

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Climber cheats death

see page 4

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Lucky to be alive

Woman escapes horror crash with minor injuries

A YOUNG woman was declared 'lucky to be alive' after surviving this crash, pictured right, that completely wrecked her car and left it hanging over an embankment after hitting a tree.

The force of the impact threw the engine from the main body of the car.

Yet incredibly, 27-year-old Susan Hall escaped with just minor injuries.

Ms Hall was travelling south on the A816 at Kilmore last Thursday when she lost control of her Ford Focus.

It mounted the road verge and the roadside barrier before hitting a tree at the bridge over the River Nell.

Ms Hall had to be cut from the car by Oban-based firefighters – once the car was stabilised to prevent it falling down the embankment.

After the precarious rescue, Ms Hall was taken to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban with only minor injuries and was released the next day.

Firefighters were praised for their role in the rescue in difficult circumstances.

Police Constable Steven McAleer, who attended the scene, spent a number of years with Strathclyde Police road policing's crash investigation team.

He said: 'This woman is

By EUAN PATERSON
incredibly lucky to be alive. There was a bizarre set of circumstances that meant she came away with just bumps and bruises.

'As the car came up the barrier, it began to rotate but was stopped by the tree. Also, the car hit the tree on the passenger side and took the full force of the impact.'

A spokesman for Strathclyde Fire and Rescue said: 'This woman was lucky to come out of the car with no fractures.'

'The car came to rest in a very difficult position for fire fighters and they did an excellent job, considering the potential injury to the woman.'

Serious

There have been serious accidents at the bridge in previous years and nearby residents say there are lots of crashes on the fast stretch of road.

One Kilmore resident said last week: 'Cars go off at that point all the time. There is a long straight before the road narrows around the corner and it catches people out.'

Area road policing Inspector David Ferguson said: 'We are consulting with the roads department and are looking at the road surface and layout to see if there is any way the road can be made safer, however, talks are at a very early stage.'



The mangled remains of the crash car at Kilmore – miraculously its driver escaped with minor injuries. t10crsh06

Man on rape charge

A MAN appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday charged with rape.

Kevin Mackie, aged 21, of Nant Drive, made no plea or declaration and was released on bail pending further examination.

Ferry loses propeller

THE JURA ferry, Eilean Dhura, is out of action after it lost a propeller on Monday evening – one day after returning from its annual refit.

The ferry had been operating all day, before the propeller came loose that night.

Ferry route operator ASP SeaScot is investigating how the ferry's return from its refit at Ardmaleish Boat Yard, Isle of Bute.

In the meantime relief vessel Margaret Sinclair, which had been on the Port Askaig to Jura run while the Eilean Dhura was in dry dock, is once again operating the route.

Islay-based councillor Robin Currie said: 'It is not a good situation when the ferry goes for an overhaul and the propeller falls off when it comes back.'

'Questions have to be asked.'

Parking charges increased by 10p an hour

PARKING charges in Oban, Inveraray, Fionnphort and at the Iona ferry are being increased by around 10p per hour for on and off-street parking.

The increase is part of an annual review of parking charges by Argyll and Bute Council and will see shoppers paying 80p for one hour's on-street parking.

Meanwhile, Tobermory on Mull has been given notice of the council's intention to impose parking charges for Main Street and off-street parking at Ledaig.

By LOUISE GLEN-LEE

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'Nobody enjoys paying parking charges but the revenue it creates is placed back into the area that it comes from. The traffic in Oban for instance has been greatly improved because of the parking measures imposed in the area.'

Alan Cathro, chairman of Oban Chamber of Commerce, said: 'While an increase in parking charges is never welcome, at least the revenue from the charge is retained

and spent within the town.'

'The charging has helped with the turnaround of vehicles, freeing up spaces that might well have been taken up all day.'

'However it is important we maintain the free parking at either end of the town for long-stay visitors, and efforts should be ongoing for an investment into a main car park to alleviate the chronic shortage of visitor spaces during the summer.'

A visitor to Oban, Peter Smith, has written to *The Oban Times* complaining

about the charges.

He said: 'We have just stayed in a lovely hotel this week in Oban. The only place to park is across the road at the pier where it cost me around £5 per day to park. This had the effect of making myself and a number of other guests at the hotel leave Oban during the day and spend our money elsewhere.'

'The council is not doing local businesses justice.'

'In other seaside locations like Scarborough you can buy a ticket for £2 from the hotels and you can park for a whole

week. Argyll and Bute Council needs to catch up.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The extra cost of three hours parking will only be 30p. We do not think this will be detrimental to town centre shopping.'

On Mull, there has been an outcry from residents over the council's plans to charge for parking in the Tobermory harbour area at Ledaig.

Brian Swinbanks, speaking on behalf of objectors, said:

'We believe people will stop coming into Tobermory to do their shopping.'

Fight to keep school dinners

OUTRAGED parents are fighting the proposed closure of six rural school kitchens, with the loss of seven jobs, in Argyll at Lismore, Colonsay, Rhunahaorine, Glenbarr and Skipness.

Full story on page 3.



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Public urged to save play park

A PLAY park used by hundreds of children every week has had to be closed after it was deemed unsafe.

The park at Atlantis Leisure in Oban was closed last Friday following a routine inspection.

It now needs substantial investment after 15 years of wear and tear and the community-owned Atlantis Leisure has issued a rallying call to the public for help.

Playgroups

As well as young children attending Atlantis Leisure, the park is used by the town's playgroups and nurseries. Soroba Young Families Group in Oban takes more than 100 children to the park every week.

The play park was set up in 1995 through funding from Argyll and Bute Council, Argyll and the Islands Enterprise and charities in the town.

Atlantis Leisure manager Nick Wesley said: 'Considering its age and the wear and tear on the equipment, our supplier reckons this could be one of the most used play parks in Scotland.'

'It is free of vandalism but Atlantis Leisure has continued to maintain the facility – the most recent investment was £5,000 in replacing bark chippings.'

Mr Wesley added that Atlantis Leisure would carry out essential repairs



Atlantis Leisure manager Nick Wesley is seeking public help to secure the future of the leisure centre's play park, which closed last Friday. t10play01

over the next few weeks to make the park safe to use but stressed that, long term, capital investment is required.

He said: 'This is an opportunity for organisations and individuals to come forward like they did 15 years ago and create a play park to be proud of. We really need people to rally around in order to secure its future.'

Soroba Young Families Group manager Janice Kay said: 'We take

our children there regularly and on a nice day we can take a picnic and stay there all day.'

'It is completely free to use, which saves us a lot of money, and the children really love it. It is a great resource and we would be sad to see it close.'

There will be an open meeting at Atlantis Leisure on Tuesday at 7pm to discuss how to save the play park.

£21m ferry drawback

ISLAY'S new £21 million ferry, expected to be ready in March 2011, will not be able to berth at the island's Port Ellen harbour, based on its current design.

Islay is served by two ports, Port Ellen and Port Askaig, and sailings are often diverted to either port. However, present infrastructure would dictate that the new ferry could only use the recently redeveloped Port Askaig.

Funding

The Port Ellen terminal and mainland Kennacraig terminal are due to be redeveloped but not before the new ferry is ready, as Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) is awaiting funding and a Harbour Revision Order.

A spokesman for CMAL said: 'The order was placed for a ferry to serve Islay a whole. It was important the vessel ordered was fit for purpose for the future.'

CMAL has published business cases for Port Ellen and Kennacraig harbours and will present these at public meetings in the Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, on March 10 and at the Templar Centre, Tarbert, the next day. Both meetings start at 6.30pm.

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Plans for £7.5m project will be revealed to residents next week

Mull could have new hospital by 2011

PLANS for a community hospital, 11 years in the making, are to be revealed next week to the islanders of Mull.

Proposals for the Mull Progressive Care Centre, a residential and hospital facility, will be presented at four information meetings on the island.

The *Oban Times* understands that the plan is for a 12-roomed residential hospital with minor injuries and specialist care centre to be completed and opened by April 2011.

Despite initial disagreement about the location, the building will be sited on land owned by the Mull Progressive Care Centre Group. The site, near the Isle of Mull Hotel in Craignure, is said to be ideal due to its close proximity to the jetty and accommodation for relatives of patients.

Delighted

Linda Cameron, chairwoman of Mull Community Council, said she was delighted that the project is about to go ahead. 'We have done enough talking it is time to get the hospital up and running.'

NHS Highland has made it clear that proposals must first be ratified by its management and health board committee.

The NHS is expected to put in the largest sum of money into the estimated £7.5 million project to replace the condemned hospital and residential home in Salen.

By LOUISE GLEN-LEE

Councillor Skye McIntosh is delighted that the people of Mull look set to finally get their hospital. 'It is hoped that the planning stage of the development will be completed by mid-summer and the build started by late this year for an opening in April, 2011.'

Councillor Gordon Chalmers is keen to point out that the information evenings are not for discussing the matter further. 'There has been a wide consultation on the hospital for many years and these meetings are simply to inform residents of what is going on.'

'Disagreement'

John Wilson from the Mull Progressive Care Centre said: 'There has been some disagreement about the site but after investigating 12 sites it was felt that the land by Java in Craignure was the most appropriate. We went with the recommendations of the engineers.'

The project is a joint initiative between partners Highland Health Board, Argyll and Bute Council, West Highland Housing Association, The Scottish government and Highland and Islands Enterprise.

Meetings will be held at 2pm in Bunnassan Church Hall and 7.30pm at An Tobar, Tobermory on Monday, March 9 and the following day at 2.30pm in Salen Hotel and 4.30pm at Craignure Village Hall.



Sue Dewar, bird hospital nurse, prepares to release the buzzard back into the wild.

Buzzard rescue is a soaring success

A SICK bird found dying by the roadside on Mull was released back into the wild last week after spending time at a bird hospital.

The male buzzard found at Glegorm in the north of the island weighing just over 2lbs, less than half its ideal weight, and unable to

fly was taken to the Wings Over Mull bird hospital.

The bird was then nursed back to health on a rich diet of rabbit.

Dave Sexton of the RSPB said: 'He was simply worn out - cold, wet and very hungry after the severe weather of the past few

months. After gaining weight rapidly he was taken to where he was found and released successfully. He immediately flew strongly and soared over his old territory.'

'Another buzzard seen nearby may have been his mate. Wings Over Mull did a great job.'

MSP discusses Barra marine fears

WESTERN Isles MSP Alasdair Allan has met with the European Commission to discuss fears on the island of Barra about its inclusion in a marine conservation area.

Islanders say economic activities like crofting and fishing will be put in jeopardy if the plan goes ahead.

Mr Allan held a meeting in Brussels with Michael O'Briain of the EC Directorate General Environ-

ment, Nature and Biodiversity Unit to discuss the implications of the marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) designation to include the Sound of Barra and Mingulay.

Feelings

He said: 'I made very clear the strong feeling the people in Barra and indeed the real anxieties which islanders have about this possible designation. 'I remain unconvinced of the

case for the SAC and will now be pursuing the issue further with Scottish Natural Heritage to establish what scope it has to decide the location of SACs in Scotland in the coming year.'

'The commission was able to offer some assurances about the SAC if it comes to pass, namely that it could be managed locally and that it could be phrased to explicitly ensure existing crofting and fishing activity can continue.'

Volunteers will run attraction

A GROUP of volunteers are to carry out day-to-day management of council-owned tourist attraction on the island of Mull due to staff shortages.

Councillors on Oban Lorn and the Islands area committee were asked this week to make a legal agreement with the Friends of Calgary Bay to carry out improvements at the council-owned beach, a popular destination for tourists.

The beach, dunes and machair, part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), at Calgary Bay are all owned by Argyll and Bute Council.

Assist

A report to councillors states that the group has already carried out conservation work and in the absence of council staff resources is willing to assist in managing and conserving the site.

The group is to be asked to address 'major issues' at the site including conservation and visitor management.

Councillors heard that the car park at the north of the site requires improvements and toilets regularly run out of water.

Councillors are asked to allow the council to enter into a management agreement with the group which wishes to be involved in conserving the area and improving the experience of visitors.

Sub-sea cable 'crucial'

THE IMPORTANCE of a sub-sea cable between Hunterston and Carradale to the renewable energy capabilities of Argyll and Bute is being highlighted to the Scottish government and MSPs.

With the agreement to allow exploration into offshore wind farms off Tiree, Islay and Kintyre, Argyll and Bute Council is pressing the case for a sub-sea cable that would connect to the National Grid.

At a recent executive committee, head of planning Angus Gilmour described a sub-

sea cable as 'crucial to meet the future renewable energy needs' of Argyll and Bute.

The request is being made as part of the council's response to the consultation on the National Planning Framework for Scotland 2 which sets out the government's 'spatial strategy' for Scotland's development to 2030 and is closely linked to the government's infrastructure investment plan.

The council has already written to the relevant Scottish parliamentary committee and all Argyll and Bute MSPs

calling for a sub-sea cable to be included in the future electricity grid reinforcements.

'Scandalous'

Islay councillor Robin Currie said it was 'scandalous' that Argyll and Bute MSPs had not 'pushed for this to be included and it is a gross omission for their not to have it on the map'.

The two main connections to the National Grid in Argyll and Bute are at Cruachan Power Station on Loch Awe and Loch Sloy on Loch Lomond.

Berneray launch for Donald's book

BERNERAY Community Hall will be a popular venue tomorrow (Friday) evening when Gaelic singer, writer and broadcaster Anne Lorne Gillies launches a book by one of the island's exiled sons.

Donald MacKillop's book, *Coille an Fhàsaich*, has already had successful launches in Inverness and Glasgow, but Comunn Eachdraidh Bhearnaigh felt it was important to celebrate its publication on Berneray as well.

Published towards the end of 2008, the book provides a unique and richly historical autobiographical account of life in the island of Berneray eight decades ago.

Donald, 83, now residing in Glencoe, recounts in the book his memories of child-



Here's to Berneray - Donald MacKillop pays homage to the island of his birth in *Coille an Fhàsaich*.

hood and schooldays, seven months spent working as an assistant to shepherds on Pab-bay and leaving home for the mainland.

It also includes many of Donald's Gaelic songs and poems, including his award-

winning *Coille an Fhàsaich*, complete with translation by Anne Lorne Gillies, who also edited the work.

Comunn Eachdraidh, which is hosting the evening, was delighted when Anne agreed to make a presentation about the book and Donald's life and works. She will also sing some of Donald's songs.

Special guest will be acclaimed Gaelic singer Jenna Cumming. Jenna will headline a ceilidh, which will take place during the second half of the evening, also involving local singers and musicians.

Copies of *Coille an Fhàsaich* will be on sale at the event. Entry will be by donation, with all proceeds going to support the work of Berneray Historical Society.



Eagle-eyed Constable Finlay Christine.

Wildlife award for Mull police officer

AN ISLAND police officer who has led efforts to conserve sea eagles has won a top wildlife award.

Finlay Christine, based at Salen Police Office, was honoured by PAW, The Partnership Against Wildlife Crime, for his work on Mull over the past 14 years.

Support

Constable Christine has become an expert in the protection of sea eagles, even giving evidence in court and speaking at conferences on the subject. But he says he relies on the support and commitment of volunteers.

He said: 'The thing that makes the project here on Mull so successful is we all work together as a team. People have been on hand from the start to make a tremendous contribution to the protection

of the birds on the island. 'Some couples even put in around-the-clock surveillance of the birds. Their commitment has paid off. This award is for everyone involved.'

Finlay was presented the award at the annual Police Wildlife Conference by MSP Roseanna Cunningham. She said: 'It is dedicated people like Mr Christine who are at the forefront of efforts to tackle those who threaten Scotland's rare wildlife.'

RSPB officer Dave Sexton who works closely with Mull Police said: 'Finlay pioneered Mull Eagle Watch and with the support of the community has foiled egg thieves and caught photographers disturbing white-tailed eagles.'

'Without his energy and commitment the eagles would not be thriving today.'



Beachd Ailein

A' leantainn air coinneimh ann an Steòrnabhagh air an t-seachdain seo chaidh a dheasbad sioladh chothroman co-snaidh ann an gnìomhachas gollachd èisg, chuala mi fear-labhairt bho Chomhairle nan Eilean Siar air rèidio ag ràdh cho cudromach 's a tha gnìomhachasan beaga dha beò-shlaint mhaireannach nan Eilean. Tha e glè cheart agus gu dearbh tha an aon rud fìor air feadh na dùthcha gu lèir.

Nuair a bheachdaicheas tu air eachdraidh eaconamach na Gàidhealtachd thairis air mòran bhliadhnaichean feumar aideachadh, ged a thug tionnsgalan mòra togail fad ùine an sud 's an seo nuair a thàinig teannachadh air margaidean bhual sgaradh pailt cho luath. Dh' fhaòd' a ràdh gum bu daor an ceannach a bh' aig a' Ghàidhealtachd air iomadh gnìomhachas mòr thar nam bliadhnaichean. Thàinig togail air beairteas ri linn cothrom co-snaidh, thàinig fàs air slugh, agus thàinig fàs cuideachd air trioblaidean sòisealta feadh na coimhearsnachd. Agus an uair a dh'fhalbh an cosnadh, cha mhòr cho luath 's a nochd e, bha mòran air am fàgail dìomhain gun roghainn ach cosnadh a shireadh feadh an t-saoghail mar a bha Gàidheil riamh.

Gun teagamh tha cothroman leasachaidh eaconamach a tha dol a dh' fhasadh àireamh mhòr luchd co-snaidh feumail agus cudromach, agus tha e ceart gum bithe a' suirghe an leithid. Ach far am bheil gnìomhachas mòr tha buaidh làitheil aig margaidean an t-saoghail air stèidh na buidhne, agus mar a tha an gnàth-fhacal Beurla ga chur "Ma nìthear sreathair air taobh eile an t-saoghail gheibhear cnatan an seo!"

'S e an duilgheadas leis a' gnìomhachas mhòr gum bheil e a' tàladh an ire mhath na cosnaich gu lèir oir tha an t-airgead nas cinntiche agus gu math tric 's dòcha nas fheàrr cuideachd. Chan eil gnìomhachas beag furasta agus glè thrìch chan eil teachd-a-steach ach truagh, ach chan eil e cho fosgailte ri gaillenn mhargaidhean mhòr an t-saoghail, agus mar sin tha na cosnaidhean a tha na chois beagan nas tèarainte.

Tha measgachadh de gnìomhachasan beag is mòr a dhith air an eaconamaidh, agus gu h-àraid air an iomall, ma tha cosnaidhean gu bhith cothrom. Agus tha e deatamach gum bheil a' choimhearsnachd a' toirt taic dha na gnìomhachasan beaga sin ach an soirbheach iad ann an co-phàirteachas.

Despite the obvious attractions of jobs and, usually, good wages, big business has been a very mixed blessing for the Highlands and Islands over the years. While its arrival generated an economic surge its subsequent loss, frequently linked to world market forces, resulted in mass unemployment in peripheral communities, and led to many having to travel the world for work.

Every economy needs a mix of big and small business, but small business is particularly vital in peripheral areas. While it is hard work it is also slightly less vulnerable to the onslaught of world market forces and can consequently sustain local economies more effectively than the boom and bust of big industry. We have much to lose if we don't support small business.

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
ailean@obantimes.co.uk

Gala event takes Harris Tweed back to its roots

HARRIS Tweed returns to its roots tomorrow (Friday) with a celebration of the fabric featuring top models and the work of leading designers.

The gala event at An Lantair in Stormoway will include items from the Harris Tweed Authority's vintage collection, as well as designs hot off the 2009 catwalk.

Titled 'A Celebration of Harris Tweed', the fashion extravaganza will culminate in a professional catwalk show with creations by a number of designers working both locally and nationally with the cloth.

HTA chief executive Lorna Macaulay said there has been 'a real resurgence' in designers using Harris Tweed.

'We are keen to show the versatility and application of the cloth in today's fashion market,' she said. 'Designers

and tailors tell us it is a pleasure to work with.

'I hope that this event will serve as a morale-booster locally and send out the message that Harris Tweed is not only alive and kicking but also finding a new level of interest and respect in the modern fashion world. We are hopeful the event will attract significant UK press attention.'

Vogue

Harris Tweed is very much back in vogue after mills at Shawbost and Carloway secured rave reviews from global buyers at fabric shows.

The famous cloth with its Orb trademark regularly graces the catwalks of New York, London, Paris and Milan, modelled by household names such as Kate Moss and Agyness Deyn in creations by Calvin Klein, Alexander McQueen and Ralph Lauren.

New ports payment system

A NEW online payment system has been launched for harbour dues at Caledonian MacBrayne ports throughout the west Highlands.

The online system is to help facilitate a new pricing structure for pier and berthing dues

which will apply to all ports from April 2009.

A new credit card-sized ticket will be issued by post, with vessel name and details, and ticket type and validity periods which will then be displayed on arrival.

Seil anger at sewerage project 'eyesores'

GREEN 'carbuncles' on Seil are an eyesore that will affect tourism, claim residents.

The £8.5million sewerage project on the island is finally coming to an end after eight months but the final insult say some residents is the size, colour and siting of three control units at Clachan Seil and Balvicar.

Oban Times reader Nick Bowles said: 'Most residents swallowed Scottish Water's assurances it would leave our island visually undamaged when the work was finished. Then the green boxes came.'

'These giant green cupboards are being installed with no apparent attempt to disguise them or site them sympathetically.'

'Apparently these giant units are being used because they are in stock. Much smaller units are



Residents say control units are unsightly. 110seil01

available and being used around Argyll. Even the guys installing them admit they are an eyesore.

'If the community had known of the size of the pumping stations there would have been more objections from the start.'

'The unit opposite Balvicar Shop is not in the place shown on the approved plans, and is a foot higher than approved.'

'Hopefully Scottish Water's arrogant attitude to the community will be met with a robust response from Seil's citizens.'

'Monstrosities'

An unnamed resident said: 'They are carbuncles. Who would want to come to the beautiful island of Seil and see these monstrosities? They must be removed.'

A Scottish Water spokesman said: 'The kiosks, which are for housing control panels for six pumping stations and are made of glass-reinforced plastic, were slightly larger than the size expected. We are investigating why this has occurred and assessing how we will proceed.'

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Thefts from plant contractors

EQUIPMENT has been stolen from two plant contractors in Oban over the weekend.

A Stihl saw and a vehicle trailer were stolen from a unit in Torran Gorm Industrial Estate between Friday and Monday.

In another incident, between Saturday and Monday, an orange mini-mix cement mixer was taken from ATAM Services in Mill Lane.

Police are keen to trace a white Ford transit van, which was seen parked on the pavement in Mill Lane at 9.30pm on Sunday.

If anyone has anyone information relating to the thefts contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

Thieves raid filling stations

A CASH machine was among the items stolen from the Cothouse Filling Station, Dunoon.

A quantity of cigarettes was also taken during the break-in on Sunday night.

In another incident, between last Thursday and Friday, a 'large quantity' of Easter eggs and soft drinks were stolen from Strachur Filling Station.

Anyone with any information regarding the thefts is encouraged to contact CID at Oban or Dunoon police stations.

Ferry review team will answer questions

THE SCOTTISH government is undertaking a comprehensive review of ferry services and will be holding public 'drop-in' meetings as follows: Monday, March 9 Castlebay Hall, Barra, 5pm-8pm; Tuesday, March 10, Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula; Wednesday, March 11, Town Hall, Stornoway 5pm-8pm; Thursday, March 12, Harris Hotel, Tarbert. Members of the ferries review team will be available to answer your questions.

Charity plea for volunteers

A CHARITY that supports stroke victims is desperately seeking volunteers for a new programme of support in Oban.

Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland runs services throughout Argyll and following an open day in Oban last December is looking to set up a group in Oban.

Oban co-ordinator Judy O'Rourke said: 'We need volunteers to help us by working on a one-to-one basis with people who have had a stroke.'

To volunteer, or to find out more, contact Judy on 01967 431 880 or e-mail judy.ourouke@chss.org.uk

Tallest tree is in Argyll

SCOTLAND'S tallest tree is in Argyll - it's official.

A team of scientists climbed two trees thought to be the tallest in Scotland to determine once and for all which one was the tallest.

A Grand Fir at Blair Castle went branch to branch with a Douglas Fir at Glendaruel near Doune Castle in Argyll. The winner was the Douglas Fir coming in at 209.2 feet. The tree is reputed to have been planted by Archibald Fletcher in the 1840s.

Axe hangs over school posts Parents fight to keep seven dinner ladies

OUTRAGED parents are fighting the proposed closure of six school kitchens in Argyll.

Following a story in last week's *Oban Times*, parents from Lismore, Colonsay, Rhunahairne, Glenbar and Skipness have confirmed that losing their school cooks is a step too far and they will be making their protests directly to Argyll and Bute Council.

Parents in Lismore released a statement expressing grave concerns over the 'surprise news in *The Oban Times*' about the closure of their kitchen and the loss of a member of staff.

It said: 'Parents feel that there are several reasons our kitchen should not be closed. The first being that it does not support the SNP's Healthy Eating Pledge.'

'Secondly, this is an island school being discriminated against because it is small and rural. Our children are no different from those in bigger schools.'

'This closure reduces the employment prospects on an island economy that is already in dire need of jobs.'

By LOUISE GLEN-LEE

Laura Cook, chairman of the parents council, said: 'We need the council to stop taking away our vital services to make cost savings.'

School cook Christine McNeill from Colonsay has still not received notification of her job loss, three weeks after the decision was made at the council's budget meeting.

Last week, *The Oban Times* revealed how Christine learned through an article in the paper that she is being made redundant.

Whispers
She said: 'After that, I was told by Chinese whispers that my job would be going in March and then I was told that the council may keep the kitchen open until end of term in June.'

'But as I have not received anything official, like a letter, a phone call or even an email, then I do not know when I will be losing my job.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather said: 'I have called for a meeting for a full discussion of these closures.'

'The school meals and the

Healthy Eating Pledge is not a service that can be withdrawn lightly without a robust interrogation of motivations.'

'School meals are part of an agreement between Argyll and Bute Council and the Scottish government.'

Redundant
The council planned to make seven workers redundant to save £62,000 but a press statement suggests it may be bowing to public pressure to keep the facilities open.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'This year's budget saw the council making some very difficult decisions in order to balance the books in view of the fact that we were under an obligation to retain the council tax at the same rate as per the single outcome agreement we signed with the Scottish government.'

'However, although the decision has been taken, Councillor Dick Walsh remains in discussions regarding the school meal service and any decision will not be acted upon until these discussions have been exhausted.'

Romantic Kristian whisks Anne of her feet

IT SEEMS the way to a woman's heart is a barrel of whisky - if a recent proposal at Islay's Bruichladdich Distillery is anything to go by.

Danish couple Kristian Dahl and Anne Abom will return to the distillery to marry after Kristian bought his partner a personalised barrel and proposed during a recent tour.

Holiday
Bruichladdich Distillery managing director Mark Reynier said: 'They met last February and came to Islay for their first holiday together. This was an anniversary trip and Kristian decided to propose. He bought the barrel and arranged for it to be stamped



Kristian Dahl proposed to Anne Abom after buying a personalised Bruichladdich whisky cask from the Islay.

with their names.

'The next day they joined a tour and Kristian proposed when they reached warehouse two, where the barrel was stored. All the female members of staff thought it was wonderful - some of the men were cringing!'

Mr Reynier said that because of popular demand, the

distillery was applying for a licence to hold weddings and should get the paperwork finalised this month.

Whisky Bible author Jim Murray said: 'Weddings in distilleries are unusual in this country but not unheard of.'

'In the USA, at Buffalo Trace Distillery, Kentucky, there is a wedding every weekend.'

