

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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THIS WEEK

Win tickets to see the
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Violent robbery

POLICE are appealing for witnesses following a violent robbery at the Lochawe Boatyard, Ardbrecknish, in the early hours of yesterday (Wednesday) morning.

An employee of the boatyard was awoken by an alarm at 1.45am at was confronted by at least four males who assaulted and threatened him.

Cash and fishing goods as well as a 4x4 vehicle were stolen. Police discovered the vehicle burnt out near the junction of the A85 and A819, near Dalmailly.

A police spokesman said: 'We would like to hear from anyone travelling in this area around this time. This was a distressing incident for the member of staff who was confronted with a considerable level of violence.'

Anyone with information can contact Oban Police Office on 01631 510500 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Island left without ferry

LISMORE'S only vehicle ferry service, between Oban and Achnacroish at the south of the island, was due to return yesterday (Wednesday) after an absence of three days.

With the route's regular ferry, MV Isle of Eigg, away for its annual refit the replacement vessel MV Raasay had come in as a relief vessel.

However, on Sunday the MV Raasay's gearbox seized, leaving the island without a vehicular service. A spokesman for CalMac Ferries Ltd said that the MV Raasay was repaired on Tuesday.

Lismore also has a passenger ferry service at the north end of the island.



New music group strikes a chord with Tiree toddlers

TREE toddlers have been making music with the help of a group recently formed on the island. Mainly Music struck a chord with parents and children from all over the island who have been going along to Tiree Baptist Church for the group held on alternate Tuesday afternoons at An Talla from 1.30pm. The next meeting is March 24. The sessions are led by Ishbel Campbell, Judith MacIntosh and Hannah MacKechnie.

Rural school kitchens saved

SIX SCHOOL kitchens are to remain open thanks to *The Oban Times*, according to a head teacher.

Argyll and Bute Council's decision to close six rural school kitchens has been shelved for a year, it is understood.

The head teacher, who is unable to be named due to contractual reasons, said: 'The *Oban Times* highlighted these kitchens were to close.'

'Even I, as a head teacher, did not know that this was happening until my cook pointed out the story in *The Oban Times*.'

'Thanks to the paper and the courage of school cook Christine McNeill who told her story we still have the kitchen service in our schools to

promote the healthy living agenda of the Scottish government.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Although the council voted to close these six kitchens as part of the budget process, discussions have continued to try to identify ways to balance the books and retain the council tax at the same rate as we agreed with the Scottish government.'

'Solution' 'A solution has now been found which will allow the council to achieve these savings through the course of the year.'

'Many parents, and our staff who work in the kitchens, will be relieved at the outcome and regret the circumstances which led to this deci-

sion and to the worry and upset this has caused.'

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Thank goodness this decision has been reconsidered. School meals are a valuable resource not only for children but for the many pensioners who come to the school for a meal in rural areas.'

'We must not rest on our laurels and allow budgetary decisions to be made that will damage the smallest places.'

'I had concerns about parents' priorities if they were given money to provide a meal for their children. Schools kitchens are the best way to follow government guidelines for healthy eating.'

Wedding woes

A WEDDING at an Argyll hotel last Saturday went ahead as planned, despite most of the guests suffering from an airborne diarrhoea and vomiting virus.

The Aberdeen newlyweds had planned a romantic day at Kilchrenan's picturesque Ardanaisg Hotel before starting a new life in Australia.

The hotel has been closed since Sunday and is set to re-open tomorrow (Friday). Iain MacKinnon, area environmental health manager, said the Norovirus found in the hotel was impossible to prevent.

Hotel general manager Peter Webster said: 'We closed to disinfect the entire hotel. I want to be 150 per cent sure there is no chance of anyone else picking it up. The wedding went ahead but it was a rather sad occasion in the circumstances.'

Oban retailers urge: Give us a gum ban

RETAILERS want Oban to be the first town in the UK to ban chewing gum.

If created the by-law would see the end to the sale of chewing gum and the practice of spitting it out on the street.

The Oban and Lorn Tourist Association is calling for extreme measures after the Gum Buster machine, owned by Argyll and Bute Council, has failed to make an appearance on the streets of the town.

Paul Sloan, speaking on behalf of the association at a meeting to clean up Oban, said: 'The association has asked for the gum removing machine dozens of times but it seems to have disappeared.'

'Everyone is probably sick of hearing me going on about chewing gum, but the street is disgusting. It is about time that the council did something serious about getting rid of it.'

'Couldn't a by-law be created where it is an offence for

people to chew gum and drop it on the ground?'

After the meeting, Mr Sloan added: 'I love Oban and looking after my guests, but when you see the state of the street it is disgusting to invite people here. What has happened to the town's civic pride?'

Calum McLeod, of Piazza restaurant, agreed: 'This is the year of Homecoming - we have invited people from all over the world and we have forgotten to tidy up the house. The street is a mess.'

A council spokeswoman said: 'The council believes a new by-law would be unnecessary because of existing littering legislation.'

The Environmental Protection Act states that: 'It is an offence to throw down and leave anything in a manner likely to deface.' Offenders can be issued with a £50 on-the-spot fine.

Concerns

The spokeswoman added: 'The Gum Buster machine has not been out since last summer because business owners raised concerns about the splashing of their shop frontages. It is hoped that the machine can be used over the coming weeks, when the weather improves.'

Councillor Neil Mackay did not feel there was a need for a by-law. He said: 'Gum certainly is a problem, but not just in Oban. People have to be aware of how they get rid of their chewing gum. My advice is to wrap it and bin it.'



Amanda Pitts removes gum from outside her store. (11)chew01

Arduaine Garden closure puts jobs at risk

AN ARGYLL garden held in trust for the national will be closed during 2009 due to the financial constraints on the charity that owns it.

Arduaine Gardens, near Kilmelford, keeps one of the largest ranges of rhododendrons in the UK. Alongside the rare species brought back from all over the world in the 19th century by botanist George Forrest, it makes it botanically very important for Scotland.

However, due to a downturn in visitor numbers and related revenue the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) has decided to close its doors, putting at risk four jobs.

John Roy of the Society of Rhododendrons said: 'The closure of the gardens at Arduaine will mean that rare species may be lost to the nation forever. It does not take long for a garden to get overgrown and lost once it is no longer tended.'

Barbara Newth, chairwoman of the NTS Argyll Members Group, said: 'I don't know how you can close a garden when the NTS is supposed to keep it



Arduaine Gardens will close soon. (11)lardu03

open for the nation. 'A garden, unlike a house, cannot be mothballed. We

will be ardently objecting to this closure. 'The NTS is reducing its

staff numbers by 91.'

It is understood that staff at various locations received letters on Saturday morning to tell them their jobs are under threat.

A NTS insider said: 'This is the third time in two years jobs have been cut at the trust. You are asked to reapply for your own job or your colleague's or manager's job. Frankly the organisation will soon be so short staffed that visitors will need to make appointments to see properties and gardens.'

NTS declined to comment on the timescale for the closure of the garden, but it is understood that it will be closed over the next few months. It also refused to comment on whether staff at the site would be losing their jobs.

Ed and Harry Wright gifted the gardens to the nation in 1992 after 21 years of restoration work by the brothers. The history of the garden goes back to 1895 when the site was purchased by J Arthur Campbell of Inverawe.

MP rejects speed cut

SPEED limits on most rural single carriageway roads could be reduced to 50mph as early as next year, under plans being considered by the UK government to reduce road accidents.

Argyll MP Alan Reid said: 'It is a ridiculous idea because some of our single carriageway roads are perfectly safe at 60mph. Drivers would look at speedometers rather than the road and this would cause more accidents.'

Guitarist collapses

RUNRIG guitarist Malcolm Jones was seriously ill in hospital, as *The Oban Times* went to press, after collapsing in Edinburgh on Sunday.

The band's forthcoming tour of Germany, Austria and Switzerland has been cancelled.

It is understood Malcolm had been playing with bandmate Iain Bayne on the Black Isle and had been returning home to Fife when he took ill.

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Adult Literacy and Numeracy Family Literacies Story Telling Workshop

Come and join us in our 2nd workshop about enjoying the experience of reading with your children through story telling. For parents with children upto P3 (6/7 years old).



This free story telling workshop is done with people in 17th century Scottish costumes. The workshop is interactive, where both parents and children are encouraged to work together to create a story which will be accompanied with music. Information and advice will also be given on the day about community based learning courses for adults.

Session to be held in the Church of Scotland Centre on Thursday 12th March, 1pm - 3pm.

For more information on these workshops, please call Kevin on 01436 675843

Tiree gallery to sell work by 'anonymous' artists

BLUE BEYOND Art Gallery on Tiree has amassed a valuable collection of work from more than 50 top artists and are planning to sell them as potential bargain buys. The island gallery is planning to use the money from the fundraising exhibition to benefit the community of Tiree by helping to refurbish a church building. The new church centre will then be used to support the many groups and activities thriving on the island.

The exhibition will open on June 1, when paintings will go on sale at 1pm, and run until August 28.

Bidders will be asked to make their purchase without knowing who the artist is that has painted their chosen picture. The sale can be made from the gallery, brochure or website.

More than 50 British artists including Pam Carter, James Hawkins, Owen Henderson, Peter Podmore and Kip Poulson have donated their work to support the shoreline themed fundraiser.

Some of the work will be worth in excess of £1,000, so anyone buying the work will be in for a bargain. Dr John Holliday will open the exhibition for invited guests on Friday May 29 at 7.30pm.

Bòrd appoint Skyeman as chairman

BÒRD na Gàidhlig has appointed Skye's Arthur Cormack as its chairman on a four-year contract.

Mr Cormack had been interim chairman of the Bòrd, which advises Scottish ministers on Gaelic issues.

He said: 'I am privileged to take up this position on a more permanent basis. I feel this is an era of unprecedented opportunity and goodwill towards Gaelic.'

Mr Cormack's position has remuneration of £18,600 per annum for a time commitment of four days per month plus bi-monthly meeting of the Bòrd.

The organisation are also planning to announce the appointment of a new chief executive in the coming months.

Report highlights potential problems of Salen road upgrade

AN INDEPENDENT report commissioned by a village community shows that plans for a road upgrade may heavily impact on their environment.

Proposals for an upgrade of the A848 from single to double track through the village of Salen on the Isle of Mull will see traffic moving at higher speeds and over a yet-

to-be-built causeway.

Charlotte Mellis chairwoman of Road Action Group Salen (RAGS) claims that the village is 'in grave danger of being ruined by the installation of a two-lane highway across the bay'.

She added: 'RAGS supports the overall plans for the improvement of Mull's roads, but the proposed route across

Salen Bay, and the traffic-lights that would accompany it, seem ugly, unnecessary, inefficient and expensive.'

John Russell of Transform, Scotland undertook a report on the planned roads. He concluded: 'The planned road would not be as effective as the current road layout in calming traffic entering Salen. Higher speeds,

that the dual track would inevitably produce, are incompatible with concern for the safety of pedestrians and other vulnerable road users.'

In conclusion he states: 'There is scope for modifications to the proposed A848 improvement scheme that would meet the main objections raised by RAGS without compromising the effective-

ness of the scheme.'

The group has issued the report to Argyll and Bute Council councillors Gordon Chalmers and Mary-Jean Devon who are understood to be in discussion with the council over its findings.

It is understood that 700 objections have been made to the plans for the road upgrade at Salen.

Refuse problems build on Colonsay

DELAYED bin collections on Colonsay are making the island look like a rubbish tip, according to the island's community council chairman.

Angus MacPhee has described the collections as a 'second class service' and urged Argyll and Bute Council to make sure island bins are emptied on a regular basis, or risk the health of the island population.

Outwith the summer months Colonsay has a fortnightly collection but on the last two occasions the refuse lorry has not made it to the island on the scheduled date. On one of these occasions the refuse lorry had broken down.

Last month islanders faced a 18-day period without a bin collection.

Mr MacPhee said: 'Every bin is overflowing and gales last week have blown rubbish all over the island. It looks like a tip.'

'The usual Friday collection days have been missed on the last two occasions and, although we had a midweek collection in between times, we went two and a half weeks without the bins being taken away.'

'It is simply not good enough.'

'We create just as much rubbish in a week as anyone on the mainland,' he said, adding: 'It always happens to us. Our lorry breaks down so Colonsay misses out again. Why can't someone else do without their bin lorry for once?'

The irregular pick-ups have also been a problem for the few islanders on neighbouring Oronsay, who have to travel across The Strand to drop off their rubbish with the

Community council chairman fears rat invasion

Colonsay collection.

Mr MacPhee said: I pay nearly £1,000 for my council tax and I see very little benefit from that. We have no road, no street lights, no leisure centre.

'We don't mind having a fortnightly collection as long as it is a regular service.'

