

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Kintyre beach body may be German tourist



POLICE are awaiting the results of tests on a body found on a Kintyre beach on Sunday afternoon to confirm whether or not it is the remains of a German tourist who went missing last month.

A member of the public found the badly decomposed remains washed up on a beach near New Orleans on the east side of the Mull of Kintyre; the last sighting of artist and sculptor Niloofar Polvande was in Southend, on January 7.

The 51-year-old woman from Cologne booked into a hotel near Tarbert, on January 6 and caught a bus to Southend the following day.

Oh Deer!

POLICE on the Isle of Islay came to the rescue of a red deer stag after the animal scored an own goal at a Port Ellen football pitch on Saturday morning.

The stag's antlers became entangled in the goal nets on the Charlotte Street playing field and it had to be wrestled to the ground by a police officer and members of the public, before it could be released. The red deer then left red faced but unharmed.



Save our support services

Adults with learning disabilities take protest to the streets

PEOPLE with learning disabilities have taken to the streets to oppose proposals to cut funding for support services.

Protesters who attended rallies in Oban town centre on Monday and at Argyll and Bute Council's headquarters, Kilmory Castle, Lochgilphead, last week, said their quality of life would be limited if the cuts went ahead.

Argyll and Bute Council is proposing to stop funding two projects - Neighbourhood Networks and Local Area Co-ordination - which help people to build their independence and live in the community.

The move is being considered as part of the council's draft budget for 2010-11 and would save £285,000.

Struggle

Marion Ballanyne, Oban, relies on the Neighbourhood Network support workers to help her with every day tasks like budgeting. 'Without them I would struggle to manage,' she said. 'It would all be left to my mum.'

Lesley Anne Allan, also Oban, said: 'They are always there if you need them. I have got to know other people through it and have made a lot of friends.'

To Oban's Christine Carmichael, her support worker is her safety net who helps her to get out, meet other people and is on the end of the phone whenever she

needs them. 'I would be on my own always if that didn't happen. It is ridiculous what [the council] is trying to do to us,' she said.

Catrina Campbell from Oban travelled down to the protest in Lochgilphead last Thursday.

She said she had written to the Prime Minister to stop the services being shut down. 'We are not going to take it lying down,' she said.

'If they close Neighbourhood Networks and Local Area Co-ordination, we are going to be treated as if we had to be put back in an institution from the 1800s.'

Sally Wilkin from Lochgilphead cares for her 21-year-old son with learning disabilities and relies on the local area co-ordinator to support the whole family, putting them in contact with other parents in the same situation. 'We are able to help ourselves,' she said, adding that the services save the council money in the long term.

Neighbourhood Networks has three workers in Oban, Lochgilphead and Tarbert helping 30 clients.

The council plans to spend more than £7 million on services for people with learning disabilities in 2010-11.

Final budget decisions will be made at a meeting of the full council next Thursday, February 11.



People with learning disabilities, families and supports are opposed to cuts to two projects which offer them support in their own homes. 15_obanetwork1

Former Oban woman appeals manslaughter charge in Spain

AN EX-Oban woman, accused of causing the death of her child while on holiday in Tenerife, could have her manslaughter charge dropped after a shocking pre-trial admission by her partner.

Oban-born Corinna Reid, aged 34, is appealing for release after co-accused ex-heroin addict Robert Cormack, aged 39 from Edinburgh, told Spanish Courts that he alone knew his son, 16-month-old Aiden Reid, had touched prescription drugs. He claims Oban-born Reid was unaware of the incident for seven months.

In a statement given by Cormack to Judge Ana Maria Gallego Sanchez, he admits leaving the mixture of orange, methadone and diazepam within

Aiden's reach in the bathroom of the hotel in Playa de las Americas, on January 12, 2007.

Cormack states that he put his prescription bottle back in a cupboard and turned to see Aiden holding the glass with traces of the mixture on his chin and clothes. Cormack told Judge Gallego Sanchez that after checking Aiden had no liquid in his mouth he put him to bed without seeking any medical advice. Reid is now appealing for release claiming she has been exonerated by Cormack's statement.

If the appeal fails, Reid, who lives in Edinburgh and has an 18-month-old daughter with Cormack living with family in Scotland,

will remain on remand until the court case is heard this summer. Reid's Spanish lawyer Christian Mesia, from Madrid, said: 'The father claims he opened the boy's mouth and saw that there was no trace of any of the liquid in his mouth.'

'But instead of calling a doctor or rushing the infant to hospital he just washed and changed the lad, cleaned up the mess and said nothing about the incident.'

A spokesman for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office said: 'Ms Reid has been offered consular advice on a number of occasions and her case is ongoing.'

Corinna Reid's family said that they did not wish to make any comment.

Highland Airways re-opens for bookings as discussions with investor continue

HIGHLAND Airways has re-opened bookings for February and plans to allow booking for March shortly.

Bookings were temporarily suspended last week after the company reported

trading difficulties. The operator links Oban airport with Coll, Tiree and Colonsay, as well as 'scholar' flights for island children attending Oban High School. Highland Airways said

discussions with a potential partner were going well. 'This development presents the airline with a very promising and timely means to address current difficulties,' said a statement.

Colonsay, Jura and Cairndow fear isolation

THREE remote Argyll communities fear being cut off from the rest of the county under proposals to close down their service points.

The islands of Jura, Colonsay and the village of Cairndow rely on the council-owned offices for meetings, public and tourist information and video conferencing.

But the service could be lost under Argyll and Bute Council proposals to save a combined £54,000 through closures.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise has already withdrawn funding for the service points on the two islands.

Colonsay Community Council vice-chairman Mike McNicholl said: 'We recently had our inaugural meeting with the council in Lochgilphead via video conferencing from the service point.'

'If we were to have that meeting in person we would be away for two days - providing the ferry is running.'

'It was only last week that our air service was under threat too. There is a feeling here that the mainland is slowly being cut off from us.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council has significantly increased access to its services through the ongoing development of the Customer Service Centre, which will allow remote communities to better access council services on the telephone and on the web.'

A decision on the proposal will be made at the council budget meeting on February 11.

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News item

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on Valentine's weekend



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Islay pupils aim for film award

PUPILS from Islay High School are in the running to achieve a national Film Award.

The school is shortlisted in FilmG, MG ALBA's Gaelic online digital shorts competition, and is up for Young People Award.

The winners will be announced at the FilmG awards ceremony tomorrow (Friday) in Eden Court Theatre, Inverness.

MG ALBA has also announced that Joe Thomas, who plays Simon Cooper in the sitcom *The Inbetweeners*, will be guest presenter at the ceremony, along side BBC Alba's Fiona MacKenzie and Calum Macaulay.

The entry submitted by Islay High School titled 'An Tùr' (The Tower) tells the story of a girl who is dreaming in class.

All shortlisted finalists can be viewed online at www.filmg.co.uk.

Online viewers have also been voting for their favourite film and the highest scoring will be presented with the prestigious People's Choice award.

Orienteering club find Big Lottery funding

ARGYLL orienteering club, EckO, has been granted £1,000 by the Big Lottery.

The money will help to pay for coaching and equipment and is part of the Big Lottery's 2014 Communities fund.

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather congratulated the group, adding: 'This grant will enable the funding of four coaches for two days, travel costs for these instructors, maps for the participants and publicity costs.'

'I would like to particularly congratulate Ms Lynne Walker of Hunter's Quay Dunoon for her work in helping to secure this funding.'

'The whole proposition behind this tranche of funding is to make funding available for community groups and organisations to a legacy from the 2014 Commonwealth Games to be hosted by Glasgow.'

Argyll forestry consultation is underway

A SIX-week consultation exercise has started on a draft woodland and forestry strategy for Argyll and Bute.

The idea is to provide a vision for the future of woodlands and forest areas which cover around 30 per cent of Argyll and Bute's land mass.

Everything from climate change, timber production, business and community development, access and health, environmental quality and biodiversity are being considered.

Some communities have already been involved in the consultation and an advisory group has been set up to give advice and guidance throughout the preparation of the strategy.

The draft Argyll and Bute Woodland and Forestry Strategy and further information regarding the consultation process is available on the Council website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/woodland or at area offices.

The consultation closing date is March 19.

Campbeltown at forefront of fishing for litter scheme

A 'FISHING for Litter' scheme that encourages fishermen to take their litter home has seen Argyll and Bute Council buy two 1,100-litre bins for two of its busiest fishing ports.

Fishing boats in Campbeltown and Rothesay have been encouraged to sign

up for the European local authorities scheme, KIMO, with participating boats provided with heavy duty bags for waste.

Spokesperson for islands and European affairs Councillor Len Scoullar, who is Argyll and Bute's representative on KIMO, said:

'Despite many programmes and legislation to reduce marine litter, it remains one of the most significant environmental problems and affects the marine environment on a worldwide scale.'

Recent studies have found that about 20,000 tonnes of litter - predominantly plastic

- is dumped into the North Sea alone every year. Of that, 70 per cent sinks to the sea bed, 15 per cent floats on the surface and 15 per cent washes up on beaches.

'In addition, the litter can cost the fishing industry tens of thousands of pounds per boat every year through

contamination of catches, broken gear and fouled propellers,' said Councillor Scoullar. 'We in Argyll and Bute have very strong links to the sea and we must play our part in the stewardship of our local waters.'

The new on-pier bins will be emptied weekly.

Former island school to become outdoor activity base

AN ISLAND school that has lain empty for nearly 12 years is to be leased to the Argyll outdoor activity organisation Stramash.

The community on the island of Kerrera made an attempt to buy the redundant school, which closed because of a lack of pupil numbers in 1998, from Argyll and Bute Council almost two years ago.

Because the island has no public building of its own, the school had been a centre of community activity.

Elaine Pearson, chairman of the Isle of Kerrera Development Trust, said: 'We did a business plan for the school in 2007-08 and put in a bid to the council for £90,000 but they said no. They said our plan was not good enough and didn't meet the requirements needed.'

The trust then produced a development plan in 2008 for the next 20 years for the island and decided on balance that it would suit the island



The former Kerrera Primary School now to be leased to Stramash

Council turn down island's community plan

better to have a purpose-built community centre, which it is in the process of trying to gain funding for through the BBC and National Lottery Village SOS scheme.

Meanwhile islanders say the condition of the school building has deteriorated considerably, with some maintenance work being done on the roof after part of it came in follow-

ing a storm last October.

Neil Urquart, chief executive of Stramash, said they hoped to use the school as a small, non-residential base from which the organisation could run courses for small groups or even individuals as part of Stramash's social development aims in Argyll.

'Kerrera is a super island and has a great community and is close to Oban but seems that bit further away,' he said.

He emphasised that Stramash wanted to develop a close relationship with the community and would be looking to meet with the island's trust to discuss its aims on the island.

'From our point of view, we would be delighted to be involved in the community and be part of the long-term development of Kerrera's regeneration, so we would see this building and our involvement as a positive contribution towards that.'

However, he warned that

nothing would happen at the school immediately, once the lease was signed: 'We will need to assess the condition of the building, develop plans and then raise the necessary funds but we hope to breathe new life into the school.'

Elaine said: 'I think it is good that it is going to be used for something but it is unfortunate that the council has let the building fall into such disrepair and this is a building that it could have had £90,000 for.'

'It is going to cost Stramash so much money to repair that building; I don't know how they are going to use it because it needs so much done to it.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee approved a 50-year lease of the former Kerrera Primary School to Stramash at its December meeting. Given the committee's decision, a formal lease is now being prepared.'

Mull care centre moves closer

A FLAGSHIP new progressive care centre to serve the people of Mull and Iona has moved a step closer, after Argyll and Bute Council approved funding. The council's contribution of more than £1.2 million towards the long-awaited scheme included £845,444 from the Social Work Capital Programme and £356,000 from the Strategic Housing Fund. The money will go towards the new £8 million Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre in Craignure, which will replace the ageing Dunaros Residential Care Centre and Salen Hospital with progressive care housing and a purpose-built hospital facility.

The scheme marks a ground breaking partnership between Argyll and Bute Council, NHS Highland, the Scottish Government's Housing Investment Division, West Highland Housing Association and the Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre Company.

Argyll and Bute's Social Services spokesperson, Councillor Donald McIntosh, said he was delighted that the Council had approved the funding. 'This project marks the culmination of many years of joint working between all partners,' he said.

'Once completed, this facility will provide first class supported housing and hospital facilities for the people of Mull and Iona.'

'In offering 12 individual supported tenancies and a modern hospital, together with a range of other health facilities, it promises to be an enormous improvement on the current provision.'

Mull-based Councillor Mary Jean Devon said: 'It is wonderful news to hear that the much-needed Mull and Iona Progressive Care Centre has moved a step closer today. This centre will have a very real and positive effect for the people of Mull and Iona and I am absolutely delighted at the outcome.'

NHS Highland's Board was due to discuss a report on its funding contribution to the scheme as The Oban Times went to press. If all necessary approvals are granted it is envisaged that the building work will start in the Spring. Construction is likely to take 18 months.



Big-hearted Lochy-side RC Primary School pupils, Fort William have raised £450 for Mary's Meals to aid the Haiti earthquake appeal. Children collected the impressive total in a whip round at the school last week. Primary seven pupil Emily Cameron told The Oban Times: 'We went around the school with a big pot and asked people to put any loose change they had into it. We are giving it all to Mary's Meals.'

Sea eagles continue soaring success on the Isle of Mull

WHITE-tailed sea eagles are thriving on Mull with 10 chicks fledging from seven nests in last year's breeding season.

Under the Mull Eagle Watch partnership there are now 10 pairs of the birds on Mull. Their presence attracts 6,000 visitors to the eagle hide and an estimated £2 million each year to the local economy.

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of wild bred sea eagles in Scotland and 10 years of the Mull public viewing project, Environment Minister Roseanna Cunningham visited the island to see the magnificent birds and meet the local community.

Ms Cunningham said: 'It is great news that these amazing birds are thriving on Mull. What is also brilliant is that the local community is directly benefiting through green tourism.'

'This year marks the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity. The Mull Eagle Watch project is a perfect example to showcase Scotland's wildlife at its best.'

The Mull Eagle Watch partnership comprises Forestry Commission Scotland, RSPB Scotland, Mull and Iona Community Trust, Scottish Natural Heritage and Strathclyde Police.

Half of the income raised by the eagle viewing hide is put back into the community to help local good causes. During the visit, Ms Cunningham handed over the

'Mull Eagle Watch has given a great boost to the communities of Mull and Iona'



'Once you've seen one you won't ever forget it'

latest cash boost of £10,000 from the partnership towards the community.

James Hilder, chief executive of the Mull and Iona Community Trust said: 'Mull Eagle Watch has given a great boost to the communities of Mull and Iona, as it allows the community trust to distribute thousands of pounds to local youth groups, sports clubs, societies as well as contributing to other environmental and educational initiatives locally.'

'We see the funds generated by the hide as a key piece in the funding jigsaw for our many voluntary groups and

you've seen one you won't ever forget it.

'The commission is keen to help support rural development of this nature and we are very pleased that the viewing hide is becoming increasingly popular and that local businesses are also benefiting.'

RSPB Scotland Mull Officer Dave Sexton said: 'White-tailed eagles have been nesting successfully in Scotland now for 25 years. They are part of the landscape and can bring significant economic benefits to rural communities - some £2 million a year comes to Mull from visitors coming to see them.'

'It is wonderful that through the eagle fund the eagles are also giving back to local good causes. It's an example that could be followed across Scotland and the UK.'

During the Minister's visit to Mull she also joined Forestry Commission Scotland staff to meet with the North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMCW). The company purchased Langamull and West Ardu woodlands in the north west of the island under the commission's National Forest Land Scheme, with assistance from the Scottish Land Fund.

The NWMCW bought the woodlands to help provide benefits for the community including affordable housing, improved access, business opportunities and as an education resource.



Beachd Ailein

'Amadan,' arsa caraaid dhomh, 'Sin a' Ghàidhlig a chuirinn air volunteer!'

Beachd car searbh 's dòcha ach dh' fhaodadh gun robh esan, mar a dh' èirich dha mòran eile, air ceann trom a' mhaide a ghùilain ro thrìc an luib bhuidhnean saor-thoilich. Ach cha ghabh e àicheadh gum bheil saothair saor-thoilich a' dèanamh feum do-chreidsinn dhan choimhearsnachd, agus gu dearbh tha mòran an eisimeil a leithid airson an cumail beò. Dha mòran sheann daoine, mar eisimpleir, ged nach biodh ann ach daoine a bhith a' nochdadh agus dèonach còmhraidh a dhèanamh, tha sin na thaire air leth luachmhor. Mar a chanar, tha na pàirtean fa-leth nas luachmhor na tha iad còmhla.

Thòisich mi a' fàighneachd dhìom fhìin an t-seachdain seo de a' Ghàidhlig a chuirinn air placebo, agus bha am facal mealladh a' tighinn thugam. Ach, ma ghabhas a leithid a bhith, 's e mealladh math a bhiodh ann am placebo. Cuideigin a' faireachadh gum bheil leughas a' tighinn air a shuidheachadh ri linn cunaidh air choireigin a thugadh dha, ach ann am fìrinn às nach robh cumhachd sam bith. Intinn an eushlaintich a' gabhail thairis agus a' toirt a chreidsinn air a' cholann gum bheil e a' fàs nas fhèarr, agus an luib sin near a' tilleadh gum chumhachd ach buaidh na h-intinn. 'S e fìor rud iongantach a th'ann, agus tha dearbhadh farsaing air feadh an t-saoghail gum bheil a leithid bitheanta.

Thànaig an smuain sin thugam 's mi ag èisteachd ris an Riaghaltas ag innse mar a tha Breatann air dèireadh a-mach a' slochd crìonaidh na h-eaconamaigh mu dheireadh thall. Fada an dèidh dhan mhòr chuid do dhùthchannan Eòrpach eile gluasad, tha sinne dìreach air sròn a chur os cionn an uisge! Tha an t-adhartas cho beag is gum bheil e doirbh a thuisinn ciomar a thomhais iad e, agus gu dearbh nuair a chì thu mar a tha measaidhean eile a' fàgail aomadh de phuigh neo dha gach taobh ann an sgrùdaidhean, cha b' ioghnadh ged a bhiodh cuid beagan amharasach.

Ach am bheil e gu dìofar taobh seach taobh? Ma tha an naidheachd seo a' misneachadh agus a' brosnachadh gnìomhachas gun cosnaidhean a chruthachadh as ùr; agus dha saoghal ionmhais tòiseachadh ri iasadan a leigeil air adhart; tha fhios gur fhèarr do cholann Bhreatann sin!

Small acts of kindness can frequently mean more to recipients than larger structured aid, however welcome that may also be. These little things can have a placebo effect in boosting confidence and self-esteem. I suspect this is partly what motivates so many fine people to volunteer their time and energy.

Listening to the news that Britain has at last risen from economic recession I suspect that many of us were bemused by the miniscule scale of the recovery. How could such be measured, and what is the potential margin of error?

But it surely doesn't matter if its placebo effect is to instil new confidence; enable the creation of jobs; and ease lending!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Pupils at Strath of Appin Primary School celebrate securing a grant to renovate their playground. 07_106app01

Strath of Appin celebrates new playground plans

STRATH of Appin Primary School Parent Council has been awarded £9,000 to renovate the school's run down playground and the children are delighted.

Huge difference

The council was awarded the grant by the Awards For All programme, which gives out grants for projects that encourage people to take part in art, sport and community activities, and projects that promote education, the environment and health.

The new playground will feature a Viking ship, balance trail and an alphabet snake.

Fiona Hutchison from the school's parent council said: 'We can finally make a huge difference to our run down playground.'

The school has also raised £1,500 to put towards the total budget.

Parents and members of the local community have been

steadily fundraising for the past year. Ms Hutchison said: 'We have tried to do an event once every month or six weeks. Often we held car boot sales and at Christmas we had a fair. We made a little each time but it all adds up to quite a bit.'

Currently the school has invited two firms to draw up a new layout for the playground with parents and children making the final decision.

An Awards For All spokesman said: 'Awards For All aims to fund projects that promote health and the Strath of Appin application is a great example of this.'

'The enduring appeal of this programme is that small well planned projects like this can make a real difference in people's day to day lives. Although this is a relatively small amount of money the impact will be felt for years to come.'

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Teenager jailed after stabbing father

AN OBAN teenager has been sentenced to seven and a half months in custody after stabbing his father with a kitchen knife.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday Colin Penrose, of 5A Knipoch Place, admitted the assault and had written to his father to apologise.

Penrose, aged 18, was staying with his parents and under a curfew order when the incident occurred on November 15 last year.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said: 'It appears his father kicked Mr Penrose. The kick struck him on the head.'

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said the 18-year-old had the knife because of an interest in woodwork.

He said: 'Without thinking, he simply pulled the knife from his pocket and struck his father.'

'He immediately regretted his actions. He had no intention of causing injury to his father that evening.'

Sending Penrose to a young offenders' institute, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'An assault involving the use of a weapon merits a custodial sentence.'

Man fined for supermarket fracas

AN OBAN man has been fined £300 for breaching the peace in a supermarket in the town.

Andrew Kenneth MacKenzie, aged 28 of Flat 3-1, 19 High St, pleaded guilty to shouting and swearing at a woman shopping there.

He also admitted he was on bail at the time of the incident on November 19, 2009.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris told Oban Sheriff Court on Monday that MacKenzie followed the woman into the store and confronted her in an aisle.

He was very close to the woman's face and would not let her walk away. Concerned members of the public and staff intervened and the accused was asked to leave the store.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said comments by the woman the previous evening had upset the accused.

He added: 'The next day he was unfortunately heavily under the influence of alcohol. He foolishly let his restraint slip.'

Drugs found in Oban

DRUG detection has been on the agenda at Oban Police over the past week, with two arrests made in one day.

At 2.20pm last Saturday police searched a house in the town centre where a quantity of cocaine was recovered, along with drugs paraphernalia.

As a result, a 24-year-old man is the subject of a report to the procurator fiscal.

Later on that day, at 10.20pm, a 21-year-old man was found to be in possession of a quantity of cannabis resin in the town centre and a report has been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Two reported after pub disturbance

TWO MEN are the subjects of a report to the procurator fiscal on a breach of the peace charge following a disturbance in an Oban pub.

The men involved in the incident last Friday, aged 24 and 19, are both from Oban.

Guarantee given as concerns over street party refunds resurface

ONE of the organisers of the failed Oban Hogmanay Street Party, Neil Mackay, has assured customers that they will receive a full refund as soon as possible.

The confirmation follows further calls to The Oban Times from disappointed and concerned event customers.

The outdoor party was cancelled in December because of a lack of ticket sales and an alternative indoor event was organised.

People with tickets, costing £12.50, were given the option of a refund for tickets or to attend the new events.

But as the date of the promised refunds has come and gone, concerns about whether cash would be paid back have resurfaced.

Julie Ferguson of Oban said: 'Oban Hogmanay Street Party has had my money since last August.'

'I bet Donnie Munro and Skerryvore have been paid, but us good working folk

have not received a refund. It is totally ridiculous.

'I was told I would get a refund in early January but it is now February, almost two months after the party was cancelled and I have not seen a penny of my money. I simply want to know when I will get my money back.'

'I feel sorry for Mr Mackay personally, we loved the street party and we wish it had never been cancelled. But I would like to know where my money is.'

Another couple, who did not want to be named, said: 'We eventually got a refund but we had to speak to Mr Mackay numerous times before it happened. We received a full refund in the post.'

'Over optimistic' Mr Mackay said: 'At the end of the day I understand that people are anxious that they will not get their money back. It is taking longer than we thought to make all the payments. Whilst I had best

intentions, on reflection, it was over optimistic to hope to have all things taken care of in the anticipated time frame.'

'Events large and small have been cancelled all over the country and the process does take time.'

'Whilst some people might have sold their extra tickets at a lower price at no time in the last three years were genuine Hogmanay tickets sold at less than the face value.'

'We were tied to legal contracts with the musicians and other organisations and we managed to meet our legal requirements avoiding huge legal fees or court action. We wanted to avoid anything derogatory being said about Oban. This swallowed up funds.'

'I thank everybody for their patience and understanding about this situation. I can guarantee that money will be refunded to people as soon as possible.'

Children to get a champion

A 'CHILDREN'S champion' is to be appointed to act as a voice for children and young people in care in Argyll and Bute.

The councillor who takes on the role is to be chosen by those who he or she will represent to give them a voice at the highest levels of Argyll and Bute Council.

Argyll and Bute currently has 92 children and young people in its care. Fifty-two of these are in foster care, 17 are in one of the council's own units in Oban, Helensburgh or Dunoon and 23 are in external residential units.

Social services spokesperson Councillor Donald McIntosh said the move was part of the authority's attempt to become the best 'corporate parent' it could be.

'This person will be selected by the young people themselves to represent their interests across the whole range of council services,' he said.

'The champion will therefore have a clear mandate to express their views and I hope the young people will feel a real sense of ownership of the position, given that they will have chosen the person who occupies it.'

A significant part of the children's champion's role will be to pay regular visits to these young people, in order to build up a strong and ongoing relationship with them.

Nominations for the post will be sought from councillors who do not already hold an office in the council which is related to children.

A selection process will then be set up - possibly through interviews with the young people - before a 'champion' is chosen.

Driver had no insurance

A 24-YEAR-OLD man has admitted he drove without insurance after a date mix up.

Stephen Rodger, of Flat 1, Crosshead House, Crieff, said he arranged one day of cover to take a trip to Oban on May 30 last year, but chose the wrong date. He also pleaded guilty to driving without a MoT. Rodger was fined £150 for having no insurance and admonished for having no MoT.



Jean Bowman and Gwen Cameron kick-off a year of fundraising in the Original Factory Shop for a luxury vehicle to transport terminally ill patients. 16_06cherish01

Big boost for Cherish Fund

Retail outlet backs local charity for a year

THE ORIGINAL Factory Shop in Oban is planning to raise cash for luxury transport for hospital patients.

The Cherish Fund was chosen following an appeal to the community to nominate local causes.

Gwen Cameron store manager said: 'We had a great deal of interest in the campaign from local causes looking for a helping hand

and it was a difficult decision to make. We have chosen the Cherish Fund as we feel that we can really help over the next 12 months.'

Jean Bowman, who started the charity in memory of her daughter Alyson who died in 2005 from cancer, said: 'The aim of our fund is to buy a vehicle, which can be customised to transport terminally ill patients in

comfort and dignity. 'We are pleased to be chosen by the Original Factory Shop as it will not only help us raise money but it raise the profile of our work.'

A weekly coffee morning for the Cherish Fund is held in the Shower of Herring Restaurant in Kilmelford on Mondays between 10am and 12.30pm.

'Apathy' is Oban's biggest threat claims businessman

THE REGENERATION of Oban town centre has taken a significant step forward after the business community voted unanimously to start a Business Improvement District Scheme (BIDS) process.

At a meeting in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls last Thursday a steering committee was selected to begin the BIDS process, which activated a £20,000 grant from the Scottish Government to employ a BIDS manager. The committee and manager will then consult every business in the town, draw up a manifesto of community projects and hold a ballot on whether to implement the scheme.

Under a BIDS scheme, every business in Oban with a rateable value is charged a small levy to raise a six-figure sum every year for community projects.

Although delighted with the unanimous verdict, the meeting's chairman, John MacGregor, bemoaned the 'apathy' among the town's business community - around 50 people attended the meeting out of 450 invitations.

Following the election of seven members to the steering committee, Mr MacGregor said: 'With this unanimous vote tonight we have sent a clear message to everyone that we will take our town forward but we have got to counter the apathy.'

It was clear from the 50-minute meeting that there was little or no opposition to a BIDS scheme and this was down to comprehensive and convincing presentations from Mr MacGregor, Paul Sloan and Councillor Donald MacDonalld from the Oban Forward group, which has always advocated a BIDS

scheme for the town.

