING and driving for the second time in a decade has resulted in a 35-year-old Ardfern man losing his licence for three years.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week how Robin Nolan, of 5 Carbh House, Ardfern, by Lochgilphead, was three-and-a-half times the legal limit when stopped by police on the B8002, close to its junction with the A816.

Nolan, who was also banned for drink driving in 1998, was initially stopped by police because of a faulty headlight on his car just after midnight on July 2 this year.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said his client had 'foolishly decided to drive home' after he was told that someone was lurking near his home.

Sheriff Douglas Small also fined Nolan £500 and said: 'A word of warning - if anyone is convicted of drink driving three times, the courts would normally consider sending them to prison.'

Golfers escape 'copter crash

TWO GOLFERS heading to Machrihanish had a lucky escape when their helicopter crashed en route to Kintyre.

The aircraft crashed shortly after take off but pilot Raymond Hamilton and passenger Keith Nisbet managed to escape the wreckage.

The helicopter's rotor blades snapped off when it hit trees near Strathaven Golf Club.

Oban High School captains

Oban High School has chosen its school captains and vice captains for the year. Boys captain is Paul Addison from Oban and girls captain is Ruth Cameron, Taynuilt. Also pictured are vice captains, from left, Chris Hutchens, Benderloch; Leah Brady, Dunbeg; Mairi McTighe, Taynuilt, and Andrew Barrington, Benderloch. An intense selection process began with candidates filling in an application form detailing the qualities they would bring to the role of school captain. Six boys and six girls were then selected to give an interview and a presentation with the final six chosen the same day. t39cap01

EC call for £20 million Objective One cash clawback

THE HIGHLANDS and islands region has been dealt a massive blow with plans by the European Commission (EC) to claw back £20 million in aid.

But the area's funding bodies, councils and politicians are gearing up for battle to prevent such a huge sum being sent back.

They support First Minister Jack McConnell's request for backing at UK government level for their case not to repay the European Regional Development Fund Objective One money, spent on infrastructure and improving the economy.

The EC has announced that it is launching a 'formal financial correction' relating to 1994-1999 funding for the Highlands and islands.

This follows the audit of programmes carried out between 1994-1999 by the commission.

Draft audited accounts, avialable on the Scottish Executive's website, dated 2004, highlight a number of areas that were not compliant with EC procedures regarding the use of its funding.

Among the projects highlighted are Broadford sewerage treatment works, Kyle of Lochalsh water treatment, Cairngorm Funicular Park, Scalpay bridge, Eriskay causeway and Barra slipways and the Small isles and Inverie ferry service.

Major funding body Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) says it is entirely satisfied with the way the money has been invested and noted that EC auditors were taking issue with a significantly reduced agenda of projects for the Highlands and islands than was originally the case.

A spokesman for HIE said that it, local authorities and other bodies which applied for the funding were entirely satisfied that its investment had, in every case, met its purpose in providing significant improvement to the infrastructure, economy and quality of life for people in the Highland and islands.

He said: 'We do not accept that there are grounds for large sums of this money to be repaid.'

Further negotiations will continue during the next few months regarding the audit findings as they relate to projects involving many public sector organisations.

Drew McFarlane Slack, chairman of Lochaber Enterprise, which comes under HIE's wing, welcomed the First Minister's stance on the issue.

Spent well

He said: 'I would suggest that the auditors visit physical infrastructure improvements that have been created with these funds to see for themselves that the money has been spent and spent well.'

Highlands and Islands MSP Maureen Macmillan said the funding predated the present Scottish Parliament and it should therefore not have to pick up the bill. 'Obviously, £20 million is a significant amount of money and we cannot afford to surrender funds when it is needed for investment in our infrastructure,' she said.

Campbeltown jobs blow

A 'SHORTAGE' of work has forced Campbeltown engineering firm McFadyen's Contractors to axe 20 jobs.

Managing director Billy McFadyen said the redundancies are necessary despite a busy start to the year.

The announcement comes less than a month after Vestas Celtic revealed that 40 workers at its Campbeltown factory are to be made redundant.

Lochgilphead roundabout plan

WORK on a new £1.6 million roundabout which will provide a 'gateway feature' to Lochgilphead will soon be underway.

The project, due to start this month, is part of the A83 Lochgilphead school project and is a joint venture between Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish Executive through Transport Scotland.

The roundabout, which will take 18 weeks to build, should be finished by February next year.

Machinery of life

ASK PEOPLE to name a vital organ and most would reply heart or the kidneys.

I doubt anyone would mention muscles or bones.

While it is highly desirable to have our full compliment of both, many people who unfortunately have to get by with the odd bone or muscle missing, seem to manage pretty well. But seeing bones and muscles as B or C list celebrities occurs only when we think of them as individual players, rather than highly regarded members of a vital team.

Forget about individually named muscles or bones and think of the integrated musculo-skeletal system, and suddenly its importance becomes more apparent.

Every activity we do from the most mundane like brushing our teeth to the extraordinary like playing a piano symphony, or climbing Mount Everest, we perform with our musculo-skeletal system. You could say that we express our life through our musculo-skeletal system and, as such, it can be thought of as the primary machinery of life.

Commonly the musculo-skeletal system is seen as the all brawn but no brains department that just lugs around the more highly valued 'important' organs like the stomach and liver.

Once we have recognised the importance of the primary machinery of life, it might be more appropriate to see the 'vital' organ activity such as digestion and circulation as being there to support the activity of the musculo-skeletal system.

Expand the concept, as is now often done, to refer to the neuro-musculo-skeletal system and we include the brain, spinal cord and the message-carrying network of nerves. By including the source of the impulses that drive the muscles to move the bones, in all the complexities of human activities, it would be quite reasonable to see the other so called 'vital' organs as secondary, if we were going to divide the whole up at all.

The musculo-skeletal system is often seen as a poor relation in health care, with none of the glamour associated with brain surgery or heart transplants. Yet the 206 bones and more than 600 muscles of the musculo-skeletal system make up more than half of your body mass and consume the biggest portion of the energy produced by the body.

Osteopaths have always seen the neuro-musculo-skeletal system as a major component in the healthy functioning of an individual and were historically considered to be cranks as a result. Yet once you see the nuts and bolts of the body as its primary machinery, this approach make a lot more sense.

Does looking after your basic mechanics now seem more important?

But what do you need to do? It's not that complicated; pay attention to avoiding unnecessary strains as you go through your day-to-day activities; ensure you get appropriate amounts of sensible exercise; give yourself adequate amounts of rest between bouts of work or other activity; and get any niggley problems dealt with before they grow into major limitations to smooth functioning.

Just remember that effective and efficient functioning of the musculo-skeletal system is essential to the effective and efficient functioning we call life.

Andrew Pallas
ND DO MRN,
Osteopath & Naturopath,
Oban Complementary Health Centre.
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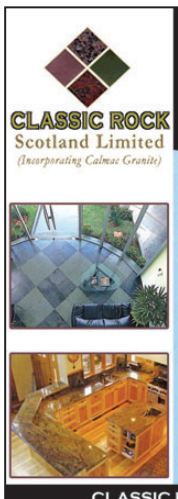

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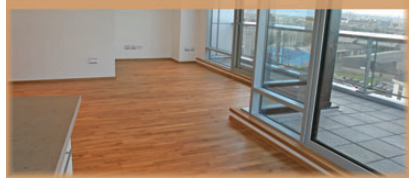

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LOOK AT OBAN

Eye to Eye

with John Wallace

Listening to you

EVERY now and again a patient will make a comment that reminds me why I love being an optometrist.

It happened again last week. A lady remarked: 'You have given me back my sight.' As my chest visibly swelled and my halo glowed the reality sank in. I had simply performed my job and done what was best for that lady.

What had I actually done? I had simply listened to her and found out what she really needed to solve her vision problems. Then we discussed all her options in detail. How many times do you come away from a meeting with someone without actually getting to the bottom of your problem and feeling the professional concerned had not actually been listening?

I have previously written about seemingly intrusive, but necessary, questioning that is an inevitable part of any consultation. Apart from health related issues your optometrist should also enquire into your occupation and lifestyle. Only then can you receive detailed and relevant advice about your vision problems.

In Britain there is an unswerving belief that with one pair of spectacles all your vision problems will be solved. In reality this is seldom true. As a driver you will benefit from polarised sunglasses for driving in bright sunlight. These would be positively dangerous for night driving! Office workers often need an additional dedicated pair of VDU spectacles. Presbyopic shoppers benefit from varifocals for viewing prices and seeing products on shop shelves but may be more comfortable reading a book or newspaper with dedicated reading spectacles.

The list of people who really need task specific spectacles is endless. And I have not even mentioned spectacles for sport and hobbies or even contact lenses.

Yes, it can be expensive to have spectacles for specific tasks. However, the improved comfort and efficiency resulting from spectacles designed for a specific task will far outweigh the initial cost.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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Oban hosts succesful business event

OBAN'S first Ideal Office Exhibition was held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Thursday, with the event hailed a 'huge success' by organisers.

Local company Clunie Group Ltd brought together a number of national and local companies under one roof for a day to give local businesses the chance to see what products and services are on offer that could benefit their business without having to go to the city.

As well as small local companies promoting their products at the exhibition, a few major manufacturers from further afield also turned up to showcase their work.

Well-known Brother machines brought along a new multi-functional printer that had only been in the country since Tuesday.

Jim Edge of Clunie Group Ltd said: 'The idea for the event came about from talking to business people in the area who could benefit from more knowledge of what is available to them.

'The day went very well and the feedback we've had from exhibitors and visitors has been very positive.

'A lot of people went away from the event with some good, new ideas for their own company and we are hoping the exhibition could be a bi-annual event.'

Graeme H Chapman of Office Friendly Dealer Association Ltd (ofda) was the lucky winner of a bottle of Oban whisky donated by *The Oban Times*.

'Rodney - you plonker'

Oban firefighters tackle the blaze which destroyed 'Del Boy's' three-wheeler

ONLY weeks after appearing on the front page of *The Oban Times*, the three-wheeled, yellow Robin Reliant which sprang to fame in the BBC television comedy *Only Fools and Horses* is a wreck after fire engulfed the vehicle only metres from its garage.

Mechanic Alistair MacNeill, of SD MacDougall's Garage in Oban, recently bought Derek and Rodney's famous Trotter's traders' van.

On the day it caught fire the head-turning yellow van had just come off the ferry from Mull and was on its way to the garage via Glenshellach Road.

'It was lucky the fire didn't start while the van was on the ferry,' said SD MacDougall's office manager Donald 'Skye' MacIntosh.

'It's hard to say what started the fire but whatever the reason, the wee van is no more!'

No-one was injured in the incident.

Dangerous driver lands year's ban

A TWENTY-year-old Oban man has been banned from driving for a year after admitting dangerous driving last winter.

Iain Auld, of Glenbervie, Dalriach Road, was also fined £500 and ordered to re-sit his driving test after dangerous driving on the A816 Soroba Road in Oban on November 28 last year.

As well as travelling at more than the 30mph speed limit, Auld overtook two vehicles and negotiated a pedestrian roundabout on the wrong side of the road near a busy junction.

Failure to appear leads to arrest

OBAN woman Sophie MacColl appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

MacColl, aged 22, of 2C Corran Brae, Dunollie, had failed to appear at an earlier court appearance, and a warrant was issued for her arrest.

MacColl denies that earlier this year she reset a stolen top. She was released on bail after pleading not guilty and is due to appear back at court for trial on November 27.

Barman loses teeth in pub assault

AN OBAN man who broke a barman's false teeth when he punched him on the face, appeared at the town's Sheriff Court last week.

William Reilly, of 22 Mossfield Drive, had been drinking with a group of friends on June 23 this year when the offence took place.

The group of men had been put out of the pub twice for causing a disturbance, and a row broke out when they entered the bar for the third time.

The barman suffered a cut lip; the loss of two teeth and his upper set of false teeth were broken.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Reilly £400 and ordered him to pay his victim £150 compensation.

'This is the third occasion you have appeared in this court for assault.

'You are in danger of being given a custodial sentence if you appear again,' the Sheriff said.

Studio to cater for Argyllshire Gathering Halls

TWO OBAN businesses have linked to offer a quality combined service.

The Studio Restaurant on Oban's Craigard Road has been appointed preferred caterers for The Argyllshire Gathering Halls in the town's Breadalbane Steeet.

The Argyllshire Gathering Halls' manager Amanda MacPhail told *The Oban Times*: 'A high profile function venue such as 'The Argyllshire' always requires the very best in catering and Michael and John from the popular Studio Restaurant certainly meet the high standard demanded by our organisation.'

Michael Hewitt and John Horn from the Studio Restaurant are delighted to be joining such a successful business and look forward to working closely together with Macgregor Hotels to live up to the standards demanded by Oban's premier function venue.

John Horn said: 'Michael and I both have many years experience of the catering industry and we were delighted to have been approached by the Argyllshire Halls.

'We are looking forward to the challenge that lies ahead as we have catered for large functions such as weddings in the past.

'This is our first season in the restaurant and so far everything has gone really well for us.'

Janice Kay of Soroba Young Families Group accepts a cheque from Ian and Marri Malloy of the Co-op's Oban and Dumbarton Community Dividend Scheme, along with the children and workers from the group. 'They're a cracking wee bunch,' said Janice of the group's children. 'We are really seen as a support system here; the parents see us as part of the community,' said Janice, who added that Scottish Co-op have been very good to them over the years.The young families group is also supported by Sure Start, Communities Scotland and the Scottish Pre-School Play Association. t38sor1d

Slap leads to nine month deferred sentence

A MAN who admitted slapping his partner on the face after she 'provoked' him, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week.

John Connell, aged 47, of 2 Ferry Cottages, South Cuan, had been at home with his partner on July 29 this year when an argument developed between the pair.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Connell for nine months for him to be of good behaviour, adding: 'That does not mean you have been let off.'

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SAVOUR SCOTLAND dining out guide

"The Lewis brothers, Tom and Dick, took over the Ben Ledi Café in 2005. With a family history in running Monachyle Mhor Hotel and its first class restaurant, this was a step out of the mould. Twelve months on, after substantial refurbishment Dick, (Tom's brother) brings a new feel to the traditional café with a delicious bistro style menu including steaks, cakes and of course, traditional fish teas, using (when possible) locally sourced produce such as lamb and venison from the family farm.

Next time you are passing through Callander, stop off for a classic fish tea, homemade venison burger or just a good cup of coffee and ice cream or cake.

Throughout winter we will be having special evenings such as "Guests Chef" nights. Watch the website for more information ; www.benledicafe.co.uk

At the end of September, a special weekend brings a challenge to Ben Ledi's traditional fare in the form of a jazz weekend featuring Cajun cooking. Items on the menu will include such things as Gumbo Soup and Crocodile Steaks.

SATURDAY 30 is part of Callander's annual jazz festival - a day not to miss with a dining experience comprising a Cajun buffet dinner and entertainment by Chick Henderson and comedienne, Charlotte Macdonald. Tickets are still available.

On 11 December 2005, The Sunday Times featured Ben Ledi in its "Ecosse Live" section rating it with 4 stars.

Independent – March 2006 – rated Ben Ledi as one of the top 50 cafes in the UK

Ben Ledi Café's varied menu offers homemade venison and beef burgers, pasta, sandwiches, soup and traditional fish teas. Also a wide selection of ice creams and homemade cakes. All meals are freshly prepared and reasonably priced.

The Ben Ledi Café would make the ideal halfway point to stop and have an enjoyable meal.

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The Oban Times Wedding Album

Campbell - Sloan

Lorna Campbell, Fidden Farm, Isle of Mull, and William Sloan, Stranraer, were married in Creich Church, Fionnphort, by the Rev S Graham. The couple held a reception at Fidden Farm.
Photograph by Stephen MacCallum, Fionnphort.

Hutchison - MacMillan

Margaret Elizabeth Hutchison and Neil MacMillan, Campbeltown, were married at The Argyll Arms Hotel, Campbeltown, by the Rev Martin Forrest, Southend.

Findlay - MacLean

Shey Findlay and Charles John MacLean, of Morrison Place, Acharacle, were married at Glenuig Gardens. They are pictured with their daughter Ellie-May.
Photograph by Allan Macoll.

Ferguson - Walker

Carole Ferguson, Letterwalton, Benderloch, by Oban, and Alan Walker, Dunfermline, were married at Barcaldine Castle. The couple held a reception at Barcaldine Castle and a dance in Benderloch Village Hall.
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

Balmer - Bennett

Denise Balmer and Keith Bennett, both of Scarborough, were married in the Ardanaiseig Hotel in a civil wedding ceremony.
Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

Paterson - Hanratty

Julie Paterson and Owen Hanratty, both of Glasgow, were married in The Regent Hotel, Oban, in a civil wedding ceremony.
Photograph by Highland Photos, Oban.

MacLeod - Lot

Mary MacLeod, Roy Bridge, and Laurent Lot, Battlefield, Glasgow, were married in Kilmonivaig Church, Spean Bridge, by the Rev Donald MacQuarrie. The couple held their reception in Roy Bridge Hall.
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography, Fort William.

Hill - MacLennan

Sarah Jayne Hill and Calum MacLennan, both of Compton, Ashbourne, were married at St Bride's Church, East Kilbride, Glasgow, by Father Michael Ryan. Calum is the son of Katy-Mary Campbell of Balivanich, Benbecula, while Sarah is the daughter of Teresa and Les Hill.The couple held a reception at The Crutherland House Hotel, East Kilbride. The couple spent their honeymoon touring California and Nevada in the USA. Although still living in Compton, the couple eventually plan to set up home in Benbecula.

Hamilton - Stephen

Kathleen Hamilton, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs Bryson Hamilton, Dunoon, married Stuart Stephen, younger son of Mr and Mrs Les Stephen.
Photograph by Tim Martin.

McCann - Jablon

Susan McCann and Robert Jablon, both of Los Angeles, USA, were married at Barcaldine Castle in a civil wedding ceremony. The couple's reception at the castle was attended by guests from Scotland, Ireland, USA, France, Chile and Argentina.
Photograph by Highland Photos of Oban.

Nordbryhn - MacFarlane

Guri Nordbryhn, from Oslo, Norway, and Donald Neil MacFarlane, originally from Edinbane, Skye, were married in Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh. The couple met while studying in Edinburgh where they now live.

Young- Thomas

Leila Young and Alex Thomas, of Edinburgh, were married at Finlaggan Island, islay, in a civil wedding ceremony. The couple held a reception in the Bridgend Hotel, Islay.
Photograph by Islay Studios.

Campbell - Hope

Marion Campbell and Andrew Hope, of Port Ellen, Islay and Glasgow, were married in Killarrow House, Islay, in a civil service. The couple held a reception in The White Hart Hotel, Port Ellen.
Photograph by Islay Studios.

Meek - Sutherland

Anna Meek, younger daughter of Professor Donald and Mrs Rachael Meek, of Tiree, and Neil Sutherland, elder son of George and Patricia Sutherland, Halkirk, were married at Brightons Parish Church, Falkirk, by the Rev Peter Williams, minister of Tiree Baptist Church.

MacLean - Clarke

Marion MacLean, daughter of Alasdair and Iona, and Scott Clarke, son of Donald and Maria, were married in Tobermory Parish Church by Iain MacLeay, Alness.
Photograph by John Wilshire.

Westwood - Marquis

Melanie Westwood of Brisbane, Australia, and Calum Marquis, son of Flora and the late Donald Marquis of Luss, Loch Lomond, were married at Lake Tekapo, New Zealand.

Foulkes - MacKay

Jane Foulkes of Herefordshire and Will MacKay of Suffolk, were married in the Ardanaiseig Hotel in a civil wedding ceremony.
Photograph by Highland Photos of Oban.

MacKenzie - Finlayson

Katrina MacKenzie, Fort William, and Ian Finlayson, Kyle of Lochalsh, were married at Kilmallie Free Church, Fort William, by the Rev MacRae. The couple held a reception in The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William.
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan Photography.

MacKenzie - MacKenzie

Eilidh MacKenzie, of Appin, and Stewart MacKenzie, of Glasgow, were married at Appin Church of Scotland. The couple held a reception at The Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William.
Photograph by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

autumn Weddings

Photo courtesy of Nicola Hamilton

Photo courtesy of Highland Photos

Photo courtesy of Anthony MacMillan

Autumn is probably not the first season that comes to mind when weddings are being planned, yet a vast number of people decide to tie the knot then. Actually it is probably just as well they do because logistically it would be quite impossible for everyone to get married in spring and summer. But surely autumn cannot be that bad a time, especially when you consider autumn weather can often be better than that in the spring?

The bride can still choose a romantic white wedding but she will have to give due regard to the fact that the weather may be slightly less clement than at the height of summer, and so choose her dress accordingly. She will also have to give consideration to make-up, because the summer sun could have taken away some of her natural skin oils. The answer is professionally applied make-up, so a visit to a beauty salon during the weeks before the ceremony is more or less essential. And the same applies to her hair, which again may be out of condition at this particular time of year.

Wherever the ceremony is to take place, the chances are there will be less need to book quite so early for an autumn wedding. Spring and summer are the popular times for religious weddings, but civil weddings take place all year round.

Choosing where to have the ceremony depends on several things including family traditions, religious conviction, convenience and expediency. A favoured and picturesque church or chapel can be so romantic. However those who choose not to get married in church can choose between the local register Office or a specially licensed wedding venue. Such venues include hotels, stately homes, sports clubs, and other similar places of interest. It might be worth having an eye to the weather when selecting the venue. Questions such as "is there a sheltered garden for photographs?" "is the selected venue exposed to the elements and a long way from a car park?" "is heating available should be weather be a bit on the chilly side?" need to be answered.

If it is decided to hold the ceremony in a licensed wedding venue, there will normally be full catering facilities available, which makes life a lot easier for the wedding party and guests alike, as there is no journey from church to the reception. Often such venues can also offer over-night accommodation for those who may need it, as well as a separate room in which the newly-weds may change from their wedding clothes into something more appropriate for an evening function or leaving for their honeymoon.

It depends on your ideas and budget, where and how the reception is organised. It can be provided by all sorts of catering establishments and can be a formal sit-down meal served by staff, or the guests themselves from a carvery, or it can take the form of a buffet.

Less formal receptions can take place in marquees erected in the garden of the bride's parents' home, served by outside caterers who can also provide food in other venues such as church or community halls, a river boat or any other place large enough to accommodate the number of guests invited.

In the former arrangements, furniture, tableware, linen and toilet facilities form part of the overall catering costs. In the latter, separate arrangements might have to be made to hire tables, chairs, tableware, linen, etc. Quite often you'll find the firm hiring out the marquee will also provide furniture. They should also be able to provide heating equipment and portable toilets - both essential in the chillier days of autumn! The caterers usually provide tableware, linen and crockery.

The bar is another matter. At a formal, professional venue, this will form part of the service. In an outside, non-catering environment. The family can provide this service themselves, or better by far, they can appoint a local licensee to provide an outside bar service, arrange the licence, provide drinks, glasses, and staff to serve. This will prevent wholesale abuse of the family's hospitality and keep the younger guests firmly in control.

Flowers for the wedding should prove no problem for a professional florist as there will be a wide variety of autumn blooms to choose from.

The photographer will be in his element with an autumn wedding since the autumn light will be more conducive for outside shots than the summer glare of the sun. Do also consider having a video recording. Many couples now want what is known as a reportage wedding video. This is a documentary style recording including sound, of the wedding day, which can capture all the drama, emotions and amusing incidents. It allows all participants and guests to take part in the event. These can usually be provided on tape or DVD.

The success of all weddings depend on timing, organisation and planning. Autumn weddings need just that little bit more. The timing must be split-second, the organisation must consider all the possibilities of weather changes, and the planning will have to be done just as far in advance as planning for a wedding at any other time of the year. When the great day dawns however, the bride will have the satisfaction of knowing that on a fine autumn day, she will shine as at no other time of the year. And that should ensure all the extra effort very worthwhile indeed.

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GEORGE STREET - OBAN
8.30 SATURDAY and SUNDAY ONLY – UK PREMIERE
THE HARD WORLD OF HIGH FASHION
PG THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 109 min
6.30 and 8.45 DAILY from FRIDAY–1.30 SATURDAY MATINEE
A REMOTE THAT CONTROLLED HIS LIFE
12A CLICK 108 min
6.15 DAILY from FRIDAY – 1.45 SATURDAY MATINEE
STORY THAT ROCKED FAIRYTALE WORLD
U HOODWINKED! 80 min
STUDIO CINEMA 01397 705095
CAMERON SQUARE - FORT WILLIAM
7.45 DAILY from FRIDAY – NO SATURDAY MATINEE
TALLADEGA NIGHTS:
12A The Ballad of Ricky Bobby 108 min
7.30 DAILY from FRIDAY – 1.30 SATURDAY MATINEE
HILARIOUS CATASTROPHIC THREESOME
12A YOU, ME AND
6.00 DAILY from FRIDAY – 1.45 SATURDAY MATINEE
STORY THAT ROCKED FAIRYTALE WORLD
U HOODWINKED! 80 min

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
UK PREMIERE:
PG Certificate
109 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE:
8.30 SATURDAY and SUNDAY ONLY

ANDREA Sachs (Anne Hathaway) lands a job which most girls would die for, when she is hired by Miranda Priestly (Meryl Streep), the very high profile and outstandingly successful editor of 'Runway Magazine'.

Andrea finds herself in an office that shouts Prada/Armani and Versace at every turn, a world full of impossibly thin, heart wrenchingly stylish women and with very handsome men, clad in fine ribbed turtlenecks and tight leather trousers, boasting their lifelong dedication to the gymnasium. With breathtaking ease, editor Miranda is able to turn each and every one of these high style sophisticates into scared and whimpering children. This is the hard world of high fashion, this is the world where 'The Devil Wears Prada'.

CLICK
UK PREMIERE:
12A Certificate
108 Minutes
(Under 12s admitted when with an adult aged 18 or over)
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE:
6.30 and 8.45 DAILY from FRIDAY
1.30 SATURDAY MATINEE

ADAM Sandler plays Michael Newman, a family man whose busy career as a top architect doesn't leave him much time for his wife Donna (Kate Beckinsale) and their two children.

Unable to fathom out the depths of operating his many remotes on the television he goes shopping for a new universal remote control and discovers the prefect device through Morty (Christopher Walken), who gives him a great one-of-a-kind remote that has magical powers.

Michael now discovers that he is now able to control not only his television, but his career and his personal life! All seems to be going well with this new power until complications arise when the remote begins to control his life and to overrule his own choices.

'Click' is an outstanding comedy that also stars David Hasselhoff as Michael's boss, Henry Winkler and Julie Kavner as his parents and Sean Astin, all under the capable direction of Frank Coraci.

HOODWINKED
U Certificate – 80 Minutes
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE:
6.15 EVERY DAY from FRIDAY
1.45 SATURDAY MATINEE
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA:
6.00 EVERY DAY from FRIDAY
1.45 SATURDAY MATINEE

EVERYONE knows the story of Little Red Riding Hood – or so they may think!

No one however has ever seen their favourite fairy tale quite like this before – turned completely upside down, inside out and reinvented with the very latest computer animation, as a 'comedy caper' that will have world wide family audiences in stitches.

We can at long last all discover the real story behind the legend of how Little Red Riding Hood, her Granny, the Woodsman and the Bid Bad Wolf, all suspects in a strange story that rocked the fairytale world.

Directed by master craftsman Cory Edwards, the outstanding voice cast includes Anne Hathaway, glen Close and Jim Belushi – to name but three of the stars that help make this movie a happily funny animation adventure.

YOU, ME and DUPREE
12A Certificate
108 Minutes
(Under 12s admitted with an adult aged 18 or over)
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA:
7.30 EVERY DAY from FRIDAY
1.30 SATURDAY MATINEE

CARL and Molly Peterson (Matt Dillon and Kate Hudson) are starting their new life together with just one unfortunate hitch in an otherwise perfect world – and his name is Dupree (Owen Wilson). A perpetual bachelor, he has simply found himself with nowhere to go after being fired, so Carl invites him to make use of a spare couch!

Despite problems, everyone begins to root for Dupree to 'stick around' including Molly's Dad (Michael Douglas). Dupree however becomes a fixture and three becomes not just a crown – but a full blown and hilarious catastrophe!

TALLADEGA NIGHTS: THE BALLAD OF RICKY BOBBY
UK PREMIERE:
12A Certificate
108 Minutes
FORT WILLIAM STUDIO CINEMA:
7.45 EVERY DAY from FRIDAY – NO MATINEE

The keenly awaited story of NASCAR stock car racing sensation Ricky Bobby (played by Will Ferrell) whose notorious 'Win at all Costs' approach made him into a racing hero.

Ricky and his loyal racing partner and great childhood friend, Cal Naughton Jnr (played by John C Reilly) prove to be a fearless duo described as 'Thunder' and 'Lightning' by their legion of fans. They were invincible because of their ability to win many races on the 1st and 2nd positions, with Cal nearly always in 2nd place.

French Formula One driver John Girard (played by Sacha Baron Cohen) then challenges the 'Thunder' and 'Lightning' supremacy of NASCAR stock car racing with Ricky Bobby having to face up to his own personal 'demons'. He must fight Girard for the right to be known as the racing circuit's very top driver.

Feis Latharna ends with concert

A CONCERT in Oban marked the end of a highly successful Feis Latharna.

More than 50 youngsters from all over Lorn took part in the feis which was held in Park Primary School last Saturday.

The youngsters had the opportunity in taking part in two workshops on the day. These workshops included a number of activities including Gaelic singing, drama, chanter, penny whistle, bodhran, guitar, step dancing, clarsach, fiddle and the accordion.

Organiser Sileas Sinclair said the feis normally took place over a week in Easter and felt the youngsters showed great enthusiasm during the day which was capped off by a concert at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls at night.

String quartet to play Oban

THE first concert in the Oban Music Society winter season takes place on Wednesday, October 4, at 7.30 pm in St John's Cathedral.

Four musicians with a wealth of experience in solo, chamber, orchestral playing and broadcasting will also hold a workshop at Rockfield Primary School on the Wednesday morning.

The Tagore String Trio, comprising Frances Mason (violin), Brian Schiele (viola) and James Halsey (cello), will be joined by Sarah Frances (oboe) to perform works by Vanhal, Kodaly, Finzi, Moeran, Dohnany and Mozart.