Mr MacPhee claimed the excess rubbish was attracting rats into households.

He said: 'The children on the island play a game called 'cat or rat' because the rats are as big as the cats here.'

'I believe that is down to the fact that our rubbish lies for so long and the fact that our tip has been closed for some years. People tell me they have found rats in their wheelie bins.'

A spokeswoman from Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We are not aware of any problems of rats on Colonsay. The use of wheelie bins means that rubbish is not lying around and therefore does not encourage rats.'

'The bins are rat proof and they also stop a number of other animals and birds from getting into rubbish.'

'The fortnightly wheelie bin collection on Colonsay has been running successfully for several years. In summer time it is a weekly collection.'

'There are a variety of services operated by Argyll and Bute Council on Colonsay including education, social work, amenity services and transport related services.'



Isle of Seil gardeners look forward to the visit of the Beechgrove Garden crew

Isle of Seil may feature on BBC's Beechgrove Garden

BEECHGROVE Garden, the longest running gardening show on BBC Scotland may be making its way to Ellanbeich on the Isle of Seil thanks to a dedicated team of gardeners in the village.

Producer of the popular programme, Evelyn Paterson told *The Oban Times*: 'There is a distinct possibility that the programme will come from Seil Village Hall at some point in 2009.'

'We were shown around by a dedicated group of gardeners last week. There is such

a broad range of plants in the area that a programme based on Seil would be a treat for viewers.'

Speaking on behalf of the island's gardeners Kim Rowsell said how delighted they are to be considered for the television programme.

'It will be a lot of work for the group,' she said. 'But we are hoping that everyone in the village will muck-in and get the gardens around the village hall ready with the help of the experts of the Beechgrove Garden team.'

'Fingers crossed that we get it.'

Islay summit agrees conservation plan for Greenland whitefronted geese

AN INTERNATIONAL summit held on Islay has agreed a plan of conservation action to help save a bird hovering close to extinction.

More than 50 experts from

around the world met at Machrie Hotel to discuss the sharp decline in the number of the Greenland white-fronted geese.

Roughly one third of the

entire population spends the winter on Islay.

The summit, which was held over three days from February 24-26 and led by Scottish Natural Heritage,

agreed the action plan after identifying three main causes for the population decline: Too few birds have hatched to balance the annual mortality; excessive snowfall dur-

ing the period that geese are arriving in Greenland nesting grounds; and/or competition with a rapidly expanding Canada goose population on Greenland.



Beachd Ailein

Nam biodh an sporan poblach a' pàigheadh airson na thathas a' dèanamh gu saor-thoileach bhiodh fiachan gu math nas motha air an rioghachd neo bhiodh cisean gu math nas àirde oirme! Tha sinn dualach diochuidhneachadh na tha na buidhnean, is na daoine sin a' dèanamh gu socair (as a' mhòr-chuid!) feadh nan coimhearsnachdan, agus cuideachd a' bhuanachd a tha sinne a' faotainn às an cuid saothrach. Tha buidhnean saor-thoileach a' nochdadh far am bheil aithne coimhearsnachd air feum air choreigin agus far am bheil rùn aig an t-sluagh fhèin am feum sin a' fhriththeadh.

An creideadh sibh gum bheil còrr air 45,000 buidhinn saor-thoileach ann an Alba, le 130,000 air thuarastal agus còrr air 1.2 mhillean neach-taice saor-thoileach. Abair cumhachd! Cha bheag an t-iongnadh ged is e "An Treas Feachd" a chanar ris an roinn annasaich seo den eaconamaidh, agus iad a' riaghladh £3.2 billean gach bliadhna.

Gun teagamh tha an roinn seo an eisimeil taic bhon roinn phoblach, agus le ceartas tha smachd teann ga chumail air taic ionmhais mu choinneimh coilionadh amasan aonaichte. Ach an fharsaingeachd chan eil tasgadh airgid poblach eile a tha a' libhrigeadh uimhir a luach, agus a' gleidheadh uimhir a dhilseachd bhon choimhearsnachd. Ged nach biodh againn de dh'èisimpleirean ach gach Hospice a tha air an cumail a-dol le taic coimhearsnachd, agus càite an do dh'fhàg sinn a' Ghàidhlig fhèin. Theagamh nach biodh i idir ann an diugh mura b' e spàirn mhòran cheatharnach.

Tuigear cho cudromach sa tha an Crannchur Nàiseanta air a bhith dhan obair seo thar nam bliadhnaichean, agus chan annas e gum bheil uimhir a' dhragh is de thàmailt a-nise a nochdadh bho Chaidreachas Bhuidhnean Saor-thoileach na h-Alba is còrr air dà thrian de sporan na h-Alba aig A' Chranncur Mhòr (£257 millean sios gu £90 millean) ga shlisneadh gus taic a chur ri deasachadh airson Cleasan Oilimpaidh 2012 ann an Lunnainn.

'S e is tàmailtiche uile gu lèir gun do chosg sinne an t-airgead seo, a thathas a' toirt buainn, gu saor-thoileach air chranncuir. Tha fhios, le ceartas, gur ann aig an roinn shaor-thoileach a bu chòir smachd a bhith air an sporan seo seach aig riaghaltais!

The enormous importance of Scotland's Third Force, the voluntary sector, is sadly easily forgotten against a background of global economic crisis and governments groping frantically for solutions.

Voluntary action is usually a manifestation of people taking action to address community needs, and in Scotland alone there are a staggering 45,000 voluntary bodies. They employ 130,000 staff, are supported by 1.2 million volunteers, and they manage budgets worth £3.2 billion annually.

Lottery funding has been critical to this sector, so it is small wonder that the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations is incensed at the 70 per cent reduction in Scotland's Big Lottery budget for the next three years to fund the 2012 London Olympics. Given that this is money voluntarily spent by us surely the voluntary sector should manage it rather than Government!

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

Sentence deferred over Tobermory tax evasion case

SENTENCE was deferred on a Mull man who admitted evasion of income tax.

Grant Dalzell Lopes, aged 29, of 64 Main Street, Tobermory had previously admitted failing to notify HM Revenue and Customs of just over £89,000 of income between April 2001 and April 2006. At Oban Sheriff Court last

week Lopes's defence agent Stephen MacLeod said that his client had made a total repayment to date of £8,000 leaving a balance of just over £4,000 to be repaid.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until September 1 this year for Lopes to provide evidence that he had repaid the full amount.

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The renewables fair on Mull.

Mull powers ahead with first Renewable Technology Fair

ISLANDERS on Mull were treated to a day of exploring greener ways of living when they attended the first Renewable Technology Fair held last week.

Exhibitors from 13 businesses including recycling projects, drying tents, air heating engineers and wind turbine gave information to more than 300 visitors who attended the event. The fair was organised by

Mull Renewables a group of volunteers who operate under the Mull and Iona Community Trust.

Tim Capper, Mull Renewables chairman, said: '300 people was way over our anticipated attendance. I had visitors and suppliers complimenting us on the professionalism of the day and asking what date we were setting for next year's event. 'I still find it amazing that we

could have achieved so much in just 14 months and wonder at the possibilities for our future.'

James Hilder of Mull and Iona Community Trust said: 'Folk came from as far away as Lochgilphead, Dunoon and Coll to the event. What started as a local education event became a regional symposium on energy conservation, renewable technologies and how to reduce our carbon emissions.'

Isle of Luing creates a new constellation

STAR gazers on Luing have developed a new constellation celebrating the island's history.

The result is a boat-shaped grouping of stars using dates from a number of special events suggested by islanders. Rosy Barlow, who organised the star gazing group, said: 'One of the designs sent in included Polaris, the Pole Star, which was

not one of the original stars chosen. However, it seemed a good idea to include it as it would make the constellation easier to find in the night sky, so it was kept for the final design. We chose a boat because the island had been so important in navigation.' For further details visit www.isleofluing.org/documents/luing_constellation.

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Red faces at second sign blunder in Inveraray

A COMPANY responsible for road signs has been blushing again after misspelling the name of a prominent Argyll town.

The 'b' has been omitted from Campbeltown on a shiny new sign on the A83, approaching Inveraray from the north. It was erected by contractors for Transerv last Wednesday, just metres from the location of another road sign spelling gaff six months ago. Last August, visitors were greeted by a sign welcoming them to the Royal 'Borough' of Inveraray.

Niall Iain MacLean, who lives in Inveraray and used to chair the local Scottish Tourist Board committee, said: 'Who on earth is checking these things?'



Drivers approaching Inveraray are being directed left for 'Campeltown'. a10sgn1

A spokesman for Scotland Transerv said: 'It was an error by the contractor which is in

the process of being rectified. The cost of the remedy will be borne by the contractor.'

He added that the spelling would be corrected within a few days.

Teenager's lewd behaviour towards Oban schoolgirl

AN OBAN teenager has admitted inducing a 13-year-old girl to perform a sexual act over the telephone which he then recorded.

Sixteen-year-old Andrew Smith of 2 Islay Road, Oban told police he had committed the offence because a schoolgirl he knew had told him to 'do something to embarrass' a fellow pupil whom she had fallen out with.

Smith, who was placed on the sex offenders register, admitted using lewd, libidinous and indecent practices and behaviour towards the girl, who cannot be named for legal reasons, on a date between January 30 and February 13

this year at an Oban address. Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell said that the deputy head teacher of Oban High had become aware of a rumour that some schoolgirls were about to engage in a fight and had spoken to one pupil.

'During the course of her enquiries,' said Mr Farrell, 'the deputy spoke to one pupil who told her that part of the problem was that she had a recording on her mobile phone of another pupil performing a sex act and had obtained it from Andrew Smith.'

'The teacher listened to the tape and was extremely concerned at its highly inappropriate sexual nature.'

Mr Farrell said that the pupil had told the deputy head teacher that she disliked the other girl and had requested that the accused 'do something to embarrass her'.

Mr Farrell added: 'Later that day she had met up with the accused who played the recording to her.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until April 14 for the preparation of background reports when a plea in mitigation will be heard from Smith's defence agent. Smith was released on bail with the added conditions that he does not approach Oban High School or any child under the age of 16 years old.

Satnav thief fined £200

AN OBAN man who stole a satellite navigation system (Satnav) and two bicycle lights has been fined £200.

William Burns, aged 29, of 6 Donmore Lodge, Albany Street, admitted stealing the £168 Satnav from an insecure vehicle in Shore Street Car Park on July 9 last year and stealing two bicycle lights from a shop in Argyll Square, Oban on July 12, 2008.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said Burns was on a drug treatment and testing order and had been battling drug addiction since June last year. 'This was a relapse very early in the treatment programme,' said Mr Durbin.

Driver was twice speed limit passing school

DRIVERS speeding past a primary school in a small Argyll village are being targeted by police.

Strathclyde Police Oban's road policing unit has been monitoring drivers travelling through the 30mph speed limit in Kilniver over the past week and have pledged to carry on doing so.

In one instance police officers detected a driver travelling at nearly twice the speed limit, while children were playing outside the school.

Oban Road Policing Unit Sergeant Paul Burns said: 'I have devised an action plan for Kilniver because of the concerns about speeding expressed by members of the community and the school.'

'Numerous people have been charged or issued with fixed penalty notices, whereby the driver incurs a £60 fine and three penalty points.'

£6,300 boost for new school playground

A COMMUNITY project fund in Ardcattan to renovate the crumbling school playground last week received a cash injection of £6,300.

Friends of Ardcattan Primary School has raised nearly £25,000 in only 10 months as it plans to erect new fencing and re-lay half the playground at a cost of £35,000.

The group recently received £5,000 and last week were granted £1,300 from Argyll and Bute Council's area committee.

Project co-ordinator Susan Bland said: 'The project is in two stages. Firstly, we need to put down some safety surfacing and replace two lengths of fencing.'

The tarmac in the playground is broken up and a number of primary ones have been to hospital for stitches after tripping up on it.

'The second half of the project will be to buy some sports equipment and create a trim trail for the children.'

In May, Friends of Ardcattan Primary School will take part in a bag pack in Tesco and in June will take on a 10-kilometre walk along Loch Etive to raise more money. The group is seeking volunteers to help at these events.

Man had Samurai sword in street

AN OBAN man has admitted possessing a 16-inch Samurai sword in an Oban street.

Michael Archie MacPhie, aged 24, of 4 Burnside Court, Miller Road, admitted possessing the sword on March 6 this year in Quarry Road.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell said police were in plain clothes duties were engaged in a search for controlled drugs at a house in Quarry Road at around 4.30pm.

Search Mr Farrell said: 'The accused entered into the common close of 7 Quarry Road and made his way to a flat. One PC was keeping a lookout in the close while a drugs search was ongoing.'

Mr Farrell added that the accused was detained and searched and a 16-inch sword with a 10-inch blade was found stuck down the waistband of his trousers.'