In an impassioned plea to the meeting to support the scheme, Councillor MacDonalld said: 'We councillors have been talking about budget cuts and will have to make some very tough decisions on funding, so the way things are going BIDS is going to be the only game in town.'

'If the business community decides it doesn't want to help itself, then why should anyone else help you. That's the bottom line.'

In order to become a BIDS town a simple majority of Oban's businesses must vote in favour and carry the majority of the town's rateable value. The scheme also requires a voter turnout of more than 25 per cent. If the scheme receives a majority vote, the levy is applied to every business within the catchment area, regardless of how each

Fisherman banned from driving

AN ARGYLL fisherman who admitted drink driving has been warned he was lucky not to hurt anyone when his car went off the road.

Donald Kerr MacFarlane, aged 45 of 32 Toberonochy, Isle of Luing, admitted he drove the car with 131mg of alcohol in his blood stream, over the 80mg limit.

Oban Sheriff Court heard that around 11.20pm on July 2, 2009, MacFarlane's car ended up on the verge beside the A816 Oban to Lochgilphead road close to the Lerags junction. Banning MacFarlane from driving for 18 months and fining him £300, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You were clearly not capable of driving your car in the condition that you were in. Fortunately for you, no other vehicle was involved and no one was hurt.'

Argyll climbers rescued by helicopter from Ben Cruachan blizzard

THREE climbers were rescued on Sunday from Ben Cruachan after they became lost in a blizzard.

The three climbers, all from the Dunoon area, one aged 44 and the other two aged 23, became stuck on ice while climbing the mountain in the afternoon and, although they had

suitable clothing, police said they had no appropriate emergency kit.

The alarm was raised at around 4.30pm and the Search and Rescue 177 helicopter from Kinloss, plus Oban and Arrochar mountain rescue teams assisted police in finding the missing men. They were eventually

traced by the helicopter, which winched them off the mountain.

They were not injured but were very cold.

Oban Police Inspector Julie Edward thanked the mountain rescue teams for their prompt response to the incident, describing their assistance as 'vital'.

Pair charged

A MAN and a woman have been arrested for making threats and racist remarks to a woman in Oban.

Appearing at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Irving Pritchard, aged 52 of 845 Edinburgh Road, Glasgow, and Carol Gray, aged 45 of Flat 1-2, 16 Cambusdoon, Glasgow, denied the charges and were released on bail until a trial scheduled for April 26.

New chief inspector of Oban police aims to hit the ground running

THE NEW head of policing for Oban, Lorn and the Isles has taken up his post this week, fulfilling an ambition to work in Strathclyde constabulary.

Chief Inspector Glen Bland, aged 42, comes to Argyll on promotion from Northumbria with a wealth of experience gained through roles in critical incident management,

CID, dog handling, officer training, road policing and neighbourhood policing.

He has 20 years' service and says that a visible police presence and strong links with communities will be priorities under his stewardship.

A keen runner, the chief inspector has a wife and two sons and plans to live in Oban.



Chief Inspector Glen Bland has taken up his new post in Oban following a move from Northumbria. 07_10glen01

Pair took loch boat without permission

TAKING a boat without permission for a fine summer day of fishing has cost an Oban man £360.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Phillip Dougall, of 20E Shuna Terrace, admitted taking the boat moored at Loch Gleann Bhearraidh near Lerags. Sentence on co-accused Lee Campbell, of 2G Colonsay Terrace, Oban, who also pleaded guilty, was deferred until next week.

Dougall, aged 28, and Campbell, 22, went to the loch on July 4 last year and took the dinghy, worth £1,500, for an afternoon and evening of fishing. As they left with fishing equipment, they were stopped by police officers who were in the area.

Defending Dougall, Edward Thornton said the pair had been tempted to enjoy a fishing trip on a warm day.

'Both of the accused accept they had not permission from the owner but there was no intention of stealing the dinghy,' he said.

He added they caught nothing.

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Hospital patients voice concern over travel

CHRONICALLY ill patients claim to have been turned away from specialist hospital clinics after delayed public transport made them late for appointments. But hospital bosses say 'special conditions' mean they should still have been seen.

Several patients from the Oban area, suffering from serious medical conditions, travel to Glasgow each day of the week to keep appointments with consultants for a wide range of ailments.

The husband of one such patient, who was late for an appointment after a breakdown on the Oban to Glasgow train, contacted The ObanTimes.

'We pulled into Glasgow and immediately made our way to the hospital to be told that my wife had missed her appointment. We were turned away although the clinic was still going on. It was a complete waste of time.'

'Now, my wife has been asked to go to Glasgow for a pre-op and then return to hospital the following day for the operation. Because of the timing of the appointments it means we will need to pay to stay in Glasgow for three nights.'

He asked: 'Why can't pre-ops be done in Oban?'

Another patient was told that she had to wait to see the consultant which in-turn made her late for a connecting boat back to Mull.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE

'I just cannot afford to go to hospital in Glasgow - the time it takes and the cost is off-putting. I need help from the consultant but I can't imagine that I can keep on attending.'

A spokeswoman for NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde said: 'Staff running our outpatient clinics are always mindful of the special consideration that needs to be given for patients travelling from the islands for an appointment.'

'As such they are accommodating of any delay in a patient arriving for their appointment.'

'Given this working practice we would therefore like to look into any claims that this has not been a patient's experience.'

The spokesperson confirmed that patients requiring a pre-operative (pre-op) appointment should make the clinic aware of any difficulties of travelling to appointments - especially when in some cases, of having two appointments are three days apart. She said: 'We understand that this may be difficult for some patients who live some distance away and we are happy to

discuss alternative arrangements with patients who would be unable to make two journeys.

'We would encourage patients in this situation to contact us immediately to allow our staff to work with them on the alternative options available. Our staff will try to be as flexible as possible where patients have travelling issues.'

'If a patient is dissatisfied we would encourage them to let us know as soon as possible so that we can work to rectify any problems they may be experiencing. Information on how patients can make a complaint is available on our website www.nhs.gov.uk.'

'Patients from the Highlands and Island area who have to travel more than 30 miles (or more than 5 miles by water) to hospital can claim repayment of travel expenses without test of means less the first £10.00, for each appointment.'

'Those who receive Income Support, Working Tax Credit, Job Seeker's Allowance (income based) or Pension Credit Guarantee Credit, or who are named on an HC2 or HC3 certificate or who complete an HC5 form will not have to pay the first £10.00 of any expenses claimed as long as proof of entitlement can be given.'

'The expenses of an escort may also be paid if medical staff consider that an escort is medically necessary.'

Road rage driver narrowly avoids jail

A DRIVER who brandished a baseball bat intended as a dog's training toy at another driver and threatened him has narrowly avoided being sent to jail at Oban Sheriff Court.

Careless driving
Twenty-year-old Steven Thomson had previously admitted careless driving between Taynuilt and Oban, brandishing the baseball bat, threatening violence and assaulting a driver on the A85 at Connel on September 17 last year.

The court heard last week that the victim had been driving on the A85 through Taynuilt when Thomson's car had appeared behind him, followed him to Connel and then overtaken his car, braked sharply in front, causing the complainant to do an emergency stop.

Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris

Angry driver, with baseball bat in one hand and Alsatian dog by his side, confronts other motorist

said both drivers had got out of their cars: 'Mr Thomson got out of his vehicle and began to walk towards [the victim's] car. The accused had a baseball bat in his right hand; the accused also had an Alsatian dog by his side.'

'The accused shouted, 'Who the **** do you think you are? I am going to do you pal!'

'He then struck [the other driver] with the open palm of his left hand, which struck him on the side of his face and caused a small cut and slight swelling to his lip.'

A verbal exchange took place before Thomson went back to his car and drove off and the vic-

tim went into Oban and reported the incident to the police.

Defence agent Marco Guarino said Thomson 'accepted his judgement on that day was poor and particularly boorish'.

'The complainant, according to my client, seemed to have been driving at erratic speeds, speeding up and slowing down for no apparent reason.'

'On one occasion, the driver slowed very abruptly and my client got a fright,' said Mr Guarino.

He said his client had flashed the driver in front and there had been 'hand signals' exchanged. 'The fright and behaviour

caused him to make some very poor judgement calls,' he added. 'My understand is that the [complainant] is quite a large, imposing person and my client felt that he had bitten off more than he could chew and realised he was challenging someone he shouldn't be challenging.'

Sheriff Douglas Small told Thomson, of 5 Kilwinning Crescent, Hamilton: 'You're very much on the borderline of being sent to custody for this offence; it is what people call 'road rage'.'

Because of Thomson's lack of previous convictions, Sheriff Small said he would not send him to jail but instead sentenced him to carry out 220 hours' community service for the assault and threats and fined him £540 and disqualified him from driving for four months for careless driving.



James Graham has been appointed Mod Development Manager for Caithness 2010.

Lochinver singer chosen to develop Caithness Mòd 2010

Gaelic singer James Graham has been appointed Mod Development Manager for this year's event in Caithness.

James, a native of Lochinver, has been employed by Mòd organisers An Comunn Gàid-

healach and will be working closely with the volunteers on the local organising committee. A gold medal winner at the Mòd in Lochaber in 2007, James performed a similar development role for the Falkirk Mòd

during 2008. This year's Mòd, which takes place between October 8-16, will be a huge financial boost for Caithness, which hosts Gaelic's premier music festival for the first time.

Visitor numbers for the Oban Mòd last year exceeded 8,500 and the economic benefit to the town exceeded £2.2 million.

The Oban 2009 Mòd showed a return on investment of £14 for each £1 spent on the event.

Luig raises funds for Haiti islanders

RAISING £656 for Mary's Meals Haiti disaster fund an afternoon tea in Toberonochy Hall on Luig proved just how generous a small island community can be.

Fiona Cruickshanks, Sunday school teacher said: 'The young people of Kilchattan Church, Jesus and Me (JAM) group and Anchor Club groups decided to do something in response to the Haiti disaster. Organising an afternoon tea the young people baked

cakes and prepared treats with help from family and friends. Live music was provided by Jenny Fothergill and Innes MacQueen on piano, Stuart Robson on ukulele, Hazel Cruickshanks on the clarsach, and Alastair Fothergill and Rachel Cruickshanks on accordion. Emma MacLachlan took portrait Photos, with customers as young as two weeks old'

The quiz on earthquakes was won by Jean Alexander and Chris Clark.

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Garden group invites your questions

GARDENING experts from the Oban and Lorn area will host a question and answer session for budding horticulturalists.

The expert panel will also give advice on growing vegetables and demonstrate how to prepare flowers for horticultural shows.

The panel will consist: Ronnie MacKillop, Oban; Dugald MacDougall, Taynuilt; John Grieve, Kilmore; Hector MacKenzie, Dunbeg; and Charlie Milne, Achnacloich.

Jim Kirkpatrick of event organisers Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society said: 'We want to attract new and younger members to the society, who might be interested in entering the horticultural shows.'

'But we are also aware that, in these tough financial times, people are keen to grow their own vegetables.'

The event will be held in Glencruitten Church Centre on February 17 and tea and coffee will be available.

Mr Kirkpatrick added: 'There used to be a huge horticultural show in Oban because more people grew their own vegetables and flowers but they seem to have got out of the way of doing that these days.'

'Saying that, we had a tremendous show last year but the concern is that none of us are getting any younger!'

Oban Times NEWS DESK 01631 568060

Argyll's young pipers gain £10,000 through Awards for All scheme

YOUNG Argyll pipers are playing a merry tune after The Argyll Piping Trust successfully secured a grant of £10,000 from Awards for All.

'Legacy'
The money will be used this year to purchase pipes for the use of pupils in Oban, Inveraray, Lochgilhead, Knapdale and on Islay.

Angus Nicol, trustee and piping steward of the Argyllshire Gathering, said: 'This award is a real shot in

the arm to enable us to provide more support for young pipers in the county.'

'It will provide much needed instruments right now, and a legacy for future learners.'

The Schools Piping Tuition Scheme is a joint venture between The Argyll Piping Trust, which is the charitable arm of The Argyllshire Gathering, and Argyll and Bute Council.

Having started in 1996, the trust provided more than

£22,000 last year towards the tuition of some 100 pupils, in 17 primary schools.

The scheme has seen a number of young pipers go on to have successful solo careers in piping, and has also helped to swell the ranks of local pipe bands.

This tuition is delivered by three eminent pipers, Angus MacColl in Oban and the north, Stuart Liddell in Inveraray, Lochgilhead and Knapdale, and James Carmichael in Islay.

Crime prevention panel makes its mark



Constable David Paterson with members of the crime prevention panel security-marked bikes at Tesco.

OBAN and District Crime Prevention Panel were at Tesco recently to security-mark bikes.

Using engravers, they were able to give each bike a unique security code, which makes them easier to trace if stolen.

The event proved very successful with several bike owners turning up.

General crime prevention advice was also offered and booklets and UV marker pens were handed out to shoppers.

Constable David Paterson, who organised the event, thanked Tesco for the use of its store, adding: 'Any bike owner who wants to have their bike security-marked can contact any member of the Crime Prevention Panel, or myself at Taynuilt Police Station on 01866 822 721.'

Oban woman who 'rained' punches at friend is found guilty

AN OBAN woman who 'rained' punches on her friend has been found guilty of assault at Oban Sheriff Court.

Susannah McCuish, aged 32, of Room 9, West Bay Flats, Corran Esplanade pleaded not guilty, last Wednesday, to assaulting a woman at Lunga Road, Oban on May 11, 2009, and to committing a breach of the peace on the steps of Oban Sheriff Court

on November 3, 2009.

Sheriff Paul Crozier accepted that co-accused Mary Pauline McCuish, aged 50, Room 14, Ross House, Oban and Andrea Hendry, aged 22, of 12 MacDougall Court, Oban had no charge to answer.

Susannah McCuish claimed she had gone to the home of her friend, the victim, at 10.15am to discuss an incident.

'She attacked my sister that morning. I said I would go and speak to her. You're not starting', she said to me and then she attacked me.' She claimed the victim pulled her hair and bit her finger.

Procurator fiscal Paul Ayre said: 'Let's get real Miss McCuish. You were angry when you went to the house.

'You could have turned and walked away when things

looked aggressive but you didn't.'

The victim told the court that Susannah McCuish entered her home uninvited and 'rained punches' on her head and body.

'She came in the front door. She was foaming at the mouth and shouting at me. I tried to get out the back door but she got me and dragged me down to the ground. She grabbed me by

the hair with both her hands. She threw me on the ground and punched me on the head more than 10 times. She was kneeling me in the stomach and was clawing me on the face. She pulled out clumps of my hair. Every time I tried to shout for help I was punched again.'

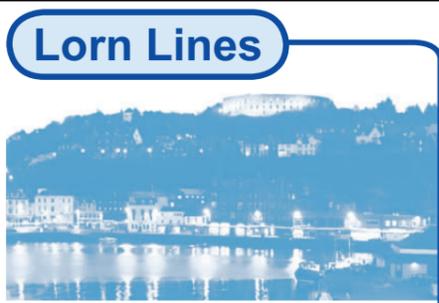
The court heard that the attack only stopped when Mary Pauline McCuish, a co-accused, shouted the po-

lice were on their way.

The victim said: 'You can't just go into someone's house and attack them. It is disgusting. I still suffer from nerve damage to my eye and I was frightened to be in my own home.'

The charge of breach of the peace on the steps of the court was not proven.

Sentence was deferred until February 23 for background reports.



THERE was a good turnout of members of Oban Photographic Club meeting in the Regent Hotel, Oban, to hear the result of the landscape/seascape competition.

The judge was well known professional photographer Ian Cameron from Forres. Members were interested to hear his very constructive critique of the images and everyone learnt from the comments.

In the 'prints' category new member Garry Beet, who was entering for the first time, captured first, second and third while in the projected images section Garry Beet was again first, with Ronnie MacKillop second and third equal were Ronnie MacKillop and Peter Cleave.

The Gordon Sellars Trophy for the best overall image went to Garry Beet's print.

The club is holding a 'question time' evening on February 8 in the Regent Hotel, Oban at 7.45 for 8.00pm, when a panel of experienced photographers, including professional photographer Cameron Harris, will answer questions on photography.

Everyone is welcome to come along, no matter how experienced or inexperienced they are or what kind of camera they are using.

Roadworks underway on Loch Lomond route

ROADWORKS on Loch Lomondside to widen the A82 at Stuckindroin Bridge, between Crianlarich and Tarbet, began this week.

Scotland Transerv's £1.1m project will widen the carriageway to comply with current standards, and will more than double its existing width.

26 weeks

It is planned that the roadworks will take 26 weeks to complete and will be carried out with temporary traffic light controls in place.

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'The works at Stuckindroin Bridge are essential to ensure the long-term stability of the bridge.'

'As part of the works Transport Scotland are taking the opportunity to improve the road alignment and set backs at this location, therefore improving road safety on this section of the A82.'

Existing drainage structures crossing the carriageway to the north of the structure will also be replaced.

Stuckindroin Bridge is located approximately 0.6km south of Ardlui on the A82.



Bert MacBrayne, Royal British Legion Scotland Oban chairman, at the town's war memorial. 07_105bert01

Legion may have come to the end of the road

THE CHAIRMAN of Oban's Royal British Legion Scotland branch will meet with representatives from Argyll and Bute Council in a bid to ensure the future of the town's Remembrance Day Parade.

Bert MacBrayne says the legion can no longer organise the event because of an ageing and dwindling membership.

Mr MacBrayne told The Oban Times: 'I don't even know if there will be a legion in November, let alone a Remembrance Day Parade.'

'We have about 14 active members but the age profile is high - we're talking about guys that were there on D-Day and long before that.'

'The time has come to hand over the reins to the council, which runs the event in other

parts of Argyll.'

Meeting

Mr MacBrayne will meet with council officials and put his case to Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee on February 10.

Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'I fully understand the reasons for the legion's decision.'

'It is vital that the parade

continues in memory of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, and given our current involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.'

'We will be supportive in keeping the parade going and I am sure community minded bodies would agree it is vital to keep this remembrance service going.'

The Remembrance Day Parade issue was also raised

at the January meeting of Oban Community Council through a letter from Mr MacBrayne.

The community council expressed its support for the parade and chairman Fred Hall and former chairman Kenny MacIntyre offered to assist the legion should it continue to organise the annual event.

Lorn schools gain grant

FIVE Lorn primary schools have gained a grant of £500 to collaborate on a week of science and experiments.

Working as a co-operative of schools, Ardchattan, Strath of Appin, Barcaldine, Lismore and Luig schools will use the grant from the British Science Council to celebrate and promote National Science and Engineering Week (March 12-21).

Rockfield dress down for Haiti

KIND-hearted pupils at Rockfield Primary School raised £722.16 for the victims of the Haiti earthquake by holding a non-uniform day.

Following a suggestion from the pupils, teachers asked the children to come into school on January 22 without uniform in exchange for a donation to the appeal.

A cheque has been sent to the Disaster Emergency Committee.

Wheelchair pontoon for Kilbowie

THE OWNERS of Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre, North Lanarkshire Council, have applied for planning permission to put up a new pontoon.

The floating structure would be attached to land at the site on the outskirts of Oban and allow wheelchair users to take part in activities in the Sound of Kerrera.

Oban to host concert for Haiti victims

A CONCERT involving all parts of the community is to take place in Oban's Corran Halls on February 19 to raise funds for the victims of the earthquake in Haiti.

Oban Rotary Club and Oban High School have come together to organise the concert which will feature a variety of talent from high school and primary school pupils and others, all giving up their time to perform.

A matinee, 1pm-3pm, is planned as well as an evening performance, 7pm-9pm, with the high school's pipe band, choir, strings/windband groups and four senior dance troops who performed at the school's recent dance show among others.

The final programme was due to be completed yesterday (Wednesday) with, it was hoped, performances by other talented artistes and groups from within the community.

Businesses in the community are being asked to contribute both financially and by putting up posters to publicise the event.

The entry fee will be £5 for adults, £3 for children and £12 for a family of two adults and two children.

The money raised is to be split between Oban Rotary Club, which will add to the Rotary-run Shelter Box Haiti Appeal and Dalmally-based Mary's Meals, which has been working in the country since 2006.

President of Oban Rotary David Mitchell said: 'When it comes to supporting fellow human beings in need, Oban and district folk have always shown a huge measure of humanity and generosity to their brothers and sisters in every part of the world.'

'This time, however, and in the face of such an overwhelming catastrophe as has befallen Haiti, it's our youngsters who are taking the lead.'

'We are well aware of the breadth and depth of talent which they possess, and with the encouragement of Oban High School and help from a few friends, they are already preparing to stage a charity extravaganza the likes of which Oban has not seen before.'

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, chief executive, returned home last week from Haiti after a flying visit to see what effect donations from Oban and across the UK were having and to see what other help was needed.



He found serious damage to schools where Mary's Meals had been operating, providing meals delivered by local volunteers, in the Port-au-Prince slum Cite Soleil.

'Some of our schools are complete right-offs,' he said, 'with lots of damage and they will need to be knocked down.'

'There was a horrible stench when we arrived at one school and I was worried about what we would find going in. It turned out that the smell was the beans that had been prepared for the children, rotting.'

'As the earthquake struck, volunteers had been busy working to prepare the next day's Mary's Meals.'

'A lady told me that they had been 'up to their elbows' in beans at the time. Fortunately, none of the volunteers was hurt - they had crawled out of the building. Everything was lying in the kitchen where it had been left.'

In Hinche, in Haiti's central plateau, Mary's Meals has been providing food for injured earthquake victims at St Therese hospital and for 1,500 of the refugees who have fled to the town.

'People are crowded into family homes and orphanages,' said Magnus. 'I visited a one-room hovel in a back street where about 15 people were crammed in.'

'A lot of people have ended up in Hinche because they got on the first bus out of Port-au-Prince. They've arrived with the shirt on their back and nothing else. These people are desperate and it's important that we help them - at the moment we're the only people who are.'

To donate to Mary's Meals Haiti appeal, go to www.marysmeals.org or call 0800 6981212.

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GORDONS CHEMISTS

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Big Lottery funding to give North Argyll's carers a chance of training

CARERS over the age of 50 years in North Argyll are to benefit from a successful application to the Big Lottery Fund.

Joint bid

Through the Princess Royal Trust for Carers both the Oban-based Princess Royal Trust North Argyll and Helensburgh and Lomond carers centres have received more

than £24,000 after a joint application.

The work of both carers' centres can make a huge difference to unpaid carers' lives and this funding will be used to give carers over the age of 50 years access to specialist training.

Rie Emmers, Oban, moved to the town three years ago and takes care of her hus-

band, who has bi-polar disorder.

'North Argyll Carers centre saved my life. I attend the Tuesday morning carers support group and that helps me feel that I'm never alone.'

'You end up talking to people who are in a similar situation and you know that there is somebody there who is on your side.'

Tim Sinclair looks after his wife, who has MS, and has been involved in the North Argyll carers' centre for two years.

He recently retired from the army and has found the adjustment from a full-time career to full-time caring a huge change to the system. 'The carers' centre gives you a sense of belonging

and the support they provide has been really valuable,' he said.

Caring role

Albany Street centre manager Ruth Moody said: 'Many people can find themselves in a caring role as they get older and it is important that we can provide them with the training that they need.'

North Argyll and Helensburgh carers centres support carers by providing information for carers, whatever their different circumstances and they make sure carers' voices are heard by local decision makers.

They also find hidden carers through work with GP surgeries, hospital wards and schools, support car-

ers emotionally and help to make caring a positive experience.

Every year across Scotland, some 31,500 people take on an unpaid caring role, looking after a relative, loved one or friend who can't manage without their help because of an illness, an accident, disability, mental health or substance misuse problem.

Coffee and cake for RNLI

PLANS to raise more than £700 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) have started well as the first venture raised more than £450.

Oban Co-op kicked off a series of fundraising activities with a coffee and cake stall in their unused café last Friday.

Volunteers joined the co-op staff to sell home baked delights in the co-op cafeteria. The team also had a stall in the store from which customers could buy goods to take home.

Deputy manager June Anfield said: 'We have been set a local target of £700 but we hope to exceed that over the next three months.'



Scottish Co-op's Ann Barr serves up a treat in aid of RNLI for local diners

SWT meet on islands of the South Atlantic

LORN and Mid-Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) met recently at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory to hear Frithjof Kuepper, of the Scottish Association for Marine Science, give an interesting account of his visit to Patagonia, Tierra del Fuego and the Falkland Islands.

Although his travels were concerned with the study of seaweed pathogens, he spoke to the members about the wildlife encounters which formed a large part of his journey and illustrated his lecture with many beautiful pictures.

Arduaine Garden

A few days later some of the local members visited Arduaine Garden to look at the garden from a wildlife rather than a horticultural point of view. They were joined by Nick Wright, people and wildlife manager at the SWT in Edinburgh.

The next lecture at Dunstaffnage will be on February 17 by David Croucher from Seil, who will speak on '30 Years with Badgers'.

The next walk will be on Sunday February 21, meeting at Glen Nant car park at 10am. A very warm welcome is extended to non-members to share in the informal and interesting walks and meetings.



Loch Awe, scene of four tragic drownings in March last year.

Loch Awe 'spotters' scheme gathers momentum

MORE residents from around Loch Awe have signed up to become Loch Awe Watch spotters following a meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council.

At the same time, inland water rescue services were being hotly debated in the Scottish Parliament following the release of Paddy Tomkins' Independent Review of Open Water and Flood Rescue at the end of last year.

The number of people around the loch who have now agreed to volunteer for the Loch Awe watch scheme, set up in response to the tragic drowning of four Glasgow men in the loch last March, has now reached more than 45.

'Spotter' packs, funded from money raised by the family of one of the victims, Craig Currie, and others, along with some basic training have been issued to the volunteers by Oban, Lorn and the Isles Safety Forum member Iain MacKinnon.

'We have been meeting with the spotters and explaining what they should do, so that they are clued up. We have also given out scaled down versions of the packs to the police who have five officers covering the area,' said Iain.

REPORT by MARIAN MILLER

mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

'We have also briefed the control room at Strathclyde police so they are aware of the loch watch people,' he added.

He said it was hoped to have a formal launch at the beginning of March, along with a website, to coincide with the start of the fishing season on Loch Awe.

Reference was made by several MSPs during the debate in the Scottish Parliament to the four men, William Carty, Craig Currie, Steven Carty and Thomas Douglas, who drowned at night in thick fog, including minister for community safety Fergus Ewing, who commissioned the review.

He said: 'The danger of inland water has been brought into focus by such tragic events as the loss of four fishermen on Loch Awe... as an indication of my commitment, I will shortly establish

a dedicated water rescue working group under the auspices of the resilience advisory board for Scotland.

'With representatives from national and local government, the blue-light services and the voluntary sector, the working group will be tasked with co-ordinating our response to the review's recommendations and providing me with quarterly updates.'

Jamie McGrigor MSP, who is also chairman of Loch Awe Improvements Association, said he was disappointed the review made no reference to the marking of underwater hazards in freshwater - significant in Loch Awe where the water level changes as the barrage at Bridge of Awe is opened and closed.

'Since 1996 12 people have drowned in Loch Awe and anything that can be done to help put a stop to these tragedies will be welcomed by people who live on the loch and by the thousands of visitors who come to fish or for recreation. What is most vital is that first responders have access to a boat - or to someone else who has a boat - in order to minimise the time it takes to rescue people.'

Oban High School news



Skills for Work raised funds for children's hospital
S3 SKILLS for Work class at Oban High School successfully raised funds through their 'Santa Hat' Christmas Enterprise Activity.

Their fundraising efforts were forwarded to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Yorkhill and the money helps to provide the best care available for sick children, who come to the specialist unit at Yorkhill, Glasgow, from all over Scotland.

The fundraising also assists the children's hospital to provide little 'extras' such as children's entertainers and state of the art medical equipment which would not otherwise be available.

Scottish badminton championships

LAST weekend saw the Scottish Schools Badminton Championships.