Their programme will give the Oban audience a rare opportunity to enjoy a live performance of the lovely Mozart *Oboe Quartet.*

Details of the full season of concerts have recently gone out to past supporters of the society but will also be available at the concerts, which are all open to the public.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr 20) ☎ 09111 767 272
Someone influential will carefully weigh-up what you have to say this week. In dealing with them or with large institutions, it's going to be important to create the right impression but the more diplomatic side of your nature is boosted and this can assist you. Your best bet is to be very straightforward in your approach. Don't take shortcuts. Call me now to steer your way through the tricky quarter Moon…

TAURUS (Apr 21 - May 21) ☎ 09111 767 273
There is a virtuous tendency threaded through your scope, but this needs to be managed. After all Taurus, too much virtue would make for a pretty dull existence! And yet you can easily find yourself rushing round in the vain hope of pleasing everyone. Do your bit but do create some down time for yourself. Pleasingly, a recently brittle atmosphere will fade. Call to hear what sexy Venus can do….

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21) ☎ 09111 767 274
Keep an eye on the small details at work and your boss will keep a favourable eye on you! Socially, Venus gives you a bubblier vibe. And if you've recently made some home improvements now you'll want to share these so invite some guests around. You can also take on a charity activity. A sponsored event can help you to get you fitter and help those less fortunate. Call for your love scope in full….

CANCER (June 22 - July 22) ☎ 09111 767 275
Mercury will draw you out of your shell, but that doesn't mean your recent preference for sticking with comfortable environs is completely at an end. A home based decorative project can absorb your energies, as can a hobby craft. Yet someone close to you can seem a bit moody. You can find yourself needing to do a lot of listening Cancer. Call me now to get the big picture on your situation….

LEO (July 23 - Aug 23) ☎ 09111 767 276
Your powers of persuasion are turned to max and romantically it's not what you say, as much as how you say it. Your natural, understated charm and charisma can soon have admirers drooling. This would also be an excellent week to develop more philosophical slants with someone inspirational having a big impact. All round there is a less competitive atmosphere. Call me to hear how to capitalise on this…

VIRGO (Aug 24 - Sep 23) ☎ 09111 767 277
You can be ultra sensible but even you can relish the odd treat and this week, anything remotely calorific, gooey or luxurious can prove tempting. And with the potential for more cash to flow your way, you may figure why not? However, if you decide to indulge someone else be sure they're worthy of it. A good week too to catch-up on neglected paper work. Call me to get the inside track Virgo…

LIBRA (Sept 24 - Oct 23) ☎ 09111 767 278
Recently Libra, you've had the chance to demonstrate a more daring approach. So don't let niggling worries undermine this. In love, a new era is ushered in and if a recent separation has occurred, look to the future. Solo? Your ability to attract sultry goodness is mightily enhanced but soon this can trigger a tough love choice. Call me now for your in-depth romantic scope and other astrological news…

SCORPIO (Oct 24 - Nov 22) ☎ 09111 767 279
If it's felt like events have been flowing against you, it'd be understandable. However, do be cautious with whom you share your frustrations. Someone may not be as discreet as you'd like. Fortunately, the planet of thought and talk, Mercury, zips into your sign and this can help you to move a scheme forwards which has recently and frustratingly stalled. Call me to hear how you can find your voice…

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23 - Dec 21) ☎ 09111 767 280
One friendship can go from strength to strength and there can be a sultry romantic dimension to this. Yet this attraction may slowly grow but once the flame is lit, you may still want to keep it under wraps. At work, a boss can ask you to take on a confidential assignment or if you have long fancied self-employment, a good week to quietly do your homework. Call to hear why discretion is the key…

CAPRICORN (Dec 22 - Jan 20) ☎ 09111 767 281
The quarter Moon is significant. Just as you've felt at the top of your game, someone can feel you're being too forceful. Fortunately, the silky diplomacy of Venus can help you to smooth tensions. This is particularly so if you can put the emphasis on what you have in common rather than what marks you apart. Accept you can't always get your own way. Call to hear why an older babe can excite you….

AQUARIUS (Jan 21 - Feb 19) ☎ 09111 767 282
Your humanitarian credentials are set to come into focus Aquarius. And what motivates you this week is helping people or helping people to help themselves. In a down to earth way this can be by recycling clothes to your local charity shop, or taking-up a community cause. You can have unique gift of understanding trends, use this to focus your altruistic energies. Call to hear news of work changes…

PISCES (Feb 20 - Mar 20) ☎ 09111 767 283
Someone is set to develop a deep and smouldering interest in you. And the more you move beyond your normal haunts, the greater the chance there is of this occurring. Financially, involvement in creative projects, where there are jointly held resources, can do well. A good time too to review the rates of return on investments, savings and shares. Shuffle your pack. Call for exciting travel news…

For your detailed forecast call your number above.
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Above - Left to right: Brian Schiele, viola; Frances Mason, violin; Sarah Francis, oboe and James Halsey, cello.

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TAGORE STRING TRIO
with
SARAH FRANCIS (oboe)
Vanhal, Kodaly, Finzi, Moeran, Dohnanyi and Mozart
Wednesday 4 October 2006
at 7.30 p.m.
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Tickets: £8, £7 (concession), Students £2, Under 18 free
Oban Music Society is subsidised by Enterprise Music Scotland

The Oban Times HOTLINE
If you have a story to share, call us on
OBAN 01631 568000
FORT WILLIAM 01397 703003

OBANCOMEDYCLUB PRESENTS
CRAIG HILL
LIVE AT THE CORRAN HALLS
SAT 7TH OCT
TICKETS £12 (CONCESSION, £10) FROM CORRAN HALLS
DOORS OPEN 7:30

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

F W Holroyd Art Gallery, Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish, Fur and Feathers, originals by Catherine Pitman and Angela Hewitt.

Body Control Pilates, Old Parish Church Hall, Atlantis Leisure, Dalmally Church Hall. Telephone Val on 01879 230241 or 07788 180126

Sunday 1st October
The Oban Half Marathon for CLIC Sargent. Tel 0141 5725707.

Tuesday 3rd October
King Creosote, An Tober, Tobermory. 01688 302211

Wednesday 4th October
King Creosote, Lime Street, Fort William 01397 705005

Wednesday 4th October
Tagore String Trio with Sarah Francis, St John's Cathedral, Oban at 7.30pm

Thursday 5th October
King Creosote, The Raigmore, Inverness 01463 221546

Friday 6th October
King Creosote, Woodlands Centre, Stornoway 01851 703307

Saturday 7th October
King Creosote, The Loft, Forres 01343 850111

Saturday 7th October
The Comedy Club presents Craig Hill live at the Corran Halls, Oban. Doors open 7.30pm

Sunday 8th October
King Creosote, Fusion, Kirkwall, Orkney 01856 873359

Sept 30/Oct 1, Oct 28/29, Dec 2/3
An introduction to Youth Work - Free Course, 10-5pm each day and two other evenings 7-9pm Tuesday 17th October and Tuesday 14th November at venue to be confirmed

Thursday 9th November
Mandors (Craft Evening) 7-9pm Tel: 0141 332 4221

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE WHAT'S ON GUIDE TELEPHONE 01631 568000

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THUR 5TH OCT THE RAIGMORE, INVERNESS B/O 01463 221546
FRI 6TH OCT WOODLANDS CENTRE, STORNOWAY B/O 01851 703307
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forthcoming events

Saturday 11th November Cosmic Ordering Workshop, Regent Hotel, Oban

Tuesday 5th December Oban Maternity User group meeting, Day Centre in the Lorn and Islands Hospital

Friday 8th, Saturday 9th, Friday 15th and Saturday 16th December Christmas Party Nights at The Argyllshire, Oban's Premier Function Venue. £25 per person. To book telephone 01631 569407

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED CONTACT 01631 568000

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CEILIDH
with Ian MacLean and Angus Smith
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Friday 29th September
Regent Hotel 7.30pm
Local Youngsters Raising Funds to attend the Royal National Mod 2006
To reserve tickets call 07810395889
Price £3 Con £2 Child £1.50

OBAN ACCORDION AND FIDDLE CLUB
Monthly Club Night
McTavish's Kitchens
Thursday 5th October at 8pm
All Players Welcome
Guest Artiste:
Roy Hendrie Trio
Admission £3
Come along and enjoy the music.

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
Celebrate National Poetry Day
Wednesday 4 October
come along with your favourite poem
8.00 - 10.00pm
For further information and diary of events contact 01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB
Musical Evening
Tuesday 3 October, 2006 at 8pm
GUEST ARTISTS:
"Dochie McCallum and friends"
Usual venue Inverlochy
All Welcome
Admission £3.00
Tea & Raffle Extra
IN THE EVENT OF A LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION BY ANY GUEST ARTIST THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND AN ALTERNATIVE ARTIST

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Andrew MacIntyre
Port Appin Hall
Saturday 7th October
2.30pm
ALL WELCOME

MAD
Biker BBQ
Saturday 30th Sept
at 2pm
The Galley of Lorne
Ardfern
All welcome
Free camping
Mid Argyll Dames mcc

The Prince's Trust
Join the Argyll and Bute Giant Stride
Sunday 1st October
2-4pm
1 mile sponsored walk
Meet at the Calmac Terminal, Oban
1.30pm

Exhibition
by G. Young
Victory Hall
Benderloch
8th – 14th October
Paintings:
G.Young

BIG CAR BOOT SALE
Co-Op Car Park, Oban
Sunday 1st October
10-3pm
no need to book just turn up
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In aid of St Columba's Primary Outdoor Education Fund
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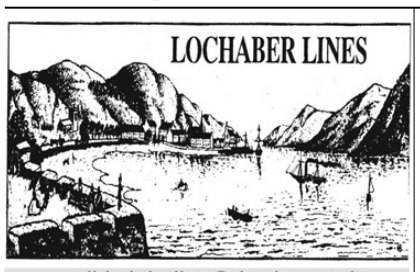

email lochaberlines@obantimes.co.uk

FORT William rail engine driver John Hynd has done the area proud with his nominations for rail employee of the year and other national awards.

John handled the media interviews like an old pro and the publicity for the West Highland Line can be no bad thing. However, with the limelight comes the inevitable leg pulling from colleagues who have declared open season on this particular Hynd. One was keen to tell us that the five stranded rail passengers, who were unable to find accommodation and received Highland hospitality at John's home, were not hirsute-bottomed climbers but five very attractive Scandinavian lassies! Och, jealousy is a terrible thing.

❐❐❐

FOR many years within four hours of leaving Lochaber Burns Club supper John has been on the Glasgow bound train to accompany 50 screaming children on the annual railway outing to a pantomime at an hour when lesser Burnsians imagine they have 50 screaming kids inside their heads.

Fellow supper-goer and world colleague Alan Reid is another who deserves a medal for getting on that train, but it is for the award of 'Dad of the Year', that we nominate him.

Alan's daughters, Lauren and Elaine, were taking part in Lochaber High School's very successful production of *The Sound of Music* on the same night as the lifelong Celtic supporter's team was playing Manchester United.

A compromise was required and the majority view of the Reid family was that it would be easier to video the football rather than the musical.

As the curtain fell a proud dad's thoughts turned to the 90 minutes of nail-biting entertainment awaiting at home.

As he made his way to his car a voice called: 'Surprised to see you here Alan, I thought you would have been watching the football. Still you didn't miss much, Celtic lost 3-2.' The hills were alive with the sound of naughty words.

❐❐❐

WE hear that HRH The Duke of York had an unscheduled visit to the kitchen when officially opening the new boathouse at The Outward Bound Centre, Loch Eil.

A chef was munching on the snack invented by the Earl of Sandwich when the Earl of Inverness took a wrong turning and surprised the kitchen staff.

As the chef juggled with the protocol of addressing royalty with his mouth full of food the Duke said: 'Did your mother make that for you?'

A quick gulp and the chef recovered for one of those answers produced by nerves: 'No Sir and I don't suppose your mother makes your sandwiches either!'

Fortunately the Duke roared with laughter and the chef was not outward bound from Achdelieu.

❐❐❐

IF, a week today – Thursday – you see us going from pub to pub we are not on a pub crawl but merely shopping around for a cheap pint.

That is the day when many UK pubs are dropping their prices to those of 1982 to mark the publishing of the 25th annual edition of the Good Pub Guide.

Ever the optimist we will try the Volly to save some lolly and if the TSB (The Station Bar) is playing along we could make several withdrawals. To save all the Lochaber licensees researching 1982 prices, the average price of a pint was 62 pence.

❐❐❐

TONIGHT – Thursday September 28, at 7.30pm in the Duncansburgh Parish Church, Dr George MacPhee, director of Music at Paisley Abbey, will give a recital to mark the centenary of the installation of the church's organ. Kilmallie singers will also be performing and tickets, £5 adult and £3 concession, are available at the door.

According to *The Oban Times* the opening recital was given by Mr Holland, a blind organist of St George's, Edinburgh on February 28, 1906. In the previous month the Rev G M MacLean made a successful application to the Town Council for authority to connect to the water main for a supply of power to drive the organ engine. Half of the cost of the organ was paid by Mr Andrew Carnegie, the Dunfermline born philanthropist who made his fortune in America.

❐❐❐

CHARLIE'S Challenge 2007: The Modfather sets aside your weekly Gaelic lesson for an even bigger challenge.

The High School Gaelic Choir – Còisir Ard Sgoil Lochabair – is seeking a conductor to prepare them for the 2007 Royal National Mod in Lochaber.

The choir under the leadership of the late Heather Moore, whose untimely death leaves a great void in Lochaber music circles, swept the boards at many national Mods.

Heather would be the first to say, 'The show must go on' and the choir is keen to stress that lack of Gaelic knowledge is no obstacle to any potential conductor who would have the assistance of Catriona Campbell of the school's Gaelic department. For an informal chat contact Catriona at the high school.

Last week's Mod lotto numbers: 5, 6, and 11, no winner. Jackpot now £800.

❐❐❐

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

NONE too soon the milestones along the public road in Corpach have been re-painted and the miles marked in clear black block lettering. The work is very well done by Mr Fraser, painter, Fort William and the record–breaker motor man and the scorching cyclist will have no difficulty in noting the distances as they scurry past.

The Fort William correspondent was none too happy with the five days' imprisonment meted out to a horse-stealer at the sheriff court. He ended his report with: 'Time was when the penalty for horse-stealing was death, but the ends of justice are now more easily satisfied.'

On Thursday and Friday evening some good catches of Saithe were got at the mouth of Loch Leven by local boats, which found a ready market. Other kinds of fish here are very scarce at the moment.

40 years ago

AN ARTICLE marked the 40 years' service as a doctor in Lochaber of Dr Charles Connachie.

He initially came to the area as camp doctor for Balfour Beattie and Co, the contractors engaged in driving the British Aluminium Company tunnel through the mountains. Dr Connachie also took an active part in the running of the Belford Hospital which was then a small cottage hospital maintained only by donations.

He acted as surgeon, anaesthetist, radiographer and clerk for which he received the princely sum of £100 per annum. In those early days his work took him as far afield as Knoydart, Bridge of Orchy and Rannoch.

Councillors were warned that the slaughterhouse was uneconomic and was facing closure. But better news was the announcement that the rates were to be reduced by 1s 9d in £1.

There was new hope for Polloch, where nine pupils attended Glenhurich School, when Argyll County Council announced plans to grant money towards costs of a road from the Strontian side into the village.

Jail for man who carried out third assault in three months

A FORT William 20-year-old man who carried out an 'unprovoked attack' on an Australian social worker after the Mountain Bike World Cup earlier this year has been jailed for 11 months.

It was the third assault carried out by Sandy Campbell in the space of three months, Fort William Sheriff Court heard last week.

Campbell, of 9 Bruce Place, admitted assaulting Kim Nguyen on May 27-28 this year at Kennedy Road and Pinegrove Court, by repeatedly punching and kicking him on the face, head and body all to his severe injury and impairment.

Jamie Paul, aged 17, of 3 Shaw Place, Fort William, also admitted assaulting Mr Nguyen on the same date.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wyllie told the court that Mr Nguyen had been in Fort William's town centre at a street party on the Saturday night and was walking home with friends after 12.15am.

Ms Wyllie said: 'The victim thinks he said 'G'day' to him [Campbell]. A short time later he became aware of one of his friends falling on the ground. He walked back to see what happened to his friend. Mr Paul warned Mr Nguyen to keep away as his friend may want some trouble. Sandy Campbell came to his side and began punching him on the nose.'

The fiscal said Mr Nguyen tried to get away but Campbell kept following and attacking until he had a hold of the victim on the ground where he carried on punching and kicking him. The court heard Paul kicked the victim on the face.

The assault only stopped when a taxi came along with a group of people, who Campbell greeted with, 'Hello'. The fiscal said Mr Nguyen was taken to hospital with a broken nose which would need surgery as it had affected his breathing. Sheriff Douglas Small was shown pictures of Mr Nguyen's injuries which forced him to take a week off work.

Campbell also admitted assaulting Ben Stirton on February 22 this year at Victoria Road, Fort William, by punching and kicking him repeatedly on the face and the body. He also pled guilty to assaulting Alan Thomson on February 18 by repeatedly punching him on the face and body near his home at Wallace Place.

Hamish Melrose, defending, said: 'There is not a lot I would wish to add; dare I say, I don't dispute matters. The only comment I can make is that all the offences came as Sandy Campbell was under the influence of drink.' David MacNeill, defending Paul, said it was clear his client was a 'subsidiary actor in the assault'.

Sheriff Small jailed Campbell, who admitted previous convictions, for six months backdated to June 12 for the attack on Mr Nguyen which he said was a 'nasty assault' and 'unprovoked'.

Campbell was also jailed for three months for assaulting Alan Thomson and two months for assaulting Ben Stirton. All the sentences will run together. Paul was given a six-month restriction of liberty order which means he cannot leave his home between 8pm and 8am.

Gaelic prevails at Sleat

A SKYE primary school will become 'all Gaelic' with an English medium unit next year but the Highland Council's education director does not envisage a 'linguistic apartheid' with pupils separated in the playground.

Highland Council's education, culture and sport committee last week approved a motion moved by Portree Councillor Drew Millar to establish a dedicated Gaelic school at Sleat Primary School but with an English medium department.

The motion defeated an amendment put forward by Kyle and Sleat Councillor William Fulton for the status quo as an English-speaking school with Gaelic medium unit.

The committee's Episcopal representative Rev Arthur Sinclair claimed the move could create a 'linguistic apartheid.' The council's director of education Bruce Robertson said the Rev Sinclair's comments were 'very unfortunate and ill-chosen' and doesn't envisage Gaelic and English medium pupils being separated in the playground.

Mr Robertson said: 'As far as policy is concerned we are looking at a bilingual school and it is a really good opportunity. There are only two settlements in the Highlands where you could have a stand alone Gaelic school - Inverness and Fort William.'

The consultation lasted from April to June and there were 66 letters from parents and pre-school parents, of whom 39 supported keeping the school as it was while 27 wanted an all-Gaelic school.

Parents argued the proposal for an all-Gaelic school was 'divisive' and could split the community in two with pupils wanting English medium education facing a daily round trip of an hour to Broadford Primary School.

But the parents in favour of a Gaelic school claimed it would be a natural development and create a 'truly Gaelic environment'.

The parents believed efforts to teach Gaelic fluently were 'undermined' as the language was not spoken by pupils in the playground and when the whole school mixed.

The consultation, which has bitterly divided the Sleat peninsula, saw 149 letters received from local residents, including students from the Gaelic college Sabhal Mor Ostaig. Seventy supported keeping the school as it was and 79 were in favour of an all-Gaelic school.

The council also received letters from six different Gaelic organisations as well as the academic staff of the Gaelic college.

The school has 66 pupils, of which 46 are Gaelic medium and 20 English.

Roisin McArthur with her swimming goggles before she hits the pool. f39swm01

Roisin aspires to swim Channel

A YOUNG Fort William girl is swimming the distance of the English Channel but at the end of her marathon swim she won't be any closer to France.

Roisin McArthur, who has been swimming since she was two, is in the middle of swimming the channel by covering the distance at the pool in the Lochaber Leisure Centre. Her mother Siobhan said the distance works out at around 1,408 lengths and her daughter is so keen to swim the channel by December 3, she goes swimming in the morning even before she goes to school. As The Oban Times went to press she had already completed 204 lengths. The St Mary's RC Primary School pupil is raising funds for the spinal injury charity Aspire.

Mary Ray with two of her nine dogs, Gypsy and Foxy, who is sired by Crufts champion Quincy. f39dog01

Top dog trainer at Nevis Centre

ONE of the UK's top dog trainers and many times Crufts obedience and agility dog handling champion spent two days last week in Fort William.

Mary Ray of Rugby brought five of her nine collies and shelties to the town where on the Tuesday evening more than 400 dog owners and handlers packed into the Nevis Centre to watch her put her dogs through their paces and perform her heel to music work, also known as dog dancing.

On Wednesday she was involved in a training day with 15 handlers and their dogs, mainly showing how to use a clicker in training.

She has performed her heel to music routines in front of capacity audiences at Crufts on at least nine occasions before the Best in Show competition, even using the same dog, Quincy, in 2003 that two days previously had won the Crufts Dog Obedience Championships.

She has also won many Kennel Club obedience challenge certificates, dog obedience championships at Crufts and dog agility championships in the 27 years since she started training dogs.

Speaking before the show Mary said: 'I will be showing how I train them for obedience and agility and how I put that together to music. I did obedience and agility competitions and that is where it comes from.'

She has been on the road with her tours for the last 10 years and such is her talent, knowledge and renowned ability that people came from as far as Orkney, Fife and the Borders to see her perform in Fort William.

Ann Maxwell of Lochaber and District Canine Society said afterwards it was something of 'coup' for the club to have booked Mary, who agreed to do the day's training because she had already travelled such a distance to get to Lochaber.

'We just asked,' said Ann, 'and they said yes. It was excellent and everyone seemed delighted with the show.

'She showed her training methods using a clicker and how she trained her dogs for dancing. She was very entertaining.'

Mary then performed three of her routines, the final one being the same as she performed before the Best in Show Competition at Crufts this year, to 'All that Jazz'.

Lochaber and District Canine Society meets every Tuesday night in the Nevis Centre.

Search fails to find walker

A SEARCH to find a 60-year-old man who slipped and fell down a coastal waterfall on Rum was called off on Friday after an extensive search by rescue services failed to find him.

Thomas Macaulay of Arrochar had been at the start of a walking holiday with a colleague, David Macguire from Dumbarton, on Thursday, September 21.

Mr Macaulay's companion also slipped into the waterfall between Dibdal and Welshman's Rock but managed to grab a clump of heather and pull himself out of the gulley, which led into the sea. When he failed to find his friend, he raised the alarm around 3pm.

The Stornoway-based coastguard helicopter, coastguard rescue teams and Mallaig lifeboat were scrambled to the scene.

The search continued until dark and then started again at first light on Friday with coastguard teams from Rum and Mallaig, the coastguard helicopter and the lifeboat.

Coastguard rescue teams used special equipment to search the gulley of the waterfall to reach inaccessible areas that could not be seen from the air or sea but no sign was found of Mr Macaulay.

Stornoway Coastguard Watch Manager Dave Macbeth said: 'This extensive search has been undertaken in very difficult weather conditions but unfortunately without success.'

Fort teenage supplier on probation

A FORT William teenager who admitted supplying cannabis resin has been put on probation for one year and ordered to carry out 200 hours of community service.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard Daniel Paul, aged 19, plead guilty to being concerned in the supply of cannabis resin at 21 Wallace Place, Fort William on May 20 this year.

Sheriff Douglas Small told Paul, of 32 Kennedy Road, Fort William, that he was in court on a 'very serious matter'. 'You have pled guilty to a very serious charge and I think the social work department should keep a very close eye on this young man,' said Sheriff Small.

Police files

SOMETIME between 7.30pm and 10.45pm on Friday September 22, a Renault Laguna car was vandalised where it was parked at the car park of the Community Centre, Ballachulish.

A window at the Locahaber Yacht Club, Achintore Road, Fort William, was broken sometime between 6.15am and 9.00am on Saturday September 23 and a Suzuki outboard was stolen from the same premises sometime between September 13 and 24.

A 12-week-old collie cross spaniel dog, black with a white front, was stolen from a kennel in the garden of Angus Crescent, Fort William, about 9.30pm on Saturday 23 September.

Sometime between 9pm on Saturday September 23 and midday the following morning a shed at Glencoe Primary School was broken into.

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

Sometime between 8pm on Wednesday September 20 and Thursday September 21, a black Ford Fiesta VRM, registration N491 AST was taken from outside an address in Kings Brae, Dunvegan, Skye.

Anyone with any information regarding the theft of this vehicle or anyone who has seen the vehicle is asked to contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888.

Housing Transfer: delivering investment **NOT** privatisation

Cllr Corrie McChord *"Housing Stirling will be able to offer things that the Council cannot: a legal guarantee on rents, access to funding for regeneration and new homes and certainty on investment in homes and the housing service."*

	Council	Housing Stirling	Private Landlord
Not for Profit organisation	YES	YES	NO
Legal guarantee on affordable rents	NO	YES	NO
Monitored by Communities Scotland, the Government's watchdog	YES	YES	NO
Access to grants to regenerate areas and build new homes	NO	YES	NO
Tenants involved directly in decision making	NO	YES	NO
Tenancy rights protected, including the right to buy	YES	YES	NO

Keeping rents affordable: Housing Stirling is committed to keeping rents affordable. There will be a rent guarantee, backed by law, and **no hidden extras**. Housing Stirling has no plans to introduce service charges.

IF YOU DON'T KNOW, ASK. Call TPAS on **0800 269 645**
Don't waste your vote and let others decide for you.

Stirling Council

Please return ballot paper by 11th October

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Glasgow Letter

A lively start

GLASGOW Skye Association's 2006-07 season got underway successfully at its recent well-attended opening concert in Partick Burgh Hall.

President Seumas Campbell chaired the evening which included contributions from piper Scott Richardson, Gordon McKeeve, John Boa, Cumbernauld Gaelic Choir, Mary MacLean and Rachel and Emma Deans.

This excellent selection of artistes was joined by Fiona Johnstone, playing accordion, and a group of pupils, known as Sgiobalta, whose make up consisted of clarsach, flute, fiddlers and small pipes.

If I have the name correct, and if my Gaelic translation is correct, this group of youngsters more than lived up to their name. They were excellent, managing fine without their mentor in the second half and, as was stated on the evening, showed that the future of our traditional music is being well looked after by the youngsters. Well done to everyone concerned.

Eclectic concert

IT WILL be worthwhile going along to St Columba's Church of Scotland on Saturday September 30 to find out what is exactly meant by an eclectic concert.

Advertised as the Minister's Recital, the evening will consist of contributions from the Rev Donald Michael MacInnes and friends.

I am reliably informed that there will be Gaelic and English singing, choral music, piano duets, piping and story telling.

Proceeds from the evening will go to Bethesda Hospice in Stornoway and admission will be by donation of at least £5. The event starts at 7.30pm.

No doubt there will also be the traditional St Columba's supper which in itself is usually worth the admission cost.

Dedication service

NORMALLY the Highlander's Institute Dedication Service takes place on the first Sunday of October.

I have been asked to intimate that the service will not take place on that date this year. Watch this space for further details.

In memory of Joan MacIver

A LARGE and representative number of her friends attended the Remembrance Service held recently in memory of Joan MacIver. Joan died suddenly several weeks ago at home in Uig, Lewis.

This service in St Columba's Church gave everyone who was unable to travel to Lewis for her funeral service an opportunity to pay their respects.

Conducted by the Rev Donald Michael MacInnes this was a very moving service for a lady who had contributed so much to our city and in particular to its Gaelic traditions. Readings were by Kenneth Thomson and John MacNeil and Donald Smith delivered an excellent eulogy on Joan's life.

Musical contributions were from Duncan MacDonald, singing An Aitearachd Ard, which, of course, was composed in Joan's native parish, and a combined choir singing Psalm 65 to the tune French, with precentor Calum MacArthur.

Charity concert

THOSE who live on the south side often complain that most functions take place north of the river but I am now able to give advance warning of a Charity Ceilidh to be held in Carmichael Halls, Eastwood, on Friday November 10 at 7.30 pm.

Lorna Kirkpatrick hopes to raise more than £2,000 for the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice by trekking in Peru in June 2007 and this ceilidh will be part of her fund-raising. With music from dad Charlie Kirkpatrick's band and a buffet included in the price of £10 what could be better to cheer oneself up as the cold and darkness of winter approaches.

This is a worthy cause well worth supporting.

Why not organise a few friends to go along with you?

Tickets can be ordered from Lorna, telephone 07973 488093.

Diary dates

Friday September 29: Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association, Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh, with John Stewart's Band. Ceol's Craic Centre for Contemporary Arts, 350 Sauchiehall Street, 8pm with poetry from Martin MacIntyre, music from Iain Morrison and songs from Brian O'hEadhra and Bannal. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association, ceilidh dance, Whitefield Road Community Halls, Ibrox, from 9pm-1am.

Saturday September 30: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, ceilidh, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm. Glasgow Mid Argyll Shinty Club, buffet ceilidh dance, Hillhead Sport's Club, Hughenden Road with Gary Innes' Band, 7.30pm. Motherwell and District Highlanders, ceilidh dance, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. St Columba's Church Concert - see above.

Friday October 6: Glasgow Islay Association, opening ceilidh, St Columba's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Edinburgh Argyll Association, ceilidh, St Mark's Church Hall, Castle Terrace, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

THIS weekend music in the Islay Inn will be provided by Hell for Leather on Friday, the Keelies on Saturday and Donald MacDonald/Rory Grossart on Sunday. In the Park Bar it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday and Deoch 'n Dorus on both Saturday and Sunday.

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

Dahl School, Glen Etive - 1934

This week's flashback photograph shows the five pupils who attended Dahl School, Glen Etive, with their teacher Cathie Crawford. It was submitted by Kathleen Hannigan, of Taynuilt, whose mother Janet MacLarty is pictured. She is the dark haired girl pictured at the back beside Cathie Crawford. 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. ❒ The winner of our £10 prize for August was Mrs M Fletcher of Creran Gardens, Oban, for her photo of the Oban High School hockey team from season 1948-49.

Letters to the editor

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Thanks McCaig

Sir,

I find myself in the unusual position of writing to thank McCaig for his/her comments.

I refer to last week's column and the mention of Oban Community Council's objection to the Ladbroke planning application for the North Pier.

Once again Oban Community Council listened to the community and the majority opinion that this was an unsuitable use of the 'White Building'.