SNP lobbied over forestry plans

DELEGATES arriving at the SNP's constituency AGM in Inveraray on Saturday were leafleted by forestry unions.

Roy Laird from the unions said the leaflets, opposed to forestry lease sell-off plans, were 'well received'.

'I had a talk with Jim Mather MSP and he guaranteed us a public meeting in the near future,' said Mr Laird. 'Though this might be a moot point as the Conservatives have pulled their support.'

'I'd like to thank everyone who supported the local forestry unions; we had a great deal of information and advice from contractors who work in the forestry and also a great deal of backing from the general public.'

'Announcement'
Mr Laird added that the forestry unions had been told to expect 'some kind of announcement from the SNP' within the next week.

On Thursday last week Scottish Conservatives called on Scottish ministers to ditch their forestry lease sell-off plans, claiming that the recently published results of the government's own consultations show the plans to be unworkable and potentially damaging to Scotland's forestry sector. 'It is clear that the government's proposals command little support from those involved in the forestry sector and that in practical terms they do not stack up,' said John Scott MSP, the Tory spokesman on forestry.

Community plans to buy forest

A MID ARGYLL community could become the first to establish new woodland crofts under a community buy-out plan.

Residents of Craignish will be asked to vote next week on whether their community-owned company should purchase 120 hectares of woodland from the Forestry Commission.

Craignish Community Company believes the land at Salachry could provide ten new crofts, a community-owned biomass business and a number of jobs.

Housing
Maddy Leslie, a company director, said the ideas are the result of many years work to address the massive pressure on housing in the area. She said: 'This is hugely exciting for Craignish. It would not just be addressing the housing need, but the desire of many to work the land.'

Alongside new crofts, Craignish Community Company plans to develop one



Maddy Leslie, Luke Silvan, Bridget Jensen and Chrissie Sugden have worked on the forest buy-out plan.

third of the forest commercially and put a further 40 hectares to community use. The forest, running on both sides of the A816 south of Ardfern, contains a number of archaeological sites including an old hill fort and the remains of a settlement. They plan new paths, mountain bike trails, improved viewpoints and volunteering opportunities to make it a community asset and an attraction for visitors.

Ms Leslie added: 'The biomass business makes it sustainable. It's a good way to add value to the trees we have there.'

The plan is to produce split logs and wood chip for boilers and animal bedding, creating up to three jobs.

The community's project officer Chrissie Sugden said no aspect of the proposal was set in stone, but they were keen to maximise the opportunity.



Ian MacLean, who has retired as Oban High School janitor, receives his song sheet from grandson Niall Jordan.

Unique farewell to janitor

IT WAS with a unique gift that Oban High said goodbye to its head janitor.

Ian MacLean retired last Friday and the accomplished accordion player had a tune written for him by the school's music tutor, Dave Mason.

Ian received the song sheet from his grandson Niall Jordan who, along with fellow pupil Donald Morrison, played the pipes at the pres-

entation. Ian has been supportive of the school's music department over the years.

'I have enjoyed watching the music department explode over the last six years,' he said. 'My own grandchildren have really benefited from it and it was great when the boys played a piping recital for me.'

Originally from Glasgow, Ian moved to Oban 39 years

ago and has worked with Argyll and Bute Council for 20 years.

Having worked in the council's cleaning services, he came to Oban High School six years ago in a 'temporary' position.

Ian explained: 'I came here six years ago for three months, while the head janitor was taking part in the single status survey, and I never left!'

Honours for RNLI volunteers

VOLUNTEERS from across the Highland and Islands are to be given honorary awards for services to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute.

More than 100 volunteers nationally, 27 of which are from the Highlands and Islands, will be recognised at the charity's Scottish annual meeting in Perth Concert Hall on June 2.

Of the Argyll and Bute award

winners, George McKenzie, Isle of Bute branch, has been given the gold badge.

Prizewinners
Other Argyll prizewinners are: silver badge - Dr David Latta (Islay), Hilary Barr (Kilmun), Trevor Wade (Ross of Mull and Iona), Dr Bill Clegg (Tobermory), Anne Flavell (Tobermory); bronze badge - Marie Corson (Islay), Margaret McDougall (Mid

Argyll), Elizabeth McCulloch (Tarbert), Lorna Fowler (Campbeltown); certificate of thanks - Helen Connell, Leonard Cumming, Irene Cumming (all Bute).

Among the Highland winners are: silver badge - Jacqui Heaton and Paddy Henderson (both Inverness & North Kessock), Peter MacDonald (Portree), Ian Banks (Wick Lifeboat).

Man sent revealing pictures in offensive email to ex

A TAYNUILT man was so upset at the break up of a relationship that he sent an offensive email to his former girlfriend containing nine revealing pictures of her.

At Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, Gary Barnett, aged 42, of The Chalet, Alandon, admitted sending a grossly offensive or indecent electronic communication.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell said the woman was left alarmed and distressed by the message. The consensual pictures had been taken on a digital camera during the couple's three and half year relationship which ended 'acrimoniously' last September.

Embarrassment
Mr Farrell said the victim was exposed to embarrassment and further upset when she had to show the pictures to a police officer.

Stephen McLeod, agent for Barnett, said his client was distraught at the break-up of the relationship and had sent the email to 'lash out' at his former partner.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined Barnett, a first offender, £500 and ordered police to delete any images from Barnett's computer that might cause distress.

Youth committed offence while on bail

AN OBAN youth has admitted struggling with police officers, resisting arrest and committing a breach of the peace while on bail.

Fraser McKerracher, aged 17, admitted at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to also conducting himself in a disorderly manner and repeatedly kicking scaffolding in Albany Street, Oban, on December 6 last year.

Sentence was deferred on McKerracher, of Kerrera Lodge, Oban, until March 23 for a social enquiry report.

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NHS Highland
PUBLIC CONSULTATION
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN ARGYLL AND BUTE
NHS Highland is currently carrying out a public consultation process into our plans for the redesign and modernisation of mental health services across Argyll and Bute.
The consultation runs from 12 January 2009 to 10 April 2009
A series of drop in events have already been held across Argyll and Bute to provide patients, carers and local people with an opportunity to discuss the proposals with local NHS staff and raise any issues or questions that they may have. We have arranged a series of further events in March and members of the public are invited to drop in at anytime.
Tuesday 10 March 2009 Aros Hall, Tobermory, Mull 4.00pm-5.30pm
Wednesday 11 March 2009 Argyll Hotel, Dunoon 4.30pm-6.00pm
Thursday 12 March 2009 Corran Halls, Oban 5.00pm-6.30pm
Tuesday 17 March 2009 Guide Hall, Campbeltown 5.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 19 March 2009 Pavilion, Rothesay 3.30pm-5.00pm
Tuesday 24 March 2009 Baptist Church, Lochgilphead 5.00pm-6.30pm
Thursday 26 March 2009 Victoria Halls, Helensburgh 5.00pm-6.30pm
For further information including copies of the consultation document please contact Fiona Broderick, Tel: 01546 604908; Email: fiona.broderick@nhs.net
Alternatively you can download a copy of the document from our website: www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/CHP/ArgyllandBute/Pages/MentalHealthReview.aspx
Argyll & Bute CHP manages acute, primary, community health and mental health services

Spotlight on sleeper

SCOTRAIL is to be summoned to the next Lochaber Transport Forum meeting to answer questions on its Fort William to London Euston sleeper service.

At the forum's quarterly meeting last Friday, members claimed an unwieldy booking system was contributing to under-use of the vital overnight link - a situation which could figure when the franchise comes up for renewal in November 2014.

Chairman Brian Murphy said: 'The sleeper is very, very important to Lochaber and that's got to be highlighted.'

Lochaber Provost Allan Henderson said unused block bookings returned by agencies meant potential passengers were lost because systems were not updated in time.

Ferry review meetings

THE SCOTTISH government roadshow on its comprehensive review of ferry services in Scotland reaches the Western Isles next week.

Members of the ferries review team will be available to answer questions at a series of public 'drop-in' meetings.

Dates and times: Monday March 9 - Castlebay Hall, Barra, 5pm to 8pm; Tuesday March 10 - Dark Island Hotel, Benbecula; Wednesday March 11 - Town Hall, Stornoway 5pm to 8pm; Thursday March 12 - Harris Hotel, Tarbert.

Deer stalking on Rum

SCOTTISH Natural Heritage is to extend a concession arrangement for deer stalking on Rum following a successful 2008-09 deer cull.

The agency is offering service providers the right to take shooting clients out on the island of Rum this year and shoot around 40 red deer stags and 40 hinds.



Sunday 5.05pm Fort William: the RAF helicopter arrives at the West End car park with the injured Mr Hunter. f10rescue02

Climbing instructor cheats death in 700-foot fall

A FORT William climbing instructor cheated death in a terrifying 700-foot fall down a Glencoe mountain on Sunday afternoon.

Welshman Max Hunter was leading three novice climbers on Stob Coire nan Lochan when a snow cornice

he was standing on gave way. He plummeted into the rock-strewn corrie but missed every boulder during his near-vertical fall, coming to rest in soft snow. Eight members of Glencoe Mountain Rescue team attended Mr Hunter, who was airlifted to the

Belford Hospital in Fort William. The RAF Lossemouth helicopter arrived at the West End car park at 5.05pm, where aircrew and mountain rescue personnel helped paramedics transfer Mr Hunter into the waiting ambulance. Mr Hunter was found to have suffered

only cuts and deep bruising. He was kept in for observation and was discharged from hospital yesterday.

Mr Hunter's miracle escape happened on St David's Day - Wales' patron saint.

'I can't believe I'm alive,' he said.

Only three families out of 600 on list got rented homes last month Councillor demands action on housing shortage

THE CRITICAL shortage of quality social housing was highlighted this week when a Lochaber councillor revealed of 600 families on the waiting list, only THREE got keys to a rented home in February.

Fort William and Ardnamurchan councillor Donald Cameron said few available houses and national legislation on homelessness meant unless more homes were built, local people would remain stuck on waiting lists 'for years to come'.

Demanding action, he told *The Oban Times*: 'The combined total

allocation in February of three houses for rent from the two housing agencies Highland Council and Lochaber Housing Association highlights the plight of more than 600 individuals and families who are on the waiting list. It also clearly demonstrates the need for a programme of building social housing for rent.

'Therefore it is incumbent on politicians of every political hue and at every level to address the situation and press for solutions. Highland Council is pressing for its historic

£150 million housing debt, which costs £15 million per year to service, to be written off. This would allow the council to build approximately 150 new homes annually without extra borrowing.'

'The homes are required, the building industry needs the work until the good times again roll in the private sector. It would upkeep the trade skills and the retail sector would benefit from new homes being furnished. All this could be achieved for a sum equivalent to 20 years pension for a sacked banking managing director.'

Councillor Cameron also called

on government to increase grants to housing associations to take account of higher house-building costs in the Highlands.

He said: 'Those measures would do more to stimulate the economy than many of the initiatives taken so far to counteract the recession we are in. More importantly it would provide decent homes for deserving local people.'

'Until something is done, I am afraid that for many the aspiration of being allocated social housing for rent will remain a pipedream.'

Tiles, table and pictures stolen as last patients lie in bed

Thieves target Glencoe Hospital

EXCLUSIVE: By STEPHEN NORRIS

POLICE are investigating a series of thefts from Glencoe Hospital as it prepares to close its doors for the last time.

Antique tiles have been levered off ornate fireplaces in three rooms in recent weeks, with an antique table from an upstairs room and pictures from walls understood to be among other items taken.

The thefts took place while elderly patients still occupied beds at the hospital.

Three patients are expected to transfer to nearby Abbeyfield Ballachulish Care Home by early next week once specially adapted rooms are completed.

Chief Inspector John Chisholm confirmed to *The Oban Times* local police had received information that items had been going missing from Glencoe Hospital over a period of time.

He said on Friday: 'On February 19 we were alerted to the fact that during the last number of weeks fireplace tiles had been removed from a variety of rooms within Glencoe Hospital.'

'Inquiries are ongoing with maintenance staff in order to establish a full list of property which may have been stolen.'

One local resident, who did not wish to be named, said: 'It's just a shame that anyone

should lower themselves to do this to what is a very attractive building - somebody is going to buy it at the end of the day. Some other villages have stately homes people can go and visit on a wet day, but whether that will be possible for Glencoe I don't know. It's sad to see it happen.'

'I'm a bit concerned it's going to be boarded up and I would hope there would be a night watchman there in case other things go missing.'

The hospital was originally Glencoe House, built by Lord Strathcona in 1895-6.

Moves to retain the hospital for community use, incorporating a visitor centre and local heritage/history displays have been discussed at several meetings in South Lochaber, but the idea earned mixed reviews.

Concerns include the longer-term costs of heating, staffing and maintaining the property.

A community company, backed by local people, could consider registering an interest in buying the property under community right-to-buy legislation.

NHS Highland's Mid Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP) General Manager Gill McVicar told *The Oban Times* the hospital

Continued on page 7.

Oban nursery praised by education inspectors

CHILDREN at an Oban nursery have been given high marks by government inspectors.

Infants and pre-school children are getting the best of education at Soroba Young Family Centre, they say.

HMIE government education inspectors highlighted relationships between staff, children and parents as one of the main strengths of the centre.

The report stated: 'The manager, Janice Kay, provides high quality leadership and is a very good role model. She has a clear vision and is highly committed to provide high quality child care and learning experiences for all children.'

Janice praised her dedicated staff and parents as the key to the centre's success.



Nursery and infant children jump for joy at the top-class inspection report for the school. i09sor002

Hopes grow of lifeline for Lochgilphead pool

THE Mid Argyll community has rallied to the aid of 'the most under-funded, best run swimming pool' in the region.

The Lochgilphead pool, threatened with closure last week when it ran out of money, now looks set to stay open while a solution is found.

At an emergency meeting last week, councillors and swimmers agreed to work with the directors to get the pool out of hot water in the short-term and secure its survival. An action committee was formed to negotiate with the council for a cash injection to prevent the doors closing and put together a business plan.

Colin McLean, chairman of the pool's directors, said it had been run on a shoestring with vital repairs left undone or carried out by lifeguards to save money.

Alistair MacLeod, a regular user of the pool and a member of the Mid Argyll triathlon group, said: 'This is the most under-funded pool around and it

is doing the best job. It would be lunacy even to threaten the best-run swimming facility in Argyll.'

Staff at the pool, which has been losing money and eating into its reserves over the past three years, were paid last week after the bank agreed a one-off extension of the overdraft. But there is uncertainty about how next month's wage packets or outstanding bills to suppliers will be paid.

Councillors Alison Hay and Donald MacMillan said the council's finance officers were keen to meet with the pool's directors. The council bailed the pool out seven years ago and increased its subsidy.

It emerged at the meeting that the cash flow crisis had been made worse by a delay in the council and local schools paying their bill for swimming lessons.

Colin McLean said the new committee had put together a draft business plan. He added: 'It is going to require a lot of work and community support.'

Planning bid for cafe and toilets

A PLANNING application for a new cafe and public toilets at Ganavan Sands on the outskirts of Oban has been submitted by Argyll and Bute Council.

However, the council said this week it does not know what it will do with the site if planning permission is given and described the proposed building as a 'civic facility'.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'When and if the council establishes the exact requirement and purpose of a new facility, then a further planning process would be required and only at that stage would consideration be given to either demolishing the existing toilets or incorporating them into a new building.'

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Anger at road delay reports

A82 UPGRADE campaigners have reacted angrily to reports the road may not see major improvements until 2017 or later.

Transport Scotland has intimated budget constraints could push back start dates.

Partnership spokesperson Alasdair Ferguson said: 'Suggestion of a delay until 2017 is scandalous.'

Chairman Councillor Brian Murphy said: 'The A82 needs action now, not in 2017. If funding the new Forth Bridge is their priority then the Scottish government needs to come up with alternative funding for the bridge that will not hold up the other Scotland-wide projects identified in the STPR.'

'We will insist on an urgent meeting with Stewart Stevenson in view of the continuing uncertainty over the government's plans.'

Fort underwater centre's rising popularity



The Falcon ROV used in Loch Linnhe to train underwater pilots.

FORT William's Underwater Centre saw demand for its Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) courses increase by more than 70 per cent last year.

The increasing popularity of the courses meant that the centre ran 12 classes throughout 2008 compared with seven the previous year.

Centre manager Steve Ham said there had been 'unprecedented' numbers taking the courses - a trend likely to continue this year. 'The sub-sea sector continues to flourish at a substantial rate and our market leading position has allowed us to capitalise on this growth,' said Mr Ham.

'There has been an unprecedented increase in the demand for these training programmes, which looks set to continue throughout 2009 as the deepwater sector continues to grow.'

The figures are backed by a new study published by energy analysts Douglas-Westwood, which forecasts that the deepwater oil and gas sector will spend more than £110 billion by 2013. The Underwater Centre's Premium ROV course lasts seven weeks and is designed to give newcomers to ROV piloting all the skills necessary for a successful career as a pilot.

Future still bright for Lochaber Hydrotherapy pool

THE NEW chairman of Lochaber Hydrotherapy Limited says funds are still needed to help run the Dolphin Pool at Lochaber Leisure Centre in Fort William but insists the future is bright.

Speaking at the charity's AGM last Thursday, John Foley told members and supporters the pool was 'bedding down well' and praised his volunteer team. 'The future is now our priority,' he said. 'The board has at least four years left to manage Hydrotherapy

Limited under the agreement with the Lottery, before probably handing over to the council in total.'

Co-operation with Highland Council was vital to ensure day-to-day operations continued, said Mr Foley. 'I am very grateful to

Graham Brooks and John O'Kane for the great support given to us and their enthusiasm to ensure the project succeeds. I would also like to pay tribute to the willing volunteers who good-humouredly carry out our reception duties.'

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Drug driver banned for a year

AN APPIN man has been banned for a year after admitting driving while under the influence of drugs.

Hugh Hunter, Rosebank, was stopped by police on the A828 at Appin on April 1 last year after officers saw the accused driving erratically at speed.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that Hunter, aged 44, was acting in an agitated manner and his eyes were glazed.

A blood sample taken later showed a traces of four drugs in his system, including Methadone and Diazepam, the latter of which was at a level that would have affected his ability to drive, the court was told.

Defence agent Edward Thornton, producing a report from Hunter's GP, said his client had been on the Methadone programme for some time but was a first offender.

Sheriff Douglas Small also fined Hunter £375.

Caught by camera he vandalised

A LOCHGILPHEAD youth was filmed by the very camera he was vandalising.

Christopher Walls, aged 17, of 6 Coronation Terrace, admitted in court in the town last week that he had willfully and recklessly attempted to cause damage to a CCTV camera outside an Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, shop on 23 June last year.

Sheriff Carol Kelly was told the repairs to the camera cost £150.

The sheriff deferred the case until March 25 and called for community service assessment and social enquiry reports on Walls.

£88,000 for recycling schemes

TWO projects in Argyll and Bute have received funding from the Scottish government's Increase in Community Recycling and Social Enterprise scheme.

A total of £88,049 has been given to the GRAB Trust for its furniture reuse project in Oban and Lorn and for promoting the use of reusable nappies throughout Argyll and Bute.

Game to be involved

MORE is to be done to encourage teams coming to Glasgow for the 2014 Commonwealth Games to use facilities in Argyll and Bute.

Members of the council's executive committee agreed last week to formalise what the council could offer.

Councillor Douglas Philand, depute spokesman for arts, culture and leisure, suggested the council set up a strategy to promote Argyll and Bute as a venue for visiting teams.

Good train of thought

More rail services would be 'excellent value for money'

IMPROVING rail services between Glasgow and Oban would increase demand, according to a new study.

Five trains a day
It says the present three services a day should be increased to five.

Highlands and Islands regional transport partnership HITRANS last year commissioned Halcrow to forecast the change in demand an improved service might bring and whether or not it would represent value for money.

The report puts the cost to economic benefits ratio at a best case scenario of 1:5 – for every £1 spent there would be a £5 return – or worst case scenario of 1:3.9 which Halcrow suggests 'represents excellent value for money' and 'strongly recommends' it is taken forward for further consideration.

The service runs three times a day between Glasgow and Crianlarich where it splits into two

to service Oban and Fort William.

New timetable
But a new timetable has been developed by Habtrans Consultancy to take effect from December 2009 which aims to increase the number of trains from three to five a day.

It was suggested that there was a particular need to increase the frequency of trains operating on the Oban to Glasgow route as Oban was the 'largest settlement

in Scotland to be served by the minimum rail service of three trains per day'.

'In addition,' stated the Halcrow report, 'there is a high level of tourism in the area with Oban tourist information centre being the busiest in Scotland after Edinburgh.'

Optimistic
The Halcrow study has looked at the most optimistic and pessimistic forecasts for demand, taking into account the increase

in costs and uses Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance timescales.

It concludes that while the improved timetable will require a further subsidy – because the operating costs are likely to exceed the revenue generated – this is a relatively low cost compared to the benefits to transport users in the area, including improving employment prospects and affording tourists without a car easier access.



Easdale Primary pupil Grant Phillips with his competition letter and certificate. (09eas01)

Grant's woolly writing impressed

A SEIL schoolboy has been shortlisted for a national competition thanks to a touching letter he wrote to Shaun the Sheep.

Grant Phillips, aged 11, from Easdale Primary was inspired by his crofting life to write to the famous animation character.

In a letter writing competition, he spoke to his woolly friend saying: 'You would end all wars and

make everyone laugh, we would all be a bit happier if you were real.'

Fictional
The competition run by Post Office Limited asked children to write to their favourite fictional character, and entries across the UK confirmed that Harry Potter is the number one influence on youngsters of all ages today.

Grant is one of ten children short listed and he has received a presentation pack of first class stamps and a certificate. The completion hopes to encourage letter writing among children.

The primary seven pupil will learn later on this month if he has won the overall competition securing £1,000 in spending money for his school.

Awe service station thieves found guilty

Money, cigarettes and alcohol stolen in early morning raid

THIEVES who broke into a Bridge of Awe service station and stole money, cigarettes and alcohol were caught an hour later 60 miles away thanks to a police alert to neighbouring forces.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that three men and a juvenile were caught in a van in Strathgry by traffic officers from Central Scotland Police.

Hooded tops, spotted on CCTV, and alcohol in the van linked the thieves to the break-in at the service station.

Stephen O'Brien, aged 25, of flat 1/1, 247 Liddesdale Road, Possilpark, Glasgow, and Michael Gittens, aged 25, of 69 Castlebay Drive, Milton, Glasgow, pleaded guilty to the break-in and thefts at around 3.45am on January 28 of this year. Co-accused John Hetherington, aged 20, of 94 Scaraway Street, Possilpark, Glasgow, was found guilty after trial of the thefts and breaching a bail order.

Michelle McGarrity, an agent for Hetherington claimed that

her client, while caught in the van with the others in Strathgry, had no case to answer because there was no evidence placing him in Bridge of Awe or showing that he had knowledge of the stolen goods.

However, procurator fiscal Justin Farrell said Hetherington had not offered any other explanation why he was in the van and the onus in law was for him to do so.

Finding Hetherington guilty, Sheriff Douglas Small refused bail because of his past record for crimes and dishonesty and a long list of offences committed while on bail.

Sentenced on all three was continued until March 23 for social enquiry reports and community service assessments.

Angus Douglas, the owner and operator of the service station, told the court he had lost up to £900 in the incident through the thefts and damages and that a low insurance payout had left him £600 out of pocket.



FORMER brownies and guides are being urged to pass on their old stories and photographs as Argyll plans to mark a milestone of the Girlguiding UK movement.

Girlguiding UK will celebrate its 100th anniversary next year and Oban woman Teresa Russell has been tasked with collating information for a display dedicated to Argyll.

Teresa has moved from her role as district commissioner for Taynuilt (incorporating Connel and Dalmlally) to the Argyll-wide role.

She said: 'I was involved in guiding in the area when we celebrated 75 years, so I know there are lots of guiders and young leaders in the area with stories to tell.'

'I would like these people to contact me on 01631 566936 and share their experiences with me.'

Sheena Dodman has succeeded Teresa as district commissioner for Lorn and her remit has extended to North Connel.

A PANEL of experienced photographers answered questions on the complexities of digital photography at a recent roadshow in Oban.

President Alex Clark welcomed a large number of members from as far afield as Dunoon and Lochgilphead to Oban Photographic Club's Photographic Roadshow in the Regent Hotel, Oban.

A panel of experienced photographers comprising John Douglas, Bob McCulloch, Steve Cross and Jim Kirkpatrick were joined by professional photographer Cameron Harris of Highland Photos.

The club has vowed to hold another roadshow next season as it has proved very popular. The winner of a fun quiz was Katy Weir and the winner of Identifying Places in Oban was Bob McCulloch.

FEBRUARY'S meeting of the Oban and District Needlework Group welcomed Minty MacKay of Ardalansh Organic Farm/Isle of Mull Weavers.

Minty brought an impressive display of tweeds, knitwear, rugs and scarves etc produced at Isle of Mull Weavers from the wool of the hebridean sheep on the farm and gave an interesting talk on how she and her husband came to Mull, gradually moved into organic farming and, with the help of others, got involved with Isle of Mull Weavers who set up at the farm.

The next meeting, to be held at Lorn Resource Centre on Tuesday March 10 at 7.30 pm, features a presentation by Sarah Campbell, designer of contemporary furnishing and fashion accessories, regarding the story of Mogwaii, her international design company. Sarah is from Lisimore. All welcome to attend.

Hamilton drops RBS action at Oban

A FORMER QC from North Connel has dropped his claim of negligence against the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Ian Hamilton formally abandoned his action at Oban Sheriff Court last week when Sheriff Simon Pender ruled that the claim of negligence against the Royal Bank of Scotland would have to be heard at a higher level.

Mr Hamilton claimed the bank was insolvent when it promoted a £12 billion share issue last April, during which he bought £1,828 of shares which are now worth a fraction of that. He argued that it did not disclose this information at the time to shareholders or debts arising from the bank's acquisition of ABN Amro.

The bank's solicitor advocate Joyce Cullen of Brodies had said at the hearing the previous week that the bank was solvent at the time.

Sheriff Pender said that, because of the complexity of the legal and factual issues likely to be raised, a more formal procedure was required and that the small claims court, while intended for small sums of money, was

never intended for cases such as Mr Hamilton had raised.

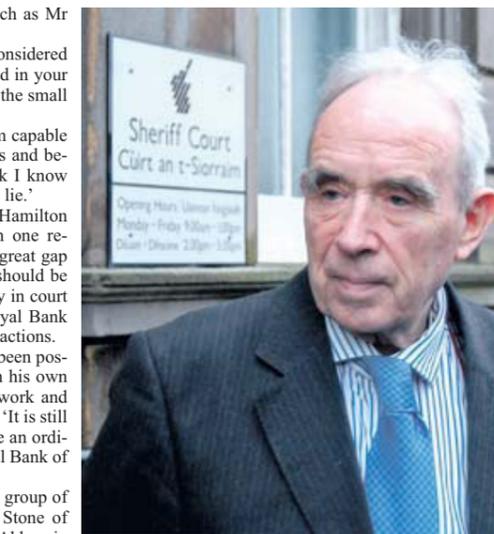
He told Mr Hamilton: 'I considered at great length if I could find in your favour to keep this claim in the small claims court.'

Mr Hamilton replied: 'I am capable of reading between the lines and between the words and I think I know where my lord's sympathies lie.'

Outside the court, Mr Hamilton said: 'I am disappointed in one respect but it does disclose a great gap in our law because people should be able to protect their property in court and call people like the Royal Bank of Scotland to task for their actions.'