The Oban High School team did exceptionally well with finalists and wins in nearly every category.

Winners of the day included Gregor Bryden and Craig Livingston who showed fantastic teamwork to win the U14 boys' doubles title. Eilidh MacLean gave an outstanding individual performance to win the U16 Girls title.

Other noteworthy performances include Erin Kelly and Stewart Mobey who reached the finals of their respective singles matches and Erin Kelly and Gregor Bryden who made the finals in the mixed doubles.

Congratulations go out to the whole team for their outstanding performances.

'Mincing Queens' lift mince and tatties crown on Mull

AN EDINBURGH-based culinary trio, aptly named the Mincing Queens, won the seventh annual World Mince and Tatties Championships which were held at Tobermory on the Isle of Mull last weekend.

Making history as the first team to lift the prize the three Edinburgh women, Carol Doherty, Julie Merrilees and Carole Keltie lifted the trophy at the event held at the Mishinish Hotel, Tobermory.

This year's competition featured some interesting interpretations of a traditional Scottish dish. While some favoured the flavour of curry powder and other more exotic spices, the winning trio went for a combination of traditional ingredients blended with liberal quantities of red wine.

Championship organiser and host at the Mishinish Hotel, Robert MacLeod said: 'The standard of the dishes this year was very high and the judges faced a difficult task in choosing a winner from the 22 entrants.'

'However, the 'Mincing Queens' thoroughly deserved their win.'

Dunbeg man jailed for three months after threats

A DUNBEG man who threatened to cut a bus driver's throat has been sentenced to three months in jail.

Thomas Alexander Kerr, of 53 Lorn Road, previously pleaded guilty to shouting, swearing and threatening the driver and was sentenced to probation and 160 hours of community service. He was back in Oban Sheriff Court on Monday and sentenced again for the original crime, after he

admitted he had not done any of his community service.

The court heard that on September 5 last year, Kerr and some associates boarded a bus. As Kerr got on, the driver asked him to dispose of an open can of beer he was holding.

Prosecutor fiscal Craig Harris said Kerr began to become aggressive towards the driver.

He said: 'He leaned into the driver's cab and poked him in the

chest, then raised his finger to [the driver's] neck and ran it across it in a cutting indication and said words to the effect of 'I will slit you from here to here.'

Kerr then got off the bus. He was still pointing and shouting at the bus when police officers appeared and intervened.

Defending the 45-year-old accused, Duncan Durbin said Kerr cared for his mother and had struggled with heavy drinking

after his painting and decorating business ran into trouble. He added: 'There is nothing to suggest that an offence of this nature would be committed.'

Sentencing Kerr to three months in custody, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This was a most unpleasant offence. It involved a bus driver who was driving the public.'

'I hope it is a warning to other people who consider behaving like this on a bus.'

Oban dental surgeon looks forward to new hospital role

SHORE Street practice dentist Colin Crawford is known as a safe pair of hands when it comes to treating cautious patients. As such, he has been appointed as a hospital dentist to treating those somewhat more sensitive patients who need a little extra tender loving care.

For 24 years Mr Crawford, a founder partner in the Shore Street business, has looked after the teeth, gums and mouths of people from Oban and beyond.

Mr Crawford said 'I started out as the third member of a partnership with dental surgeons Bob McCulloch and Hamish Isaac in Stevenson Street before the practice moved to its current location 17 years ago. We moved to Shore Street as it was clear that we needed more dentists in the town. Moving allowed us to double the size of our practice and treat many more people.'

The new premises were very successful for the partners and it had other benefits as well. Colin laughs: 'I certainly have one of the best views from my surgery.' His practice room looks out over the island of Kerrera and onto the snow-covered peaks of the Isle of Mull.

Colin has been overwhelmed by the number of patients wishing him well in his new role. He is looking forward to the new challenge but wishes past patients and staff well for the future. 'The new role will allow me to continue to do what I enjoy, that is spending time with patients and treating a variety of conditions. Most of my new patients will be referred to me. They will have some special need which will mean it will possibly take longer to treat them.'

Shore Street Dental Practice welcome a new dentist in Mr David Bell who will take over Mr Crawford's list.



Colin Crawford pictured in his surgery that he said had the best view in Scotland.

16_06dentist01

End to 10-year Benderloch car park saga may be in sight

AN END may be in sight to a 10-year-old eye-sore in Benderloch, with the buck coming full circle to the doorstep of Transport Scotland.

Ownership disputed
Ownership and maintenance of the turning circle in the village centre opposite Munro's store has been in dispute and as a result the surface of the circle and an adjacent parking area next to the Ben Lora Café have deteriorated.

Ardchattan Community Council has been trying for

years to get one of the roads authorities to take responsibility for it but as Argyll and Bute Council only leased the land and did not have title deeds for it, ownership was traced to the doorstep of the Scottish government.

But the Scottish government's authority Transport Scotland has agreed to sign the land over to Sustrans for part of the Oban to Fort William cycle path and this is not likely to happen for a year or so.

At a meeting of Ardchattan Community Council, a sug-

gestion was made that Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather be asked to get permission for the community to do something about the turning circle meantime.

Stalemate
Chairman Iain MacDonald wrote to the MSP saying: 'This stalemate situation was debated at length at our community council meeting and several members of the public are understandably exasperated at the lack of meaningful progress over the last 10 years.'

'A proposal we have been

looking at is to take advantage of the council's 'employability scheme' in partnership with local commercial quarry operators like Ennstone Thistle, which has in the past provided dressings for situations such as this.'

Mr Mather had previously helped the community to track down the ownership of the turning circle ground to Transport Scotland.

He told The Oban Times that he had asked Argyll and Bute Council to co-ordinate efforts to try and get the area

repaired and upgraded.

A council spokeswoman said last week that the council had contacted Transport Scotland which had confirmed that it had asked its contractor Scotland Transerv to repair the turning circle and car park.

Delays
But she warned: 'However, the effects of the cold weather mean that Transerv is currently extremely busy on the roads network, so it is likely to be a few weeks before the work is done.'

She said the council had

been in touch with transport Scotland several times regarding the progress of the transfer of ownership to Sustrans.

'This would allow Sustrans to transfer part of the ground to the council. Argyll and Bute Council has indicated that it would be willing to take on the title of the Benderloch car park and bus turning area which would allow the authority to upgrade the drainage and surfacing so that the area could be managed as a council car park.'

Oban Times
NEWS DESK
01631 568060

Around the Rurals

Killin

KILLIN SWRI celebrated its 86th birthday with a dinner in the Bridge of Lochay Hotel.

Mrs Fiona Inglis welcomed everyone and Mrs Beryl M Lean cut the birthday cake. Beryl was also awarded a long service certificate, having been a member of the Killin group for just over 50 years. After a beautiful meal the audience was entertained by Broadsword, a group from nearby Crianlarich.

The ladies thoroughly enjoyed their evening and were thanked for turning out on an extremely cold and wintry night.

The next meeting will be as normal in the Lesser McLaren Hall on Thursday February 4 at 7.30pm when the speaker will be David Osler who is going to entertain the audience with 'Memories about People and Places'. This meeting is open to the public and everyone is welcome.

The competitions are A Local Photograph and Three Empire Biscuits.

Oban

BRENDA MacLeod was guest speaker at the Oban branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute's first meeting of 2010.

She gave a comprehensive talk on the history and possible uses of felt making and displayed numerous examples of the craft.

The group also enjoyed making bookmarks.

Torosay

TOROSAY'S January meeting was, as usual, the 'Christmas' dinner at the Craignure Inn.

The meal was superb, and afterwards Janet passed round some old SWRI photographs taken on a visit Princess Anne made to Mull, when she somehow managed to get the only chipped cup in the beautiful tea service!

The hilarity continued as Margaret regaled members with more stories of her nursing days, as only she can tell them.

Fionnphort

THE BRANCH opened the New Year during the cold spell, when some members were cut-off by icy paths and roads, or by winter illness.

The Creich Hall was chilly, but a small band of members were warmed by hot drinks and a beautifully illustrated talk amongst the wild flowers of the Ross of Mull and Iona.

The knowledgeable and informative guest speaker was Joyce Watson, from Iona. Joyce also kindly judged two competitions, Lorna Davies winning with her decoupage Christmas card and Janis Allen with her shoe bag.

Salen

PRESIDENT Margaret Black wished all members a Happy New Year at the start of the January meeting.

Members settled down to watch Ted Dowling demonstrating his Flowers of the Hedgerow. Surprisingly these were made of wood from the hazel tree, which with its catkins, is the first sign of spring. The hazel has been growing for 10,000 years and had around 48 uses. The original was its nuts for food. Now it is used for making trugs, because of its flexible wood, also for clothes pegs, pea sticks and kindling for fires. Ted cut hazel sticks three months ago to allow them to dry out and these produced curly flowers, compared to straight petals when using moist wood cut recently.

Appin

PRESIDENT Margaret Ross welcomed members to Port Appin Hall on January 21 for the first meeting of 2010.

Names were taken for the February night out at the Falls of Lora Hotel and arrangements made for the annual quiz night on Friday February 5.

The recipe for Mrs Ross's competition was available for anyone submitting an entry at the February meeting and tickets were on sale for the group coffee evening to be held in Benderloch in aid of Mary's Meals and Federation funds.

Certificates were given out to the ladies who had been successful in the recent housewives and judges tests.

After business, the president introduced the evening's speaker, institute member Jenny Wade.

Jenny gave a most interesting and enjoyable talk on 'Quilting and Things' and displayed a variety of her beautiful handiwork.

Competition results for Three Fruit Marmalade were: Gold - Alison MacCorquodale; Silver - Agnes Thomson; Red - Barbara Carmichael.

Tiree

THE MONTHLY meeting was opened by president Caroline MacLean, who welcomed 10 members.

She welcomed Tish MacKinnon who gave a talk on her role at the airport and the activities of Tiree Community Development Trust of which she is the chairperson.

Both talks were very informative. How things have changed at the airport in her tenure - aircraft, computers, security, would body sensors be next?

She outlined the varied activities of the trust including affordable housing and the building of a wind



Gilbert and Chrissie Muir celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary.

Oban's golden couple celebrate

OBAN couple Gilbert and Chrissie Muir recently celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

Tenants of Lynn Court, where the couple live, joined the pair for a meal to celebrate their 50 years of marriage.

The meal, organised by the couple's children, was one of two celebrations. The couple, their five children and 11 grandchildren celebrated at the Lochnell Arms on January 22.

Gilbert and Chrissie, originally from

Campbeltown, were married in Lorne Street Church on January 22 1960. Chrissie said: 'I think the secret to a happy marriage is to do things together as much as you can.'

'Honesty is important and if you have a difference of opinion you shouldn't dwell on it.'

The couple have lived all over Argyll but finally settled in Oban. Chrissie managed the restaurant at the Oban Sea Life Centre and Gilbert worked as a janitor at Lochnell Primary School before the pair retired.

turbine which will generate a revenue stream for the trust to fund community activities and developments on the island. Caroline thanked Tish for her talk.

In the competitions the round of shortbread was won by Morag MacKinnon and the knitted hat, mitts and booties by Annie MacKinnon.

Glenorchy

THE GLENORCHY branch of the SWRI welcomed Pam Whitehead of Lochawe to its January meeting.

Mrs Whitehead gave a cake decorating demonstration and brought with her a Madeira cake iced white with a border of delicate little daisies which she later donated to the raffle.

Pam explained how she had got interested in cake decorating 20 years ago and had attended a course in Glasgow. Pam started off

her demonstration with a painted butterfly, showing her audience how to roll the icing out as thin as possible and that Royal icing could be softened with glycerine and fondant icing with liquid glucose and kept pliable by being wrapped in clingfilm.

If you did not wish to make your own icing you could buy it.

Mrs Whitehead used flower paste bought in a shop in Hyndland, Glasgow. Coloured gels and powders are mixed with water or a white spirit, such as vodka, and painted on with a fine brush.

The butterfly is stuck on the cake with Royal icing. After that Pam demonstrated how to make a rose.

The petals are cut out and frilled with a 'cell' or cocktail stick.

The base of the flower is mounted onto a stick with a small hook at the bottom,

Kilchrenan

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Community council

AT THE recent meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, the convener Jane Organ introduced the new members of the community council; vice convener, David Crooks; secretary, David Price; treasurer, Jeanette Connor; other members, Chris Bruce, Robert Connor and Graham Henderson.

Loch Awe Watch Scheme: Iain McKinnon, volunteer coastguard, and Murray Humphries of the Community Safety Forum gave an update on the scheme. They were very encouraged by the response for volunteers for the scheme, who came from Ford down to the staff at the visitors centre near the Pass of Brander and points in between, including volunteers from Kilchrenan and Dalavich. They still need as many volunteers as possible.

Regarding funds for the scheme, Mr McKinnon said that the Loch Awe Improvement Association had donated £4,000 for equipment and signs and more than £8,000 was being held with *The Oban Times*.

He pointed out that the families of the four men who drowned in the loch last year, had also contributed to the fund.

Less than £1,000 has been spent on loch watch kits, the contents of which Mr McKinnon displayed to the meeting.

Mr Humphries said that a good communication system is needed and he was in the process of setting this up.

It was pointed out that volunteers need not live on the shores of the loch. All they needed was a good pair of binoculars and if they noted that someone was in trouble, they should dial 999, give the location and then get in touch with some of the other local volunteers. They hope the scheme will be up and running before the fishing season starts.

Donald Wilson, who lives on the opposite side of Loch Awe from Dalavich and Kilchrenan, will be holding an open day soon which will cover all aspects of water safety.

Forestry: The local Forestry Commission representative said he was present at the meeting to improve communication between residents and the Forestry Commission.

He informed the meeting that because of damage of the road at Drissaig Farm, no timber lorries would be running out of Loch Avich until the road was repaired.

When asked by a member of the public why 30 or more lorries had driven through Kilchrenan in one morning that week, he said that he would make enquiries, as the lorries were supposed to travel south on the route.

Security and policing:

The police turned out in force to the meeting. Local constable David Paterson introduced Julie Edwards the new Inspector, Mike Wood, the new Community Policing Officer, and Iain Young, the Dalmally constable.

Inspector Edwards announced that there was soon to be a new Chief Inspector in Oban. Constable Paterson will be retiring in March and it was pointed out that there would be police coverage for the area, probably from Dalmally, until a replacement officer is appointed, which would be as soon as possible. Constable Paterson went on to say that there had been a drop in housebreaking in the area, but residents should not be complacent and should make sure that they lock up their houses, garages, garden sheds and cars.

First Responders: As David Connor is trained in the use

of defibrillators and life saving, he announced that he had been in touch with the British Heart Foundation who have agreed to up-date his training to enable him to re-train the volunteers who have previously been trained by the Scottish Ambulance Service.

Pigs on the trot

A TOURIST was recently held up on the road from Ardanaiseig to Kilchrenan.

He followed three large pigs which had escaped from a field. He reported it to a local resident who then found them in various gardens thoroughly enjoying their escape and different culinary delights.

They eventually trotted back up the road from which they had traversed earlier. It was later pointed out that when feeding them, the owner wore a fluorescent jacket. At the time, there were workmen repairing the winter damage to the Ardanaiseig road, and they were wearing fluorescent jackets. On seeing them, the pigs must have thought that their dinner was ready!



Calum and Rachel Ross collecting their award from travel writer Simon Calder at a gala lunch in London.

Loch Melfort Hotel wins top green award

LOCH Melfort Hotel is the proud winner of an Excellent Social Responsibility award for going green.

Calum and Rachel Ross collected the award at a gala lunch in London.

The award was given to the hotel as it has a positive and sustainable impact on the wider community, for example through local ethical sourcing, environmental protection or energy conservation.

Calum Ross, Loch Melfort's owner, said: 'Rachel and I are thrilled to win this award as it recognises the efforts the whole team at Loch Melfort for going green and protecting the local countryside and wildlife while being at the heart of our community.'

The hotel plays a central role in supporting the National Trust for Scotland's Arduaine Garden, and owners Calum and Rachel Ross have entered into joint working arrangements with the garden, providing admission services, planning a series of special events and promoting NTS membership to visitors.



Strath of Appin Primary School welcome the haggis at their Burns Supper on Wednesday.

Strath of Appin pupils turn on the style for Burns Night

STRATH of Appin Primary School celebrated Burns Night with a lunch and entertainment on Wednesday.

The haggis was addressed by Lorne Carmichael and toasted by the children in whisky-coloured fizzy drink.

A traditional meal was served, followed by cloutie dumpling baked by Rosemary McCormick.

Anna Whitelaw sang 'My Love is Like a Red, Red Rose' and Miranda Malcolm, Dean

Turner, Aimee Johnston and Lauren Turner played a fiddle tune.

Highland dancers were Isla Dunlop, Charlie Johnston, Susie Turner and Aimee Johnston; Anna Whitelaw, Miranda Malcolm and Lorne Carmichael recited 'Willie Wastle'.

Euan McNeill gave the address 'The Immortal Memory' and then all the children sang two songs and danced the Virginia Reel. The festivities ended with Auld Lang Syne.



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Fall woman escapes serious injury

A WOMAN escaped serious injury in Glencoe after she fell 250 feet down a snow slope in Coire Gabhail on Bidean nam Bian on Saturday afternoon.

Ten members of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team (MRT) were called out, but only one was needed at the scene.

Two members of the woman's party, including a nurse, stayed with her and two others continued down the mountain.

Airlifted

A Royal Navy Rescue helicopter from Prestwick airlifted the woman to the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

She was later transferred to Raigmore Hospital. Her injuries are not thought to be life threatening.

Glencoe MRT leader John Grieve told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a pretty straightforward incident. The party were just descending a snow slope when she slipped.'

'She could not stop herself and she fell about 250 feet.'

Highlands' heat map points the way

HIGHLAND Council, the Scottish Government and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) are to pilot a 'heat map' of the Highlands to show how renewable and other heat sources could be used in years to come.

The map will log demand for heat and potential sources of supply for renewable and waste heat, providing vital data on how best to expand the sector and meet tough renewable energy targets.

Opportunities

HIE's head of energy Audrey MacIver said: 'The installation of renewable heat solutions will also open up new business opportunities.'

Energy Minister Jim Mather said 'at least' 11 per cent of heat used in Scotland should come from renewables by 2020.

A report is due to be presented to the joint steering group in the spring. Other Scottish councils are expected to show a keen interest in the pilot.



Looking to the future: David MacGillivray takes over White Heather from Alistair MacIntyre, left. 10_f06buses01

Bright future as firms seal bus deal

SHIEL Buses of Acharacle has increased its presence in Fort William with the acquisition of White Heather Travel.

After weeks of talks between both companies, the deal was agreed on December 1 2009 with White Heather being sold as a going concern with all existing contracts and reservations.

Shiel Buses, run by father and son Donnie and David MacGillivray, has opened a depot in Fort William to benefit the existing fleet already operating services to the Fort William

area. Buses will continue to use the White Heather name for the foreseeable future.

Donnie MacGillivray said: 'Shiel Buses are delighted to have completed this acquisition which will complement their existing high quality operations and look forward to many years in the industry.'

Alistair MacIntyre of White Heather said: 'I am delighted that Shiel Buses have considered White Heather Tours to be an asset worth acquiring.'

'It is a local family firm run by Donnie

MacGillivray and his son, David. Both are highly respected in the coaching industry and I know it is their intention to ensure all White Heather customers will continue to receive a high standard of service which is something I have tried to give over the last 25 years.'

Shiel Buses has more than 30 years' experience and White Heather more than 25 years in the business. The companies have built up a loyal customer base, local, national and international, and thank everyone for the support given to both businesses.

DCS denies deer cull profit claim

THE BODY with responsibility for the country's deer population has denied recent mass culls of red deer in Highland public forests were motivated by profit.

The Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS) instead insists culls are driven by animal welfare and are essential in severe winter weather to give remaining deer a chance to survive until spring.

DCS was responding to revelations in *The Oban Times* on slaughters of red deer stags in Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) woodland at Loch Arkaig and elsewhere, and how hired shooters make £90 a kill and up to £2,000 a day shooting the animals.

Stalkers on estates had contacted this newspaper expressing fears for their jobs if the out-of-season killing continued. FCS contended they were entitled to kill any deer found eating trees paid for by the taxpayer.

With stags lean and in poor condition following the rut, *The Oban Times* put it to DCS

EXCLUSIVE
By STEPHEN NORRIS

director of deer management Robbie Kernahan whether it was right to indiscriminately shoot the animals when there was a financial incentive to do so, and that tonnes of poor quality meat entering the food chain would do little for venison's image.

Mr Kernahan said: 'What you have to understand is that venison is a by-product of deer management and is not the thing that is driving deer management. Only responsible deer managers would consider the quality of the carcass before it goes to a game dealer.'

'We are very conscious of the difficulties that deer are faced with this season in particular. We are expecting there will be a lot of mortality in this severe weather. But at the same time we need to ensure that deer managers are culling as planned to ensure the remaining deer have a better chance of surviving until the better times. Any culling should be driven by animal welfare.'

Asked if red deer were regarded in many quarters as little better than vermin, he said: 'We are aware a lot of people do not consider deer as a resource to be managed sustainably. That is not something we condone.'

FCS, conservation bodies and private estates comprise the local deer management groups who operate by voluntary mutual consent, but agreements between conflicting interests often break down.

The Scottish Government plans to overhaul existing legislation governing management of Scotland's deer and DCS recommend devolving deer management to local level, supported by a code of practice and backed up by powers of intervention if that voluntary approach fails.

DCS also proposes the close season for stags, currently October 21 to June 30, should be scrapped once local management agreements are in place - leading some observers to believe even more deer will be shot.

Big support for Morvern land move

Continued from page 9:

Chairman Hector MacKechnie, a ferryman on the Lochaline to Fishnish boat, told *The Oban Times*: 'This has been a long time coming - that's the feeling we're getting. I think there's a perception that all is not well in the area. But it's good to see local people finally starting to make things happen for themselves. Owing our own land will create a greater sense of community.'

MCLASG members hand delivered the information round Lochaline, while more remote households were sent the circular by post.

MCLASG will now open discussions with local landowners to discuss possible areas of land that could be sold or offered to local people for homes and businesses. The establishment of new crofts - crofting is almost entirely absent in Morvern - and renewable energy schemes are also expected to figure.



Stewart Borland with Sally Mortimer, Heather Borland and Maggie Ingram celebrate another successful fundraising day at Ballachulish Visitor Centre.

Ballachulish banks £1,242 for RNLI

BALLACHULISH Visitor Centre staff raised a record-breaking £1,242 for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) on the charity's annual SOS day last Friday.

The total eclipsed that of 2009, when £705 was gathered in and the first event in January 2008, which raised £405.

Manager Stewart Borland said: 'A huge thanks go to all our suppliers who donated raffle prizes, including Michael MacGregor for another great silent auction picture, and Jimmy Forsyth and Mike Hall for providing the great free entertainment in the afternoon and to all our customers who supported the day so tremendously. Hopefully our running three-year total of £2,397 will help make a difference.'

Newsdesk
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High School Burns Supper raises £2,300 for pupils' trip

MORE than 160 guests enjoyed a tremendous Burns Supper at Lochaber High School on Saturday night and made a huge contribution towards sixth year students' biggest outing of the academic year.

On February 18 the students leave for a four-day trip to London, with a tour of the Houses of Parliament on their busy itinerary. They will be guests of local MP Charles Kennedy, who delivered the Immortal Memory in fine style.

The pupils have part-funded the London visit themselves through various activities, which included delivering



Top table guests and performers at the Lochaber High School Burns supper.

10_f06burns01

an excellent table service on Saturday night.

The efforts were rewarded to the tune of £2,300 when donations, ticket sales and raffle monies were tallied up.

Memorable moments included chairman Donald Maclean's repartee, a barelegged head teacher Jim Sutherland delivering a majestic *Holy Willie's Prayer* in his nightgown,

depute head Paul Reynolds' *Address to a Haggis* and a hilarious exchange of gentle insults between teachers George Young and Mary Anderson in *The Lassies* and *The Lassies' Reply*.

Plans for Skye wind energy project gather pace after cash injection

PLANS for a community wind energy project on the Isle of Skye have picked up speed after local developers secured major funding to progress the scheme.

Sleat Community Trust and its subsidiary Sleat Renewables Ltd (SRL), which are investigating the windpower potential of an exposed site on A'Mhaoile above Duisdeil, have been granted £61,643 by Community Energy Scotland to take the proposal through to the planning stage.

The trust has already started to use the funds, awarded under

the Scottish Government's Community and Renewable Energy Scheme programme, by installing an anemometer mast at the top of the 500-foot hill.

A'Mhaoile is the trust's preferred development site in north Sleat and local company Chillwind of Glenelg carried out the mast installation. The equipment will be operational for around 12 months. The trust and SRL will now start to define the exact scope and size of the wind development which, when completed, will allow consultation to start with planning and environmental

agencies. During this process another open community meeting is also planned.

Thanking all involved in progressing the project, Sleat Renewables Ltd chairman Donald MacGregor said: 'This funding will enable us to fully explore the potential of a wind development for the community in Sleat and proceed with due diligence to the planning stage.'

Meanwhile, the trust, through its Clean Sleat project, is organising a two-day renewable energy event, North West Energy 2010 (NWE10) at

Sabhal Mor Ostaig on March 3-4.

The event will have a range of exhibitors and these will be complemented by presentations by industry experts including Sue Kearns, head of the Scottish Government's renewable energy strategy.

Several practical workshops for householders thinking of incorporating renewable energy into their homes are also being held. NWE10 is free for all to attend.

A complete event schedule is available at www.cleansleat.co.uk.

Great night for the ladies

MORE than 30 ladies attended a butchery demonstration at An Clachan, the Rural Education Centre on Monday night.

Ian Wynne and Son butchers Stuart Duncan and John MacKay entertained, educated and elaborated on a range of tasty dishes.

Organiser Isabel Campell said: 'This was a first for the speakers and they produced an excellent evening.'

The next ladies meeting, 'Baking with the Boys', will be held in the new Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team centre in Claggan on March 1. To book, phone Isabel or Linda on 01397 703819.

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Lochboisdale digital centre delight as major cash boost creates jobs

A SOUTH Uist centre set up to preserve old cassette tape recordings of songs and stories by converting them into digital formats has received a major cash boost.

The Tobar an Dualchais digitisation centre in Lochboisdale has been awarded £125,786 to establish a commercial operation that will employ four people.

The Lochboisdale-based enterprise has already secured contracts for digitisation work from the BBC Digitising Service at Maida Vale in London and the National Museums of Scotland as a first step in expanding its client base. The centre also caters for individuals and smaller groups such as local historical societies seeking to convert their recordings to a digital format. Recently, the centre digitised audio recordings as part of the Tobar an Dualchais project, which is making several thousand hours of cultural and heritage material available online.

Director Mairead MacDonald said: 'The staff in our Uist office have developed a wide skills base while working for the project and we felt that it was important that these skills be retained and developed after the end of the digitisation phase of the project. We are delighted to have received sufficient funding to enable us to proceed on a commercial basis and look to the future with optimism.'

The centre received funding from LEADER Inne Gall (£60,786), HIE (£35,000) and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (£30,000). Any profit generated will go towards the Tobar an Dualchais project.

Residential Gaelic language course

COMMUNITY landowners Stòras Uibhist and Bord na Gaidhlig are to run a residential Gaelic language week for intermediate learners at Grogarry Lodge from Sunday April 4 to Saturday April 10.

Participants will be able to immerse themselves in Gaelic language and culture to raise their fluency in Gaelic.

Staff at the Lodge, as well as the instructors and hosts, have Gaelic as their first language. The week will feature classroom instruction and field trips.

Stòras chairman Angus MacMillan said: 'Stòras Uibhist employs a number of Gaelic speaking-staff who use the language every day in their jobs and the company is keen to foster this and promote Gaelic as a working language.'