Sentence was deferred until March 31 this year for the preparation of background reports when a plea in mitigation will also be heard from McPhie's defence agent.

Caught with 1,000 Valium tablets

AN UNEMPLOYED Oban man was fined £500 at Oban Sheriff Court last week after admitting possession of more than 1,000 Valium tablets.

David Ogilvie, aged 23, of 12 Camus Road, admitted possessing 1,304 tablets of the class C drug along with 10 grammes of cocaine at an address in George Street, Oban on December 1, 2007.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell told Oban Sheriff Court this week that police had obtained a search warrant after receiving information in November last year.

Traumatic Ogilvie's defence agent Michael Poggi said Ogilvie had suffered a 'traumatic experience' and instead of seeking counselling had turned to the use of illicit drugs.

Mr Poggi said: 'In December 2007 he described his cocaine use as chronic, using between seven and eight grammes a day. This offence coming to light was the catalyst for him to stop using drugs.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It does seem that you have taken steps to rid yourself of any addiction to drugs, I take that into account.'

Mull care centre cash confirmed

THE board of NHS Highland has confirmed a £4.7 million investment in Mull's new progressive care centre.

Details of the £7.5 million project for which islanders raised £500,000 over the past ten years were revealed last week.

The project is a partnership between Mull and Iona Community Trust, NHS Highland, Argyll and Bute Council and West Highland Housing Association.

Missing patient rescued

- Elderly man survives cold, wet night
- Helicopter's vital role

AN ELDERLY dementia sufferer sparked a large scale overnight search by emergency services after walking out of his hospital ward.

Alfred White, aged 75, walked undetected out of Lorn and Islands District General Hospital's ward B between 7.45pm and 8.15pm on Sunday evening.

After spending the night outdoors in temperatures as low as one degree Celsius and strong winds and sleet, he was found around midday on Monday near Soroba Lodge, less than one kilometre from the hospital, suffering from hypothermia.

He was spotted by the Strathclyde Police helicopter, which airlifted him back to the hospital.

Inspector Neil Wallace of Strathclyde Police Oban said: 'The search went on through

the night involving the coast-guard and mountain rescue teams from Strathclyde Police, Oban and Arrochar.

'We were concerned as to how far he might have walked because he is a fit man for his age. As part of the search we checked his previous addresses, as well as the area surrounding the hospital, but it was a big help to have the force helicopter.'

'Without the helicopter the mountain rescue team may not have found him until much later in the day.'

A NHS Highland spokesman said ward B had an Enhanced Supervision Policy to try to prevent patients walking out of the hospital.

He said on Monday: 'The patient has been found and returned to hospital where he is responding well to treatment.'



Search and rescue teams carry dementia patient Alfred White back to hospital after he went missing overnight from his hospital ward. t11search03

Man made sexual remarks to 12-year-old boy in sauna

A CONNELL man has admitted making sexual remarks towards a 12-year-old boy and also placing his hand on his leg in a hotel sauna.

Oban Sheriff Court heard this week that Robert Edward Didcock, aged 43, of Flat 2, Greenacre, had approached a group of three girls and a boy aged between 12 and 17 in the sauna within a hotel in Oban on October 5 last year.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell told the court that Didcock first struck up a conversation with the boy in the changing

rooms informing him that he had forgotten his swimming trunks and would have to wear his 'boxer shorts'.

Mr Farrell said: 'After being in the pool for around an hour the group went into the sauna and five minutes later were joined by the accused.'

'He again struck up a conversation saying he had lived in Holland and started speaking about legalised male prostitution. The young people were uncomfortable with the conversation.'

'The accused then turned to

the 12-year-old boy and made a sexual remark. The youngsters were shocked and the accused laughed at their reaction.'

'He got up to leave and as he moved away his hand fell on the boy's leg above the knee; it was deliberately placed there. The boy was extremely upset.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence until April 14 for background reports when a plea in mitigation by defence agent David Watt will also be heard.

Talks start on new dental surgery at vacant Oban building

HEALTH bosses in Argyll plan to convert the vacant Harbour Bowl building in Oban into a new dental surgery.

Dr John Lyon, clinical director of Argyll and Bute community health partnership (CHP), told a meeting of the area's health forum this week that the preferred choice of the CHP was to take over a long-term lease on the Shore Street building.

The meeting heard that the building 'ticks all the boxes' in terms of space and public

access. Dr Lyon said: 'That is the number one preferred option. A request has gone out to the NHS central legal office to try and get a long-term lease.'

Car parking 'The building has space to change the shape of a number of dental surgeries, it is central and has good car parking.'

Although he could not give a timescale, Dr Lyon said he hoped the legal negotiations could be over 'within months'.

It is also expected that the

present Argyll Square dental surgery would move into the new facility as its present premises will not pass disability access laws next year.

Investment Earlier this year the Scottish government announced a £2.3 million investment in dental services in Oban to combat long waiting lists.

It is thought the new practice could provide an additional 6,000 NHS registrations significantly cutting the waiting list in Oban and Lorn.

Marina anger at planning delay

AN ARGYLL marina boss says 'Dickensian' planning red tape is costing his business and the region money.

Managing director of Dunstaffnage Marina, Neil McLauchlan, wants to expand at the site three miles north of Oban, adding 70 berths. But he claims a tangle of bureaucracy is holding up progress and means the west coast is missing out on jobs, investment and wealthy visitors.

The marina paid for expensive surveys of traffic speed and volume to satisfy planners that the entrance can

cope with the expected traffic. Roads authority Transport Scotland declared the junction with the A85 safe last October, but it has taken until last week for planners to lift an order - stalling further development.

Faster Mr McLauchlan said if planners had responded faster to Transport Scotland's all-clear, extra capacity could have been in place this summer.

He said: 'I do not see why it took such a long time. The marina has invested just over £3 million on this project and

it really needs to see some returns.'

Meanwhile, there is a waiting list for berths at the marina, which employs 50 at the height of the summer. Mr McLauchlan said many of the potential customers were from the south coast of England: 'These are people who are spending a lot of time and a lot of money in the area.'

He hopes to finalise a fresh application within weeks.

A spokeswoman from Argyll and Bute Council said consideration of the planning situation was ongoing.

Bird sanctuary needs new home

A MULL bird sanctuary and hospital is on the lookout for a new home.

Wings Over Mull, run by Sue and Richard Dewar since 2001, is looking for temporary lodgings after the centre near Craignure had to close unexpectedly.

Sue and Richard, who care for more than 40 birds including the oldest female red kite in the world at the age of 31, peregrine, eagles and merlin are hoping to close the door for a year before opening up again in 2010 as a registered charity.

Sue explains: 'Many of the birds we have arrived in unusual circumstances and it would now be unfair to release them back into the wild.'

'We are looking for new premises and some help with expenses to keep the animals while we have no revenue from Wings Over Mull.'

'Thanks to friends we have managed to re-home the birds that we cannot take with us.'

To make a donation or to offer help phone Wings Over Mull on 07778 288 881.

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tomorrow (Friday).

Staff enter into spirit of fun STAFF at McCaig's Warehouse in Oban displayed plenty spirit for Comic Relief when they held a fundraising open day at the shop.

Dressed as Braveheart, a Red Hot Chili Piper, Scottish dolls and even a whisky bottle, staff opened late last Thursday and offered a 20 per cent discount on all clothing items. There was also a raffle, coffees and teas and £117.74 was raised on the evening.

In a bid to top up its total, the shop will take donations

Stewart MacDonald, who took over as shop manager in January, said: 'We hope we can raise lots of money for Comic Relief while showing customers what the shop is all about.'

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Tiree offshore windfarm could create up to 50 jobs

UP TO 50 jobs could be created on Tiree if a massive offshore windfarm is built off the island's west coast.

Representatives from Scottish Power Renewables are investi-

gating the site and held a public meeting on the island this week. The company has been given permission by the Crown Estate and the Scottish government to investigate waters off the west

coast of Tiree to see if the area is suitable for a wind turbine site to power one million homes.

Tiree Community Development Trust chairwoman, Tish MacKinnon, said the meeting

had been popular with young people eager to learn about job opportunities. She said: 'Up to 50 permanent jobs could be created if it goes ahead and there could be opportunities for local

young people to train.'

Mrs MacKinnon added that the trust are to enter discussion with Scottish Power and Tiree High Schools about what skills will be needed by the young people.

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Community service for Roy Bridge bar wrecker

A ROY Bridge man who caused more than £4,000 worth of damage to a hotel bar and band equipment has been ordered to pay compensation for his wrecking spree.

John Keenan, aged 20, of 56 Upper Inverroy, admitted demanding alcohol and destroying bar fittings and equipment at the Roy Bridge Hotel on September 14 last year.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard that the hotel's insurers had paid out £3,085 to repair the damage caused by Keenan and that the hoteliers also had to pay £500 in insurance excess charges.

Instruments, including an accordion, belonging to a musician who had been playing in the bar that night, had also incurred £840 worth of damage.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'On the night in question, the company he was with had left and he was on his own towards the end of the evening.'

Damage

'He doesn't know why he ended up causing the damage to the bar.'

'It may be a combination of too much to drink, or perhaps some underlying issues.'

'He had to be discharged from the army and was diagnosed with depression in January 2007.'

'That's the only explanation for this bout of vandalism.'

'He was immediately dismissed from his employment after this offence.'

Sheriff Douglas Small placed Keenan on probation for a year and ordered him to carry out 150 hours of community service.

Keenan was also ordered to pay compensation of £840 to musician Ian MacDonald and compensation of £500 to the Roy Bridge Hotel.

Kilcamb Lodge Hotel flies high in face of recession

AN ARDNAMURCHAN hotel is flying high in the face of the recession and credit crunch.

Kilcamb Lodge Hotel is reporting 'record numbers' of visitors for the first quarter of 2009.

According to owners Sally and David Ruthven-Fox quality and value is a winning formula at a time UK visitors are being put off by high prices in Europe.

'We have noticed an upturn in the number of days that our guests are booking and the number of visits by our regular guests per year has also increased,' said Sally.



Sad farewell: Marie Law locks the door of Glencoe Hospital for the last time. (11mario03)

End of an era as Glencoe Hospital closes its doors

GLENCOE Hospital closed its doors for the last time on Monday, bringing more than 60 years of service to an end.

Three remaining patients had been transferred to nearby Abbeyfield Ballachulish Care Home by 1pm, attended by hospital staff, many close to tears. Glencoe staff will work at the care home for a month to help patients settle in.

Following the transfer, an open afternoon, including tours of the hospital and refreshments, saw around 70 local people make their farewells. The building was then locked up and secured.

One visitor, Ballachulish woman Sandra Whyte, paid tribute to hospital staff who helped her father Jock win his battle for life more than 50 years ago.

Ms Whyte told *The Oban Times* her father had terminal cancer in his remaining lung when he was admitted to Glencoe from Glasgow Royal in 1957, having had the other removed in a failed bid to halt the disease. His will to live, his daughter's tears and the dedication of Glencoe nurses and doctors ensured he lived another 30 years.

'They sent him home to die. He was in Glencoe for six months and he pulled through. The patience and professionalism of the staff was incredible,' said Ms Whyte.

Management representatives from NHS Highland were on hand to welcome visitors on the final day.

Clinical services manager at the Belford Hospital Marie Law told *The Oban Times*: 'It was a sad day for the staff and families but there was a sense of looking to the future as well. It has been a pleasure to work with the staff at Glencoe Hospital and all the families and relatives.'

Mid Highland Community Health Partnership (CHP) general manager Gill McVicar said Glencoe had played a valuable role as a wartime hospital, maternity hospital, cottage hospital and a care centre for older people. She said: 'There are people in the local community who have connections and affection for the hospital. Some have worked, been born, or have been cared for there and we wanted to give them the opportunity to visit again and to share their memories.'

The hospital building will be sold to help fund future NHS services in the Highlands. The CHP is working with Glencoe Heritage Trust on a commemorative booklet on the building's NHS history. NHS Highland is working with Glencoe Hospital staff and hopes to find them suitable alternative employment within the health service, said Ms MacVicar.

Croft war divides Moidart

Exclusive: By STEPHEN NORRIS

AN EDINBURGH law lord is considering his judgement on a bitter 12-year Moidart crofting dispute amid claims the case has 'completely divided' the local community.

After eight days of evidence, Lord Brodie heard final submissions at the Court of Session last week from legal teams representing Allan MacColl, of Farrow Drive, Corpach, and Karen MacGillivray, of Moss, Acharacle, in a protracted battle over the tenancy of 16 Moss, Ms MacGillivray's current home.

The croft, one of six in Moss and Mingarry township set in scenic surroundings next to the River Shiel, comprises three to four acres of good land, an imposing recently built house with an estimated value of £300,000 and agricultural sheds.