Myself and my colleagues continue to maintain a busy programme tackling many issues. We know some are controversial; undeterred we question numerous items that are of importance to our area, achieving some gratifying results including the campaign on school transport and the above planning application.

We acknowledge there is a perception in some official circles that community councils are just a thorn in the side. May I remind those of that opinion of the story of the mouse, the elephant and the thorn.

Once again thanks to McCaig for his/her comments.

Neil Mackay, vice chairman, Oban Community Council.

Bilingual signs a waste of money

Sir,

I wonder what social work department staff, chronically short of funds to support the old and infirm, think of the latest gross misuse of public funds: bilingual road signs.

These are the very opposite of what good road signs should be - clear and unambiguous.

While it is desirable to provide support for those who wish to learn Gaelic, those pressing for additional applications such as the new signs should be aware that they cause much irritation and even fury among the great majority who have to pay for them.

If our elective representatives doubt this, I suggest they are completely out of touch with their constituents, and if any further touristy nonsense is planned, they should conduct a poll, before wasting any more taxpayers' money.

Name and address supplied.

McCaig replies

Sir,

Normally, I would ignore Councillor George freeman's ramblings, such as those in his letter in last week's edition, but as I am fortunate to have the strong support of a number of his council colleagues who are appalled that he appears to have been deliberately obtuse about what I wrote regarding the Scottish Executive's recent appointments to the Board of NHS Highland, I should reply briefly to him.

At no time did I criticise the appointment of Councillor Billy Petrie, Convenor of Argyll and Bute Council to the board of NHS Highland.

I hold Councillor Petrie in the highest regard and am perfectly happy that he should serve as the council's representative on NHS Highland and Councillor Petrie knows that. I was referring to the comment, as I made clear in my column, to two of the three people appointed by the Scottish Executive to represent the whole of Argyll and Bute on NHS Highland.

It is not rude to query the suitability of the persons appointed as they have put themselves forward for public office and in my eyes, and those of many residents of the real Argyll and Bute, are not suitable to fight our corner in Inverness.

I have no doubt Councillor Freeman knows them well. If he does, I should be really surprised as I have yet to find anyone who lives on Bute who knows the lady concerned who is shown in the announcement of her appointment as living there.

The point I was making was that MSP Bill Butler has introduced a Bill into the Scottish Parliament to have elections for the representatives of the public on all health boards. I support him in this attempt to bring some democracy to those organisations.

I hope this makes my position sufficiently clear.

McCaig.

Anger at road tax rise plan

Sir,

I was horrified to hear of the Liberal Democrats proposals to increase vehicle licensing costs by up to £2,000 for larger cars.

In Argyll where we have no public transport to speak of and already higher fuel prices we are going to bear a disproportionate cost of this tax.

It is ironic that we who live in one of the least polluted areas of the country will be subsidising those who live in the most polluted areas. In addition many small businesses and especially farmers have to use four wheel drive vehicles in connection with their businesses.

Is this a case of small businesses being punished for pollution which is in the main caused by big business? I have no sympathy for those who drive four wheel drive vehicles in cities. In Argyll the atrocious condition of the roads almost makes them mandatory and we pay for this in increased accidents and wear and tear on our vehicles. George Lyon should protest this policy in the strongest possible terms on behalf of his constituents.

Mike Mackenzie, No 1 Easdale Island.

Air crash mystery

Sir,

I would like to comment on your September 14 front page story about the air crash at Glenforsa, Mull.

I noted that Mr Howitt stated the most likely cause of the accident was the southerly cross wind.

Is it possible the same wind direction prevailed on the night of December 24 1975 leading to the crash of the Cessna 150 in which at least two people died.

We know one of the people was Peter Gibbs, who died 400 feet above sea level from exposure, but we have never found out who died in the plane.

The most intriguing thing about this crash was that a forestry worker, using a small dinghy, found the plane the following summer below the same quarry above which Peter's body was found.

I asked the worker why he did not want to go public with his information and clear up the mystery. He replied: 'For the same reason Felicity Granger did not.'

So after 30 years later we still do not know who died in the Cessna 150. But I know a lady who does.

J MacFadyen, Lochgilphead.

Appin graveyard, James of the Glen

Sir,

I refer to your article on the above subject in last week's publication and would like to contribute.

I endorse entirely the comments of John Beattie of the local caravan park regarding the shocking and disgraceful state of probably one of the most historic sites of interest in the Lochaber area.

Intending tourists have no idea where the churchyard is situated.

Prior to 2003 a retired, now deceased, local councillor, Bruce Tulloch, put in a commendable effort to get signs put up on the main road and at the exact location of the resting place of James of the Glen's remains.

During the outbreak of foot and mouth, Mr Garwood at first understandingly covered the signs on the main road with plastic farm bags; a very short time later he illegally removed the signs completely, leaving intending visitors completely at a loss to the location. When Scotland was declared a free zone once again by the Scottish Exececutive, he never replaced the signs.

With reference to his remarks that he will help people in visiting, I would suggest is nothing short of nonsense.

About 20 yards down the farm road - a right of way - a gate across the road has a two padlocks and chain on it.

The padlocks aren't locked but at first glance a stranger would believe them to be so.

If you do enter it is more than likely you will be met by a farm labourer dissuading anyone from continuing to the site.

As I stay one mile from the area and frequent visitors call at my home looking for the site, after I have directed them they have returned with such an experience.

The owner of Keil House uses the James of the Glen and R L Stevenson theme to promote bed and breakfast business, so if you take up the offer of bed and breakfast you might have a chance of visiting the site.

I have documents from the following: Bank of Scotland, Fergus Ewing, Scot Parliament, Highland Council, Historic Scotland, Forestry Commission, Scottish Rights of Way, Duror Community Council, Crown Commission for Scotland, to substantiate my comments, open for scrutiny by anyone with an interest.

In conclusion, as Dave Crystal of the local community council cannot find the ownership of the churchyard, if he cares to get in touch with me, I can supply him with the relevant information.

Tom Kirsop, Appin.

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.

email *your* news and photographs directly to editor@obantimes.co.uk

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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.

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

A View From The Tower

By McCAIG

Send Tsars packing

A COUPLE of weeks ago, Audit Scotland produced shocking figures about the cost of having these useless appendages to government in Scotland: the Tsars.

At present, there are six of them, each costing more than £1 million between salary, administration and office premises. Yet, there doesn't seem to be any evidence that they are causing any improvement to the good health or government of the nation.

Although she has been very quiet in recent months - and well she might be from other revelations last week - we do still have a food Tsar. As with most so-called experts who take on such roles she always is right. The facts and figures to which I referred reveal the fact that after a decade of telling the Scots, and particularly those who live in West Central Scotland, that their very poor diet is responsible for their very early deaths very little improvement has been detected.

Now this lady has been warbling on about the dangers of having everything deep fried but with little effect. I have no doubt that this week she will calling for the banning of crisps from all school tuck shops and supporting the expert in obesity who wants burger vans banned from being parked anywhere near schools at lunchtime.

So far, all her preaching has been singularly unsuccessful. If she were to have her appointment terminated that £1 million would be better spent in providing decent school meals that will wean tots away from burgers, chips, fried Mars bars and super-fizzy drinks.

At the same time, the Information Commissioner could be put out to grass. He's another man who needs the absurd £1 million to meet his salary, his expenses, his office block in St Andrews and his PR consultants.

Perhaps, he would like to tell us how many of the queries he receives are such that they cannot be dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act. Indeed, I often wonder how many of those who ask do so for genuine reasons rather than trying to 'dig the dirt' on prominent figures for whom they have developed an inexplicable hatred.

But wait for it. Despite the widespread concern about these Tsars and what they cost, there is now a proposal to have an old people's Tsar. Heaven forbid. There are many things that our senior citizens need before such an imposition.

But be warned: A super Tsar must be the next step.

Make St Andrews Day a holiday

AS REGULAR readers will know I have been a supporter of having St Andrews Day declared as a national holiday, and one without strings attached.

Last year First Minister Jack McConnell declared himself in favour of having our Patron Saint commemorated with a public holiday, but only if it was to replace one which we all ready have.

I presume swapping with the May Day holiday is to be excluded in this calculation. But why must we have such strings attached?

Britain, never mind just Scotland, has fewer public holidays than any other European country. They are not on the border of bankruptcy because of that. As far as employers are concerned their claims of millions of pounds lost in productivity are just crocodile tears. They quietly forget about the extra holidays they award themselves for bonding sessions, golf outings, days at the races and 'research exercises'.

Anyone who has been in Dublin, New York, or London on St Patrick's Day will know just what a wonderful occasion it is. One thing is certain: the Irish know more about their Patron Saint and benefit greatly from the commercial activities that are associated with him. Let us do likewise and have a national holiday with no strings attached.

Educational common sense at last

FOR TOO long those at the top of education have been dedicated to the idea that going to university or college was a necessary step in the development of every young person whether they were bright enough to do the courses or not.

Now, don't get me wrong, being a student is a wonderful experience and is to be recommended totally. But it also can be miserable existence if the course is not what was expected or one found to be beyond the student's intellectual capacity.

In some cases, the more modern universities, or those that have grown from technical colleges, have trimmed their academic standards and their course material to ensure that they have the student numbers to keep their establishments going.

Currently, mergers seem to be the name of the game as student numbers are falling, mainly because parents and their offspring are horrified at the volume of debt acquired by an undergraduate.

Now we are to have 'skills academies' to cater for those who up till now were forced to stay at school until they were 16 whether they wanted to or not.

These 'academies' will operate from the age of 14 and will provide the tradesmen of tomorrow so that we can get a plumber or an electrician when we need one urgently.

McCaig

Islay Letter

Top trads in concert

THE RHINNS Hall at Portnahaven was heaving on Friday night when Borders fiddler and current BBC young traditional musician of the year Shona Mooney, along with the competition's five other semi-finalists, presented a vigorous two-hour programme of exuberant music which had the capacity audience clamouring for more.

Skye Mod gold medallist Darren MacLean sang the Gaelic songs and cracked the jokes and Galashiels button key accordionist joined in the music and the fun.

More fiddle selections came from Kirsty Cotter, originally from the south of England, and Strathspey's Hamish Napier played the keyboard, sang and threw in some step-dancing for good measure.

Guitar accompaniments were provided by Innes Watson, prior to his appearance at the Jura Music Festival, and there was a special welcome for local musician Fraser Shaw who entertained on pipes and whistles.

Guest artiste was Stuart Cassells, the 2005 young traditional musician of the year, whose dexterity on the bagpipes continues to amaze.

The Portnahaven gig was organised by the Islay Arts Association and opened a week-long tour by the young musicians which marks the 40th anniversary of the Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland.

Meur Ile

LOCAL Gaelic enthusiast Neil MacLean is to continue as chairman of the Meur Ile of An Comann Gaidhealach.

The Caolila resident was re-elected to the office at the branch's annual general meeting and his continuation as branch leader recognises his commitment and dedication to the cause.

Current secretary Fiona MacGregor is also to continue with her duties which she carries out uncomplainingly especially when faced with the extra tasks which are involved in the organisation of the island's local Mod.

Still pulling the purse strings is treasurer Gina MacAusland whose careful financial husbandry gains the respect of everyone.

Gina will also continue to record the branch meeting minutes with her usual efficiency. The meeting also decided that next year's local Mod will be held on Saturday June 9.

Kirk lunch

RETIRED GP Dr David Hardie was guest speaker at the first lunch of Kilarrow Parish Church Men's Club's new session in Bowmore's Lochside Hotel on September 7.

At last week's lunch, the visiting speaker was Philip Maxwell, organiser and administrator of the Smaull Singing School, who spoke on the origins of the now annual event which continues to attract visiting and local students eager to improve their singing skills.

New Zealand bound

EVERYONE wishes bon voyage and every success to Kenneth Morris who has left Islay shores to seek a new life in New Zealand.

Kenneth, from Port Ellen, is a son of Mary and Eddie Morris. He was duty manager at the Lochside Hotel and his departure for pastures new was not overlooked by the owners and staff at the island hostelry.

Kenny is also a talented box player and we can be sure that his accordion skills will be in much demand among the Scottish expatriates in the land of the low white cloud.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay.

Fergie MacDonald was in fine form on his button key accordion. Picture by Ian Watson, Studio Scotland.

Celebrating 50 years of Fergie

FEW SCOTTISH traditional musicians can pack them in like Fergie and, at a memorable concert to celebrate his longevity in the business, it was easy to see why.

Since he began his ceilidh band days 50 years ago Fergie has released 23 albums, written countless tunes and played in almost every village hall in the country with his button key accordion.

But one venue, the Old Fruitmarket in Glasgow, was to be a special one and was packed to the rafters on Saturday September 16 as a capacity audience of just under 1,000, young and old, helped celebrate half a century of Fergie at Fergie's Ceilidh Gold.

An Lochran, Glasgow's Gaelic arts organisation, hosted the concert which featured Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham, who rescheduled a tour to appear, and Gaelic supergroup Cliar as well as Fergie and his band.

Banter

Phil and Aly proved their double act is not all in the music - which was superb - but their banter and Fergie storytelling also kept the crowd entertained.

Cliar were at their harmonious best and Fergie's band played a few customary 'second last dances' including a Highland Schottische that had couples dancing in the aisles.

Guest artists and bean-an-tighe Morag MacDonald of BBC Radio Nan Gaidheal all spoke of their admiration of the maestro from Moidart and prompted him to tell many a tale of his past exploits, from how he started as a button key box player to his famous red socks.

As Fergie and his band took to the stage for the last performance of the night, Fergie told the already enthralled audience to expect a big finale, and what a joyous finale it was as the band was joined on stage by a who's who of accordion music.

There was even the bonus of Fergie singing his famous tune *Loch Maree Island*.

Upon leaving stage every player congratulated Fergie on his performance, a testament to how highly they all regard the man.

But it was a speech by Boyd Robertson, chairman of An Lochran, that really stirred the onlookers and prompted rapturous applause.

Career

Mr Robertson called for Fergie's career to be officially recognised saying: 'The time has come for him to emulate Aly and Phil and he should get an MBE or something above that station for the Moidart band leader extraordinaire.

'There are some of you in the audience tonight who have the same thought and if there are any movers and shakers in the hall tonight they should make sure Fergie gets the award he deserves.'

He presented Fergie with a decanter and a cartoon by Malky McCormick.

After accepting the gifts Fergie told the audience: 'Thank you all. I know it is all fans I have got here who have danced to me for 50 years and I'm very humbled.

'I am happy and sad also because you have to realise that when you hit 50 years on the road you haven't got all that long to go but I have got young ones on the road with me all the time and that keeps me going.'

Fergie then recalled some statistics from his famous ceilidhs saying his dances were responsible for seven deaths, one birth, thousands of weddings and hundreds of divorces.

As straight-faced as ever during the multi-accordion close to proceedings, Fergie showed hints of his excitement and emotion backstage where he told *The Oban Times*: 'The object of tonight is how they rated the man who gave the world ceilidh music. It has taken a long, hard slog introducing ceilidh music to the masses. But it has been driven home to me what I have meant to them [the audience] over the years.' The proud Fergie continued: 'A lot of folk have been brought up with Fergie music and it showed tonight with the warmth they feel for me and the warmth I feel for them. They are part of me.'

Almost 1,000 people packed the Old Fruitmarket for the concert. Picture by Ian Watson, Studio Scotland.

Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham. Picture by Ian Watson, Studio Scotland.

Skipinnish take to waterfront to launch sounds of summer

TIREE band Skipinnish launched their third album, *The Sound of the Summer*, at The Waterfront Bar, Oban.

The bar was filled with the band's loyal following from Oban and the surrounding area.

Many of these supporters were pipers from the area and they joined the Skipinnish boys as they marched from the front doors of the Waterfront Bar to the stage at the back of the pub.

Skipinnish and friends. t38skp01

Legend

Compere on the night was legendary Scottish comedian Norman MacLean who delighted the audience with his 'patter'. He also picked up the pipes to entertain with a tune of his own. Angus MacPhail of Skippinish said: 'We like to do a launch on the mainland for those who can't travel to Tiree and we hope Friday was a rip roaring party.

Norman MacLean. t38skp03

'Quite a few folk came over from Tiree to support us as well as various musicians who play on the new album.'

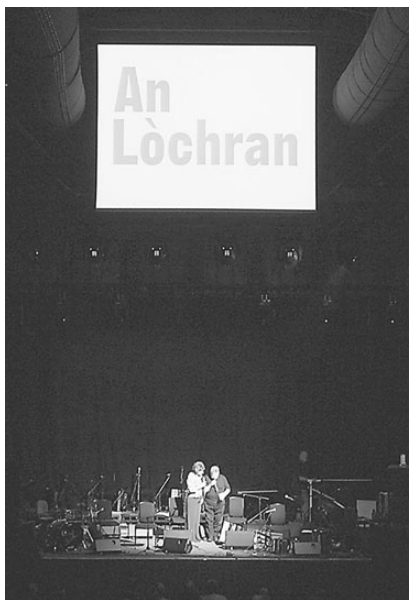
There are some new Skipinnish sounds on *The Sound of the Summer* including a Jews Harp played by Malcolm Jones and Glenuig brothers Iain and Alan MacDonald as well as songs made to sound similar to the popular tracks on previous albums.

Reviews

The CD has had excellent reviews from pundits and punters alike and received a glowing report from Runrig's Calum MacDonald who said: 'That esteemed west Highland philosopher Para Handy had a great term for assessing whether people were real Gaels or not; or whether they were just playing at it. He called it 'having the agility'.

'The traditional music of the Highland west coast is unique and there are many that 'play at it'.

Skipinnish are quite simply in a league of their own. They are the real thing and they have 'the agility' in barrel loads.'



A view from the audience

IF ONE thing was certain from Fergie's Celidh Gold, it was that the audience enjoyed themselves.

Taynuilt's Margaret MacLennan, who was there with husband Tom, has been going to Fergie's dances since the days of Highlander's Institute, Glasgow, in the late '60s.

She said: 'I enjoyed it and you could tell by the audience's response what a great night it was and he [Fergie] was chuffed to bits to be amongst all these people.

'There is only one Fergie; he is a character and he has given a lot to west coast ceilidh music so I am glad they organised it for him. He has given an awful lot of young ones a stage to play on.

'I really enjoyed the finale, especially when he sang Loch Maree Island, and he can still sing. Morag MacDonald kept things going really well and I think Phil and Aly should watch out - the next double act could be Fergie and Morag!'

While the majority of the audience, like Margaret, had seen Fergie a number of times over the years, others such as Appin's Lorna Wallace witnessed their first Fergie ceilidh.

Lorna said: 'I really enjoyed it. I wasn't sure what to expect but the performance of Fergie and the supporting acts was amazing.'

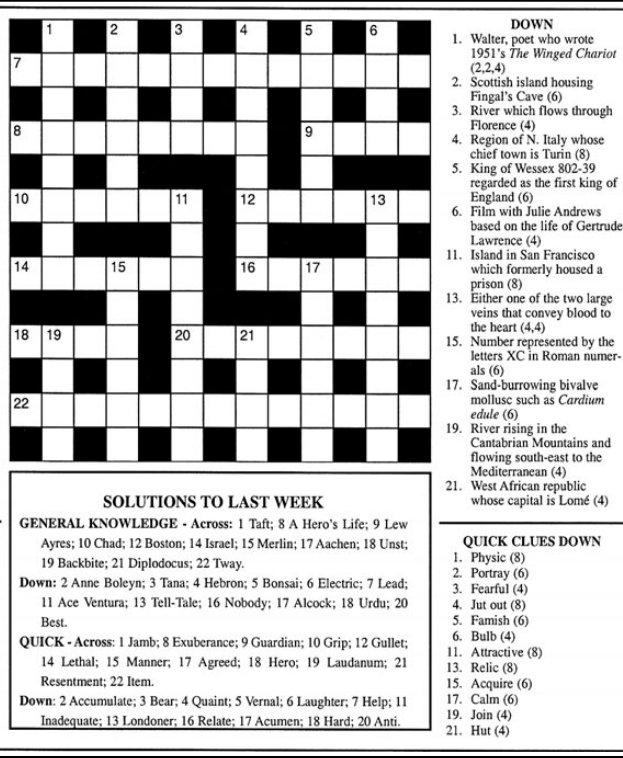
The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 452

ACROSS

7. English jockey who won 30 Classics, including 9 Epsom Derby wins (6,7)
8. 1986 U.S. Open golf champion (3,5)
9. In the British Isles, a nobleman ranking below a marquess and above a viscount (4)
10. Treelike plant of the genus *Musa* with a crescent-shaped fruit (6)
12. In music, a distance of eight notes as measured on the white notes of a piano keyboard (6)
14. Small nocturnal fox of N. African and Arabian deserts (6)
16. Constellation in the S. hemisphere which contains most of the Small Magellanic Cloud (6)
18. David, director of the film *Dr. Zhivago* (4)
20. Lake on the borders of Peru and Bolivia (8)
22. 1964 film in which Peter Sellers played three roles including President Merkin Mufftey (2,11)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

7. Decay (13)
8. Industrious (8)
9. Slope (4)
10. Sufferer (6)
12. Troubled (6)
14. Appertain (6)
16. Die (6)
18. Dull (4)
20. Rapturous (8)
22. Negligible (13)



DOWN

1. Walter, poet who wrote 1951's *The Winged Chariot* (2,2,4)
2. Scottish island housing Fingal's Cave (6)
3. River which flows through Florence (4)
4. Region of N. Italy whose chief town is Turin (8)
5. King of Wessex 802-39 regarded as the first king of England (6)
6. Film with Julie Andrews based on the life of Gertrude Lawrence (4)
11. Island in San Francisco which formerly housed a prison (8)
13. Either one of the two large veins that convey blood to the heart (4,4)
15. Number represented by the letters XC in Roman numerals (6)
17. Sand-burrowing bivalve mollusc such as *Cardium edule* (6)
19. River rising in the Cantabrian Mountains and flowing south-east to the Mediterranean (4)
21. West African republic whose capital is Lomé (4)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

1. Physic (8)
2. Portray (6)
3. Fearful (4)
4. Jut out (8)
5. Famish (6)
6. Bulb (4)
11. Attractive (8)
13. Relic (8)
15. Acquire (6)
17. Calm (6)
19. Join (4)
21. Hut (4)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Taft; 8 A Hero's Life; 9 Lew Ayres; 10 Chad; 12 Boston; 14 Israel; 15 Merlin; 17 Aachen; 18 Unst; 19 Backbite; 21 Diplodocus; 22 Tway.

Down: 2 Anne Boleyn; 3 Tana; 4 Hebron; 5 Bonsai; 6 Electric; 7 Lead; 11 Ace Ventura; 13 Tell-Tale; 16 Nobody; 17 Alcock; 18 Urdu; 20 Best.

QUICK - Across: 1 Jamb; 8 Exuberance; 9 Guardian; 10 Grip; 12 Gullet; 14 Lethal; 15 Manner; 17 Agreed; 18 Hero; 19 Laudanum; 21 Resentment; 22 Item.

Down: 2 Accumulate; 3 Bear; 4 Quaint; 5 Vernal; 6 Laughter; 7 Help; 11 Inadequate; 13 Londoner; 16 Relate; 17 Acumen; 18 Hard; 20 Anti.

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25 Years Ago — Those Were The Days

The Oban Times Thursday October 2 1981

Call for new fares structure

THE GOVERNMENT has been warned against neglecting air, bus and rail fares in its proposals for a Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) to help island communities.

The Scottish Association for Public Transport said that greatly increased ferry subsidies based on RET would only be acceptable as part of an overall package which included measures to sustain the air, rail and bus network. Tight cash limits imposed on British Rail had led to new doubts about the future of rail services to Oban, Fort William, Mallaig, Kyle of Lochalsh and the far north. Bus services were being curtailed and there was a serious threat to British Airways services in Scotland.

Reservations about a simplistic RET approach were expressed by the association in its previous submission to the government in July 1980. The association agreed that the aim should be to move towards ferry, bus and rail fares which are not normally higher than the running costs of an average car, divided by the occupancy rate. It was suggested that the normal ceiling rate for airfares might be set at three times the rate per mile for surface passengers. The report also accused the government of a preoccupation with ferry issues.

Uist balloon race

WHAT is believed to be the first balloon race on Uist has just finished.

Balloons were sold as part of a fund-raising programme over the summer by the Uist section of the Western Isles branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. Balloons were released at the North Uist Games on July 21 along with an attached card giving a return address. Despite a strong westerly breeze on the day and the reluctance of some balloons to leave North Uist, many were returned from south, east and north of the starting point.

The winner, travelling more than 100 miles, was picked up in the sea off the Torran Rocks, south of Iona, by the crew of the *Silver Strand*.

It had been bought by L Cook of Inverness, who won first prize.

A measuring tape and an accurate map was required to award second prize to balloon number 284, purchased by children from the Christian Family Home Trust at Evanton, who were on holiday in Uist at the time. It was found north of Achiltibuie, within 15 miles of three other balloons.

Clampdown on advert signs

ARGYLL and Bute District Council is to tighten up on advertising within the region.

The planning committee was last week shown slides of advertising signs and a report indicating that a policy for the signs, such as those advertising hotels, restaurants and garages, was necessary.

There has also been concern from members about illuminated and fascia signs at shops and business premises in the area, particularly in the various conservation areas throughout Argyll and Bute.

It was pointed out that in these areas the council had control of the windows of private houses, but not of signs for shops or businesses.

The planning committee unanimously accepted the officials' recommendation that advertising should be more strictly controlled in a long term policy, and agreed that the report should go before the full district council for approval.

If approved, it will be passed to the Secretary of State.

Arisaig and District Community Council

ARISAIG and District Community Council met recently in Astley Hall.

Present: Mr W Henderson, chairman, Mrs J Bryden, Mrs L Benfield, Mrs B Collins, Mrs J Campbell, Mr R Dalglish, Mrs A Hardman, Mr G MacDonald, Mr G MacLellan, Mr J Morrison, Mr R Coyne, secretary, and two members of the public. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs D Stewart, Mr G Stewart, Councillor C King and Police Constable Bryden.

Among the items discussed were:

Final section of A830 road: Tenders are to be returned in early October. It is hoped work will start in January 2007.

Field of Hope: Docks have been sprayed but there are still some to dig out. Fence to be at rear only. Lorry needed to transport topsoil. G MacLellan to follow this up urgently. Site meeting planned.

Housing: Following the site meeting, the secretary had met with Neill Sherriff Ross Shire Engineering, drainage contractors for Scottish Water**.** Scottish Water has now agreed that the old septic tank and the pipe leading to it from near the Land Sea and Island centre will be renewed. The undertaking from Scottish Water to provide water for the new houses by stopping leaks has not been successful and after further intervention by Fergus Ewing 'a feasibility study is now under way to increase the raw water supply'.

Playpark: Any prospect of siting this near the new houses awaits proposals from Lochaber Housing.

Roads: Slow sign was to be put up during the summer.

Repairs to the car park and road opposite the shop are still to be completed.

Some repairs to Bunacaimbe Bridge have been done but there are still dangerous sharp edges.

Removing/altering cycle sign to Station Road still to be done.

A further £1,000 Community Works Grant has been received.

Sign at junction with new A830: Councillor King had previously advised that this sign will be raised.

Meeting with NHS: Councillor King had suggested a meeting with himself, three community council chairmen, doctors and two NHS staff. This had been delayed following Dr Gartshore's sick leave.

Visit on Sheerwater: Fergus Ewing MSP had visited Eigg and Rum on July 24.

Sewage on beach by canal mouth: The Scottish Environment Protection Agency raised this with Scottish Water which immediately cleaned up the mess.

Dog fouling on playing field: This appears to have stopped following the erection of signs.

Lochailort: Forty mile per hour limit is still being followed up.

There were complaints about ragwort infestation by the roadside. The secretary is to follow this up with Transerve pointing out that this is a proscribed weed and is now about to seed.

Planning: An application from Geoff Goulding and Ivy Hancock for a new house and garage to the south of Cuillin View had been supported.

An application from Arisaig Hotel for four self-catering units was noted.

An e-mail had been received from David Kirkham about an abandoned hulk in Loch Ailort. The secretary will forward this to the planners.

Local plan: A petition against the closure of Arisag School was supported by more than 200 people.

Proposal for marine and coastal national park: A letter from Fergus Ewing to all his constituents was noted. Consultation was to have been held late this summer, but no more has been heard.

Moorings Association: The secretary reported from the minutes of the association's third annual general meeting and it was agreed that the council supported the re-election to the committee of R Dalglish as the community council's representative.

Association of Lochaber Community Councils: The secretary had attended the annual general meeting. A problem raised by Charles Kennedy was the possible reorganisation in the future of the districts within Highland Region.

Any other business: It was noted that the registrar in Morar had now closed and the nearest registrar is in Fort William.

Road repairs to the last section of the A830 are urgently needed. The secretary is to follow this up with Transerve.

The secretary had attended a presentation in Caol on the Summer Street League. This was a league organised by a policeman which had been very effective in keeping children off the streets during the summer break.

A fireworks party is to be held on the evening of Saturday November 4.

Date of next meetings: Monday November 6 and Tuesday December 12.

Lifeboat crew boost RNLI funds

Members of Mallaig Lifeboat crew recently raised funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) by taking part in a sponsored parachute jump with The Red Devils. Hugh Cameron, Jeff Lawrie, Hugh McIntyre and Allan Benson are pictured at Kingsmuir Airfield, St Andrews, with the Red Devils support team. The Mallaig Skydive Team, who thank everyone who generously sponsored them, raised more than £4,250 for the RNLI.

Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council

AVICH and Kilchrenan Community Council met in Kilchrenan Primary School on June 14 for its annual general meeting.

Present: P Carruthers, chairman, M Henderson, secretary, I Alexander, vice chairman, I McClounnan, treasurer, C Metcalfe, D Price, G Henderson, co-opted, and Councillor A Macaskill. Apologies: A Hargreaves. Minutes of the previous meeting were read. Regarding item 5 Correspondence - Core Path in the minutes, C Metcalfe said she would speak to Angus Gilmour, Chief Planning Officer, about this. In the 'Any Other Business' section of the minutes regarding the 'canal' at the cabin site, I McClounnan said that Argyll and Bute Council will look into the problem. The chairman said that Ken MacDonald, Area Corporate Services Manager, will look into it with the Health and Safety Department. Minutes were approved by P Carruthers and seconded by I McClounnan.