Water bosses seek to allay fears

SCOTTISH Water bosses yesterday sought to allay South Lochaber residents' concerns over their plans for a £5million extension to treatment works next to Ballachulish Bridge.

The utility is now seeking permission to bury the new plant, which was originally knocked back by local planning committee councillors and a Scottish Government planning reporter amid sharp criticisms of a lack of consultation.

The drop-in consultation in the Ballachulish Hotel followed a similar event the day before at the Loch Leven Hotel.

Newsdesk
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Six men of Morvern: Malcolm McNeill, Douglas Watt, Hector MacKechnie, David Robertson, John Cameron and David Robertson go through the survey results at Lochaline. 10_f06morvern01

Fort FC match called off minutes before kick off

By STEPHEN NORRIS

CLAGGAN Park was a scene of confusion and disappointment on Saturday as Fort William Football Club's much anticipated game against league leaders Buckie Thistle fell victim to the weather minutes before kick-off.

A surprisingly stiff overnight frost had hardened the playing surface, but Fort officials were confident the pitch would be playable by 3pm and informed Buckie early in the day that the game was on.

Table toppers Buckie and Fort have built up a close relationship over the years and Jags fans look on their away trip to Fort William as one of their big days out of the year.

Three coachloads of players, officials and almost 100 supporters arrived at Claggan Park around lunchtime to be met with the chilling news that the game was in danger.

Referee Alan Frew from Elgin had declared the surface unplayable at 1.30pm because it was still frozen in places and promised another inspection an hour later.

Fans and players were desperate for the game to go ahead, hoping that the painfully slow thaw would do its work in time.

Both teams took to the pitch to test the surface and were keen to play, but their hopes were dashed when Mr Frew inspected

the park again at 2.35pm, ruled there was no improvement and called the game off.

It was a bitter blow for everyone concerned and many in the crowded bar felt if the game had been given a chance the park would have softened as play continued.

However, Mr Frew told *The Oban Times* he had given the park every chance to soften and had no other option but to postpone the game because the pitch, in his opinion, was still frozen.

'It would have constituted a danger to players,' he said. 'Everybody was geared up for the game and I gave it as long as I could, but the improvement was insufficient to allow the game to start.'

Disappointed committee member David MacDonald said: 'We'll still be playing in the summer.'

The cancellation denied Fort William a major payday.

A gate of around 200 was expected, but instead Buckie will have to be reimbursed for travel costs.

Given the goodwill between the clubs, the cheque may remain uncashed.

A cursory check of the pitch at 3.40pm revealed the surface had softened further and was perfectly playable in the opinion of observers.

Second ferry meeting

A SECOND public meeting to discuss the proposed works at Nether Lochaber slipway and the impact this will have on Corran Ferry operations is being held next Tuesday.

The event follows a special ward forum last month, at which Ardnamurchan and Morvern residents heavily criticised a possible four-week suspension of the ferry services to allow slipway repairs to be carried out.

Local community councils have joined forces to campaign for a works regime that avoids total closure, which they warn would cripple the local economy.

The meeting will be held in the Sunart Centre, Strontian, at 8pm.

Big support for Morvern land move

EXCLUSIVE report by STEPHEN NORRIS

HOPES that Morvern's 400-strong population are ready to consider radical action to revive the area appear to have been vindicated.

Morvern Community Land Acquisition Steering Group (MCLASG) sent out a questionnaire and fact sheets to all households in the Lochaber community in the New Year seeking backing for an ambitious regeneration based on acquiring land for local homes and businesses.

After the deadline for responses expired on Sunday the group counted 89 returns received from almost 200 forms sent out. They estimate 148 of the dwellings are permanently occupied, giving a highly credible response rate of 60.14 per cent.

On the questionnaire, MCLASG sought approval for seven objectives, vowing to pursue them if majority community support was forthcoming. Morvern residents overwhelmingly voted 'yes' to all seven.

Opening discussions with local landowners to discuss possible areas of land that could be sold/offered to the

local community carried by 77 to 11; the creation of new crofts 64-18; the community registering an interest in land under the community right to buy scheme 65-16; acquiring land under the community right to buy scheme 64-18; the purchase of land for potential business use 71-13; the purchase of land for affordable housing for local people 69-14 and the purchase of areas of land for possible renewable energy schemes by 72-13.

Residents voted 73-14 in favour of MCLASG pursuing the proposals on their behalf. MCLASG members invited *The Oban Times* to Lochaline to view the survey results. Responses included: 'Pursue this with utmost urgency - the community is dying out and time is running out. Diversity of land ownership is the key to a vibrant community.'

'Morvern needs this movement. Crofts would have to be worked and not sold on as lots.'

'I find it strange that Morvern seems to be populated by so many folk

with no real connection or access to the land that at one time would have been tilled by their forefathers.'

'If you do affordable housing, make sure it's kept for locals and not sold off for private buyers and outsiders.'

'Morvern has long been at the bottom of the pile when it comes to receiving political and economic support.'

But one said: 'We do not think using the land reform act, as a basis for your proposed actions to help the community is appropriate for Morvern where many of the landowners are regarded as long-established members of the community.'

'There are many other ways by which the community could be aided; yet you say you are concentrating solely on land acquisition.'

The response represents a major boost to the group, which counts ferrymen, a forestry supervisor and retired doctors among its number. Community landowners in Knoydart and Harris have already been in touch offering their support.

Continued on page 8.

Public open day on A82 Fort William roadworks

TRANSPORT Scotland and Scotland Transerv are to hold a public 'information and consultation day' on future works on the A82 through Fort William.

The event will be held in the Alexandra Hotel on Wednesday February 10 from 9am until 8pm. The main works are on a 1.4km section from south of the Croit Anna hotel to the Clan Macduff Hotel and 350 metres between Westcroft

and Seafield Gardens access. Work is currently scheduled to start on Sunday April 11 and will follow a nighttime closure regime from 9pm to 6am, Sunday to Thursday for 14 nights. Further resurfacing works between Seafield Gardens' access north to the West End roundabout and the imminent renewal of traffic signals at Inverloch junction will also be up for discussion. Local business interests and shift

workers have criticised the overnight closure plan, but Scotland Transerv say the narrowness of the road rules out all other options. A spokesman said: 'It is vital we plan our works to meet the needs of the community so we rescheduled these essential works from 2009 to allow further discussion between Transport Scotland, The Highland Council and the local community.'



Firefighters visit Barcaldine Primary School

Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Green Watch from Oban went to Barcaldine Primary School recently to deliver a home safety message to pupils. The children were encouraged to make a home fire action plan so they would know what to do and how to get out in the unfortunate event of a fire in their home. Pupils were given the chance to look over the fire engine and ask the firefighters questions.

Where did famous author stay?

WORLD famous author JD Salinger, who died this week, spent an extended stay on the west coast in the 1960s while he was writing one of his unpublished manuscripts.

Readers of *The Oban Times* are being urged to discover if it was their home, or hotel, in which the Catcher in the Rye recluse stayed. A spokesman for the writer said: 'With the passing of Mr Salinger it is hoped that his unpublished manuscripts, that he refused to have published in his lifetime, will be found and published. Mr Salinger spent a very fruitful time on the west coast of Scotland and it is hoped that we could find out where it was that he stayed, and if he left any mementos behind.'

Public Information Day - A82 trunk road works, Fort William

Information Day:

Time:

Venue:

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Dunbeg man committed two breaches of the peace

A DUNBEG man has been fined £650 for two breaches of the peace in the village in a two-month period.

Thomas Andrew Barr, aged 28, of 3 Castle Road, pleaded guilty to the two offences in Oban Sheriff Court last week. The court heard on September 13 2009, he chased a man who had taken his mobile phone, following him to an address in Lochnell Road and kicking the door and doorway to gain entry.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said Barr became annoyed when the man threatened to damage his phone by throwing it out of a window.

In a separate incident on November 8, the court heard he shouted, swore and refused to leave an address in Hillside when asked by police officers to do so.

As well as a fine for each incident, Barr was ordered to pay £75 compensation towards the damage to the door.

Gigha islanders get choice on school

CHILDREN and parents from the Isle of Gigha are to get a say on whether they go to secondary school in Campbeltown or Tarbert.

Argyll and Bute Council's executive committee agreed unanimously last week to launch a consultation on which school catchment area the island falls into. Councillor Robin Currie told the executive: 'There is only one reason they are asking for this. Children lost 15 days' education last year because of weather and the ferry having to leave so they could not get to school. If they had a choice of school, the ones with relations in Tarbert would send their children to Tarbert and the ones with relations in Campbeltown would send them there.'

Children from Tayinloan have a choice of secondary school, but those from Gigha, who have to go through the village to catch the school bus, must go to Campbeltown Grammar.

The council's education spokesperson Isobel Strong said: 'I don't see why the parents of Gigha should not get the same choice. It isn't going to cost the council anything; the bus goes anyway. Gigha is a special case.'

Island mum Heather Gorman said she was 'absolutely delighted' to hear the news. 'It was really stupid to begin with, not letting Gigha into the Tarbert catchment area.'

'I feel really strongly about it. It's about the safety and welfare of the children.'

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AS FROM NEXT WEEK THE CINEMA LISTINGS WILL APPEAR IN THE WHAT'S ON GUIDE

The Book Of Eli (15)
Post apocalyptic action film starring Denzel Washington as a lone warrior who must fight to protect the secrets contained within a mysterious book which could bring humanity the knowledge to save itself.

All About Steve (12A)
Sandra Bullock plays an eccentric crossword puzzle constructor who, after one short but sweet blind date, falls for handsome cable news cameraman Steve. Convinced they are soul mates, Mary stalks Steve across the country through one bizarre situation after another.

Sex & Drugs & Rock & Roll (15)
Ian Dury's punk-poet spirit infuses this biopic of the late Essex singer, who fought addiction, depression and polio to becoming a national treasure as gravel-voiced front man of The Blockheads.

Bugsy Malone (U)
New York, 1929, a war rages between two rival gangsters, Fat Sam and Dandy Dan. But Dan is in possession of a new and deadly weapon, the dreaded 'splurge gun'. With an all-child cast placed in a mobster era, armed with custard instead of bullets and belting out some superb songs, simply entertainment at its best. Originally released in 1976.

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
A friend can bring news of someone you haven't heard of for a long time. There can be a reunion planned or you could simply bump into one another. If you are solo, you may ponder why a previous relationship didn't work out. However, solace does lie in all group activities. Talk over how you feel. You may be surprised at just how empathises with you. Call me now for your love scope in full...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
Strength comes in numbers this week Taurus, so if you feel a bit tremulous about attending a function, go along with a pal. The same can be true if you are keen to take up a new interest. You may grow to appreciate one friend more and more. This person is unlikely to demand your attention, and this trust is something you can really come to appreciate. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Travel hopes can go from talking about it, to actually making it happen. Jobs linked to travel and distribution can also feature. Personal relationships at work remain highly important and you can find yourself becoming more appreciative of an older person, who up until now you have been wary of. A real bond can develop as ideas and experiences are shared. Call now for more astral advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
If your love life has been blissfully sizzling Cancer, you may find you and yours discussing the merits of some time away from each of your everyday routines. This may be to go to a highly rated restaurant or to book a mini-break. Yet if you are someone who thrives in business, a new and unusual partner or mentor can be someone you really click with. Call for your love scope in full...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
There has been a lot of talk recently and some of it may have been well meant. Perhaps it's you who has been doing most of the chatting Leo! Yet with Mercury now speeding up, you can start to view events more logically, and perhaps even with more detachment. Your ability to listen and acknowledge the points of view of others, is the crucial issue. Call me for more news and advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Fantastic news, as glamorous Venus enters your partnership sector. Already there are the fortune bringer Jupiter, and the innovative Uranus and all this activity can spark your competitive instincts, but you can mask these under a cloak of silky diplomacy. This can see you win over your rivals. If you meet someone new now, a seminal moment Virgo. Call me now for your love scope in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Work prospects improve greatly as the week progresses, aided by a very bubbly and creative theme. Mars has also wound so much that it forges a great link with Saturn, in your sign. Maybe something you had discounted in the past or thought had come to an end, could come back into view, but work out much more consistently this time. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
If you find yourself retracing your steps over a touchy business issue, don't see it as a failure, but a second chance to get things onto a better footing. Peace of mind is important to you Scorpio. Brilliantly, your love and social life can absolutely explode with possibilities as the week ticks down, with someone glamorous and kindly, catching your eye. Call for your love scope in full...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
If the concept of a "business in a bedroom" has yet to hit on your senses, it can do this week, as the buzzy Mercury creates a super angle to the innovative Uranus. Put on your thinking hat. What could you buy or sell? Similarly you can use a smart approach to making your home run more efficiently. In love, someone can be sultry, but can you trust them? Call me now for your financial forecast...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
You can be careful with your resources, but also like the odd splurge. Yet if you invest time, energy or money in anything more trivial this week, you could end up regretting it - if you are too impulsive. Yet there's little doubting you can be extremely mind-sharp and one scheme you have been trying to get off the ground all year, can finally happen. Call now for more news and advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Someone could be jealous of all the attention that you're receiving. Generally, this is an emotion you prefer to avoid, yet you're not immune from its gut wrenching effects, so try to understand why this might be. Perhaps they have issues of their own. Yet by this week's end, there is a good chance to sort things out and get them onto a better footing. Call your special prediction line for more news...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
Venus can trigger a mutual admiration society between yourself and someone you meet. This may be platonic, but you can both really feed off one another's different qualities. In a love relationship, even if things have been unsettled, you may discover there is more affection than you thought. However, if a parting has occurred, it's time to look forwards. Call me for your love scope in full...

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Skipinnish led Oman's Burns night celebrations.

From Oban to Oman with connections in between

TOP west coast band Skipinnish had a Burns night gig with a difference this year, at the British Ambassador's official residence in Oman.

The group was invited to lead the Burns Supper celebrations for ex-pats in the Middle Eastern country by the Caledonian Society of Oman.

Both Kenneth MacFarlane, chieftain of the society, and British Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Neol Guccian said it was a thrilling performance.

They said: 'The band were fantastic and gave us a night of music we will remember for a long time to come. We very much hope to invite Skipinnish back to Oman in the near future.'

Skipinnish's Angus MacPhail, who runs Oban's Skipinnish Ceilidh House, said the band came to the exotic concert fresh from a sell-out performance at Glasgow's Celtic Connections festival.

'It was an amazing week,' he said. 'The concert in Glasgow was fantastic and totally packed, then the trip to Oman was just out of this world.'

Band member Andrew Stevenson added: '2010 started with a bang, and we're looking forward to everything the year ahead will bring.'

'We have some new artists lined up for our record label and for the first time in years we're going to clear the diary for a Skipinnish summer tour in the Highlands and Islands. We look forward to seeing you there.'

Inveraray club tunes up for another musical year

INVERARAY and District Accordion and Fiddle Club held its first meeting of the New Year in the Argyll Hotel on January 13.

Thankfully the severe frost and ice had started to ease, thus ensuring that a reasonable crowd got the club off to a good start for 2010.

Supporting players were Fyne Folk, with Janette Gibson on accordion, Sally Hall, Duncan Crawford and Jake MacKay on fiddle, Agnes Liddell on keyboard and Grant MacDougall on drums; Margaret Graham, Allan McIntosh, John Weaks and Alex and Arlene MacKechnie on accordion; on keyboard Margaret Campbell and Jimmy MacDonald on drums, Sandy MacDonald.

Guest artists were John Douglas and his Scottish Dance Band from Dumfries, paying their first visit to Inveraray. With John on lead accordion, Willie MacRobert on second

box, Ian MacRobert on drums and Iain Kirkpatrick on fiddle, they entertained the audience to around 20 delightful sets ranging from slow airs, waltzes, pipe marches and two-steps to jaunty jigs and rousing reels, with some very amusing stories from John in between.

As the band had a three-hour journey ahead of them, no time was wasted in letting them get through their well rehearsed programme to enable the evening to be brought to a close a bit sharper than usual.

Chairman, Niall Iain MacLean, thanked the band for making the long journey in not the best of conditions and also all the 'local' players for their contribution to another great night.

Next week the Club welcomes another newcomer - Susan MacFadyen and her Scottish Dance Band from West Kilbride.

WELCOME to the SEA LIFE Annual Pass

FOLLOWING the success of last year's annual pass scheme, the Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary and The Oban Times have teamed up again to bring you another great offer.

Collect the SEA LIFE PASS token from each of the next three weeks of The Oban Times and enjoy huge savings on an annual pass.

To get this very special deal - collect a token each week over the next 3 weeks

When you have all 3 tokens (3 per person) take them to the Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine near Oban along with two passport size photographs, and ask for your special deal on a SEA LIFE Annual Pass.

With your tokens, an annual pass will cost £6 for children under 14 (normally £20) and £8 for adults (normally £30) - you can now enjoy 12 months unlimited entry into 10 UK Sea Life centres and Sanctuaries.

With your new membership you can dive beneath the sea without getting wet at any of our UK SEA LIFE centres and Sanctuaries* - choose from Birmingham, Blackpool, Brighton, Great Yarmouth, Gweek, Hunstanton, Loch Lomond, Oban, Scarborough and Weymouth!

Not only will you get 12 months unlimited FREE entry into the 10 UK SEA LIFE centres and Sanctuaries*, you can also take advantage of other discounts exclusive to SEA LIFE Annual Pass holders:

- 20% off Gift Shop
- 20% off hot drinks in the café
- Half Price Guide Book
- £5 off entry into York and Edinburgh Dungeons
- Special events onsite for pass holders

If you have not provided a photo to us there are a few things you need to do to activate your new SEA LIFE Annual Pass:

- Ensure you have signed the card
 - On your next visit using your SEA LIFE Annual Pass, you must take along two passport sized photographs so that our dedicated team can activate the card
- *Please note that without two passport sized photographs to activate your card, entry into SEA LIFE will not be permitted

Finally, enjoy your visits and we hope to see you soon!

* SEA LIFE Annual Pass is not valid for entry at SEA LIFE London Aquarium

The Scottish Sealife Sanctuary has teamed up with The Oban Times for their new passes



A hundred pairs of feet put on their dancing shoes for charity

AROUND 100 people put their dancing shoes on for a 24-hour fund-raising danceathon in Carinish Hall last weekend.

The event started at 8pm on Friday night, and finished with a ceilidh on Saturday evening.

Six stalwarts danced for the entire 24 hours, with Neil and Morag MacPherson of Benbecula at the fore.

The pair are tutors to the North Uist Dance Club, and run the dance class at Stoneybridge. Following in their footsteps were Mary Godden from Daliburgh, who founded the first danceathon four years ago, Cathy MacKinnon of Tagasa Uibhist, Calum Martindale of Lochboisdale, and Joe MacNeil who came from over from Barra.

Live musicians accompanied the dancers throughout much of the day and night, including Alec MacDonald, Ian Sutherland, Chris Mitchell, Iain MacPhail, John Angus Maclean, Mary McInnes, Billy MacPhee, Roddy Macleod, Frankie Wallace, Paul Maclean, while Calum Ian MacCorquodale came in at the end to give the ceilidh an electric charge.

Friends and supporters brought in food and refreshments to fuel the dancers throughout the period.

Neil MacPherson said: 'There were 195 dances. I missed 11 for food breaks or to have a shower, but Joe



Musicians Chris Mitchell, Alec MacDonald and Ian Sutherland keep the dancers moving.

MacNeil danced every one. 'You were alright as long as you didn't sit down!'

Mr MacPherson added that he was happy with the way the danceathon went, with people braving poor weather to join in at all hours.

By the end of the day, the danceathon had netted around £1000 through donations at the door and the raffle, but more will come in through sponsorship.

Mr MacPherson said: 'The money is going to local charities, with particular emphasis on cancer care. Funds for looking after people at home during the final stages have been dwindling, so we want to help with that.'

Request your favourite film at Oban cinema

FILM fans can now see their favourite movies of all time in Oban after Highland Theatre offered to take requests from customers for its Saturday matinee.

Last weekend the cinema's showing of Toy Story was busy and this Saturday Bugsy Malone will be shown in a bid to give customers something different.

Cinema owner Gavin Fraser said: 'Anyone who has requests for films we can show in the future can get in touch.'

'Families are always at the mercy of what is being shown at the time and there aren't always family films on offer.'

'By putting on the special Saturday matinees, it gives families something to do when the weather is bad.'

Abbamania competition winners

WINNERS of the Abbamania competition are Luigi Lopez, Oban; Barbara Coughland, Oban; Elizabeth Campbell, Dunbeg; Annmarie Campbell, Dunbeg and Ina McKechnie, Oban. Each winning two pairs of tickets for the show in the Corran Halls on Friday, February 12.

The winners correctly found there were 14 song titles in the copy.



The Celtic Connections 2010

THE torchlight parade and opening concert went like they should with a sparkle and a bang. The weekend boasted a wealth of possibilities with the first of 1,500 artistes getting it away to a flying start.

Blair Douglas and his band were playing the old parish church at the top of Byres Road - Oran Mor. So decision made! The 'great music' stop it is. Speaking to Blair before the off - he is delighted!

'Aye - half the family are here and friends from all over the highlands have com,' he volunteers.

Blair Douglas is a master craftsman and when he goes on stage he is at home - the man and the accordion.

Over the years the man from braes on Skye has crafted some great tunes - many with the island Gael as the influence but after a trip to the states some years ago the Celtic Cajun in him came out and he is just as masterful of that art.

We are not long into the night when he brings on his secret weapon - the beautiful voice of Kathleen MacInnes. The deep and breathy vocals are blended into favourites like 'S Barail Leam (that's what I think!)

We are soon jiggling along to the Guga Hunter, swaying to Kate Martins waltz and having our heart strings pulled by a Soldiers Lullaby.

Mull rocks

AN Tobar is 10. A great deal of water has gone under the Aros Bridge since then and some legends of music have played in the 60 capacity main auditorium.

Three bands came together to celebrate at the Royal Concert hall for the work of Gordon Maclean and many other unsung heroes it may never lasted. 'A lot of folk have come to support tonight,' Gordon told me afterwards. 'Many of the Mulleachs too!' And support they did cheering along to the chorus of 'Browns - The ironmongers!' as Dave Milligan and his Trio delighted us with the jazz and soundscapes, celebrating 'Duncan's' 'Tackle and books' and 'Catriona'. You couldn't make it up!

Aiden O'Rourke overcame allegations of modesty and played his heart out on his 'An Tobar' suite. Accompanied by Martin Green on the Box and Catriona McKay on harp they played another 50 minutes and then we had the icing on the cake in the form of Colin McIntyre with his 'Island' album played live.

Texas songs - no campfire!

THE FESTIVAL has many connections but bringing in Tom Russell, Kimmie Rhodes, Sam Baker and Slaid Cleaves for Texas songwriters in the round was inspired.

Speaking to Tom Russell beforehand, I asked what the connection was. 'Oh just Texas,' he drawled 'but I feel a bit out of it as I was born in Los Angeles and live 600 miles away from these guys, over on the Mexican border. They are Austin people.'

From Baker's laid back style where he almost talks his songs to the delight of the gentle vocals of Rhodes - which have made her a success with multi platinum sales via other artistes the evening was memorable.

Cleaves has only one big singer to his name - Russell Crowe 'but he ain't got an album deal yet,' he smiles, lamenting that the big bucks had not come his way yet.

Together with Russell - himself a legend of American song writing as evidenced by his latest album Blood and Candle Smoke, they were a treat to behold.

The voice of an angel indeed!

SEAN Connery once commented that Taynuilt's Karen Matheson 'had a voice that is surely touched by God'.

Last Saturday in the grand hall of the City halls we were reminded of the supremacy of her vocals. Whether on Ae fond kiss accompanied by Aly Bain - the godfather of fiddle music, or while on the vocal acrobatics of the port a beul, she is the queen of the Scottish song - Gaelic or English.

Supported by the Scottish ensemble that opened the performance alongside Shetland fiddle legend Aly Bain, it was a great night.

Bain joined the classical musicians for excerpts from his Follow the Moonstone suite. Much of the Capercaille team were out on the night including Ewan Vernal on Bass, Mike McGoldrick on bodran, flute and whistles and Donald Shaw on grand piano and accordion, as well as 'his wee musical box that he got at the Barras for a pound,' she explained.

Campell Cameron

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Cousins follow in lucky footsteps

A PROLIFIC competition winner seems to have passed on her good luck to her Rangers-mad grandchildren, who represented their team at last night's CIS Cup semi-final.

Jean Morrison, from Dunbeg, is well-known locally for her competition exploits, which have seen her win a car, holidays, football world cup tickets and a laptop, a replica of Princess Diana's engagement suit and even won a competition to open the new Tesco store in Oban.

But Jean was delighted when her grandchildren, cousins Ryan and Kieran Morrison, told her they had won a competition to be a flag bearer and a mascot, respectively, at Rangers' semi-final match against St Johnstone.

Heroes

Ryan, aged 11, and Kieran, aged eight, won the chance to walk out at Hampden with their heroes after winning a national newspaper competition. Ryan won a similar competition in 2008 when he was a mascot for the CIS Cup Final.

Jean said: 'Ryan won the competition first and Kieran couldn't believe that his cousin was going to be a mascot for the second time, so he entered as well and his luck was in too.'

'I'm just very lucky in competitions and it seems I have passed that on to the boys.'

The boys' fathers, Dean and Greig, won tickets for the match as a result and said they were looking forward to the game.

Ryan quickly reminded them that they wouldn't be going if it weren't for their sons.

'Are you going to walk to Hampden?' came Dean's response.



Prolific prizewinner Jean Morrison looks to have passed on her luck to grandsons Kieran, left, and Ryan, who both won tickets to see Rangers at Hampden. 07_06gers01



Staff at Homebase Oban pedalled 386 miles for charity. 07_05Shome01

Pedal power to help Haiti victims

STAFF at Homebase Oban got on their bike to support the company's charity of the year, British Heart Foundation, and the victims of the Haiti earthquake.

Employees pedalled 386 miles, the distance from Oban to Carlisle and back, on an exercise bike provided by Energie Fitness Club and asked customers to sponsor them.

Store manager Andy Spence said: 'Half of the proceeds will go to the British Heart Foundation and half to the Haiti appeal.'

Generous

'We are one of the highest earning stores in the company for charitable causes; we are currently number two in Scotland, so that show you how

generous the staff and customers are here.

'We are cycling the equivalent of Oban to Carlisle because we are the most northerly store in Homebase's west region and Carlisle is the most southerly.'

The challenge took place over a Friday and Saturday, with staff taking turns to help clock up the mileage.

Difficulties of archaeology unravelled to history society

DR ALAN Hall from Glasgow University gave a lecture on the difficulties of Landscape Archaeology to Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society.

Dr Hall is a geo-archaeologist who has travelled extensively with his work. He explained, using examples from Scotland and Greece, the difficulties of evaluating sites especially if they had continued human activities over the centuries.

Learning to look further than the archaeologist's trenches was essential in site assessment as well as looking at the longer term danger to sites and their value for preservation.

Society members are looking forward to Brigadier John Macfarlane, Taynuilt talking about the folklore and place names of mid-Lorn on Friday February 12 at the Undercroft, Glencruitten Church Hall at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Comfort of a card to Cherish

A WEST coast charity has come up with a sincere way of raising cash for luxury transport for palliative care patients.