He said it would not have been possible for him to continue on his own given the amount of time, work and possible expenses involved. 'It is still open to other people to raise an ordinary action against the Royal Bank of Scotland,' he added.

Mr Hamilton was one of a group of students who removed the Stone of Destiny from Westminster Abbey in 1950, the story of which was reproduced for the big screen last year.



Ian Hamilton talks to the media outside Oban Sheriff Court about his disappointment at dropping his case against RBS. (09ham04)

War and peace museum hosts annual meeting

OBAN War and Peace Museum's 50-strong team of watchkeepers seemed to be the only constant as the changes were brought elsewhere at the organisation's annual meeting.

In his first annual meeting as chairman, Mike Perrett announced the resignation of Alex Clark, secretary of the museum since it was founded.

However, he also welcomed the appointment of new directors Iain Gray and Neil Owen, Aileen Miller as treasurer, Bill Grant as historian and Alison

Palmer funding and museum accreditation manager.

Also speaking at his first annual meeting was the Lord Lieutenant Kenneth MacKinnon, who has succeeded the late Baroness Ray Michie as the museum's patron. He said: 'I am aware I am following on from Ray Michie and I will do everything I can to further her good work.'

'She will be a hard act to follow.'

Mr Perrett told members that high fuel prices had contrib-

uted to a slight drop in visitor numbers in 2008 but the donations and sales figures had risen by 2.2 per cent and praised the team of volunteer watchkeepers, without whom, he said, there would be no museum.

The Friends of the Museum scheme has continued to expand and has 112 members, contributing around £2,000 in donations.

The museum reopened on Monday at 10am for the season and boasts a number of new displays.



Watchkeepers are crucial to the success of Oban War and Peace Museum. (10wap01)

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And if none of those tickle your Red Nose fancy then you could Sing / Buy / Play / Watch... the list is endless! Just make sure you have fun and raise stacks of cash doing it.

What else is happening at Dunbeg Primary School?

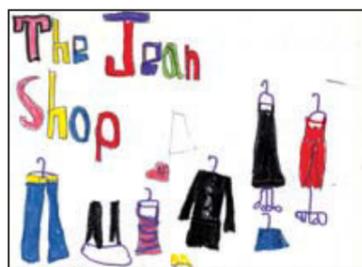
Primary 7 pupils from Dunbeg Primary are to join pupils from Achaleven and Lochnell Primary schools for their annual outdoor activities week at Lochgoilhead. The week will be filled with kayaking, gorge walking and other exciting outdoor and water sports. Pupils are also very enthusiastic this term about their WW2 project and are planning exciting events such as visiting the War and Peace museum, learning from peoples experiences and themselves going on a train journey to experience how it must have been for young evacuees leaving their homes all those years ago. This will all culminate in a VE day celebratory concert.

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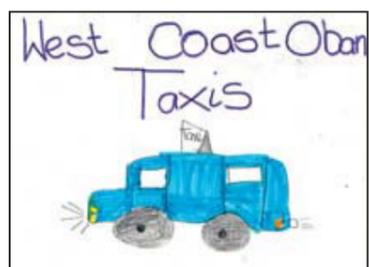
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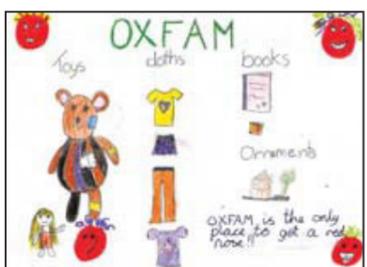


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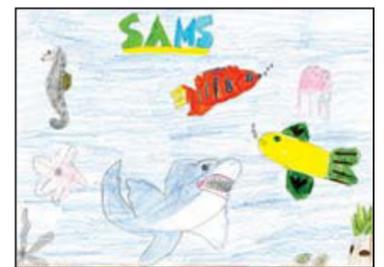
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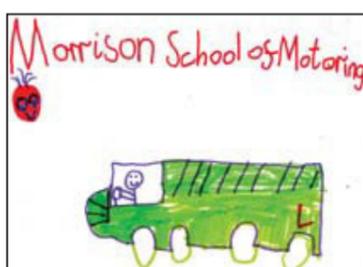
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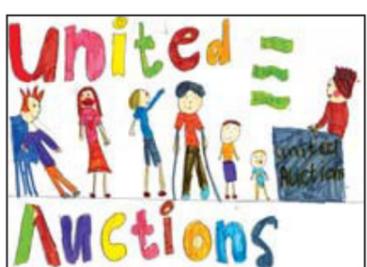
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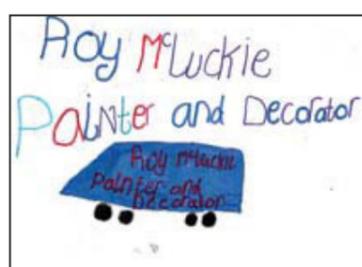
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Erin Johnston Primary 5

Machair row debate keeps golf on course

THE LATEST round in a bitter dispute over whether golf or grazing has first claim on a South Uist machair has gone to the sporting interest on points.

The Scottish Land Court (SLC) has adjudged community landlord Stòras Uibhist is within its rights to build an 18-hole golf course on Askernish machair used by local crofters to graze stock, and extend it if required.

But in a 40-page legal opinion, deputy chairman of the Scottish Land Court Roderick MacLeod also found that the golf course should not adversely affect grazing over the machair. The findings, which only took the form of a legal debate and are not a final verdict, appear contradictory to some, a fair summation of present realities to others.

SLC deputy chairman Roderick MacLeod found a 1923 reservation by then owner Lady Gordon Cathcart, which permitted her friends to play golf at Askernish, was still valid legally, upholding Stòras' view that laying out the golf course was permissible.

Stòras hopes Askernish will be a golfing Mecca for well-heeled golfers looking to play on the scenic links, where cattle and sheep currently graze, according to the crofting township's regulations.

Askernish grazings committee, backed by the Scottish Crofting Foundation, claim the course, opened last year by Kenny Dalglish, is effectively a land grab and

encroaches on part of their pasture.

Mr MacLeod found Stòras Uibhist can exclude livestock continuously from tees, fairways and greens if such action is required for the maintenance of the golf course but also noted that because the reservation intended golfing and crofting to co-exist, it 'must not have the effect of rendering that [crofting] impractical'.

Willie MacDonald of Askernish grazings committee told *The Oban Times*: 'The outcome is that they [Stòras Uibhist] have the unlimited right to do whatever they want to do on the machair, yet we retain the right to graze our stock. I do not see how those two rights can co-exist. The judgement appears to lack satisfaction for both parties.'

Stòras Uibhist vice chairman Father Michael MacDonald said he was happy with the judgement, adding the result was 'predictable'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'In my view the whole process was avoidable. A management agreement was offered to the crofters, but they chose to go down the road to litigation. It would never be the case that the golf club would exclude grazing - the two have always co-existed together.'

No evidence was taken, and lawyers for both parties now have six weeks to see whether any ground for compromise exist.

If not, further legal action could follow.

Illegally harvested mussels returned alive to sea after tip-off

ALMOST 300 kilogrammes of illegally harvested mussels were last week returned alive to the sea after an anonymous caller tipped off Highland Council they being offered for sale in Lochaber.

Environmental health officers confiscated the mussels from pickers who had collected the shellfish from

Eilean Shona, Loch Moidart. To avoid legal action being taken, the pickers signed documents agreeing to the seizure.

The area is not among those officially designated as safe or environmentally sustainable for mussel picking.

The mussels were later returned

to the seas around Lochaber at an undisclosed location. Local people are being warned that buying mussels from unclassified sources for human consumption could put consumers at risk.

Mark Phillips, Highland Council's environmental health officer, said: 'Reacting on local advice we located

the mussels in a caravan park at Annat. We couldn't find the owner, but were concerned that the mussels may be moved and ultimately end up in the foodchain, so we decided to seize them immediately.'

'It is a legal requirement that bivalve shellfish, such as mussels, are fully traceable and produced

in specific classified areas. These mussels were clearly outside of any legal controls.'

Chairman of Highland Council's TECS Services Councillor John Laing said the officers' swift action reinforced the council's continued support for sustainable rural and coastal communities.



Theatre trip treat for pupils

Kinlochleven High School second year pupils Caitlin Murphy, Jayne Lear, Tommy Allan and Aiden Symmers joined their year group for a trip to Perth Theatre last Friday.

The second years enjoyed a play based on one of their English course study books, *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo, which portrayed the senselessness of war and the generals' callous stupidity during the Great War. English teachers Miss Cairns and Miss Mackintosh and learning support assistant Mrs Taylor accompanied the pupils.

Parent council hits out over 'unhelpful' closure threat speculation

School open for business

FORT William Primary School parents have moved to counter recent press reports suggesting the school was under threat of closure in a Highland Council review of education provision in the town.

At a parent council meeting last Thursday night, it was agreed to assure parents of present pupils and those considering enrolling their children that the school was open for business and would remain so.

In a statement, the parent council said it had received 'a strong indication' the school would remain open 'for at least the next seven years' and described speculation as 'unhelpful', pointing out that parents from outwith the school's catchment area were happy to place their children at Fort William.

One, Joyce Raja, said: 'After careful consideration, I decided to enrol my daughter

Sophina in Fort William primary last year and I am so glad I did, as she loves it.'

'I like the standards in the school and the interest in the family as a whole. You are kept informed about everything.'

'My two older daughters attended this school in the 1980s and 1990s and they also have chosen to send their own children to it, even though they all live outside the catchment area.'

Worried
'I think more people would enrol their children at this school if they were not so worried about the disruption they would go through if it were to close.'

'I know the building needs some improvement but surely it would be money well spent for the children who attend the school if this work was undertaken, and then probably the numbers on roll would increase if the parents

felt more secure. I think more of the parents would become involved with the school if it meant their children could stay at the school they are familiar with. After all, familiarity builds confidence and security and that's what all parents want for their children.'

A parent council spokesperson said: 'The Fort William Parent Council would like to reiterate that they do not support a school merger in any form and are concentrating on the current school.'

'All efforts are going into enhancing the learning experience of the children at the existing school.'

Martin Finnegan of consultants Caledonian Economics Ltd will undertake the 'options appraisal' on future choices open to Highland Council to provide education in the greater Fort William area.

Thieves target Glencoe Hospital

continued from page 4

would be boarded up on the day the patients leave and all the records and equipment would be removed.

'The police will also be notified and the building will be subject to regular security checks,' she said, adding that the theft of tiles from fireplaces had been reported to the police and the matter was under investigation.

Ms MacVicar said the three remaining patients at Glencoe Hospital would be transferred to Abbeyfield Ballachulish Care Home on March 9.

'Once the patients have been transferred,' she said 'the hospital building will no longer be needed by NHS Highland and will be sold. We are aware of interest from a community company.'

Big Sea project fun on Uist and Barra

MORE than 100 young children from nurseries and croileagain all over Uist and Barra came together recently for a special event in Sgoil Lionacleit Theatre and Castlebay High School.

A' Mhuir Mhòr/The Big Sea involved a series of mini workshops which took place in transformed surroundings full of undersea

images, sea sounds, dolphins and the occasional shark.

The focus was on the variety of creatures living in the sea and on the beach. This was explored in English and Gaelic through drama, crafts, music, storytelling and a specially designed large jigsaw. A total of 117 children took part.



Eilidh MacMillan, right, with Cathy Jamieson MSP and Ronnie Barnes, UK chairman of the British Association of Social Workers, after receiving her award.

Ardnamurchan social worker's award success

A HIGHLAND Council social worker from Ardnamurchan has been named runner-up in the Social Worker of the Year Awards, held at the Scottish Parliament.

Eilidh MacMillan, from Achosnich near Kilchoan, received her award from Cathy Jamieson MSP for her work as manager of the council's younger adults care team in Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

Eilidh has been working for Highland Council since 1987 and is also a practising mental health officer.

Colleague Rod Richard said: 'Eilidh has worked hard over very long hours throughout her working life. She continues to go that extra mile for clients, relatives and workers. Even when her role is over she will remain to support her workers and the relatives involved, often into her own time. Eilidh is a very positive role model and a standard bearer for the social work profession. Possibly her greatest achievement is to remain doggedly positive in the face of many significant changes in social work which made her work more difficult.'

The awards were held by the British Association of Social Workers in Scotland.

Man had axe in Caol street

POLICE are looking for a man who was allegedly in possession of an axe in a Caol street during a street disturbance in May last year.

A warrant has been issued for the arrest of Andrew James Donaldson, aged 22, of Strone Place, Caol, who is alleged to have had the axe in Blar Mhor Road, Caol, on May 23 last year.

After a trial at Fort William Sheriff Court last week, Paul Cameron, 26, of Ardgour Road, Caol, was acquitted of an alleged breach of the peace charge during the same incident. The court heard Mr Cameron had given a statement to police in August last year in which he admitted being involved in an altercation with Donaldson.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith said: 'In the statement Mr Cameron told police he had fallen asleep in the house of a friend. He told police, 'I woke up and saw Andrew Donaldson sitting there, I got up and grabbed hold of him to put him out. Five minutes later he was at the door. He was standing with an axe. I rugby-tackled him to the ground, my friend grabbed the axe and threw it away.'

After the closure of the crown case, defence agent Hamish Melrose made a no case to answer submission.

Sheriff Douglas Small agreed saying: 'I am not satisfied that there is a sufficiency of evidence.'

Extra Easter study time for students

LOCHABER High School is running a four-day Easter Study School from Monday March 30 until Thursday April 2, the first four days of the Easter holidays.

The event, run in association with Careers Scotland, is for fifth and sixth year pupils in the Lochaber area who are working towards SQA examinations in May and June this year.

Head teacher Jim Sutherland said: 'This is an ideal opportunity for pupils to work with experienced staff on a revision programme which will undoubtedly bring benefits

in preparing for the forthcoming examinations. Booking forms have been sent home to all parents who are asked to encourage their children to take advantage of this opportunity to get some extra help for these important examinations.'

'There are no charges for tuition and transport costs will be provided for families on low incomes.'

Further details can be obtained from Lochaber High School's Easter study co-ordinator Mr A Gibb, principal teacher of chemistry, on 01397 702512.

Council backs fair fuel price campaign

WESTERN ISLES Council has stepped into the row over rocketing 'key card' electricity charges.

Environment and protective services committee chairman Councillor Norman Macdonald is pledging the comhairle's 'full support' to Consumer Focus Scotland (CFS) in its campaign for fair pricing.

CFS is demanding energy regulator OFGEM stops electricity suppliers penalising people not on the natural gas network and who pay for their power on a 'pay as you go' basis.

Householders paying for electricity and gas by direct debit get a discount and qualify for a further discount if

they pay for both fuels together from the same company. Councillor Macdonald said there was 'no reason' why pay as you go customers should pay more and urged them to ask their electricity company to tell them if they are on the special tariff for households in fuel poverty, which provides power 20 per cent more cheaply.

He said: 'We have the highest prevalence of fuel poverty of any local authority in Scotland and therefore the highest proportion of households who could benefit from that tariff.'

Last week *The Oban Times* featured low-income families hit by extortionate electricity costs.

Church boost

STPAUL'S Scottish Episcopal Church, Kinlochleven, raised £182 for repair funds at its Shrove Tuesday Beetle Drive.

A supper of pancakes and home-baking and a raffle helped boost the total. Beetle winner was Jackie Purvis and Margot McSween won the quiz prize.

St Paul's thanks everyone who helped or donated in any way.

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The Oban Times Wedding Album



McDonald - Campbell

Lynsey McDonald of Union Farm, Thornhill, and Hamish Campbell of Ledcharrie Farm, Killin, were married in Norrieston Church, Thornhill, Stirling.
Photo by Bill Miller Photography.



Ogilvie - Lockhart

Stacey Ogilvie and Ian Lockhart were married at The Church of Scotland, Corran Esplanade, Oban. They held a reception in Oban Rugby Club.
Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Tiernan - Neilson

Erin, daughter of Alex and Sheevn Tiernan, Dumbarton, and Christopher, only son of John and the late Ann Maree, Wishaw, were married at St Patricks RC Church, Dumbarton, by Father Wilson. Christopher is the grandson of Alexander and Peggy MacCuish.



Hall - Webber

Jane Hall and Graham Webber, both of MacMillan Place, Caol, Fort William, were married at The Moorings Hotel, Banavie. The couple also held their reception there.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Russell - MacLean

Zoe Anne, daughter of Andy and Anne Russell, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, married Donald Alexander MacLean, son of Neil and Edna MacLean, Dervaig, Isle of Mull, at Tobermory Parish Church.
Photo by Phil McDermott Photography.



Belasco - Hughes

Julie Belasco and Brian Hughes were married at Stuart Castle, Inverness.



MacKay - Cox

Carlynn MacKay, Oban, and Stephen Cox, Dublin, were married in St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, by Canon Donald MacKay.
Photo by David McLarty.



Clark - Ayres

Natalie Clark and Alan Ayres were married at the Onich Hotel. The couple also held their reception there.
Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Smith - Johnston

Billie Smith from Florida, USA, and Billy Johnston, formerly of Dunbeg, were married at Oban Registry Office. The couple held a reception at The Royal Hotel, Oban.
Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



McDowell - Buckland

Sophie McDowell and Mike Buckland of Dublin, Ireland, were married at the Ardanaiseig Hotel. The couple also held their reception there.
Photo by Perfect Images, Dunbeg, Oban.



Hutton - Raeburn

Leila Hutton and Duncan Raeburn, both of Edinburgh, were married at The Ballachulish Hotel. The couple also held their reception there.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Mendez - Murray

Ruth Seoane Mendez and Stuart Murray, both of Angus Crescent, Fort William, were married at Nether Lochaber Church, Onich, by the Rev A Winning. The couple held a reception in The Ballachulish Hotel.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



MacIsaac - Graham

Mairi MacIsaac, of Kinlochleven, and Kevin Graham, of Lenzie, were married at St Muns RC Church, Ballachulish, by Father John Paul MacKinnon. The couple held a reception at Inverlochy Castle Hotel, Fort William.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Langan - Coltart

Karen Langan and Callum Coltart, both of Moray Place, Fort William, were married at Fort William Registry Office. They held a reception at the Croit Anna Hotel, Fort William.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.

Huggins - Nicolson
Rachael Huggins and Gregg Nicolson were married at Orwell Parish Church, Milnthorpe. They held a reception at The Green Hotel, Kinross.
Photograph by Tracy Gow Photography.



Wilkinson - Wilson

Junelle Wilkinson and Stuart Wilson were married at Duart Castle, Isle of Mull.
Photograph by Phil McDermott Photography.



Small - Fraser

Joanna Small and Kevin Fraser, both of Melgum Cottage, Tarland, Aberdeenshire, were married at Douneside House Gardens.
Photograph by Marcus Johnston.



Horrocks - Wood

Claire Horrocks and Colin Wood, both of Corpach, Fort William, were married at Old Inverlochy Castle. They held a reception at Linnhe Lochside Holidays.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Jauregui - Gray

Emma Jauregui and Jonathan Gray, both of Flaunden, were married at The Old Pier, Fort Augustus. The couple held a reception at the Boat House, Fort Augustus.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Power - Doyle

Avril Power and Colin Doyle, both of Kilmallie Road, Fort William, were married in Glenfinnan Church by Father Roddy Johnstone. The couple held a reception in Caol Community Centre.
Photo by Anthony MacMillan, Fort William.



Spring



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Weddings

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with this part of the feast which consisted of cold chicken, roast mutton, scones and bannocks, fresh and salt butter, new cheese and many another special delicacy of the island, with the ever-present tea, and whisky and port wine for the toasts. Chickens were considered such an essential part of these feasts that when an epidemic killed a lot of hens on the island, Seonaidh Caimbeul, the local bard, made a song about it in which he refers to the grief of prospective brides at the impossibility of making proper wedding feasts without them.

After the religious service, the wedding party was met at the church door with the firing of guns and the skirl of bagpipes, which, playing the fine tune Highland Wedding, led the procession home to the wedding breakfast. The celebration continued through the day and night. The guests sat down to the banquet in relays while songs and toasts were given, the songs often starting with a new song composed by the local bard especially for the occasion. Dancing began with a Scots foxtrot reel for the bride and groom and best man and first bridesmaid. Then the guests joined them on the floor and danced until morning. South Uist is famous for its pipers and a great delight of such a day was to listen to their perfect playing and pointing of the lovely tunes.

Written on Canna in 1955 by Margaret Fay Shaw in her book *Folksongs and Folklore of South Uist*, published by Aberdeen University Press.

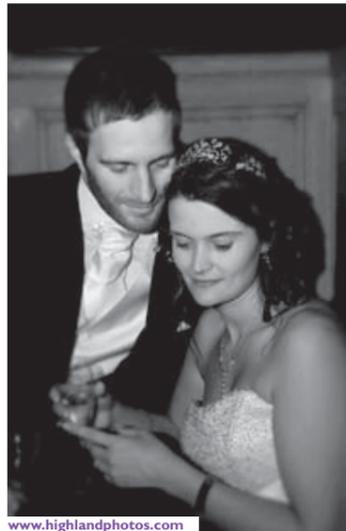
Traditional Island Weddings

At the réiteach or formal betrothal, it was often said by the bride to be's father:

"Ma tha ise deònach, tha mise ro-dheònach, agus mura bi sin mar sin, cha bhi seo mar seo" which means "If she is willing, I am very willing and if that weren't so, then this wouldn't be so"

The banns were called three Sundays in succession (this is no longer done) and on the Tuesday after the last calling the wedding would take place.

The greatest chore for a wedding was the plucking and cooking of innumerable hens presented for the party by friends of the bride and bridegroom from all over the island. A delegation was formed just to deal



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Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
Friendships can prove to be a contrary area for you. Certain pals can be very entertaining company, but someone else may be envious of you, but may not share this openly, and without being able to put your finger on anything specific, this can leave you feeling uneasy. Nervous tension can also blight you. Where possible get plenty of rest. Call me now for more advice...
090 6612 4520

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Mars is asking you to make daring moves - ones which will win you the admiration and respect of others. If this chimes with you, why would you want to risk making a good impression, by taking a short cut? With your guiding light in reverse, being canny, as well as bold, is essential. However, socially, a surprising and unusual invitation can thrill you. Call your prediction line for more...
090 6612 4521

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
If you feel your employment prospects would benefit from a fresh start, it may be because you either feel unfulfilled by what you do now, or if redundancy has snared you, this has given you a chance to push open the door of opportunity to do something more creative. Technology can certainly be a factor in your progress. Your imagination can also be high. Call for more advice...
090 6612 4522

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
If travelling, holidays or higher education have been strands whizzing around at the back of your mind, any of these can come more sharply into focus. However, you can also find yourself chopping and changing your mind. This will be a positive thing if it enables you to thoroughly check out all the options before truly deciding. Follow your heart. Call me now for more news...
090 6612 4523

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
The Full Moon brings months of tensions around a relationship to the boil. This may see you needing to divide assets on a tie that's stumbled or to gain a new personal understanding. Ironically, it may also see you bonding at an even deeper level. There can also be surprises and revelations. This can prove that life can keep us on our toes. Call now for your love scope in full...
090 6612 4524

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
There have been some jagged edges around relationships - potentially. People don't always find it easy to comply to your high standards or can resent what they see as your criticisms. However, now you're encouraged to get some kind of dialogue going. However strained, this and the Full Moon can help to draw a difficult situation into the open. Call me now for more advice...
090 6612 4525

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
Think back over the last five months. All sorts of subtle blockages or even low vitality may have been preventing more dynamic progress. Whilst last month saw you overcome many things, if you still feel underpowered, do go and see someone who can help. Be it a counsellor, doctor or alternative therapist, they could all help to find solutions. Call now for your in-depth forecast...
090 6612 4526

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd
It may seem trite, but humour can be a great way to deal with life's stresses. And it's amazing how just a small shift in our circumstances can almost immediately see us in better spirits. So, if you have felt a bit overwhelmed of late, tap into your reservoir of jokes, or quirkier way of viewing life, and soon others will respond to you in smiling kind. Call now for more news and advice...
090 6612 4527

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
Is there a fundamental inequality in your work-life balance? If you're working hard to secure the future of your family or yourself, this would be understandable, but if you have kids, they will still want your attention, however busy you are, so do try to make some time for them or those who provide your emotional and practical support structures. Call your special prediction line for more...
090 6612 4528

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
The Full Moon is a truly critical point for this week, month and year. For if you feel that you've been hamstrung, your frustration with any difficulties can reach boiling point. Yet whereas in the past you were more comfortable with taking a more conservative line, now your desire to speak out can be strong - especially if something seems unfair. Call me now for more astral advice...
090 6612 4529

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
Your two co-regents, or key planets, are Saturn and Uranus. Unhappily, for five months they have tensely opposed one another. Something that's been simmering away on the back of this opposition can now reach some kind of crunch point. But I feel that soon you'll be sighing with relief, as a saga fades away. The fates work in mysterious ways. Call your Aquarius prediction line for more...
090 6612 4530

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
Mercury speeds into Pisces and brings with it good tidings, mental alertness and desire to communicate. Mars and Uranus however, can see you very resistant to the demands or needs of others, and with a potent Full Moon, relationships can be turbulent. As much as others may encourage you to compromise, you may not be in the mood to do so. Call for your love scope...
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At the Cinema

WATCHMEN CERT '18'
Set in an alternate 1985 America in which costumed superheroes are part of the fabric of everyday society, and the "Doomsday Clock" - which charts the USA's tension with the Soviet Union - is permanently set at five minutes to midnight. When one of his former colleagues is murdered, the washed-up masked vigilante Rorschach sets out to uncover a plot to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes. As he reconnects with his former crime-fighting legion, a ragtag group of retired superheroes, he glimpses a disturbing conspiracy with links to their shared past and catastrophic consequences for the future. Based on the critically acclaimed graphic novel THE WATCHMEN and directed by Zack Snyder '300', this is a superhero film the like of which you've never seen before.

PINK PANTHER 2 CERT 'PG'
In this sequel to the 2006 worldwide hit Steve Martin reprises the role of intrepid-if-bumbling French police detective, Inspector Jacques Clouseau. When legendary treasures from around the world are stolen, including the priceless Pink Panther Diamond, Chief Inspector Dreyfus (John Cleese) is forced to assign Clouseau to a team of international detectives and experts charged with catching the thief and retrieving the stolen artifacts. Martin is joined by original co-stars Jean Reno as Ponton his partner, and Emily Mortimer as Nicole the object of his awkward affections.

SLUMDOG MILLIONAIRE CERT '15'
The Multi award winning and Oscar dominating film phenomena finally hits Oban.