The dispute began when Allan MacColl's brother John, known as Iain, granted tenancy to Ms MacGillivray in 1996 for a 'rent' and final payment of £25,000 over seven years - figures far in excess of the expected annual rent of around £15.

Following a heated local hearing, the Crofters Commission gave Ms MacGillivray control of the croft by consenting to her tenancy, despite some objections.

After John MacColl died in 2000, Allan MacColl, his executor, began a legal battle to overturn that consent on the basis that Ms MacGillivray had misled the Commission by not disclosing vital information at the original hearing, thereby rendering the tenancy a 'sham' - a claim Ms MacGillivray strongly rejects.

One local resident close to the dispute, who did not wish to be named, told *The Oban Times* the community was 'absolutely and completely divided'.

'People are saying 'I hope so-and-so wins' while others are saying 'I hope so-and-so doesn't win'.

'There's a fearful amount of ill feeling about. They would knife each other, the half of them. Whatever way this turns out, there could be trouble. Let's hope it stops at just ill feeling.'

According to the source, the croft has room for six house plots and the setting alone could see each site sell in excess of £100,000. The croft's legal tenant could apply to the Crofters Commission to decroft the land for a sum 15 times the annual rent, normally a few pounds annually, he said.

An 'apportionment' - a share - of the 300 acres of common grazing in the township could also be sought, adding a further 50 acres to the existing three or four.

The expanded croft could be worth 'millions of pounds', said the source. He added: 'Having been brought up in a crofting community, I know that not long ago the crofters were regarded as the scum of the earth, peasants.'

'But nowadays people would shoot you to get their hands on a croft - it's worth its weight in gold.'

'Everything has gone completely full circle for crofters, from being regarded as peasants to somebody who is wealthy and on the way to becoming more wealthy.'

'The young ones only now are getting the benefit of what their fathers and grandfathers worked so hard for. Theirs was such a meagre existence.'

Ms MacGillivray was unavailable for comment.

Allan MacColl told *The Oban Times* the judgement could take 'months'.

Sleat water work starts

A £400,000 improvement programme to water mains supplying 300 people on Sleat gets underway next week.

More than five kilometres of plastic pipes will be replaced in Armadale, Teague and Isleornsay to reduce interruptions caused by old cement water mains bursting. Traffic lights will be needed at Kilmore to enable works there to take place safely. The whole project is due to be complete by August.

Scottish Water project manager Andy Barnett said: 'The new pipes will be much more reliable.'

Skye writer wins award

AN ISLE of Skye writer has been announced as the Gaelic category winner in the John Muir Trust Wild Writing Competition.

Niall MacRath, a locum vet from Kilbride near Broadford, won the prize for his short story *Doilleireachd an T-Sleibhe* at the Fort William Mountain Festival yesterday.

Tom Bryan from Kello took the overall first prize for his piece *Seven Ways of Looking at Suilven*.

Judges also highly commended Jenny Holden from Onich for her work *The Climb*.

Lochaber Rugby Club fields three teams

FOR THE first time in years, Lochaber Rugby Club fielded three teams on the same weekend last Saturday and Sunday.

The S1/S2s and 1st XV took on travelling teams from Hamilton on Saturday whilst the S3/S4s travelled to Inverness to play Highland on Sunday.

MS centre receives welcome boost from Oban firm

THE MS Therapy Centre in Lochgilphead welcomed a new donor last week, the MacQueen Bros Community Benefit Fund.

Last week, Mark MacQueen from the Oban-based removal and storage firm visited to present staff and centre members with a cheque for £500, which will go towards funding new exercise equipment.

Karen McCurry, manager, said the centre is entirely reliant on donations: 'We want to thank the MacQueen Bros for thinking of us and donating the money. It was the Mid Argyll Rotary Club which nominated us, so we are grateful to them too.'

The company raises funds for community projects through the sale of second-hand furniture and household goods too big for charity shops to store.

Mark said: '*The Oban Times* is extremely helpful in raising money for this fund through advertising furniture in the under £50 section free of charge, which is very successful.'

'Donated items are sold directly from MacQueen Bros warehouse in Oban with every penny going to good causes.'



Mark MacQueen meets with Karen McCurry, manager of the MS Therapy, along with staff and members last week. (a10msc01)

Councillor's 'lack of contact' angers Soroba residents

By LOUISE GLEN-LEE

A RESIDENTS association this week called on a councillor to explain why he has not attended its meetings for more than nine months.

Soroba Residents Association members in Oban have written to their MSP, MP and the First Minister Alex Salmond to complain about the non-attendance of their elected representative, Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, at association meetings in regard to updating them about a planning application.

The group claims that Councillor McIntosh was meant to be spearheading a project to develop a community building over the past eight years, but had not been in touch for months despite living only half a mile from the committee rooms.

A group spokeswoman said: 'Unfortunately, leaving the

matter in the hands of our local councillor has, quite frankly, become a waste of time and a source of embarrassment.'

'We have had no contact with our councillor, Donald McIntosh, since last June and heard nothing from Argyll and Bute Council's solicitors.'

'Councillor Mary-Jean Devon has come from Tobermory for the meetings but he can't even come down the street.'

'Badly served'

At the meeting Alex Ferguson, a committee member, told Mr McIntosh: 'We feel we are being badly served by you.'

Mr McIntosh said his schedule had not permitted his attendance at the meetings. He said: 'As long as one member of the area committee can attend the meeting

then I feel it is covered.'

Marri Malloy, committee member, disagreed: 'You are the senior councillor in this area who is meant to be working on behalf of residents. When you do not attend meetings we are left in the dark. It is not fair that you have not bothered to come to meetings.'

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre told the association: 'Time spent on your planning application is disproportionate. All you are doing is taking a piece of waste ground and turning it into a community centre.'

'You can write to the area committee and we will give you monthly updates on your application.'

Meanwhile, £15,000 set aside for buying the rights to the waste land is believed to be no longer available to the group.

Banavie parents don't want school move

BANAVIE Primary School parents have voted overwhelmingly in favour of retaining their school on its present site.

An eight-question survey sent to parents of all 125 pupils was returned by last Wednesday. *The Oban Times* understands around 90 per cent of respondents backed keeping Banavie primary where it is.

Highland Council is currently reviewing primary education provision in the greater Fort William area. A possible amalgamation of Banavie and Caol primaries is one option under consideration.

Parent council chairman David Oxley told *The Oban Times* full results from the questionnaire would be sent out to parents from today

(Thursday). All parents should have the findings by tomorrow or early next week.

'The vast majority were in favour of keeping Banavie School open,' said Mr Oxley.

Banavieschoolparentcouncilmeets on April 15. Now that parents views were clear, Mr Oxley confirmed the question of what action, if any, to be taken would be on the agenda. 'That will be discussed then,' he said.

Local councillor Eddie Hunter told *The Oban Times*: 'Whatever Banavie parents decide to do, they will have 100 per cent support from local members. And if Caol parents want a new school - their present one is falling down - they will get equally strong support from local members.'

Chance to grab share of Euro cash

COMMUNITIES will be urged to grab a slice of £1 million European funding at a meeting in Invergarry on Tuesday night.

Martin Culbertson, project officer for LEADER funding, and Marion Smith of Voluntary Action Lochaber, will tell Caol and Mallaig ward forum how community projects in

Lochaber are eligible for more than £1 million EU cash before 2013. A Forestry Commission representative will also be present to discuss the closure of the pedestrian 'black bridge' over the River Garry to Mandally. The meeting, in Glengarry and District Community Hall, starts at 7.30pm.



Corpach artist Jamie Hegeman in the Nevis Centre with his painting, North Face: Aonach Beag. (111art01)

Fort festival opens in style

FORT William's mountain festival got off the ground in style this week with its official opening party more than 2,000 feet up Aonach Mor.

Aceilidh was held in the Snowgoose Restaurant on the mountain to officially open the festival, which runs until March 14.

Among the highlights are the Open Art Exhibition and the People's Choice Original Art Competition at the Nevis Centre Festival Theatre.

Corpach artist Jamie Hegeman, who paints climbing and mountain scenes said the exhibition was an excellent opportunity to display his work.

Today (Thursday) sees rock-climbing workshops at the Ice Factor in Kinlochleven, beginners ski-ing at Nevis Range and bouldering masterclasses with climber Dave MacLeod at Calluna Bunkhouse Bouldering Wall.

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Jack MacKenzie, Invermoriston	Mrs G F Lovelock, Greenock
Alisdair Young, Lochgilphead	Sonia Cameron, Mallaig
Tristan Carre, Kilmore	John Semple, Achahoish
C McClenahan, Larne	Jilly MacDonald, North Connell

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By submitting your photographs you agree that Wyvek Media Ltd may publish your photograph, on more than one occasion, in any of its publications. To be eligible for the prize draw your photograph must be taken locally and fall into one of the specified categories.
Normal Oban Times rules apply. The editor's decision is final.

Yachting event searches for new sponsor

WEST Highland Yachting Week, Scotland's second biggest yachting event, has been handed a lifeline to continue its social programme of events.

The annual event, which brings around £700,000 to the Argyll area, has lost the support of Tennents, which had been the main sponsor for the past 30 years.

In an appeal for funding to Argyll and Bute Council's Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee, the regatta committee said the race event was 'on the edge' and had requested £5,000 from the council's leisure development grants.

With only £4,330 of grant money available to share between four applications, it was recommended that the event received £2,000.

However councillors stressed the event's importance to the area's economy and agreed to allocate £2,500 to the regatta committee for the week's social events in Oban, Craobh Haven, Tobermory, Kerrera and on the Mull ferry. Councillor Donald MacDonald said: 'We need to support the event as much as we can to raise its profile so that it can attract a new sponsor next year.'

Youths admit Oban assault

SENTENCE has been deferred on two youths who assaulted a man at Mossfield in Oban.

Charles Anthony Smith, aged 18, of Lea Rig Villa, Innellan, Dunoon and Andrew Smith, aged 16, of 2 Islay Road, Oban admitted assaulting the man on July 18 by knocking him to the ground, punching him on the face and kicking him on the body.

Man stole lights from shop

A FORMER Oban man admitted stealing a set of lights, a doll and various novelty items from a shop in the town last December.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, sentence was deferred until March 31 on Paul Nicol, aged 27, of 67 Sinclair Street, Helensburgh.

Man begged for money

A FORMER Oban man was so desperate he tried to beg money from staff in a shop and also grabbed and pulled an assistant.

Andrew Docherty, aged 38, of 377 Kilbowie Road, Clydebank admitted a breach of the peace at WH Smith's in Oban on November 14 last year.

Deferring sentence until March 31, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'He may very well end up with a custodial sentence.'

Haulier hit Achnaclloch bridge

A LIVESTOCK haulier has admitted a charge of careless driving by damaging a railway bridge over the A85.

Scott Peter Outerson, aged 34, of George Crescent, Ormiston admitted striking Achnaclloch Bridge near Oban on September 2 last year. Sheriff Douglas Small fined Outerson £350 and had five penalty points imposed on his licence.

Friendly call for extra trains throughout west Highlands

EXTRA trains between Oban, Fort William and the central belt are urgently needed to support the aspirations of the two west Highland towns.

Rail pressure group, The Friends of the West Highland Line, has proposed ten recommendations for the development of the scenic railway which the group, which has also developed a website highlighting the scenery on the line, say is crucial to the economic regeneration of the area.

The group says higher quality services and promotion of the line as a tourist attraction are required for the line to act as a means of economic regeneration

in the west highlands. It proposes an extra train from Oban to Glasgow, - there are currently three a day - and an additional summer return service between Glasgow and Fort William.

Breaks VisitScotland should also be persuaded to market breaks via the Eurostar service and the Caledonian Sleeper to the Highlands.

The group also propose amending Scotrail's franchise terms to allow for late ferry connections in Oban and saving rail journey time by shortening stops at intermediate stations.

The proposals follow a report by Highlands and

Islands regional transport partnership HiTRANS, which forecasted the change in demand an improved service between Oban and Glasgow might bring. 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'.

Friends of the West Highland Line chairman Doug Carmichael said: 'As well as providing lifeline transport for residents of Argyll and Lochaber, the west Highland lines have a vital

role in supporting the tourist industry.

'The government's Strategic Transport Projects Review focuses on upgrades to the busy rail routes in the central belt and routes to Aberdeen and Inverness.

'However the status of the west Highland lines as a means of economic regeneration merits action to develop higher quality services and promotion of a world class tourist attraction.

'The west Highland lines have justifiably been voted the world's top rail journey by the readers of Wanderlust magazine. We must build on this accolade.'