The Cherish Fund (Oban) has designed and printed a comfort card. Jean Bowman, chairperson, said: 'Our cards have been produced for people to send a message of sympathy. The cards have a verse by Olwen Goulding that will be meaningful for anyone who is grieving through the loss of a loved one.' The cards can be purchased from The Shower of Herring restaurant in Kilmelford.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

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Saturday 6th February @ 7pm at the Rugby Club
Quality Prizes
There will be something for everyone
Special Guest 'Mr Scotland' Gavin MacDonald
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Comunn Gaidhealach an Obain
Ceilidh
Masonic Hall, Oban
Saturday 6th February, 2010, 7.30pm
Artists
Catriona Fair, John Howie
Morag Smith, Sandy Mollison
Pipes: Ian Hurst
Accordian: Hector MacFadyen
Fear an Taigh: Donald Harrison
Admission £5

Auction Sale
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Friday 12th February 2010 at 6pm
Viewing from 5pm
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Oban Art Society
A Tale of Warp and Weft
Talk and demonstration
Louise Oppenheimer
Lorn Resource Centre,
Soroba Road, Oban
Friday 5th February 7.30pm
Visitors Welcome

Oban Community Sensory Garden
Please support your community Garden Fundraising Evening.
OLD OBAN SLIDE SHOW
Presented by John MacLean
11th February 2010
Lynn Court, Soroba Road, Oban 7pm
Adm. £3
Inc. Tea/Coffee/homebaking.
Should any over 60's require transport tel Marion on 566053 prior to the evening

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 10th February at 8.00pm
Guest Artists
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Supporting players most welcome

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Jura author's home to be protected

ANIMAL Farm author George Orwell's is to have his first home placed on protection list.

But far from the writer's one time home on the Isle of Jura, his first house is no more than a mud hut in the East Chandriha district of Motihari.

The writer, famous for works such as Nineteen Eighty Four and Down and out in Paris and London, was born in the Indian region while his father and mother were based there as directors of the opium industry in the country.

Orwell's house on Jura is now a holiday home where visitors can spend a week in complete solitude.

Mr D Dar from Oban was visiting family in the region and hoped that groups on the west coast would support the charity trying to repair the now dilapidated building.

He said: 'Some charity groups are already working in central rural Bihar. I hope that some interested party will take an interest and preserve this relic.'



Willie Cameron addresses the haggis.

Full house at Dalavich to celebrate the bard

THERE was a full house at the Dalavich Burns Supper last Saturday, which was organised by the Dalavich Improvement Group.

The haggis, carried in by Robert Connor and piped in by Duncan Leitch, was received by Willy Cameron whose address to the haggis was done with tremendous feeling, as was the Selkirk Grace by Richard Todd.

Toast

Apart from his vocal skills, Iain Alexander gave 'The toast tae the Lassies' in which he referred to his wife quite often.

Luckily, she was not present at the supper!

In her usual flagrant style, Grace Gok, in her reply to the toast, besmirched the name of most men

and was given a tremendous round of applause.

Jeanette Connor's own poem about a spider would have enthralled Rabbie.

Enraptured

The 'Immortal Memory' by Elizabeth Mullen had the audience enraptured on the life of Rabbie, and also of her policeman father.

Music and songs were performed by Adrian Shaw, David Booth, Iain Alexander and Willy Cameron.

The highlight of the evening was 'Tam O'Shanter' which Willie Cameron recited and performed with great gusto.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Fiona Lowrey, with special thanks being given to the catering staff and waitresses.

what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS >
Highland Theatre
THE BOOK OF ELI Cert 15, 117min
FRI-THUR 6.15, FRI-TUE 8.30 SAT/SUN MATINEE 4.00
ALL ABOUT STEVE Cert 12A, 98min
FRI-THUR 6.30, SAT/SUN MATINEE 2.00
SEX & DRUGS & ROCK & ROLL Cert 15, 114min
FRI-THUR 8.30
BUGSY MALONE Cert U, 93min
SAT/SUN MATINEE 1.30, 3.45 £2FOR CHILDREN UNDER 12

Saturdays > Junior Ski Training
Glencoe Mountain Ltd 10.30am - 2.30pm
Tel 07854 688408

Saturdays & Sundays > Glencoe Discovery
Glencoe Mountain Ltd Guiding service for
Tel 01855 851226 intermediate skiers

Friday 12 February > Abbamania
Corran Halls, Oban

Saturday 13 February > Abbamania
Queens Hall, Dunoon

Saturday 27 February > Soup Lunch
Connel Village Hall 12-2pm

WHAT'S ON

in association with the Highland Cinema,
George Street, Oban Tel: 01631 562444

gig argyll guide

your essential guide to live music in argyll

Friday 5th February > Crooked Reel
The Woody

Saturday 6th February > Danny Carroll
The Woody

Friday 12th February > George Noble
The Woody

Sunday 14th February > Ballochmyle
The Woody

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The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

What is an essential service?

MANY times over the years local authorities have claimed that they have made cuts when trying to balance the books in order to preserve 'essential services'.

But when those cuts could see some of the more vulnerable members of society, who have been encouraged to stand on their own two feet because they have been assured that support will be there for them, face living without their safety nets of support, at what point does something cease to be an essential service.

So many parts of our communities have been offered financial aid because they are 'vulnerable', 'fragile', in need of 'regeneration' only to find, now that there is financial hardship, the public purse is not just empty but full of holes. Are they the real victims of this recession?

Glasgow Letter

10 year birthday celebrations

THE TRADITIONAL Music Course at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama has produced many graduates since its inception but few will have been so successful as Angus MacPhail and Andrew Stevenson, or *Skipinnish* as they are better known.

Their 10th birthday celebration as part of Celtic Connections really took me back to the day when two young lads arrived at the school I taught in Glasgow's east end - not a hot bed of traditional music! - to introduce the pupils to the delights of the accordion and the bagpipes as part of Celtic Connection's education programme.

Not an easy task, I am sure you will agree, but even then, while still students, Angus and Andrew exhibited the qualities that would see them progress as businessmen.

Well, what do you say when two students hand you their business card?

From this beginning as a ceilidh band they have since become entrepreneurs with music related activities such as a recording company and the ceilidh house in Oban and at the recent birthday bash they were joined by some of those who have recorded with them.

Taking solo spots on stage were Rachel Walker, James Graham and Archie MacAllister and, of course, the boy band from Tiree, *Skerryvore*, were also present.

Add in young Seonaidh MacIntyre to the ranks of the usual *Skipinnish* line up, together with several other guests, and you will appreciate this was an evening of quality musicians.

Angus was in his usual good form with the microphone ensuring there was plenty of laughter in an evening brought to a close with seven of those on stage, including the man himself, playing the bagpipes.

Good luck to *Skipinnish* for the next 10 years and good luck to Angus for his forthcoming marriage from all his Glasgow supporters.

Finlay MacDonald and friends
ANOTHER early, and equally successful, graduate of the Traditional Music Course, Finlay MacDonald also featured at Celtic Connections.

Finlay is a member of staff at the National Piping Centre as well as being head of the degree course. He also has his own band and plays with *Deaf Shepherd*.
He was accompanied

on stage by Simon and Mark McKerrell, Kevin MacKenzie, John Spiers and Shetland fiddler Chris Stout and they played many of the traditional tunes as Finlay quoted 'which we all love'.

Later they were joined by brothers Patrick, piper, and Jacky, fiddler, and singer Maeve MacKinnon who sang in Hungarian so it was very much an international evening.

If the current students of traditional music are looking for role models they need look no further than to the boys of *Skipinnish* and Finlay MacDonald.

Mull and Iona Association

THE ANNUAL Gathering concert and dance will take place in the Glasgow University Union on Friday February 12 with the concert starting at 7.30pm and the dance, to the music of Gunna Sound, at 10pm.

Last year the association introduced a successful informal format for its concert and the committee is hopeful there will be a large attendance to hear the artistes Mary Catherine McNeil, Arthur Cormack, Anda Campbell and Fiona Happy. For tickets tel 0141 638 5200.

Diary dates

Thursday February 4: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Mick West, Dick Gaughan, Tollbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Friday February 5: Perth Gaelic Society, lecture/ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, Perth, 7.30pm.

Saturday February 6: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association Marag Supper, Partick Burgh (Lesser) Hall, 7.45pm.

Thursday February 11: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Wendy Weatherby Trio, Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Church, 7.30pm.

Friday February 12: Mull and Iona Association Annual Concert and Dance - see above. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Kathryn Tickell Band, Tollbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Saturday February 13: An Comunn Gaidhealach Stirling Branch ceilidh, Albert Halls, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

THE KEELIES will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Pneumatic Drills on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Deoch 'n Dorus/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Andrew MacDonald ceilidh band on Saturday and Simon Moran/Stewart Cameron on Sunday.

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



Party time at Kinlochleven - 1936

Murray Boyd of Ontario, Canada, sent us this week's flashback photograph which is of the Kinlochleven Church of Scotland Girls Guildry and Boys Brigade Christmas Party, 1936. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Incompetent management

Sir,
The driver being able to get from A to B should be the most important factor in any equation.

The appalling mishandling of the emergency road repairs at Achnacloich with, an apparent late decision to provide a convoy system, highlights yet again the lack of competent management in Transerv and Transport Scotland.

School children missing a day's teaching and the service bus diverting via Glencoe must never happen again.

Road distances are longer in the west highlands than in most of Scotland, as a result greater planning should take place. It's a pity the rail line was not better provided as it could have played an important role.

Colin C Maclean, Edinburgh.

Deer welfare concern

Sir,
Your recent coverage arising from the slaughter of 27 starving deer above Loch Arkaig in early January has brought sharply into focus a deep, underlying concern not only for deer welfare but for the fate of the men, women and children up whose livelihoods depend on them.

The many letters and telephone calls you have had from working stalkers, who are not usually noted for putting pen to paper, are testimony to the depth

of feeling this incident has provoked over a wide area.

The whole-scale eradication of deer, and the methods used to get rid of them by some powerful quangos in the name of conservation, has grown out of all proportion. This is not a game. If the deer go their loss will produce the biggest ecological disaster since the months and years following Chernobyl.

Thanks to the financial downturn and a world shortage, the cost of food is spiralling in our shops and supermarkets. Clearly we will soon have to be more self-sufficient which means marginal and arable land must be left for food production. Venison, shot in season and correctly handled, is a highly marketable commodity, trees are less edible and are better imported from Scandinavia where they are of a higher quality and cheaper to produce.

Questions must be asked about the circumstances surrounding the removal of so many deer from the Loch Arkaig plantation in one sudden cull, particularly when it was carried out by a government agency. As certificated members of the internationally recognised UK Woodland Assurance Standard and the local deer management group, the Forestry Commission knows, especially in relation to its membership of the former, it should be leading the way in good land stewardship.

There is an election this year. If aspiring candidates, no matter what party they represent, can address the deer issues, they will

certainly have my vote and I suspect those of a great many others throughout the West Highlands.

Iain Thornber, Morvern.

Dedicated stalkers

Sir,
In reply to Elizabeth's letter of January 28, there are plenty people who respect deer and they are the dedicated stalkers who work on privately owned estates.

Privately owned estates do not hand rear deer; they manage and look after the wild herd. There are many British landowners who manage their estates responsibly. Estates in the West Highlands do not make money and could not operate without these private landowners.

It is never nice to have to shoot an animal but deer numbers need to be controlled and estates use professional stalkers to select poor and old animals to be shot.

Often these poorer animals would die a slow death. I personally would not like to shoot a deer but I am glad some people do as the income generated from stalking is important to Scotland's economy as well as providing employment. In some rural areas estates are the main employers.

I also believe the majority of stalking guests respect the deer and realise it is a privilege to shoot one.

As for the issue of poor marksmanship, every guest has to demonstrate they can shoot at a target before going to the hill and if a deer is wounded the stalker quickly

shoots and kills it. I agree the Forestry Commission's treatment of deer is barbaric and it is good the public is now aware of its behaviour.

I hope public opinion will help change government policies and that deer will no longer be treated like vermin by government bodies.

Elizabeth MacLean, Ardgoath.

Appeals fallen on deaf ears

Sir,
I write in reply to Andrew Edwards, letters January 7.

He tells me to approach the French Consul for help in my incarceration but it has not answered letters or emails in the last two years.

In my previous prison the church raised the issue so often the prison director had me transferred to this place and the only religion here is Muslim.

As I do not speak Arabic I am not welcome.

President Sarkozy's office has not replied to any of my letters, or my family's emails. Gordon Brown did not reply.

Please don't tell me Mr Brown's office was not pulling the strings of Kenny MacAskill when he released a convicted terrorist and murderer, Abdelbasit Ali Mohamed Al Megrabi, last year.

Thank you for your concern Mr Edwards.

Perhaps you could put some pressure on your MP or MSP to do something about it.

Alistair Campbell, Centre of Detention De Bapaume CD, France.

Islay Letter

Monument restoration

THE GLASGOW Islay Association is seeking funding for the restoration of the memorial monument to the folklorist John Francis Campbell, better known as Iain Og Ile, situated at the top of Cnoc na Dal on the outskirts of Bridgend.

The monument was originally provided by the association along with a similar memorial to Hector MacLean, the Ballygrant dominie, who assisted Campbell in the collection of the West Highland tales.

Iain Og Ile was born in 1821 into the island ruling Campbells of Shawfield family. His father's bankruptcy in 1848 seriously affected his inheritance and he was forced to make his own way in the world. He went on to pursue an interest in science, was a top ranking civil servant and intrepid traveller. He frequently journeyed throughout the Highlands and Islands scrupulously recording traditional tales and was largely responsible for rescuing

hundreds of these from obscurity. These were collected and published in four volumes and are now regarded as of significant importance. Campbell spent his final years in the south of France where he died in 1885. He is buried underneath a replica of the Kildalton Cross in a cemetery in Cannes.

The island monument, in the form of an obelisk, was inaugurated in 1887 at a cost of £300, raised by subscriptions. The planned restoration will cost in excess of £2,300. More information available on www.glaslasyassociation.org.uk.

Feis Burns night

THE MALT Mill at Lagavulin Distillery provided a pleasing setting for the Islay Festival Association's annual tribute to our National Bard on January 23.

Eddie Pollard was the affable chairman, the haggis was vigorously addressed by Angus Kerr and Alastair Shaw honoured the toast to the 'Immortal Memory' in an informative and yet humorous style.

Humour and impudence were much to the fore in David Brodie's 'Toast to

the Lassies', and this led to a 'holding our ground' response on behalf of the fairer sex from Gill Johnstone, making her Burnsian debut.

Dorothy Carmichael was in splendid form as she accompanied 'Tam O' Shanter' on his journey and the traditional fare and the songs, from Robert Baker, Paul Hathaway and Alex Brown, all went down a treat.

Add in the music of the Islay Accordion and Fiddle Band and this made for an evening that Robbie himself would have enjoyed.

Unwanted wanted!

IF YOU have any unwanted Christmas or other gifts, Cartier watches and Tiffany lamps included, the IDEA Resource Centre at Bowmore will be delighted to take them off your hands.

The charity plans to sell any such gifts at a fund-raising event in March.

All such items should be handed into the centre by the end of February and complete anonymity is guaranteed.
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCAIG



'I don't regret anything'

ALTHOUGH the current Prime Minister Gordon Brown acceded to an inquiry into the invasion of Iraq which he knew would pose more questions than it would be allowed to answer, he also knew that the majority of those who live in Britain wanted to know that his predecessor Tony Blair would have to account for why he, in tandem with President Bush, declared war on Iraq.

This needlessly caused British soldiers and airmen to be killed while claiming that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction and the ability to attack London with long range missiles within 45 minutes.

Although the terms of the Chilcot enquiry are such that if Tony Blair did give evidence he would be forced to answer some of these questions, both have ensured that the terms of reference, while seeming at first glance equitable would allow both of them to answer the minimum of awkward questions, referring to documents that are still classified and therefore cannot be revealed to the public, and nothing to be said on oath.

This has led inevitably to allegations of 'whitewash'.

And so it has proved to be. What happened when the the Attorney General went to America that forced him to change his mind so dramatically over the legality of the war against Iraq.

There was no straight, easily understood answer; it was in classified material, you will understand.

Same procedure with the then Home Secretary Jack Straw who, at least admitted, that he had strong reservations about the legality of an invasion of Iraq without a second UN Resolution; but he still supported it in Cabinet.

As for Tony Blair - now a 'Peace Envoy' - he sounded as though he did not want to admit that it was a big boy - President Bush - who told him to do it but not to tell the rest of the world.

However, what has shocked all of us who have always believed there were no 'weapons of mass destruction' and no legal reason why we should be declaring war of a sovereign state - no matter how abhorrent - was because the Prime Minister thought that Saddam Hussein was a 'monster'.

Given the way the inquiry is structured, it could not be put to him that there were and are numerous 'monsters' in control of states who would be equally worthy of being 'removed' by force, including one who is, or was, a member of the Commonwealth.

The sad thing is that Mr Blair now masquerades as 'a peace-maker' when he is really a warmonger of the Oliver Cromwell genre, believing that he is divinely inspired to eliminate those whom he considers evil but ignore others who are only somewhat 'unacceptable'.

Scottish islanders take ITV control

JOHN Logie Baird, a Scot from Helensburgh, invented television and has been followed by a number of his kinsmen in playing pivotal roles in its development and control.

'Cometh the hour, cometh the man' is often said when crossroads are looming and the common man looks for someone of vision to lead the way. Lord Reith, although dead for many years, is still mentioned with awe for the seminal years during which he was Director General of the BBC. Some may say that he was a 'dour presbyterian'; during his tenure of office a period of consolidation was required and established.

That ITV, with a mountain of debt and not many outstanding programmes to its credit in recent years, needs to have a chairman and a chief executive who have the ability to distinguish between froth that has been all too obvious in its schedules and programmes that will stop the viewers in their tracks - not because of their salacious content but for their memorable ingenuity and superb presentation.

Now, we have at the top two men who will lead ITV to new successes and many awards. And both come from Scottish islands. The chairman is Archie Norman of ASDA fame who has close ties to Lismore and a home there and Adam Crosier, boss of Royal Mail, who comes from Bute.

Pipes for school pupils

JUST as the wearing of the kilt has become fashionable again and a sign of growing national pride, so has the desire of many young people to take up the bagpipes as well as the guitar, clarinet and big base drum.

Of all these instruments the pipes are a major investment.

The Schools Piping Tuition Scheme, a joint venture between the Argyll Piping Trust - the charitable arm of the Argyllshire Gathering - and Argyll and Bute Council, has just been awarded £10,000 of Lottery funding through its Awards for All Scheme and this is to be used for the purchase of pipes to be loaned to promising young pipers.

When I spoke to this year's Senior Steward at the Argyllshire Gathering, Peter Forrester, he told me that 'the award will enable our efforts to build on the acknowledged excellence that is booming increasingly visible internationally'.

But he also admitted that £10,000 will probably only buy around 12 sets of pipes as they are pretty expensive these days.

McCaig

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 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.

PRESS POLICY

WE AT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

It is the policy of *The Oban Times* Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

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

Laggan Texel lambs top Fort William

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 768 sheep at Fort William last Friday when lambs averaged £44.31 and sold to £78 for Texel crosses from Blargie Farm, Laggan.

Ewes and gimmers averaged £29.25 and sold to £70 for Suffolk ewes from 1 Bunnacaimbe, Arisaig.

Rams and widders averaged £33.63 and sold to £64 for a Cheviot from Ardtornish Farms.

Prime lamb trade firm at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 70 prime cattle and 1,224 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 167.4p (-0.7p) and sold to 183p per kg for a 525kg Limousin cross from Bridgend Farm, Dingwall, to GreensFineMeats, Grantown on Spey, and £1,236.70 for a 745kg Charolais cross from Leanach Farm, Culloden.

Prime heifers averaged 168.5p (-3.4p) and sold to 175p per kg for a 585kg Limousin cross from Woodend, Killearnan, and £1,087.50 for a 625kg Limousin from Kildun, Dingwall.

Old season lambs averaged 200.4p (+22.6p) and sold to 220p per kg for 39kg Texel crosses from Drumancroy, Portmahomack, and £95.00 for 48kg Texels from Wester Raddery, Fortrose.

Blackface lambs from South Cuidreach, Skye sold to £86.20 and 207.7p.

Lochhead softens electronic tagging disappointment with £1 million

ELECTRONIC identification tagging of sheep (EID) became a reality in Scotland on January 1, with the formal introduction of the Sheep EID Pilot Project at an estimated cost to the industry of £3million.

Purchase of tags
To ease the financial burden, cabinet secretary Richard Lochhead has announced a £1million package over the next 12 months to cover part of the financial outlay facing Scottish farmers who will have to purchase electronic tags instead of the current conventional plastic ones.

There is also funding of up to £1,000 per farm available through the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) to assist with the purchase of electronic reading equipment for on-farm management. However, in a change to the original proposals, all Scottish farms will not need to have their own tag reader following the introduction of critical control points which will allow tags to be read at markets and abattoirs - with the information being recorded on a central database.

Farmers will also be able to utilise batch recording for 'withinbusiness' movements of sheep, removing the need for individual animal records as stock moves within a farm unit.

Single tags will be permitted on sheep which are due to be slaughtered within 12 months.

'Cutting farmers' costs'
Mr Lochhead said: 'Following two years of wrangling in Europe to achieve greater flexibility on tagging for Scottish farmers, we won important concessions to reduce its impact and cut farmers' costs by around 50 per cent. 'Now that we must implement these rules, I am keen we keep the system as simple as possible and maximise the opportunity to build on the excellent reputation that Scotch lamb already enjoys at home and abroad.'

'That is why I have decided, following thorough consultation with the industry, that all sheep should be electronically tagged, including those sent for slaughter. This will keep paperwork to a minimum, maintain traditional market

patterns and allow markets and abattoirs to operate as critical control points to the benefit of the whole sector.'

'The Scottish Government will be supporting the industry through the transition to full electronic identification over the coming year,' he said.

'We will be providing funding of £1 million to cover the additional cost of EID tags on partner farms, which will range from as little as £10 per farm to several hundred pounds, and offering up to £1000 per farm for those who choose to buy on-farm electronic reading equipment.'

And Mr Lochhead suggested that there may be an opportunity to change the scheme in the future.

'We will continue to fight for further concessions, including not having to tag animals until they leave the farm of their birth for the first time, which would assist hill sheep farmers in particular,' he said.

'Now that Europe has a new Commissioner, we have an opportunity to argue for these concessions and will be seeking an early opportunity to do so.'



'We will be providing funding of £1 million to cover the additional cost of EID tags' promises Richard Lochhead



Kintyre and District Ayrshire Breeders Club held its annual stockjudging competition at East Drumlemble Farm by kind permission of Willie and Catherine Ralston and family. Club chairman, Robin Barr, welcomed 94 competitors and introduced master judge for the evening, Alan Timbrell, Glebe Farm, Poole Keynes, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, who regularly visits Kintyre in his role as a representative of Alta Genetics. For the first time ever there was a three-way tie, on 270 points out of a possible 300, for the Ayrshire Cattle Society Cup for most points overall between two past winners - William G Ralston, Darloch and Robin Barr Calderglen and nine-year-old Christina Smith, Drumalea, competing as a junior. 04_c05ayr01

Cheviot ram lamb to £190 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts, sold 3,276 store and feeding sheep at Dingwall last Wednesday when all classes of store lambs met a similar high demand with prime and feeding ewes and rams selling slightly below the level of previous sales.

Lambs averaged £61.77 and sold to £190 for a Cheviot ram lamb from Balnakeil, Dumess. Ewes averaged £55.33 and sold to £92 for a Cheviot from Borowston Mains, Thurso while rams averaged £59.73 and sold to £420 for a Cheviot from Achantoul Farms, Kinbrace.

Islay heifers lead Stirling prime sale

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 225 prime cattle including young bulls and Over 30 Month cattle also 121 cast cows and bulls last Thursday at Millhall, Stirling.

Bullocks averaged 165.5p per kilo and sold to 190.5 p per kilo for a Limousin cross from Easter Auchtermuthill Farm, Muthill and to £1,248 per head for a 715kg bullock from Paddockhall Farm, Linlithgow.

Heifers averaged 164.5p per kilo and sold to 194.5 p per kilo for a Limousin cross from Aoradh Farm, Isle of Islay or to £1,316 per head for an 800 kilo heifer from Newhouse of Glamis, Eassie.

Market reports

FORT WILLIAM Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
SuffolkX: White House, Fort Augustus, £76;
Charolais: Blargie Farm, £74;
Cross: 4 Glebehill, Kilchoan, £71
Cheviot: Ockle, Acharacle, £69
TexelX: Mamore, Fort William, £67
Blackface: Blargie Farm, £67.
Ewes and gimmers:
Cross: Mamore, £49;
Cheviot: Swordie, Skye, £47;
Blackface: Mamore, £45.
Rams and widders:
Blackface widders
Callart Farm, Fort William, £63
Cheviot: Burnbank, Ardgour, £60
Blackface rams: Inverinate Estate, Kyle of Lochalsh, £55;
Lleyl ram: Hillside Farm,

Kilchoan, £55;
Texel ram: Ardtornish Farms, £50
Suffolk ram: Ardtornish Farms, £47.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs:
Cheviot: Balnakeil, £160 (twice);
SuffolkX: Teanluick Croft, Muir of Ord, (Ross), £88;
Blackface: Drynie Farm, Dingwall, £86;
Suffolk: Teanluick, Beauty, (Beaton), £84;
Cross: 220 Birichen, Dornoch, £84;
TexelX: Balmaglaister, Spean Bridge, £83;
Texel: Teanluick (Beaton), £82;
Mule: Teanluick Croft, (Ross), £77;
CharollaisX: Netherside, Castle-

town, £75;
Milk sheep: 1 & 2 Ose, Isle of Skye, £73;
Charnoise: Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch, £70.
Ewes:
Cheviot: Bindal, Portmahomack, £81;
TexelX: Ankerville, Nigg, £80;
Suffolk: Cantraybridge, Croy, £80;
Mule: Milldam, Meikle Ussie, £80;
Charnoise: Druid Temple Farm, Inverness, £80;
Cross: Lower Seafield, Portmahomack, £78;
HalfBred: Leanach Farm, Culloden, £69;
Blackface: Dundreggan Croft, Glenmoriston, £63.
Rams:
Cheviot: Achantoul Farms, £150;
Texel: Bunchrew Farm, £99;
Charollais: Allangrange Park, £91;

Suffolk: Cuilaneilan, Kinlochewe, £85;
Beltex: Lower Seafield, £85;
Bluefaced Leicester: Achnabat, Tomess, £83;
Blackface: Achnabat, and Aultgrishan Farm, Gairloch, £70.
Widders:
Cheviot: Ardgayhill, £67
Blackface: Silverwells, Edderton, £60;
Cross: Leanach Farm, £56

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks:
Up to 250kg Turbiskill £515, 238.6p;
251-300kgs - Toward £660, Turbiskill 223.8p;
301-350kgs - Hill of Armnore £705, Toward 220.4p;
351-400kgs - Scalpsie £845, Craillloch 217.3p;
401-450kgs - Scalpsie £845, 205.4p;

451-500kgs - Muircleugh £890, Carsloe 192p;
501-550kgs - Chesterstone £935, Netherton 174.4p;
551-600kgs - Holehouse £940, Chesterstone 165.5p;
601-650kgs - Claish £990, 163.1p;
651-700kgs - Kirkton £1060, North Shields 158p;
701kgs+ Holehouse £1130, 159.6p.
Heifers:
Up to 250kg Turbiskill £525, 235.3p;
251-300kg Roughside £570, Turbiskill 201.5p;
301-350kgs Wanton Walls £755, 237p;
351-400kgs Mid Shawton £760, 191p;
401-450kgs Farden £830, 192.1p;
451-500kgs Carsloe £845, Craigenon 182.8p;
501-550kgs - Longhouse £895, Auchensalt 168.6p; 551-

600kgs - West Muirhouse £880, East Shawtonhill 158.8p.
OTM cows:
Capenoch (AA) £945, 139p;
Rhynaclach (Lim) £935, 148.4p;
South Lanridge (HF) £875, 120.5p; Haughhead (Sim) £805, Auldton 141.8p; Cromlet (Fr) £725, East Titwood 91.1p; Cromlet (Jer) £555, 121.2p.
Sheep
Hoggs
High Milndovan (Btex) £82;
Ballimore (Che) £80; Loanleven (Che) £79; Harperstone (Tex) £78.50; Harelaw (Suff) £77.50, Dalmahoy (Suff) and Blackford (BF) £77; Craighton (Mule) £75; High Milndovan (Tex) and Berryhaugh (Mule) £73; Abercrombie and Urral (BF) £69;
Ewes:
Blackford (BF) £45.50
Rams;
Blackford (BF) £90.