Chairman's report: 'The last year has involved the community council in various matters and, of course, Marilyn has spent considerable time and effort sorting out all manner of highways problems with generally good co-operation from the council roads department, largely in the person of Neil Brown, the senior officer responsible for such matters.

Although the response is not always immediate, without her unrelenting pressure we would all be a lot worse off. In general, Argyll and Bute Council has dealt well with the handling of gritting and snow clearing operations. Apart from a great deal of general correspondence which is dealt with largely by the secretary, with help from the chairman, Marilyn has also been closely involved with the financing and other matters relating to the defibrillators with excellent support from David and Adrienne Watson. Unfortunately, in spite of some promises, it has been difficult to solicit help on the training aspect which is, of course, somewhat specialised. Hopefully, this will be overcome shortly as, in addition to training new personnel, refresher tuition is required.

'Unfortunately, windfarm applications around Loch Awe and its beautiful environs continue to breeze in at an amazing rate, in particular over the last year or so. In addition to the existing Beinn Ghlas, there is now a proposal for a much larger Beinn Ghlass II which has gone out to scoping and there are applications now in for Stacain and Shira above Dalmally, opposite Ardanaiseig. The community council has submitted objections to both in accordance with its policy. Construction work has now commenced on the An Suidhe project at the south end of the Loch. Whilst Carraig Gheal has now been approved by Argyll and Bute Council, it does, of course, fall within Section 36 of the Electricity Act of 1989 and the final decision rests with the Scottish Executive, although it has not rejected any such proposal thus far. From the community council's point of view, whatever happens, we at least felt vindicated by the Chief Planning Officer's recommendation for refusal. The decision of Taynuilt Community Council to support us on the vital element of access along the B845, which would have been disastrous for the communities down here as well as the ecological and scenic considerations for, in particular, Glen Nant, was appreciated. The disruption to our everyday lives and visitors for an extended period of time would have been intolerable. At least the refusal last December of the Inverliever proposal on the ridge above Loch Avich was a great relief and a victory for commonsense. This would have ruined a wonderful landscape and done considerable harm to flora, fauna and wildlife, as we know in return for little benefit.

'Another matter of interest was the talk given to us by Paul Phare of ALIEnergy in February, about small scale and community renewable schemes. It is hoped that this may ultimately be something that can be pursued as time may allow. As chairman, I have dealt with various consultation documents and matters including the review of electoral arrangements and local government boundary changes which, in view of the support we have enjoyed to date from our own councillor, we were generally unhappy about.

'The area development plan was also, hopefully, successfully dealt with last July, although it is not, of course, possible to cover every single detail.

'Submissions were also made about the re-organisation of the health authority boundaries following the dissolution of NHS Argyll and Clyde in March 2006.

'I have dealt with a questionnaire from the Scottish Executive entitled 'Age and Experience, Developing the Strategy for a Scotland with an Ageing Population'.

'More recently, Marilyn and I, with the valuable help of a few persistent members of the community, will hopefully make some progress with the problems surrounding the Kilchrenan water supply pipe which will crop up later on the agenda.

'As a result of attending only one meeting of the group in Inveraray last year, I found myself pressed into service on the executive committee of the Association of Argyll and Bute Community Councils.

'David Price also addressed one meeting recently in his capacity as a director of the Argyll Council for Voluntary Services with a particular interest in trying to save the Citizens Advice Bureau in our area. In spite of his efforts and those of others, the service has been cut back drastically.

'David also attended the National Conference of The Association of Scottish Community Councils and gave a detailed report to the community council.

'Marilyn has also attended various Argyll and Bute Council and other meetings over the year, obtaining useful feedback on a number of wide-ranging topics. These included the Argyll and Bute Association of Community Council's annual meeting with Argyll and Bute Council at which various concerns can be discussed and addressed for community benefit.

'As a result of my involvement with the association, this had led to a very interesting series of meetings of the WHELK Leader Local Action Group, where small scale funding is approved or otherwise for a wide variety of rural community projects using European funding. The range of projects is very wide and most are extremely worthwhile. A useful insight is gained into other rural communities' needs within the area, which embraces Argyll and Bute and Lochaber. There are some very capable and dedicated people out there! Finally, I am very grateful to all the officers and members of the council who have given their time and effort freely to the Avich and Kilchrenan Community over the past year.'

Treasurer's report: The treasurer informed the meeting that the books had still to be audited and she would report back at the next meeting. A discussion ensued regarding the cost of the halls for meetings. The village hall was £72 per annum and the school was £22 per evening. Councillor Macaskill suggested fund raising, which the secretary thought was not allowed as we were a non-profit making organization. He said this was not true. The secretary then suggested making enquiries into the aggregate tax due to the quarry being close to Kilchrenan. Councillor Macaskill said that this could be done as we were well within the limit of the quarry.

Roads, road signs and rubbish collection: The secretary intimated that there had been many requests for a skip in the villages. Councillor Macaskill said that he was investigating the possibility of a skip to the villages, once or twice a year. He also said that he would like to introduce more than just paper and waste bins.

David Price said that he was amazed at the amount of discarded temporary road signs for road works which had not been uplifted by workmen.

Once again, Iain Alexander mentioned the road at Barrachander on the B845, part of which is collapsing. He said that this part of the road was life threatening. Councillor Macaskill said he would chase up Neil Brown again.

CPR courses update: The secretary informed the meeting that David and Adrienne Watson were arranging CPR courses. Secretary would get in touch with Allan Knox, paramedic from Fort William, to arrange refresher courses for the defibrillator training.

Scottish Water and Private Water Supplies (Controlled activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2006: As a number of villagers are on a private water supply, Christine Metcalfe spoke about the new private water supplies regulations which will have financial implications for larger supplies - those providing 10m3 of water a day. The 2006 regulations introduce tighter monitoring by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency of some types of private water supplies and require those responsible for such supplies to make improvements so that water quality is improved and protected.

The chairman said that he had written to and spoken to representatives of Scottish Water regarding the problem of burst pipes in Kilchrenan. The problem, he said, is being considered by a steering group. Kilchrenan is now in the high priority group for renewal of pipes, which should take place during 2006.

David Price mentioned that this was the annual general meeting and there were no members of the public present. Peter Carruthers said he thinks that the web-site would help but added that residents only attend meetings when they are interested in something on the agenda. Various ideas on how to attract the public to meetings were discussed. Care in the community, especially care for the elderly, was discussed. Councillor Macaskill said that Argyll and Bute Council gets 80 per cent from the Scottish Executive and the remainder from the Council Tax. He suggested we lobby MSPs to help solve the problem.

The Piping Scene

The Northern Meeting

THE NORTHERN Meeting piping competitions, first held in 1841 when the winner of the prize pipe was Angus MacKay, were held for the second year in succession at the Aviemore Highland Resort.

The main change from the previous year was that the days for the two-day meeting were changed to Thursday and Friday, and by most accounts this proved a popular decision.

This year I was invited, along with John McDougall and George Lumsden, to adjudicate at the Silver Medal Competition. The venue for the Silver Medal contest was the Allander Suite in the Aviemore Inn, and the set tunes for this contest were: Weighing from Land, Chisholm's Salute, Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks, The Duke of Atholl's Salute, MacCrimmon Will Never Return and The Battle of Strome.

Competitors were required to submit four tunes and given one to play on the day.

One of the features of the contest was the number of pipers who seemed to have a bit of a struggle getting their instruments settled. This may have been due to the fact that the competition room was considerably warmer than the tuning rooms. Those who fared better were the ones who let their drones settle a bit before touching them. Some came in with drones nicely settled, proceeded to put the drones out, and thereby put pressure on themselves by struggling against the clock to get them back in tune within the tuning time slot.

For the record, the tunes played were Duke of Atholl's Salute, six, Battle of Strome, five, Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks, five, MacCrimmon Will Never Return, three, Weighing from Land, three, Chisholm's Salute, three, making a total of 25 players.

The standard ranged from poor to very good. It was fairly obvious that some players didn't have much idea how to tackle the tunes. There was no evidence that the tunes had been sung through to get a feel for the phrases and of how to consistently treat recurring cadences. Others showed signs of playing straight from the book. My message to them would be to try to make time to get some tuition from a knowledgeable piobaireachd teacher, as next year's set tunes for the Silver Medal will present a much stiffer test for those who make the cut for this competition.

The unanimous first choice of the bench was Finlay Johnston playing a well thought out *Chisholm's Salute* on a good sounding bagpipe which stayed in tune throughout. Second prize went to Donald MacKay with a solid performance of *Weighing from Land.* Callum Beaumont was third with a competent *Duke of Atholl's Salute.* These three were a bit ahead of Andrew Carlisle in fourth place with *Grain in Hides and Corn in Sacks* and Andrea Boyd in fifth also playing *Grain in Hides*.

Other results were as follows:

Gold Medal: 1 Alastair Dunn; 2 James Murray; 3 Iain Speirs; 4 James MacHattie; 5 John Angus Smith.

Former winners March, Strathspey and Reel: 1 William McCallum; 2 Stuart Liddell; 3 Roderick MacLeod; 4 Ian K MacDonald.

Gold Clasp: 1 Murray Henderson; 2 Angus MacColl; 3 Niall Matheson; 4 Greg Wilson.

'A' March Strathspey and Reel: 1 Simon McKerrell; 2 Greg Wilson; 3 Andrew Hayes; 4 Margaret Houlihan.

Hornpipe and jig: 1 Gordon Walker; 2 Ian K MacDonald; 3 Stuart Liddell; 4 Jenny Hazzard.

'B' March: 1 Gareth Rudolph; 2 Corporal Peter MacGregor; 3 Ryan Canning; 4 James Beaumont.

'B' Strathspey and Reel: 1 Gareth Rudolph; 2 William Geddes; 3 Andrew Hall; 4 Douglas Campbell.

Murray Henderson, winner of The Clasp.

Junior competitions

Under 18 March, Strathspey and Reel: 1 James MacKenzie; 2 Faye Henderson; 3 George Stewart; 4 Andrew Travers.

Piobaireachd: 1 Faye Henderson; 2 James MacKenzie; 3 Ashleigh Bell; 4 John Angus Graham.

Under 15 March: 1 Andrew McPhee; 2 Billy Stewart; 3 Alex Levack; 4 Josie Burgess.

A word must be said on the efficient running of these competitions. Although there are many people working in the background that we don't see, the team do a great job in chasing after pipers and making sure they arrive on stage in their allotted slot.

Convener Richard Cameron and his committee, secretary Alison Harbison, and the team of stewards deserve a hearty pat on the back for a job well done.

Glenfiddich

THE NORTHERN Meeting is the last of the main competitions which feature in deciding the pipers who will play at the Glenfiddich contest in Blair Castle on Saturday October 28.

This competition is by invitation and features the main prizewinners of the season and is sponsored by *William Grant & Sons.*

I can reveal that the ten players invited this year are: William McCallum, Roderick Macleod, Murray Henderson, Gordon Walker, Angus MacColl, Euan MacCrimmon, Alan Russell, Greg Wilson, Iain Spiers and Alastair Dunn. It looks like being another day of fine piping at Blair.

Hugh MacCallum.

Junior champion hits all the right notes

UHI Lews Castle College music student James Mackenzie from Back, Isle of Lewis, has won the Scottish Junior Piping Championship for the second consecutive year.

The prize is a two-week all expenses paid trip to pipe and receive intensive tuition at the Balmoral School of Piping at various locations throughout the USA.

Last year after winning the competition James travelled to San Francisco and Cinsinatti.

The event is sponsored by Mackays of Carnoustie.

Alasdair Henderson from Dunoon played very well and took third place in the overall competition as well as winning the March, Strathspey and Reel section.

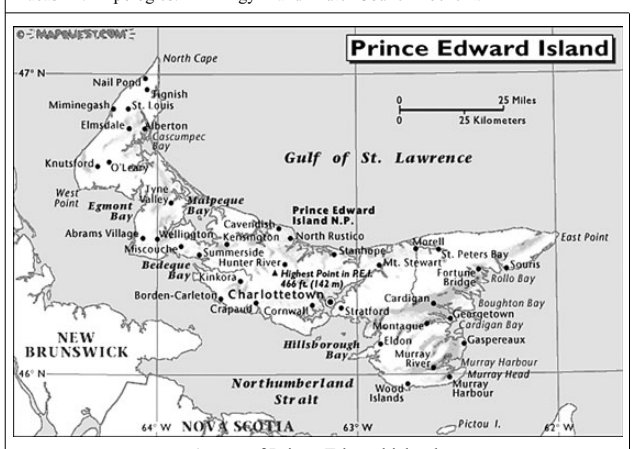
The competition, which is invitational, is hosted by The Practical Pipers Society and is held annually in Carnoustie which is more famous for golf than piping.

James Mackenzie.

Around 150 pipers from Scotland, Canada and Ireland played in the event.

The only other piper from the Highlands competing was Ashley Bell from Muir of Ord who won the 13 to 16 years competition. Her prize is a trip to Canada where she will compete in a Canadian national competition.

Darach Urquhart from Kyle is the only other piper from the west coast to have previously won this prestigious competition.



A map of Prince Edward island.

Kilchattan pupils relive Colonsay emigration

CHILDREN of Kilchattan Primary School on Colonsay have been reliving the events of 200 years ago when upwards of 115 islanders sailed aboard the *Spencer* and reached the shores of Prince Edward Island, Canada.

Last Friday marked the 200th anniversary of their arrival.

During the week staff and children at the school will be making contact with descendants of the original emigrants and getting in touch with children of their own age to find out about life on Prince Edward Island today via e-mail and letters.

Mary Carmichael has been working with the school children on Colonsay in recent weeks through the Cleachd I scheme, organised by Comunn na Gàidhlig, which is designed to encourage a greater understanding and appreciation of Gaelic language, culture and heritage.

The children heard about the changes which were taking place in Colonsay at the time: the introduction of new agricultural practices by the then laird John MacNeill, the creation of the crofting community of Kilchattan, how people were being moved out of places such as Balnahard, and how - although departure from the island was not aggressively enforced as far as we know - the emigration of many inhabitants was actively encouraged and even financially assisted.

Mary said: 'We thought about how the journey was undertaken and who had boarded that vessel at Colonsay not knowing how long they would be at sea, nor what they would find when they reached their destination - if indeed they survived the journey - but believing and hoping that a more prosperous future lay ahead of them.'

The primary school children and two adults used the drive way leading up to the school to measure and mark out the length and breadth of the three-masted brigantine *Spencer* to get an idea of the size of the ship which sailed from Oban to Colonsay that August to pick up its passengers; it was 100 feet in length, 25 feet in breadth and weighed 330 tons.

The children were shown a copy of the passenger list drawn up on the ship's arrival, and a basic list of the cargo. By the time they had counted 115 passengers plus crew and added 70 chests, nine trunks, eight boxes, 35 barrels, one hogshead - a 52.5 gallon container - one kettle and 40 parcels of clothing, they began to realise this vessel was well laden.

Mary explained that the short project was designed to bring the events of the emigration to life.

'We wanted to get a better feel for this momentous event in our island's history and to appreciate that this was no holiday the islanders were embarking on, but a journey that would take them away from all that was familiar and much that was dear to them - forever.

'There was no return ticket, no opportunity to phone home and little prospect of seeing Colonsay again - except perhaps in the mind's eye.'

Around the Rurals

Kilmore

THE FIRST meeting of the new season of the Kilmore branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute was held in Kilmore Hall on Wednesday September 13.

Fiona Dickie, the new president, welcomed 21 existing and two new members to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting were read and the syllabus for 2006/07 was handed out to members with the competitions discussed in detail.

While memberships were being paid, a fun game of guessing 'What's in the Box?' was held. Committee members brought along unusual boxes and everyone enjoyed trying to guess what the contents were.

Tea and birthday cake was served to celebrate Mrs Whitton's 'coming of age' and members had time to catch up on all the news from over the summer.

The next meeting will be in Kilmore Hall on Wednesday October 11 at 7.30pm with the guest speaker Fay Black giving a talk on Antarctica. Everyone welcome.

Lochgoilhead

THE MEETING for September was opened by new president Margaret Ferguson who introduced Nan Smillie from Clydebank.

Nan is a dress maker to trade but gave members a demonstration on how to make hats for special occasions.

Nan's grand-daughter then modelled the beautiful hats and members also tried them on.

Betty Bryce gave the vote of thanks. The competition for a tray bake was won by Anne Livingstone with Mary Young second and Lib Jackson third.

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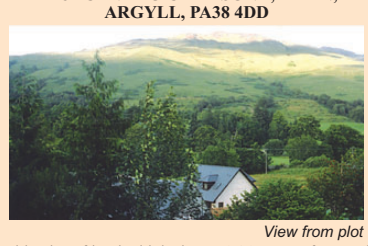
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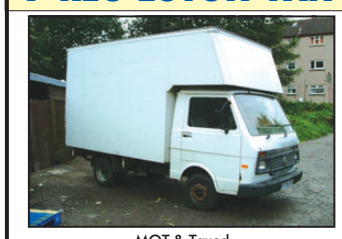

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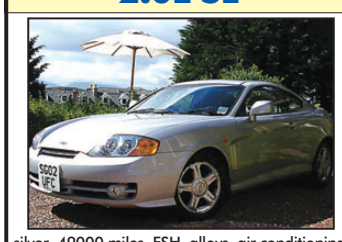

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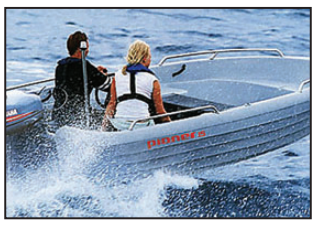

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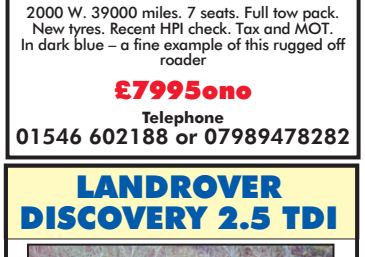

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£1600

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Our price £7,695

02/52 Peugeot 607, S, HDI

110 Turbo Diesel Saloon, PAS, C/L, A/C, CD, etc, Only 19,000 miles, Metallic Blue.
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HDI Turbo Diesel PAS C/L R/C etc, 17,000 miles, Metallic Silver
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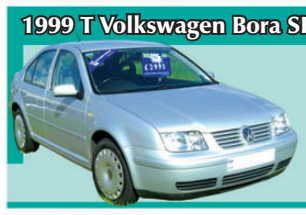

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You'll play a key role within the administration team, providing an efficient organisational and administrative support service to Development Managers and offering a high standard of customer service to both internal and external clients. The main duties include management of our invoice register, stationery and stock control, maintaining departmental files in both physical format and within our electronic record and document management system. In addition, you'll provide reception cover on a rota basis, handling customer enquiries and signposting where necessary.

You'll be motivated and efficient and work well under pressure. Working alone and as part of a team, you'll use your initiative to contribute towards ongoing improvements in all areas. Excellent communication, interpersonal and organisational skills are essential as are well-developed IT skills. You'll have a recognised qualification or have two years' minimum relevant experience working in a busy office.

Excellent superannuation arrangements are in operation.

Informal enquiries should be directed to Donna Beck at Lochaber Enterprise on 01397 702855 or donna.beck@hient.co.uk

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Closing date – 13 October 2006.

www.hie.co.uk/job-vacancies.html

Argyll & Bute CHP

NHS Highland

Aros, Lochgilphead

HR Administrative Assistant – A&C Grade 3

20 hours per week, Fixed Term until 31 March 2007
***£12,580 - £14,602 pro-rata** **Ref: 06ab/127**

We require a very capable and self motivated person to organise the information requirements of the review we are currently undertaking in the Mental Health Service in Argyll & Bute.

You will be self-confident and enjoy organising numerous interviews, arranging meetings and maintaining and updating employee records and staffing data. You will work with managers, HR Advisers and staff in the Mental Health Service as well as many contacts in other organisations.

Much of the information you deal with will be on spreadsheets and you should be competent in the use of Excel and experience of Access databases would be an advantage. Proficiency in word processing and email is essential as is Standard Grade or equivalent in English and Mathematics.

Informal enquiries to Angela Dewsnap, Senior HR Advisor – Tel: 01546 605686.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB – Tel: 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or by emailing recruitment.ab@nhs.net quoting the reference number.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday 13 October 2006.

***Subject to "Agenda for Change" review.**

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Planning & Development

Building Standards Officer/ Senior Building Standards Officer

Fort William, £21,327 – £26,502 (with bar at £23,610)

The Highland Council provides development and building standards services from eight Area Offices across the Highlands. You will join small teams dealing with all building standards matters within the Lochaber area, including the processing of building warrant applications, follow up site visits and inspections for the acceptance of the competition certificate. As part of the Area Office's multi-disciplinary team working, close liaison with the Development Control Teams will also be required, for which training will be given as appropriate.

You should be qualified to HND/HNC level in a construction related subject and have a minimum of two years' post-qualification experience of building standards. Progression through the salary bar is dependent on membership of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors to at least Technical Surveyor level or membership of an equivalent institution or association.

Informal enquiries to Dafydd Jones, tel (01397) 707015.

Application forms quoting Ref: L/119/06 are available from our website or by telephoning Personnel on (01397) 707220.

Closing date: 13 October 2006

www.highland.gov.uk

The Highland Council Comhairle na Gaidhealtachd SERVING The Highland Community

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Take Rachael Wells. She joined as a Special Constable with a view to becoming a regular police officer. So in an average shift she joins our officers on mobile patrol or helping out at big events such as the Scottish Golf Open at Loch Lomond or the Dragon Boat Race in Balloch. Of course, it's sometimes challenging for Rachael – such as having to deal with people in distress – but she says knowing you're helping people makes it all worthwhile.

Help us build strong community partnerships, patrol the streets, prevent crime and interact with all kinds of people. And you could earn up to £1000 a year – as recognition for making your spare time count. Find out more at our Open Day – visit strathclyde.police.uk or call 01355 566352.

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QUALIFIED PRIMARY TEACHER

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For further information contact **Sarah Benfield**

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Previous experience helpful, but training will be provided.

A genuine interest in the work and good customer service is essential.

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to join our busy team in our main office in Kilmelford. To start in November 2006 on a temporary contract (minimum of 12 months)

Full or Part time
Flexible hours / possible job share
Excellent salary

Good IT skills required with working knowledge of Microsoft Word and Excel

For more details and to arrange an interview please contact:-

Ms Lynne Dunlop,
Kames Fish Farming Limited
Kilmelford, Oban PA34 4XA
Tel: 01852 200286
Email: lynnedunlop@kames.co.uk

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Initially 6 hours per week on Fridays (hours may be increased subject to funding)
Salary SCP 15 - £8.48 per hour

Relevant qualification /experience essential
Knowledge of legislation / care commission requirements desirable
Successful applicant must be willing to undertake further training

Closing date for applications Friday 6th October

For an Application Pack or further details contact :-Jackie Fulton on 01586 554861 / 07919 410 872

Health's at the top of their agenda.

Put it to the top of yours.

Chair of Western Isles NHS Board

Health and the NHS are matters of great importance to the people of the Western Isles. The question is, does it matter as much to you?

Scottish Ministers wish to fill the position of Chair of Western Isles NHS Board.

With the other members of the Board you will be expected to tackle a wide range of demanding responsibilities, balancing national priorities and addressing the health priorities and healthcare needs of the people in your area.

Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate:

- a strong personal commitment to the NHS and understanding of, and interest in government health policies including awareness of how they impact locally;
- chair and leadership skills which set the style and tone of Board discussions to promote effective decision-making and constructive debate; and
- the ability to reduce stress for individuals and organisations, by decreasing conflict, improving relationships and understanding, and increasing stability, continuity and harmony.

Further examples of additional skills and knowledge applicable to this appointment are highlighted in the Information for Applicants, which forms part of the application pack. This note also provides more detailed information about Western Isles NHS Board and its role within NHS Scotland.

Remuneration: £25,655 per annum (non-pensionable) is payable. You will also receive reimbursement for all reasonable travel and dependent carer expenses incurred whilst undertaking Board duties.

Time commitment: You must be able to make a firm commitment to spend around 3 days per week on Board business, occasionally during the evenings and weekends, while also demonstrating an adequate degree of flexibility to attend at a greater frequency subject to the Board's ongoing business needs.

Location: Meetings will take place throughout the Western Isles.

Appointment details: The appointment will be for up to 4 years, with the possibility of re-appointment subject to evidence of satisfactory performance and to satisfying the requirements of the person specification for the role at the time of re-appointment.

For more information and an application pack, please see the contact details below. You should provide your name, address and the appointment that you are interested in. Applications are available in alternative formats on request.

Anne Cain, Munro Consulting Ltd, 53 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6TS. Telephone: 0141 227 7550; Fax: 0141 204 1411; E-mail: anne.cain@munroconsulting.com
Closing date for applications is Friday 3 November 2006.

Appointments to NHS Boards are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland. All applicants must complete and submit the application form contained in the pack in order to be considered for appointment. Please note that application forms sent electronically will be in Word format and, if returning electronically, will only be accepted in that format.

The Scottish Executive is committed to equality of opportunity and encouraging a diverse range of applicants for public appointments, 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, please visit the Scottish Executive's website at www.scotland.gov.uk/government/publicbodies/

You can also download information on these appointments by visiting www.nhspublicappointments.scot.nhs.uk

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Interview Officers
£17,377 – £23,076 pa pro rata (pending pay award)

Oban

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Working in customer services doesn't always give you much time for your customers. So if you'd like a job where you really can connect with people, read on.

We're opening an office here and in 68 other UK locations to interview every adult who applies for their first passport, to check they really are who they say they are. The reason? To tackle identity fraud and make life safer for everyone.

Doing a job of national importance isn't the only reward. As **Interview Office Manager** you'll motivate and lead your team, making full use of your experience in customer services management. As an **Interview Officer** you'll take applicants through a series of simple, non-threatening questions and write/type up notes. For both roles, you need to be a natural, confident communicator who realises that applicants are also customers.

Our website, **www.ips.gov.uk/interviewoffices** tells you everything you need to know – including shift patterns and our brilliant benefits package – and lets you apply online. Or you can call Barkers Candidate Management on 0845 408 0288 or 0845 450 3282.

Closing date for the receipt of completed applications: 13th October 2006.

We are an equal opportunities employer.

UK PASSPORT SERVICE

The Identity and Passport Service was created by joining the UK Passport Service and the Home Office Identity Cards Programme.

Public Transport Users' Committee for Scotland

Appointment of Convener

The Public Transport Users' Committee for Scotland is a new advisory public body that will come into being on 01 January 2007. It will be responsible for representing effectively the interests of public transport users and consider and make recommendations to Scottish Ministers relating to public transport services in, from and to Scotland.

Remuneration – The Convener will receive an allowance which will be set at £150 per day, to cover attending meetings and preparation time. All receipted, directly related travel and subsistence costs, as well as reasonable childcare or other carer expenses, will be reimbursed as will reasonable additional expenses for people with disabilities. This appointment will be for 3 years, commencing on 01 February 2007 and ending on 31 January 2010, with the possibility of re-appointment. During the first 3 months of appointment the time commitment for the role is likely to be 3-4 days per month in total, falling to 1-2 days per month thereafter.

The role involves:

- representing users of public transport in Scotland;
- engaging with users and operators of public transport;
- giving advice and making recommendations to Scottish Ministers; and
- inputting into the development of national and regional transport strategies.

The successful candidate will be able to:

- define a clear vision of how to fulfil a body's functions and achieve its aims;
- work harmoniously and effectively with key stakeholders;
- analyse and evaluate complex issues and reach sound conclusions; and
- will have a thorough knowledge of day-to-day issues that affect transport users.

For an application pack please see the contact details below. Application packs are available in alternative formats, on request. You should provide your name, address and the vacancy that you are interested in.

Public Appointments, PO Box 7332, Glasgow G51 2ZA. Telephone: 0870 240 1818. Fax: 0870 600 4111. SMS text message: 0796 013 3181. E-mail: publicappointments@response-handling.com

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 31 October 2006.

Within the next few months we will be seeking applications to fill the 11 membership posts on the PTUC. If you would like to be notified when these opportunities arise please contact Bill Brash at the Scottish Executive on 0131 244 0263 or by E-mail at bill.brash@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Appointments to the Public Transport Users' Committee for Scotland are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland. All applicants must complete and submit the application form contained in the application pack in order to be considered for appointment. Please note that application forms sent electronically will be in Word format and, if returning electronically, will only be accepted in that format.

The Scottish Executive is committed to equality of opportunity and encouraging a diverse range of applicants for public appointments, 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

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Argyll Bute COUNCIL

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Team Leader

£21,327- £23,610 **Oban**

The Community Resource Team require an enthusiastic and dynamic Team Leader (Job-share) to lead an innovative team providing person-centered services for people with learning disabilities in and around the Oban area.

You should have Supervisory experience. You should also have at least 2 years' experience of working with people with learning disabilities. The ability to attain appropriate qualifications to satisfy Care Commission Requirements is essential.

You must have good communication and organisational skills. You should have a good knowledge of issues affecting people with learning disabilities, as well as the ability to communicate with people on all levels. It is essential that you hold a current full driving licence. **Ref: CSD43233.**

For a recruitment pack call 01436 672829.

Senior Accounting Assistant

£18,840 - £23,610 pro rata **Dunoon**

The Finance team provides accounting and budgeting services to the Council's Community Services Department (Education, Housing, Social Work and Culture).

You should have at least 3 Standard Grades (1,2 or 3) or equivalent qualifications/experience, as well as experience of budget monitoring and budget preparation activities. Additionally, you should be an effective communicator who is able to work on your own initiative, and be competent in Excel, with a working knowledge of other Microsoft Office programs, Oracle and Oracle Discoverer. Ideally you will also be familiar with Resourcelink and Cognos. **Ref: CEF02813/E.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604029 / 604034.

School Technician*

£18,324 - £20,673 pro rata

17.5 hours per week **Tarbert Academy**

You will provide comprehensive technician support services within the school. City and Guilds/ ONC/ Scotvec certificate in appropriate is essential. **Ref: CSE50820.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708546.

ICT Support Assistant

£15,441 - £20,673 **Lochgilphead**

You will provide end-user support to Community Service's ICT users in standard Applications and Technologies used within Argyll & Bute Council. You will assist in the installation and commissioning of all relevant communications equipment within Community Services.

You should have 3 Standard Grades (Level 1,2& 3), to include English) or equivalent qualifications experience. A driving licence, ONC/HNC in ICT/Computing related discipline is desirable.