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What's On Guide
Various art courses available at Airdeny Chalets, contact Jennifer on 01866 822648
Thursday 5th March
Local Producers Market, Kintallen Farm, Benderloch 10am - 3pm
Scottish Wildlife Trust "Batman and a dark night" Dunstaffnage Marine Lab 7.30pm. All welcome.
Saturday 7th March
SAMS Open Day 11am - 5pm, Dunstaffnage Marine Lab
Wednesday 18th March
The Enemy, Corran Halls, 8pm
Saturday 21st March
NCT Nearly New Sale, Glencruitten Church Hall, Oban, 11am - 2pm
24th - 27th March
North Lorn Drama Festival. 7.30pm, Appin Village Hall
Friday 27th March
Red Hot Chilli Pipers, Corran Halls, 8pm
WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000

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Three generations came together at Craignure: John Fitness last year's junior Mod Traditional Medal winner (standing) was joined by father Adrian, mother Catherine and grannie Helen Morrison t10social01



Stalwarts of the Argyll choirs: right to left, Eileen Malloy, Mary-Jean Devon, Margaret Howell, Fiona Jappy and Deedra Chase. t10social08



Door keepers: left to right, Katherine Elwis, Raymond Bremner and Donna Dugdale. t10social04

Ceol nan Coisir meets on Mull

ARGYLL Gaelic choirs got a head start with rehearsals for the 2009 Royal National Mod in Oban in October by taking expert tuition from some of the best in the business. The Ceol nan Coisir annual meeting was held for the second-year-running in the Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure with choirs from all over Argyll represented. Workshops were delivered by Neil Houston and Mary-Anne Kennedy. Neil, a composer, may have had inside knowledge for participants as he has been selected to arrange the Mod's Sheriff MacMaster Trophy compulsory song, *Mo Cailin Dileas Donn*. After all the hard work, Riona Whyte, Salen hosted a post-meeting party where she persuaded a number of singers to entertain and encouraged dancers onto the floor to enjoy a rousing selection of music from the lively fiddle and accordion duo of Calum MacPhail and Ross MacPherson.



Party organiser Riona Whyte raises a glass to the success of the meeting t10social02



Raffle ticket sellers Jennifer Jack and Carol MacLean managed to bring in a good sum for choir funds. t10social06



Dixie Porter and Helen Pearson from Oban. t10social13



Newlyweds Brian and Kirsten Owen, of Aberfeldy, singers of Gaelic and blues songs. t10social11



The union of two choirs from Mull and Taynuilt wasn't easy to control for choirmistress Elizabeth Jack. t10social12

Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club enjoy full house

IT WAS another full house at the Argyll Hotel, Inveraray for the February get-together of the Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club. Chairman, Niall Iain MacLean, welcomed supporting players from near and far with Fyne Folk getting the evening underway - Janette Gibson, Sally Hall, Duncan Crawford, Jake MacKay, Agnes Liddell and Grant MacDougall. Also making up various bands were Allan McIntosh, John Renton and Janet Graham on accordion; Charlie Saune on fiddle; Jimmy MacDonald on keyboard; on drums Jim Thomson and, paying a very welcome visit back from Crieff - Gerry Boxall, also on drums. Guest artistes, back by popular demand, were the Ross MacPherson Trio, with Ross MacPherson on accordion, Calum MacPhail on fiddle and, Duncan Burns from Doune on drums. From Ross's yearning for Gaelic waltzes, to polkas, pipe marches, jigs and rousing reels - with a couple of sets from fiddle maestro Calum in between - this was a west coast sound very familiar to, and much enjoyed by, an appreciative audience. All too soon it was time for the last set of reels and the Chairman thanked all the artistes for a great night of music. Next week the Club looks forward to welcoming Ian Cameron from Ballinluig, a highly accomplished accordionist, making up a quartet and paying their first visit as guest artistes.

Enterprising pupils find cash in ceilidhs

Young Enterprise team at Oban High School stage Oban in Concert

ENTERPRISING school pupils made almost £1,500 from a ceilidh in Oban, at which all performers were from the Oban area. **Local talent** Oban in Concert, held at Skipinnish Ceilidh House on Friday, featured a host of talented performers including Finlay Wells, Tia Files and Joy Dunlop. Oban High School Pipe Band and accordion player Craig MacFadyen added the traditional aspect and were among the many pupils that played. The concert was organised by Jeanious, this year's Young Enterprise team at Oban High School. Marketing director Adam Davies said: 'The concert exceeded our expectations and we raised close to £1,500. We had 300 people through the door, which was fantastic. 'We would like to thank Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish Ceilidh House for his help.' Jeanious have had a busy year, helping to organise Junior Jingles dance in the school and selling glow sticks at the Christmas Lights Parade in Oban. Adam admitted the group would be too busy with their forthcoming exams to consider running another event.



A glittering array of local musical talent came together at Skipinnish Ceilidh House, Oban as the Young Enterprise team at Oban High School hosted Oban in Concert last Friday night t10skp01

TIMES TALKBACK
Tell us your news via the website.
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

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



seal rescue centre **SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY**

seal **TOKEN 2**

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 tokens from each of the next two weeks of *The Oban Times* (Token 1 was in last week's edition) and enjoy huge savings on an annual pass.

To get this very special deal collect a token each week over the three week period.

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 3 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. Redemption period to collect passes Friday 13th March - Sunday 22nd March. Go straight to café



Julian in his kayak in the seas around Norway

For Easdale read City Central

THERE aren't many people who would consider Easdale as an equivalent to Grand Central Station but for one man it means he can get to anywhere he wants by catching a kayak at the bottom of his garden.

Ever since Julian Penney was a child he didn't accept that there were limitations placed on him physically or mentally. This has led to a life beyond what most people would expect from their bodies.

At the age of 16 Julian got on his bike and cycled around the Eastern Block when it was still well and truly behind the Iron Curtain. He said: 'The countries I visited were very poor and I had to survive on very little. My parents trusted me and knew that I could survive on my own. The adventure taught me much about myself and just how far you can push yourself and your body.'

Two years later Julian used the endurance skills to perform a punishing fundraising event on foot from London to Balmoral via Wales; a journey of 850 miles. He entered into the spirit of his second adventure with determination and nerve. His reward was to meet the Duke of Edinburgh on the steps of the castle.

'Competing at the level of sports that I got myself involved in can be pretty scary. At times it is like any other addiction - it completely takes over your life. It can also be very dangerous.'

Julian has been deeply affected by the sad loss of three

friends in high level mountaineering accidents but it has not curbed his lust for living dangerously.

Julian did settle down, as much as he has ever settled down, by becoming the chief instructor at Ru Fiola Outdoor Centre on the Isle of Luing. Managing the 10 staff and 40 kids wasn't easy for someone who is filled with a hunger for adventure but he managed to fit in some of his most thrilling adventures around his work.

'I cycled across Australia for three months in 1992 covering a distance of 3500 miles. Everyone was so hospitable, my major worry was not the distance but being out in the open in the most venomous country on earth.'

'In 2001, I went around Iceland with Helen Thomson who was the first woman to attempt to circumnavigate Iceland in a sea kayak. The attempt was to travel 1,500 miles in three months with only the kayak, a strengthened piece of plastic, and the few belongings that could be placed inside it.'

'In 2005, I took a month to paddle from Arran, up the west coast of Mull, onto Eigg, Muck, Skye, Crolin Islands then back round to Ullapool through the Summer Isles and onto Cape Wrath. I would paddle about 30 or 40 miles a day.'

His last big adventure to date, in 2008, was to kayak from the Arctic Circle making his way from Nordkapp, the most northerly town in Europe.



A pontoon on the tiny island of Easdale that has been the beginning of many great adventures for the adventurer. ©penney01

Travelling 500 miles in a month. He fell slightly short of his target making it to Tromsø before appallingly bad weather, very strong headwinds and injury took their toll.

'Time and health were not on my side and I had to get home.'

Home is the island of Easdale where there are no cars or buses and transport on the island is mainly self-propelled. Julian will often go out to the small jetty and set off on a holiday or a business trip in his kayak.

He regularly makes the trip to Mull where he can be alongside nature - seeing secretive wild mountain goats, sea eagles and basking sharks.

Julian has been touched profoundly by the world he has seen from bike or kayak. He has had a long career in political protest. In the

80s and 90s he campaigned against apartheid.

'I joined in with Greenpeace campaigning against the pollution of the Irish Sea. I helped to start the Green Party in North Wales. I am a member of CND and I have been involved with an organisation called Trident Ploughshares which actively campaigns for Britain to abandon its nuclear submarines based here in Scotland.'

The adventurer doesn't seem to be slowing down with age. He is planning another trip to visit the Outer Hebrides starting from Easdale and across the Pentland Firth to Orkney, again in his kayak.

He explained his lust for adventure: 'It is about the interaction between myself and the world when I am in my kayak. I feel so free from the clutter of everyday life, everything I need is in my kayak.'

Eye to Eye with John Wallace Exam fever



If you have been sitting prelim exams over the last few weeks you have possibly had to read much more than usual.

For many of you that will not have been a problem but for a considerable number of examinees your eyes will have been aching and you will have been finding it difficult to concentrate and assimilate information. Studying for exams is hard work but it does not need to be painful or cause your eyes to ache.

If you have been finding reading a chore rather than a pleasure you should seriously consider having your eyes checked by your optometrist. An eye examination is the one exam you cannot fail!

Surprisingly, at this time every year I have students visiting my practice who have never had an eye examination and who are having significant problems reading. Your optometrist will check how well you are able to see both when reading and when looking far away. The muscles round your eyes will be checked to ensure both eyes are working well together and that you are able to sustain the prolonged periods of reading and computer use necessary when studying.

For most of you with difficulty or discomfort reading this will solve your problem. Occasionally this will not be enough and you may find that, despite your optometrist's best efforts, you are still having problems reading. I have found in these circumstances it is often worth seeing if coloured overlays or possibly custom tinted spectacles lenses will be of any help.

My own approach is always to start with overlays and confirm a sustained improvement in reading fluency and accuracy before going on to colorimetry.

It is one of the joys of my professional life to hear a youngster, who has only a few minutes ago struggled to read a passage, suddenly read fluently, accurately and with ease.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP
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West coast dominate in Pipe Idol final

THREE MEN from the west coast will be taking part in a Pipe Idol final to be held on Sunday, March 8.

The men were chosen from 50 entries in a competition to find a pipe anthem for East Lothian.

Organiser David Leckie said: 'We have been amazed and delighted at the number and quality of entries.'

Mr Leckie who is the pipe major of Haddington Pipe Band said that entries had come from all over the world for the competition but it was six Scottish tunes that have made it into the final.

The successful men from Argyll are Donald MacFarlane from Oban, Iain MacDonald from Dunoon and Sandy Calder from Bute.

Walking Kintyre Way

OBAN Friends of The Anthony Nolan Trust are putting on their walking boots again.

This time they will tackle the 88mile route from Tarbet to Dunaverty in Kintyre. You can help take back lives from leukaemia by entering this amazing challenge. The walk is over seven days from Saturday October 3 until Saturday October 10.

If you would like to take part telephone 01506 655361 or email susie.barron@anthonymolan.org.uk or www.anthonynolan.org.uk

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Comunn Gaidhealach An Obain
Ceilidh
Masonic Hall Albany St, Oban
Sat 7th March 7.30pm
Seumas Campbell M.G.M.
Kirsteen MacDonald M.G.M.
James Graham M.G.M.
Morag MacNeil - Trad. Singer
Angus MacCall - Piper
Robert Robertson - Accordion
Bean an Taighe - Karen Campbell
Adm. £5

The UK's leading charity for parents
nct
Nearly New Sale
A table top sale strictly relating to baby, young children and maternity goods.
Glencruinn Church Hall, Oban, Saturday 21st March 2009, 11am - 2pm
Sell your unwanted or grown out of items and help other parents get a bargain in this increasingly expensive time.
Goods for sale can include good condition prams, buggies, clothes, books, toys etc.
Tables £5 before 15th March, £7.50 after but table must be reserved to avoid disappointment. (Contact Sarah 01852 200555 for table bookings)
We are also asking for goods and babies to be donated to the local branch to raise funds for the local Bangladeshi and Babies group.
Contact Sally Wesser on 01631 570902 or Sarah Edwards on 01852 200555

NORTH LORN DRAMA FESTIVAL
24-27 March 2009
7.30 pm
Appin Village Hall
£3 each evening or £10 for season ticket
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SAMS open day
Saturday 7th March
11 am - 5 pm
Dunstaffnage Marine Lab, Dunbeg
Fun and information for the entire family
Call Helen on 01631 559430 for details

Inveraray & District Accordion & Fiddle Club
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray
Wednesday 11th March
at 8.00pm
Guest Artists
From Ballinluig
Ian Cameron Quartet
Supporting players most welcome

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £12.45 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

Backbeat Beatles don't disappoint

Corran Halls plays host to top tribute band



BILLED as 'the nearest you will get to the real thing', the Backbeat Beatles didn't disappoint at Oban's, Oban.

More than 200 people turned out to hear this authentic tribute band on Saturday, one night after the band played in front of 250 in Dunoon.

From the moment the band opened with I saw her standing there the energetic audience were on their feet dancing.

The Liverpoolians played in Oban last year and said they always look forward to coming back. ©10bea01

Charity's Forth Bridge abseil call

A SCOTTISH charity is urging people in the west Highlands to raise money by abseiling from one of the country's most famous landmarks.

On April 19 this year Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland will be running its famous Forth Rail Bridge Abseil.

Events manager Chris Marks said: 'By taking part in this most Scottish of challenges you will also be helping thousands around our country who suffer from chest, heart and stroke illnesses.'

To grab one of the places call the fundraising hotline on 0845 450 2000.

CRAZY FOR YOU 5TH 6TH 7TH MARCH
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Notes from The Oban Times community forum at <http://forums.obantimes.co.uk>:

Electricity bills
Every year when your car insurance is due for renewal you shop about for the best deal- yes? Your electricity supplier shouldn't be any different.

Of course the power companies would never admit to price fixing and they have all increased dramatically over the past 6 months but you should manage to save a few quid.

Also be frugal with your usage, switch off appliances at the wall when not in use, turn your heating AND water thermostat down a few degrees, you will notice the difference. DAK32

Big cats
Overfed domestic cats or black labradors - no one ever gets a decent photo which I find hard to believe in these days of digital cameras and mobile phones with cameras. I certainly never heard of professional wildlife photographers ever capturing an image.

Black beasts of Argyll - Panthers, Pumas - how come they never eat, never kill sheep or livestock, they don't seem to do what bears do in the woods either, they never cross roads and even more hard to believe they never die? DOG-ON-PIECE

Shinty - league contenders
I saw a picture of Oban Camanachd in the OT from the JC Memorial match. That is a young team. I reckon they will stay up again but if they can hold onto that lot they will be title contenders in a few years. YONDO



The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

Mull must consider it worth the wait
'Good things come to those who wait'

Communities throughout the Isle of Mull have been waiting for more than 11 years for a new residential care and medical hospital to replace their tired, old-but-much-loved unit situated at Salen - this week it would appear that their long wait is almost over.

Meetings across Mull early next week will hear glad tidings that a site has been selected, and that a joint initiative between partners Highland Health Board, Argyll and Bute Council, West Highland Housing Association, The Scottish government and Highland and Islands Enterprise could reach fruition by April 2011. Mull most welcome the news with one voice!

Glasgow Letter

'Aye Write'

CEARCALL na Gaidhlig - The Gaelic Rings Showcase - will be the centrepiece of a new Gaelic event at this year's Aye Write Festival in Glasgow.

The festival will run from March 6 to 14 with the Gaelic input, hosted by An Lochran, taking place on Monday March 9 and Tuesday March 10, both at 7.30pm in the Mitchell Library.

Promoting the richness of the Gaelic language and culture, and including a stunning photographic journey of the writer's travels, an enchanting pocket-sized book fittingly entitled 'The Gaelic Rings' has been produced by the writers. Based on Caledonian MacBrayne's Island Hopscootch, and taking in the islands from Islay to Lewis and the mainland from Kennacraig to Ullapool, the programme will be as follows:

Monday: Mairi MacArthur, heritage consultant, writer and storyteller and Brian Wilson, founding editor of the *West Highland Free Press* and former government minister.

Tuesday: Donald Meek, boat builder, seaman, writer and academic and Angus Peter Campbell, award winning poet, novelist, journalist, broadcaster and film actor.

Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs' concert

AT WHAT has now become their usual venue in the suburbs, Glasgow Islay Gaelic Senior and Junior Choirs held their annual concert in Kessington Halls, Bearsden.

With a near capacity audience, it was a friendly evening from the outset with Angus Ferguson, from Ceolraidh Gaidhlig Glaschu, ensuring that this continued throughout with his good humoured contribution from the chair.

Having a junior choir was a tremendous advantage for the Heachs right from the start when Meg Buchanan played the bagpipes and later when they contributed with their varied performances.

Solo singers were Kristina MacDonald and Lydia Peterson while Eilidh Miller and Rebecca Doyle sang Flower of Scotland in Gaelic. All terrific performances, as was the clarsach contribution from Eilidh Munro, who launched a charity CD on the evening, and Highland dancers Brighde Morrison, Carragh MacKinnon, Caitlin Gallacher and Christine Gorman.

From the senior choir Alison Campbell and Iain G MacLean sang solo and there was a concert debut from Na h-Oranaiche, a quartet consisting of younger choir members.

Six of the seniors showed they could match the juniors for versatility when they played a selection of tunes on different instruments.

Another interesting feature of the concert was when the choirs sang together.

Add in the individual performances from each choir and the clarsach playing of vice president Theresa Irving, who also proposed the vote of thanks, and the audience headed off home having experienced an evening of quality entertainment.

Glasgow Islay Association

A FURTHER reminder that the annual gathering and concert will both be held in Glasgow University Union

tomorrow (Friday) evening. The performers will be the Islay Pipers, Arthur Cormack, Kirsteen MacDonald, Kerrie Finlay and Lyle Kennedy with Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band playing at the dance.

Apologies for the omission of Arthur in last week's edition. How could I after spending the previous week in Skye!

Piping competition

THE ANNUAL piping competition organised by Glasgow Uist and Barra Association will take place on Saturday March 14 in the College of Piping, Otago Street.

Events start at 9am. Please note the change of venue from last year's event.

Oban High School Former Pupils

TICKETS for the dinner dance in the Swallow Hotel are available from Isobel Ross, telephone 0141 563 0729, or Anne Byiers, 0141 943 0281.

Charity concert

THE GLASGOW Lewis and Harris Association concert in aid of the Bethesda Fund will now take place on Thursday April 23.

I will provide further details closer to the event.

East Kilbride Local Mod

THE SYLLABUS for this year's Mod on June 5 and 6 is now available, telephone 01355 226067.

Diary dates

Friday March 6: Glasgow Islay Association, annual gathering, Glasgow University Union, concert at 7.30pm, dance at 10pm. Nils Oakland and Catriona MacKay, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Monday March 9: Catriona MacDonald and Nils Oakland, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Aye Write - see above.

Tuesday March 10: Aye Write - see above.

Thursday March 12: An Comunn Tir nam Beann, closing ceilidh, Kessington Hall, 7.30pm. Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, with Paul McKenna Band, CD launch.

Friday March 13: Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, 7.30pm. Box Club, Gary Innes, John Somerville, Mairead Green, Angus Lyon and support, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm.

Saturday March 14: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association - see above. Oban High School FP's Dinner Dance - see above. Motherwell and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Paisley and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Elderslie village Hall, 7.30pm. Stirling Branch An Comunn Gaidhealach, AGM and ceilidh, Lesser Albert Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

PNEUMATIC Drills will play in the Park Bar on Friday and in the Islay Inn on Saturday.

On Friday in the Islay Inn it will be the Jakes, with Torridon on Saturday in the Park Bar and Martin Pottinger on Sunday.

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



The Red Hot Chilli papers!

Stuart Cassells and Willie Armstrong from trad-rock band *The Red Hot Chilli Pipers* took a good look at *The Oban Times* after giving our reporter an exclusive interview this week. The interview and pictures will appear in a future edition of the paper alongside a competition to win free tickets and exclusive signed DVD bundle to their tour date at the Corran Halls on March 27. We would like readers to send in photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places and 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. (10chill10)

Letters to the editor

PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

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Telephone: 01631 568000
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Isle of Mull roads and parking

Sir,
As repeated concerns have been raised about the state of the alleged roads here on the Isle of Mull, and the frequency of attempts to fill pot holes, the words 'incompetence' and 'costly' come to mind.

Perhaps it is time for the isles to take over their own administration with funding coming to direct to them.

The Channel Islands have shown they can take charge of their own administration and effective it is too.

Just a thought and may it raise debate as the future of the isles should be in the hands of those who live there and this should include funding and administration.

As for parking charges in Tobermory, if some individuals did not abuse parking by leaving their vehicles and trailers for months thus depriving other road users from parking, the charges can be an effective deterrent.

Name and address supplied.

Provide a service for tourists

Sir,
Looking through the images of my trip to Mull and Iona during the October school holidays I was reminded of how disappointing it was to go to Iona on the Sunday and find the tearoom and Heritage Centre closed.

The tea-room had also been closed on the Saturday.

If people want to make a living from and provide a

service to tourists they need to be open - at least during school holidays.

I have just returned from Turkey and even in winter everything was open and keen to see tourists. I think we have a long way to go in Scotland before we grasp the fundamentals required to build a successful and thriving tourist industry.

Janet MacDonald, Edinburgh.

Keep councils local

Sir,
Further to Stephen Johnstone's letter in last week's issue, I don't think he appreciates the difference between a community and a district.

Merging community councils with others within the recently introduced and oversized council wards will turn them into district councils, which will be as far removed from our communities as Argyll and Bute Council is today.

Having 56 community councils in Argyll is not the problem; it is the failure of the Scottish government, through local councils, to provide the financial and practical support community councils need to empower them to fully represent the views of the people within their different communities.

If the Scottish government and Argyll and Bute Council are genuinely interested in seeking the views of each one of us then the first point of contact must be as close to the individual as possible.

Community councils, as they exist today, would be much more effective with the support of a paid, suitably qualified executive officer whose hours would reflect the size of the community

and who would report solely to their community council. The creation of such a post would lighten the load on community councillors which would increase the numbers of those willing to take on the role.

Removing community councils to create district councils will inevitably lead to a politicised assembly speaking 'council jargon' that will serve only to further alienate the individual and waste a great deal of money on a pointless, additional tier of government.

Mike Masters, Furnace.

Jacobite Rising relic

Sir,
I would like to comment on The Jacobite Rising relic article by Iain Thorner in last week's issue.

The location of the Raising of the Standard has never been established beyond reasonable doubt. When the lettering was discovered on the slab of rock on the hillside of Glenfinnan it was easy enough to believe this was the long lost location. However it does require much more knowledge of the history at the time of the Jacobite rising to appreciate that finding the answer was not an easy one.

The lettering was executed by a local priest who no doubt had the desire to record for posterity a message which was close to his heart that here in Glenfinnan the Prince's Standard was raised.

As regards the granite stone I think the hole must have been formed by nature herself since it would have taken many, many days to have made it using hand tools in 1745, then, time was of the essence!

A strong contender is a knoll in the mouth of Glen Finnan on the east bank of the River Finnan between the main road and the viaduct. There is sufficient flat ground to have accommodated all the clansmen on both sides of the river. This was the knoll which was suggested by the late Seton Gordon, naturalist, author and historian who had consulted 60 years ago with the late Donald MacMillan a prizewinning bard and local historian of Lochailside.

Christian WH Aikman, Honorary Secretary, The 1745 Association.

Wrong figures

Sir,
A recent correspondent reported a presentation by Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) staff to Morvern Community Council's February meeting on a proposed local hydro-electric scheme.

When asked about potential

community benefit from this scheme, one of the reasons stated by Mr Green of FCS that this would be unlikely was that Morvern Community Woodlands Company (MCW) had received £60,000 in grants from FCS in recent years. Mr Green had his figures wrong.

Achnaha Community Wood, near Lochaline, is owned by FCS and managed by MCW under a partnership agreement. Along with countless hours of work by MCW volunteers, £24,847 was invested in the wood between 2003 and 2006. This included work on fences, a car-park and all-abilities pathways.

The vast majority of funding for these works was not granted by FCS, but came from a much wider venture, The Morvern Woodlands Project, a project of the Sunart Oakwoods Initiative. Highland Council contributed £10,500 and Europe (EAGAFF) £8,696.

Also under this project, FCS employed a community forester in Morvern for three years, at minimal cost to the agency.

As a further legacy from this project, FCS has made available to MCW members the use of a bandmill and a set of wood-working tools. These cost £10,000 in total. However, they remain the property of FCS and their use is covered by a memorandum of agreement.

In 2007, MCW successfully applied for EU Leader+ funding to buy a small tractor, winch and timber-trailer. FCS contributed 50 per cent match-funding (£9,750) for these items but also enjoys the use of this machinery as and when required. Community members can also hire this equipment with a qualified operator at a reduced rate. Woodland work and various community activities have since been undertaken in Achnaha and elsewhere in Morvern, but MCW has received no other funds from FCS.

It should be clear from the above that benefits from the ongoing partnership between MCW and FCS have been thoroughly mutual. Local staff often support our activities and our relationship is positive and productive. This of course is just as it should be - and long may it continue.

However, to overstate past financial assistance and cite inflated figures as justification to shirk any potential community benefit from the proposed hydro scheme has, it seems, caused some local resentment towards MCW and is unhelpful to say the least.

Donald Kennedy, MCW chairman.



'No way' says Fred

THERE must have been few weeks in recent political history when so much hot air has been expended over whether a public figure should be allowed to keep his massive pension, to which he is legally entitled, than the one which came to an end last weekend.

However, there are still those who are so puffed with moralistic fervour than this controversy is going to run for a while yet.

The amusing thing is that the politicians in government are the most hypocritical of all. So arrogant are they that they haven't stopped to think through what they are saying and how it might be even more apposite to them than Sir Frederick Goodwin, formerly chief executive of RBS as it is now designated - the Royal Bank of Scotland to the uninitiated.

Led by Gordon Brown and his timid acolyte Alastair Darling with the vicious Lord Mandelson bouncing up-and-down like a kid who has lost his ball and found that he had actually given it away, the hot air experts in the country have forgotten that 'Fred the Shred' didn't get where he was until last autumn without standing on a few toes and being pretty ruthless on his way to the top of the shoogly mountain. Anyway, politicians of all parties should remember the Biblical quotation: 'Let him that is without sin cast the first stone'.

Start with Brown and Blair

IF THE current government and its former Prime Minister Tony Blair were to be stripped of their pensions for failing to govern honestly and without 'fear or favour' they would be soon on Income Support for their 'daily bread' as they haven't done anything that they promised and allowed all sorts of things to happen that they should have forbidden.

Fred is not blameless but what he did was in line with his colleagues around the world.

When I asked an American banking friend, who managed to get out before his bank was subsumed by the US government, what possessed almost every US bank to get involved in what is now referred to as the 'toxic mortgage' scandal, he admitted there was no logical answer to that question other than someone in the banking system postulated a way of making a very quick buck but now no one seemed to remember the magic formula.

Sir Fred was overwhelmed by the notion that this crazy idea would enable him to take RBS to further successes and make it one of the top three in the pecking order of successful banks.

It hasn't but he, almost alone, has become the victim of 'hypocritical rage'

on the part of those who see the 'sock under the bed' as the safest, if not the most successful, location for investment.

The most expensive toilets in Argyll

IF YOU read the notices of planning applications in last week's issue you will have noticed there is one in the name of Argyll and Bute Council.

It will mystify almost all who read it as it refers to a proposal to build toilets and a cafe at Ganavan. It will really confuse those who live in Oban and visit the sands frequently as there are new toilets there and they are less than a year old.

Not only that, they were built by the developer of Ganavan Sands and gifted to the council by him.

When I spoke to him at the weekend he said he'd seen the advertisement and wondered what it was all about. He says he hasn't been informed, as he should have been as a contiguous proprietor, so he set about trying to establish what was going on.

After pursuing officials he has discovered that indeed the application is genuine and was instructed by the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee on advice of officials. When he asked what was wrong with the toilets he had built and gifted to the local authority he didn't get a sensible answer.

It seems there is nothing wrong with them but the area committee wanted more of them and a cafe at a projected cost of £300,000 plus, I understand, around £10-12,000 as the cost of having the plans drawn up and the necessary reports prepared by consultants.