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15 Years Ago
Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday February 2 1995

Fort ferret row
A LOCAL Government watchdog has decided that there are no grounds for a 'formal investigation' into why a Claggan family were refused permission to keep ferrets as pets.

But James and Alison MacLean have vowed to continue their fight by appealing against the decision.

The MacLeans complained to the Ombudsman after Lochaber District Council banned them from keeping the animals at their Polmona home.

The council's decision to ban the MacLeans from keeping ferrets followed a probe into the family's suitability to keep the pets. The investigation came about after one councillor claimed the couple had formerly kept a horse in a bedroom - an accusation

dismissed by Mr and Mrs MacLean.

But renewed pleas from the MacLean children forced the councillors to reconsider. It was then agreed to grant permission for the family to keep the ferrets in an outside cage for a six month probationary period, subject to an acceptable report.

Navy inquiry into 'pitched battle' in Campbeltown

THE Royal Navy has launched an internal inquiry into a pitched battle in Campbeltown involving crewmen from a destroyer and local youths.

Police arrived at the town's Main Street to find a large crowd of sailors from HMS Newcastle confronting a crowd of around 200 local youths.

still unclear how many were involved in the disturbance.

The sailors were shepherded into Hall Street by police. But a group of youths who had broken away from the crowds in Main Street ambushed the sailors in Hall Street and pelted them with rubble from nearby wasteland.

Oban in bid for 'ottery cash' jackpot

OBAN could be the winner in the National Lottery, with a bid for £1m of lottery funds being made to help finance the proposed extension to Atlantis Leisure Centre.

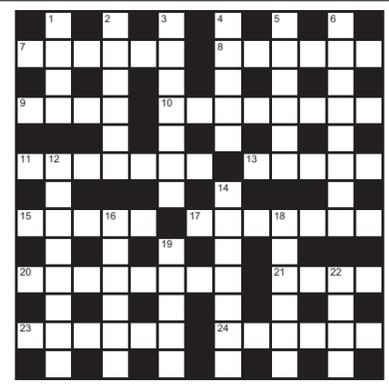
Oban and Lorn Community Enterprise unveiled its plans for a £2million sports hall and new look swimming pool complex at its annual general meeting on Monday night in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

If grants from the Scottish Sports Council, Objective One funding and Highland and Islands Enterprise are forthcoming, along with lottery cash, then Oban will go into the next century with sports facilities to equal the best anywhere, with a hall which can host regional and junior international sporting events.

And everyone in Oban can play their part in making their dream come true, by becoming a member - at a cost of only £1. There are nearly 600 members at present and Oban and Lorn Community Enterprise want this to increase.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

- Across
7 Cast out (6)
8 Land but away from other land... (6)
9 ...close (4)
10 Showing the way... (8)
11 ...to the sheltered side (7)
13 Former (5)
15 Melodic creation (5)
17 Glass conversion (7)
20 Surface protector (5,3)
21 The feeling after vigorous exercise (4)
23 Pain inflictor (6)
24 Liveliness (6)
- Down
1 Commanded (4)
2 Supple tree (6)
3 A magic charm (7)
4 Pig out (5)
5 Coat worn in Ireland? (6)
6 Intermittently (2,3,3)
12 Training trellis (8)
14 Sweet age (7)
16 Get back (6)
18 Lemon squeezer (6)
19 Flower cluster (5)
22 Enormous (4)



Last Week's Solution

1	I	O	D	I	D	E	S	1	G	E	N	I	C
2	N	E	E	A	O	I	O						
3	D	A	C	H	A	T	H	O	R	E	A	U	
4	I	I	D	R	D	C	E	N					
5	E	M	B	A	R	R	A	S	S	M	E	N	T
6	E	E	P	A									
7	P	O	L	I	C	Y	S	M	I	L	E	V	
8	E												
9	A	N	G	L	O	A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N
10	S	U	N	E	I	T	Q						
11	O	R	A	T	I	O	N	14	T	E	E	T	H
12	U	V	N	D	A	A	A	I					
13	P	R	A	N	G	S	T	I	N	G	L	E	T

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The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

Part Croft
78, 79 & 82 Portuairk, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart
Direction dated 27 January 2010 granted to James F Robertson. Area ext to 0.162 ha.

Conditions: The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.20288
Sithean, Maol, Kilfinichen & Kilveacon

Direction dated 27 January 2010 granted to Gordon I MacCormick. Area ext to 0.199 ha.

Conditions: The land is used for a house site. Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months of completion of the proposed development.

Case Number: 4.86.19275

The granting of these Directions may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.



Proposed Let of Part of a Croft

Mr Alistair Colthart, Tynribbie House, Appin, Argyll is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of part of the croft at 4 Kinlochlaich, Appin, Argyll to Mr James Colthart, 57 Pilgrims Hill, Linlithgow, West Lothian.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 4th March 2010, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made is forwarded to the applicant.

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To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk



PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location details below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications.

Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 25/02/2010

● Ref No: 09/01331/PP
Applicant: Mr Pete Cooper
Proposal: Siting of compost toilet using "Enviroloo" system.
Site Address: Land South East Of Ferry House, Kerrera, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 45X
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 09/01634/PP
Applicant: North Lanarkshire Council
Proposal: Erection of pontoon to provide wheelchair access
Site Address: Kilbowie Residential Education Centre, Gallanach Road, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4PE,
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00058/PP
Applicant: West Highland Housing Association Ltd
Proposal: Erection of 8 dwellings.
Site Address: Land South Of Forestry Houses, Aros, Isle Of Mull, Argyll And Bute, .
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Saleen

● Ref No: 10/00062/PP
Applicant: Mr I Macadam
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land East Of Dorlinn View, Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA75
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00095/AMSC
Applicant: Laura Martin
Proposal: Approval of conditions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 relative to outline planning permission reference 06/02217/OUT.
Site Address: Highlee, Bunnass, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute, PA67 6DN
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bunnass Isle of Mull

● Ref No: 10/00114/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs R J MacEachen
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land South Of Drimmin, Kilchrean, Taynuilt, Argyll and Bute, PA35 1HF
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt

● Ref No: 10/00120/PP
Applicant: James Smith And Co (Connell) Ltd
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 1 Ardoran, Lerags, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 45E
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00126/PP
Applicant: Black Mount Estate
Proposal: Run of river hydro electric scheme comprising intake, buried pipeline powerhouse and access tracks
Site Address: Achallader, Bridge of Orchy, Argyll and Bute, PA36 4AG
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalmary

● Ref No: 10/00145/PP
Applicant: Scottish Water
Proposal: Variation to condition 3 of planning permission reference 08/00045/DEI.
Site Address: Land Adjacent To Kenmore Cottages, Bonawe, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST. An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX and the location details below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications.

Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 25/02/2010

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 09/01351/PP
Applicant: Mr Mark T Piper
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and associated Bed and Breakfast accommodation.
Site Address: Land South Of Loch Connalibe Gearach, Port Charlotte, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

● Ref No: 09/01480/PP
Applicant: Colonsay Estate - Alex Howard
Proposal: Erection of two dwelling houses.
Site Address: Land South West Of Giarta Ghoban, Machrins, Isle of Colonsay, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

● Ref No: 09/01532/PP
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Mitchell
Proposal: Alterations and extension to main dwelling house to create a one and half storey dwelling
Site Address: An Gleann, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll And Bute, PA48 7UE,
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

● Ref No: 10/00164/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mitchell
Proposal: Conversion of existing store room to create a self catering holiday let unit.
Site Address: An Gleann, Port Charlotte, Isle Of Islay, Argyll and Bute, PA48 7UE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED 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 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX or the location details below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

● Ref No: 09/01840/PP
Applicant: Mr Jack Glover
Proposal: Erection of 9 Dwellinghouses
Site Address: Portnahaven Boatyard, King Street, Portnahaven, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute, PA47 7SP
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Portnahaven

● Ref No: 10/00016/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Neil Scott
Proposal: Erection of annex accommodation to existing B and B establishment
Site Address: The Inns Over-By, The Square, Bowmore, Isle of Islay, Argyll and Bute, PA43 7JP
Location of Plans: Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR or the location details below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

● Ref No: 10/00027/PP
Applicant: Mr Peter Cooke
Proposal: Erection of a sun lounge.
Site Address: Cullipool House, Cullipool, Isle of Luing, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4TX
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullipool

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 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1999 NOTICE UNDER REGULATION 13

Planning Application Reference Number: 10/00126/PP
Proposed development at Achallader, Bridge of Orchy, Argyll and Bute, PA36 4AG
Notice is hereby given that an environmental statement has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council by Black Mount Estate relating to the planning application in respect of Run of river hydro electric scheme comprising intake, buried pipeline powerhouse and access tracks notified to Argyll and Bute Council.

A copy of the environmental statement and the associated planning applications may be inspected during office hours in the register of planning applications kept by the Planning Authority at Dalriada House, Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST; and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and going through the "Online planning and Building Standards Application Information" system during the period of 28 days beginning with the date of this notice.

Copies of the environmental statement may be purchased from Black Mount Estate in either a hard copy at a cost of £100.00 or CD Rom at a cost of £20.00

Any person who wishes to make representations to Argyll and Bute Council about the environmental statement should make them in writing within the period to Mr R Kerr, Principal Planning Officer, Dalriada House, Lochneil Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8ST.

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or email - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

OBAN, LORN & THE ISLES AREA COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Area Committee for Oban, Lorn & the Isles will be held in the McCaig Suite, Corran Halls, Oban, on Wednesday 10th February 2010 at 10.30 am. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Any enquiries should be directed to: Kenneth Macdonald, Area Corporate Services Manager (Tel: 01631 567902).



The EU Birds Directive
proposed Special Protection Areas for golden eagles

On behalf of the Scottish Government, Scottish Natural Heritage is consulting over proposals to create up to six new Special Protection Areas for golden eagles.

You can comment on the proposals up to 7 April 2010.

Find out more at www.snh.org.uk Scottish Natural Heritage
All of nature for all of Scotland

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s). Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
09/00462/FULLO	Cuil-Bruach Mallaig PH41 4RH	Alterations & extension to house (amended design)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
09/00479/FULLO	Acharacle Fire Station Macnaughton Crescent Acharacle	Temporary installation of modular accommodation block (retrospective)	Acharacle Post Office (14 days)
10/00014/FULLO	Glencoe Police Station Glencoe Ballachulish PH49 4HP	Demolition of Existing Police Station and Erection of New Police Station	Glencoe Post Office (14 days)
10/00020/FULLO	28 Marquarie Court Cool Fort William PH33 7FP	First floor extension to house	Cool Post Office (14 days)
10/00021/FULLO	Thingvellir & Achnaloa Old Ferry Road North Ballachulish Ornic Fort William PH33 6SA	Replacement of 2 velux roof lights with 2 splayed roof dormers	Ballachulish Post Office (14 days)
10/00022/PIPLO	Land 500m North West of Moonstone Cottage Spean Bridge	Erection of house	Spean Bridge Post Office (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (STUCKINDROIN BRIDGE) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2010

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic and pedestrians on that length of the A82 Dalnottar to Inverness Trunk Road from a point 5.335 kilometres or thereby north of the unclassified access road to Sloy Power Station, Inverglas to its junction with the unclassified access road to Pier Cottage, Ardlui, a distance of 1.135 kilometres or thereby. The Order, which is required because works are being or are proposed to be executed on or near the said length of road for the purpose of tree felling, will be in operation from 8th February 2010 until midnight on 12th March 2010 but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The prohibition does not apply to vehicles while being used in an emergency for fire brigade, coastguard, ambulance or police purposes, vehicles while being used for carrying out the works, or persons carrying out duties in relation to the works. The prohibition will only be in place for short periods during the working day; at other times traffic will be allowed to pass under traffic signal control.

ALTERNATIVE ROUTE
There is no practical alternative route for use during the short closure periods which are planned to last no more than twenty minutes on any occasion. For information about roadworks on motorways and trunk roads visit www.trafficscotland.org.uk

D M C MACNEILL
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

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FOREST ENTERPRISE & GREENPOWER (CARRAIG GHEAL) LTD ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS (FORESTRY) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1999

The preparation of an Environmental Statement in connection with an application for consent under the Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry) (Scotland) Regulations 1999 for consent to construct and operate a forest road (GR from NM851.044 to NN035.238) north of Loch Awe, Argyll was advertised in this newspaper on 1 October 2009 in accordance with Paragraph 13 of these Regulations.

The Forestry Commissioners have now considered the application and the information provided in the Environmental Statement and have decided to provide consent for the project subject to the conditions held therein.

A copy of the decision, conditions and the main reasons and considerations on which the decision has been based can be obtained from Forestry Commission Scotland, Perth and Argyll Conservancy, Algo Business Centre, Glenearn Road, Perth PH2 0NJ.

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

North Argyll Stroke Support Association (N.A.S.S.A)
Charity No: SCO37937

Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 23rd February 2010 at 1.30pm
New members welcome

For further information contact 01631 564730

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A.G.M.
Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr
Saturday, 27th March, 2010
at 12.00 noon followed by A.G.M.
Taic Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr in Ionad Naomh Moluag
Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
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Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

CROFTERS COMMISSION
The following decrofting Direction has been granted:
Croft House Site and Garden Ground
1 Kilmoluag, Tiree
Direction dated 28 January 2010 granted to James G MacDonald. Area ext to 0.102 ha.
Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months.
Case Number: 4.85.21399

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
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2 Bedroom fully furnished flat, Lismore House. Parking space. Available March. Suit professional couple/person. £600 pcm plus council tax, utility bills and deposit. No pets, smokers or DSS. References required.
Apply D M MacKinnon, Solicitors, Station Square, Oban. Telephone 01631 563014.

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FURNACE, Argyll
End-Terrace, Furnished, 3 bedrooms, loch views, garden, wheelchair access, near surgery, shop, bus route,
£495 pcm + bills+tax.
Contact 0141 586 7093.
mark@timos.co.uk

HOUSE FOR RENT
2 bedroom furnished house with garden front and rear. 15 miles outside of Oban.
£475 pcm plus council tax and bills
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1 bed, central Oban flat.
Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating Fully Furnished
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Telephone 07958500942.

AUCTION

The following are among 45 Lots to be offered for Sale by Auction in Glasgow on 24th February 2010:

- NR FORT WILLIAM Redundant Treatment Works & Tank 770sq.m (0.19 Acre)
- NR FORT WILLIAM Weir with Reservoir - 0.85 Ha (2.1 Acres)
- NR AUGUSTUS Tank & Associated Sites 1,160sq.m (0.28 Acre) Total

13 Great King Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6DW
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West Coast Jobs www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



AQUARIST

The Role
Here's a unique opportunity to work with Sharks, Seals, Otters and a whole host of other aquatic creatures! By joining us at The Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary, you will help to care for the animals, as well as the filtration systems that are so vital to their well being. You will also play a vital role in maintaining the exhibits to the highest possible standards and ensuring that they surpass the expectations of our visitors.

The Person
Experience within the aquarium or fish farming industry would be advantageous, but not essential, as full training will be provided. More important, is the drive and enthusiasm to develop your knowledge and skills and apply them appropriately. As part of a busy team, you must be well organised, physically fit and capable of working with others. A flexible approach to working hours is also essential.

The Application
Please apply with full a CV to: alex.blackman@merlinentertainments.biz Alternatively post to Alex Blackman, Scottish SEA LIFE Sanctuary, Barcaldine, PA37 1SE



Lynn of Lorne Care Home

ARGUS CARE GROUP
WE REQUIRE A
MANAGER (RN)

For our 62 bed Care Home in Benderloch by Oban

Must have Registered Managers Award or be willing to work toward this award.

Excellent salary available for successful candidate.

Applicants must be a Registered Nurse with a minimum 4 years post registration experience and have strong leadership and communication skills and be able to demonstrate a clear understanding of the Care Commission National Care Standards.

The successful candidate will enjoy the continued support of a dedicated, innovative and professional management team.

For further details/application pack please contact:
Marjory Bathgate Tel:07778805989
Jim Miller Tel:07765583338

Lighthouse Caledonia

Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The company is engaged in all stages of the value chain of farming Atlantic salmon from smolt production through to harvesting, processing, packing and sales. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for a Marine Operative for our Gigha sea-site located within our South Production Region in Argyll:

MARINE OPERATIVE (1 Post) - Ref SRGHA/MO2 (10)
(Salary grading range - depending on experience - £15,500 - £19,000)

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate prior experience in working within small, focused teams. Day to day duties will include fish welfare, sampling, grading and moving of the fish, site maintenance, net changing and boat handling. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for this post; the company can offer further development and training opportunities through in-house training and also by external training providers. Preference will also be given to those candidates who can offer transferable, related skills and qualifications.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd,
Ardkinglas Estate, Cairndow,
Argyll, PA26 8BH.
Tel. No. 01499 600 415
Email: cairndowhr@lighthousecaledonia.com
Closing date for applications: 5pm Friday 12 February 2010
Visit our website at www.lighthousecaledonia.com

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Christine MacBryde, Personnel Officer, The Oban Times Ltd., P.O. Box 1, OBAN, Argyll PA34 4HB.
Fax: 01631 568001 or email: personnel@obantimes.co.uk

NANNY FOR 2 CHILDREN NR LOCHGILPHEAD.

5 full days/week. Can live in. No qualifications required but must enjoy children and country things. Driver essential.

Apply in Writing:
Box No 55 Oban Times, Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB

Mallaig & District Swimming Pool Association
SC018367

LEISURE CENTRE MANAGER

Required from March 2010, a suitably qualified and experienced individual to manage the pool, spa, sauna and fitness suite. The applicant will be responsible for all staff and facility operations. Salary according to experience and qualifications.

Application forms and job description from:
Catherine McDonnell, Mallaig Swimming Pool, Fank Brae, Mallaig PH41 4RG Tel: 01687 462229
Email: catherine@mallaigswimmingpool.co.uk
Web site: www.mallaigswimmingpool.co.uk
Closing date Mon 15th February

ARGYLL HOMECARE

Argyll HomeCare provides a professional, flexible, friendly & reliable service for those requiring Care at Home. We cover all aspects of personal & domestic care.

Campbeltown Area: Home Care Worker
Care experience is desirable but not essential as comprehensive training is provided. A full driving licence and access to a vehicle is essential.

For further information and an application pack please contact - Cameron McGregor on 01546 600333

All staff are subject to enhanced disclosure checks

Beat Forester

West Argyll Forest District, Oban
Starting Salary £25,788 and benefits

Here, you will plan, co-ordinate, control and manage the staff, budgets, contracts and programmes of the Lorne Beat within West Argyll Forest District in accordance with the business plan.

You must have knowledge and experience of practical forest management and an HND or degree in Forestry or a related subject. Experience of managing staff and working with communities would also be an advantage.

Benefits include a Civil Service Pension or stakeholder pension scheme and 25 days' annual leave.

To apply, visit our website at the address below. Alternatively, write to Jillian Buchan, HR Services, 231 Corstorphine Road, Edinburgh EH12 7AT.

Please note all applications must be accompanied by a Forestry Commission application form.

Please quote ref: 0000-7.
No recruitment agencies please.

Closing date: 22 February 2010.

The Forestry Commission is committed to providing equal opportunities for all sectors of the community, irrespective of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, marital status, religion, sexuality and transgender.

www.forestry.gov.uk/vacancies

HALO Health And Lifecare Options

CARERS REQUIRED

Scotthomecare are actively recruiting care workers in and around the Oban and Dunoon area to work with clients in their own homes. Positions can be part time or full time including evenings and weekends. Drivers preferred but not essential. Excellent rates of pay. Company car purchase scheme.

Training course available for new carers or those with informal care experience.

For more information please contact
Margaret mason on 01389 804666 or
Margaret.mason@halouk.co.uk



Harness Nature's Power

Wind Turbine Technician- Oban area

Salary: Competitive salary, benefits of non-contributory pension, medical and life insurance

The B9 Energy group of Companies develops and operates renewable energy projects and B9 Energy O&M Ltd is the UK and Ireland's largest independent wind farm Operation and Maintenance Company. Due to newly acquired and future contracts we wish to appoint additional Wind Turbine Technicians. These positions are for a wind farm in the Oban area.

The principal duties of a Wind Turbine Technician are to: carry out site operational and maintenance duties including both scheduled and unscheduled turbine maintenance; respond to breakdown calls; site safety and environmental management. Previous experience in Bonus 450-600kW wind turbine maintenance would be preferable but is not essential.

Candidates must have an NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in mechanical or electrical engineering and experience in an electro/mechanical/hydraulic engineering environment. For these positions a full driving licence is essential as is a good degree of physical fitness because the wind farms are in relatively remote locations and the candidates must be confident to work periodically at height and occasionally in adverse weather conditions. The candidates must also be able to demonstrate working knowledge of Microsoft office and word.

An application form and additional information can be obtained from the company's website www.b9energy.co.uk or by applying in writing or telephoning:

The Personnel Department
B9 Energy O&M Ltd
5 Willowbank Road
Millbrook Industrial Estate
Larne
Co. Antrim BT40 2SF
Tel: 028 2826 3900

The closing date for completed application forms is Friday 12 February 2010
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CO-ORDINATOR

We wish to recruit a co-ordinator to develop our Youth cafe project for South Kintyre. The post will be based in Campbeltown and is funded until March 2011. Applicants should be flexible, have experience of community work, be self-motivating. Current driving licence/own transport desirable. Post is subject to enhanced disclosure. 20 hours preferred but negotiable. Salary according to experience.

Please send letter of application and cv, with details of two referees to:
Youth Cafe Project, C/o KADAS Castlehill, Campbeltown, PA28 6AN
Email - cyc2008@live.co.uk
Closing date 12th February
Interviews will be held Thursday 18 February 2010
(charity number SC040392)

D J CAMPBELL AND SON

Achnashelloch Farm

Store person and van driver required

Telephone 01546 605273

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ARGYLL BUILDBASE

Full Time Position
Class 2 licence preferred - not essential
Fork Lift ticket preferred - not essential
As training would be given

Knowledge of building materials beneficial
Duties include loading/off loading vehicles
Assisting customers with materials
General housekeeping
Salary and hours to be negotiated
Closing date 16th February

Please apply in writing, enclosing CV to:- Graeme Sprout, Manager, Argyll Buildbase Ltd, Unit 1 Snipefield Ind Estate, Campbeltown, Argyll, PA28 6SY
campbeltown@buildbase.co.uk

ENABLE Scotland

ENABLE Scotland is a dynamic, vibrant and expanding organisation dedicated to improving the lives of people with learning disabilities and mental health difficulties.

OBAN Administration Co-ordinator

(Ref: B/084)

Salary: £15,818 pa pro rata for part time. (24 hours per week)

We are looking for an Administration Co-ordinator for our office base in Oban. This is a key role within our local services that will contribute to the success of the support we provide. The post holder will ensure the day-to-day administration and associated support functions of our services run efficiently and smoothly. You should have experience of Microsoft Word and Excel, good organisational skills and the ability to prioritise a varied workload.

We believe in developing all our staff and provide an extensive training programme, combined with a commitment to create career development opportunities within ENABLE Scotland. We offer positive terms and conditions including a contributory pension scheme

Interested? For an application pack, please telephone 01631 565062 or e-mail oban.sl@enable.org.uk quoting the post reference. (We particularly welcome applications from disabled candidates and make our forms available in alternative formats.) To view and apply for all our vacancies, please visit www.enable.org.uk

Closing date: 19 February 2010

ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. Scottish charity number SC009904.

KIND HEARTS DESERVE GENEROUS REWARDS

Homecare Workers

Earn up to £8.20 per hour

We are currently looking to recruit Experienced Homecare Workers to provide personal care and support to clients living in their own homes in Oban and the surrounding areas. You can make a real difference to peoples lives whilst working flexible shifts that include mornings, daytimes (lunch/tea) evenings, nights and weekends.

Whether you are looking to work just a few hours a week or full time, we'll give you all the training you need to turn your caring nature into a rewarding career. Benefits include up to 28 days holiday, free uniform and training as well as 50% towards the cost of your Disclosure. Own transport preferred.

Call us now on: 01475 733444
or alternatively email us at greenock@alliedhealthcare.com
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Caledonian MacBrayne

Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CalMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Port Assistants

£7.02 per hour
40 hours per week (fixed term contracts)

Tarbert, Loch Fyne Ferry Terminal
Kennacraig Ferry Terminal
Armada Ferry Terminal
Mallaig Ferry Terminal
Oban Ferry Terminal

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. Your duties will include mooring operations, customer enquiries, sales of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

You must be computer literate, with excellent verbal and written communication skills. You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as shift and weekend work will be involved.

Customer focused, you will have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

Seasonal Part-time Nightwatchman

£6.00 per hour
12 hours per week on a week on/week off basis (fixed term contract)
Mallaig Ferry Terminal

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will be responsible for the security of the pier buildings and vessels connected to the port, the call-out of crew in the event of an emergency or bad weather and overseeing a telephone watch in case of emergency call-outs by Fire, Police and Ambulance. In addition, you will monitor and adjust the gangway as necessary to maintain a safe access to the vessels.

You are expected to have a flexible approach to working as the shift pattern will be variable and dependent on local circumstances.

For all posts, the ability to commute to the relevant Terminal on a daily basis is essential.

If you are interested in any of the above posts, please respond by sending your CV quoting relevant reference number no later than 19th February 2010 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourock, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

CalMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

INVERARAY CASTLE HEAD GARDENER

The position of Head Gardener has arisen at Inveraray Castle in Argyll. Responsible for maintaining the gardens at the Castle, a small proportion of which are now open to the public, the successful candidate should be hard working, capable of high standards and conscientious with established practical experience in a similar post. A further under gardener will work alongside the successful applicant and therefore the ability to communicate and programme work is essential. A small traditional cottage may be available.

Please write for full details, stating your current salary, to:-
The Factor
Argyll Estates Office
Cherry Park, INVERARAY
Argyll PA32 8XE

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LAST CHANCE FOUNDATION

Last Chance Foundation is a registered Charity which saves dogs from the threat of euthanasia. We work together with veterinary surgeries, rescue kennels, dog wardens and the general public to rescue healthy dogs which are to be euthanised for behavioural problems. We then rehabilitate the dog, and eventually find the dog a new home.

Last Chance Foundation was born from Derwentbank Canine Solutions. Derwentbank and Last Chance Foundation are owned/organised by Steve and

Christina Cass, from Lismore, Oban in Scotland:

"We feel strongly that for rehabilitation to be successful, a dog must live within the pack, so all dogs are welcomed into our home for that process. We can only therefore have a few dogs in at a time, as we have three dogs of our own which assist with the rehabilitation process."

"We believe any dog can be rehabilitated, using natural methods, involving calm assertive leadership with clear rules and kindness."

Foster Carers If you would love to have a dog, but perhaps don't have the time to commit to keeping your own, or the cost of keeping a dog is too much, Last Chance Foundation could be just what your looking for. We urgently need foster carers to look after dogs awaiting new homes, both long and short term, for difficult and well balanced dogs.

Whilst this is a voluntary position, and we can't afford to pay for the service, you would be contributing hugely to a dogs life, and saving yet another dog from

euthanasia. All dogs will be neutered/spayed, and will come with food, bedding/crate, toys, collar and lead, as well as any specialist training equipment needed. Veterinary treatment needed throughout the dogs stay will be covered by LCF, so your foster friend would not need to cost you anything.

If you feel you would like to be a LCF Foster carer please do get in touch for a chat, and let us know what you could cope with.

Tel: 01631 760056 or 07927 901308

Lochaline mine owners rule out re-opening

LOCHALINE silica owners Tarmac have poured cold water on suggestions the works could be re-opened to provide desperately needed grit to treat icy roads across the UK.