Significant experience/knowledge of supporting Microsoft desktop and server-based environments and Applications is essential, as are excellent IT, communication and admin skills. Experience of using the HEAT system and of administrative support duties is desirable.

You should demonstrate a willingness to learn and work towards professional certification in appropriate ICT support field, as well as enthusiasm and adaptability. **Ref: CSA21313.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

Community Outreach Worker*

£15,789 - £18,840 **Campbeltown**

The community support network delivers services to enable older people, disabled children and carers to be/remain active within their community. Your main role will be to assist in providing a range of support activities, which will include centre-based activities, community-based activities and support to individuals in their own homes. The duties include personal care tasks, escorting individuals, group work, befriending and domestic tasks. You will be required to work on your own and as part of a team, and be willing to work hours flexibly to suit the needs of the project and service users. Good communication skills and a valid driving licence are essential. Training will be provided.

This post will work as and when required to cover a 37 hour week on a rota basis. Rota's will include regular evening and weekend work.

You should have a minimum of 3 standard grades, SVQ level 2 or 3 in care or equivalent qualifications/ experience, and a full valid driving licence. You should also have experience of caring for and supporting individuals (formal or informal), and working with vulnerable people and/or disabled children.

Awareness of the needs of disabled children and carers is desirable, as is a willingness to carry out full range of care tasks. Good communication skills and the ability to work without direct supervision in a range of environments is essential, as is the requirement for you to be physically fit. **Ref: CSA41216T.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

Outreach Worker*- Bank

£8.2063 per hour **Oban**

Good communication skills are essential for this post. You must be polite and caring with a calm and cheerful disposition, previous caring experience is desirable. You must have the ability to work flexibly and as part of a team, this post involves shift work. A valid driving licence is essential. **Ref: CSD02996.**

For a recruitment pack call 01631 563068.

Community Outreach Worker*

£8.2063 per hour **Campbeltown**

Community Support Network requires to recruit an individual to provide support to a family who cares for a disabled child. Your role will be to provide respite for the family by caring for the child 12 hours per week. Your duties include personal care tasks, escorting the child and care for the child at home. You will be required to work on your own and as part of a team. An awareness of the needs of disabled children, and carers is essential, as are good communication skills, physical fitness and a valid driving licence. Training will be provided. This post will provide 12 hours per week including the period 1-5pm most Sundays.

You should possess a minimum of 3 standard grades, or SVQ level 2 or 3 in care or equivalent. Experience of working with disabled children is desirable, whilst awareness of the needs of disabled children and carers is essential, as is a willingness to carry out full range of care tasks.

Good communication skills and the ability to work without direct supervision in a range of environments is essential as is the requirement for you to be physically fit. Ref: CSA47996T.

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

Community Service Supervisor* (2 Posts)

Oban

Ref: CSA01079 - Bank £8.1487 per hour **Oban Area Team,**

Ref: CSA37999 - £15,441 - £16,518 pro rata, 8 hours **Soroba Road**

You will supervise a group of offenders who have been placed on Community Service Orders by the Court and to instruct/demonstrate skills in gardening, painting, decorating, etcetera, as well as ensuring good adherence to Health and Safety Procedures.

Good organisational and communication skills are essential, as is practical painting, decorating and gardening skills, and a knowledge of Health and Safety procedures. Supervisory experience would be an advantage, while a full driving licence is essential. **Ref: CSA37999/CSA01079.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

Clerical Assistant/Typist

£10,938 - £14,577 **Lochgilphead**

This is permanent job share vacancy, which has arisen in the Mid-Argyll Social Work Area Team. You will be based at the Mid-Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre and your hours of duty will be Wednesday (pm), Thursday, Friday.

You must have three Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) or equivalent qualifications/experience, as well as experience of Microsoft Word/Excel. Minute taking and experience of working in an office environment is preferred as is knowledge of Social Work Department.

You should be able to work on own initiative and as part of a team and show a strong sense of identity and enthusiasm for the service. **Ref: CSC32035.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

Clerical Assistant/Typist

£10,938 - £14,577 pro rata

Part time 17.5 hours per week **Campbeltown**

Argyll and Bute Council has now established a partnership arrangement in conjunction with West Dunbartonshire and East Dunbartonshire Criminal Justice Service. A vacancy has arisen for an enthusiastic and well motivated Clerical Assistant. Duties would include- Undertaking word processing, spreadsheet and database work as required. Maintain administrative and information systems. Deal with telephone and written enquiries as appropriate. Undertake routine office duties such as photocopying, filing, faxing and arranging meetings. Respect the confidentiality of clients, colleagues and other Department/ Agencies at all times. Work within the equal opportunities policies and other values of the Council and Community Services department. Undertake such other duties and responsibilities as allocated. **Ref: CSA31328.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604555.

Clerical Assistant

£10,194 - £14,577 **Lochgilphead**

Your duties will include word processing, filing, answering phone, data input and payment of invoices.

You must have a minimum of 3 Standard Grades at level 1, 2 or 3 or equivalent qualifications or experience, while Standard Grade English and Maths would be an advantage.

One year's office experience is desirable along with experience of dealing with the public. Good ICT skills including word processing are essential with knowledge of Microsoft packages and financial systems being preferred. **Ref: OSC00095.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604658

Closing date 6th October 2006.

Classroom Assistant*

£10,194 - £14,577 pro rata

20 hours per week **Tobermory High School**

You will contribute to the quality of care and welfare of pupils, the effective organisation and use of resources, the quality of learning and teaching in the classroom and the needs of pupils in effectively accessing the curriculum. You must have a minimum of 3 Standard Grades or equivalent qualifications/ experience.. **Ref: CSE55600.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708 546.

SEN Assistant* (2 Posts - Temporary until 29th June 2007)

£10,194 - £14,577 pro rata

Craignish Primary School, Lochgilphead, 11 hours per week term time - Ref: CSE63111.

Kilmartin Primary School, 11 hours per week - Ref: CSE63110.

Under the direction of the Head Teacher and as advised by teaching staff, you will assist in meeting the support requirements of particular pupils with special educational needs. You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) or equivalent qualifications/experience. **Ref: CSE63111/CSE63110.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708546.

Driver

£6.0616 per hour **Lochgilphead**

You will be a driver of the Convener's car on an "as and when required" basis, this may on occasion involve staying away from home overnight.

You will preferably have a good knowledge of roads in Argyll/Glasgow/Edinburgh, and be discreet with have a helpful disposition.

You must be over 21 years of age, have a smart appearance, have held a full clean driving licence for 3 years' and will preferably be flexible in regard to working weekends if required. **Ref: CPD21008T.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604029/ 604034.

Cleaner

£5.6697 per hour **Lochgilphead**

Cleaner required to be responsible for daily cleaning of Council Offices using electrical cleaning equipment. The cleaner is responsible for ensuring a high standard of cleaning is provided. Cleaning experience is desirable. Hours 6pm-8.30 pm Mon-Thurs and 5pm-7.30pm Friday. **Ref: OSF20366.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708536.

Roadworker (2 Posts)

£5.6697 per hour **Mull**

£209.78 - £231.36 plus performance related bonus and will be dependent on qualifications and experience.

A current LGV driving licence along with Plant Training is desirable, while you must have experience of Civil Engineering/Building outdoor work with experience of building, road, manual and machine work an advantage.

You must be numerate, while knowledge of machine operation and small power tools would be beneficial.

You must be punctual, reliable, able to get on with others, and have the ability to be polite to members of the public, as well as working with minimum supervision.

You will be expected to participate in an out of hours standby rota in both winter and summer months. Duties will involve strenuous work. **Ref: OSR00216.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604658.

Leisure Attendant/Receptionist*

£5.8611 per hour **Oban**

Week 1 - Tues-Fri - 9.00am-3.00pm Week 2 - Mon-Fri - 2.00pm-7.00pm, Sat - 10.00am-5.00pm. You will be expected to undertake a range of duties including cash handling, dealing with the public in a friendly, understanding and efficient manner.

You must have experience of cash handling, while experience of working in wet or dry leisure facilities and reception duties would be an advantage.

You must be capable of dealing with the public in a friendly manner and be able to give direction to users. Computer literacy would be beneficial along with knowledge of Customer Care. A First Aid Certificate is desirable.

You will be entitled to Shift Allowance and Enhanced rates where appropriate. **Ref: OSF40034.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604620.

Catering Manager*

£5.7008 per hour **Lochnell Primary School, Connel**

The salary quoted is the term time rate, which is paid over 52 weeks and includes Lower Charge hand Allowance. The Catering Manager will be fully responsible for all activities in a busy kitchen and its surrounds connected with the provision of a Catering Service and will be responsible for the preparation, cooking and serving of meals, stock and budget control. Catering experience is essential and a Food Handlers Certificate is desirable. **Ref: OSF20599.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708536.

* Applicants should note that this is an EXCEPTED POST, i.e. a post to which the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions)(Scotland) Order 2003 applies.

Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting.

Closing date for all of the above posts 13th October 2006 unless stated otherwise.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

Drinks Dispense Engineer
OBAN AREA

Due to our continuing programme of expansion, we have a vacancy in the Oban area for a field-based, experienced drinks dispense engineer. We would also welcome applicants with strong mechanical, electrical, technical or plumbing backgrounds. We offer a competitive salary, dependent on experience, 33 days holiday, company vehicle and other benefits. You must be prepared to work an 'Out of Hours Emergency Cover Rota' and must also hold a full driving licence.

Send CV to: Derek Burleigh,
38 Southcroft Road,
Rutherglen, Glasgow G73 1UG.
Closing date: Friday 6th October 2006

CITY DISPENSE SERVICES (UK) LTD

Someone's first impression of Scotland could be you.

Customer Service Advisors

Campbeltown x 1, Oban x 2

Various hours, £6.13 per hour

Our Customer Service Advisors are often the first point of contact for visitors to Scotland, so it's essential you make a good impression. You will give helpful, knowledgeable advice and share your passion for Scotland. There's a commercial angle to the role too, with an eye to maximising our revenue. With customer service experience and IT skills, do you have the qualities that will impress our visitors?

To apply, please email your CV and covering letter to human.resources@visitscotland.com Further information is available from our website www.visitscotland.org

Closing date: 12 October 2006.

Visit Scotland™ Live it. Visit Scotland.

Oban Chocolate Company

Requires
PART TIME SHOP/CAFE STAFF
to join our team,
2-3 days a week.
Must be enthusiastic & creative.
Flexible hours available for the right people.
Please apply in writing with CV & covering letter to 9 Craigard Road, Oban

North Argyll House

Bealach an Righ, Oban
Tel: 01631 562168

Vacancy for

Care Assistant

Good rate of pay and conditions.
For further information or application form please contact Manager Morag Telfer.

SCOT TROUT FARMING LTD
with
KAMES FISH FARMING LTD

Are looking for enthusiastic, reliable and motivated

FISH HUSBANDRY PERSONS

Full Time Positions
at
Loch Slapin and Waternish sites.
Good salary and bonus scheme.

Part Time Weekend Positions
at
Loch Etive, Loch Lochy, Loch Tay, Loch Slapin, Loch Dunvegan and Waternish sites

Applicants should be practical, tidy and experience with fish or livestock desirable. Driving licence essential.

Please apply in writing with CV and covering letter stating which location and position you are interested in to:-

Ms Lynne Dunlop,
Kames Fish Farming Limited
Kilmelford, Oban PA34 4XA
Tel: 01852 200286
Email: lynnedunlop@kames.co.uk

KAMES FISH FARMING

Smarties Nursery and Creche, Oban

Nursery Manager/ Senior
Permanent Contract
30 hours per week plus overtime as required.
Wage negotiable.
Please send C.V. along with covering letter to:

Helen McGuigan
Atlantis Leisure, Dalriach Road, Oban, Argyll
PA34 5UG

Killean Estate

Require Beaters and Pickers up for forth coming season

Contact 01583 441 165 or 07810231535

1

Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd
Appointment of Chair

Remuneration – Currently £21,082 per annum, plus travel and subsistence costs associated with Board work and reasonable dependants care costs incurred by you in carrying out the duties of your appointment.

This appointment is non-pensionable.

Time Commitment – The Chair is expected to give a minimum time commitment of the equivalent of 6 days per month to the post.

Location of Meetings – At the Company's offices at Inverness Airport, at its other airports in the Highlands and Islands, Edinburgh and elsewhere.

The Scottish Ministers wish to appoint a new Chair to the Board of Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd (HIAL). This appointment will commence from January 2007 and will normally be for a period of 3 years, with the possibility of re-appointment subject to effective performance and continuing to meet the essential criteria at that time.

HIAL is a company wholly owned by the Scottish Ministers and operates 10 airports in the Highlands and Islands. HIAL's airports support and facilitate access to, from and around the area in pursuit of business, health, welfare and leisure links and social objectives.

The Board of HIAL is expected to oversee the strategic direction of the Company, manage its expenditure and to represent HIAL at a high level.

The role involves:

- overseeing effective strategic management of the Company and its 10 airports;
- overseeing management of the Company's expenditure, maintenance of its airport estates and related financial investments and business opportunities;
- working closely with the Scottish Executive to deliver Ministers' policies and priorities;
- ensuring value for money for the expenditure of public funds provided by Scottish Ministers; and
- representing and speaking on behalf of the Board in dealings with Ministers, the media and other organisations.

The successful candidate will have:

- a proven track record in the business or public sector fields at Board level as an Executive or Non-Executive Director;
- the ability to think strategically and to analyse complex business planning issues within a regulated environment and an understanding of corporate governance issues;
- strong leadership skills;
- the ability to act as an effective ambassador for HIAL and to account for its goals and policies to the communities within the areas served by it;
- an understanding of the role of transport, including aviation, in maintaining the economic and social integrity of the Highlands and Islands;
- a clear understanding of the public and political environment in which HIAL operates, including a general appreciation of relationships with the Scottish Executive and Scottish Parliament; and
- a knowledge of one of the following fields: transport, commerce, finance or the public sector.

Appointments to Highlands and Islands Airports Ltd are regulated by the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments in Scotland. All applicants must complete and submit the application form contained in the application pack in order to be considered for appointment. Please note that application forms sent electronically will be in Word format and, if returning electronically, will only be accepted in that format.

The Scottish Executive is committed to equality of opportunity and to encouraging a diverse range of applicants for public appointments, 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 an information pack please see the contact details below; (you should provide your name and address):
Munro Consulting, 53 Bothwell Street, Glasgow G2 6TS. Telephone: 0141 227 7550. Fax: 0141 204 1411.
E-mail: katy.gall@munroconsulting.com

Closing date for applications is Friday 3 November 2006.

OCPAS REGULATED

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE
making it work together

marineharvest

SHIFT FACTORY ENGINEERS

Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd are looking to expand their Engineering Team and currently have vacancies for experienced and self-motivated Mechanical and Electrical Engineers.

Applicants should possess practical knowledge of computerised processing systems and working knowledge and experience of processing plant/ equipment. Strong interpersonal, communication and analytical skills are also some of the attributes required for this post.

In return, Marine Harvest offers a competitive salary and benefits package

If you wish to be considered for one of these posts, please apply in writing with full career history to: Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Business Resource Centre, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT no later than Friday 13th October 2006.

1

Ghillie/Stalker

A Vacancy exists on the Braelangwell Estate, Sutherland for a single-handed ghillie on the River Carron. The position requires an experienced, flexible and self-motivated individual with good practical and organisational skills. General game keeping duties, estate maintenance work and some stalking will be undertaken without the fishing season. An attractive remuneration package including a house is available. Clean driving licence and Firearms certificate essential.

A spouse available to fill a House Keeping vacancy and seasonal catering for tenants would be a distinct advantage.

Application in writing, by 23rd October 2006, with CV to:
Mrs. A.N. Griffiths
The Smithy
Bourton on the Hill
Moreton in Marsh
Glos
GL56 9AF

1

Situation available full time position for

Coastal Skipper

Position with Oban based company for full time employment as a work boat skipper working in Argyll and the Western Isles. Skipper should have several years experience and be capable of running and maintaining vessels.

Knowledge of West Coast important.
Duties will include the following:
Towage work
Moorings and civil works and working with dive teams
Rates of pay in excess of £20,000 dependent on qualifications.

Please send full C.V and two references to Box No 61 , P.O Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB along with copies of any certification held.

1

E. Thornton & Co.
SOLICITORS NOTARIES AND ESTATE AGENTS

Full time Admin Assistant

required for friendly legal firm, duties to include filing, typing, photocopying, mail and deliveries. Must be hard working, enthusiastic, flexible and reliable. This post is initially to cover maternity leave but permanent position could be available.

Please send CV to E Thornton & Co, Abacus Building, 8 High Street, Oban.

Ballet West

Ballet West is a dance school and performing company based in Taynuilt. The school has an extensive outreach programme and a full-time post -16 dance course, which is currently in transition to a degree course.

We require a full-time administrative assistant to join the company at this exciting time in our development. As the successful candidate, you will be literate, numerate and have a good working knowledge of Excel and Word. Experience of Sage accounting packages would also be an advantage. You will be well mannered, articulate and be able to deal with a wide range of people, in person and on the phone.

You will be joining a small administration team and will enjoy a varied workload, with responsibilities in all aspects of Ballet West's activities. You will be expected to be flexible and capable of working under your own initiative.

This post will be conditional on a successful Disclosure Scotland check.

Please send CV, letter of application and details of 2 referees to -

Gillian Barton
Ballet West
Ichrachan House
Taynuilt
Argyll
PA35 1HP

balletwest@btconnect.com

More Recruitment Adverts on Page 20

PUBLIC NOTICES

THE WEST HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS BEST READ PUBLIC NOTICE BOARD SEEN BY MORE THAN *40,000 READERS EACH WEEK
(* Source JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC Audit)

LORN OPEN DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD GROUP

Annual General Meeting

THURSDAY 5 OCTOBER 2006
ATLANTIS LEISURE
7.30 p.m.
All welcome

RECRUITMENT

marineharvest

STAFF VACANCY

Ardnish Feed Trials Unit
Assistant Manager

The Ardnish Feed Trials Unit is a dedicated facility for testing feeds in a salmon farming environment. Serving the company, fish feed manufacturers and academic institutions, it aims to be a key research element at a time of increasing change in feed formulations.

We are seeking an individual to assist in taking the Unit forward. The job will combine site management responsibilities with a central role in running trials. Ideally, candidates should have experience of fish husbandry, sound computer literacy, excellent organisational skills and the ability to work on their own initiative. The post would suit a graduate but others with appropriate practical experience should apply.

The post is full-time, working a 40 hour week and the successful applicant will be required to work weekends on a rota basis for which an over time payment will apply.

A competitive salary will be offered.

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please submit an application in writing with details of relevant experience, by the closing date of Friday 13th October to:

Vicky Ferguson
Human Resources Manager
Marine Harvest (Scotland) Limited
Business Resources Centre
Blar Mhor Industrial Estate
Fort William PH33 7PT 1

Fyne HOMES

HOUSING OFFICER
TEMPORARY MATERNITY COVER
CAMPBELTOWN
Salary Scale: Grade 3 £18,324-- £ 20673

We have a temporary requirement for a Housing Officer in our Campbeltown Office to cover for maternity leave.

You will provide an effective and efficient housing management service to the Housing Department and should preferably have at least 1 years experience of dealing with the public in a front line role. You will have strong interpersonal and communication skills, strong commitment to customer service, the ability to work as part of the team and on your own initiative within laid down objectives and targets and be computer literate with good word processing skills.

A current clean driving licence and use of a car for business purposes is required.

It is desirable that candidates either hold or are studying towards a recognised qualification in Housing Management and have a sound understanding of housing management practice and statutory responsibilities.

The hours of work are 35 hours per week, On occasions it will be necessary to work outwith normal hours.

In return for the above an attractive salary and conditions will be offered to the successful candidate.

For an application pack please contact:

Fyne Homes Ltd, 81 Victoria Street, Rothesay
Isle of Bute PA20 0AP Tel: 01700 504668
E-mail: amprentice@fynehomes.co.uk
Closing Date: Wednesday 11th October 2006
Fyne Homes is an Equal Opportunities Employer and a registered charity. 1

DUALCHAS NADAIR na h-ALBA — SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE

Project Officer

Sunart Woodlands Scheme
part of the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative

To be appointed on a part-time self-employed contract basis for a period of approximately 5 years (September 2006 to 2011), a Project Officer is sought to implement the Sunart Woodlands Scheme within the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative area. Run in partnership between the Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage, the scheme aims to promote habitat enhancement within and adjacent to designated areas through enhanced woodland stewardship payments and deer management incentives.

The successful applicant will be based in the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative area and will be expected to promote the scheme to landowners and occupiers, assist potential entrants with their applications, co-ordinate scheme claims and payments and monitor, in conjunction with FCS, landholdings within the scheme. The Project Officer will have a good knowledge of woodland and grazing management issues together with good communication and report writing skills. A knowledge of the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative area and its residents are also important. A full driving licence and access to your own transport is essential.

If you would like further information on the Sunart Woodlands Scheme and the Project Officer post, please contact Scottish Natural Heritage at

The Governor's House, The Parade, Fort William, PH33 6BA. Telephone 01397 704716.
Email liz.mclachlan@snh.gov.uk. 1

marineharvest

Farm Technician- Kingairloch / Leven

We currently have a vacancy for a farm technician to work between our salmon farms at Kingairloch and Loch Leven. The post is for a 40-hour week and the successful applicant will be required to work weekends on a rota basis. This is a permanent position and will be confirmed once the successful candidate has completed a 3-month probationary period.
Applications are invited from individuals who have a positive approach to this type of work and who feel comfortable working over water. Experience is certainly an advantage although training will be provided, on the job. The successful candidate must hold a clean driving licence.
If you are interested in applying for this vacancy please put your application in writing to:
Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Marine Harvest (Scotland) Ltd, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William PH33 7PT. Closing date for applications is Friday 6th October 2006. 1

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
The Water Environment (Controlled Activities) (Scotland) Regulations 2005 ('The 2005 Regulations')
APPLICATION REFERENCE NUMBER
Schedule 1 Appended To Notice Of Requirement To Advertise The Application For A Licence In Pursuance Of Regulation 13

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the 2005 Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Burn Stewart Distillers Limited to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

Discharge of 276m³ per day of mixed distillery effluent to Tobermory Bay at NGR NM 5113 5509 from Tobermory Distillery, Isle of Mull.

Any person who considers that they are affected or likely to be affected by, or has an interest in, the application and who wishes to make representations about the application, should do so in writing to The Senior Registry Officer, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall IV15 9XB not later than October 26, 2006 quoting reference number CAR/L/1012293.

A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays), or by prior arrangement at the SEPA Lochgilphead Office, 2 Smithy Lane, Lochgilphead PA31 8TA (tel no: 01546 602876) or at Tobermory Sub-Post Office, Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull..

Written representations concerning this application may be made to the SEPA at the above address and if received within 28 days of the advertisement, will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations made by any person will be entered in a public register unless that person requests in writing that they should not be so entered. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which has been the subject of such a request.

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949
APPLICATION FOR DREDGING OF NAVIGATIONAL CHANNEL AT DUNSTAFFNAGE BAY

Notice is hereby given that Mr Davison on behalf of Dunstaffnage Marina Ltd has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under Section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the Section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to carry out dredging of navigational channel at the above location in the positions:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Corner Positions	56 27.042N	05 26.005W
	56 27.052N	05 25.957W
	56 26.969N	05 25.952W
	56 26.987N	05 25.896W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at The Corran Halls, Esplanade, Oban.

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made to Ports and Harbours Branch, The Scottish Executive, Aviation Ports and International Division, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference 2SPC\1\5\79

Mr Davison, Dunstaffnage Marina Ltd, Dunbeg, by Oban, Argyll, PA37 1PX

THE CROWN ESTATE
Creating value for us all

Proposed modification to shellfish farm site at South Ardnaclach, Loch Creran

NOTICE is hereby given that -

1. application has been made to The Crown Estate by Isle of Shuna Shellfish for a modification to an existing shellfish site at:-

Reference	Location	Map Reference
MOD-167 (AR2-15-24)	South Ardnaclach Loch Creran	NM 947 427 Lat: 56° 31.889'N Long: 05° 20.327'W

2. the application, plans and other documents submitted may be inspected at all reasonable hours at -

The Planning Department, Argyll & Bute Council, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban PA34 4AR

and

Ledaig Post Office, Benderloch, by Oban during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice: and

3. any person who wishes to make representations about the application should make them in writing within that period to the Local Authority at the address above.

Dated: 28 September 2006

ENNSTONE THISTLE

PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL BE BLASTING AT BANAVIE QUARRY, FORT WILLIAM ON TUESDAY 3 OCTOBER AT 12 O'CLOCK

APPLICATION FOR APPORTIONMENT
EAST ACHARACLE COMMON GRAZINGS

Mr Duncan MacLean, Kinlochmoidart, Lochailort, Inverness-shire, PH48 4NB, intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 1.62 hectares for the purpose of creating a hill park.

Mr Duncan MacLean, Grazings Clerk/Constable, Kinlochmoidart, Lochailort, Inverness-shire, PH48 4NB, has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ, within 14 days of the publication of this notice; that is, before October 12, 2006.

A copy of any representations made may be forwarded to the applicant.

APPLICATION FOR APPORTIONMENT
DEEKE COMMON GRAZINGS

John F. MacDonald, Croft 25, Mingarry, Acharacle, Argyll, PH36 4JZ, intends to lodge an application for apportionment of approximately 0.8 hectares for the purpose of Agriculture Croft Extension.

The share position in the common is as follows: Loch Shiel Estate, two shares; James MacLellan, 2½ shares; John F. MacDonald, half-share.

The applicant has a copy of the application which can be inspected by any person interested.

Any comments on the application should be lodged with the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV1 3EQ, before October 12, 2006.

A copy of any representations made may be forwarded to the applicant.

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: 06/02002/DET
Applicant: Mr D Lyle
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house
Site Address: Land South Of Whin Bank Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- **Ref No: 06/02023/OUT**
Applicant: West Highland Housing Assoc. Ltd.
Proposal: Affordable housing development
Site Address: Baliscate West Tobermory Isle Of Mull
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- **Ref No: 06/02016/DET**
Applicant: Mrs Rosemary Burgess
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: 13b Creich Dail An Inbhire Kintra Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Fionnphort
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- **Ref No: 06/02004/DET**
Applicant: MacQueen Bros
Proposal: Infilling of Land to use for Siting of 40ft x 20ft Storage Containers
Site Address: 7a Glenshellach Industrial Estate Oban Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- **Ref No: 06/01875/DET**
Applicant: Mrs Carol Harris
Proposal: Alterations and extension
Site Address: Alltavona Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AQ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- **Ref No: 06/01875/DET**
Applicant: Mrs Carol Harris
Proposal: Alterations and extension
Site Address: Alltavona Corran Esplanade Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5AQ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- **Ref No: 06/01990/DET**
Applicant: Mr R Moreland
Proposal: Erection of Two Dwelling Houses
Site Address: Lios Mhoire Ardconnel Terrace Oban Argyll And Bute PA34 5DJ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Area Team Leader, Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a 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.

- **Ref No: 06/02002/DET**
Applicant: Mr D Lyle
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house
Site Address: Land South Of Whin Bank Clachan Seil Isle Of Seil Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
Potential Departure from Policies RUR 1, RUR 2 and HO22 of the Lorn Local Plan
- **Ref No: 06/01800/DET**
Applicant: Hugh Whittle
Proposal: Erect a building for cattle/sheep housing
Site Address: Land North Of Glenfeochan House Kilmore Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Kilmelford
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Lorn Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)
- **Ref No: 06/02016/DET**
Applicant: Mrs Rosemary Burgess
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: 13b Creich Dail An Inbhire Kintra Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Fionnphort
Potential Departure from Policies RUR1 and RUR2 of the Mull, Coll and Tiree Local Plan
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart Adv (21)

Area Team Leader, Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

HIGHLAND COUNCIL (KILCHOAN AND ACHAPHUBUIL PRIMARY SCHOOLS) (PART TIME 20MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2006

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that Highland Council proposes to make an Order in terms of Section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 entitled as above.

When the Order comes into effect various temporary 20mph speed limits in the vicinities of the following schools will come into effect when children are arriving/departing. Flashing amber lights on the relevant signs will indicate that the temporary speed limit is in force. The schools covered by this Order are Kilchoan Primary and Achaphubuil Primary Schools.

The roads affected and approximate distances are:-

Route A861 Lochailort – Kinlochmoidart – Shiel Bridge – Carron – Drumsallie road – 232 metres or thereby.

Route B8007 Salen – Kilchoan – Achosnich road - 251 metres or thereby.

Route B8007 Spur road to Mingary Pier – 297 metres or thereby

A copy of the Order, as proposed, together with a copy of the relevant plans and the Council's statement of reasons for making the Order (also noted below) can be inspected at the Service Point in Acharacle, during their normal opening hours, namely 12 noon to 5 pm on Tuesday and Friday and at Kilchoan Community Centre, 9 am to 5 pm on Monday to Friday.

It should be noted that all objections to the Order must be made in writing and must specify the grounds thereof, and should be made to the undersigned on or before 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

Mr K D Falconer
Area Solicitor/Administrator
The Highland Council
Lochaber House
High Street
FORT WILLIAM 28/09/06

Statement of Reasons

In order to improve road safety for children walking and cycling to and from school, Highland Council has been awarded funding by the Scottish Executive for the introduction of permanent or part time 20 miles per hour speed limits around schools. This Order will authorise the introduction of a part time 20 mph speed limit at Achaphubuil Primary and Kilchoan Primary Schools. Other schools will follow later.

THE HIGHLANDERS INSTITUTE

Due to circumstances beyond our control the **Annual Dedication Service** previously announced for Sunday 1st October, St Columba Church of Scotland, Glasgow has been **postponed.**
Duncan P Mitchell, Honourary Secretary

Alan Reid MP

Alan Reid will hold a surgery in Oban on Thursday 5 October 2006 at the Church of Scotland Centre, Glencruitten Road, Oban between 12.30pm and 1.30pm
To make an appointment, please phone Alan Reid's office
(01369) 704840

30 September – 15 October 2006

The Highland Council
Comhairle na Gaidhealtachd
SERVING The Highland Community

Step into the Past..
Ceum air ais dha na làithean a dh'fhalbh

HIGHLAND ARCHAEOLOGY FORTNIGHT

Ceala-deug Àrsaidheachd na Gàidhealtachd

Walks
Talks
Children's Events
Exhibitions
Conference

For further information contact:
Tel: 01463 718505
Email: haf@rowan-tree-consulting.co.uk
Web: www.highland.gov.uk/yourenvironment/conservation/archaeology

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

EDUCATION, CULTURE & SPORT SERVICE
LOCHABER AREA
PROVISION OF SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Tenders are invited for the provision of the undernoted service for the period January 2007 to 31 December 2011.