Application must be withdrawn

THIS is the sort of absurd scheme that gets local government a bad name.

Each year at this time we are told that even more cuts have been introduced to balance the budget, including to my anger and councillors' everlasting shame, that school meals have had to be withdrawn from certain rural schools as there isn't money to pay the staff who used to prepare them.

Yet there appears to be access to more than £300,000 plus to replace toilets less than a year old and build a cafe which will be shut for six months of the year.

Since the application has to go to the Scottish government for approval I hope in due time it will be sent back with one word stamped on it: 'REFUSED'.



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.

Isle of Coll

Island Café

THIS winter, the much-loved café has been open daily, except for Wednesdays. Despite longer hours than in previous years, the owners remain as cheerful and welcoming as ever. As usual, the café has hosted a number of themed dinners, including a Burns' Night, a quiz night and, most recently a Valentine's Steak Night featuring Isle of Coll beef. But probably the loveliest of all their local events was the school children's Burns' Lunch. It is a remarkable and touching thing to hear nine-year-olds and younger making speeches, addressing the haggis and reciting poetry.

Isle of Coll Hotel

ALWAYS up for a snazzy event, the owners of Coll's award-winning hotel hosted a well-attended Chinese New Year banquet. Islanders were thrilled with the excellent food and are eagerly awaiting the forthcoming Italian theme night. The owners celebrate 25 years of ownership this year and the hotel goes from strength to strength. Even the view from the dining room is improved. With the hedges trimmed, the splendid view of Arinagour Bay can be enjoyed as you dine.

Surveillance culture

WHO NEEDS closed circuit television cameras and mobile phones? Coll has none of these, yet there's no escaping. A few questions to the right people and you can track anyone down, wherever they are. The new policeman, the vet, the clippers - kettles go on all over the island as soon as they drive off the ferry, just in case they're dropping in. And maybe you're thinking



Luining First Responders' exam success

First Responders on the island of Luining have all passed their exams with flying colours. The islanders undertook a day's refresher course with new training on the use of oxygen with patients. First Responders are very important for medical emergencies on the small island as it has limited emergency access in the evening. In a recent incident, responders from the island intervened in a 999 call and helped a patient to hospital in Oban, without the need for an emergency helicopter.

of buying a new tractor? The vendor is sure to inform your neighbour that getting his new trailer to the island is no longer a problem. After all, your not-yet-purchased tractor can tow it onto the ferry. Mention the useful words 'Isle of Coll' and a whole chain of interlocking events will be planned for you. For those who are no good at planning, Coll is the best place in the world.

Lismore
Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Burns Supper

BURNS supper Lismore style was a very enjoyable, popular and well organised evening's entertainment thanks to the talent and hard work of

organisers Katy Crossan, Dot and Bob Hay and Duncan Brooks who together with an army of helpers produced and served a tasty menu to 70 diners. The Reverend Roderick Campbell said the Selkirk Grace and David Garret piped in the haggis which Bob Hay addressed. There was a great deal of wit and erudition in the addresses from the Rev Campbell's invoking of the Immortal Memory, Bob Hay's address to the Lassies and Freda MacGregor's reply. Freda also charmed everyone with her recitation of Tam O'Shanter. There was huge attention to detail, the hall having been transformed with roses and ingenious lighting. Everyone was given a programme detailing the menu, a translation of Tam O'Shanter

and the words of Auld Lang Syne. Further entertainment and a delicious array of desserts followed. Colin Black on guitar and Murry Willis on accordion played a set and Laura Cook and Sarah Campbell both sang settings of Burns songs. Thanks to everyone who contributed to such a memorable evening.

Islay
Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

Islay High School ski trip

THIRTY six members of Islay High Ski Group left Islay on February 14 to visit the Italian ski resort of Pila. The group thanks all the Islay and Jura communities for supporting their fundraising which made the outing possible.

Lifeboat dance

ISLAY Lifeboat crew will host a dinner dance on Saturday March 21 at 7pm for 7.30pm, in Ballygrant Village Hall. Music will be by Deoch n Dorus. Tickets are available from Islay Lifeboat Station or from any crew member.

Jura ferry services top agenda

FERRY services topped the Jura Community Council agenda once again as the meeting heard the island's on-request 8.30am Sunday sailing would be reinstated for the winter timetable. However, it was noted this sailing had to be booked at least 24 hours in advance. The community council received an e-mail from ferry operators ASP stating that the crew of the Jura ferry *Eilean Dhura*, when not in service because of adverse weather conditions, should remain on board or in the ASP office so the crew can monitor the weather and resume service as soon as it is safe to do so. Correspondence from members of the public highlighted that no timetable was on display at the Feolin noticeboard and two letters of complaint had been received about litter in the ferry's passenger cabin. At the meeting, held on February 16, the community council also agreed to contact Argyll and Bute Council roads department regarding a collapsed culvert near Camus an Staca.



Iraq Medal for former Lochaber pupil

Senior Aircraftsman Iona MacDonald, a former pupil of Lochaber High School, receives her Iraq Service Medal from Group Captain Gibson, Station Commander, RAF Leeming. Iona, who is a medic, is currently in New Zealand on an adventure training exercise before starting further training for her posting to Afghanistan in early 2010.

Around the Rurals

Kilmore

THE KILMORE branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) met on Wednesday February 11 in Kilmore Hall for a pottery demonstration by Julie Hamilton and a chance to try the craft. President F Dickie welcomed a good turnout of members. After business matters, finance and annual dinner arrangements were made, Fiona introduced Mrs Hamilton who talked about her work at Kilmartin and brought along various clay pots and outlined the history of each one. Clay was then divided out to members who tried to copy one of the styles of pots, which brought about lots of laughter as everyone enjoyed having fun with the clay. A vote of thanks was given by V Marshall followed by tea and biscuits. Competitions: Birthday card, any craft: 1 S Campbell; 2 S Quillan. Three cheese scones: 1 V Marshall; 2 E Gray. Members held their annual dinner on Friday February 20 in the Manor House Hotel, Oban. Fourteen members had an excellent meal and a lovely social evening was enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to staff at the Manor House.

Appin

APPIN SWRI held its 17th Annual Quiz Night in Appin Village Hall on Friday February 6. There were 22 teams of all ages taking part and great fun was had by everyone. There was also tombola and a raffle followed by refreshments provided by members. The winners were Lorna and Rab MacDonald, Donald Campbell and Roger Hart. The runners up were Myra and Ian MacDougall, Madge Riddet and Fedor Bunge. Margaret Ross, president, thanked all the members who had helped in any way. Special thanks went to Doreen and Roger Evans who compiled the quiz and acted as question master and scorer. On Thursday February 12, 34 members attended a dinner and social evening at The Falls of Lora Hotel. After an excellent meal, the members adjourned to the lounge to enjoy fun and games organised by Margaret Ross. Before leaving Margaret Ross thanked the secretary, Jessie MacKenzie, for organising the evening.

Lochaber

EIGHT members braved the snowy conditions on February 5 and met up in Morar School. Claire Gunner demonstrated a quick way of making Hollandaise sauce, an easy way to prepare crème brûlée and gave tips and shortcuts on cooking. Competition: Swiss roll - 1 Heather Simpson; 2 Mary Ferguson; 3 Christine Haynes. Items in matchbox: 1 Heather Simpson; 2 Christine Haynes; 3 June Foxwell; 4 Morag MacKenzie. The raffle was won by Christine Haynes.

Dervaig

ELEVEN members braved the snow and cold wind to enjoy a demonstration of vegetarian cookery by Louise Palmer. Louise trained at the Leith School in London and at one time owned the Druimard Hotel. She said that often she would offer vegetarian soups and starters as these were often lighter than meat-based ones and showed how to prepare two starters - a caramelised onion and goat's cheese tart and a mushroom and goat's cheese salad. For the main course she offered either a mushroom and Guinness casserole or a butternut squash curry using a Thai paste prepared from scratch as often it is difficult to tell if bought Thai pastes are prepared to suit vegetarians. Louise stressed that all the ingredients she used, except for Kaffir lime leaves or lemon grass, could be bought on Mull. Both these dishes have the advantage that they can be adapted to suit meat eaters by adding beef or lamb to the casserole and chicken or prawns to the curry. Everyone was able to have a taste of the four dishes and all were impressed by the relative

simplicity of preparation and the delicious flavours and textures. Linda Paterson gave a vote of thanks.

Salen

AFTER a very cold and snowy day, there was a very good turnout to the February meeting. The speaker was Annie Hall from Tobermory, who was making a return visit to demonstrate more aromatherapy; this time head and neck massage. Annie divided members into pairs, and they took it in turn to practise on one another. This was a very relaxing exercise, the room went very quiet for a while and at the end of the session everyone agreed they were thoroughly relaxed. Annie was thanked for her time. In the competitions, Jean Grover was first in grapefruit marmalade, and Margaret Black in the rich Jamaican cake.

Tobermory

TUESDAY February 3 saw Tobermory Institute gathering in the high school for the February meeting. All eyes were drawn to the piles of paper, card, scissors, rulers and glue on the tables. Guest speaker Karen Watt then showed members how to make a waterfall card and amid great hilarity everyone got to work. Karen's cards are beautiful: she had a selection of her handiwork on display and they were greatly admired. A huge range of materials can be bought for card-making and there are thousands of books, magazines and websites devoted to the craft. Artistic members produced tasteful, pretty cards, other members created perfectly accurate and neat and pretty ones - and the rest of us just had a great time! Karen offered everyone her help and by the end of the evening members had all made a waterfall card. After tea and a raffle, members thanked Karen.

Torosay

TOROSAY Institute was pleased to welcome Mike Swift to speak at the February meeting. With his usual good humour he covered a wide range of subjects in his talk explaining various aspects of his work, such as coastguard duties, which is all the more valuable because it is voluntary. President Janet Ackroyd thanked Mike for his interesting talk.

Fionnphort

FIONNPHORT SWRI thoroughly enjoyed a talk by Jackie Entwistle on aromatherapy oils. She talked about their uses, culinary and therapeutic, making rooms and people smell good and gave a history of their procurement and use. One of the most interesting things was that it takes a ton of rose petals to produce 300gms of essential oil and that it costs £14,000 per kilogram to buy Rose Otto oil!

Tiree

THE FEBRUARY meeting was well attended. Members were given a talk and slide show by Cairn MacLeod on the Amazon Hope 2 which sails along the River Tigre in Peru. The boat is one of two belonging to the Vine Trust - a Scottish charity based in Fife - and is fitted with equipment for doctors, dentists, nurses and all other personnel to work and sleep on. It took Cairn two days to reach the boat after her flight and in eight days they visited 16 villages and 1,500 people were treated. All types of medical conditions were treated. Children are vaccinated and dehydrated children are given suitable drinks. As there are no blood supplies to treat serious cases, they have to be shipped in a small boat to the nearest medical post for treatment and this can take as long as 12 hours. Cairn showed slides of the houses which are built on stilts and have no windows or doors. Cairn was thanked by Margaret Jones. In the competitions, Margaret Jones was first in the potted plant and Fiona Maxwell in the jar of orange curd.

25 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday March 1, 1984

Boris the duck is home!
BORIS the Muscovy duck has arrived home safe and well at Killiemore Riding Centre, Mull. He was reunited with the Wilcock family as a result of an article in *The Oban Times* last week. The duck was a birthday present for Norman Wilcock but stayed with the family for only 10 minutes before taking flight. Boris was found by school teacher Meg Douglas three miles from the centre.

TV boosts Argyll and the Isles
ONLY seven weeks after the start of its tourism promotion TV advertising campaign, Argyll and Bute looks set to become a leading holiday destination for Scottish holiday makers. According to figures received from Scottish Television, the Argyll and Bute Council tourism ads are 'in the top three' when it comes to viewers' responses.

The assessment is based on the number of STV viewers phoning the special telephone numbers broadcast for those wishing to receive free copies of brochures and leaflets.

Hoteliers protest
A DEMAND for the rate of VAT on hotels to be reduced was made this week by a group of local hoteliers. The group has protested to Argyll MP John MacKay that the current situation makes them unable to compete economically with European countries, where the rate is much lower. The Mull of Kintyre Hotel Group, a marketing group for independent hotels, has written to the MP protesting about the 15 per cent VAT rate charged in Britain.

Library site attacked
THE SITE of Oban's new library near the swimming pool has caused major controversy. Plans were criticised by members of Oban Community Council when they met on Monday night. Members were unanimous in saying they thought the site was wrong because of the lack of public transport to the area. Council member David Clunie said that he thought it was a bad site because of the lack of accessibility.

Monument back on public view
A MONUMENT to 17 rebelling Campbell leaders was unveiled on its new site on Saturday by a descendant of the man who signed their execution warrants in 1685. The 1st Marquis of Argyll and Tarbert had the job of putting down the 9th Earl of Argyll's insurrection in support of the Duke of Monmouth against King James VII and II. And on Saturday the Duke of Atholl was invited by the Duke of Argyll to perform the unveiling ceremony at Frew's Bridge in the castle grounds. The monument was originally erected in 1754 on a site that now forms part of the garden belonging to the Bank of Scotland.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 577

ACROSS

- Wife of King Priam of Troy (6)
- 1972 Robert Altman film starring Susannah York (6)
- 1953 novel by Arthur C. Clarke (10,3)
- Oral title of address in Turkey equivalent to Mr. (7)
- Asian republic whose capital is New Delhi (5)
- Cut of beef extending from the neck to the shoulder blade (5)
- Stringed musical instrument with a long fretted neck and a circular drum-like body (5)
- River in S.E. Australia that flows through Melbourne (5)
- Stream in Italy, in ancient times the boundary between Italy and Cisalpine Gaul (7)
- Rich stew or soup of fish and vegetables flavoured with saffron (13)
- Brownish Old World Finch, *Acanthis cannabina* (6)
- Terry, a 1961 world middleweight boxing champion (6)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

- Rejoinder (6)
- Disprove (6)
- Chatty (13)
- Go before (7)
- Sum (5)
- Swim (5)
- Perfume (5)
- Tendency (5)
- Rest (7)
- Prevalence (13)
- Aid (6)
- Little ball (6)

DOWN

- Game in which a ball is hit using long sticks curved at the end (6)
- 1980 world professional snooker champion (5,8)
- Health resort and spa town in Switzerland (5)
- Group of volcanic islands in the N. Atlantic whose capital is Funchal (7)
- British politician who won two Best Actress Oscars (6,7)
- Hussein, Iraqi leader (6)
- Slow-moving Asian primate (5)
- In communications, code word for the letter c (7)
- Percussion instrument consisting of a thin circular piece of brass which vibrates when hit (6)
- 'Flight to —', 1942 novel by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (5)
- 'The — Weep', 1984 novel by Wilbur Smith (6)
- In communications, code word for the letter b (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 The Alchemist; 7 Sitar; 8 Naiad; 9 Oct; 10 Correggio; 11 Dingle; 12 Friend; 15 Admiralty; 17 Ria; 18 Third; 19 Ernst; 21 Lamentations.

Down: 1 The Good Earth; 2 Lot; 3 Harare; 4 Monterrey; 5 Sting; 6 Edmond Dantes; 7 Spain; 10 Coleridge; 13 Egret; 14 Client; 16 Moira; 20 Nut.

QUICK - Across: 1 Apprehensive; 7 Under; 8 Arson; 9 Eat; 10 Segregate; 11 Throng; 12 Tender; 15 Ceaseless; 17 Fop; 18 Tithe; 19 Deter; 21 Proscription.

Down: 1 Authenticity; 2 End; 3 Enrage; 4 Shameless; 5 Vista; 6 Interruption; 7 Utter; 10 Senseless; 13 Defer; 14 Leader; 16 Aster; 20 Tip.

QUICK CLUES DOWN

- Formula (6)
- Moderation (13)
- Itinerary (5)
- Stretchable (7)
- Inadvertent (13)
- Smoothly (6)
- Acted without words (5)
- Frightful (7)
- Perfect state (6)
- Self-esteem (5)
- Seemly (6)
- Work for (5)

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My Village

Mallaig



Mallaig remains an important port and harbour but unfortunately there has been a decline in fishing boat numbers in recent years. #09mallaig04/03

What makes Mallaig special for you? Well, it's home for a start. You need the community and the community needs you – there's a good spirit about the village. It's a place that binds together in the good times and the bad. Does Mallaig have an interesting history? Mallaig began as a fishing village with four crofts. Lord Lovat founded the place in the late 1800s and invited fishing families to come – there were no Clearances here in the way they were on Knoydart. He built a salt store for the fishermen to help the fishing folk through the hard times. The first four families were the Wilsons, the MacColls, the Gillies's and the Maclellans. My great grandfather brought his family around

IF ANY west Highlands village has its fortunes tied to the sea and the railways, it is Mallaig - the end of the line for some, the start point of a ferry journey to the isles for others. For the people who live there, Mallaig is a special place. Here, craft shop owner Johnnie MacMillan gives Oban Times reporter Stephen Norris a flavour of Mallaig's history and people – and what makes the bustling port unique.

from Buckie on the east coast in his fishing boat, The Marys. His was one of the earliest fishing families to come to Mallaig. They were Mansons, originally from Thurso. Because of its location, Mallaig really burgeoned into a very strong fishing area, which soon attracted more families, and the village proper was founded in 1908. We celebrated our centenary last year. When I was a boy of 13 or 14, I used to come out of school at 4pm and dash down

We felt like millionaires at the time – until you got home and got a clip around the back of the head because your school clothes were full of fish scales and herring guts! How important is Mallaig to the West Highlands? What does it offer that other villages in the area can't? It has a major ferry terminal, and a train terminus to the most beautiful rail line in the world! It's got a hustle and bustle that other villages don't have. There's always something happening here. We offer first class services for tourists, be it eating out or shopping. How would you describe Mallaig to someone who's never been there?

It's not an archetypal Highland village. Mallaig is very cosmopolitan, and with its industry is very much a working port. We're not designed to be a Plockton, and that's what people like about the place. Visitors always go down to where the hub of the village is – the pier, to see the ferries and fishing boats. Mallaig is also a very friendly place. People are very open and the vast majority of people would do you a good turn before they would do you a bad one. If you are raising money for good causes, it never ceases to amaze me how generous people are here. Were you born in the vil-

lage? How long have you lived there? I was born and bred here. I spent 14 years working in the oil industry, which took me away from Mallaig, although I still had a base here. My family was born here and my wife refused to move, there's no way she would consider it! I've been here 56 years. How much has Mallaig changed since you were a child? For such a small place the changes have been phenomenal. The downturn in the fishing is the most recent and it's affected the harbour, where until recently we had 120 boats but now it's down to 40 or 50. There's still a good living to be made at the shellfish, but the white

more prudent to reinstate the ferry from Mallaig to Lochboisdale. That journey, for the most part is sheltered by Skye – the open sea part of the trip is only an hour, maybe less. What I have noticed is that there has been a noticeable increase in sea life – dolphins, porpoises, otters, basking sharks as well. Whether that's because there's less fishing boats and more food for them, I just don't know. We are certainly seeing more otters now than ever. There was one we called Scarface who was something of a legend. One day I had people in the shop when this girl came in and shouted 'there's an otter walking down the street!' Everybody rushed out, and there he was, walking up Dav-

charity football matches – you name it, we tried it. We wrote to 11 millionaires in the area asking for assistance and only two replied. Cameron Macintosh said he would match our total – and that sealed the deal and made the pool a reality. Do you have a favourite time of year in Mallaig? Although I like the heat of the summer when the place is buzzing, I also enjoy the cold, crisp winter days. I love going to the golf course when there's hardly a soul about and the grass is white with frost. What do visitors like about Mallaig? My feedback is that Mallaig being a working village is a big advantage. Folk love going down the pier to see the boats and all the quayside activities. Also, as far as eating out is concerned, the standard of food in Mallaig has never been better. Is there anybody famous from Mallaig? There are too many to mention – because they are all already legends in their own minds! What are the main challenges facing Mallaig today? The biggest must be the reduction in the fishing industry – we have to look at ways of maintaining a viable fishing fleet and the onshore jobs that depend on it. We have first class fishermen here and they will always make a good living at the fishing. But we still have to look at diversifying, and that's coming in the guise of the proposed marina. That's looking very positive, and hopefully also the government in its wisdom will see the benefit of a Mallaig to Lochboisdale ferry. CalMac is already an important part of the village with its thriving ferry operation, and is vital for future employment and services onshore and at sea. Mallaig is a lifeline for Knoydart and the Small Isles through its ferry services, but there must always be scope to improve routes and timetables.



Johnnie MacMillan was born and bred in Mallaig and says for a small place the changes have been phenomenal. #09mallaig02

'We have to look at ways of maintaining a viable fishing fleet and the onshore jobs that depend upon it.'

fish boats have almost gone. It's amazing how things have turned around. In days gone by they used to keep the fish and shovel the prawns over the side – now they keep the prawns and shovel the fish over the side! I remember seeing my uncle's boats coming into the harbour, when the railway ran right down to the end of the pier. The fish from the boats would be lifted straight off the boats by cranes on the quayside into the waiting wagons – haddock, hake every fish imaginable. But the fish all goes by road now, there's no freight at all now goes out by rail. Also, ferries used to run from here to the Outer Hebrides via Kyle and Portree, but politics decided we lost that service. In this financially challenging time it certainly looks

ie's Brae to get his usual feed at the West Highland Hotel! We have not seen him for a while. He was arthritic as well as old, but alive or dead he's left plenty of issue behind! Do you have a favourite place in the village? Aye, the football field or the golf course. I used to play football for the local team and I play golf regularly, although I don't know if that's a blessing or a curse! If I had to pick a favourite building, it would have to be the swimming pool, because it's been a real boon to Mallaig. It took a real community effort to get it and it epitomises the togetherness of the place and its community spirit. Folk raised £96,500 through all sorts of events – duck races down the River Morar, Saturday fetes, coffee mornings,

– because they are all already legends in their own minds! What are the main challenges facing Mallaig today? The biggest must be the reduction in the fishing industry – we have to look at ways of maintaining a viable fishing fleet and the onshore jobs that depend on it. We have first class fishermen here and they will always make a good living at the fishing. But we still have to look at diversifying, and that's coming in the guise of the proposed marina. That's looking very positive, and hopefully also the government in its wisdom will see the benefit of a Mallaig to Lochboisdale ferry. CalMac is already an important part of the village with its thriving ferry operation, and is vital for future employment and services onshore and at sea. Mallaig is a lifeline for Knoydart and the Small Isles through its ferry services, but there must always be scope to improve routes and timetables.

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ON SALE NOW

West coast fishermen should be compensated for error says MEP

A SCOTTISH MEP has called on the European Commission (EC) to compensate west coast fishermen after an administrative error deprived the west coast fleet of 30 days at sea. Error Following a complaint by Clyde Fishermen's Association the European Ombudsman found that the error by the EC meant that a reduction in days meant for the North Sea was applied to west coast waters. Fishing days allocated for a specific groups of vessels, namely those which use a type of fishing gear called a demersal trawl, were reduced from 280 to 250.

The ombudsman has called on the EC to correct its error in order not to risk any knock-on effects for subsequent years. 'Bombshell' Scottish Conservative MEP Struan Stevenson said: 'This bombshell finding by the EU Ombudsman is a complete vindication of what I have been arguing for years – micro-management of fisheries policy by a team of desk jockeys in Brussels is simply not working. 'This mistake is further proof, if any were ever needed, that fisheries management should be devolved to regional advisory councils which combine stakeholders like fishermen

and scientists and know exactly what measures are best for fish stocks in their zone. 'I trust the Commission, based on this finding by the Ombudsman, will now compensate the west of Scotland fishermen whose livelihoods were damaged by this appalling error.' Alan Reid, MP for Argyll and Bute, also urged the EC to correct its error, saying: 'The Commission must accept the Ombudsman's finding and correct its mistake, otherwise there could be knock-on effects that could reduce the number of days at sea available to west coast fishermen in future years.'

Mallaig lifeboatman's picture selected

THE ROYAL National lifeboat Institution (RNLI) has named a Mallaig RNLI lifeboat mechanic as the 'Mean Machines' category runner up for its photographer and filmmaker of the year (2008) competition. An image taken by Dennis Eddie captured the Mallaig lifeboat towing the Norwegian tanker Edmy in the Sound of Sleat during a rescue in 2008. The tanker had lost engine power and called the lifeboat for help. 'I remember the occasion well. The tow lasted just over an hour and we left the Edmy safe at anchor at Ornsay,' Dennis said. 'I'm a bit surprised yet



Mallaig lifeboat rescues the Edmy. Picture by Dennis Eddie

delighted that the judges picked my photo as a prize-winner - although no doubt I'll get some ribbing from the crew!'

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Glenehervie hoggs sell at Stirling prime sale

UNITED Auctions sold 4,307 prime sheep, including 2866 hoggs averaging 169.4p/kg, and 1,441 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Texel hoggs from Luckenburn sold to 202p per kilo with Texel and Charolais hoggs from Langside selling to £128 while Suffolks from Glenehervie to £79.50.

Blackface hoggs from Merkins fetched £77.50 while Kinloch sold Cheviots to £75.50 and 170p per kilo.

Ewes sold to £97 for Texels from South Moorhouse with Langside selling Suffolks to £94. Blackfaces from Merkins fetched £68.

High Cattadale bullocks sell to £900

UNITED Auctions sold 758 store cattle and 1,329 store hoggs and grit ewes at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 180p per kilo (+3.96) and sold to 209.8p per kg for a 348kg Limousin cross from Nether Dalkeith and £900 for a 612kgs Belgian Blue cross from High Cattadale, who also sold another at £850. Heifers averaged 165.1p per kilo (-2.34p) and sold to 213.2p per kg for a 258kgs Belgian Blue cross from Auldhall and £880 for a 571kgs Charolais cross from Victoria.

Texel hoggs from High Milndovan sold to £64.50 with Blackfaces from Keilator to £51. Bluefaced Leicester gimmers from Muir edge fetched £140 and correct ewes to £102.



Students Mark McKenzie, Colin Smith and Kenny O'Connor after receiving their awards.

Hard work pays dividends for Skye student

A YOUNG agriculture student from Dunvegan on the Isle of Skye, who is working seven days a week to fund his way through college, has been recognised with a top industry award.

Crofters' son Kenny O'Connor has been named Higher Education Learner of the Year at the prestigious Lantra Scotland Awards.

The 18-year old spends three days a week at Oatridge College in West Lothian, studying for his Higher National Diploma in Agriculture and doing odd jobs around the campus, and four days on David Cunningham's Walkerdike Farm at Strathaven in Lanarkshire, where he is gaining a reputation as a breeder of pedigree sheep.

In spite of his gruelling schedule, Kenny still finds time to return to the family home at busy times to help out, but his academic work is not allowed to suffer. He emerged as 'Best Student' in

his Higher National Certificate (HNC) year at College.

Grafter

Kenny has never been afraid of hard graft. As a child at Dunvegan Primary School, he did his share on the family croft and worked for neighbours to earn pocket money. By the time he was at Portree High School, where he achieved a clutch of good Standard Grades, he was washing dishes at an island hotel, as well as working at home and for neighbours. When his father became seriously ill he took on responsibility for looking after the croft's 60 sheep and 15 head of cattle.

His youthful efforts at making money from crofting opened his eyes to how little he knew about livestock and it decided him to get qualifications. Typically, when he signed up for Barony College in Dumfries he spent a summer of back-breaking work gathering and selling whelks

and when he arrived on the mainland, he immediately found work, five days a week after classes, on a local farm.

It was in 2007 that Kenny transferred to Oatridge, after receiving a special award from Barony.