Morvern Community Council (MCC) had written to local MP Charles Kennedy asking him to contact Minister of State for Transport Lord Adonis to investigate the use of Lochaline's silica sand should the need arise. Weeks of severe weather over December and January saw local

authorities scrambling around for rock salt as supplies dwindled - and MCC reckoned millions of tons of abrasive sand at the Lochaline mine could provide an alternative.

Tarmac, however, say the sand is unsuitable as it does not do the same job as salt and would not help tyres grip on snow or ice.

A spokesperson told *The Oban Times*: 'Very coarse sand or grit is mixed in to help vehicles' traction and Tarmac supply some

grit for this purpose from quarries elsewhere. However, the silica sand at Lochaline is very fine grained and wont do this job at all.

'There are also environmental considerations to using too much sand in that it can potentially contribute to sediments running off into drains and watercourses rivers once the snow and ice melts and this needs to be taken into account.'

Tarmac mothballed the mine a year ago with the loss of 11 local jobs.

Recycling plan creates new jobs

THREE new jobs are to be created in Kinlochleven under expansion plans agreed by an Inverness-based recycling business.

New Start Highland has leased Units 1A and 1B in the business park from Kinlochleven Community Trust (KCT) and is advertising for staff. The firm recycles unwanted household items to those in need, provides practical assistance and is a training provider for people who are unemployed. Their twin aims are to maximise social benefit and recycling.

New Start's Isobel Prall said no start date for operations would be fixed until staff had been hired.

She said: 'We will have another base in Fort William as well as Inverness. Through our rural services centres we would like to really invest in the local area and local people, and increase the quality of service to rural areas.'

A KCT spokesperson said they were 'delighted' a new business was coming to Kinlochleven.

'It will be lovely to see some activity in this building which has been empty since June 2008 and we would like to take this opportunity to wish New Start Highland the best of luck with their new service centre in Kinlochleven,' she said.

'If you have any unwanted household items that you are thinking of disposing of please bear in mind that this facility will be available soon. This will include collection of items that could be recycled to benefit others.'

Mallaig death case needs early conclusion rules sheriff

A CASE involving the death of Mallaig pensioner knocked down by a car on Mallaig pier must be concluded as quickly as possible to avoid further distress to everyone concerned, a sheriff has ruled.

Sheriff Douglas Small heard difficulties were being encountered in finding suitable dates to ensure a key witness could give evidence in the trial of Martin Kenning. It is alleged Mr Kenning, aged 21, of Ard na Mara, Fank Brae, Mallaig, caused the death of Murdoch (Gordon) MacLennan by driving without due care and attention or with reasonable consideration for others on November 22 2008.

Mr MacLennan, 82, died in hospital three days after being struck by Mr Kenning's vehicle while out walking on the pier around 9.30pm.

Sheriff Small said because the case involved a death, legal teams were to ensure there were no further unforeseen delays.

Trial was continued to April 16 and April 28, when Sheriff Small intimated he expected matters to be brought to a conclusion.

Council calls for memorials survey

HIGHLAND Council has authorised a condition survey of the war memorial and Cameron memorial in Fort William's Parade and the Commando Memorial above Spean Bridge.

Concern has been expressed that oxidation and discoloration of the metal sculptures and weathering of the war memorial's stone needs to be addressed.

A Highland Council spokesperson said the survey would 'determine any immediate issues and specify the correct cleaning and maintenance regime'.



Stepping out to success: Nether Lochaber Scottish Country Dance Club.

Young Nether Lochaber dancers taste success at Kinlochleven

NETHER Lochaber Scottish Country Dance Club is celebrating after 25 girls aged six to 15 passed their Royal Scottish Country Dance Society medals test.

The girls performed three dances in front of an adjudicator at Kinlochleven Primary School and certainly impressed, with

13 dancers earning credit passes and five gaining a distinction. The club, under the tutelage of instructors Kate Ward, Marilyn MacDonald and Fiona Borland, meets every Tuesday at St Bride's Primary. For the present, local children wishing to give Scottish country dancing a try may be disappointed. The class is running

at its maximum capacity of 36 and there is a short waiting list to join. The girls, drawn from all South Lochaber primary schools and Kinlochleven and Lochaber high schools, regularly attend the Inverness and Lochaber music festivals, at which they won seven firsts and two seconds last year.



Participants in last year's Massacre of Glencoe commemoration prepare to march to the monument at Upper Carnoch.

Massacre of Glencoe commemoration back on after local group steps in

THE ANNUAL commemoration of the Massacre of Glencoe in 1692 at the monument at Upper Carnoch is to go ahead after all.

The Clan Donald Society of Edinburgh, the traditional organisers of the day, cancelled the event in mid-January, fearing the severe weather would make travel to Glencoe impossible for many. But now a small group of Clan Donald adherents and the Glencoe Heritage Trust (GHT) have decided that the commemoration is far too important for it not to be observed.

GHT secretary Rosalind MacDonald said: 'We are more than happy to do this as things may have been confusing for visitors to the annual ceremony.'

Graham MacDonell, a Highland genealogist with a particular interest in the MacDonalds of Glencoe, added: 'We are delighted to join up with the GHT to continue the commemoration. We hope that Clan Donald adherents and members of the public will attend and keep this important commemoration and its significance alive.'

Anyone interested in joining the commemoration is asked to gather at the Upper Carnoch Bridge at 11.50am on Saturday February 13 so that the march to the monument, led by piper John MacCallum, can begin at 12 noon. There will then be a short service at the monument and the laying of wreaths. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath may do so.

College access comes back to Leven Centre

NETHER and South Lochaber will again be able to access Lochaber College UHI locally under a new initiative.

Katie Daynes has been appointed rural learning facilitator and will re-establish the college presence in the Leven Centre in Kinlochleven.

Mr Daynes will lead provision of courses and learning opportunities in the area, starting next Tuesday with free 'taster' sessions.

Classes include basic computer skill for complete beginners, local geology, intermediate level computing and cookery. Computer-based introduction to genealogy research sessions

will take place in Kinlochleven High School.

Katie said: 'These free taster sessions are proving to be extremely popular and may fill up very quickly, but they will be run again as part of the normal college programme when you may be eligible for Individual Learning Account (ILA) funding support.'

Other Lochaber College UHI courses can also be undertaken using the resources of Kinlochleven Campus, with a fully equipped computer suite with free internet access, combined with video and audio conferencing. Highland Council is backing the initiative.



Katie Daynes: rural learning facilitator at Kinlochleven.

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

NEW OUTBUILDINGS at Small Paws Cattery, a division of Argyll Animal Aid, have left some long time residents feline right at home.

And manager Pat Blunsden thanks the generous donations from Pets at Home and many individuals for being able to house 45 homeless cats.

Pat said: 'We had three old pens in the garden that were damaged. But thanks to some good funding

we now have a purpose built enclosure.

'The new unit has washable walls and plenty of space. It has tunnels out into the pens and it is heated and insulated.

'Nowadays we do not take new feral cats if we can at all help it. We try to neuter them and put them back - so that gradually the feral population will die out.'

Things are going well for Argyll Animal Aid a charity that houses

and re-homes dogs, cats and other homeless or ill treated animals at two sites in Argyll.

If you would like to give any of these pets a home, please call the numbers at the top of each ad

Tel: 01852 300362 (cats) or 01631 566406 (dogs) after 8pm

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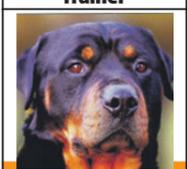
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Sex text pest placed on probation

A FORT William man who pestered a 15-year-old girl with obscene text messages has been put on probation.

Martin Wallace, of 21 Mamore Crescent, admitted sending 'sexual and suggestive' texts of a 'grossly offensive, or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character' to the girl over two days in April last year.

Wallace, aged 39, a first offender, had never been in trouble before, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

'He is embarrassed and ashamed at what he had done,' said Stephen Kennedy, defending. 'He is very anxious to put the whole matter behind him.'

Sheriff Douglas Small told Wallace it was 'a serious matter' and he had considered a custodial sentence. But he said: 'I take the view that the interests of justice are better served if I put you on probation on condition that you attend the joint sex offenders project.'

Wallace was sentenced to 160 hours' community service and 18 months probation, during which time he will remain on the Sex Offenders Register.

Fort William man is jailed following breach of bail conditions

A MAN has been jailed for battering his partner and going to her home in Caol when ordered by a court to keep away from the address.

Ian Alexander Stewart, of 1 Brown Court, Fort William, admitted assaulting the woman in the house by repeatedly punching her on the face to her injury on November 29.

Police arrested Stewart after they found him 'restraining' the woman on the kitchen floor and had to pull him off, Fort William Sheriff Court heard.

Two days later Stewart, aged 50, appeared in court on assault charges and was bailed on condition that he kept away from the woman.

Stewart, who appeared from custody, admitted breaching his bail order by visiting the woman at addresses in Caol on three separate occasions later that month.

Sheriff Douglas Small jailed Stewart for a total of two months and 96 days backdated to December 29, when he was remanded.

Highland dentists' waiting lists fall

THE NUMBER of people waiting to register with an NHS dentist in the Highlands has fallen by a fifth since March last year, latest figures show.

In March 2009 33,249 people were waiting to register, but by December this figure had fallen to 26,749.

NHS Highland clinical dental director Catherine Lush said: 'NHS Highland is reassured with the upward trend in NHS dental registrations, which is the result of new surgeries opening and some existing practices offering new patients NHS registration.'

The statistics also show NHS Highland is meeting targets to have 80 per cent of all three to five-year-old children registered with an NHS dentist by 2010/11.



The volunteer team prepare to get down to work in Glenbrittle.

Skye and Lochalsh path maintenance volunteers take a short break

VOLUNTEERS on a nine month programme to repair miles of upland and coastal tracks in Skye and Lochalsh put in their last shift on Saturday before taking a well-deserved break.

The team of eight, aged 14 to 73, gathered in Glenbrittle for the final Highland Council 'upland footpath maintenance days' with Skye and Lochalsh rangers.

Since April 2009, 42 kilometres of scenic paths have been improved or maintained under the Skye and Lochalsh Footpath Initiative.

Cross-drains and water bars have been cleared out and drains cleared of debris, built up largely as a result of heavy rain.

Volunteers have made good paths at the Old Man of Storr, Saddle Path in

Lochalsh, Coire Lagan and the Fairy Pools route in Glenbrittle.

Another series of maintenance days is planned for the coming year.

'They are hard work but great fun,' said senior countryside ranger John Phillips said.

Anyone interested in taking part can contact Mr Phillips on 01471 822 905 or at john.phillips@highland.gov.uk.

Lochaber man told to behave after taking law into own hands

Claim that victim and his friends abused attacker's brother

A LOCHABER man has escaped punishment after a court heard the drunk man he punched was involved in the systematic abuse of his chronically alcoholic brother.

Groundsman James MacDonald, of 97 Camanachd Crescent, Fort William, admitted assaulting another man by repeatedly punching him on the head to his severe injury on July 11 last year.

MacDonald spotted his inebriated victim while driving home, prosecutor Heather Swan told Fort William Sheriff Court.

MacDonald remonstrated with the 'heavily intoxicated' man over how his brother was being treated by him and his drinking pals, only to be shouted and sworn at. 'He came out of the car, walked over to the complainant and punched him twice on the head,' said Ms Swan.

Defending, Gerry Sweeney told how MacDonald's brother was 'preyed on'

in his own home by other alcoholics, who had subjected him to years of 'mental, physical and financial' abuse.

The brother had been urged to make a formal complaint to police but he had been 'too terrified' to say anything, even when officers interviewed him in hospital after one particularly vicious assault. When MacDonald challenged the man at An Aird he not only replied in 'very derogatory' terms but 'verbally abused his wife', said Mr Sweeney.

'On the back of that James MacDonald approached the complainant, took the law into his own hands and thumped him - but only after a very great deal of provocation.'

'This was not vigilantism, it was a chance encounter on the streets of Fort William.'

Sheriff Small accepted the high degree of provocation involved and deferred sentence until October 28, ordering MacDonald to be of good behaviour until then.

Fine warning for isles dog owners

WESTERN Isles Council is again warning dog owners they face on the spot fines of £40 if they do not clean up after their pets.

Complaints from the public have prompted the council to remind the public that dog excrement poses 'a significant health hazard' on land and beaches, especially to children.

Stornoway councillor Charlie Nicolson said dog owners should make sure they take plastic bags with them when walking their dog, and ensure that the area is left free of dog dirt.

'The Comhairle even supply free bags at the Sandwick Road offices and other outlets,' he said.

TIMES TALKBACK
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Lochaber Burns Club commemorates the Bard: Bill Maxwell, Robert Robertson, Sandy Henry, Iain Robertson, Bill Cameron, George Haggart and Father Roddy Johnston at the Alexandra Hotel.

Lochaber celebrates the life and works of Robert Burns

LOCHABER Burns Club celebrated the life and works of the Bard at the Alexandra Hotel on Friday January 22, with a record 175 people enjoying an excellent evening of music, poetry, song and speeches.

Outgoing president Iain Robertson led proceedings with his customary humour and after

three years now hands over the role to Lochaber High School head Jim Sutherland.

New president
John Hutchison gave the Address to the Haggis with great gusto and led the singing of Scots Wha Hae, delivering the vote of thanks before Mr Sutherland's installation as the new president.

Sandy Henry delivered The Immortal Memory, John McGhee The Land We Live In and Keith Campbell Holy Willie's Prayer. Bill Cameron proposed the Toast Tae the Lassies and Father Roddy Johnston gave the reply.

A record £1,400 was raised for Lochaber community projects on Burns-related themes.

Eye to Eye with John Wallace A lucky break

BEFORE New Year I mentioned to my wife that, unusually, I had not seen anyone during the holidays with previously undetected major vision problems. I must have been tempting fate. The next day I had two patients needing emergency medical treatment.

The first had not had a full eye examination for several years and was not having any vision problems. This patient had broken his spectacles otherwise he would not have bothered having an examination. He was found to have extremely high pressure in one eye. Thankfully it had not yet caused any long term damage to his vision. However, if he had not broken his spectacles, he would have blissfully carried on until severe irreversible vision loss had occurred.

The second had had regular eye examinations and had previously lost the sight of one eye. Vague symptoms of 'something not quite right with my vision' didn't give me much to go on. All standard basic tests were normal and the patient could see almost to the bottom of my eye chart. This patient had previously lost the sight of one eye due to macular degeneration. Detailed examination revealed a ring of leaking blood vessels in the central area of the retina... wet macular degeneration!

Wet macular degeneration is a potentially devastating condition that invariably causes extreme loss of central vision. Recently available treatments can limit the damage caused by wet macular degeneration. To be effective they must be started as early as possible. This patient was referred to hospital as an emergency, was seen the next morning and started treatment immediately.

The first patient was lucky and now appreciates the necessity for regular eye examinations. The second patient had previously been told to act immediately if anything unusual started happening with the 'good' eye.

Thankfully this patient acted on that advice and saved the sight in their 'good' eye.

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Ballachulish Primary School drew on its own in-house talent when celebrating the life and works of Robbie Burns in the school.

Primary one and two teacher Jennifer Wilson played a selection of Burns' tunes to her young audience, and was also in demand later when she piped in the haggis at the St Munda's Church of Scotland Burns Supper.

69% of the business community read the regional press

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A better life is possible

The Scottish Recovery Network promotes the message that people can and do recover from mental health problems, including those that are serious and long term.

We are holding a public event in Thurso on 1 December to share what we know about recovery, and to discuss how to make recovery a reality for communities in Caithness.

This event is for people looking for inspiration to help them begin to create a more satisfying life. It's also for friends, family and professional care givers who are offering support, and those with their own experience of recovery.

If you would like to book a free place, or more information, visit www.scottishrecovery.net or call 0141 240 7790.

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BABY BATH SUPPORT mercerware baby bath support, white plastic, enables baby to be safely supported in bath without holding with both hands, £5 Telephone 01631 720369.

CAR SEAT Italian Collection blue and lime check baby car seat, immaculate condition, £14.99 Telephone 01631 570190.

COSATTO HIGHCHAIR wire clean seat, safety harness, folds flat for storage, suit boy or girl, good condition, suitable from 6 months, £20 Telephone 01631 710787.

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HIGH CHAIR foldable, £12 Telephone 01852 500296.

ITALIAN COLLECTION PRAM immaculate condition, blue and lime check pram with rain cover, cosy toes and apron, excellent value, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570190 07748 434757.

BICYCLES

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BOOKS

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WORKMATE TYPE BENCH, £15 Telephone 01499 500216.

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ROOF BARS Paddy Hopkirk roof bars for Daewoo Tacuma, might fit other cars with roof rails, good used condition, £25 Telephone 01586 550272 07787 091138.

CATERING EQUIPMENT

FRYER Lincaat twin basket fryer, good condition, £150 Telephone 01855 811168.

LAVAZZA COFFEE BEANS 22kg, £190 Telephone 01855 811168.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

KEYBOARD Microsoft office keyboard, light colour, £5 Telephone 01546 606475.

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MF FLIGHT simulator software with joystick, boxed, unused, £29.95 Telephone 01880 730326.

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TIKKA 223 new tikka 223 T3 litre st-SYN s.c. fac required, £750 Telephone 07990 886646.

TIKKA 595 .222 stainless steel synthetic with Swarovski 6x42 scope, as new, £600, also some stalking accessories, FAC certificate required, please apply to box number 10, Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead.

FURNITURE

3 PIECE SUITE dusky pink three piece lounge suite, in excellent condition, £39 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

BED good clean single divan bed, £19 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

BED FRAMES pine, kingsize, 78"x66", £49.95 Telephone 01880 730326.

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE bargain, 2 seater sofa, 2 armchairs, 2009 model, high backed luxury deep filled chenille cushions, sheer comfort, all totally unused, intended for show home, Cost £1,500, can deliver, £495 Telephone 07766 773131.

COFFEE TABLE in dark wood with coloured marble top, size 43" long, 22" wide and 17" high, £40 Telephone 01631 563544.

COMPUTER DESK corner, 36x36" with shelves etc, flat pack, £25 Telephone 01880 730326.

COMPUTER DESK Ikea Billy range, beech effect corner computer desk with filing cabinet and hard drive/storage cabinet, excellent condition, £225 ono Telephone 01631 710272 after 4pm.

DARK WOOD BUREAU buyers tlc, hence £49 ono, buyer collects Appin Telephone 07966 795554.

DESK large modern beech coloured desk, curved top, nice, as new, £49 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

DINING CHAIRS set of 10 beech dining chairs, in good order, £49.99 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

DINING ROOM TABLE and 6 chairs, upholstered, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564478.

DINING TABLE round, extending table with 4 chairs, £49.49 Telephone 01631 566001.

DINING TABLE pine oval dining table, seats 6 comfortably, £49 ono, buyer collects Appin Telephone 07966 795554.

DIVAN BED high quality single drawer divan bed, Silent Night "Stressfree", £29 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

DOUBLE BED SETTEE metal frame and cushion, modern style, £40 Telephone 01631 563935.

DOUBLE WARDROBE cream Schreiber wardrobe in very good condition, 35" w, 24" d, 82" h, £49.99 Telephone 01586 552326.

GUEST BED single bed and mattress with another single bed and another mattress that pulls out from underneath, little used, £49.99 Telephone 07810 565968.

KING SIZE BED not new, but ok, £19 Telephone Oban 01631 564848 during office hours.

MAHOGANY WRITING DESK double pedestal mahogany writing desk with green leather top, suitable also as computer desk, £49.99 Telephone 01631 571115.

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Happy 50th Rachel Lots of love from all the family xxx

Happy 18th Sean Love from all the family xxx

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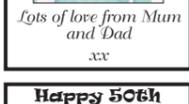
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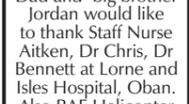
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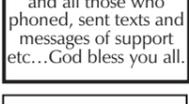
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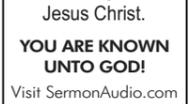
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ROUTLEDGE - Peacefully at Dunaor Hospital on January 30, 2010, Muriel Routledge of Tobermory Isle of Mull, aged 98 years. Sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral service was held at Tobermory Evangelical Church on Wednesday, February 3, 2010, thereafter to Tobermory Beadoun Cemetery.

RUSSELL - Peacefully, on Friday, January 29, 2010, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Mary MacDonald, (née MacInnes), 14 Dunmar Court, Oban, (formerly of Harlaw, Glenmore Road, Oban) much loved wife of Ian, dear mother of Mhairi and Kirsty. Beloved grandmother of Katy, Fiona, Morven, Rebecca, Scott and Callan, much loved mother-in-law of Ian and David and a dear sister of Archie, Margaret and Catriona. The funeral took place at the Church of Scotland, Glencruittin Road, Oban on Monday, February 1, 2010.

WOODS - Isobel Gardiner (Nurse) much loved mum and nanna passed away peacefully on Friday, January 29, 2010. She will be laid to rest on Thursday, February 4, at 11am in the Duncansburgh/MacIntosh Church followed by interment in Glen Nevis Cemetery, Fort William.

Brown for all her help and kindness shown to Irvine. Also thank you to the Rev Catherine Knott for a lovely service and Ian MacInnes of D and A Munn for efficient funeral arrangements. To the staff of the Rowanree Hotel for the catering and finally thanks to all who paid their last respects and who donated £256 for Ward A at the Lorn and Islands Hospital. Irvine will be sadly missed. Thanks again to you all.

MACSWEEN - Flora, and the family of the late Kenneth John MacSween, wish to thank all who provided support before and after their recent bereavement. Thanks are due in particular to staff at Connell Surgery, to the community nurses, and to the many care workers who enabled Kenneth to stay at home over a long period. The staff at Ward C of Lorn and the Islands Hospital are also warmly thanked, as are the staff at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, following Kenneth's brief residence there. Sincere thanks to Rev Archie McPhail for counsel and advice to the family and also for his unfailing support at the church service and at the graveside, to Ian MacInnes and staff at D and A Munn, and to the Argyllshire Gathering Halls for catering. Finally, thanks also to friends and neighbours who attended the funeral service and graveside, and who sent cards and messages of support.

STEWART - The family of the late Christy Stewart would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours, for the many kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards, and floral tributes received following their recent sad loss. Sincere thanks to Argyll Home Care carer's staff of Ward 23 Stirling Royal Infirmary and the Medical Centre, Aberfoyle, for all their care and attention to Christy. Grateful thanks also to Rev Roddy MacLeod for a comforting and uplifting service, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for professional services, to Josie for beautiful singing, to Charles Ferguson for his piping and to the Argyll Inn, Lochgilhead for fine purvey. Special thanks to Ken Russell for his Gaelic readings. Thank you to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects. The collection raised £270 for Alzheimer Scotland.

WARREN - The family of the late Annie Warren would like to thank relatives friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and phone calls after the sad loss of Annie at the age of 97 years. Special thanks to Rev Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service at the Duncansburgh/MacIntosh Church and also at the graveside. Thanks also to the staff of Mossparc Nursing Home for the care and kindness shown to Annie in her latter years, to the doctors and nurses of Glen Mor Practice and finally to Mike McFall for his efficient funeral arrangements. The retiring donations raised £400 for Mossparc Resident's Fund.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear dad, Lachlan MacDonald, who died February 7, 2003. Another year has passed Since that sad day The dad we loved was called away His life was full of kindly deeds A helping hand to those in need A pleasant smile A heart of gold No better person, this world could hold Loved and remembered always.

- Donald, Ellen, John and Eleanor.

MACKENZIE - In loving memory of Donnie who died February 4, 2009. Dear husband, father, father-in-law and papa. Many a lonely heartache Many a silent tear But always a beautiful memory Of one we loved so dear.

- Margaret and family, Luig.

MACLEAN - Precious memories of Ian (Cleasy), a much loved son and brother, who died February 5, 2004. Although our loved ones are out of sight They are never out of mind For they are cherished in the hearts Of the loved ones left behind Sorely missed.

- Mum, Dad, Ann, Sandra and families.

MACLEAN - In memory of Ian (Cleasy). There isn't a day we don't think of you and wish you were here Cleasy.

- Love Pat, Libby and family.

MACLEAN - Cherished memories of Mary Campbell MacLean (née MacDonald) a darling wife, mother, granny and mother-in-law, who died on February 8, 2005, aged 65 years. Though absent you are very near Still loved, still missed and very dear.

- Alistair and family.

MACLEAN - In memory of a dearly loved sister, sister-in-law and auntie, Mary Campbell MacLean, who died February 8, 2005. Never more than a thought away Quietly remembered every day.

- Margaret, Archie, Fiona and Duncan.

MACLEOD - Cherished memories of Janet, who passed away February 8, 2003. You left us quietly without goodbye But loving memories will never die Always in our thoughts.

- Bobby, Fiona and Jack. xxx.

WHITE - Precious memories of Russell a loving husband, dad and proud papa, who passed away on February 5, 2008. All my life I will miss you As the years come and go But in my heart you will live forever Because I love you so Kind was your nature True were your ways I will treasure your memory For the rest of my days Love and miss you Your loving wife always.

- Hazel x.

Night, night special papa Love you.

- Sophie and Erin xx and Pellow.

WHITE - In loving memory of our dear son-in-law, Russell, who passed away on February 5, 2008. You had a smile for everyone You had a heart of gold You left the sweetest memories The world could ever hold Love always.

- Mum and Dad, Fort William.

WOLFINDEN - Mima (née MacDonald) died February 1, 1997. Always remembered.

- Calum.

Graduations



Rachael Anne MacDonell graduated from University of Stirling with a degree in Nursing, she is a former pupil of Fort Augustus Secondary School and is the daughter of Allan MacDonell, Fort Augustus and Maireairaid MacDonell, Gairloch. Rachel has taken up a post with Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban.



Tammy Louise Fleming Matheson graduated from Stirling University with a teaching qualification in Further Education. She now lectures at Inverness College.

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Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

Thought for the week
Love your neighbour

IT is sometimes difficult to keep our focus on things. Events of different importance happen so quickly and each of us has a different perspective. As I write this it is 'Groundhog Day', it is also, in the Christian calendar, the day on which we remember the parents of Jesus, it is now two days since Andy Murray lost to Rodger Federer, and it is a week since one of my friends went down the Cresta Run.

This morning President Obama hardens his attitude to Iran, Claire Short will appear before the Chilcott Inquiry, and so it goes on, the speed of our lives, the difficulties of prioritising, how confusing!

There is another angle to this. The speed with which we forget important events.

How long is it since that huge earthquake destroyed so much of Haiti? What has, what is happening to the Aid effort? What is the international community going to do about rebuilding the island, perhaps more pressing, what is the international community going to do about restructuring the island to give its people fair opportunity to truly become a people and shape their own destiny?

Part of the consequence of the pressure of the speed of change is that we increasingly look out for ourselves.

Number ONE is promoted. The very practical message that Jesus tried to introduce was to think of others first.

He was asked what is the most important commandment. He replied, 'Love God and your neighbour as yourself.' Even if you have difficulty in loving God, there is still no reason why we should not 'love our neighbour as we love ourselves,' is there?

If we took that advice, our homes, communities, nation and the world would be better places.

Rev Dr Roderick D M Campbell, Minister at Appin and Lismore.

Special guests welcome
Rev Barlow to Bowmore

THE CHURCH of Scotland congregations from the now linked parishes of Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa met in Bowmore's Round Church on January 28 to welcome the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, the new minister for the combined charges.

Dr Barlow, originally from Kent, was ordained and inducted into this his first charge by representatives from the Presbytery of Argyll. The service, which also officially marked the parish link, was conducted by the Presbytery Moderator the Rev Ian S Currie and the sermon was preached by the Rev George Campbell, parish minister in neighbouring Jura.

The Rev George Cringles, the Presbytery's depute clerk, delivered the narrative and preamble and the Moderator gave the ordination and induction vows and declaration, followed by the questions to the congregation and the charges to the minister and the members.