Pupils from primary two at Rockfield school in Oban at their Fairtrade tea. (1111ca01)

Pupils do a fair trade at their tea party

A TEA party with a difference has helped raise money for a school in Africa, thanks to primary pupils in Oban.

Primary two pupils from Rockfield school in Oban held a 'Fairtrade Café' at the school last week.

Margaret Kane, principal teacher at Rockfield Primary School, said:

'The pupils have been learning all about food and all about the Fairtrade scheme.

'They decided to have an afternoon tea for their families and special guests using only Fairtrade products.

'The children baked all the cakes themselves and Ian Galloway, the

school cook, was on hand to teach the children all about working in the kitchen.'

The school hopes to establish links with a school in Malawi.

The tea, coffee, flowers and baking products were all donated by the Co-op, Tesco, Aldi and Lidl stores in Oban.

Flavour of whisky delights to come

IT WAS just a taste of the delights to come.

A small Argyll-based theatre company, a folk singer and a leading whisky writer combined wonderfully last week to present a tantalising flavour of the new Spirit of the West whisky, food and culture festival set for Inveraray Castle on Saturday and Sunday, May 16-17.

The event is part of Homecoming Scotland 2009's whisky month, and if last week's press launch at Loch Fyne

Oysters Restaurant near Inveraray can be taken as a measure, it promises to be a hugely entertaining occasion not to be missed.

The Walking Theatre Company burst on the scene with a tale of whisky smugglers. They captivated the audience's attention in the same way as the surprise arrival of an 18th exciseman must have focused the minds of illicit whisky distillers.

Appropriately, the exciseman in this tale turned out to be Robbie Burns.

Beautifully crafted songs from whisky folk singer Robin Laing and an all-too-brief tasting masterclass from whisky writer Charles Maclean left us craving for more. The celebrations at Inveraray Castle on May 16-17 of this unique product with its incredible history and mystique could not come soon enough.

Presented by The Whisky Coast, Scotland's west coast whisky trail, Spirit of the West will see the tastes, sights and sounds of the west brought to life in themed marquees.

The event, suitable for all the family, will be opened by the sensational Red Hot Chillies Pipers, and see dishes with a whisky twist cooked up by celebrity chef Nick Nairn. The Whisky Coast marquee will play host to 16 world famous west coast whisky distillers.

A 'Whisky Coast Memoirs' campaign has also been launched to invite people from this country and all over the globe to share their stories, experiences and passions for the west coast. The campaign aims to focus on the beauty, atmosphere and culture of Ayrshire and Arran, Argyll, Lochaber, the Hebrides and the North West Highlands, and the memoirs will be on show for all festival goers at the May event.

The world's fascination for 'the water of life' can only deepen.

Mull RNLi stalwart receives silver badge

MULL MAN Trevor Wade was awarded a silver badge by the RNLi for services to the Ross of Mull and Iona Branch of the lifesaving charity.

Mr Wade, a committee member of the Hebridean branch, was given the medal for 22 years service to the committee. A Bunnellan shop owner, he was willing to sell goods on behalf of the charity and his donations box alone raised more than £1,700.

In 2001 he and his daughter canoed from Camas on Mull to Staffa raising £570 for the branch.

Due to ill health Trevor has now closed his shop but the branch says



Trevor Wade, left, receives his award from Dr Bill Clegg of the RNLi.

it is indebted to him for his support, saying that it will be sadly missed.

Hotelier in car fraud shame

Oban man admits £11,750 false claim

AN OBAN hotelier has admitted submitting a false insurance claim and falsely reporting to police that a car had been stolen.

John Steven Shaw, aged 43, of 3 Argyll Mansions, Argyll Street, admitted submitting a fraudulent insurance claim of £11,750 to the Royal and Sun Alliance insurance company in September last year.

Procurator fiscal Justin Farrell said: 'The accused contacted the police to report the theft of a Mitsubishi Warrior on September 4 last year. He said he believed the vehicle was stolen sometime around August 26, possibly by a male known to him who had stayed in his hotel. On September 5, Shaw contacted the Royal and Sun Alliance insurance company.

'On September 9 he told police the car had not been stolen, rather he had lent it to someone who had failed to return it.

'On September 25 Shaw was interviewed by the insurance company and told them that the vehicle's key had been stolen and the vehicle taken from a car park behind the hotel on September 4, not August 26 as he had said to the police.'

Story

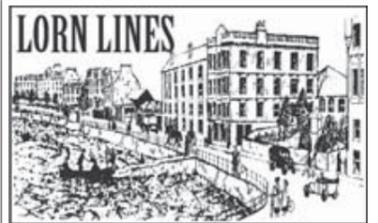
Oban Sheriff Court heard that Shaw, part-owner and licensee of a hotel in Oban, had agreed with the insurance company the value of the vehicle was £11,750 and the company had contacted the local police and found that the story it had been given did not fit. No money changed hands.

Defence agent Kathleen MacMahon said: 'He made false representation because he was too ashamed to tell his partner, whose vehicle it was, that he had given the car keys to someone who had said their car had broken down and were en route for cancer treatment. The man had stayed at the hotel before.

'On August 26 Mr Shaw had taken some workmen who were refurbishing the hotel for a drink. His judgement was impaired and he fell for this ridiculous sob story, and he realised a few days later that he had been had.

'When he made the second call to the insurance company and told them the car was stolen that was the way he saw it in his mind. He was foolish in the extreme, his hotel licence is now in jeopardy because of this conviction.'

Fining Shaw £650, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This attempted fraud did not come to light because he told the truth, it came to light because of what went on between the insurance company and the police.'



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

LORN ARCHAEOLOGICAL and Historical Society enjoyed a talk by Dr Michael Given from Glasgow University for its penultimate meeting of this session.

Dr Given explored storytelling adventures in a talk entitled 'Encounters with the past in Scotland and Cyprus'.

The society's final meeting is on March 27 at Glencruitten Church Hall Undercroft at 7.30pm when National Trust archaeologist Derek Alexander will give a talk on Crarae Gardens called Chambered Tomb to Coaching Inn. There will also be a society book sale run for funds.



PHOTOGRAPHERS in Oban, above, were out in force to hear a talk on the white tailed sea eagle given by a local expert.

Dave Sexton of the RSPB who is based on Mull spoke about the large bird that has been successfully reintroduced to Scotland. Mr Sexton gave a history of the bird revealing the fragile state of the raptor's past. Photographers were delighted to be given advice about recognising the difference between golden eagles and sea eagles.

Mr Sexton showed a video diary of the BBC Spring Watch programme that captured never before seen photographs of the rare bird in the wild on Mull.

A collection on the evening gave £100 to further the work of the charity on the island. (10photo01)

THE EDINBURGH Gaelic Community is inviting west coast friends to its annual 'not to be missed' party in Edinburgh's Assembly Rooms on Saturday March 28. The Black Rose Ceilidh Band will provide the entertainment. Tickets from the box office on 0131 228 1155 or the website www.gaelic-edinburgh.net.

Trio arrested

POLICE arrested three people for separate alleged assaults in a 45-minute period on Sunday.

At 1.20am a 23-year-old woman was arrested after allegedly punching and kicking another woman, aged 20. At around 2am the same morning, in Argyll Street and George Street, two other assaults reportedly took place. All three accused have been reported to the procurator fiscal.

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challenge... Pit your wits against us on our new puzzle pages, as well as great competitions and reader offers.

We've had a fresh look. Have you?

Lismore
Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Café opening
LISMORE Café at the Museum re-opened on February 26 from Tuesday to Saturday from 11 to 4pm.
From April 1 it will be open seven days from 11 to 5pm. It is currently showing the work of the local art group.
The museum will re-open on 28 March from 12 to 3pm and from 1 May from 11 to 5pm

Art and literature at the museum
AS PART of Homecoming 2009, the museum is planning an art and literature section of original work on the themes of emigration/clearances/homecoming. They are looking for poems and short stories, paintings framed ready to be hung, mounted photos, sculptures, carvings, wall hangings and tapestries. Short stories should be no longer than 2,500 words.
In addition, a quilt depicting the Lismore diaspora is planned. See the Lismore website for details.

Health meeting
REPRESENTATIVES of Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership were on the island again to talk about the measures currently being developed in dialogue with islanders which they hope will deliver safe, sustainable and effective healthcare.
The meeting was very well

Population boom
COLL is a truly fecund island.
Three babies have been born to permanent residents in the last three months alone which means there are now 20 children at the primary school, eight at nursery and 10 under

attended with representatives of the Community Health Partnership, the Port Appin medical team, Councillor Elaine Robertson and many islanders. Fruitful discussion followed general manager Derek Leslie's introduction of his team and his outline of where the proposals were at. He said he hoped they would be able to meet islanders' aspirations.
Comments on the proposed plans, which are available in the shop or on www.isleoflismore.com, should be submitted before the next meeting to Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership HQ, Aros, Blarbaie Road, Lochgilphead, PA31 8LB.

Isle of Coll
Youth initiative

COLL has always had plenty of small groups for the island's youngsters - the football club, the toddlers' group and the Christmas party association to name but a few.
Now they are being amalgamated under one banner with a name to be decided at the next meeting. Office bearers have been elected and plans hatched. It looks like this summer is going to be action-packed with the island's youth well entertained.



Tasty end to health and safety lesson
Pupils from Strath of Appin Primary School visited Piazza restaurant in Oban to learn about health and safety in the kitchen. The primary five to seven pupils said they enjoyed the day and said their favourite part was the pizza-making. The visit was rounded off with the pupils sampling some pizza.

the age of three. Not bad for an island with a population of 222.
Expectant mothers usually head for the mainland to deliver, and the first of the three new babies was born in Dundee. The second was almost born on Coll - his mother decided to take the ferry for Oban as soon as labour began - but the third baby was a home birth here on the island.
Neil Andrew Mackay was a fortnight overdue, which meant his father had to field a daily barrage of enquiries and resorted to shaking his head whenever he drove past another car, until February 24, when he disappeared from the roads completely. Childbirth makes for even more exciting island chat than lambing or calving, so everyone was on



A great night was had by all at the Australian Burns Night in aid of Coll's new community centre. Organiser David English is pictured far right in kilt.

tenterhooks until they'd heard everything went well.
An Cridhe
IT MAY seem that Collachs on and off the island can talk of nothing but fund-raising for the new community centre these days.
Not surprising really as the project is moving at a remarkable pace under the stewardship of Emma Grant and Fra Macintyre. The lottery application is under consideration and everyone awaits the result with baited breath so islanders need to raise their portion of the funds urgently.
There may be only 222 permanent residents, but the beneficiaries of the new community centre are worldwide, as a recent Australian fund-raiser proved. Collach David English hosted a Burns' Night which made £347.60, thanks to a variety of money-making ideas. Scottish music was played all night and David even managed to fit in Forbes McHardy at least once with wonder tracks such as 'Bonnie Dear Oban'.
Scottish cuisine included scotch egg, smoked salmon, black pudding, chicken broth, haggis, neeps and tatties, stovies and two cream-and-whisky laden puddings! It's amazing they had the energy to dig so deep, with such a rich menu! It was a fantastic night and everyone enjoyed themselves. There are a few more ideas in the pipeline - most notably Coll tartan kilts, which can be made to measure, and an island-wide treasure hunt at Easter.
To find out more, or to help raise money, contact Fra or Emma at Development Coll on 230000 or fra@developmentcoll.co.uk.

that are capable of doing so. Many have to rely on their neighbours.

Mini-market
THE MINI-MARKET building on Scalpay has still not been taken over despite rumours it was to become net storage for the fish farm.
It is more likely the old factory building would be used as storage.

Fishing
THOSE attempting to catch pollock by hook and line on home shores are finding it difficult of late.

Visitors
IT IS expected that visitors will begin to arrive from Easter and that Scalpay will once again have many yachts coming into the harbour.

Lobsters
THE LACK of fresh fish, compared with previous years, brings back memories of when lobsters were plentiful.
They were fished in home waters and shipped across the Minch to Mallaig and Oban, held in wooden boxes by the dozen.
Buyers of lobster, such as Alex Leslie in Oban, used to serve the pleasure cruisers that berthed in Oban Bay.

'Run out of steam'
I OFTEN hear the above statement in a different context to how it was once used.
It was once attributable to steam vessels, which were powered by boilers burning coal fuel, when their coal supplies were running low.
Nowadays, it is used to describe someone who has had a good start but a stuttering finish.

Heather burning
HEATHER burning should be done in early March because the birds begin to nest in April.
Avoid burning where peat has been cut for fire fuel.

A relic of the past
THE UPPER structure of the Gulf Star, a coaster ship that ran aground on a rock off the shore of Scalpay years ago, is giving way.
The vessel became a wreck and what is left is being pounded by the wintry Minch swell.

Snow
SCALPAY got its first covering of snow on the low ground this year, on February 5.
Snow with frost has created hazardous driving conditions.