These contracts are available to any member of the public meeting the following requirements:

1. Aged over 21 and under 65 having a full driving licence for more than three years.
2. Car owner with appropriate insurance cover for the carriage of schoolchildren for hire or reward.

Tender documents and further information are available from and should be returned to the Area Education, Culture & Sport Office, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NE (Tel. 01397 707350) by 12 Noon on Friday 13 October 2006.

Please note that tenders will be posted to applicants. Callers to this office should leave their names and addresses at reception.

The Education Authority reserves the right not to accept the lowest or any tender.

Route No.	Description	Estimated number of Travellers
C281/01	Torlundy – Fort William RC Primary School	3
G281/12	Bohuntin – Fort William RC Primary School	3
C300/02	Insh/Killiechonate – Spean Bridge Primary School	4
C300/03	Achindaul + Kilmonivaig – Spean Bridge Primary School	9
C315/03	Bohuntin – Roy Bridge Primary School	2
SP999/01	Fort William – Lochyside, Caol & Banavie Primary Schools *	8 + Escort
SP999/02	Fort William – Lochaber High School	6
SP999/03	Corpach/Caol – Lochaber High School	6
SP999/04	Fort William + Corpach – Lochaber High School *	2 + Escort
SP999/05	Fort William – Lochaber High & Caol Primary Schools *	3 + Escort
SP999/38	Ballachulish – Lochaber High School	1 + Escort
SP999/39	Duror – Lochaber High School *	1 + 2 Escorts
SP999/41	Onich – Caol Primary School	1 + Escort

* Please note that one or more pupils on these routes require to be transported in a wheelchair accessible vehicle

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
Karole Walker The Sheiling Plot 2 Inverroy Roy Bridge 06/00405/OUTLO	Division of Plot 2	Roy Bridge Post Office Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)
Highlands And Islands Fire Board Site North East Of Proposed Fire Station An Aird Fort William 06/00412/FULLO	Proposed Fire House	Local Area Planning Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Mr & Mrs Munro Land 200m West Of Laraichean Glencoe 06/00409/OUTLO	Erection of 1 one a half storey dwelling house	Glencoe Post Office Development Contrary to Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)
Derek Claase Esq Land To Rear Of Malt Barn Old Glenlochy Distillery Glenlochy Road Fort William 06/00411/FULLO	Erection of 5 houses (phase 3) in a terrace of 4 houses. One detached house and garage	Local Area Planning Office Development Affecting Setting of Listed Buildings (21 Days)
Amanda Reed Land North Of Aldernaig Mill Invergarry 06/00376/FULLO	Construction of a single detached garage to the rear of Aldernaig Mill.	Invergarry Post office Development Affecting Setting of Listed Buildings (21 Days)
Mr & Mrs Stockdale Land To South West Of Feorag House Glenborrodale 06/00416/FULLO	New house and detached garage	Acharacle Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)
Donald MacCuish 1 Larochbeg Road Morven PA345XG 06/00385/FULLO	Agricultural shed for use of storage, tractor, quad bike, and forestry equipment.	Lochaline Post Office Development Affecting Setting of Listed Buildings (21 Days)
Eigg Electical Limited Land From Cleadale To South Of Island Isle Of Eigg 06/00392/FULLO	Electrification on the Isle of Eigg.	Eigg Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 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

Crofters' chairman calls from greater involvement in Bill process

MORE is still required of the Crofting Reform Bill for it to ensure the health and development of the crofting system.

Giving an initial reaction to the publication by the Scottish Executive of their response to a Parliamentary committee report on the Crofting Reform Bill, Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) chairman Norman Leask said: 'It is good to see the Executive recognise the significant flaws in the consultation that led to this Bill and propose an inquiry to get a better flavour of how crofters wish to see the system develop.

Norman Leask chairman SCF

Involvement

Crofters' involvement in this discussion is crucial and we look forward with interest to seeing details of this inquiry and in particular it's timeframe.

'In the meantime, there are a number of helpful concessions in this paper, but there is still a long way to go before the proposals address all that is required of them.

'In particular this relates to addressing overt speculation on croft land, putting a duty on the Commission to use their existing regulatory powers and addressing anomalies between the welcomed power to create new crofts and other proposals which would act as a disincentive on doing this.

'Having decided to remove the 'proper occupier' concept, the Executive has not put forward another mechanism to address the lack of regulation of owner-occupied croft land and in fact the reasons given for not doing this - that it would affect existing case-law - seem rather bewildering given that changing the law is surely the purpose of legislation. More discussion of how this might be addressed is needed in the very near future.

'As we said in our initial reaction to this Bill, more than a year ago, the issue is not so much what is in the Bill, but what it doesn't deal with that must be addressed. To a large extent this remains the case, in spite of this small step in the right direction and the Foundation will be involved in discussions over the coming week, prior to the Stage 1 debate, to see what scope there is for further development of the Executive's thinking.

'We are sure that members of the Parliamentary Environment and Rural Development Committee will be scrutinising this perhaps rather argumentative report with interest to see how the Executive's response fits with their thorough and wide-ranging analysis of the Bill.'

Third time lucky for Skye Beef

AN ISLAND cattle event finally ahead at the weekend with more than 70 farmers and crofters attending Skye Beef at Knock Farm, Sleat.

The event, which was previously postponed twice, was organised by the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and the Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) and was partly funded by the European Social Fund.

Cattle workship

It was opened by local MSP John Farquhar Munro and SCF director John Laing who welcomed crofters to the one-day cattle workshop.

Robert McNee of the Luing Cattle Society and the SAC's Gavin Hill hosted a workshop on selecting breeding cows and wintering issues particularly regarding silage and the importance of testing silage to ensure good nutrition over winter.

Selecting bulls and cows suitable for the climate and agricultural systems in Skye was a key part of the day while new techniques such as EBV's and scoring were discussed as methods of aiding traditional stockmanship.

Trends

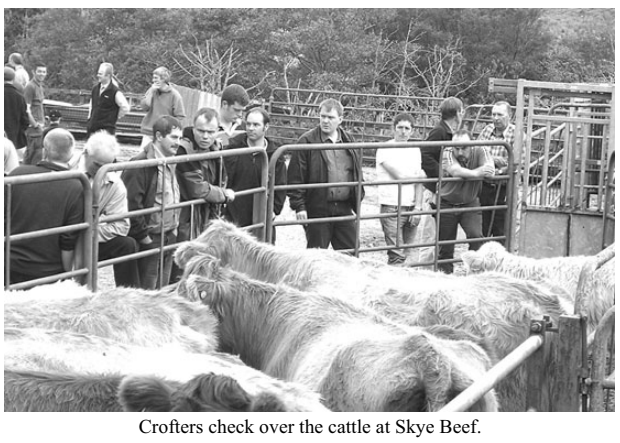
Market trends and the future of beef were discussed in the workshops, as were market opportunities through supplying healthy replacement heifers for the Scottish industry. Tom Gray talked to crofters about finishing calves while Catriona Ritchie from the SAC discussed cattle health issues.

The panel discussion at the end of the day was chaired by Ian MacKinnon of Strathaird Farm and the key issues identified were the new transport regulations, the bull scheme, beef imports and health benefits.

Sleat crofter Alasdair Culbertson said: 'The good attendance showed there is still a strong interest in cattle and livestock production in Skye and the west coast. Perhaps those deciding the future of crofting should take note.'

Janette Sutherland of the SAC in Portree said: 'Farmers and crofters face big challenges post decoupling. Helping them to meet these is what the ESF training budget is all about. We are happy to co-operate once again with the SCF to keep crofters abreast with technical and market changes.'

The event was kindly hosted by Donald John and Ruaridh MacInnes who said they were pleased everybody found Skye Beef an informative and interesting day.



Crofters check over the cattle at Skye Beef.

Show champion at Oban was a black Limousin cross bullock from Fidden, Isle of Mull which later sold for £720 to judge A Orr, Berwick on Tweed t39cha02

Fidden Limousin is Oban champion

CALEDONIAN Marts, Stirling Ltd had forward 261 suckled calves, store and breeding cattle at the sale in Oban.

Bullocks sold to 165.5p per kg for Limousin cross from Fidden, Isle of Mull, and the sale average of 140.1p per kg was + 25.6p per kg on the year.

Heifers sold to 150.6p per kg for Limousin cross from Ardachy, North Connel, to average at 122.6p per kg +18.7p per kg on the year.

At the show before the sale the champion bullock was a black Limousin out of a home-bred dam and by a Laggan Ulva Limousin sire, from Jimmy Campbell, Fidden, Isle of Mull. The bullock had previously been champion at Bunessan Show, scaled 455kgs and later made £720 to the judge A Orr, Sunwick Farms, Berwick Upon Tweed who told *The Oban Times* that he was very impressed with the standard on offer at Oban.

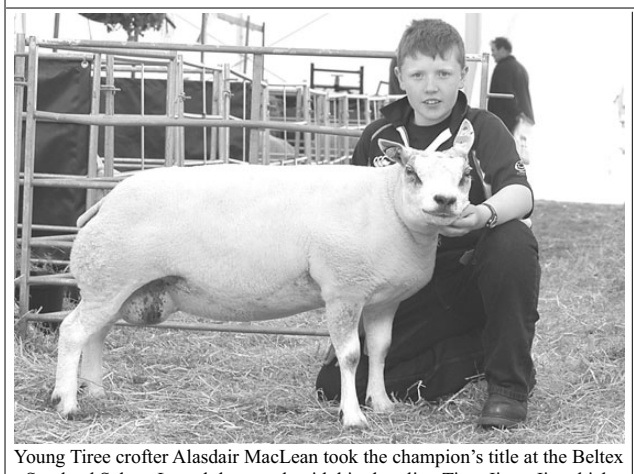
'It was an incredibly high standard and there was a very large selection of bullocks,' he said. 'I found it very difficult to choose.

'I was looking for size and confirmation and they were all very, very good.'

Mr Orr selected as reserve champion a Belgian Blue cross bullock from Ardachy Farm, North Connel which scaled 440kgs and later made £680 to J Smith, Lorn, Lochgilphead.

The champion pen of four were Limousin bullocks from Achnaba, North Connel which scaled 435kgs and sold to £650 to A Paton, Cairnhill, Girvan, while the reserve pen of four were another pen of Limousin bullocks from Fidden, Mull which scaled 365kgs and made £565 to A Orr, Sunwick Farms.

The champion pen of four heifers were Limousins from Achnaba, North Connel which scaled 410kgs and made £570 to J Smith, Lorn while the reserve pen of four heifers were again Limousins, this time from Ardachy, North Connel scaling 330kgs and realising £460 to M A Blyth, Lochfield, Doune.



Young Tiree crofter Alasdair MacLean took the champion's title at the Beltex Scotland Sale at Lanark last week with his shearling Tiree Jiggy Jig which later sold for the top price of 1,800gns. His tup lamb Tiree Kingpin equalled the top lamb price of 1,000gns. Alasdair, of Heylipol Farm is pictured above at the Royal Highland Show with the ewe Corstane Greylag t39tir01

Dalchirla ewes sell to £280 at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their annual breeding sheep sale at Dalmally Auction Mart when 5687 head was sold.

A very steady trade prevailed in all sections and sold to a packed ringside of buyers.

Averages per head was up in all sections ranging from £4 to £8.

A feature of the sale was the annual consignment of Blackface ewes from Dalchirla when the first pen of 50 from this home sold at £280 per head and was followed at £180 per head for the second pen.

Blackface gimmers from Laggan Farms sold to £85 while Cheviot gimmers from Barguillean sold at £73. Barguillean also sold Cheviot Mule ewe lambs at £60 whilst Blackface from Tullochmhor sold to £40.

The entry of Blackface stock ewes from Saulmore sold to average £45

Lismore lambs lead Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts, Stirling Ltd had forward 3485 store lambs and feeding ewes at their sale in Oban on Tuesday.

Top price of the day went to A McColl Ballimackillich, Isle of Lismore for a Continental cross lamb with Suffolk lambs from Kilbride selling to £38.

Warranted Blackface ewes from Achenreir fetched £32.

Islay trade remains firm

UNITED Auctions held a sale of 2986 lambs and sheep at Islay Auction Mart.

All classes of long and medium keeping lambs continued to sell at firm rates whilst short keeping kinds looked a better buy due to the recent drop in the prime lamb market.

All classes were sold to a good ringside of buyers from Aberdeenshire in the North and Wales in the South as well as a good following of buyers from the central belt of Scotland.

Canna gimmers to £62 at Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 4551 store sheep at Fort William.

Lambs sold to £42 for Beltex crosses from Buckle Farms, Braeroy.

Gimmers sold to £62 for Cheviots from National Trust, Isle of Canna and ewes to £54 for Blackfaces from Isle of Canna.

Rams sold to £100 for a Cheviot also from the Isle of Canna.

All classes met a firm enquiry and more could have been sold to advantage.

Lochmaddy up £6.87 on year

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2946 store sheep of all classes at Lochmaddy.

Top price was £44 for Suffolk crosses from J MacDonald, Dunskellar, Sollas. The sale average was £26.75, up £6.87 on the year.

All classes met an excellent demand.

Stornoway up £1.99 on year

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 2390 store sheep at Stornoway.

All classes met a similar demand showing an overall average increase of £1.99 on the year.

Top price for lambs was £36 for Suffolk crosses from W MacLean, Roneval House, Leverburgh.

Market reports

OBAN - Caledonian Marts

Lambs
Suffolk: Kilbride £38
TexelX: Strongorm £37.50
Suffolk X: Dallachulish £36
Cheviot: 117 Craigston, Barra £35.50
Mule: Ballimackillichin, Lismore and Tirfuir, Lismore £34
Blackface: Tiraghoil, Mull £35.50.
Ewes:
Warranted
Blackface: Achenrier £32
Feeders:
Texel: Balure, Lismore £33
Cross: Sithean, Iona £29
Suffolk: Frackersiag £28
Mule: Barguillean £27.80
Blackface: Frackersaig £19

DALMALLY - United Auctions

Ewe lambs
Cheviot/Mule: £60 and £40 - Barguillean Farm
Cheviot: £51 and £40 - Barguillean Farm
Jacob X: £50 Barguillean Farm
Blackface: £40. Tullochmhor Farm : £36 Lurignish, Dunans, Screadon, Colonsay, Cairn Farm and Rhemore : £35 Bragleenmore, Corrylorn and Laggan Farms : £34 - Arnicle and Bragleenmore : £33 Tullich Farms, Kames and Arnicle : £32 Soroba Farm : £31 Tullochan Farm : £30 Ballygown.
Gimmers
Blackface: £85 and £76 Laggan Farms : £74 Achnamara : £70 Baliemeanoch Farm and Achnamara : £69 Barguillean Farm : £63 Croftintygan : £61 Balliemeanoch and Barguillean Farm : £60 Keilator and Barguillean Farm : £58 Saulmore : £56 Barguillean : £55 Invernahyle and Lephinkill : £54 Braes of Ardeonaig, Brackley, Achnamara and Braefoot : £52 Craig : £51 Dunans and Braefoot.
Cheviot: £73 £60 and £56 Barguillean Farm
Mule: £65 Stronachullin Farm : £60 Glenshellach : £57 Lochend : £50 Barrachuille Farm.
TexelX: £50 Stronachuillin Farm.
SwaledaleX: £65 Tullich, Killin.
Jacob: £62 Barguillean Farm
Draft warranted ewes
Blackface: £280 and £180 - Dalchirla : £47 and £41 Saulmore : £36 Duncroisk Farm Partnership and Bragleenmore : £35 Duncroisk Farm Partnership, Keilator and Bragleenmore : £34 Keilator and Musdale : £33 Castles Estate : £32 Braes of Ardeonaig, Achnacarron, Cladich and Tullochan : £31Littleport, Corrylorn, Brackley and Cladich : £30 Littleport, Bragleenmore, Screadon and Barachander.
TexelX: £34 Barrachuile
Cheviot: £36 Brenchoille : £32 Castles Estate
Cross: £31 Barachander
Rams
Suffolk: £300 - Ardchatten Farm
Texel: £130 and £120 - Ardchatten Farm

ISLAY - United Auctions

Lambs
SuffolkX: £46.80 Eorrabus £46.20 Ardbeg £45 Neriby £41.50 Eorrabus £40.80 Achnaclach and Duich £40.50 Ardbeg £40.20 Kintra.
TexelX: £44.80 Gartness £44 Achnaclach £40 Balaclava.
Cheviot: £29.80 Gearach
Cross: £37 Leorin £36.80 Gartness £36 Duich £35.50 - Smaladh.
Mule: £42 Neriby
Blackface: £30.20 Ardnave £29.50 Leorin £28 Portnatruan.
Ewes
£35.80 Dunlossit Estate £32.20 Aoradh £24.80 Dunlossit Estate £24 Ardbeg £22 Tallant £21Grulinbeg and Glenegedale Lotts
Prices per kilo
SuffolkX: 114p - Grulinbeg : 111p - Ardnave : 109p - Grulinbeg, Kintra & Ardtalla Estate : 107p & 106p - Ardnave : 105p - Achnaclach : 103p - Octofad, Smaladh & Kintra : 102p - Pairc A Chlassan : 100p - Ardbeg.
TexelX: 121p - Gartness : 112p - Kilchoman House : 111p - Balaclava : 107p - Gartness : 106p - Grulinbeg : 105p - Aoradh : 103p - Balaclava : 102p - Kintra & Achnaclach : 101p - Pairc A Chlassan.
Cheviot: 119p - Aoradh
Cross:108p - Gartness : 103p - Lower Cragabus (Smith) : 98p - Ardtalla
Mule: 92p - Coille Farm
Blackface: 89p - Leorin & Ardnave : 88p - Kinnabus : 87p - Coille : 86p - Lower Cragabus (McCuaig)

FORT WILLIAM - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Wedder lambs:
SuffolkX: Blargie Farm, Laggan £39.50
Cheviot: Fuinary, Kingairloch £36
Cross: 18 Blarmafoldach, Fort William £35
Blackface: 6 Fort William Road £35
Beltex: Buckle Farms, Braeroy £34
Mule: Glendoe Estates, Borlum £34
CheviotX: Glen Gloy Farms Ltd, Spean Bridge £31
TexelX: Ardochy, Whitebridge £30.50
Charollias: Blarour, Fort William £29.80.
Ewe lambs:
Mule:Glendoe Estates, Borlum £43
Cheviot: 3 Tarskavaig, Sleat £36.50
Cross: Golden Ducat Farming Co, Isle of Mull £32
Blackface: 2 & 3 Kinloid, Arisaig £24.50.
Gimmers:
Cheviot: National Trust, Isle of Canna £62
Cross: 2 & 3 Kinloid, Arisaig £31.
Ewes:
Cheviot: National Trust, Isle of Canna £45
Blackface: Isle of Canna £44
Cross: Fuinary, Kingairloch £26.50.
Wedders:
Rousin Balmeanach House, Struan £34.50
Blackface Balmeanach House, Struan £23
Cheviot: Shuna Farm Partnership, Oban £20
Cross: Glen Gloy Farms Ltd, Spean Bridge and 26 Tarskavaig, Sleat £15.
Rams:
Blackface: National Trust, Isle of Canna £80
Cheviot: National Trust, Isle of Canna £55.

STORNOWAY - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
Cross 22 North Street, Sandwick £34.50, 50 Newmarket and 15 Leverhulme Drive £33;
TexelX: 23 Doune, Carloway £34, 7 Keose, Lochs £31.50;
SuffolkX: 5 Murdoch Place, Stornoway and 25 Lower Shader, Barvas £31.50
CheviotX: 30 Gravir, Lochs £33.50, 39 Lower Shader, Barvas £32.50
Blackface: 7 Ivorhill, S tornoway £27, 29 Ranish, Lochs £26.50.
Ewes:
Cheviot: 47 Back £37, 12 Back £32
Cross: 22 North Street, Sandwick £17
Blackface: 8 Dalmore £16, 6 Glen Kyles, Leverburgh £15.
Gimmers:
Cheviot: 47 Back £36
Blackface: 32 Torquil Terrace, Stornoway £33
Cross:47 Back £28.
Wedders:
Blackface: 43 Habost, Ness £25.

LOCHMADDY - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
SuffolkX: 4 Tigharry, Lochmaddy £42.50, 3 Claddach, Kirkibost and 6 Middlequarter, Sollas £41
TexelX: 24 Liniclate, Benbecula £41, 4 Tigharry, Lochmaddy £40
Chevoit: 6 Middlequarter, Sollas and 25 Liniclate, Benbecula £40
Cross: 6 Dungannichy, Benbecula £39.50, 12 Sollas, Lochmaddy £38.50
Blackface: 6 Borve, Berneray £34.50, Sidinish, Locheport £34.
Ewes:
Chevoit:11 Sollas, Lochmaddy £32, 5 Balemartin, Lochmaddy £24
Blackface: Sidinish, Locheport £27, 1 Hoebeg, Lochportain £23
Cross: 8 Knockquein, Lochmaddy £22.50, 1 Nunton, Balivanich and 1 Ahmore, Lochmaddy £22.
Gimmers:
Blackface: 32 Liniclate, Benbecula £29.

DINGWALL - Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
Cheviot/Mule Grantfield, Tain £44.50
TexelX: Easter Auchterflow, Munlochy and 15 Achnairn, Shinness £44
SuffolkX: Monkstadt, Portree and Mulchaich, Conon Bridge £43.50
Cheviot: Grantfield £43
BeltexX: Sraid na Firinn, Balnain £42.50
Blackface: Drynie, Dingwall £39.50
Lleynn: Achtuie, Drumnadrochit £37.50
Cross: White Lodge, Corrybrough £36
Half-Bred: Allangrange Park, Muir of Ord £34.50
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Gimmers:
Blackface – 4 Claigan, Dunvegan £24
Wedders:
Blackface: Laintachan, Nethy Bridge £21;
Ewes and rams:
Texel: Clynemilton, Brora £35.50
Suffolk: Balintore Farms, Tain £35
Cheviot: 15 Achnairn £33.50
BeltexX: Upperton, Balnain £32
Cross: Garbeg, Drumnadrochit £31
SuffolkX: Loanreach, Ardross £30.50
Mule: Balintore Farms £27
Blackface: 4 Claigan £19.50.

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Aged In-Calf cows: £490 Ardachy

Over 10,000 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., sold 10,148 store sheep at Dingwall.

Store lambs averaged £29.66 per head, +£3.58 on corresponding sale last year, and to £46.50 for Suffolk crosses from Drynie, Dingwall.

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ANNUAL SALE OF PEDIGREE HIGHLAND CATTLE
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WEDNESDAY 18TH OCTOBER
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TUESDAY 24TH OCTOBER
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Tel: 01631 570631 Fax: 01631 565275
Email: mail@caledonian-marts.com

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SHOWER CHAIR height adjustable, brand new, £45. Telephone 01631 720546.

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RALEIGH STAR 11/20 cycle, suit 7-10 years, new condition, £49. Telephone 01631 565872.

BUILDING MATERIALS

COBBLES/SETS Approx 40m2, ideal for driveway or garden paths. Telephone 07899 793 927²

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CAMERA EQUIPMENT

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CAR PARTS UNDER £250

4 WHEELS for VW Golf, MK4, with tyres, Michelin Energy 175-80 x 14, vgc, £49.95. Telephone 01631 562265.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BOSCH FRIDGE/FREEZER tall, white, vgc, 69"x23"x23", £120; Bosch dishwasher, white, vgc, 12 place setting, £80; Newworld LPG gas cooker, white, vgc, separate grill and oven, £150. Reason for selling, new kitchen. Telephone 01866 833342.

FRIDGE/FREEZER, white, good condition, £45. Telephone 01631 570555 or 07786 861266/

WASHING MACHINE, white, good condition, £49.00. Telephone 01631 570555 or 07786 861266.

SMALL TOP lid opening freezer, good working order, £25. Telephone 07799 332609.

SONY TRINITRON 24" TV on a stand, good working order, £29. Telephone 01631 564848 (office hours).

DOMESTIC PETS

BEARDIE CROSS Collie pups, 9 weeks old, farm reared, Sire Garry, father to 2005 International Supreme sheepdog champion, £150. Also Patterdale Terrier pups. Telephone 01880 740220 or 07787870650.²

COLLIE CROSS LAB, 8 weeks old, playful, great with children and very affectionate. Telephone 01583 441279.

DOG GUARD for Volkswagon Golf MK 4, good condition, £25. Telephone 01631 562265.

GUINNEA PIG hutch (for outdoors) with run, suitable for two, well built and insulated, drinking bottle included, £25. Telephone 01631 562013.

FURNITURE

CANVAS AND wood wardrobe, vgc, £10. Telephone 01631 720235.

CHILDRENS PINE bed (takes cot size mattress), vgc, £25. Telephone 01631 564364.

DECORATIVE HIGH back wicker chair, suit a conservatory, £19. Telephone 01631 564848 (office hours).

DINING TABLE and 6 chairs, wood and cast iron, green fabric cushions on chairs, lovely rustic but modern look, £200 or £235 with matching coffee table. Bargain! Telephone 01631 570555 or 07786 861266.

DOUBLE BED mattress for sale, looks like new - has been in eaves for past 3 + years, £49.50. Telephone 01631 562723.

KITCHEN DROP leaf table and chairs, £15. Telephone 01631 564848 (office hours).

MAHOGANY DISPLAY unit, good condition, £49.99. Telephone 01631 565187.

MAHOGANY EFFECT display unit with leaded glass doors, very good condition, £45. Telephone 07748 272411.

MAHOGANY EFFECT large square shape mirror, very good condition, £40. Telephone 07748 272411.

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MAHOGANY TV cabinet, 30" wide, £35 ono. Telephone 01838 200600.

MARTIN AND Frost 'Longjohn' teak coffee table (with tile surface) vgc, £40. Telephone 01631 562428.

MATHESONS SILENT night bed settee, used once, like new, ideal for kids/kids room, cream with alphabet on it, was £500 new sell for £250. Telephone 01631 564557.

MIDI BUNKBED with space underneath for desk, chair etc, £49.99. Telephone 01631 567016.

MODERN OTTOMAN blanket box, £9. Telephone 01631 564848 (office hours).

PINE BUNK/single beds with mattresses - standard size, vgc, £40. Telephone 01631 720235.

PINE SINGLE bed, no mattress, good condition, £10. Telephone 01631 564364.

THREE LOUNGE chairs, green floral pattern, suit a small room, very clean and comfortable, £15. Telephone 01631 564848 (office hours).

THREE QUARTER size wardrobe with bottom drawer, £25. Telephone 01631 567016.

TWO CREAM leather effect chairs (Ikea) with wooden arms, slight rocking motion, £20 each. Telephone 01631 567016.

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TWO STURDY wooden trestle tables with folding legs, multiple uses, bargain at £29. Telephone 01631 564848 (office hours).

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HOME FURNISHINGS

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LOST

MISSING FROM Ford area since August, small brown tortoiseshell cat, any information please call 01546 810250.

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PERSONALS

HAPPY SILVER ANNIVERSARY

Matt and Morven Love Gemma and Matty xx

To James and Flora Baker

HAPPY RUBY ANIVERSARY

From all the family xx

PERSONALS

BILLY CRAVEN
I would like to thank everyone for attending my 70th Birthday Surprise Party in Soroba House on 15th September. I would also like to thank all those who gave me gifts and for the beautiful flowers given to my wife Effie. Thanks goes to Soroba House for the great buffet provided. A special thanks to Fay (McPhee), our daughter, for organising the party and last but not least a big thank you to Calum (Kelly), our grandson, for the tunes he played on his bagpipes and to another grandson Michael (McPhee) for doing his 'Taxi Service'.

RAEMA STEVENSON Would like to thank her family in Erskine, Oban and Fort William for their help and support in my 10k run. Special thanks to my mum and dad and neighbours in Lismore Cr, everybody who donated to my sponsor sheet and to Lewis, Frances and staff at Our Lady of Peace Primary School in Paisley. £660 was raised for the Oban Hospice.

GOLDEN WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS to Joan and Duncan Campbell on 2nd October 2006. Lots of love from Freya, Mark, Adam, Morven, Iain, Ellis and Iain. xx

HAPPY 80th BIRTHDAY JESSIE MACKINNON with Love from all at The Marine.

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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.
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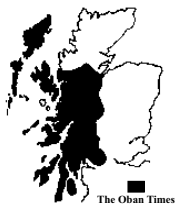
THE OBAN TIMES & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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BIRTHS

CAIRNS – Stephen and Mairi are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Jamie, on September 16, 2006 at the Queen Mother's Hospital, Glasgow. A wee brother for Kevin and Katie-Louise. Special thanks to Caroline Walker and all in attendance at the Queen Mothers'.

DAY - Rory and Tiziana are delighted to announce the birth of Rosie Caterina on September 19, 2006 in Amsterdam, a first grandchild for Valerie and Chris.

MARRIAGES

DAVIS – DORWARD – On Saturday, September 23, 2006, in the Royal George Hotel, Perth, Glenn, only son of Dave and Isobel, 1 Knockscalbert Way to Shona, elder daughter of Jimmy and Jessie Dorward, 51 Castleacres, Campbeltown.

SILVER WEDDING

PACITTI – McDONALD Franco to Helen on October 8, 1981 by the late Rev John MacLeod at Oban Parish Church. Present address 13416 Purple Finch Circle, Greenbrook Gardens, Bradenton, Florida, 34202.

GOLDEN WEDDING

GRANT – MACCALLUM – At Duncansburgh Parish Church on September 28, 1956, Anne to Alastair. Lundavra Farm, Fort William.

DEATHS

CURRIE – Suddenly, but peacefully at the Southern General Hospital, Glasgow on September 7, 2006, Agnes, youngest daughter of the late Allan and Flora Currie. R.I.P. Our Lady of the Isles pray for her.

DONALDSON – Suddenly at home on September 16, 2006, David, youngest son of the late John and Isa. Following a lifetime of toil aged 33 years. Much cherished brother, uncle and friend. Funeral Service on Saturday, September 30, at 11.00am at St John's, Caol and thereafter to Kilmallie Cemetery.