Among the special guests were the Rev David Carruthers, of Ardrishaig and South Knapdale, who acted as Interim Moderator during the vacancies, and the Rev David MacPherson, minister of Hilton Church in Inverness, the new minister's previous area of service.

Presentations on behalf of the congregations were made to Dr Barlow and his Welsh born wife Gwen, to the Interim Moderator and to Angela Stather who acted as locum at the two churches during the prolonged vacancy. These were handed over by Marian Senior, Session Clerk at the Round Church and by James MacIntosh, her counterpart at St John's Church in Port Ellen.

The Barlows along with family members were guests of honour at the ensuing welcoming social at the St Columba Church Hall in Port Ellen.

This was an informal occasion enhanced by good food and lively musical entertainment provided by pupils from Bowmore Primary School and the island's high school.

Prior to training for the ministry, Dr Barlow had a distinguished career in biochemistry and medical research. Before moving to the 'green isle' and the Kilarrow manse home was in the Black Isle.



From left: Presbytery Moderator, Rev. Ian Currie, Rev Dr Rob Barlow, Gwen Barlow and Rev. George Campbell.

Obituaries

Allan Morrison
THE VILLAGE of Glenelg was saddened by the recent death (November 25th) of Allan Morrison, Forestry Houses, Glenelg, aged 74, at his home.

Allan was born at Beolary, Glenelg, and went to a primary school at Moyle before going to the Glenelg school.

After leaving school he worked on his father's croft for several years, which earned him the name of Allan Farmer.

Allan then worked with the local forestry until back problems forced him to retire at 58. He had also been a member of Glenelg and Arnisdale Mountain Rescue Team and of Glenelg tug of war team.

He married Cathie in Inverness in 1962.

Allan was a hard worker who liked gardening and fishing. Sadly, after retirement and following a heart attack, Allan's health deteriorated, but he will be remembered as a man who loved home and community and was well respected and obliging.

The funeral service was held in Glenelg Free Church, conducted by Rev. Roddie Rankin and burial was at Glenelg Cemetery. The collection of £385.75 was donated to Glenelg Surgery.

Sympathy is expressed to his wife, Cathie.

Christina Moore
HER MANY friends were sorry to hear of the passing recently (December 3) of Christina Moore at her home in Kyle.

Known to all as Teenie, she was born at Braintira in 1940, the third in a family of 10. The family moved for a short time to Port Appin before returning to Lochalsh to look after her grandfather at Craig and she attended Plockton School.

After leaving school Teenie had a range of jobs in the hospitality and catering line including Kyle Primary School, Plockton Hotel and the Seaforth Hotel.

In 1983 she became cleaner in Plockton Primary. She married Bob Moore in 1980 but he sadly died in 1996.

In 2003 Teenie moved to Kyle where she lived quietly and sadly died alone.

Teenie was a quiet and kind person who will be missed particularly by her many relations.

The funeral service in Kyle Free Church was conducted by Rev. Roddie Rankin, assisted by Rev. J. M. Macdonald. Burial was at Balmacara new cemetery.

Sympathy is expressed to her sisters Cathy, Mary Ann, Jessie and Wilma, and to her brothers Dan and Johnny.

BIRTHS

CAMERON - Gavin and Dorothy (née Colville) are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Rosie Alyson Beaton on January 27, 2010 a wee sister to Owen. First granddaughter for Ian and Alyson Cameron and Anne Colville.



CRINGEAN

Mark and Jenny (née Stewart) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Kate Stewart, on Monday, January 25, 2010, at the Maternity Unit, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital. First grandchild for Allan and Kay Stewart. Taynult. A granddaughter for Jack and Helen. A sincere thank you to all at Oban Maternity Unit.

DEATHS

DODGSON - Kenneth died peacefully at Abbeyfield House on January 29, 2010 aged 93. He was the loving husband of the late Susan and dear father to Alistair and Colin, father-in-law to Sheila and Naida, greatly loved grandfather of Kelvin, Scott, Lee, Alicia, Richard and Jeff and great-grandfather to Jordan and Caitlin. Funeral service at Duncansburgh Church, Fort William at 1pm on Monday February 8, 2010, and thereafter at Kilmalie Cemetery. Family flowers only with donations to Duncansburgh Church.

JONES - Annie (née MacNeil), (Edinburgh, formerly Isle of Barra). Peacefully, after a short illness, in Liberton Hospital, Edinburgh, Annie, aged 86 years, beloved wife of the late Ivan Ellis Jones, CIE, of Dublin and Edinburgh, dearly loved mother of David and Catriona, of son-in-law Julian, and grandmother, aunt, grand-aunt and great-grand-aunt to all her family. Funeral Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Lauriston Street, Edinburgh on Thursday, February 5, at 11am followed by interment at Mortonhall Cemetery at 12.30pm. All friends welcome. Family flowers only please, donations may be sent to Garvald Centre, 2 Montpelier Terrace, Edinburgh EH10.

MACALLISTER - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands Hospital on February 1, 2010, Janet, loving wife of the late Malcolm MacAllister and a much loved mother and granny. For the treasured and loving memories our family will always remember, God bless you mum.

MACKINNON - Hugh, formerly from the Isle of Muck and Mingary, Corpach, died peacefully in the loving care of the staff at Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish on Saturday January 30, 2010. Beloved husband of the late Mary MacKinnon, Bay View, Isle of Eigg.

MILLEN - Very suddenly at his home on Sunday, January 24, 2010, Milo George Millen, aged 17 months, of McLaren Crescent, Callander. A dearly loved beautiful son of Rebecca (née Park) and Miles, also a loving grandson to grandma and grand-dad and nana and papa, also a loving nephew to the family.

ACKNOWLEDGE-MENTS

DELANEY - Agnes and family wish to thank most sincerely all relatives and friends for the many cards and flowers received in their recent very sad loss of Hughie. Thanks to Fr MacKinnon and Fr Johnston for the lovely service, to Mike McFall for the efficient funeral arrangements and to the Moorings Hotel for the catering after the service. Special thanks have to go to all the staff at Inverness House for the kindness and support shown to the family at this very sad time. Finally thanks to all who donated at the Church for the Inverness fund. The sum of £935.78 was collected.

DICKISON - Norma Dickison and family would like to thank all relations and friends who sent cards and flowers and who came to the church and crematorium to say goodbye to Bert. Our sincere thanks to Provost Norman MacCallum, Organist Ken Moncrieff and members of the choir of St John's Cathedral, and to the Very Rev Hunter Farquerson at the Perth Crematorium for their compassionate services. A very special thanks to Dr Emma Boyle and to the doctors and nurses of Lorn and Islands Hospital. Also our very grateful thanks to the Macmillan and Marie Curie nurses for their caring and great kindness.

MACAULAY - Many thanks to family, friends and Hamish Hoey and family for their help and support during the sad passing of our brother Donald and also a special thanks to St John's Cathedral, Oban for a service fit for a gentleman.

- Hector, Howard and Calum.

MACBETH - Betty, Mima and families would like to thank all friends and neighbours for phone calls, cards, mass cards and letters received on the sad loss of their mammy, Lizzie. Special thanks to Fr MacKinnon for a most moving service at church and graveside, to organist and piper, Caroline, Mike McFall and staff for their care and attention, Imperial Hotel for excellent catering, also thanking the doctors of Glen Mor practice, nurses Catherine and Catriona, the staff at the Belford Hospital for all the care, many thanks to Crossroads for all the care and understanding they gave Lizzie and thanks to all who paid their respects at church and graveside and the generous collection of £563 which was donated to Crossroads Lochaber.

MACFARLANE - Irene's family would like to thank everyone for the comfort and support they have received since Irene's death so soon after losing Tommy. Thanks go to Katrina Flannigan whose support meant Irene managed her illness so well, the wonderful staff on Ward B who made her feel so cared for, the ambulance crews who arrived so quickly and were so kind, the staff at Hoey's especially Catriona for getting us through difficult times and Rev Dugald Cameron for providing such a comforting and uplifting service and support before and after.

MACINTYRE - The family of the late Irvine would like to thank all friends and neighbours, for the wonderful care and support given. All doctors, nurses and staff of Ward A at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, for all the care and attention. To Hillary

IN MEMORIAM

GAHAN - Cherished memories of Marion (née MacLeod), a beloved wife, mum, mother-in-law and granny, who died February 6, 2003. Another year has slipped away Without you with us every day Always in our hearts and thoughts We love you still and miss you lots.

-Bill, Vivienne, Neil, Sam and Daniel, Michelle, Sabine, Finn and Lilly xxx.

HAMILTON - Mischa Karli, died February 7, 2002, aged 9 years. Loved and remembered always

- Mummy, Cara, Aimi and Joss.x

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of a much loved mother, gran and great-gran, Catherine, who passed away on February 6, 1998 and loved ones gone before. Time can heal But memories last forever Loved and remembered always.

- Jean and family, Drumfada Terrace, Corpach, Fort William.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my beloved husband, Lachlan MacDonald, who died February 7, 2003. The years we shared together Are lived again so often In my memories of you Of all the gifts in life However great or small To have you as my husband Was the greatest gift of all - Your ever loving wife, Ellen xxx.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 7th February 2010
Sexagesima
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08:00
Sung Eucharist..... 10:15
Sunday School and Creche Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost.
(01631) 562323
Kilbrandon Kirk
Holy Eucharist..... 15.15
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 10.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 7th February 2010
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
All Welcome
Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 7th February 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
All welcome

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Camanachd AGM

Shinty

OBAN Camanachd Club held its annual general meeting at the Corran Halls last Friday.

It was well-attended by members and the following appointments were made: President: Nigel Evans, vice-president: Neil MacIntyre; secretary: Daniel MacIntyre, Treasurer: Liam MacIntyre, 1st team coach: Peter MacCuish, 2nd team coach: Angus Campbell, under 17s: Gareth Evans, under 14s: David McCuish, youth co-ordinator: Dermaid MacMillan, development coach: David Martin, lotto convenors: Tony Howlett and Duncan MacMillan, 1st team captain: Aidan MacIntyre, 2nd team captain: Andrew Walker.

The club is looking forward to the 2010 season and has begun pre-season training.

Golf club AGM

Golf

AT THE recent AGM of Fort William Golf Club, the following were elected to the committee:

Captain John Ross, vice captain Donnie Gillies, past captain David Matheson, secretary Eric Mckenzie, treasurer Linda Gillespie, match and handicap Norman Calder, greens Rusty Duncan and committee members Neil Hardie, Bill Henderson, Ann Lovatt and Rosie MacIntyre.

It was agreed to split junior membership into two classes, juniors 5-12 and boys/girls 13-17 paying 15 and 25 per cent of the adult green fees respectively.

Green fees were kept at the same level as last year, £260, and are now due. Standing order and direct debit mandates can be obtained from the treasurer.

Saints results

Football

SATURDAY'S results: Helensburgh 0, Under 13s 10. Scoring for Saints were Jamie Easton (3), Fraser McFarlane (3), Ally MacLean (2), Douglas Tyrel Bunge and Daniel MacMillan.

The Under 15s travelled to take on Dumbarton Rock, but the game was called off because of a frozen pitch.

Islay Golf Club

Golf

WINTER League week seven: 1 Kevin Johnston 38pts; 2 Keith MacDonald 35pts; 3 Michael Kelly 34pts. Css 72 Magic 2s - Keith MacDonald.

'Garry girls play host role

Badenoch team edge out tiring Glengarry side in Johnstone Trophy final

GLENGARRY Girls hosted the 13th five-a-side Johnstone Trophy at the Nevis Centre on Saturday, with 11 teams taking part.

Participants included Dunadd from Lochgilphead, who were making their first appearance for 10 years.

The tournament was played in two sections of five and six teams, with Glengarry A, Glengarry B, Badenoch and Strathspey A and Lochaber A winning through to the semi-finals.

In the first semi Badenoch and Strathspey trounced Lochaber A 9-0, while in the second Glengarry A overcame their B rivals 4-1.

Glengarry played the whole competition without any subs, which proved to be something of a handicap in the final against an impressive Badenoch.

The same five girls who had had played from the first game simply ran out of steam and Badenoch and

Shinty

Strathspey emerged deserved 2-0 winners.

Ailsa Johnstone presented the Johnstone Trophy on behalf of sponsors D Johnstone & Son of Invergarry, who support the competition every year.

Glengarry's Catherine Cameron said: 'Without her support the girls would find it very difficult hosting this tournament and are very grateful.'

'The girls would also like to thank the Nevis Centre for the superb facility, Duncan Kelly and Derek Cameron for refereeing all day and all the teams who entered the competition making it such a success. Hopefully we will see everybody next year.'

Glengarry Girls have now started a reserve side and would like to hear from any girls interested. Contact Elaine or Ewen on 01809 501289 for more details.



Winners of the Johnstone Trophy at the ladies indoor shinty tournament at the Nevis Centre Fort William. Kirsty Deans (left) won the player of the tournament and second left is team captain Erin McNiven.

Lochaber's kings of the court

Basketball

LOCHABER senior boys basketball team, Lochaber Reign, have made a flying start in their first ever foray into the Highland Schools League.

The boys are unbeaten so far, notching up three straight victories in emphatic fashion.

A 75-25 victory away to Oban High School was followed by two further away victories against Portree High School and AIness Academy with the equally impressive scorelines of 60-7 and 60-6 respectively.

Providing the remaining home fixtures are as successful as the away games, the boys look well placed to advance from their pool to the Highland Schools Final on Saturday March 13.

Mention should also go to the Lochaber men's team who are competing in the Highland Senior League for the very first time this season.

The team is in its infancy and anyone who has an interest in basketball is encouraged to contact Jamie Currie via Lochaber High School.

League tied at the top

Squash

THE RIO Tinto Alcan Squash League is tied at the top after B&H Autospare's dropped a point against Simmers & Co.

Neil Fraser beat Archie Macgillivray in a very hard match; Neil used his superior fitness in the fifth game to take the match comfortably 11-7.

In the other game The Building Restoration Co. beat the Oban Filling Station comfortably with the Oban team missing their number one player Alan Moore.

This meant all players moved up a place and all games went 3-0, apart from Colin Macniven who got a game off the more experienced Warren Cameron.

Lorn carpet bowls

Bowls

Lorn Carpet Bowling League

P	Pts
Kilmore	7 46
Connel	8 31
Easdale	8 26
Nth. Connel	7 26
Benderloch	5 21
Cairnbaan	4 16
Taynuilt	5 10

Oban girl's big splash



Swimmer Abigail Evans has won a host of silverware this season. 07_106ab01

A TEENAGER in Oban is causing quite a splash in the swimming world after competing in her first full year of national competitions.

Thirteen-year-old Abigail Evans from Oban competed in the Scottish National Open Short Course Championships, held at Tollcross, Glasgow.

But the young swimmer, who is aiming for a place at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow (2014), was competing against adults.

Abigail said: 'I have been swimming since I was five. My Dad joined Oban Otters as a coach so I was able to join the club.' Since

Swimming

joining Oban Otters Abigail has progressed through the different levels to join the club squad in January 2007, aged 10.

Records She has come a long way from winning the small pool gala in 2002 to holding every club record for her age group.

Abigail's achievements last year included coming second in the Kerrera to Oban swim in June, her first open water swim.

Practicing for eight hours a week with squad training at the Oban Otters Club and

her own personal training, it has only been in the last year that Abigail has qualified for national events.

Attending the national events is not easy for the youngster, who said: 'It can be nerve wracking taking part in the competitions.'

'At the Scottish National Open Short Course Championships in Tollcross last month, I was shaking I was so nervous.'

But jitters aside Abigail managed to qualify for the 50-metre women's freestyle 'B' Final, becoming the first female swimmer from Oban Otters to qualify for a National Final.

Lorne break losing streak with first win in three months

SHE West League 1 Oban Lorne 57 Millbrae 11

OBAN Lorne ended a losing streak going back to early November with victory over Millbrae last Saturday.

For this match at Connel, Oban Lorne fielded one of their strongest line-ups so far this season, making several changes from the previous week's 43-3 defeat away to Cumbernauld.

Oban scored four tries in the first half through Chris MacDonald, one each for twins Cammy and Struan

Rugby

Smith and a first senior try for Ryan Jackson.

Millbrae's only replies came from the boot of their kicker, giving a half-time score of 26-6.

This score did not reflect Oban's dominance in a half which saw them 'score' two disallowed tries.

Oban started the second half as they did in the first and flanker Andy MacDougall added two more tries, with the scoreline stretching to 43-6 by the hour mark.

Millbrae, down to 13 men by this point because of injuries, began to play to their potential and were rewarded with a consolation try, their last score of the afternoon.

However, a further two Oban tries, from Andy MacDougall and Jamie MacMillan, put extra gloss on the scoreline.

Oban are now in seventh place in the league, above Loch Lomond, and 16 points above the relegation zone.

Next match is February 20 against Strathclyde Police.

Football emerges from shinty's shadow

Football

SHINTY may be Lochaber's most popular sport - but football's future is looking bright under new initiatives designed to boost the game at youth level.

Fort William FC youth development coaches are running highly popular football nights at the Nevis Centre every Friday night.

Support

And the Scottish Football Association is lending its support to help train local coaches keen to pass on their skills to youngsters.

SFA football development officer Peter Budge came down to Lochaber High School recently to put the



SFA development officer Peter Budge with the Lochaber coaches in Lochaber High School.

Lochaber-based coaches through their paces in a two-day course, while 10 primary six and seven teams from local schools attend the Nevis Centre sessions.

Fort William FC chairman John Wattssman said the initiatives could pay big dividends in future as youth football in Lochaber continues its revival.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon 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.

WIN £1000

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
A Gemmell, Ulva Road, Oban and C MacLeod, Glencruitten Drive, Oban

Russia's loss is Oban volleyball club's net gain

Scientist discovers a quest for new challenge

A FORMER Russian league volleyball player was so disappointed there wasn't a team in Oban, she decided to start one herself.

Zalina Dzhatieva, a geophysicist by trade, moved to Ganavan Sands in August last year with her oceanographer husband Dimitri Aleynik, who works at Scottish Association for Marine Science in Dunstaffnage.

Having played and coached in Russia, Southampton and Edinburgh before coming to Oban, Zalina is well qualified to take the helm of Oban's newest sports club.

The tall Zalina told The Oban Times: 'I started playing when I was in secondary school and continued playing as a student in the Russian leagues, although I didn't play in the top division; it is a huge sport in Russia.'

'When I moved to Edinburgh I played in the Scottish league and when I moved to Oban I contacted

Volleyball

the Scottish Volleyball Association to see if there was a team here. They told me there wasn't, so I decided to start one myself.'

Zalina had already been asked to coach at Dunbeg Primary School and has also held practices in Park and Rockfield primary schools.

'I really enjoy coaching the children but I am knackered after most of the sessions!'

'It is such a joy to see them making progress, having fun and communicating with each other.'

'Volleyball is a great game; you need good communication and teamwork but it is very dynamic.'

Zalina's first adult coaching session last Thursday attracted 11 people but more people have expressed an interest in playing.

The club will train every Thursday in Atlantis Leisure between 6-7pm.



Zalina Dzhatieva hopes to make an Oban volleyball team after beginning coaching sessions in Atlantis Leisure. 07_106v0101

Fun night for presentation

Ten-pin bowling

LOCHABER ten-pin bowlers enjoyed a fun night following the presentation of awards for the Lochaber Building Supplies Team League at the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

Forty-six players from different teams were mixed up according to their league averages into pairs to produce a level playing field - and a bit of hilarity.

Winning pairing was Murdo MacDonald and Andrew Leeds with a two-game score of 578, well ahead of second place duo Tony Whitelocke and newcomer Bard - all the way from Norway - who rolled up with 524.

League and event organiser John Weller ended with a solid last place with partner Jools Gray, the dynamic duo returning a not so mighty score of 389. The singles league will now run for eight weeks.

Saints ladies' Gers challenge

Football

THE newly-formed Oban Saints Ladies team played their first ever fixture last Sunday and they chose an easy one to start off with - Glasgow Rangers!

The match was played at Petershill Juniors ground, but the Oban side were no match for the slick moving Rangers outfit who won the game 12-0.

Saints coach Chris Picken was not too disappointed though. He said: 'It was a great experience for our girls against a team that train three nights a week and play at the top level.'

Another game has been organised against Falkirk Ladies in Oban in Sunday February 14 before the league starts in March.

Lochaber boys quick on sand

Athletics

EIGHT Lochaber athletes were competing on the sands at the Nairn Cross Country on Saturday.

Under 11 boys finished second team with Ewan MacLean seventh, Stephen Dent 12th and Alex Dent 24th. Calum Fraser finished fifth in the under 15 boys event, which was a close race, and teammate Craig Maclean was 17th. Calum is in third position overall in the league with one race remaining.

Isla Mackay had a strong run to finish sixth, which was won by top Scottish under-15 runner Emma Dunnett from Caithness. Bruce MacLean finished 10th under-13 boy and Colin Donnelly was the only senior competing, finishing in fifth place overall and top Vet 50.

The Vitrified Fort races are the next junior event in Glen Nevis on February 28.

Goon Squad stay top

Football

GOON SQUAD maintained top spot at the top of the Ali Young Winter League, overcoming a stuffy Rangers Supporters side 2-1.

Second-placed Achintore eventually beat Wanderers 1-0 to stay three points off the pace, while Funky Five kept their outside chances of winning the league alive when they beat Sawmill 2-1.

Other results: Livercaol 2, Lochaber Leisure 2; Alna 2 HWE No Stars 1.

A frantic four days

MacLean looks to in-form Ellis for inspiration

FORT William FC are facing two games in four days as they seek to get their winter campaign back on track.

The team were disappointed by last week's last minute postponement of the game against Buckie.

Saturday's opposition may not be so illustrious, but Turriff United will nonetheless provide a stiff test for Calum MacLean's men. Fort posted a highly creditable showing in

Football

their last outing at title challengers Cove, going down 2-0 after passing up several gilt-edged chances to share the spoils.

The home clash with Turriff will be followed by the visit of bottom club Rothes to Claggan Park on Wednesday.

Turriff are only 11 points clear of Fort, who have three games in hand, while

Urquhart, who looks an exciting prospect, while the manager will again be looking to mercurial winger Sean Ellis to provide the vital spark.

'On his game Sean is as good as anybody in the league,' Maclean told The Oban Times.

'In the first half against Cove he was absolutely outstanding, but he needs to show that form over the full 90 minutes.'



Flying winger Sean Ellis, a vital spark. 10_106football02

Saints snatch defeat from the jaws of victory

Scottish Amateur Cup

5th Round

FALKIRK 4

OBAN SAINTS 2

SAINTS threw away a two-goal lead against former Scottish Cup finalists Falkirk, exiting this year's competition at the fifth round stage.

This was the fourth attempt the teams had to get the game played due to the recent bad weather and it would not have been a surprise if the referee had declared the pitch on Saturday too dangerous to play on.

However, credit should go to both teams for turning in an exciting encounter in conditions more suited to dancing on ice rather than football.

The game started at a cracking pace, with good

chances for both teams. Falkirk's experience cancelled out the young Saints' high energy levels, producing an even contest.

The visitors eventually broke the deadlock in the



Allan MacKay

Football

41st minute when Myles McAuley fed the ball to Allan MacKay, who in turn sent a great cross into the box for Craig MacEwan who headed home.

Saints got off to a great start in the second period when they increased their lead three minutes into the half. Allan MacKay picked the ball up 25 yards from goal and thumped a right foot rocket over the helpless John MacEwan in the Falkirk goal to give Saints a two goal advantage.

However, only a minute later Falkirk pulled a goal back when Dante Lopez failed to clear his lines and the ball was crossed for Derek Colquhoun who outjumped Alex Craik to

head the ball home.

There followed a calamitous seven minutes, which saw the visitors concede two very poor goals and find themselves 3-2 down.

Credit to the visitors though, they weathered the storm and went looking for an equaliser and Donald Campbell had a great chance, but he blasted the ball over the bar from 12 yards. Allan MacKay also had a good chance when played in by Asen, but this was also missed.

With 10 minutes left Derek Colquhoun killed off any chance Saints had of forcing a replay when he raced clear before lobbing the advancing Graham Douglas to make

the score 4-2. Manager Iain Jackson was disappointed in the scoreline, but not by the way his team played.

He said: 'Apart from a mad 10-minute spell at the start of the second half when we lost three very poor goals we were a match for a well organised Falkirk team.'

'We created three or four excellent chances ourselves and if they had gone in then you just never know.'

'The difference between the teams was Falkirk striker Derek Colquhoun who was different class.'

Saints return to league business this Saturday with a home game against Cambria, who have a number of former Saints players in their ranks. The game will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off.

Nationwide entry for Oban archery competition

OBAN and Lorn Archers held their annual Open Portsmouth Competition at Atlantis Leisure on Sunday with 61 entries from throughout Scotland.

Competitors were regular visitors to Oban which shows the popularity of the event. There was close competition in most of the disciplines.

Organiser Bill Murray thanked those who donated prizes, Atlantis Leisure for allowing the group to set up the hall the evening before, Eleanor Wilson who judged throughout the day and Lynsey Davies for giving out the prizes.

Craig McCorquodale obtained a certificate and

Archery

badge for his achievement in the boy's under 10 category.

Results (all out of a possible 600): Gents Recurve - David Tough, Ancient Society of Kilwinning Archers, 559; Gents Longbow - Bruce Lockhart, Giffnock, 292; Ladies Recurve - Adelle Fleming, Lasswade, 516; Ladies Longbow - Brenda Williams, Bannockburn, 143; Gents Compound - Derek McAuley, Glasgow, 580; Ladies Compound - Ann Ward, Ayr, 542; Boys Recurve - Gareth Fleming, Lasswade, 552; Girls Recurve - Dawn Thompson, Linwood, 488; Novice - David Townsend, Ayr, 521; Best Oban and Lorn Archer - Bill Murray, 544; Recurve Team - Linwood, (Kenneth Hume, Peter Hilferth, Lawrence Thompson & James Wilbraham) 2148 (2400); Compound Team - Loreburn, (Ron Sneddon & Chris McWhinnie) 1133 (1200).



Prizewinners in the Oban Portsmouth Competition. 16_106archers01

Tides

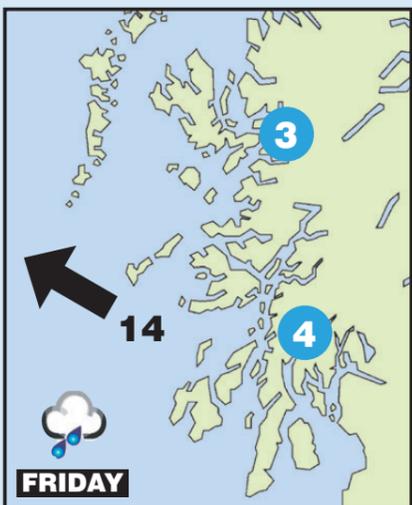
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, February 4, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 03.04	0.6 08.55 3.7 15.38 1.1 21.16 3.5	
Fri 03.50	0.9 09.35 4.1 16.24 1.4 22.00 3.2	
Sat 04.39	1.2 10.21 3.1 17.18 1.7 22.59 3.0	
Sun 05.37	1.6 11.29 2.8 18.26 1.9 *** **	
Mon 00.49	2.8 06.50 1.8 15.14 2.7 20.02 1.9	
Tues 02.31	2.9 08.41 1.9 16.23 2.9 21.32 1.8	
Wed 03.41	3.1 10.06 1.7 16.53 3.1 22.23 1.5	

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

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

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the weather

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Thursday

Sunny intervals during the day followed by light rain overnight. Winds light to moderate southerly. Temperatures 4°C to 7°C

Friday

Expect light rain to continue throughout the day. Winds moderate east/south-easterly. Temperatures 3°C to 5°C.

Weekend Outlook

Sunny intervals return with grey cloud expected into the evening. Winds light east/south-easterly. Temperatures 4°C to 6°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Light to moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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