Focused

Peter Scott, the head of agriculture and director of farms at Oatridge, said: 'Kenny is one of the most focused and determined people I have ever come across. He has to work his way through college, but he never complains. He achieved his HNC with Distinction, which shows his level of commitment and talent, but somehow still found the time and energy to abseil off the Forth Rail Bridge last year for charity.'

It is a similar story from Kenny's employer David Cunningham who said: 'He's just a spot-on lad, very hard working and conscientious, great with equipment and machines and if I ask him to

do something, he'll do it as well as I can.'

After collecting his award at a ceremony in Crieff Hydro, Kenny said: 'Money has always been a bit of a problem, but I love what I do and I know the only way to get better is to study. This makes it all worthwhile.'

He was happy to share the honours with two fellow Oatridge students as the trio helped maintain the College's successful record at the Landbased Learner of the Year event.

West Lothian landscape and horticulture students Colin Smith, who is 22 and from Blackburn, was named Overall Runner-up Landbased Learner of the Year, while 18 year old Mark McKenzie, from Fauldhouse, who last month won the title of Horticulture Student of the Year by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, was given the new Award for Endeavour.

Barra invite Scotland's chief vet on bluetongue issue

WESTERN Isles MSP, Alasdair Allan, has welcomed the confirmation by the Scottish Government that the bluetongue vaccination deadline for some of Scotland's most remote livestock farmers and crofters is to be extended.

The extension, to June 30 this year, will apply to those with livestock on uninhabited islands and, on a case by case basis, those with particularly remote hill sheep flocks.

Dr Allan said he was pleased that the Scottish Government had indicated a willingness to recognise the unique circumstances of many crofters.

'On the back of this positive move by the Scottish Government I am looking forward to the visit of the chief veterinary officer for Scotland, Charles Milne, to the Western Isles where he will be meeting with crofters first hand to hear their views on the bluetongue issue.'

Dr Allan's fellow Scottish National Party member and MP for the Western Isles, Angus MacNeil, is to write to Mr Milne asking him if he would also hold a public meeting in Barra regarding Bluetongue.

Mr Milne has already indicated that he will hold meetings in Stornoway and Benbecula on March 30 and 31 this year.

Mr MacNeil said: 'Bluetongue is an issue that is affecting crofters from the Butt to Barra, I am therefore surprised that Mr Milne is not holding one of the public meetings in the third land mass of the Western Isles, Barra and Vatersay. Many people are sceptical about Bluetongue, and many crofters want an easier life than having to spend time and money on vaccinating animals. I find it disappointing that Charles Milne as yet does not seem to be holding one of these meetings in Barra and Vatersay.'

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Own car parking space No DSS • References required £420pcm + Council tax

Apply in writing to box number 10, Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, PA31 8NB

The ideal place to look for property advertising

The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Regional Press closer to home

Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society

MITSUBISHI LANCER TURBO 4 X 4 1800CC

MOT until June 2009
1992
77500 miles
Telephone:
01770 (Arran) 600726

£2000 o.n.o.

5 METRE IVECO SWB VAN 2.5 TURBO

High Roof model, N reg, 140,000 miles, 12 months MOT and 6 months tax, 2 new tyres, radio cassette, vehicle runs great for its age.
Ideal vehicle for crossing ferries would each make good delivery van.
Telephone:
01586554573 or 07901836356

£1,700 o.n.o.

OUTBOARD ENGINE 50 HP

Evinrude, short shaft, Tiller steering.
Telephone:
07739516184

£500

VW GOLF GTI TURBO



£10,500

2 litre 200 B.H.P. 40,000 6cd multi changer winter pack, 18" Monra, taxed, mot, full service history.
Tel: 07919091042

HORSEBOX/TRAILER BATESON

Derby lightweight, takes two ponies.
Telephone:
01631 720 311

£2000 o.n.o.

SACHS 49CC MOTORCYCLE

57 Plate
Taxed Nov 2009
Only 708 miles
Telephone:
01770 (Arran) 600726

£900 o.n.o.

5 METRE IVECO SWB VAN 2.5 TURBO

S reg, 82,000 miles, 9 months MOT taxed, radio cassette, 4 new tyres, great load space (bigger than transit van).
Ideal vehicle for crossing ferries would each make good delivery van.
Telephone:
01586554573 or 07901836356

£1,700 o.n.o.

DAIHATSU 4TRAK 4X4

1994, taxed and MOT.
Telephone:
01586 830122 (after 6pm) or 07788 734140

£950 o.n.o.

VOLVO V40 ESTATE - 2003

Taxed & MOT August. Very good condition, 46,000 miles, full service history.
Telephone: 01631 562339
Mobile: 07747 156660

£3750 o.n.o.

SUBARU IMPREZA TURBO 2L WRX WAGON



1998, R Reg, tax and MOT.
Tel: 01586 830122 (after 6pm) or 07788 734140

£1350 o.n.o.

T REG CITROEN DISPATCH VAN

92,000 miles
Mot'd July, taxed end July.
Telephone:
07940 872 612 or 01631 566229

£1000 o.v.n.o.

HONDA HRV 1.6

4WD
Y Reg 2001
Tax & Mot June 09
100,000 miles.
Telephone:
07776082752 (Arran)

£2,500 o.n.o.

VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CLUB



£895 o.n.o.

2000 V reg, 106,000 miles MOT September 2009
Power Steering, Air conditioning
Very good condition all round
Tel: 01546 810030

MITSUBISHI CHARISMA 1.9TD



Offers

2000, Silver, Good condition, MOT 2009, Tax January 2010
Tel: 01546 850242

SCRAP CARS WANTED

Telephone:
07930346252 or 01389 721278.

CASH PAID

FORD KA

54 plate, 49,800 miles, mot'd till Jan 2010, taxed till Jun 09, cd player, good condition.
Telephone:
01631 559252
07881503581

£2200

BAYLINER 288 CLASSIC - FLYBRIDGE CRUISER DEC.2004



Powered by 250hp Merruicruiser D-tronic Diesel, Top Speed 26 knots. Very low engine hours, FSH, luxury interior includes Electric/Spirit Range, Refrigerator, Microwave, Radio/ cd player, Shower and toilet. Sleeps 6. Extras include Bow Thruster, Raymarine Sat Nav and V.H.F. Radio, Diesel central heating, fitted battery charger, Sony TV Life Raft, lifejackets and an array of safety equipment. Full compliment of dining ware & kitchen utensils.
This is a beautiful boat in excellent condition available at a bargain price of £59,995. Currently may be viewed in Port Ellen, Islay.
Telephone 01294 270160 or 07919 543271.

FORD SIERRA SAPPHIRE

G reg, Tax and MOT to May 09
Good runner
Telephone:
01586 552496

£300

WANTED LANDROVER 90 OR 110

New or old models, also Discovery, Range Rover and all Japanese models, Toyota etc, high miles, damaged, anything considered.
Contact James:
07866 590583 or 07966 293996

FIAT PUNTO 1.2 SPORTING



tax and MOT, 83,000 miles, sports seats, alloy wheels, tinted rear windows, 6 speed gear box.
Telephone:
07592176731

£1495 o.n.o.

RENAULT MEGANE RN 1.6E CLASSIC



REG: 1998, MOT September 30th 2009, TAX MARCH 31st 2009. You can see the car at Great Western Hotel's car Park
£800 ono
Tel: 07864766434

TINKER STAR TRAVELLER



£450

3 in 1 Inflatable. Sail, row or motor. Boat and rigging can be folded into a bag for the boot of a car. Folding trolley included. The Boat Store, Lower Dunollie Road, Oban PA34 5PJ
Tel: 01631 565005

VOLKSWAGEN GOLF GT TDI



£5250 o.n.o.

02, 5 door hatch, low mileage, metallic beige, very good condition for year
Tel: 01496 302300

RENAULT TRAFFIC VAN

1.9 diesel, panel van (transit size van without the rust) Taxed and MOT'd, white in colour, power steering, side loading door, 60,000 miles, ready for work, one owner since new.
Telephone:
01586 810252 or 07990 974026

£15,000 ono

SAAB 9-3 2.2TID



98 S reg, 93000 miles, Mot'd 1 year. Taxed 6 months, immaculate condition, very economical +45mpg. PX for Shogun/Pajero
Telephone:
01700 504826 / 07773 066818

£1295 o.v.n.o.

1600 VAUXHALL ASTRA SPORT



£3,550

Twinport 5 door hatchback, First reg March 2005, 26,500 miles. Family owned since new, Electric front windows, Air conditioning, Tow bar, Single play CD / Radio, Tax August 2009, MOT March 2010
Tel: 01546 602007 after 6pm / 07796 854136

SAAB 93 TDI



2001 mot for 1 year, taxed until May beautiful condition, in Argyl every weekend.
Telephone:
01786 832295
07808 141469

£1495 o.n.o.

STATIC CARAVAN



£6,500 ono

32 x 12 two bedrooms, very good condition, used 15 months for house build.
Tel: 07825757251

RANGE ROVER 4.6 HSE



1996N Dark blue, grey full leather, tow-hitch, 6 cd changer, e/seats etc. Good all round condition
Tax July Mot April.
Telephone:
Lochgilphead
07979860970.

£3400 o.n.o.

MOTORS

Ben Nevis Motors 

Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr	£13495 Deposit £2800 36 x £239.50 Incl £800 Deposit Allowance	Ford Fiesta 1.25 Style	£8495 Deposit £950 24 x £149.52
Ford S-Max 2.2 TDCi Titanium Individual	£21995 Deposit £7500 36 x £264.06	Ford Kuga Zetec 2.0 TDCi	£17995 Deposit £3650 36 x £267.41 Incl £1000 deposit Allowance

09 Ford Ranger double cab XLT TDCi	£10,700+vat+rfl
08 Ford Galaxy 1.8 TDCi Zetec Ink Blue	£14,395
08 Ford Mondeo 2.0 Zetec 5dr Sea Grey	£11,595
08 Ford Transit Connect TDCi Van Red	£9,995+vat
08 Ford Focus 2.5 ST3 Performance Blue 3 dr New Shape	£15,995
08 Ford Fiesta 2.0 ST 3dr Panther Black	£9,995
08 Ford Fusion 1.4 TDCi Zetec Panther Black	£9,995
07 Vauxhall Astra 1.8 Sri Silver 5 dr	£7,695
06 Audi A3 2.0 TDi S-Line Silver	£13,595
04 Ford Focus ST170 3dr Moon dust Silver	£5,795
04 Renault Clio 182 Sport 3dr Blue	£5,995
04 Ford Focus 1.6 Zetec 5dr Blue	£4,495
03 VW Golf GT TDi 3dr Black	£5,295

Your local west highland Ford dealer for new and used sales, service, repair and parts

Ben Nevis Motors
North Road
Fort William
Tel: 01397 700110


The leading car scheme for disabled people

To advertise your car in Drive Times telephone 01631 568000

E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD



06 MITSUBISHI Shogun Diamond Com, leather, sat nav, full spec, 10k	£18,450
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab, leather, Silver, 11k	£10,950
07 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior, double cab pick-up, black, 20k	£9,950
06 MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport Commercial 5 door, silver, 38k	£7,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 DQ double cab pick-up, 30k, silver	£8,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick-up, black, 30k	£8,950
06 MITSUBISHI L200 Club cab pick-up, black	£5,950
05 MITSUBISHI L200 double cab pick up, 50k, towbar, choice	£4,650
07 NISSAN Navara Aventura, double cab, auto, leather, sat nav & canopy, 20k	£11,450
06 NISSAN Navara Aventura, double cab, auto, leather, sat nav, 30k	£10,650
06 NISSAN Navara SE, double cab, 6 speed, air con, 4k	£9,950
06 NISSAN Navara Outback, double cab, 6 speed, full spec, grey, 40k	£9,450
06 FORD Ranger Thunder, double cab, leather, Black, 20k	£8,650
06 FORD Ranger X3 double cab, roll bars, black, 15k, choice	£7,950
05 FORD Ranger Thunder double cab pick up, leather, canopy	£5,950
05 FORD Ranger, single cab pick up, silver canopy, 30k, choice	£5,950
07 FORD Transit 350 crew van, 6 seats, CD, 6 speed	£8,950
05 FORD Transit 280 crew cab pick up 135hp, 6 speed, choice	£7,450
06 FORD Transit 280 crew cab high van, 25k, blue	£4,950
05 MERCEDES Sprinter 311 mwb, 4x4 van, generator	£7,450
05 TOYOTA Hilux Double cab 4wd, met silver, canopy	£8,450
02 VW LT40 LWB van, fitted diesel hot power washer	£7,950
02 JCB 20k loading shovel, 4wd, 4ws, very tidy	£7,950

Many other vehicles in stock All above vehicles plus VAT at 15%
Kilwinning, Ayrshire
01294 554096 or 077696 88110
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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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West Coast Jobs www.westcoastjobs.co.uk



Freshwater Production
8 Posts Available



Due to the opening of a new loch based farming operation near Fort William, we are seeking to recruit individuals to fulfill the following positions. These will be based at the new location or at existing farms within our Freshwater Department.

1. Freshwater Manager/ Freshwater Assistant Manager (2 Posts). All inclusive salary £25k - £35k.

To set-up, manage and develop a new loch based operation planned to produce in excess of 4 million smolts.

The ideal candidates will have several years practical experience in salmon farming, preferably in freshwater production, with a minimum of one year at management level and be educated to degree level or hold other relevant qualifications.

2. Freshwater Technicians (6 Posts). All inclusive salary £18k - £24k.

The role of Technician is interesting and varied. Working outdoors, it is focused upon all aspects of successful salmon smolt production, from the post hatchery fry stage until transportation to our sea water farms.

Applications would be particularly welcome from individuals who have some experience in fish farming but this is not essential as full training and support will be provided.

Beyond the nature of the roles, the post holder(s) would be expected to undertake over-time as required in order to accommodate the needs of the business, this will include weekend cover on a rota basis.

If you would like to be considered for one of these interesting posts, please apply in writing, no later than **Thursday 26th March 2009** to: Vicky Ferguson, HR Manager, Business Resource Centre, Bial Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

Informal enquiries can be addressed to Gideon Pringle, Freshwater Manager, Farms Office, Bial Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT. Mobile 07747 487232 E-mail Gideon.Pringle@MarineHarvest.com

LOCAL ACCESS, GLOBAL OUTLOOK



FIRE-FIGHTER
Islay Airport

Salary £16,016 rising to £20,021 per annum plus allowances

Do you have what it takes to become an airport fire-fighter? HIA has a vacancy at Islay Airport and applications are invited from both men and women for this rewarding and challenging role.

Successful applicants will initially be required to attend the Fire Training College, Teesside, for a six-week residential fire-fighter course. Further training courses will be completed locally to achieve full competency. You will also have to pass the HIA's medical/fitness standards.

A full and current driving licence is essential. An LGV licence is also essential but full LGV training will be given. Airport Fire Service staff will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check for security clearance.

If you think you have what it takes, please apply for an application pack. Closing date for completed application forms is Friday 13 March 2009.

For more information, please visit the Careers Section of our website or contact:-

Human Resources Department Telephone: 01667 464314
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited Fax: 01667 464209
Head Office, Inverness Airport Email: recruitment@hial.co.uk
Inverness, IV2 7JB Website: www.hial.co.uk

CO-OPTED COMMISSIONER - NON-EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER

The Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses wish to appoint a Co-opted Commissioner to join the Board as a Non-Executive Member.

The Commissioners, operating as the Northern Lighthouse Board (www.nlb.org.uk) are the General Lighthouse Authority responsible for the management and provision of marine Aids to Navigation in Scotland and the Isle of Man. The Board is funded by the payment of light dues by most commercial users of UK ports to the General Lighthouse Fund, which is administered by the Department for Transport. The Commissioners are established by statute and operate as Non-Executive Directors of the Board. Co-opted Commissioners serve for a three year term, with the option of renewal subject to performance.

You will be expected to take up the appointment in August 2009 spending about 20 days a year, including time at sea, on board work. The Board meets in Edinburgh or, occasionally, Oban and Commissioners are required to visit lighthouses and other Aids to Navigation throughout Scotland and the Isle of Man by land, sea and air, sometimes in severe weather. An annual fee, presently £9708, is payable. The posts are not superannuable.

You will require a strong link to maritime business and/or experience of maritime and navigational matters. The Board is also seeking to strengthen its geographical representation and would particularly, though not exclusively, welcome applicants with experience related to the Hebridean and Western Isles, Shetland or Orkney.

In addition you will need to have some or all of the following attributes:

Senior management experience at board level, an understanding of the functions and responsibilities of a public service organisation and the associated standards required, an ability to bring independent judgement to bear on key strategic issues, a demonstrable interest in Scottish or Manx marine heritage and maritime affairs generally.

As Board members, Commissioners are required to adhere to a Code of Guidance that ensures that the Board complies with best practice on Standards in Public Life.

The Northern Lighthouse Board is committed to the principles of public appointments based on merit with independent assessment, openness and transparency of process.

Individuals who applied for a similar marine related post advertised last year might wish to apply again. Applications should be made in writing no later than 27 March 2009, with a full CV noting all specific experience relevant to this post, to:

The Chief Executive, Northern Lighthouse Board, 84 George Street Edinburgh EH2 3DA
Tel: 0131 473 3100 Fax: 0131 220 2093 e-mail: rogerl@nlb.org.uk



ACHA - Putting Tenants First.

We are on target to create homes and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

Local Manager
Property Services Lochgilhead or Campbeltown
Salary Grade 4 (£28,905 to £32,116) - 35 hours per week

We are seeking applications from candidates with strong interpersonal and negotiating skills to deliver a high quality property maintenance and estate management service to our customers within the Mid Argyll and Kintyre areas.

As a minimum, a working knowledge of the affordable rented sector, operating and delivering in a challenging working environment and a current valid driving licence are all essential for this post. Applicants also need excellent technical/construction and ICT knowledge and it would be desirable to hold an appropriate professional or technical qualification to a minimum of HND level, or be prepared to obtain a relevant qualification.

Visit the Recruitment section on the Association's website at www.acha.co.uk where recruitment packs can be downloaded. This gives more information on what we are looking for and whether you have the appropriate qualities to apply for this post

PLEASE NOTE - THIS IS A READVERTISEMENT - PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT APPLY

Site Supervisor
12 month Fixed Term Contract / 3 posts - Mid Argyll & Kintyre, Oban, Helensburgh
Salary Grade 5 (£25,416 - £28,240) - 35 hours per week

The Association is seeking to employ 3 Site Supervisors on a 12 month fixed term contract to assist with delivering a high quality Investment Programme to its tenants across Argyll & Bute.

The successful candidates will require to hold an HNC or equivalent in Building & Construction and have a wide range of technical skills. The post holder must be able to establish and maintain effective working relationships with colleagues, beneficiary organisations and partners; provide leadership of project teams involving colleagues and other partners; have good written and oral communication skills including the ability to produce reports without a pre-determined framework. There will be limited control over a small number of budget headings. The post holder will, occasionally, be required to work outwith their designated area and this may involve travel to Island Communities with possible overnight stays. A current driving licence is essential.

ACHA is committed to being an equal opportunities employer. We value diversity in our workforce and welcome applications from all sectors of the community. All posts will be subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Alternatively to our website, recruitment packs also available from HR & Corporate Services, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrosshaig, PA30 8DX, Tel 01546 604098 or email jenna.shaw@acha.co.uk

Closing Date for Applications:- 12 noon on Friday 20th March 2009
Interviews will be held in early April 2009

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

CallMac Ferries Limited has a requirement for:

Seasonal Port Assistant
£7.02 per hour Ref 265-SB
40 hours per week (fixed term contract)
Tarbert Office, Loch Fyne

Reporting to the Port Manager, you will need a flexible approach to your day-to-day responsibilities. You will be involved in duties connected with ship movements, gangways and securing of vessels. Other tasks will include customer enquiries, sales/collection of passenger/vehicle tickets, cash handling, use of VHF and PA Systems and control of passengers and vehicles embarking and disembarking from vessels.

Computer literate with excellent verbal and written communication skills, you are expected to have a flexible approach to working, as shift and weekend work will be involved. You must be customer focused, have a clear understanding of the customer interface and have a proactive approach to customer care.

Being able to commute to the Tarbert Office, Loch Fyne on a daily basis is essential.

If you are interested in this position, please respond by sending your CV quoting reference number 265-SB no later than Friday 20th March 2009 to:

David MacBrayne HR (UK) Limited
Ferry Terminal, Gourack, PA19 1QP
t: 01475 650100 f: 01475 650268

CallMac Ferries Limited is an equal opportunities employer.

As a leading employer in the care field we offer competitive pay and benefits package.

TEAM LEADERS
OBAN. £8 - £9 PER HOUR DEPENDING ON QUALIFICATIONS.

SUPPORT WORKERS
OBAN. £6.77 - £6.98.

A respected provider of community care services UK-wide, our commitment is to supporting vulnerable people to independence through quality service provision.

Person centred outcomes are at the heart of what we do and to this end we seek to recruit enthusiastic and motivated individuals who are committed to making a difference to the lives of those they work with.

As well as a competitive rate of pay, we also offer an extensive benefits package which includes, childcare vouchers, an on going training programme, pension and life assurance.

Experience of working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health is essential.

Team Leader applicants must possess or be working towards SVQ III or equivalent.

For further information or for an application pack please contact Karen McKenzie on 01631 567650.
Previous applicants need not apply.

OFFICE / ACCOUNTS ADMINISTRATOR
required for Ormsary Estate Office.

Varied work includes book-keeping, retail sales, holiday bookings, and general administration.

Candidates should be experienced users of Microsoft Office and accounting software packages.

Competitive pay, depending on experience.

Apply in writing with a full CV detailing current salary to

Mrs Barbara Cutler, Finance Manager,
Ormsary Farmers, Ormsary Estate Office,
P O Box 7, Lochgilhead, PA31 8JH.

Lochaber Women's Aid

1 F/T SERVICE MANAGER
(currently funded for 2 years)

We are looking for an experienced, motivated professional to Manage the Women's, Children and Young Peoples Services of Lochaber Women's Aid.

Salary £31,821.00 (per annum) with 8% company pension contribution and essential car users allowance.

1 F/T SENIOR PRACTITIONER
(currently funded for 2 years)

We are looking for an energetic and motivated worker who will lead the Womens Service Team in delivering a high standard of planned support to women experiencing Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women issues.

Salary £24,942.00 (per annum) with 8% company pension contribution and essential car users allowance.

Applicants for both posts must have a sound understanding of the effects and issues surrounding Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women issues with a willingness to participate in ongoing training and a full clean Driving Licence with use of own vehicle.

Posts subject to Enhanced Disclosure, two satisfactory references and 3 month probationary period.

These posts are exempt under the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (2) (d) and (e).
Women only need apply.

Application packs available by phoning Fiona MacLean Voluntary Action Lochaber on: 01397 706055

Closing Date: Friday 27th March 2009

A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee
Charity Number: SC034484 Company Number: 330605

MOTOR MECHANIC

Oban
Full/part time

Contact Iain
01631 566476

Hazelbank Motors

Crossroads Caring Scotland
Practical support for Scotland's Carers
Lochaber

Service Manager
£22,517 - £24,927
(Pay award due from 1/4/09)

Crossroads Caring Scotland - Lochaber needs an experienced practitioner in health or community care who also has the management skills to develop and co-ordinate the Care at Home service, and support the team of Care Attendants.

You will have a commitment to supporting carers and to developing and delivering quality services that meet registration standards and Crossroads standards.

For an informal discussion about the post please contact Ken Thomson, Director of Operations, on 0141 226 3793

For an application pack for please contact:-
Crossroads Caring Scotland, 24 George Square, Glasgow, G1 2EG
Tel: 0141 226 3793
Email: info@crossroads-scotland.co.uk

Closing date - 20 March 2009

Crossroads Caring Scotland is an equal opportunities employer.

LOCAL ACCESS, GLOBAL OUTLOOK



FIRE-FIGHTER
Campbeltown Airport

Salary £16,016 rising to £20,021 per annum plus allowances

Do you have what it takes to become an airport fire-fighter? HIA has a vacancy at Campbeltown Airport and applications are invited from both men and women for this rewarding and challenging role.

Successful applicants will initially be required to attend the Fire Training College, Teesside, for a six-week residential fire-fighter course. Further training courses will be completed locally to achieve full competency. You will also have to pass the HIA's medical/fitness standards.

A full and current driving licence is essential. An LGV licence is also essential but full LGV training will be given. Airport Fire Service staff will be required to provide a Criminal Record Check for security clearance. There will be a requirement for split shift working.

If you think you have what it takes, please apply for an application pack. Closing date for completed application forms is Friday 20 March 2009.

For more information, please visit the Careers Section of our website or contact:-

Human Resources Department Telephone: 01667 464314
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited Fax: 01667 464209
Head Office, Inverness Airport Email: recruitment@hial.co.uk
Inverness, IV2 7JB Website: www.hial.co.uk

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership



Hotel Services
Domestic Assistant - Band 1
£12,517 - £13,617 pro rata
15 hours per week, 1 Year Fixed Term
Lochgilhead Hospitals

Based at Lochgilhead Hospitals, you will be responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of ward, department, residential and office accommodation. You will be reliable and able to work with minimum supervision as part of a busy team. You will be neat and tidy and produce high standards. Experience is not essential as training will be given.

For further information please contact the Hotel Services Department, Argyll & Bute Hospital on 01546 602323.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHR, Aros, Lochgilhead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Closing date for receipt of applications: 20th March 2009.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

Luss Estates Company
Clerk of Works

Luss Estates Company wishes to recruit a Clerk of Works. Reporting to the Factor, the Clerk of Works will be required to take charge of the existing General Estate Maintenance workforce as well as working alongside it in order to carry out maintenance and construction works to a high and consistent standard, making the best possible utilisation of resources in order to have jobs completed timeously, efficiently and at the lowest possible cost consistent with the Estate's objectives.

It is expected that the candidate should be able to demonstrate the following attributes:-

- Physically fit, pleasant, tidy and presentable
- Well organised and capable of organising and managing others
- Experience and ability in one or more building trades
- Experience of site management, Health and Safety and staff management
- Experience of new build, conversion and renovation work
- Experience of obtaining quotes and running contractors
- Good communication skills, computer literacy
- Possession of a full (preferably clean) driving licence

Salary and benefits will reflect experience and ability.

Please apply, in writing with CV, to:
The Factor, Luss Estates Company, Arnburn, Arden, By Alexandria, G83 8RH



SINGLE HANDED STALKER

A vacancy exists for a single handed stalker on a family owned estate in Sutherland. The successful candidate will be experienced, self-motivated, flexible and able to undertake a range of general maintenance duties out with the stalking and fishing seasons.

Clean driving licence and Firearms Certificate essential.

An attractive remuneration package including a comfortable four bedroom house is available.

Applications in writing with CV by Monday 23rd March to:
Bell Ingram, Estate Office, Bonar Bridge, Sutherland, IV24 3EA

Tel: 01863 766683
Fax: 01863 766736
Email: bonarbridge@bellingham.co.uk

Part time Admin Assistant
wanted for small business in Campbeltown

Approx. 15 hours per week - afternoons.

Apply in writing to:
Box No. 4341
Campbeltown Courier
Longrow South
Campbeltown
Argyll PA28 6AE

JOB SEARCH

Graduate in film studies available for work as runner.

Tel Gregor McEwan
01369 840414 / 0790 1504775

Person required for **TREE PLANTING, GRASS CUTTING AND LANDSCAPING**

Would suit young person or school leaver.

Telephone Andrew Duncan on 01586 551150.