HALL - Helen (Miff) Davidson (Edinburgh). Peacefully on Sunday, September 24, 2006, at St Columba's Hospice, Edinburgh, Miff, dearly beloved and loyal wife of James. Funeral at Warriston Crematorium Lorimer Chapel, Edinburgh, on Friday, September 29, at 10.00am to which all friends and colleagues are invited.

MACDONALD – Very suddenly but peacefully at home in Aberdeen on September 18, 2006, William John (Willie), aged 86, late of Tobermory, dearly loved husband of Irene, loving dad to Maureen and Iain, respected father-in-law of Bill and Catherine, much loved grandpa of Kevin and Kelly, great-grandpa to Kieran and Megan. Very sadly missed.

MACDONALD – Suddenly but peacefully at the Medical Special Care Unit, Ward 6, Raigmore Hospital, Inverness, with her family at her bedside on Tuesday, September 12, 2006, Catherine MacDonald aged 80, beloved wife of the late Donald John MacDonald formerly of North Uist, dearly loved mum of Marion and John, loving mother-in-law of Kenny, cherished and devoted nana of John, Fiona, John Paul, Lee and Lewis and great nana of Liam, also a very much loved sister, sister-in-law and auntie. Sorely missed. 67 Alma Road, Fort William.

MACGILVRAY – Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on September 19, 2006, Allan, aged 90 years, beloved husband of Jean, 6 Achanduin, Benderloch, much loved father of Donald and Wilma and adored Shenair of Steven, Shona, Allan and Donald. Sadly missed. Interment took place at Kilfinichen Cemetery, Isle of Mull, on Saturday, September 23, 2006.

PEARSON – Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on September 26, 2006, in his 70th year, William Campbell (Billy), 17 Millpark Terrace, Oban, beloved son of the late Janet Pearson. Funeral will take place from The Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban, on Friday, September 29, 2006, at 1 pm., thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retiral collection/donations will be taken for Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (known as ABCD).

SHACKLADY - Peacefully at home on September 17, 2006, after a long illness borne with great courage, Nicola Guthrie SRN, SCM, DN, beloved youngest daughter of Zena and step-daughter of Stewart, sister of Christopher, Anne and Mark, loyal and trusted companion of Isobel. Funeral Service was held at Cardoss Crematorium Thursday, September 21, 2006. Interment of ashes and thanksgiving service was held at Glennan, Ford, on Saturday, September 23, 2006. Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research.

STEVENS - Sheana née MacGillivray. Retired Milk Officer for Kintyre, Islay, Gigha and Colonsay, last resident in Bowmore, passed away peacefully on September 18, 2006, aged 76. She will be sorely missed by her family and friends.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CAMERON – The Cameron family would like to express our sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support at the sad loss of our dear mother, Joan. Our appreciation also goes to Craig Nevis Surgery, Belford and Belhaven Ward and mum's home carers, for their care and patience. Rev Dr Richard Corbett provided a lovely service and his pastoral care was much appreciated. Thanks also to M McFall, Funeral Directors, for their professional and sensitive approach. The sum of £370 was raised at the church for the Chest, Heart and Stroke Association.

CURRIE – The sisters, nieces and nephews of the late Agnes Currie of Askernish, South Uist would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their help, expressions of sympathy, cards, floral tributes and support. Thanks to Canon Galbraith who celebrated Requiem Mass and to the choir, organist, altar servers and Paul MacCallum for their participation in the Mass. Thank you to the staff of the Uist and Barra Hospital and the Southern General. Thanks to Donald MacIntyre and Archie Walker for their service and to all who attended the funeral. Thanks also to Jessie Steele and all who helped her with the catering in the church hall. A special thank you to Mairi Scott, Mary Campbell, Flora Steele and Mary Margaret MacLean for their invaluable help and support.

MACCUISH – Peter, Marion and family were overwhelmed by the sympathy and support they received at this sad time. Bobby was loved and cared for during his illness by Marion and the Outreach Team and then by the girls from Medico, also the staff of Ward B and Dr Jespersen. Our grateful thanks to them all for their support and kindness. Many thanks also to neighbours and friends for flowers and the vast number of cards we received were beyond words. A special thanks to Tesco staff, the Celtic Supporters Club, to Bobby's cousin Roddy for his very moving tribute, the Rev. Bill Gray for his kindness, D. and A. Munn for their help and efficient funeral arrangements and Soroba House for the beautiful buffet and to the vast amount of people who attended both the church and cemetery. Donations to the North Argyll Stroke Association amounted to £1106. Thank you.

MACDONALD – The family of the late Jessie MacDonald, would like to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy at this sad time. Special thanks to Fr Roddy and also Mike McFall and all those who paid their respect at the church and graveside. A special thanks to the staff at the renal unit Belford Hospital. The collection at the church raised £600 for the renal unit.

MACQUARRIE – The family of the late Annie Helen would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and colleagues for good wishes, letters, cards and flowers received. Sincere thanks to those who assistedwith funeral arrangements especially Rev George Cringles for conducting the service and for his comforting words. Grateful thanks also to all at Coll Medical Practice whose care and support allowed Annie to fulfil her wish to spend her last months at home where she wanted to be.

McKECHNIE – The family of the late Robbie McKechnie would like to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support and those who paid their respects at the graveside.

MOUNT – Nicola would like to thank all family and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and heartfelt support extended to her during the sad loss of her father, Colin. Also very special thanks to Dora, Liz and Auntie Marie and to all the nurses for their tender loving care at all time during his illness. Special thanks to Mr Ramsay for his comforting service and Mike McFall for the excellent handling of the funeral arrangements in a sensitive and sympathetic way. Collection at the church raised £500 for the Belford Hospital Renal Unit.

MOUNT – The family of the late Colin Mount would like to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support shown to them following the death of Colin. A special thanks to all nurses and doctors at Raigmore and Belford Hospitals especially the girls in the Renal Unit, also Carewatch, Night Owl and Maire Curie nurses without their help Colin could not have spent his last months at home. Many thanks also to the Rev Alan Ramsay and Mike McFall for handling funeral arrangements. The sum of £468.09 was collected in aid of the Renal Unit, Fort William. Gone from our sight but never our memories, gone from our touch but never our hearts.

ROBERTSON – Christina (Christine). The family of the late Christina Robertson, of Balvaird Care Home, Helensburgh (formerly Gortonronoch Farm, Lochgair) would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for their cards, kindness and expressions of sympathy received at this sad time. Particular thanks to Rev Roddy MacLeod for thoughtful and comforting services at Lochgair and Cardross, Pearl Campbell and Ian Logan (Organists), Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for caring and efficient funeral arrangements and to the Coachhouse Inn, Cardross for catering. Thanks also for the care and attention given by staff at Balvaird Care Home and all doctors and staff Ward 6 Vale of Leven Hospital. A final thank you to all who attended at Lochgair and Cardross. The sum of £500 was raised for Alzheimer Scotland, Action on Dementia.

IN MEMORIAM

CARMICHAEL - In loving memory of Duncan Carmichael, much loved and dearly missed dad and grandad died September 25, 1989.
Gone but never forgotten.
- Your loving family at home and abroad xx

GORDON - Loving memories of Michelle, died September 28, 2005 aged 19.
A little angel with a smile
Only here on earth a while
Precious memories keep her near
As we wipe away a tear.
- Cathie.

GRAY – In loving memory of Willie, a dearly loved dad, granda and great granda, who died September 29, 2004.
Your life was a blessing
Your memory a treasure
You are loved beyond words And missed beyond measure.
- Love Irene, David, Sharon, Paul, Freya, Anna and baby Emma xxx.

JACK – Cherished memories of George (Podge), who passed away October 2, 2005, a loving husband, father, father-in-law and papa.
Love and miss you always.
- Catherine, Susan, Karen, David, Ellis and Hayley.

MACDONALD - Remembering with love my very dear husband, Ian, who died on October 3, 2005.
Still with me in my heart.
- Isobel.

MACDONALD - Remembering with affection our dear brother-in-law and uncle, Ian, who died October 3, 2005.
- Anne, Willie and family.

MACDONALD – Remembering with love and affection our brother-in-law and uncle Ian who died October 3, 2005.
- Betty, Alastair, and Alison and family.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of our dear son, brother and uncle John, who died on September 27, 1992.
We treasure all the precious memories
We have of you
You're always in our thoughts
And forever in our hearts
Loved and sorely missed.
- Mum and Dad.
A special brother and uncle John.
Remembered always with our love.
- Marina, Cameron and Emma.

MACKINNON - Joan MacKinnon, Creagan, Hough, Isle of Tiree, died September 30, 1997.
In loving memory.
- From Neil, Kaide, Monica, May and Tommy and grandsons, James, Calum and Charlie.

MACKINNON – In loving memory of Chrissie, a dear sister, sister-in-law and aunt, who died September 28, 2005.
Loved and remembered always.
- Inserted by all the family.

McCULLOCH - In loving memory of a dear wife, mother and grandmother, Margaret Cameron Stevenson, who died September 30, 1996.
Fondly remembered.
- By her husband, children and grandchildren at home and in Canada.

MILLIN - In loving memory of my dear mother and father. Mother who died on September 27, 1980 and father, who died on May 10, 1986.
- Inserted by their son. Creagan, Strontian.

NICHOLSON – Treasured memories of my darling wife, Patricia, who passed away October 4, 1993.
Thirteen years have passed
Since I saw you last
I shared with you such happy days
I miss you in so many ways
You left a place no one can fill
I miss you now and always will.
- Ever loving husband, Bryan.

NICHOLSON – In loving memory of our beloved mum and granny who died October 4, 1993.
Deep in our hearts you will always stay
Loved and remembered every day
Sadly missed.
- Shirley, Stewart, Bryan, Sarah and grandchildren.

SCOTT – In memory of Jean, a dearly loved and loving wife, mum and granny who died on October 1, 2000.
Remembered every day.
- Eddie, Pamela, David, Edmund, Bronwen,Gordon, Kirsten, Caitlin, Gavin and Sarah. xxxx

THOMSON - In loving memory of Isabel, a very dear mum, gran and great-gran, who died September 28, 2001.
Sadly missed along life's way
Quietly remembered everyday.
- Renee, Ian, Charles, Alice and families.

THOMSON – In loving memory of a dear gran, Isobel, who passed away September 28, 2001.
Sadly missed along life's way
Quietly remembered every day.
- Roddy, Fiona and family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 1 October 2006
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'Worship Link'* available
Wednesday 4 October
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

Oban Times ANNOUNCEMENTS

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 1 October 2006
Trinity 16
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Harvest Thanksgiving
Holy Communion 0800
Sung Eucharist.....1015
Sunday School and Creche
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost
☎(01631) 562323
Kilbrandon Kirk
Holy Eucharist 1515
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Mattins followed by
Holy Eucharist 1100
Christ Church, Lochgilphead
Loop System
Holy Eucharist 1100
St Columba, Poltalloch Kilmartin
Holy Eucharist 0900
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 1100
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 0800
Evensong 2000

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 11 a.m.
St Moluag's Centre
Croft Avenue
Oban
All welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794

DESTINY CHURCH
OBAN
Sunday 1 October
Soroba Learning Centre
(Scalpay Terrace)
11 a.m.
GENEROSITY: THE DOOR TO GREAT DESTINY
Everybody is invited
Andrew McCulloch Speaker
Telephone:
01631 564283
www.destiny-church.com

CHARITY DONATIONS

Oban Hospice
CARING FOR THE FUTURE
Donations always gratefully accepted
Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

Macmillan cancer relief
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
Macmillan Cancer Relief
79-81 Lauderdale Gardens
Hyndland, Glasgow, G12 9QU
Freephone 0808 100 6000

In memory of Dawn Joyce

CANCER RESEARCH UK Scotland
Fighting Cancer on all fronts ...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

FOR THE BLIND CHILDREN OF SCOTLAND'S ACADEMIC TUITION AT THE ROYAL SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH
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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**

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This year the Argyll Baptist Fellowship met for thir annual family weekend on the island of Tiree. Most of the baptist churches in Argyll were represented including the Isle of Mull and the Isle of Islay. The weather was kind and everyone enjoyed their weekend of fellowship

Volunteers and Father William Fraser after a hard Saturday shift organising the sale of work for the Church of Visitation of Taynuilt and Connel Parish Church. Between £700 and £800 was raised at the sale of work at Taynuilt Village Hall for church funds. The church is holding a St Andrew's Family Ceilidh at the hall on November 24

More than 70 people from community groups in and around Oban congregated at Glencruitten Church Hall for a 'chinwag'. The Chinwag Workshop, organised by Hope2Oban and the Oban Youth Café, saw community workers meet and use the opportunity to swap ideas, take part in socio drama workshops, examples of best practice, mentoring and also participated in a 'speed dating' style game to introduce workers to each other and start talking about their experiences. Strathclyde Police, the Prince's Trust, the Scouts and the GRAB Trust were just some of the groups represented at the event which was partly funded by the Laidlaw Youth Project. Roy Clunie, above, in the centre of the community workers circle 'chinwagging' to them.

t39yth01

Firefighters clean-up for charity

FIRE Chief Robert MacCall, centre, gets *The Oban Times* van sparkling clean, bottom right, with the help of Colin MacLellan, right, and future firefighter Kyle Manasa, left, who turned up to show his support for his friends at the fire station.

'I've always just really liked the fire station,' said Kyle.

'I think it started when I was about three, and I was into Fireman Sam.'

Kyle and the boys raised £303.80 for the Fire Service National Benevolent Fund at the national car-wash day on Saturday.

Dalmally

The Dalmally fire service, top right, also had their hoses at the ready, and added £111 to the national total.

The Tyndrum fire-fighters had no need to get wet and soapy; the service decided instead to hold an open day outside the Green Welly Stop, during which they showed visitors around the fire engine, and answered questions about the volunteer fire service.

For their time, they raised the handsome sum of £545.

'The lovely Scottish weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the crew, or of the locals and visitors who came to share a few laughs and stories,' said Allan Brodie, who wished to thank all those who gave generously.

Times Sport

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SPORTS DESK ☎ 01631 568000 Fax 01631 568001 e-mail sport@obantimes.co.uk website www.obantimes.co.uk

Lochaber lose to high flyers Kinloss

Lochaber 0
RAF Kinloss 52

Rugby

LOCHABER'S growing injury list forced them to fielded a scratch side against RAF Kinloss.

Whilst they might have got away with this against the weaker teams in the league, the RAF side were experienced enough to exploit gaps in defence resulting from players playing out of position.

Kinloss ran in a total of seven tries to whitewash Lochaber although the score wasn't an accurate reflection of the play.

Kinloss didn't have things all their own way as the Lochaber forwards dominated the line outs and scrums and competed well in the loose play.

Indeed Lochaber enjoyed long periods of possession, especially in the second half, but lacked the dynamic edge to their attack to convert this pressure into points.

That said, skipper Iain Macfarlane did cross the line but had his try disallowed because the referee was unsighted.

Open side flanker, Laurence Hindley, covered every blade of grass and won man-of-the-match for his efforts.

Gary Hendie and David Harvey both deserve a mention for taking the field with only two good legs between them. They were replaced in the second half by young players Rory Mackay and Kieran who both put in spirited performances.

On a positive note for the future, there were at least 50 rugby players training at Banavie last Thursday night between the different youth sections and the adult team.

Next Saturday is a home match against Garioch and Lochaber will be looking for a good win to boost morale.

Lochaber squad: A MacGill, M Davies, I Smith, A Rivetts, D Maclean, S Whitaker, L Hindley, J Milne, I Macfarlane, H Hendrie, D Harvey, A Baird, A Mackenzie, L Smith, D Smith, M Ellis, R Mackay, Kieran.

Donald Paterson on his bike during the Big Triathlon. f39tri1d

Fort's own wins Big Triathlon

Triathlon

THE BIG Triathlon took place in Fort William at the weekend and it was a home grown athlete who won the gruelling contest.

A swim of 1900metre in Loch Linnhe, 90km cycle of the peat track around Glen Nevis and a 21km run up and down Ben Nevis saw 37 competitors from all over the UK and the Republic of Ireland participate. But it was Donald Paterson in the Fort William team who won the triathlon in a time of six hours, 57 minutes and 53 seconds.

Eliot Challifour from Bath was runner-up and Dundee's Paul Currant was third. Donald's Fort team maters Gregor Muir, Damien Forster and Stuart Gray were all in the top ten.

Organisers No Fuss said the event went well although it wasn't 'perfect' but are already looking ahead to next year.

Easdale's new champion

Stone skimming

AN AUSTRALIAN is the new World Stone Skimming Champion after literally hitting a brick wall with his mammoth throw.

Tony Kynn was the winner after a play-off because six competitors hit the back quarry wall.

One of the organisers of the hugely popular event, Donald Melville, said: 'It is a bone of contention with some people saying the quarry's too small. There is a technique to skimming but it is one of these things you can do or cannot. But there is a lot of people practising now.'

Young Alan Laycock from Easdale. who is surely a future home-grown world champion, once again won the 10-15 age group with a skim of 51 metres.

For the third year in a row it rained heavily but it didn't seem to dampen the crowd's enthusiasm as they were entertained by the Pitlochry and District Pipe Band. Not one but three Elvis Presley's had entered the island as three friends John Martino, David Murray and John Smith from Canada, Tenereife and Kilmarnock respectively, competed in the King's sparkling white romper suits. David said: 'We saw the stone skimming on a website and decided to come over. We've been camping at Oban and there are 16 people in our party. We've been friends for years and normally wear our suits to the Tenereife Carnival.'

Three Kings at Easdale; John Martina, John Smith and David Murray. t39eas02

Strong field contest Mid Argyll Triathlon

Triathlon

THIS year's triathlon certainly lived up to its billing with the full entry resulting in some fine performances and many personal bests by all the 120 competitors.

Dead on noon the event started and once again the now legendary weather conditions (monsoon like rain) for the event played their part in challenging all Triathletes and teams to up their performance to complete.

The winners of the individual event were:

Male Senior (1st male): Angus Peden 1:01:48 Ayrodynamic Tri club; Female Senior (1st female): Wendy Gorman 1:16:05 Glasgow Tri club; Female Junior: Kirsty McWilliam 1:06:31 Glasgow Tri Club; Female Veteran: Kay McWiliam 1:20:42 Glasgow Tri Club; Male Veteran: Hendrie Barbour 1:09:14 Glasgow Tri Club; Male Super vet: Michael Dunn 1:19:57 Port Glasgow; Male vintage (60+): Mike Wade 1:32:22 Perth; 1st Mid Argyll Female Finisher: Fiona Corner 1:29:13.

The winners of the Team categories were:

1st Adult Team: Fyne Flyers II 1:02:30 (Alison Debling, Paul Selfridge, Andy Law); 1st Junior Team: The Defenders: (Ryan Francis, Lyndsey Shuttleworth, Andrew Meechan).

The other Category team winners were:

The first adult female team was the 'Fit Chicks' (Kerry McKay-Hubbard, Jo James and Emma Sinclair); First Adult Male Team was VC Ardbeg (Jez Hastings, James McGregor); Junior mixed sex team was 3 Spirit (Laura Manson, Fergus Attwood and Lars Riddell).

The Fyne Flyers II showed real class in all three disciplines and consequently won the overall Team category by a staggering nine minutes 28 seconds setting a new course record. Second, third and fourth were however only separated by a total of 26 seconds, with VC Ardbeg just holding off the two junior teams, The Defenders and 3 Spirit, with the Defenders also setting a new course record for Junior teams.

As predicted the Female Adult team category proved very compelling with the Fit Chicks battling with the Three Local Lassies. The run proved decisive with the Fit Chicks having the stronger run this time. In the individual male senior category and first overall there was a new winner for the first time with Angus Peden putting in a superlative performance in all three disciplines to record a time of 1:01:48, only 18 seconds off the course record. Angus who hails from Tarbert won the race through his phenomenal cycle and run.

In the female individual senior event, winner was Wendy Gorman who in the end was a comfortable three-minute winner ahead of a fast finishing Nicola Meekin of Appin, whose excellent run time could not haul back the deficit in Wendy's bike time.

In the female veteran category Kay McWilliam won by a dominant nine minutes. Hendrie Barbour's win in the male Veteran category meant he improved his second place from last year. In the male senior veteran category (50+) the first triathlete home was Michael Dunn of Port Glasgow winning by nearly five minutes, with Ken McEwen and Iain Webster from Lochgilphead in second and third respectively.

The winner of the male vintage category 60+ was Mike Wade from Perth completing the course in 1:32:22 his second win.

The performance of the race was from young Kirsty McWilliam, as predicted her junior Great Britain squad credentials shone through. Her time of 1:06:31 was not only a course record for the first female junior, but she was third overall in the whole field. Lastly the prizes for the fastest individual time from each discipline, 500m swim, 20Km cycle and 6.5Km run). Kirsty McWilliam underlined her dominance of this year's event by sweeping the board with the fastest female swim (06:08), cycle (33:12) and run times (25:50).

The male category proved more competitive with Angus Peden winning the cycle (28:24), just pipping local cyclist Paul Selfridge by one second in a new course record, Angus also won the run (24.37). Stuart Fraser took the swim prize and course record in an awesome six minutes four seconds time.

New Argyll mountain bike track opens as part part of £3m project

Cycling

A MOUNTAIN bike track measuring six kilometres has been opened in Argyll Forest Park, as part of a £3m project to upgrade recreational facilities.

Five years

The five-year access improvement project has built on and upgraded the existing infrastructure of the Argyll and Queen Elizabeth Forest Parks, and testers have described it as a very fast, steep, and smooth-flowing trail.

Forestry Commission Scotland's project manager for Cowal and the Trossachs, Andy Malcolm, hopes the track will help make mountain bikers aware of what the forests have to offer.

The parks also have new picnic facilities and information points at parking areas throughout the forests. These are designed to help cyclists, walkers, and equestrians.

Routes

Each gives details of waymarked routes, and an indication of those suitable for cycling, be they on- or off-road.

E-MAIL YOUR SPORTS NEWS TO: sport@obantimes.co.uk

Winners of silverware during Lochaber Bowling Club's 2006 season. f39bwl1d

Lochaber Bowling Club 2006

Bowls

Club Championship - 1 Alan Robinson; 2 Ian Gregor; Ladies Club Championship- 1 Agnes Boyle; 2 Helen Ross; Pairs - 1 Iain Haggart and Neil Cameron; 2 Alan Robinson and Judith Robinson; Gents Pairs- 1 Alan Robinson; 2 Bill Maxwell; Westland Trophy - 1 John Doherty; 2 Wilson Thain; Sutherland Cup- 1 Bill Gibbons; 2 Alan Robinson; MacDonald Cup- Alan Robinson; 2 Bill Gibbons; Two-Bowl Competition- 1 Alan Robinson; 2 John Doherty; Best Improved Player- John Doherty.

Susie leads former Formula One ace Mika Hakkinen in Barcelona

Susie battles with Formula One veterans

Motor Racing

OBAN racing driver Susie Stoddart managed to avoid the lap one chaos in round eight of the DTM series in Barcelona to finish in 15th place, just behind former Formula One star Jean Alesi.

Susie was disappointed to qualify in 20th position after being unable to get any more speed out of her 2004-spec Mercedes.

As the first lap unfolded though it became clear that Susie's qualifying position would keep her out of trouble. Many people were expecting an incident at the first corner but it actually came later in the lap when Christian Abt hit Nicolas Kiesa, who then hit Vanina Ickx, who collected Jamie Green. Susie swept past the havoc and was running 16th by the time the safety car pulled off the track.

She finished the race in 15th place, unscathed but also unhappy with the result. 'I am disappointed,' said Susie. 'I didn't have the speed to improve from last place. We will now work hard to end the season with better results.'

The DTM series now moves to France for round nine in three weeks time at the Le Mans Bugatti Circuit.

RHYC closing muster

Sailing

THE FINAL event afloat of the 125th Anniversary year of the Royal Highland Yacht Club took place in the form of the Closing Muster on September 16 at Loch Spelve in Mull.

The forecast earlier in the week had flag officers and committee speculating whether the event would be a success but there was glorious sunshine and a little breeze, which needed help from engine power at times, to bring some 38 yachts to the event.

After a welcome by Commodore Roger Parry and Vice Commodore Roy Tate the club was once again the guest of Douglas and Helen Wilson who provided the culinary expertise in preparing varied dishes of mussels which were sampled by members and guests at the gathering. Live accordion music was played in the mussel shed and the evening turned into a great success.

At around 9pm crews drifted back to the various gatherings aboard the anchored yachts but not before club Trustee Colin Tindal had relieved everyone of a total of £293.32 to be donated to the R.N.L.I. in the name of Mr. & Mrs. Wilson as a token of the club's gratitude. A vote of thanks was proposed by Commodore Parry who presented Mr. & Mrs.Wilson with a framed club burgee and 125th anniversary pennant.

Sunday saw a damp start but this did not affect the enthusiasm of the assembled yacht crews to raft up for a final toast to the club in this special year.

The wind, and unfortunately the rain, increased a little to give the north bound yachts a fair reach home and the south bound a damp slog into the rain but all had memories of a fine sailing and social event.

The club's thanks, once again, go to the Wilson family for their generous hospitality.

A wish of continued success was made to the Mull mussels.

Oban and District Primary Football League

Football

Senior League

	P	Pts
Colts	13	37
Keyline	12	29
Hawks	12	24
Spurs	12	23
Benderloch	12	12
Appin	11	9
Jewson	12	9
Rovers	12	6
Dunbeg	12	6

Junior League

	P	Pts
Cobras	12	33
Stoddarts	12	31
Sharks	12	27
Saints	12	15
Benderloch	11	15
Appin	12	14
Dunbeg	12	11
Dolphins	13	7
K-oz	12	1

Fort ship four more goals

Football

Fort William 0
Cove Rangers 4

FORT went down to Cove at home but a gutsy first half display didn't a Craig MacMillan hat trick killed Fort who were aggrieved at the six minutes of injury time before the interval which was when the striker opened the scoring. He added two more in the second half with Keith Robertson the other scorer.

Ali Young Indoor League (top)

Football

	P	Pts
1 Caley Boys	2	6
2 FC Copenbadly	2	6
3 Lochaber Bar	2	6
4 Peds FC	2	6
5 Railway	1	3
6 Lochaber Leisure	2	3

Results September 24

Brussels Trouts 2 FC Copenbadly 9; Lochaber Leisure 2 Lochaber Bar 3; Meanest Machine 5 Livercaol 6; Peds FC 5 Hammer Valentines 2; Railway 6 Inverlochy 1; Re-al alcys 1 Five Alive 5; The Goon Squad 2 Caley Boys 3

Oban bowls results

Bowls

OBAN'S bowlers have had a successful time of it recently with a triples team winning the Ladies Triples Competition at Cardross and another winning the Oban Triples Competition.

The triples team of Margaret Macalpine, Helen Maclean and Moira Spreadbury won in Cardross.

Dixie Porter, Alistair McNab and Brian McGleish were victorious in their home triples event.

Oban Sailing club results

Sailing

ERIC Chapman retains the lead in Oban Sailing Club's Frostbite series for dinghies racing his Laser ZZIIPP with son Andrew racing a Laser 4.7 in second position.

In last Sunday's two races Eric took the two first places with wind conditions variable and light. There are still three more Sundays to race before the end of the Series.

Meanwhile the club has issued members with a questionnaire to gauge feedback on areas of club development. A meeting will be held this week to look at the results with proposals to be forwarded at the club's AGM on November 13 at the clubhouse at Dungallan Parks. The club's annual prize-giving dinner dance is at the Regent Hotel on November 11.

Junior golf

Football

A JUNIOR golf competition will be held at Glenruitten, Oban, on Sunday, October 1 which incorporates a shortened version of the adult game.

The tournmament starts at 11am but competitors must register on the clubhouse noticeboard to compete.

TIMES Sport

Results

Shinty

Bullough Cup Final
Highlanders 3 Lochside Rovers 1

Women's Camanachd Association Cup Final
GMA 2 Glengarry 1

Marine Harvest Premier League
Kingussie 6 Kilmallie 2
Lochcarron 1 Oban Camanachd 1

North Division One
Beauly 5 Lovat 1
Glenurquhart 4 Aberdeen Uni 1
Lochaber 12 Inverness 0
Skye 0 Kinlochshiel 2

South Division One
Ballachulish 5 Tayforth 0
Kyles 3 Glenorchy 1

North Division Two
Fort William 8 Boleskine 0
Kilmallie 1 Caberfeidh 3
Lovat 6 Kingussie 1
Strathglass 1 Newtonmore 1

South Division Two
Edinburgh EL v Strachur w/o
Glenorchy v Aberdour w/o
Oban Celtic 4 Glenorchy 1

North Division Three
Glenuirquhart 2 Lochaber 1
Inverness 0 Kinlochshiel 1
Kincraig 5 Beauly 4
Lochcarron 0 Nairnshire 3

Saturday's fixtures

Shinty

Marine Harvest Premier League
Fort William v Kilamllie
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie 1pm

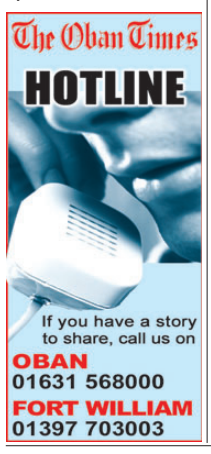
North Division One
Beauly v Aberdeen Uni 3pm
Caberfeidh v Lovat 1pm
Inverness v Skye 3pm
Kinlochshiel v Lochaber 3pm

North Division Two
Caberfeidh v Lovat 3pm
Kilmallie v Glengarry
Newtonmore v Kingussie
Skye v Strathglass

North Division Three
Beauly v Lochcarron 1pm
Inverness v Glenurquhart 1pm
Kincraig v Ardnamuchan
Kinlochshiel v Lochbroom 1pm
Lochaber v Nairnshire

South Division One
Glenorchy v GMA
Kilmory v Ballachulish
Lochside Rovers v Bute 3pm
Tayforth v Kyles

South Division Two
ColGlen v Inveraray
Edinburgh EL v Glenrochy
Kyles v Oban Celtic



Highlanders' captain Andrew Fraser from Strathglass keeps a firm hold on his side's first-ever trophy

t39bul21

Highlanders win first trophy

Shinty

Bullough Cup Final
Highlanders 3 Lochside Rovers 1

THE HIGHLANDERS shinty team won their first ever trophy on Saturday at Glendaruel when the regiment side lifted the Bullough Cup.