Garden planting
IT IS early for households to be planting at the moment.
It would be advisable to prepare the soil but not to plant vegetables or potato seed, as frost can break up the soil.

Around the Rurals

Oban
THE OBAN branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) met on February 24 when Pip Weaser gave an interesting demonstration of basket weaving.
Members enjoyed having a go themselves and made waste paper baskets.
Competitions: Rich Jamaica Loaf - Jenny Moody, Gold; Karen MacKie and Anne Malloch, Silver. Treacle toffee - Jenny Moody, Gold.

Glenorchy
AT THE meeting on February 25, Margaret Whitton gave members a talk and display of her lifetime's work in embroidery.
She started in her teenage years by embroidering crinoline ladies, then took an interest in Nordic embroidery on linen.
When Margaret joined the rural in 1970, she saw a show, which further whetted her appetite for needlework, so she joined a tapestry class in Lochawe, learned to do Florentine work and won a gold star in the next show. She brought back tapestry work from Iceland and learned to do gold work. Her love of dragons was illustrated in her coloured metal threadwork. This was followed by ribbon embroidery of flowers, landscape images with pulled thread-work and a mixture of painting and embroidery.
At each stage of her venture into needlework, Margaret showed members samples and gave tips on how to master each type of stitch.
Be it blackwork, textured threadwork, collage and embroidery or Brazilian htheadwork, all Margaret's work was exquisite and of great interest. This was a wonderful collection from a highly-skilled craftswoman. Competition - acrostix: 1 equal M Gibson and S Boardman; 2 equal V O'Brien and J Taylor; 3 P Villain.

Appin
ON THURSDAY February 19, members were joined at their open night in Appin Hall, by visitors from Benderloch, Connel, Oban and Taynait, for a cookery demonstration by Sheila MacLeod.
Sheila gave an excellent demonstration and produced three dishes, clam chowder, fish pie and lobster thermidor. While this was all ongoing, Sheila answered questions and shared helpful tips about the process. Everyone had the opportunity to taste the food, which was delicious.
After the raffle and tea, which was provided by members, the competition results were announced. Teddy - Gold, Moira Thomson : Silver, Alison MacCorquodale. Jessie Gilkes won the trophy for Mrs Ross's Baking Competition.

Killin
PRESIDENT Fiona Inglis welcomed 33 ladies to the 85th birthday party dinner at the Bridge of Lochay Hotel, Killin.
Mrs Inglis presented a framed certificate and plant to May Graham, a member for 60 years, Margaret Macdonald, member for 58 years, and Bunty MacGregor, member for 56 years.
After a lovely meal, the evening finished with entertainment from a new local band who played Scottish music and led a sing song. Everyone agreed it had been a most enjoyable evening.



Poster prize pupils
Happy smiles from the Barcaldine Primary School pupils who won prizes in a recent Glensanda Quarry competition. The challenge was to produce a poster to adorn the walls of the quarry's new staff accommodation. The standard of entries was so high that the quarry offered more prizes than it originally intended.



Brigitte Baumgartner with Lismore Primary School pupils.

Swiss teacher trains on Lismore

BRIGITTE Baumgartner has spent three weeks in Lismore Primary School as part of her training to become a qualified teacher of English in her native Switzerland.
Frau Baumgartner, who is here with her husband Werner, said she was delighted when she found that her request for a placement in a small, possibly island, school had been granted. Lismore has exceeded all her expectations. She loves the peace and beauty of the island, the welcome from everyone and, of course, the school where she has been able to build good relationships with the teachers and students, which would not always be the case in a larger school.
She has been encouraged by watching other teachers at work and feels she will have much to teach and talk about when she returns to her school in Canton Zurich where she teaches a class of 25 eight-year-olds.
Werner has also enjoyed his time and as a trained baker demonstrated a particular type of Swiss bread as part of the children's study of the customs and traditions of other places.

20 Years Ago
Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday March 9, 1989

Presto: customers tell staff of shock closure
STAFF at Presto supermarket in Oban have been told that the store is to close at the end of the month...by their customers.
The seven staff worked on as normal last week unaware of any decision by their management. But meanwhile notices were issued to other George Street residents to tell them that the premises were to be changed into a shoe shop and one other 'unspecified retail outlet'. One recipient of the notice mentioned it to Presto's manager while she was shopping in the store. 'He knew nothing about it, it was rather embarrassing - after all it is his job.'
The manager and staff hadn't received any official announcement from his head office at the time of going to press.

Prize smile
A HOTEL in Oban is helping out with a Comic Relief day south of the border.

The Alexandria Hotel has offered a three-day holiday break as one of the prizes for a draw to be held in Burton's shop in Newcastle as part of a Comic Relief day. Ron Laws of Burtons Menswear said he was grateful to the hotel for offering the prize.

Tiree cancels century of show tradition
TIREE Agricultural Show has been cancelled because of a lack of interest this year.
The show has been held on the island every summer for around 100 years. Records show there used to be good entries in cattle, sheep, pony and other livestock classes.
Although the population has remained reasonably steady at around 800, enthusiasm for the show has dwindled.
At a meeting convened earlier in the year to assess whether there was sufficient interest to continue the show, only two people attended. At last year's show there were only nine exhibitors in both the sheep and cattle sections the pony sections having already become extinct.
'Ten years ago it was still a good going show,' said Alexander MacInnes, committee member of Tiree Agricultural Society 'but folk just can not be bothered now. There is no excuse for it really there are plenty of other days in the year to get things done. I can't see the show coming back. It was sad because it was a great day out and it would be financially rewarding for exhibitors.'

Friendly traffic warden's farewell
WARM tributes to Oban's friendly traffic warden, Johnny Morrison, who retired this week after more than 14 years' service were paid at Monday's meeting of Oban Community Council.
Presenting Mr Morrison with a cheque on behalf of townspeople, Norma Wright, council chairman, spoke of the sadness Oban people felt at his departure and said that his consideration, courtesy, constant concern and sympathy for the motorist would be greatly missed.

The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 578

ACROSS
1. Pig-sized amphibious rodent of Central and South America (8)
5. First man in the Old Testament (4)
9. Ship in which Jason sailed in search of the Golden Fleece (6)
10. Robert, 19c German composer of the piano pieces Kreisleriana (8)
11. Manuel, president of the Spanish republic until overthrown by Franco in 1939 (5)
12. Ancient Greek or Roman two-handled narrow-necked jar for wine or oil (7)
13. 1954 Ian Fleming novel (4,3,3,3)
14. Asian republic whose main seaport is Karachi (8)
15. Small Andean antelope with short straight horns and a reddish-brown spotted coat (4)
16. John, artist known as a book illustrator, notably for works by Lewis Carroll (7)
17. In classical mythology, the goddesses of the seasons (5)
18. 'The -', 1898 sculpture by Rodin (4)
19. Fourth period of the Palaeozoic era, during which amphibians first appeared (8)

DOWN
2. Region of central Italy between the Adriatic and the Apennines (7)
3. Capital of the Cameroon Republic (7)
4. New Zealand cricketer who took 431 wickets and scored 3124 runs in his Test career (7,6)
6. Substance associated with a sixtieth wedding anniversary (7)
7. Walter, U.S. Democratic vice-president 1977-81 (7)
8. 'The Color -', novel by Alice Walker (6)
13. City and health resort in Russia on the Voronezh River (7)
14. Group of Scandinavian pirates who terrorised northern waters from the 8c to the 10c (7)
15. State capital of Texas (6)
16. 1903 novel by Joseph Conrad (7)
17. State of the central U.S. whose capital is Indianapolis (7)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS
1. Heath (8)
5. Fashionable (4)
9. Island (4)
10. Thug (8)
11. Laziness (5)
12. Copy (7)
13. Merchant ship (7,6)
18. Vigorous (8)
19. Secure (4)
20. Furtiveness (7)
21. Joyous (5)
22. Row (4)
23. Conceded (8)

QUICK CLUES DOWN
2. Narrow-minded (7)
3. Thrown out (7)
4. Eminent (13)
6. Cavalrymen (7)
7. Hide (7)
8. Hunger (6)
13. Passage (7)
14. Accomplish (7)
15. Perfect standards (6)
16. Mistrust (7)
17. Compel (7)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Hecuba; 4 Images; 9 Childhood's End; 10 Effendi; 11 India; 12 Chuck; 14 Banjo; 18 Yarra; 19 Rubicon; 21 Bouillabaisse; 22 Linnet; 23 Downes.
Down: 1 Hockey; 2 Cliff Thorburn; 3 Baden; 5 Madeira; 6 Glenda Jackson; 7 Saddam; 8 Loris; 13 Charlie; 15 Cymbal; 16 Arras; 17 Angels; 20 Bravo.
QUICK - Across: 1 Retort; 4 Refute; 9 Communicative; 10 Precede; 11 Total; 12 Bathe; 14 Scent; 18 Trend; 19 Respite; 21 Preponderance; 22 Assist; 23 Pellet.
Down: 1 Recipe; 2 Temperateness; 3 Route; 5 Elastic; 6 Unintentional; 7 Evenly; 8 Mimed; 13 Hideous; 15 Utopia; 16 Pride; 17 Decent; 20 Serve.

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Glencoe shepherd loses licence

A GLENCOE shepherd was banned from driving for a year after admitting drink driving.

Alexander Elliot McEwan, aged 45, of 8 Croft Road, Ballachulish, admitted driving with 57mcgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath, while the limit is 35mcgs, on February 22 this year between Loanfern Road and Croft Road, Ballachulish.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith told the court that McEwan, who had no previous convictions, was seen in a local shop by an off-duty police officer who detected a strong smell of alcohol and saw McEwan driving away.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'He has been a shepherd in Glencoe and Glen Etive all his life. It is a huge area to cover. He had been working on the hill all weekend and came off the hill on Sunday evening. He had consumed two cans of beer at a sheep fank and was driving home.'

'The ban is potentially catastrophic to his work as he is required to travel on public and private roads.'

The court also heard that Mr McEwan would be unable to continue as a member of Glencoe Mountain Rescue Team as he would be unable to respond promptly to call outs.

Sheriff Douglas Small also fined McEwan £300.

Fort joiner banned from driving

A FORT William joiner has been banned from driving after admitting a drink-driving charge.

William Whyte, aged 53, of Tigh Buidhe, Druimbarin, Fort William, admitted driving with 44mcgs of alcohol in 100mls of breath, when the limit is 35mcgs, at the West End car park, Fort William, at around 7.20am on December 15 last year.

Defence agent David Dewar said his client had been driving for 37 years and this was his first offence.

'This is a morning after incident,' said Mr Dewar. 'He underestimated the sobering time from the night before.'

Banning Whyte from driving for a year and fining him £300 Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It is very regrettable that someone with your good driving record appears before the court for the first time in connection with a drink driving charge.'

Man admits supplying drugs in Fort William

SENTENCE was deferred at Fort William Sheriff Court last week on a Glasgow man who admitted being concerned in the supply of cannabis.

Silvio Gutierrez, aged 29, of 291 Wilton Street, admitted being concerned in the supply of the drug on March 9 and 10 last year at Achintore Road, Fort William, Inverness and other places in the Highlands. Sentence was deferred until April 2 this year for reports to be made available to the court.

Woman injured in crash

A WOMAN was seriously injured in a two-car collision on the A86 between Roy Bridge and Laggan on Sunday evening.

Four people were injured in the accident which occurred about 4.50pm, 10 miles east of the Lochaber village. The woman and a less seriously injured person were taken to the Belford Hospital, Fort William. Two others, believed to have sustained minor injuries, were airlifted to Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Police and a Fort William fire and rescue crew attended the scene.



Hector MacLean with co-ordinator Alyson Smith, left, and project worker Elaine MacNeil at the official opening.

Lochaber Hope opens new centre

LOCHABER Hope officially launched its new Fort William drop-in centre on Friday at a special open day.

Local people and partner organisations got a chance to look round the new premises at Unit 39A, Ben Nevis Industrial Estate, and find out what Lochaber Hope offers.

Key speakers included David Stewart from Highland Employers Coalition, Marion Smith from Voluntary Action Lochaber, Mary MacDonald from Newstart Highland and Fiona Gibson

from Job Centre Plus. Members and volunteers gave their own personal take on Lochaber Hope's work before Hector Maclean, chairman of Lochaber Drug and Alcohol Forum, summed up. The drop-in centre, named 'Hope', is open Monday to Friday from 12 noon to 4pm.

'Trained mentors are on duty to offer support or a listening ear if required, but you can also just relax, read, chat, try crafts or some other activity or simply have some quiet time,' project co-

ordinator Alyson Smith told *The Oban Times*.

Central to Lochaber Hope's work is advising people on self-help activities and confidence-building techniques, often on a one-to-one basis.