Oban Times Oban Times
RECRUITMENT RECRUITMENT

Local newspapers and their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.

51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

Regional Press

ADVERTISING SALES OPPORTUNITIES

The Oban Times, which is the largest selling weekly newspaper in the West Highlands, is looking for an **Advertising Sales Supervisor** and an **Advertising Salesperson** (2 positions) to work within the Advertising Department based in Oban.

You will be required to:

- Be a good communicator, have an outgoing personality and be able to work in a fast paced environment
- Be able to work in an organised manner
- Sell advertising across a range of publications including The Oban Times
- Ensure demanding deadlines are met
- Meet personal targets
- Have a full current driving licence

In addition the Sales Supervisor will:

- Supervise and organise daily work schedule of sales team
- Assist team to meet individual sales targets

We offer:

- A friendly modern open-plan working environment
- A good basic salary + commission + bonus
- Group personal pension plan
- Life assurance
- Private medical insurance

Are you interested in this challenging and rewarding role?

If yes - please send your letter of application and full C.V. to:

Alison Arden, Wyvex Media Limited, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or email: ali@wyvexmedia.co.uk



THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL - COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6XY between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below by the dates listed below.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Magnus Properties (UK) Limited Land 180M North West of Clansman Garage, Camaghoel, Fort William 09/00053/OUTLO	Erection of up to 10 holiday accommodation units, associated access improvements, site remediation works and landscaping	Cool Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days) & Article 12(5) of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Permitted) (Scotland) Order 1992. The applicant is unable to notify persons holding an interest in neighbouring land - 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



HIE INTERNATIONAL MARKETING AND WEB 2.0 WORKSHOP /

HIE is extending its successful international trade development programme with free one day workshops. These are designed to help Highland based businesses seize the global initiative and take advantage of significant opportunities for growth, profitability and job creation.

THURSDAY 12TH MARCH / CORRAN HALLS, LISMORE SUITE, OBAN 2PM-4.30PM

How to develop an online marketing strategy using Web 2.0 technologies to reach potentially thousands of new customers and contacts without costing the earth.

SPEAKERS /
Dr Jim Hamill / University of Strathclyde Marketing School
Alan Stevenson / AS Business Solutions

The workshops are free to Highland based organisations, and include detailed course notes and refreshments. To reserve a space or for further information please contact John Mackenzie T/ 01463 244520 E/ john.mackenzie@hient.co.uk

www.hie.co.uk



ISLAND OF RUM

Deer Culling Concession 2009-2010

Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) is offering the right to shoot around 40 red deer stags and 40 hinds on the island of Rum from 1 July 2009 to 15 February 2010.

SNH will provide the right to shoot deer, the use of ponies and associated equipment, and the use of SNH's larder facilities.

You will have the DMQ2 qualification, valid firearms certificate, and public liability insurance.

For further information and an application pack, please contact David MacLennan at SNH on

01851 705258



The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

ROADS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1984 THE A82 TRUNK ROAD (GLENCOE VILLAGE TO NORTH BALLACHULISH CYCLE TRACK) (REDETERMINATION OF MEANS OF EXERCISE OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF PASSAGE) ORDER 2009

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, on 16 February 2009 the Scottish Ministers in exercise of the powers conferred on them by section 71(2) of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 made the above-mentioned order.

Copies of the order as made and of the accompanying plans have been deposited at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; the offices of The Highland Council, Kinlochleven Service Point, Visitor Centre, Linnhe Road, Kinlochleven PH50 4SJ; the offices of The Highland Council, Fort William Service Point, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William PH33 6EL; Glencoe Post Office, Carnoch, Glencoe, Argyll PH49 4HS; and Ballachulish Post Office, Loanfern, Ballachulish, Argyll PH49 4JB. Those documents are available for inspection free of charge from 3 March 2009 to 14 April 2009, during normal business hours.

The effect of the order is stated in Notice 1501/100 in the Edinburgh Gazette Number 26563 dated 2 December 2008 and in the Oban Times dated 4 December 2008.

The order comes into operation on 3 March 2009.

A C MCLAUGHLIN

A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF. 16 February 2009



THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENT NOTICE FUNDED PRE-SCHOOL PLACES 2009/2010

All children born between 1 March 2005 and 28 February 2007 are entitled to a funded pre-school place during the session 2009/2010.

Enrolments will be accepted during the week commencing **Monday 9th March 2009** for all funded pre-school places.

If you wish to enrol your child for a place please contact your local Primary School, Playgroup or Nursery for information on registered centres in your area and the enrolment procedure.

Gaelic Medium provision is available in certain areas: please contact Highland Council Childcare Information Service for details.

Information is available from:

Highland Council Childcare Information Service on 0845 6011345 or email childcareinformation@highland.gov.uk

Information Leaflets are also available from Highland Council Service Points.

Please Note: Remember to take your child's birth certificate or other official confirmation of birth with you when you go to enrol.

FIOSRACHADH AIR CLÀRADH RO-SGOILE

ÀITEAN RO-SGOILE LE MAOINEACHADH 2009/2010

Tha còir aig pàisde sam bith a rugadh eadar 1 Màirt 2005 agus 28 Gearran 2007 àite ro-sgoile le maoinachadh fhaighinn anns an t-seasan 2009/2010. Thèid clàraidhean a ghabhail seachdain a' tòiseachadh Diluain 9 Mart airson gach àite ro-sgoile.

Ma tha sibh airson ur pàisde a chlàradh, bu chòir dhuibh bruidhinn ris a' bhunsgoil, croileagan no sgoil-àraich ionadail gaighibh mu ionadan-clàraichte agus an dòigh-clàraidh.

Gheibhear seirbheis tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig ann an àitean sònraichte: Bruidhinn ri Seirbheisean Chùram-Cloinne Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd.

Gheibhear fiosrachadh bhò: Seirbheis-fiosrachadh Cùram-Cloinne Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd air 0845 6011345 no post-d childcareinformation@highland.gov.uk

Bileagan-fiosrachaidh bhò ionadan-frith-ealaidh Comhairle na Gàidhealtachd. **Cuimhneachadh:** Thoiribh leibh teisteanas-breith ur pàisde nuair a' clàradh.

www.highland.gov.uk - 01463 702000



Oban & Lorn Youth Pipe Band Association A.G.M.

Oban High School Pipe Band

Monday 9th March 7pm

Oban High School, Assembly Hall

All players, parents and interested parties welcome.

www.ohspipeband.org.uk

PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

Mr Alexander MacFarlane, crofter, is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Lorn Furnace, Glenardry and Inishail, Plot 4, to Mr Duncan James MacFarlane of Shore House, Taynuilt, Argyll PA35 1JQ.

If you have any objection to the proposals, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 2nd April 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

PROPOSED ASSIGNATION OF A CROFT

Mrs Helen Elizabeth MacLuscas, crofter, is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at 14 Keil, Benderloch, Ardrathon and Muckairn to Gavin John MacLuscas of Lachnell Lodge, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QT.

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 2nd April 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

MARITIME COURSES

RYA Powerboat L2

2 - day course with exam & certificate

VHF (SRC) marine radio

1 - day including exam

Venue nr Fort William March 2009

Caledonian Discovery

01397 772167

EVENT TO PUBLICISE?

The Oban Times
A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000
www.obantimes.co.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

AUDIT OF BEST VALUE AND COMMUNITY PLANNING

Argyll and Bute Council considered a report by the Accounts Commission on the follow-up Audit of Best Value and Community Planning in Argyll and Bute at its meeting on Thursday 22 January 2009. In the report the Accounts Commission acknowledged recent improvements in a number of areas particularly in the Council's leadership and strategic direction. The Commission accepted the conclusion of the report that more remains to be done to develop a culture of continuous improvement, and endorsed the areas highlighted in the report as requiring particular attention, which the Commission encouraged the Council to act on to increase the momentum towards a position where it is fully implementing best value.

The Council has agreed an overall Improvement Plan which brings together key improvement actions for the Council, designed to ensure that it operates with clear and systematic corporate frameworks in place, with outcomes within the following themes -

- Improvement - Ensuring the Council delivers Best Value
- Process for Change - Transforming key processes to deliver improved service, and efficiency savings
- Community Planning - Delivering the vision for Argyll and Bute with our partners
- Communities and service users - Communities and service users are involved in planning the services they receive
- People Management - Ensuring employees are motivated, know what their role is and have the necessary skills to deliver
- Risk Management - Ensuring the Council is aware of risks and is taking action to address them
- Asset Management - Ensuring the Council is making best use of its assets

All the improvement actions in response to the BV Audit Follow-up Report are contained in the overall Improvement Plan. A copy of the report and the Improvement Plan can be obtained from Committee Services on 01546 604401 or at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/improvementplan

Nigel Stewart, Director of Corporate Services

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. The proposals contained in the application are considered to be a departure or potential departure from the Development Plan for the area concerned. Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the applications identified below should do so in writing within 21 days from the date of publication of this notice to the Area Team Leader Development Control at the address below.

Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

- Ref No: 09/00073/OUT
Applicant: Charles Stewart - Fotheringham
Proposal: Site for erection of 4 dwellings/houses
Site Address: Site At Inverfolla Cottage Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 09/00074/OUT
Applicant: Alan MacLuscas of Lachnell Lodge, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QT
Proposal: Change of use from disused stables/storage building to office and conference facility
Site Address: Stable Block North Of Bridgend Hotel Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 09/00075/OUT
Applicant: Alan MacLuscas of Lachnell Lodge, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QT
Proposal: Change of use from disused stables/storage building to office and conference facility
Site Address: Stable Block North Of Bridgend Hotel Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig 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 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/00193/DET
Applicant: Mr And Mrs H Maganall
Proposal: Extension to dwelling house and installation of replacement septic tank
Site Address: Kentraw Farmhouse Bruchladdich Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA49 7UN
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00212/LIB
Applicant: Islay Estates Company
Proposal: Change of use from disused stables/storage building to office and conference facility
Site Address: Stable Block North Of Bridgend Hotel Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Days
- Ref No: 09/00213/OUT
Applicant: Alan MacLuscas of Lachnell Lodge, Benderloch, by Oban, Argyll PA37 1QT
Proposal: Change of use from disused stables/storage building to office and conference facility
Site Address: Stable Block North Of Bridgend Hotel Bridgend Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Days
- Ref No: 09/00221/COU
Applicant: Mr And Mrs Barnett
Proposal: Change of use from extension to form self contained unit
Site Address: The Creggans Benderloch Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1OS
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00073/OUT
Applicant: Charles Stewart - Fotheringham
Proposal: Site for erection of 4 dwellings/houses
Site Address: Site At Inverfolla Cottage Appin Argyll And Bute PA38 4BQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
Section 34 and Article 9 Advert 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00222/DET
Applicant: Mr And Mrs P Cooke
Proposal: Alterations to dwellinghouse
Site Address: Cullipool House Cullipool Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullipool
Development in Conservation Area 21 Days
- Ref No: 09/00223/LIB
Applicant: Mr And Mrs D Cooke
Proposal: Internal alterations including new door and window
Site Address: Cullipool House Cullipool Isle Of Luing Oban Argyll And Bute PA37 1SQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullipool
Regulation 5 Listed Bld Consent - 21 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (ERRAY ROAD, TOBERMORY, ISLE OF MULL) (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) ORDER 2009

Argyll and Bute Council proposes to make an Order introducing various traffic management restrictions on Erray Road, adjacent to Tobermory High School. The reasons for this proposal are to prevent inappropriate parking, improve road safety and establish parking for the school buses.

Full details of this proposal, which form the proposed "The Argyll and Bute Council (Erray Road, Tobermory, Isle of Mull) (Traffic Management) Order 2009", together with a Plan, and a Statement of Reasons for proposing to make this Traffic Regulation Order, are available for inspection during normal office hours Monday to Friday inclusive at the offices of:

- (i) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Breadalbane Street, Tobermory;
- (ii) Operational Services, Kilbowie House, Gallanach Road, Oban;
- (iii) Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead.

Any person wishing to object to the proposals should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to the Head of Democratic Services and Governance, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Argyll by 27th March 2009.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RD

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e mail - 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 302889 or e mail - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@binter.net

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles) Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e mail - 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 e mail - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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the wanted ads Local Media

Whether placed in local newspapers or on local newspaper websites, ads in local media are 49% more likely to be considered trustworthy and reliable than those in other everyday media.

To find out more go to www.thewantedads.co.uk

Regional Press closer to home

CMAL Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd

Port Ellen and Kennacraig Port Developments

Public Meetings

Ramsay Hall Port Ellen Tuesday 10th March 18:30 - 20:30	Templar Art & Leisure Centre Tarbert (1st Floor) Wednesday 11th March 18:30 - 20:30
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CMAL would like to invite you to attend a public meeting as we feedback the findings from the initial public consultation process into the potential developments at Port Ellen and Kennacraig.

For further information please contact Lorna Spencer - Director of Harbours and Piers on 01475 749934 or email lorna.spencer@cmassets.co.uk or visit our website www.cmassets.co.uk

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

CORE PATH PLANNING CONSULTATION EVENT

Incorrect event date

Please note: The date given on the freepost card for the Oban event is not 9th March 2009. The Oban event date is the 25th March 2009.

Oban Lorn & Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum NHS Highland

(Forum for local health services)

Are you interested in health services in this area? Come and be involved.

Lecture Theatre, Lorn & Islands Hospital
March 9th 2009 6:30 pm.
Video Conference Facilities available

Topics in the agenda include :-
Mental Health Redesign Consultation and Crisis Service
Mull Progressive Care Centre update

For more information or to arrange a video conference please contact Fiona Sharples on fiona.sharples@nhs.net or telephone 01631 788942

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk. Simply use the coupons on this page or visit the website and input your details there

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

CORGIE MODELS two Corgie model articulated lorries, as new, £10 each, Telephone 07932 635849.

BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY BATH SEAT offers baby the extra support once they can sit up, 4 suction cups that fix to the bath, raspberry colour, £10 Telephone 01631 730606.

BABY CLOTHING BUNDLE bundle of baby girls clothes aged 3-6 months, including 3 short sleeved vests, 3 cap sleeved vests, 4 t-shirts (pink and white), 2 long sleeved pink tops, 1 pair denim and 1 hooded pink knitted Next cardigan, £20 Telephone 01631 730606.

BABY FOOD GRINDER by Annabel Karmel including spatula, £10 Telephone 01631 730606.

COT BUMPER Mamas and Papas 'Zeddy and Rhubarb' cot bumper, lemon colour, £10 Telephone 01631 730606.

CRIB, mattress and mobile, cost £140 accept £70 Telephone 01631 564886.

FOLDING HIGHCHAIR pink, immaculate condition, occasional use for visiting grandchildren, £25 Telephone 01586 553844.

FOLDING HIGHCHAIR blue check, immaculate condition, occasional use for visiting grandchildren, £25 Telephone 01586 553844.

MOSES BASKET wicker Winnie The Pooh moose basket and rocking stand, £30 Telephone 07816 402520.

MOSES BASKET organic Winnie The Pooh moose basket, £40 Telephone 07816 402520.

MOTHER CARE HOODED TOWELS set of 3, barely used, lovely unisex hooded towels, RRP £20, £5 Telephone 01631 563919 07885 916559.

PINE SWINGING CRIB plus bedding, £40 Telephone 07816 402520.

STAIR GATES two stair gates plus fittings, £10 Telephone 07816 402520.

TOMY BED GUARD blue, all fittings and instructions included, in excellent condition, suitable from 18 months, can be seen in Argos cat page 1581, £10 Telephone 01631 565131.

BUILDING / DIY

DOOR Hardwood full double glazed door, 1990mm high x 850 wide, £40 Telephone 07808 094020.

GARAGE DOOR Henderson up and over garage door, white, unused, 6'0" x 7'0", £60 Telephone 07808 094020.

OIL FIRED ESSE (green) with boiler for hot water, good working order, buyer must collect (Dalmally), £300 Telephone 01631 566122.

PATIO DOORS 1800x2080, wood finish, double glazed, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562746.

PATIO DOORS Hardwood full double glazed patio doors, 1990 high x 1700mm wide, £75 Telephone 07808 094020.

SCAFFOLD TOWER UNITS lightweight, galvanised, 6'x4' square by 16' high, for DIY or tradesperson, delivery arranged, £195 Telephone 07760 463320.

VELUX WINDOW with blind, 3'0" x 2'6", £70 Telephone 07808 094020.

WATER STORAGE TANK 600 gallon with ballcock and manhole cover, from private water supply, £49.99 Telephone 01631 562746.

CAR ACCESSORIES

VW GOLF MATS almost new set of front mats for VW Golf Mk IV, came with car but I prefer rubber mats, £20 Telephone 01855 821033.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

QUANTITY OF UTENSILS Cutlery, kitchen utensil, plates, kettle etc, for caravan/camper, £15 Telephone 01855 821482.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS

ELVIS PRESLEY LP'S 4 Elvis Presley LP's, £8 each, Telephone 07932 635849.

ELVIS PRESLEY SINGLES 10 Elvis Presley singles, RCA label, £3 each, Telephone 07932 635849.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

ELECTRIC COOKER Creda Starlight cooker in good condition, £49.50 Telephone 07748 794984.

FRIDGE FREEZER white lec fridge freezer height 48" width 20.5" depth 22", £20 Telephone 07810 565968.

GEORGE FOREMAN GRILL Lean Mean Fat Reducing Grilling Machine, smaller Model GR20BW, silver, £10 Telephone 07917360721.

JELLY PAN brass jelly pan, £25 Telephone 07932 635849.

MICROWAVE Cookworks microwave oven, £26 Telephone 01631 570081.

RAYBURN forest green, oil burner, offers, Telephone 01369 860749.

REFRIGERATOR Lec undercounter fridge in good condition, £49.50 Telephone 07748 794984.

DOMESTIC PETS

BLACK LAB PUPPIES Lovely pups, black and yellow available, many Fich in pedigree, both parents hip and eye scored, ready early April, £400 Telephone 01419 565835.

PARROT for sale, 4 year old gold macaw, friendly, chatty, needs lots of attention, genuine reason for sale, Telephone 07768 975019.

FIREARMS

AIR RIFLE .22 air rifle with scope and shoulder strap, very clean, no FAC required, £49.99 Telephone 01586 830312.

AIR RIFLE .22 Air Rifle with telescopic sight, FAC required, £75 Telephone 07932 635849.

SAUER RIFLE Sauer 202.25.06 L-H rifle, wood blue, apml mounts, VGC, £900 Telephone 07990 886646.

FIREWOOD

FIREWOOD for sale in bags, delivered free Ardrihsaig / Lochgilphead area charges apply beyond, for details call, Telephone 07770 832562.

FIREWOOD Firewood, 8'x4' trailer load, well seasoned, delivered free 20 mile radius of Connel, £49.99 Telephone 07920 116297.

FIREWOOD, LOGS AND KINDLING for sale, free delivery, Telephone Iain 07787 507066.

FURNITURE

BEDSIDE UNITS x4, good condition, solid finish, ex 4 star hotel, £12 each Telephone 01631 562746.

CONSERVATORY SUITE 2008 model, 2 seater sofa, 2 armchairs high backed, luxury deep filled Chenille cushions, sheer comfort, all unused and still wrapped, purchased for show home, £495 Telephone 07766 773131.

KINGSIZE MATTRESS Stearns and Foster kingsize mattress, hardly used, retail £1000, sell £49, Telephone 07828 730964.

LIGHTWEIGHT FOLDING CHAIRS Light steel seat and back, tubular (35mm) steel frame, Colour black, four available, price per chair, £5 Telephone 01855 821033.

PINE FURNITURE 3 drawer desk, 4+2 drawer chest, 2 door + 2 drawer wardrobe, pine with blue doors and drawer fronts, similar to items 2, 3, 4 on page 799 in new Argos catalogue, buyer collects (Oban area), £45 Telephone 07852 769667.

RECLINER CHAIR

reasonable condition, £45 ono, Telephone 01631 730437.

SUITE blue red and green suite a three seater, two seater and chair, £49.99 Telephone 07923697774.

THREE PIECE SUITE black/grey velour, nearest offer secures, Telephone 01631 562839.

THREE SEATER SOFA 3 seater leather sofa, good condition, green with velour cushions, cost £800 5 years ago, quick sale, may deliver near Oban, £49.99 Telephone 01852 200346 07712 051905.

TOSHIBA CABINET Toshiba MV32ZD26 cabinet floor stand for the 28/32 & 36ZD26P televisions, unused, brand new in box, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821033.

TOSHIBA CABINET Toshiba MV3WL66/32WL66 cabinet, floor stand for the 32 37 toshiba v166 range and 32 37 wlt range of TVs never been out of box cost £150, £49.99 Telephone 07810565968.

TUB CHAIRS Pair of Tub Chairs, blue fabric, require cleaning, £40 Telephone 01631 570219.

TV UNIT dark pine tv unit with drawer height 21" width 32" depth 24", £20 Telephone 07810565968.

GARDEN

FLYMO ELECTRIC LAWNMOWER Vision compact 330, good working order, new blade 1 cut ago, £40 Telephone 07917360721.

GARDEN SHREDDER Challenge 1800w shredder, hardly used, £40 Telephone 07917 360721.

HEDGE TRIMMER Black and Decker GT221 electric hedge trimmer, 40cm blade length, complete with 20M extension cable, used but all in good order, £30 Telephone 01855 821033.

LAWNMOWER Black and Decker GF934 4x4 electricrotarylawnmower, 900W motor, only used half a dozen times, £25 Telephone 01855 821033.

LAWNMOWER MOUNTFIELD Emblem petrol rotary lawnmower with large grass collecting box, used but in good working order, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821033.

PETROL STRIMMER Flymo model 460s Pro, 2 stroke petrol, old but recently serviced, £30 Telephone 07917360721.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01465 255696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HEALTH AND FITNESS ABS EXERCISER Lounger Exerciser, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821482.

EQUIPMENT V-Fit Stepper with Handle and Side Step Action and V-Fit Exercise Bike, £425 Telephone 01631 570219.

HEATING, FIRES AND FIREPLACES

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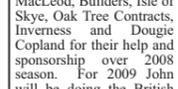
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PERSONALS

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John would like to thank his family, A McPhee Haulage, A & R Feaks Construction, Diamond Race Products, Scott Robertson Accident Repairs, Steven Carson Parcels, Gregor Johnston Joiners, Alasdair MacLean Marine Services, Norman MacLeod, Builders, Isle of Skye, Oak Tree Contracts, Inverness and Dougie Copland for their help and sponsorship over 2008 season. For 2009 John will be doing the British 125 GP and is looking for sponsorship for this season.

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BIRTHS

McGOVERN - Michael and Lorna (née Robertson) are proud to announce the early but safe arrival of Anna Norma on January 29, 2009, a lovely granddaughter for Ian. Many thanks to Oban Maternity for all their help and support.

ENGAGEMENTS

MILLER - NICOLSON - Love and best wishes from both families to Lesley, younger daughter of Alex and Netta, Cardross and Charlie, elder son of Kenny and Selina, Tarbert, Lochfyne on their engagement February 21, 2009.

DEATHS

LEITCH - Suddenly but peacefully, on February 28, 2009, at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, Doris Borland (née MacDougall) of Fernoch Farm, Kilchrenan, beloved wife of the late Jock Leitch and much loved mother of Kay, Donald, John, Mary, Duncan, Colin, Dorothy and Margaret and adored nana of Jennifer, Katherine, Faye, Calum and Michelle.

MACINNES - Barbara (née Millar), passed from the loving care of family and staff, at North Argyll House, Oban, to the presence of her Lord on Sunday March 1, 2009. Beloved wife of the late Ewan Campbell MacInnes, formerly of Glenmartin, Manse Brae, Lochgilhead, very dear mother to Barbara, Ewan, Sheena and Mary, mother-in-law to Deryck, Jane, Tom and David, a very special grandmother to Philip, David, Andrew, Rebecca and Kirsty and great-grandmother to Samantha and Fiona. On Monday March 9, interment at Achnabreck Cemetery, Lochgilhead at 11.00a.m. followed by a service of Thanksgiving in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church, Fort William at 4pm. All friends welcome. Family flowers only.

MACKINTOSH - Peacefully at Belford Hospital, Fort William, after a long illness on Saturday, February 28, 2009, Ann Veronica, aged 84 years. Eldest daughter of the late James and Mary Ann MacKintosh, formerly of Nether Lochaber Hotel, Corran Ferry. Former midwife and clinical teacher, Raigmore Hospital and latterly Matron of the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Funeral from St Mary's R C Church, Fort William on Thursday, March 5, at 12 noon, thereafter to Cille-Choinnill Cemetery, Roy Bridge. Family flowers only, donations to Cancer Research and the Highland Hospice.

MOSELEY - On February 26, 2009, peacefully after a short illness in Devon, Philip John, aged 85 years, formerly of Coventry, Stanton-by-Dale and Fort William. Loving husband of Edna for 64 years and loving father of Joy and her husband Iain Morrison. Funeral service at Christchurch (Meth), Bear Street, Barnstaple, on Friday, March 6, at 2.45pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only but donations in lieu, if desired, for the North Devon Community Palliative Care Service may be made at the funeral

service or send to R Gist and Son, 18 Castle Street, Torrington EX38 8EZ.

RICKMEYER - Petra, Beloved wife of Roger, passed away peacefully February 17, 2009, in hospital in London after a long illness bravely borne. A service to celebrate Petra's life will take place on March 21st at 1.00 p.m. in Nether Lochaber Parish Church, Omich. All welcome.

THOMSON - (Buckie) Suddenly, on Monday, February 23, 2009, John Thomson, aged 75 years (Thomson's Seafoods, Buckpool) 3 Old Mill Court, Garden Lane, Buckie, formerly of Sanday, Orkney and Oban, Argyll, dearly loved husband of the late Sandra MacFadyen, much loved dad of June, Claire, Billy and Michael and a dear grandad. Interred Buckie West Cemetery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COOPER - Kathryn, Andrew, Douglas and family of the late Billy Cooper would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their many kind expressions of sympathy. We are overwhelmed by the many cards, phone calls, floral tributes received and the kindness shown to us at this time. Special thanks to Tarbert Medical Centre and Ambulance Personnel, nursing staff at Royal Alexandra Hospital Paisley, Wards 14 and 8. Grateful thanks to Margaret Sinclair and Father William MacLean for their comforting and supporting services, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their care and guidance, to Rose for beautiful flowers, to John Stewart for music accompaniment and to the West Loch Hotel, Tarbert for fine purvey. A final thank you to all who attended at Church and Graveside to pay their respects. Collection raised over £700 for Tarbert Nursing Aid, thank you.

LAMONT - The family of the late Joanne Lamont would like to thank relatives, neighbours and friends for the many cards and messages of support received after our sad bereavement. Thanks to Mr Scobie and staff at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, special thanks to the H.D.U. and staff on Ward 6 at Southern General Hospital and doctors, nurses and staff at the Lorn Medical Centre, Oban. Thanks to Rev Dugald Cameron for the lovely service at the Parish Church, Oban, and Helen Walker at Clydebank Crematorium, and to friends who helped with transport. Thanks to Ian MacInnes at D and A Munn for funeral arrangements and finally thanks to all who attended Parish Church and contributed to the retail collection for the Day Hospital at Cruachan Ward, which raised £392.56.

MACLEAN - Allan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for phone calls, cards, floral tributes and kind expressions of sympathy received following the recent sad passing of his father, Duncan. Special thanks to staff of Ossians, North Connell, Renfield and Ashgrove Nursing Homes, Dunoon, and to doctors and staff of Glassary Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital for their kind care and attention to Duncan. Grateful thanks to Rev David Carruthers for a comforting and uplifting service, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for sensitive handling of arrangements, to the Argyll Arms Hotel, Airdrishaig for fine purvey. A final thank you to all who attended at church and graveside, to pay their respects, especially those who travelled a distance. Donations raised £545 for Chest, Heart and Stroke.