The unexpected victory came as just reward for a team which has struggled to maintain its shinty links for the 12 years of its existence. The cup victory also came as a fitting swansong for Highlanders' stalwart Robbie Stoddart who has doggedly kept the team going no matter where in the world the regiment has been posted.

'Nine of our players flew in from Germany for the final, while others have travelled up from Yorkshire,' Robert told *The Oban Times*.

'I was extremely proud of the performance and glad that we were able to maintain our discipline when things became a little heated.

'The regiment recruits young lads from shinty playing areas such as Strathglass and Fort William and it's great that they can continue to play shinty in the colours of The Highlanders,' said an emotional Robbie.

Stoddart has been with the regimental side for 12 years, but comes out of the army next April. Such was the shock that his team reached the final of this season's Bullough competition, his teammates arranged his farewell presentation for after the semi-final against Kyles.

Saturday's match itself proved a huge disappointment for cup holders Lochside Rovers who never looked likely to retain the trophy after a poor goal hit-out in the second minute gifted Robbie Stewart the opener.

On a just-cut Glendaruel park that was certainly not fit for a final, The Highlanders' defence, marshalled by captain Andrew Fraser from Strathglass coped easily against a lethargic and disinterested Lochside forwardline in which only youngster Matt Rippon appeared a goal threat.

One minute into the second-half, Kevin Ferguson from Lochaber fired home a low shot from wide on the left to give the Highlanders a two-goal cushion and the lively Ferguson almost added a third in the 55th minute as the Lochside defence repeatedly left the loose ball to each other.

Following another Ferguson-led attack, Lochside re-shuffled their line-up but were reduced to 11-men in the 78th minute when David MacInnes needlessly got involved in a heated exchange with referee Graham Cameron and the Lochside midfielder, who had been one of his team's main players, was shown the red card.

Six minutes from time, Robbie Stewart sealed another shock result for The Highlanders with a well-taken third goal - and although Kenny Wotherspoon's half volley netted a consolation for Lochside, it was far too little, far too late.

Camanachd Association vice president Jock Turner presented The Highlanders with their first-ever trophy and also fittingly presented Robert Stoddart with a special momento for his services to shinty over the years.

Thain leads Kingussie to six against Kilmallie

Shinty

Marine Harvest
Premier League
Kingussie 6 Kilmallie 2

KILMALLIE and Kingussie lined up at the Dell last weekend with starting line ups that differed greatly from their first choice.

Kilmallie took the opportunity to blood a number of youngsters with a view to next season while Kingussie were missing Ronald Ross, Ricky Grant, Ally Borthwick and Gary Munro.

After only a couple of minutes the home side were ahead, good work by 'Bochy' MacNiven in the visiting goal was undone when his clearance only reached Kevin Thain who blasted the ball home from 20 yards.

Kilmallie made their task that much harder 10 minutes later when a corner evaded everyone except Thain with a shot on the half volley to double the advantage.

Kilmallie first real chance came when a slick passing move led to a chance for Donald Lamont after 20 minutes but he failed to connect with the goal at his mercy.

Penalty

Midway through the first half referee Duncan Kelly awarded Kingussie a penalty with Thain making no mistake with the spot hit.

Kilmallie re-jigged their defence and had their best spell of the half. Five minutes before half time they had their reward when a smart move lead to a Mark Graham snapshot from the edge of the circle beat Andrew Borthwick.

But any hopes that this was a lifeline in the match were soon snuffed out as Kingussie swept forward and Russell Dallas passed the ball into the net.

Just after the hour mark Fraser Massie took a blow to the face as he was threatening the goal but the referee missed the offence and Kilmallie were forced to replace the youngster - with Morrison introduced to the fray

The game appeared to be settled with neither side looking like scoring but the last 15 minutes brought another flurry of goals.

Indecision in Kilmallie's defence proved costly and substitute Ali Dallas was quickest to react and scored a fifth goal when there appeared to be no danger.

The visitors head didn't go down and when a long range Lamont effort was palmed by Borthwick, Morrison reacted quickest knocking the ball over the keeper to double their score, however, Thain restored the home side's four goal advantage minutes later.

Kilmallie face Fort William this weekend, as the town side try to salvage their season by claiming the league - with their neighbours equally determined to stop them.

Youngsters star in MacMaster Cup Final

Shinty

THE large crowd which witnessed this precursor to the Camanachd Cup Final at Dunoon were adamant that this was one of the best games seen at this level for many years with both sides displaying an abundance of skill, commitment and fitness.

It was perhaps unfortunate that such a fine advert for the game of shinty had to be decided on penalties.

Fort William got off to a flying start and were 2-0 ahead within 10 minutes through Ewan Campbell and Ryan Campbell with right wing centre Jordan MacPhee dominating.

A positional changeby Oban aimed at curbing the right wing threat had an immediate effect and this enabled the Camanachd centre line to come more into the game and with the Oban forwards seeing more of the ball.

Both goalkeepers were showing their worth but Alan 'Spider' Duncan pulled one back for Oban Camanachd in the 27th minute with the same player getting the equaliser just before half time.

It was end to end action but Camanachd now had full centre Kieran Gallacher in dominating form and only the brilliance of the Fort goalkeeper Jack Fraser, denied them a winner before full time.

In extra time Camanachd again had the better of the exchanges but Jack Fraser in the Fort goal and Josh McGhee at left back kept the Oban forwards at bay to see the game go to penalties with the shoot out going in favour of the Fort boys.

It was sad that a game of such passion and commitment had to have a loser especially on penalties after extra time but the Oban boys can be proud that they played their part in making this a final to be remembered.

Young Kieran Gallacher was the man of the match for Oban with Josh McGhee catching the eye for Fort William - although in truth there were no below par performances on either side in the cup final.

Mid Argyll take Valerie Fraser title

Women's shinty

Valerie Fraser Cup Final
Glengarry 1
Glasgow Mid Argyll 2

A GOAL in each half saw Glasgow Mid Argyll win the women's equivelant of the Camanachd Cup - the Valerie Fraser Cup at Newtonnore on Saturday.

Opponents Glengarry were aiming for three wins in a row and took the lead early on through Jane Nicol.

But, in the closest final todate, Katie Drain equalised for GMA and, despite plenty of endevour the scoring remained static until Mid Argyll pushed the ball into the Glengarry net midway through the second-half.

This was GMA's first winning of the trophy since they defeated Glengarry B in 2003 and they also celebrated having last Saturday's player of the match in Kirsten Munro.

The teams meet again in a league decider which will be played at Invergarry.

Oban Celtic produce best of season against Glenorchy

Shinty

Marine Harvest
South Division Two
Oban Celtic 4
Glenorchy 1

FOR THE first 15 minutes of this rescheduled match, Oban Celtic played some of their best shinty of the season.

Their reward was a hat-trick by Kevin Lockhart within 11 minutes and the threat that they might overrun their visitors.

After only seven minutes, Lockhart's first goal came from a long ball from Turnbull, misjudged by full-back MacNulty, allowing Lockhart to dispatch it neatly past keeper Morris.

Three minutes later, an incisive pass by Andrew McCuish cut through the defence and was met by Lockhart, who drilled the ball into the net.

A minute later the Oban captain was celebrating his hat-trick, having dispatched a Scott Burnett lay-off with a first-time shot .

If the Oban squad thought a rout was on the cards, they were given a wake-up call after 14 minutes when the ball fell the way of veteran John Smith and he rifled a low shot beyond keeper MacNab.

Oban Celtic came back at Glenorchy and a frantic scramble saw Morris execute a triple save leaving Celtic scratching their heads in disbelief.

However the half ended in a bizarre fashion. After 36 minutes Smith was booked for protesting after being felled by a blatant push. Two minutes later, another disputed free hit to Celtic was dispatched by McCuish running into the area which was ruled offside.

But with only a minute left of the half Burnett restored the home side's three goal cushion.

Fraser MacKerracher replaced hat-trick hero, Lockhart, and the young player showed some good touches. More controversy came after 85 minutes, when Celtic's Davidson was bundled to the ground inside the area – the goal judge flagged, but the referee turned away and let play continue.

In a first-class game, with both sides putting in a fine display, the only surprise was that neither team was able to score again during the second period.

Spot The SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE. . .

This week's nearest the ball winners who win £25 are: Willie Campbell, 88 Nant Drive, Oban and Annie MacDonald, 16 Drummore Road, Oban

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.

Name_____

Address_____

_____ Tel No._____

Send to **'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB**

Oban lose in second half rout

Oban Lorne 7
Waysiders 24

Rugby

ALTHOUGH Oban went in to half time in the lead this weekend they were outscored 19-0 in the second period to record their second defeat from four matches.

The opposition are, along with Oban Lonre, title contenders this season and very hard to beat at home.

However Oban will need to improve fitness and away form to challenge for the league title.

As in every game this year Oban could not play with continuity for the full 80 minutes and this will worry new coach Preben Ramussen and his assistant Billy Thomson.

Waysiders scored first through a fifth minute try which was not converted. In the 20th minute Oban missed a penalty attempt which would have closed the gap to two points.

Ten minutes later Andy McDougall barged over, after coming into the back line at pace and this was converted to put Oban up 7-5 at the break.

Despite a positive first 40 minutes, the second half was painful viewing as Oban struggled to string any territory, possession or moves together.

The game became a stop and start affair and frustration on both sides resulted in yellow cards being issued to a player from each side for repeated infringement.

Andy MacDougall

The turning point in the game came when Oban elected to take a scrum under the posts rather than take an easy three points which would have left the game poised at 10-17. Oban failed to score and despite some excellent counter attacking by Struan Smith, Oban Lorne left the scoring zone with nothing to show for it.

In the end Oban capitulated conceding two very soft tries and nearly a push over try in the last play.

Final score 24-7 to Waysiders Drumpellier.

Fyne Ales presented man of the match Preben Ramussen with a case of real Ales.

Next week Oban play at home to Loch Lomond who beat them twice last season.

Team: R, McQueen D, Robertson M, Downie N, Rimmer C, Nicolson P, Brentbach P Ramussen A McDougall E, Wilson R, Wright C, McDonald M, McQueen S, Smith G, McQewen, Kelly McFaden.

❒ Oban Ladies are hosting a development tournament on October22 and are currently recruiting new players.

Anyone interested should come down to the club Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evenings from 7pm.

Jamie Kerr, North Connel, in action in Arderseir.

Successful season for brothers

Motocross

It has proved a successful season for North Connel brothers Jamie and Jordan Kerr, both of whom competed in the annual Motocross Club Championship competition in Ardersier, near Inverness, on August 27.

Jamie Kerr battled against the very experienced riders in the '125 Schoolperson' category, and was rewarded with third place; and Jordon was also up against hardened opposition. He earned 6th place overall for the day in the '85 Big Wheel' group. The competition experienced several seasons in one day. Warm sunshine one moment and freezing rain the next didn't make it easy for the riders racing along at 40 or 50 miles per hour, but at least the dust was kept down to a minimum.

Local support needed for Oban half marathon

Half marathon

THE OBAN Half Marathon - the largest distance running event in the area - will take place on Sunday October 1, and race directors Peter MacMillan and Drew Anderson are hoping for a large local turnout and plenty of support for the annual event.

The 13-mile track takes competitors from Atlantis Leisure, heading south through Oban, and along the Gallanach coast, before heading back to the town centre and towards Little Ganavan, and then back round to Atlantis.

The half marathon is associated with cancer charity CLIC Sargent, which helps keep families together with clinical, phychosocial, emotional and financial care and support when cancer strikes.

Entry forms are available at www.atlantisleisure.co.uk, or you can enter on the day.

There is also a need for marshals and helpers, so if you can spare up to 3 hours on Sunday, contact Peter or Drew at Atlantis Leisure on 01631 566800.

Argyll crew line up against Colin McRae

Rally

AN ARGYLL crew will pit their nerve and driving skill against Colin McRae in a rally named after the former World Rally Champion.

The Colin McRae Forest Rally Stages, to be held this Saturday in Perth, welcomes 120 of the best drivers from around the country and Argyll duo John Allan, Oban, and Ally Campbell, Cairndow, in their Subaru Legacy RS will be there.

McRae traditionally drives the opening number 00 car on 'his' rally but this year he will actually compete against many younger drivers in more powerful cars.

Also racing will be Colin McRae's brother, Alister, and father, Jim.

Dalmally Golf Club results

Golf

MIXED OPEN

Scratch: 1 Lucy & Des McNulty (Dal), 76; 2 Doreen & Billy Ferguston (B&S), 80; 3 Linda & Bill Brannigan (Dunaverty), 84

Handicap: 1 Jill Stewart & Tony Cave (Glencruitten), 77 12 65; Gill Dunbar (Helensburgh) & Billy McKay, 92 24.5 67.5; 3 Eileen & Alan Hill (Dal), 92 23 69

Nearest Pin Gents: Robert McLarty (Taynuilt)

Nearest Pin Ladies: Linda Brannigan (Dunaverty)

Mr & Mrs prize: Stella & Ron Cameron (Traigh)

Non Mr & Mrs prize: Fiona Livingstone & Scot Livingstone

DALMALLY LADIES

Medal & ARC Shield

1 Fiona Livingstone, 82 21 61; 2 Tracey Stark, 89 22 67; 3 Lucy McNulty, 81 12 69

Two Clubs & Putter: 1 Tracey Stark, 89 22 67; 2 Anthea Cleaver, 107 35 72; 3 Lucy McNulty, 84 11 73

Autumn Meeting: 1 Tracey Stark 88 22 66; 2 Ann Hay 94 26 68; 3 Caroline Manson 103 32 71.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, September 28, 2006
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am				pm			
Thur	02.20	1.5	08.22	3.5	14.38	1.6	20.23	3.4
Fri	02.54	1.7	08.59	3.2	15.23	1.8	20.59	3.1
Sat	03.45	1.9	09.53	3.0	16.40	2.0	21.58	2.8
Sun	05.36	2.0	12.53	2.9	18.32	2.0	**.**	*.*
Mon	01.56	2.7	07.17	1.9	14.29	3.2	20.10	1.8
Tues	03.02	3.0	08.38	1.6	15.18	3.5	21.20	1.4
Wed	03.46	3.3	09.35	1.2	15.59	3.9	22.09	1.1

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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Saints lose equaliser in injury time

Umbro Scottish Amateur Football League
Premier Division
KINGS PARK RANGERS 3
OBAN SAINTS 3

Football

GLASGOW Green was the venue for this match against old rivals Kings Park Rangers and once again Saints failed to pick up all three points by conceding an equaliser in the 94th minute of the match.

The visitors got off to the perfect start with a goal in the third minute when Allan MacKay got on the end of a long throw from Willie Gemmell to head the ball high into the net past Kings Park keeper Craig Lowe.

However, this lead lasted only five minutes when at the other end the Saints defence failed to deal with a throw into the box and the unmarked Chas Mauchin headed the ball home past David Dunlop.

Allan MacKay

Both teams created chances after this with Ross Graham blocking a Kenny McGall pile driver and then Allan MacKay got on the end of a Willie Gemmell free kick, but Rangers keeper Craig Lowe made a good save.

Keith Millar should have put his team in front but he headed wide when it looked easier to score.

The same player had another great chance a minute later when he cleverly controlled the ball in the box, but he was closed down quickly before he could get a shot on target.

Dante Lopez had another guilt edged opportunity when he found himself unmarked in the box with only the keeper to beat but hurried his shot and Craig Lowe palmed the ball away.

Just before the interval Donald Campbell had another chance, but again Craig Lowe made a fine save. The half time whistle arrived with the scoreline standing at 1-1, but on goal scoring chances Saints should have been in front.

The second half was only 60 seconds old when Kings Park took the lead. Slack play at the back by Alex Craik allowed Robert Hawkins to race goalwards before the Rangers striker fired a great right foot shot from an acute angle into the corner of the net giving David Dunlop no chance.

However, the game turned in Saints favour in the 63rd minute when they equalised after some fine play in midfield. The ball was passed about crisply before being crosed from the right and Donald Campbell, lurking unmarked at the back post was on hand to drill the ball into the net.

Worse was to come for the home side a minute later after some slack play at the back when Saints took a 3-2 lead - Allan MacKay on hand to hammer the ball past Craig Lowe.

The game errupted in the dying minutes of the game when Kings Park Rangers striker Robert Hawkins saw red after an altercation with Marc MacCallum.

The visitors were defending deeper and deeper as the match drew to a close and with the game in the 94th minute Rangers fired a free kick into the box. The ball bounced off a couple of players before falling to Chas Mauchin who actually mis-hit his shot from close range, but it ended up in the back of the net to make the final score 3-3.

Kings Park player Eddie Kenna, who had been substituted earlier, was also shown the red card on the final whistle by referee Gus Yuill who handled a mainly sporting game well.

Manager Iain Jackson was bitterly disappointed at not picking up all three points. He said: 'We must work on our defending. Not for the first time this season we've given away sloppy goals with poor defending and we must get this sorted out.'

Donald Campbell

Saints have no game this Saturday but are back in action on Saturday, October 7 when they take on Kelvinbank Star in the second round of the Soccer World Scottish Amateur Cup. The game will take place at Mossfield with a 2pm kick-off.

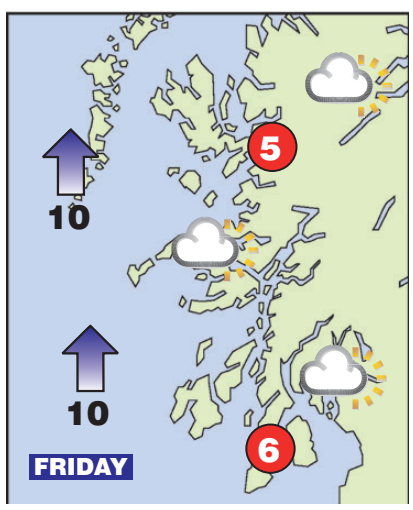
The club are sponsored by Keyline Building Materials, AMP Electrical Services, and Aulay's Bar. Further information is available on the club website www.obansaintsafc.co.uk

Saints will start training on the new community pitch at Oban High School on Wednesday, October 4 from 7 till 9 pm.

North Lorn tennis day

Tennis

PRIMARY three children from Appin, Barcaldine and Lochnell schools took part in a tennis taster day organised by Active Schools at Atlantis Leisure. Lochnell will now host an after school tennis club.



the weather

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Thursday, September 28
Cloudy with rain or showers at times. Winds fresh to strong south-westerly.
Temperatures 5ºC to 17ºC
Friday, September 29
Will see sunny periods and isolated showers. Winds light to moderate southerly.
Temperatures 5ºC to 17ºC.
Weekend Outlook
Saturday and Sunday both expected to be rather cloudy with some sunny spells and showers at times.
Winds light to moderate south-westerly.
Temperatures 5ºC to 17ºC.
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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Oban and Lorn gets voting

Sports awards

VOTING is underway for this year's Oban and Lorn Sports Awards with nominations for 10 different categories flooding in.

All the nominations are tallied after the **October 10 deadline** and the nominees with the most votes make it to the final.

The winner will be announced at the sports awards evening on November 25. There is still time to get your votes in using the coupon opposite.

OBAN & LORN SPORTS FESTIVAL 2006
Atlantis Leisure

SPORTS AWARDS DINNER CEREMONY

Get your nominations in today!

THE Sports Awards Dinner ceremony will be held on Saturday evening November 25th at MacTavish's Kitchens, where local sports persons and teams will be recognised for their outstanding achievements and contributions in their chosen sport. We encourage all readers to get in their nominations a.s.a.p. by completing and returning the form below:

OLSF SPORTS AWARDS NOMINATION FORM

Name: .....
Sport: .....
Award Category: .....
Reason for Nomination: .....
.....
Contact Details: .....

Return to: Sports Awards, Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB

Awards categories this year are as follows:

Category:
Coach of the Year
Sports Administrator of the Year
Team of the Year
Junior Sports Girl of the Year
Junior Sports Boy of the Year
Sportswoman of the Year
Sportsman of the Year
Disabled Sportsperson of the Year
Sports Personality of the Year (Picked from all categories)
Outstanding Achievement Award
(Recognising the achievement of someone who no longer lives in the Oban and Lorn area, but has excelled at and competes in their chosen sport on a national or international level)
Closing date for nominations 10 October 2006

OBAN & LORN SPORTS FESTIVAL 2006 24th - 26th NOVEMBER 2006

The rules for the competition are as follows:

The competition is open to residents of North Argyll. Nominations can be accepted for more than one category but the sports person can win only one award. The Sports Personality Award winner will be selected from the winners of the other categories. Winners will be announced at the dinner. Correspondence will not be entered into and the judge's decision is final.
We look forward to your nominations as well as participation in this exciting weekend event.

Former Scotland manager Craig Brown, back centre, did the honours by officially opening Atlantis Leisure's all-weather pitch, helped by Dave Bleazard, left, Atlantis Leisure director and Ian Cleaver, director of Argyll and the Islands Enterprise.

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

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FREE INSIDE FOR ALL OUR LORN READERS

Lorn Life

Nightime warning for Oban women

POLICE have warned against women walking home through Oban on their own at night.

The warning follows allegations of a serious indecent assault on Saturday September 16 and an alleged assault and robbery on September 24 against young women.

The latter happened at 2.15am near Oban Service Station on Soroba Road.

Police are appealing for any information, particularly the movements of a man described as five foot, 10inches in height, in his early 20s and wearing a dark hooded top.

Police appeal for any witnesses, particularly taxi drivers, in the area to contact Oban Police on 01531 510500 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Dalintart's ducks 'n drains

DRAINAGE problems in the Glencruitten and Dalintart areas of Oban are getting worse, according to Oban Community Council.

Members said it would be 'short sighted' of Argyll and Bute Council if it left the water problems unsolved for much longer.

The council spent more than £160,000 putting drains in each of the gardens in Glencruitten Drive, but the problem was not rectified and there are now ducks swimming in the gardens.

Driver appeal

POLICE want to speak to the driver of an Oban bound silver coloured car which was forced to take evasive action to avoid a head on collision on Sunday.

The driver had to swerve onto the grass verge at the A85 accident blackspot between the Halfway Filling Station and Pennyfuir at around 2pm.

Constable Davy Paterson, Taynuilt, is appealing for the driver of the silver coloured car to contact him on 01866 822721.

Dr Andrew Henderson with his dedicated team at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital.

Oban hospital heart team is UK finalist

A MEDICAL team based at Oban's Lorn and Islands District General Hospital is in the running for a top award.

Dr Andrew Henderson and his team have been short-listed for the UK Hospital Doctor Award for the Cardiovascular Team of the Year 2006.

The team from Oban has been selected from cardiovascular units across the UK because of its achievements in developing a high quality service for a scattered rural population, which is patient-centred and uniquely locally accessible.

Delight

Dr Henderson told *The Oban Times* of his delight at the award nomination: 'Provision of cardiac services is very much a team effort and reflects the work and dedication of staff within the hospital at all levels of care.

'We have been particularly pleased at the ability to provide a cardiac ultrasound service to many patients in their own local communities as a result of a successful bid to the Big Lottery Fund in 2002, which allowed us to start up and provide a service to patients in Campbeltown, Islay and Mull. Patients can now have access to this important investigation without having to travel to Oban or other centres.

'We are also unique in having developed a locally based charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD), which is dedicated to the improvement of cardiovascular services in Argyll. Through hard work and with tremendous community support we have raised in excess of £80,000 since 2000.'

The Oban team will have to wait until November 23 to see if it has triumphed. Winners will be announced at a prestigious ceremony in London.

❒ Taynuilt's £1.2 million electricity project 'switch on' goes wrong

Blackout hits 10,000

AROUND 10,000 homes and businesses in North Argyll lost electricity on Tuesday when the switching on of a £1.2 million project to make the service more reliable went wrong.

The high voltage network at the Taynuilt relay station, serving as far and wide as Barcaldine, Mull and Kilmelford, has recently undergone improvements and Tuesday morning was the switch over from the old network to a new refurbished network.

However, Scottish Hydro Electric said it wishes to apologise to any customers affected as the changeover didn't go as planned. At around 9am, a power cut knocked out electricity supplies over half of Argyll from Ardfern in the south to Appin in the north.

Power was restored quickly to some properties but many homes and businesses in Oban were waiting until almost 1pm to get power back.

Schools in the area held out for as long as they could but some had to send children home. Drummore Learning Centre's water supply is powered by an electric pump and had no running water or working toilets. Easdale Primary School was closed for just over an hour when the power was cut off. The school said it closed because of poor lighting, cold classrooms and it was unable to provide lunch.

However, all the area's schools re-opened in the afternoon.

Businesses closed

The power cut also affected businesses in the area. One of the largest, Tesco, Oban, felt the cost of the power cut as it closed in the morning with customers waiting to get in.

Kenny MacCallum of Tesco, Oban, said: 'We closed at 9.30am for an hour-and-a-half but our customers were very understanding.

'It would have cost us some revenue but we have generators that kept us going so we didn't lose any stock.'

A Scottish Hydro Electric spokesperson said: 'We would like to pass on our apologies to customers affected.

'The work we were doing is a significant investment programme. We are spending £1.2million upgrading the high voltage network in Taynuilt bringing power to people in Oban, Mull, Barcaldine and Kilmelford.

'The final part of this work was switching over from one part of the network to another and the upgrade has now gone ahead.

'As soon as we realised there was a bit of a hitch we did all we could to bring customers back on as quickly as possible.

'It is a very robust network anyway but this upgrade is bringing an even safer electricity supply to people in these areas.'

Barra calls for another air ambulance meeting

'It's not just one concern we have, it's several.'

CONCERNS over Barra's air ambulance have resurfaced this week, with locals calling for the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) to return to the island for a second public meeting.

Worries were first raised in April when the new state-of-the-art helicopter brought SAS members to Barra but was unable to take off because of adverse weather conditions - though the wind was blowing at less than 20 knots, a mere breeze in Barra. 'We are still very concerned and very worried, with the onset of winter, that it will not be able to cope,' said Marybell Galbraith, who also said that the helicopter has no room for an escort.

'Think of children going away. Should they require surgery, who will sign the consent forms? It's not just the one concern we have, there are several.'

These include the helicopter's lack of comfort and its need to refuel en route to Barra.

An SAS spokesman assured *The Oban Times* this week that strong winds in April were not the problem. Visibility was poor, and waiting for better conditions would have meant the pilot breaking strict Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) restrictions regarding his hours. 'Had that been a patient, we would have called the MOD, which has search and rescue helicopters and are not subject to CAA restrictions,' he said.

Hector MacNeil, chairman of Castlebay Community Council, is still concerned. 'Quite often we see the big helicopter from Stornoway, which seems to show that the small one is not suitable.'

'Shrinking' road loses four miles near Appin

IT APPEARS that Fort William and Oban are becoming closer than ever with the distance between the two towns shrinking, according to the Scottish Executive.

In the last few weeks Transport Scotland has been busy between Connel and Ballachulish installing new bilingual road signs giving both English and Gaelic place names.

One sign was replaced at South Creran giving the distance to Oban as 10 miles. All was well until local motorists driving through South Creran the day after the sign was put up realised Oban was becoming closer than usual as the old sign gave the distance to the town as 14 miles.

Peter McCorquodale and Ken Groom of Glencoe Design both use the road regularly and were tickled to see that the drive to Oban was now four miles less.

Peter said: 'We are getting closer to Oban but further away from it at the same time. But it's great the executive is trying to save us fuel!'

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland told *The Oban Times* that the old sign at South Crearan was wrong in giving the distance to Oban as 14 miles.

Ken Groom shows the 'shinking' mileage.

She said: 'Transerv has picked up an error that was in the previous sign regarding the mileage. This will be rectified in the new sign.'

If you spot any road signs that have 'moved' contact *The Oban Times* - telephone 01631 568000, 01397 703003 or email editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Inveraray band is Local Legends winner

INVERARAY and District Pipe Band has been named among Britain's favourite lottery-funded projects, fighting off tough competition to win at the National Lottery Awards.

Pipe Major Stuart Liddell travelled to London for the awards ceremony, returning home with the Local Legends trophy, which recognised the outstanding achievements of local people. The trophy was presented by former Olympic triple-jumper Jonathan Edwards.

The winners were announced live on-air during a special National Lottery Day programme, *Everyone's A Winner*, on BBC1. Inveraray's representatives joined 12 other regional and country finalists.

Accepting the National Lottery Local Legend Award on behalf of the Inveraray and District Pipe Band, Stuart Liddell said: 'We are absolutely delighted to receive this National Lottery Award.

'Winning this award is a great way to thank all our members, volunteers, funders and community for their commitment. I'd also like to thank everyone who voted for us including pipers and drummers from all over the world.

'I am very proud to be part of such an amazing band and thanks to Lottery funding we hope that current and future generations continue to benefit and are given the opportunity to learn bagpipes and drums.'

Inveraray and District Pipe Band is the area's first pipe band in 70 years. Stuart Liddell hit on the idea during weekly pipe lessons in local schools. With community support, Stuart's group of enthusiastic children were awarded £17,000 of Lottery funding from the Scottish Arts Council and £5,000 from Awards for All, enabling them to buy instruments.

Former Olympic triple jumper Jonathan Edwards, second right, presents the Local Legends trophy to Inveraray Pipe Band representatives, from left, Thomas Patterson, Douglas Campbell, Stuart Liddell and Jim McMillan.

Tiree gets turbine from Vestas

TIREE's quest for a wind turbine gained new momentum this week, after media reports spurred the manufacturer into action.

Tiree Community Development Trust wants to follow Gigha's example and erect wind turbines on the island.

However last week, Tiree's trust hit a brick wall: turbine manufacturers are being kept so busy with large orders that they refused the Tiree order immediately.

However, Mark Jennison, the trust's development manager, confirmed this week that he has received a call from Vestas, at Campbeltown, which will happily fill the order.

'What we are trying to do is create a source of income on the island,' said Mr Jennison, who wants to see the turbine providing power to be sold to the national grid.

The key step for the trust now will be gaining planning permission to erect the turbine on the east side of the island, on a site which has received approval from 60 per cent of the community.

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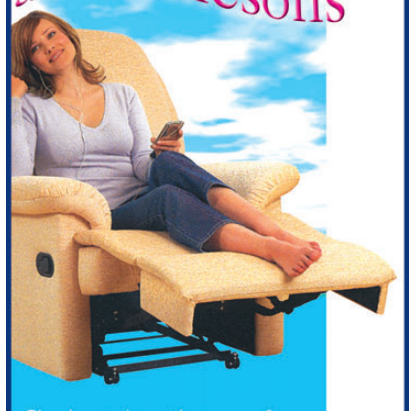

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