'We don't think we know what is best for people, we are just giving people choices and the support they need to make those choices.'

'We listen to people and give them the opportunity to be heard and to say what they want,' said Ms Smyth.

A kiss for drug dealer as he is led to cells

A FORT William woman ran to give her drug dealing boyfriend a last kiss before he was taken down to begin a two-year sentence.

An astonished courtroom looked on as Sandra MacLachlan pushed past court officers at Fort William Sheriff Court to embrace Glasgow dealer Christopher Gerard Dempsey.

Dempsey, aged 30, of Whitecreek, Glasgow, had admitted being concerned in the supply of heroin between October 7 2007 and March 2 2008 at a house in Lochside and elsewhere in Scotland.

Ms MacLachlan, 22, had a not guilty plea to the same charge accepted by the crown.

The court heard Dempsey was caught with more than 17 grammes of heroin at the Lochside address - the home

of his girlfriend's grandfather - after police searched the premises following a tip-off.

Procurator Fiscal Ian Smith said: 'When police entered they found the accused, the former co-accused and a third person in a rear bedroom. They appeared to be rather shocked at the appearance of the police.'

'During a search a quantity of heroin was found in a bag. It had a potential street value of £2,443. Also in the bedroom were two sets of scales, cling film and kitchen foil. In a rear pocket of Dempsey's jeans £460 in notes was found.'

DNA swabs taken from Dempsey linked him to the drugs and a number of text messages on his mobile phone were highly suggestive of drug dealing.

Dempsey's defence agent

told the court that his client was presently serving a four-year sentence for assault.

He said: 'He has had a heroin addiction problem for eight years. He was effectively buying wholesale to make best use of the money he had. He developed from social supply to commercial supply.'

'His long-standing girlfriend is a native of Fort William. They were in the habit of visiting her grandfather, who is in his 80s, every two to three months. He [Dempsey] knew people here and they knew he was involved in heroin.'

Jailing Dempsey for two years and two months Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'People who deal in drugs on a commercial basis can expect to be dealt with very severely. You were concerned in the supply of class A drugs over a period of five months.'

Cash keeps Skye history project alive

THE MUSEUM of the Isles at Armadale on the Isle of Skye has been awarded £15,000 to continue a major World War II local history initiative.

The cash, from the Big Lottery Fund, will enable the museum, run by the Clan Donald Lands Trust, to undertake its 'Crofters and the Second World War' project under phase two of Museums Galleries Scotland's 'Their Past Your Future Scotland' programme.

The museum will gather and record personal histories and examine how the Second World War affected people's lives in Skye and Lochalsh.

The Eilean Ban Trust and Comunn Eachdraidh Shlèite will work with local primary schools, exploring themes including 'the war effort', 'food rationing and recipes', 'crops and animals' and 'the war comes to the crofters'.

Museum of the Isles archivist

Maggie MacDonald said: 'We are very pleased to be associated with such an important national initiative and to be able to work with partners throughout Skye and Lochalsh.'

'It is crucial that this information is collected now, before it is too late, and to involve young people in the chronicling of their history.'

Invaluable first hand accounts, experiences and veterans' stories from World War II and all

subsequent conflicts that would otherwise be lost forever are being gathered. A total of 300 on-line vignettes of oral histories and associated illustrative exhibits from local collections will be produced, using diary extracts, newspaper articles, old photographs, archive film and old documents and paintings.

The culmination of the project will see a touring exhibition travelling across Skye and Lochalsh and an exhibition at

the museum in 2010. The Isle of Skye initiative was developed with the Highland Council cultural co-ordinator and Dualchas Heritage Service.

'Their Past, Your Future Scotland' was begun in 2005 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

A main aim is to involve young people in hearing and collecting war veterans' personal testimonies.

Second chance for community councils

SIX LOCHABER communities get a second chance this week to restore their community councils after five months without grassroots representation.

Acharacle, Caol, Corpach (Kilmallie), Inverloch and Torlundy, Kinlochleven and Mallaig have been without a community council since last October, when too few people came forward to stand for election.

Highland Council is now to run the process again in the hope enough nominations will be received to allow community councils to reform and begin tackling local issues once more.

Lochaber wards manager Dot Ferguson said: 'Community councils play a vital role in local democratic decision making by providing a grass roots voice to help inform a wide range of plans and processes.'

They are the main statutory bodies which local authorities and many other agencies, including the Scottish government, use to gauge local opinion.

'Their views in both consultations and in planning applications are invaluable. In addition, many community councils develop and run small projects themselves and help others by offering guidance and advice in a range of matters.'

'I would encourage anyone with an interest in sitting on a community council to come forward for nomination. It is both an important and very satisfying role.'

Nomination papers are available from today (Thursday) from Ms Ferguson, the returning officer at Lochaber House, Fort William, or from Highland Council service points.

More information on 01397 707231 or e-mail dot.ferguson@highland.gov.uk.

Man to pay compensation to sister after assault at child's birthday party

AN UNEMPLOYED Fort William man who assaulted his sister at a child's birthday party has been ordered to perform 140 hours of community service.

Gordon Stewart Thomson, aged 40, of 35 Lochaber Road, admitted assaulting the woman by seizing her by the throat and pushing her into a wall and door at an address in Fort William on October 24 last year.

Thomson also admitted assaulting a police officer and breach of the peace charges on the A82 in Fort William on the same date.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'A significant quantity of alcohol was consumed, not only by Mr Thomson.'

'A trivial argument developed into a much more serious incident and he completely lost control of the situation.'

Drunk Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'Because this was an incident involving two drunk people I shall refrain from a custodial sentence.'

Thomson was also ordered to pay £500 compensation to his victim.



Winners: left to right, Leah Walker, Campbell, Tyra Scallie and Briony Melrose.

Lochside's Got Talent boosts UNICEF appeal

LOCHSIDE RC Primary School pupils put on a great show in the school last Friday to help children their own age living half way around the world.

When the parent council heard UNICEF was appealing for funds to aid its work in Papua New Guinea, they organised a 'Lochside's Got Talent' event - and raised £51.

Judges were the school's favourite jannie, the recently retired Joe Wilson, Mr Sturrock and Miss Divers.

'We had a real variety of acts, with lots of different instruments being played, dancing, singing and jokes,' said head teacher Violet Smith. 'The children surpassed all our expectations.'

The whole school voted for the best acts. Winners were Tyra Scallie, Megan Campbell, Briony Melrose and Leah Walker, who was voted the overall winner with her rendition of 'Ave Maria'.

The girls each received a voucher for WH Smith as a prize.

Glencoe and Loch Leven tourism research paints bright picture

TOURISM is thriving in south Lochaber, according to research carried out by Glencoe and Loch Leven Marketing Association.

Presenting the results of a poll he recently conducted amongst the 90 association members at the group's AGM, retiring chairman David Cooper said the figures were 'really encouraging' and showed local tourism, as number one industry for jobs, was performing strongly.

He said: 'Of those who responded, 75 per cent indicated that their business had increased their turnover over the previous year, and for some the year had been a record one.'

'This in itself is very encouraging and goes some way to offset the economic picture of doom and gloom

which we are being bombarded with by the press on a daily basis. By constantly focussing on the negative, the press has exacerbated what is a difficult situation. We have some good, positive, economic news here and it needs to be broadcast.'

The research also looked at forward bookings for accommodation providers for the coming season.

Mr Cooper said: 'The results are staggering, with 95 per cent of respondents reporting an increase in forward bookings over those they had at the same time last year. So not only was last season a very good one, all the signs are that it is going to be even better in 2009.'

Local bed and breakfast provider Andy Collins warned against taking

dire economic headlines at face value. He said: 'We are as a nation too pessimistic and we are very gullible when it comes to what the media tells us.'

'I do take heart and encouragement from talking to others and hearing about the positive.'

'We are not being hit like the rest of the country and let's continue to talk up, not talk down our business.'

Mr Cooper hopes VisitScotland might do more research of its own to see if what is happening in Glencoe and Loch Leven is mirrored across the rest of the Highlands.

'If this were the case, we should be shouting this from the mountain tops and spearheading a national economic recovery,' he said.

Hydro scheme cash windfall for Morvern

COMMUNITIES in Morvern could be in line for a £10,000 a year cash windfall from two small-scale hydro-electric schemes planned for a local estate.

Councillors have already agreed to a 0.75 megawatt scheme and Scottish ministers look likely to approve a 1.5 megawatt project on Ardtornish Estate at Loch Teanait and at Rannoch.

Plans for the new power source include upgrading the present dam and building a new intake weir at Loch Teanait, to be connected by a pipeline to a powerhouse on the River Rannoch.

Talks led by local councillor Michael Foxley to agree the level of community benefit are to be arranged.

Councillor Foxley is aiming for between £5,000 and £10,000 annually and has requested a short term liaison group be set up involving the estate, Highland Council, Morvern Community Council and the developers.

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GAEELIC MATTERS



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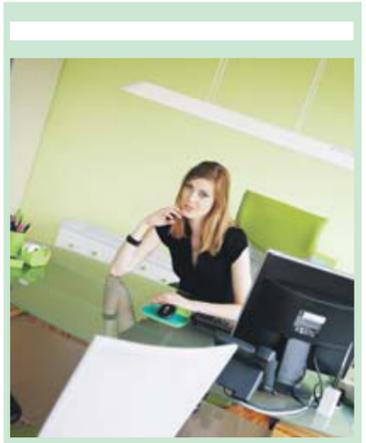
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 • Highlight on Gaelic learners in North Lanarkshire

• Live review of Maeve MacKinnon's recent appearance at Leith Folk Club
 • Review of 'Cadal Cuain' by Catriona Watt
 • Competitions, 'Guess the Gàidhlig' with Real Radio and 'What does Gaelic mean to you?'
 • Latest round up of events throughout the country

Fèisean nan Gàidheal

Fèisean nan Gàidheal is an independent association of Gaelic arts tuition festivals. Over the years, while retaining its support of local Fèisean at the core of what it does, the organisation has grown into an agency at the heart of Gaelic and traditional music development in Scotland. The organisation has staff deployed across the Highlands & Islands supporting 45 Fèisean throughout Scotland with grant-aid, development planning, the loan of musical instruments, the provision of teaching resources and development of the use of Gaelic.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal also has a drama company, Meanbh-Chuileag, that tours schools with Gaelic language drama work. It runs the annual Blas Festival in partnership with the Highland Council and the Promoters' Arts Network, and it organises the tuition of traditional music in all Highland Council schools. The organisation supports summer Cèilidh Trails and local drama Fèisean, as well as a national Gaelic Drama Summer School.



Lorn Gaelic Partnership

Lorn Gaelic Partnership increases its Partners

Lorn Gaelic Partnership is a community based organisation operating in the wider Lorn area. The partnership is open to anyone with an interest in the development of the Gaelic Language and Culture. The primary aim of the Lorn Gaelic Partnership is the continued revitalisation of Gaelic in the Lorn area. It does this through partnership working with the many and varied organisations offering Gaelic activities in the area and through promotion and awareness raising. Membership has increased dramatically recently and partners now include representation from Argyll and Bute Council Education service who are committed to providing quality Gaelic Education across the region, Comann nam Pàrant operating in Oban and Appin and representing parents of children in Gaelic Medium Education, Comhairle na Sgoiltean Àraich (CNSA) who offer Gaelic in the Home courses and conversation classes, Appin Gaelic Interest Group who meet frequently and arrange events with a Gaelic flavour, An Comunn Gàidhealach who will be hosting the Royal National Mod in Oban in 2009 and annually hold the provincial Mod early in June, Comunn an Luch-ionnsachaidh Gàidhlig (CLI) that offer Gaelic tuition classes on a regular basis, Fèis Latharna that promotes Gaelic and the music and culture of the Gaels through singing classes, musical tuition and the Easter Fèis, Sradagan that provides a Youth Club for primary aged children with Gaelic and Croileagan an Obain that provides Gaelic Parent and Toddler groups in Appin and Oban. The Lorn Gaelic Partnership welcomes new membership and anyone interested in joining or anyone who would like to find out more about the Gaelic activities on offer should contact Donald MacLeod, Lorn Gaelic Partnership Chair at Oban Education Office, Dalintart Drive, Oban, PA34 4EF; donald.macleod@ea.argyll-bute.sch.uk or on 07824498231.

Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

Your country Your language Your Gaelic?

Have you noticed Gaelic road signs or looked at a map and seen the names of the mountains in Gaelic or heard it spoken and wished you understood? Or perhaps you remember hearing it when you were young, or on holiday in the Highlands?