McKILLOP - The Edmonston family would like to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, following the sad loss of their aunt, Robina McKillop.

McKINNEY - Jessie and family wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the cards, flowers and phone calls received following the very sad loss of Owen, a dear brother and uncle. Special thanks to Fr MacKay for spiritual comfort, also to the choir. Thanks to doctors and nurses of Ward B, Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, also D and A Munn for excellent funeral arrangements and to the Rowantree Hotel for catering. Thanks to all who attended the church and graveside. Owen will be very sadly missed by all family and friends. A special mention to the boys at Glencairn Golf Club. The sum of £593 was raised for Oban Hospice.

McKNIGHT - The family would like to thank all those who came to pay their last respects to Janet (Auntie Nettie), Ewen and Teresa for the respect and dignity shown to Nettie and for their help and support to us over such a difficult time. Grateful thanks to John Fraser for this comforting services, May MacIntyre for beautiful music and the Railway club for their excellent catering.

YULE - The family of the late Betty Yule would like to thank relatives and friends for their kindness, support and expressions of sympathy. Thank you to John Fraser, staff at Belford Hospital, medical ward and Mosspark for their kindness and care. Mike McFall for funeral arrangements and to all who donated to the sum of £215 for Macmillan nurses.

IN MEMORIAM

BEATON - In fond and loving memory of Hugh, a dear husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, who died March 6, 1999. Forever in our thoughts - Inserted by his loving wife Bella Hugh, Mary, Lorna and David.

BURTON - For our boys Paul Gordon Burton, March 29, 1968 - March 3, 1996, David Campbell Burton April 30, 1967 - April 2, 1972. Forever in our hearts. - The Burton family.

CAMERON - In loving memory of Stephen, who passed away March 7, 2006. Sadly missed. - Mum, Sandy and Bernard.

CLYDESDALE - In loving memory of my dear mum, Isobel who died March 7, 2008. Deep in my heart you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day. Love you always. - Stephen and Eilidh.

CLYDESDALE - In loving memory of my dear sister, Isobel who died March 7, 2008. Though absent you are always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Loving sister, Fanny.

CLYDESDALE - In loving memory of Auntie Bell, who died March 7, 2008. Always in our thoughts. - Donnie, Liz, Marion, Paul and family.

CLYDESDALE - Treasured memories of Auntie Bell, who passed away on March 7, 2008. Gone but not forgotten. - Alison and Dave.

GALLACHER - In loving memory of my dear husband Neil who died on February 29, 2000. Time has not healed my heartache. Or stopped my falling tears. I cherish still the memories Of the one I loved so dear. - Your loving wife Ella Ann X

GIBSON - In loving memory of our dear parents, father, Tommy, taken from us on March 3, 1999 and mother, Betty, taken from us on October 8, 1997. Missed by us all. - Ian and Irene, Jean and Jock and families.

GILLIES - Precious memories of our dear mum, Marion, who died March 2, 2000 (late of 1 Fassifern). Deep are our memories. Precious they will stay. No passing of time. Will take them away. - Inserted by Cathie, Isobel and Marina.

LEITCH - In loving memory of my dear wife, Myra, mum and grandma, who died so suddenly on March 9, 2005. Four years have passed. Since that sad day. You closed your eyes. And slipped away. I treasure every thought of you. When I am all alone. Although I cannot see you. You are with me night and day. For the love we have between us. Even death can't take away. - Gus An Coinnichidh Sinn A-Rithist

MACALLISTER - Loving memories of John, died March 2, 2002. You are still always fondly remembered. - Love Morag and family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of my dear brother and our uncle, Dian, who died on March 7, 1977, also remembering loved ones who have passed away before and since. Always in our thoughts. - Freena and family, lochdar, Bunnassan, Mull.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my dear wife Phemie, who died on February 23, 2003. Always in my thoughts. - Alasdair.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of Donald, who died March 10, 2008, aged 59 years, loving husband, father, grandfather and brother in law. Sadly missed along life's way. Quietly remembered every day. - Sheena and family and brother-in-law, Donnie.

MACKINNON - In loving memory of our parents, grandparents and great grandparents, Hamish, died March 5, 1997 and Mary, September 20, 2004. Though absent you are always near. Still loved, still missed and very dear. - Love from your girls, Johan, Annie, Marion and families, Killin, Lavers and Fersit.

MACLAREN - Treasured memories of our dear dad, grandpa and great-grandpa, Alistair, who passed away on February 28, 2003. Forever in our thoughts. - Mary, Alison and Archie, Sandy, Sharon and families.

MACLEAN - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny Sheila, died March 2, 2003. Loved and miss you always. - Flora, John and family.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of John, a devoted husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, died March 11, 2006. We remember all the memories. We shared throughout the years. The days of joy and laughter. Help wipe away the tears. And we know within our hearts. With each new passing day. Those memories will keep us strong. And guide us on our way. - Bella, Donald John, Allan, Keith, Iain and Allan.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of our dear auntie Flora, who passed away on March 8, 2008. Forever in our thoughts. - Gus, Sally, Connie and Rosie.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of my dear wife, mother and gran Lottie, who passed away at her home, Sunnyville, Cornaigbeg, Tiree, on March 9, 1993. Sixteen years have passed since that sad day. You closed your eyes and slipped away. You left us quietly without a fuss. And broke the hearts of all of us. - Her loving husband Hugh. We miss your smile, your joking ways. We miss the things you used to say. And when old times we do recall. Its when we miss you most of all. - Ian, Fiona, Kirsteen and Niall.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear mum and gran, Lottie, died March 9, 1993. Just like a special flower. Your petals fell too soon. But all the love we have for you. Will never cease to bloom. - John, Morag and family, Dalmlally. Because you were so special. No words can ever say. How much I love and miss you. Today and everyday. - Love Johann, Oban.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of a much loved son and brother, Fraser, who died tragically in an accident on March 8, 2002. In God's hands but forever with us and in our hearts. - Mum, Dad, Catriona, Niall, Ruairidh and Arran.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of my dear husband, Ian who died on March 7, 1984. There is much in life that alters. Much in life that's new. But one thing never changes. My constant thoughts of you. In loving memory. - His dear wife, Theresa, Isle of Luing.

McCRAE - In loving memory of Margaret (Daisy Nicholson), died March 6, 2007 aged 100 years, dear mother of Mairi and Margaret, dear grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

- Inserted by Mairi, Margaret and families. South Wales and Canada.

McINTYRE - William, in memory of a much loved dad and grandpa, who passed away February 27, 2005. Loved and remembered every day. - Love from Jimmy, Caroline, Fiona and Jamie xx

McNEILL - Loving memories of Alasdair, a dear husband, dad and grampa, died March 7, 2001. There are greener pastures. On the other side. Where we hope to meet again some day. Far beyond the Great Divide. - Eleanor and family.

CHURCHES

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Church NEWS

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Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Thought for the Week

World Day of Prayer 2009

THE FIRST Friday in March gives people from the Christian communities in more than 180 countries the opportunity to worship and pray on a common theme. This year Christian women of Papua New Guinea invite us to share with them on Friday March 6 their chosen theme 'In Christ There are Many Members, Yet One Body'. The invitation is extended to come with them to the land of the unexpected. Be prepared to have the confidence of Ruth, from the Old Testament, who could leave the familiar

and travel with Naomi to a foreign land. Be prepared to respond as Ruth did both personally and as a community. Come with respect and openness to see what new understanding God shall reveal as we worship together in the service they have prepared. Papua New Guinea is one of the most heterogeneous populations in the world. There are several thousand separate communities and more than 800 languages are spoken. The diversity is described well in the folk saying 'for each village, a different culture'. The rugged terrain of Papua New Guinea with its dense, impassable rain forests, its high mountains and its widely separated islands adds a dimension of isolation

as well. Within the context of so much diversity and few commonalities the Christian community draws deeply upon the New Testament assurance 'In Christ There Are Many Members Yet One Body'. Through the lens of the women of Papua New Guinea we come to a deeper understanding of how we are one body in Christ. They lead us to pray together for our own communities and for the world. In Oban our main service will be held in Free High Church Rockfield Road at 3pm. Please join with us. Local or global, may God be ever present. World Day of Prayer.



St Columba's confirmation delight

Youngsters from St Columba's Primary School were delighted to be centre stage at their confirmation in the Roman Catholic Cathedral last week. The primary four pupils were under the watchful eye of Bishop Toal and Canon MacKay. This was the second time since the Bishop took up his new role that he has led the sacrament of confirmation. Tea was served after the service.



Mary Stitt, Margaret MacIntyre, Margaret Antonius, Irene Burns and Ethel Knochner in the Kilmallie Parish Church Hall kitchen after a hard afternoon's work.

Kilmallie Church pancake tea boosts funds

KILMALLIE Parish Church ladies organised a successful Pancake Tea afternoon at the church hall in Caol on Shrove Tuesday. Well over 100 people came through the doors from 2pm to 4pm, polishing off more than 300 homemade pancakes. The ladies' hard work and light-as-a-feather pancakes ensured in excess of £200 was raised for church funds.

Obituary

Miss Ellen Douglas Forbes Robison

MISS Ellen Douglas Forbes Robison, who died recently in Oban, was a remarkable lady who had a remarkable life.

Known as Nellie to her family, and Robbie to many others, she was born on August 20 1912 in Torwood, Oban, the youngest child of Robert and Ellen Robison. Growing up with her two older brothers, Douglas and Howard, proved to be an adventure and an education and she quickly learned the knack of self-preservation. Educated at Miss Murray's Private School she was taught among other things the unlikely combination of French and gardening. No doubt her French was useful in later life on her many trips to the south of France but the gardening teacher did a splendid job introducing Robbie to a life-long passion for

gardening. After finishing her education she helped her parents run Robison's Private Hotel in Victoria Crescent, Oban, but longed to embark on her chosen career of nursing. However, as her parents were not too sure about this path she made the decision to enrol in the Dough School in Glasgow. Then followed a period working in France as a nanny before she finally went to the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow to train as a nurse. When war broke out she joined the RAF and became one of Princess Mary's Royal Air Force Nursing Sisters. She worked in various hospitals in England before being posted to Takoradi in British West Africa. Just after D Day she and other colleagues were flown out to Normandy to help set up the first field hospital at the front. There, her true grit, spirit and tireless dedication were in evidence as she worked for hours on end, slept in a slit trench, ate cold baked



Miss Robison, second right, pictured with Field Marshall Montgomery during her service as a Princess Mary Royal Air Force Nursing Sister.



Miss Ellen Douglas Forbes Robison.

beans and did what came naturally - cared for the sick. For Robbie this was not a hardship but a task she was supremely glad and honoured to be doing. She loved service life and made many friendships, which were to endure throughout her long life. When her father died in 1945 she returned to Oban to take care of her mother who was in poor health. A meeting with Margaret France in Connell, began a wonderful life-long friendship in which both Robbie and Margaret supported each other in all aspects of their lives and business. When Margaret sold her hairdressing business in 1963 she went into partnership with Robbie and together they ran Rannachan Hotel on Oban's Esplanade until they retired in 1970 and went to live at Fairhaven, Wee Ganavan, Oban. There they stayed until they moved to MacGregor Court in 1987.

The church was also important to Robbie and thanks to the volunteer car service was a regular Sunday attended until poor health earlier this year prevented her from doing so. Robbie was a lady with a sharp and inventive mind which would tackle a problem head on always seeing possibilities of a solution in difficult situations. Sending bottles of champagne home from France cushioned between the splinted legs of wounded airmen who were delighted to oblige was just one of her innovative ideas. A people person she was a great networker and brought out the best in all and expected

the best from all, which she invariably got. She was a wonderful nurse, carer, cook, hostess, organiser, delegator and neighbour - as those fortunate to live at Wee Ganavan at that time will recall with pleasure. Fairhaven and its beautiful garden was the scene for many a happy gathering and the hospitality dispensed by Robbie and Margaret was truly wonderful. They were both experts at entertaining and those of us who were fortunate enough to have experienced their kindness will always have a soft spot for Fairhaven and its chatelaines. Family and friends were of great importance to Robbie and above all she was a loyal and true friend to many. Her funeral at Old Parish Church as conducted by Rev Dugald Cameron and the committal took place at Pennyfuir Cemetery. MT and AMK.

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Marine Harvest Premier Division

Glenorchy v Kyles Athletic
Ted MacDonald
Inveraray v Bute
Colin MacDonald
Lochaber v Bute
Charles Young
Newtonmore v Glenurquhart
David Mitchell
Oban Camanachd v Fort William
Graham Cameron

North Division One

Beaulieu v Kinlochshiel
Ronnie Campbell
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
Ron Kennedy
Inverness v Skye
Donald MacRae

South Division One

GMA v Kilmory
Billy Wotherspoon
Lochside Rovers v Inveraray
Duncan Kerr 12 noon
Tayforth v Ballachulish
George O'Rourke

North Division Two

Glenurquhart v Fort William
Graham Young
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh
Donald MacLeod
Kingussie v Newtonmore
John Sloggie
Kinlochshiel v Skye
Daniel MacRae
Lovat v Glengarry
Willie Anderson

South Division Two

Aberdour v Col Glen
Jim Innes
Ballachulish v Kyles Athletic
Dougie Cameron
Bute v Kyles Athletic
Robert Baxter Jnr
Taynult v Glenorchy
Euan Pearson

North Division Three

Aberdeen Uni v Inverness
Derek Cameron
Ardnamurchan v Boleskine
Jock Matheson
Kincaig v Lochcarron
Innes Wood
Lochbroom v Beaulieu
Neil Ferguson
Strathglass v Lochaber
Evan MacRae

New structure for shinty announced ahead of new season

Committee structure to bridge the gap between clubs and the Association's board of directors

ON the eve of a new season shinty's governing body has announced a major restructuring of its policy and decision making process.

The Camanachd Association this week announced the introduction of a new committee structure which it hopes will bridge the gap between clubs and the board of directors.

The changes involve the introduction of a new standing committee structure and new district committees.

Seven standing committees, each chaired by a director, are to be established over the next few months. The board will retain responsibility for strategy and high-level decision making but the new committees will have responsibility for policy development.

The standing committees will cover communications, competitions, finance, individual development, officials and facilities, organisational development and youth.

Shinty

Member clubs are also to be consulted over the next few weeks on the establishment of six district committees. A 'discussion document' is to be circulated to clubs before a series of meetings in the spring.

Camanachd Association president Duncan Cameron said: 'The challenge facing the shinty community is to have clubs and the association working closer together to develop shinty.'

'It also presents an opportunity for activists to contribute to developing policies and get an insight into the work of the governing body.'

Vice president Donald Stewart said: 'These changes represent a good opportunity to begin to bridge the gap which currently exists between clubs and the association's board and staff.'

Not all directors on the Camanachd Association have agreed with the direction of the board with three directors Donnie MacKenzie, Stuart Ferrier and Alexander Menzies all resigning recently.

Donnie MacKenzie, director for club and volunteer development, said: 'Continuing as a director would require me to be seen as condoning the behaviour and practices taking place at board level'

'I feel that I am unable to make the contribution I can make to the sport by being part of a team working in an open and transparent way.'

'If you have one or two directors involved in running an organisation that are really stamping over what other are trying to do then you have a recipe for mayhem.'

'The finance director was very clear about pointing out the way things are heading, maybe placing the association at significant financial risk,' he added.

Referees renew sponsorship deal

Shinty

THE CAMANACHD Referees Association has renewed a sponsorship deal with Ewan Bowman, Duisky, near Fort William that has been in place for the last 15 years.

Members of the Association will receive a full referee's kit including whistle, notebook, flags and cards as a result of the package.

Graham Cameron, president of the Camanachd Referees Association said: 'We are honoured to have such a loyal sponsor in Ewan Bowman.'

'He has invested a substantial sum of money and we are truly grateful for his generosity.'

'This sponsorship will allow us to try to attract and encourage new or ex-referees and goal judges into the sport.'

Fort William go through to W J Cameron Cup Final

Lochaber and Fort William to meet at Invergarry on Sunday

FORT WILLIAM gave up home advantage and travelled to Braeview Park, Beaulieu for the semi final of the W J Cameron Cup as the Black Parks, Inverloch were unplayable.

From the throw up Fort went on the attack and hemmed Beaulieu into their own half where only stout defending and good goal-keeping kept the eager Fort forwards at bay. However, in the 10th minute Graham Campbell laid off a good pass to allow Ryan Campbell to strike a volley low into the bottom corner of the net.

Fort kept the pressure on as the centreline of Woods, Haggerty and MacGhee forced play and an Alex Duncan lob found Graham Campbell who turned and struck another low drive into the Beaulieu net.

Almost on the stroke of half time Duncan again opened up the Beaulieu defence to al-

Shinty

low Ewan Campbell to fire a rocket into the top corner of the net.

Second half saw the same pattern of play with Jordan MacPhee coming on a substitute and immediately setting up Ryan Campbell to score his second and the Fort's fourth.

Fort eased off and played out the game at their own pace.

A good all round result with credit going to the fitness of the Fort team whose players were playing their second game in two days.

On the final whistle the cry of 'Bring on Lochaber' was heard.

The final is scheduled for this Sunday, March 8 at Invergarry with a 1.30pm throw up.



Kilmallie defender Allan MacDonald has a close encounter with the ball as Fort William's James Clark chips for goal when Kilmallie and Fort William met at Canal Park in the Torlundy Cup match - Fort William won 4 - 2. f10kilmallie02



PORTREE won the First Shinty National Festival at Nevis Centre, Fort William last weekend and also took home the Player of the Tournament award when William Cowie was selected by a panel of judges. Runners-up Lochaber, front centre, are pictured with Fair Play Award winners Lochcarron, left and right, plus tournament winners Portree, back row. The Portree team was Donald Nicolson, Andrew Grant, Kyle Pirie, Shaun Henderson, Caitlin Maclean, Angie Grant, William Cowie and Alex Macdonald f10portree03



In a double celebration for the Isle of Skye, Camanachd Association president Duncan Cameron presents Portree captain Angie Grant with the First Shinty National Festival trophy, while William Cowie receives the Player of the Tournament award.

NEWS DESK Direct
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Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1150

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do
We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.
If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.
If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter
Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.
You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules
No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.
In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.
The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.
Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.
How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

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:
F Crawford, Lochgilphead and D Robison, Dunoon

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Ben's downhill win down-under

ARGYLL'S champion mountain biker Ben Cathro has won this year's New Zealand National Downhill Series.

The series is raced over six races, three in the north island and three in the south island of New Zealand.

The hard-fought competition was not without its drama as two crashes and a broken rear axle nearly thwarted Ben's chances of the title.

Known as the Giraffe by his peers, Ben is a regular on the mountain bike World Cup downhill circuit.

Ben will fly back from New Zealand in mid-March, ready for the new United Kingdom and World Cup mountain biking season.

With two races under his belt Ben crashed out in round three of the championships.

Mountain Biking

Ben said: 'I had a great start to the season but my first crash in the third round was disappointing, however I gained good points from qualifying first.'

A broken axle in round four dropped Ben down to an eighth place finish but again good points were gained from qualifying in first position.

'My Orange 224 bike has taken a hammering as we have been riding courses virtually every day, so a component failure was bound to happen at some point - it was just a pity it happened on my race run,' he added.

Ben said he will be disappointed to leave New Zealand.

'New Zealand has been ab-



Ben Cathro on his way to victory in New Zealand.

support with Fox Suspension and also to Orange bikes, who custom built my frame which has allowed me to achieve my best race results ever.'

Ben Cathro was the Scottish Series Junior winner, the junior national series winner and took second place at the European Championships in 2005 with Team GB.

Last year Ben, who was brought up in Benderloch and started riding for the local team onashop.com, finished in eighth place in the Fort William World Cup with fellow team member Chris Hutchens in 22nd place.

This year the World Cup is back in Fort William in June and Ben will be hoping to get up the leaderboard further into the top ten at the championships.

olutely amazing, the country and the kindness we have been shown has been unbelievable.

'I must also thank Mojo Suspension in Wales for their



John McPhee won 14 trophies last year. (11/09/02)

Oban Saints youth teams

Football

SATURDAY'S results: Ardencaple 1, Under 13s 4; Under 14s v Blair Thistle, postponed; Meadowpark 2, Under 16s 2; Alba Thistle 4, Under 17s 1. The Under 19s had no game.

This weekend's fixtures: Under 13s v Clydebank BC; Under 14s v Helensburgh; Everton BC v Under 16s; Glenvale v Under 17s; Harmony Row v Under 19s.

Cairnbaan lead league

Carpet bowling

Lorn Carpet Bowling League

	Pld	Pts
Cairnbaan	10	67
Kilmore	9	52
Benderloch	10	43
North Connel	10	40
Easdale	11	32
Connel	10	30
Taynuilt	10	16

Knockout Cup finalists North Connel v Kilmore
Winners of Connel Open Doubles - E Holland and A MacFadyen (Kilmore)
Runners-up - H Macleod and A Buchanan.

Islay results

Golf

Rhinnis Electrical Winter League

1 D Tott	34pts
2 W Ramsey	33 BHI
3 I Beck	33
4 A Thomson	29

March Medal

1 David Cracknell	82-14 68
2 Jim Rozga	78 -9 69
3 Ian Beck	96-25 71

Results from the Rhinnis Electrical Senior Winter League at Machrie Hotel, Islay. 1st equal W Ramsey and A Thomson 36pts; 3rd D Heads (BHI) 28pts; 4th I Beck 28pts.

Oban pool league

Pool

	Pl	Pts
Lancaster	17	26
Markie Dans	17	26
Balmoral A	17	24
Lochavullin A	16	20
Lochnell	16	14
Claredon	16	14
Lochavullin B	16	14
Cellar	17	12
Balmoral B	16	6
Kelvin	16	4
Gluepot	16	4

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Argyll youngsters keep on winning

ARGYLL, made up of players from Oban, Mull and Lochgilphead, maintained their 100 per cent record in the West Regional Division as they easily beat league leaders Uddingston on a very wet Oban Rugby Club pitch on Sunday.

Although undefeated the numbers of games played means that Argyll are now joint second with Greenock who they play away next Sunday. The wet conditions made for a slow start with handling mistakes for both sides.

This affected Argyll's discipline and in the first five minutes they had conceded numerous penalties and were down to 14 men following a yellow card for repeated offending.

They conceded a converted try while down a man and were trailing Uddingston during the first quarter.

However, Argyll picked up the tempo of play and a period of excellent consistency and strong running meant the score was quickly levelled and then built on with a

Rugby

West Division
Argyll 41
Uddingston 14

penalty converted by Angus MacCallum and tries scored by Calum MacLachlan and Ryan Jackson.

A fine individual effort from Eoghann MacLachlan resulted in a converted try just before half-time giving a score of 24-7 to Argyll.

The playing conditions meant that the beginning of the second half was again untidy with more handling errors, but Argyll eventually settled into playing some good rugby.

A score for Euan M and one for David Black, both with missed conversions, and another converted score for Ryan Jackson meant Argyll had built a considerable lead even though they conceded a second try from Uddingston.

Under-15 team Oberrory beat Jedburgh 36-0 on Tuesday to reach the National Plate Final.

Round four for island schools

Rugby

LAST Sunday saw Salen Primary School host round four of the increasingly popular Tag Rugby Competition.

With all the island's primary schools represented and over 60 youngsters participating, the success of this competition continues to grow.

In fact the competition has become so popular that parking at the local Rugby club was filled to capacity half an hour before the tournament kicked off with a huge amount of family members turning out to support the youngsters.

Round three winners Bunesan were the current holders of the Golden Rugby Ball and continued to show that form to emerge winners with four wins and two draws and a total of 16 points for the day.

In second place were Der-vaig/Ulva Ferry with 14 points and third equal were Salen A and Tobermory B, with Tobermory A in fifth place.

Salen B were sixth and a very young but nonetheless determined Lochdon finished in seventh place.

At the end of the tournament each team were supplied with new equipment.



Oban Sailing Club members with the Olympic medal winning spinnaker.

Olympic team's tribute to Chris

OBAN'S Sailing Club members got the chance to see first hand the winning spinnaker used by the Great Britain Olympic Yngling team which won gold at the Beijing Games last year.

Chris Owen of Owen Sails designed the spinnaker specially for the gold-medal winning team of Sarah Ayton, Sarah Webb and Pippa Wilson.

Oban Sailing Club members recently had the opportunity

Speedy schoolboy races to Brand's Hatch date

SPEEDY schoolboy John McPhee is about to take on the big boys in the televised Moto GP125 Series - on tracks he has never raced on before.

But 14-year-old racing prodigy joked he has been doing his homework - by racing the courses on his Playstation.

'John said: 'I'm going to be racing a new bike on courses I have never driven, like Silverstone and Cadwell Park.

'My first race is at Brand's Hatch but I am most looking forward to racing at Donnington. I raced at Donnington on my Playstation game Moto

Moto GP

GP and it looks good.'

The Connel youngster won all four championships he entered in his first full season of road racing last year; 14 new trophies in his cabinet are testament to his talent.

He won the Scottish Championship, North East of England Championship and both the Melville club and open championships. He was voted Best Youth Rider in all of the championships and will be given new leathers after winning the 666 Road Race.

But John knows the step up

in class this season from the Formula 125 championship will be a tough task.

The Oban High School pupil and his team, mainly made up of dad Alistair and mum Margaret, will travel to Albacete in Spain to test his new Honda HRC racing bike, which can reach speeds of up to 180mph.

'The bike is new to me,' said John. It is really technical and after each race the engine needs to be stripped down because it is so finely tuned.

I think this year will be a learning season. I won't be one of the top runners.'

Tides

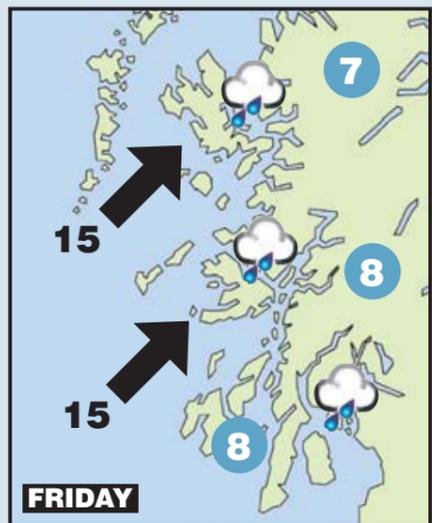
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, March 5, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.45 1.7 12.13 2.8 18.24 1.7 ** ** *	** ** *
Fri	00.37 2.9 07.34 1.7 14.41 2.9 19.52 1.6	
Sat	02.53 3.1 09.22 1.5 15.45 3.2 21.09 1.3	
Sun	03.52 3.5 10.22 1.1 16.32 3.5 22.09 0.9	
Mon	04.35 3.8 11.07 0.8 17.09 3.7 22.57 0.6	
Tues	05.13 4.0 11.45 0.6 17.41 3.9 23.41 0.4	
Wed	05.48 4.2 12.22 0.5 18.12 4.0 ** ** *	** ** *

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

Ardraishaig	-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

Expected to be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds moderate northerly to north-easterly. Temperatures -2°C to 6°C

Friday

Cloudy with heavy showers at times. Winds moderate to fresh south-westerly. Temperatures 3°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook

Cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds moderate to fresh south-westerly. Temperatures 1°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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