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Comhairle Earra-Ghàidheal's Bhòid

Argyll and Bute Council committed to the revitalisation of Gaelic

Argyll and Bute Council continues to show its commitment to the development and revitalisation of Gaelic in the region through the implementation of its Gaelic Language Plan. The Plan was officially passed by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the government body with the responsibility of promoting and developing Gaelic in Scotland, on the 17th of June 2008. The core commitments of the Language Plan are to improve the status of Gaelic through initiatives and projects relating to Identity, Communications, Publications and Staffing and to develop and enhance the service provided by Community Services: Education and Community Services: Community Learning and Regeneration. In the first year of the Plan there has been a significant increase in the Gaelic activities undertaken by the Council. Highly successful and well attended Gaelic awareness raising days have been held for Head teachers and Council employees from a range of departments, Gaelic language learning courses are offered and are available to council staff using the new "Ulpan" teaching method and a range of promotional materials have been produced. There has been a 35% increase in the number of Primary 1 pupils registering for Gaelic Medium Education and access to Gaelic Medium Pre-school provision has grown healthily. Funding has been secured through the Gaelic Language Act Implementation Fund provided by Bòrd na Gàidhlig to carry forward a range of projects including family learning opportunities, promotion and advertising, sporting activities, outdoor education, signage and library materials. Gaelic will remain a priority for Argyll and Bute Council throughout the life of this Gaelic Language Plan and in the future, to ensure that it is used naturally and frequently in the communities of its birthplace in Scotland, Argyll.



Ceòlas

Ceòlas, winner of the 2008 Trad Awards 'Community Project of the Year', announces its line up for 2009, with the majority of tutors from 2008 returning. Alex 'Valtos' MacDonald, Alasdair "A Bhocsair" Campbell and Catriona MacIntyre will be teaching Gaelic for Beginners and Intermediate, with Creativity being available to fluent speakers.

This year will incorporate the best of previous years. Catriona Garbutt will join the Singing Team of Mairi MacInnes, Donnie Murdo MacLeod and Rona Lightfoot and Joe Peter MacLean from Cape Breton will bring his fiddle skills to join Glenn Graham, John MacLean and Harvey Beaton who return for the third year. Please see our website: www.ceolas.co.uk for full details.

Comunn na Gàidhlig a' Foillseachadh Sgeama Greis Gniomhachas nan Oileanach 2009

Tha a' bhuidheann leasachaidh, Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG) air Sgeama Greis Gniomhachas nan Oileanach a chuir air bhog airson 2009. Tha an Sgeama a' toirt cothrom do dh' oileanaich aig a' bheil Gàidhlig, a bhith ag obair còmhla ri buidhnean a tha an sàs ann an leasachadh Gàidhlig agus leasachadh coimhearsnachd.

Ann an 2008, fhuair 30 oileanaich greis gnìomhachais còmhla ri buidhnean an Leòdhas, Uibhist a-Tuath, Beinn na Fadhla, Uibhist a-Deas, Barraigh, An t-Eilean Sgitheanach, Ìle, Tìriodh, Inbhir Nis, Glaschu agus Dùn Èideann.

Thuir Eairdsidh MacIlleathain, Ceannard, CnaG, "Tha sinn toilichte mar a tha an Sgeama a' fas gach bliadhna. Bheir na greisean gnìomhachais a tha seo blasad do na h-oileanaich air na cothroman cosnaidh a tha rim faighinn ann an saoghal na Gàidhlig."

Thuir Alasdair MacLeòid bho Iomairt na Gaidhealtachd's nan Eilean, "Tha e math a' bhith a' coimhead an Sgeama a' dol bho neart gu neart. Tha na tha sinn a' cluinninn bho na h-oileanaich agus na buidhnean fastaidh a th' air pàirt a ghabhail san Sgeama gu math misneachail tha sinn mothachail air a' bhuidheann a th' aig an Sgeama air a' bhith a' daingneachadh luach na Gàidhlig mar sgil san mhargaidh-obrach."

Bu chòir oileanaich a tha an dùil pàirt a ghabhail ann an Sgeama na bliadhna-sa iarrtas a chuir gu CnaG, 5 Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis, IV2 3HQ, ro 27 Màrt 2009. Airson tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus Foirmean Iarrtais, tadhaillibh aig <http://www.cnag.org.uk/leasachadh/oigridh/greis.php>

Bu chòir do bhuidhnean a tha a' stiùireadh an gnìomhachas tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig agus a tha airson pàirt a ghabhail san Sgeama fios a chuir gu CnaG aig an oifis ann an Inbhir Nis.

Fon: 01463 234138 agus P-dealain: oifis@cnag.org.uk

Comunn na Gàidhlig launches Student Summer Placement Scheme 2009

Comunn na Gàidhlig (CnaG), the Gaelic development agency, has recently launched its 2009 Student Summer Placement Scheme. The Scheme gives Gaelic-speaking students the opportunity to work with organisations engaged in Gaelic and community development activity.

In 2008, 30 students secured placements all across Scotland with groups in Lewis, North Uist, Benbecula, South Uist, Barra, Skye, Islay, Tiree, Inverness, Glasgow and Edinburgh.

Archie Maclean, Chief Executive of CnaG, said: "We are delighted to see the Scheme developing, with student numbers increasing year on year. The work experience gives the students a valuable insight into the employment opportunities available within Gaelic organisations."

"We are grateful to Bòrd na Gàidhlig and to Highlands and Islands Enterprise for their continuing support and look forward to developing this important project."

Alasdair MacLeòid of Highlands and Islands Enterprise commented, "It's great to see this Scheme going from strength to strength. The feedback from students and employers has been very positive and we recognise the Scheme's impact in demonstrating the value of Gaelic as a skill in the labour market."

Students who wish to take part in this year's Scheme should send an application to CnaG, 5 Mitchell's Lane, Inverness, IV2 3HQ, before 27 March 2009. For further information, and to download an application form, go to <http://www.cnag.org.uk/leasachadh/oigridh/greis.php>

Organisations which conduct their business through the medium of Gaelic and who wish to participate in the Scheme should contact CnaG at the Inverness office.

Telephone: 01463 234138 and E-mail: oifis@cnag.org.uk



Tha Comhairle Earra Ghàidheal 's Bhòid toilichte taic a chumail ri Co-Roinn Ghàidhlig Latharna

Argyll & Bute Council is happy to support Lorn Gaelic Partnership



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West Highland hotels are pride of Scotland

WEST Highland hotels have brought home a host of prizes from this year's Scottish Hotel of the Year Awards.

The awards are determined by customer feedback, and event sponsors Hotel Review Scotland said 21,255 votes were cast across the 50 categories.

Kilcamb Lodge, Ardnamurchan, was runner-up in the overall award, the National Hotel of the Year, but took top honours in the Scottish Country House Hotel and Romantic Hotel of the Year.

General manager Philip Fleming accepted a gold medal award for management excellence.

Kilcamb Lodge owners Sally and David Ruthven Fox said to win Best Country House Hotel was wonderful but added that the awards were just reward for their hard-working team.

The hotel was also recently awarded gold star status by VisitScotland.

The six-bedroomed Coll Hotel picked up a hat-trick of titles retaining their Scottish Island Hotel of the Year



The Airds Hotel owner Shaun McKivragan, second from left, with Chef of the Year Paul Burns, Restaurant Manager of the Year Pawel Plura and runner-up Hotelier of the Year Robert MacKay. (11a1ad01)

award, as well as National Hotel Restaurant of the Year and the Rising Star award for small hotels.

As pleased as they were with the Rising Star prize, owners Julie and Kevin Oliphant were just as puzzled.

Julie explained: 'It was an eye-opener to hear we are still rated as a rising star as we are celebrating our 25th anniversary of ownership this year!'

'But it shows we may have even further to go and certainly won't be resting on our laurels.'

Another big winner on the night was Airds Hotel, Appin, which came out on top in two categories and gained runner-up spots in four other categories.

The Airds' Paul Burns was named Chef of the Year and Pawel Plura was named Restaurant Manager of the Year.

Pawel came to Appin from Poland five years ago for what was supposed to be an eight-month placement from university but said he fell in love with Appin the day he arrived.

Pawel, aged 27, said: 'I am very pleased with the award because it is based on people's feedback. You try to do your best every day and this award proves people appreciate that.'

Ken Gunn, formerly of Oban, and Anne Gracie, who together own Toravaig Hotel and Duisdale House Hotel in Sleat, Skye, were celebrating winning three awards.

Duisdale, a former Victorian shooting lodge won Boutique Hotel of the Year and also picked up an award for its cutting edge interior design.

Toravaig Hotel was named Innovative Hotel of the Year for hosting weddings on board its luxury sailing yacht, Solus na Mara and the hotel's head chef, Andy Lipp, was awarded a Medallion D'Or.

Glenfinnan House Hotel was voted Small Country House Hotel of the Year and was a Rising Star in the medium-sized hotel category.

Runner-up prizes went to Taychreggan Hotel, Kilchreanan, and Langass Lodge, Lochmaddy in the Romantic Hotel and Island Hotel categories respectively.

Cheat's 'small' matter of still being wed

Bigamist claims he did not fully understand marriage form

A BIGAMIST told Campbelltown Sheriff Court he 'couldn't read the small print' when he was filling in the marriage form.

Mark Reilly, aged 41, who now lives at 28 Croft Road, Oban, admitted he married for the third time on November 2, 2006 having failed to complete the divorce proceedings for his second marriage.

Reilly and wife number three made their home together in Kintyre.

At an earlier hearing procurator fiscal deputy Alastair McSparran said that father-of-six Reilly, who works as a carer, had produced the decree from his first marriage for the registrar who had not suspected anything was amiss.

Reilly had inferred at that first hearing that his third wife had been aware of the matter and the case was adjourned until last Thursday for Sheriff Ruth Anderson to hear proofs in mitigation.

Mr McSparran said this was not the case and that when Reilly's victim read this in the press she had been 'very distressed'.

Under oath, Reilly told the court that he had thought that as he and his second wife had lived apart for so long they were divorced.

He admitted that when he filled in the forms for his third marriage with his bride to be he had ticked the box saying he was divorced.

'I couldn't read the small print,' he claimed. Reilly said that his third wife did not know that he was still married.

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC sentenced Reilly to carry out 150 hours of unpaid work in the community as an alternative to custody.

She told him: 'You went through with this bigamous marriage knowing there was a real prospect of you being married. That was a dreadful breach of trust and one can only begin to try to imagine what she felt like to have discovered that awful deceit.'

Sheriff Anderson added: 'I don't know if you are devious or just rather stupid and given how you gave your evidence today I'm not really sure.'

Fish farms jobs boost

UP TO 200 fish-farming jobs throughout Argyll and the west Highlands have been safeguarded by a £17 million investment by the new owners of Scotland's third-largest salmon producer.

Lighthouse Caledonia operates a processing plant at Cairndow, Loch Fyne, employing 55, and more than 40 sites throughout the west coast.

The new owners of the company, private equity investor Northern Link, said this week that jobs in Argyll were safe in the 'short-term' and they may even add to staff numbers in the future.

Northern Link, which has a number of investments in aquaculture industry in countries including Norway, Peru and Russia, took a controlling interest in Lighthouse Caledonia following a share issue earlier this year.

Last year 130 staff lost their jobs when a processing plant closed in Stornoway after Lighthouse suffered a cash-flow crisis.

A spokeswoman for Lighthouse Caledonia said: 'In the short-term we have given assurance that there will be no further redundancies and when the business case allows we will consider adding to staff numbers.'

Donations sought

DONATIONS for the annual Tobermory High School Summer Fair, held on Mull in June, are now being collected.

Good quality items and unwanted presents should be taken to the school or given to parent council chairwoman Andi Stevens.

• Do you have a story? Call **The Oban Times** on 01631-568000

Estate agents say business is picking up

ESTATE agents in Oban say the property business in the town has begun to pick up in the early part of this year.

DM MacKinnon Estates director Paul Nicoll said that his company has sold 21 houses so far this year with a combined value of more than £4.5 million.

Mr Nicoll added that he had 'seriously interested' buyers seeking to move to Argyll.

He said: 'There has been a considerable amount of negative publicity in recent months which has resulted in potential housebuyers and sellers deciding, on the basis of that information, not to enter into the market.'

Mortgages
'We are finding now that mortgages are more freely available and we are now receiving far more enquiries

about properties and also arranging a lot more viewings with a number of negotiations still ongoing.

'We are finding that the market has certainly begun to pick up over the past two weeks and we now have seriously interested buyers, not only from the local area, but also from the rest of the United Kingdom seeking to move to Argyll.'

Sandy Henry, estate agent with McPhee and Partners, said that people were viewing a lot more properties since the beginning of this year.

Enquiries
He said: 'We have had a lot of enquiries since January, people are starting to view properties and that's followed through with offers being made. The market has actually been quite good.'

Paths network plan can be viewed

ARDRISHAIG Public Hall saw the launch of the Argyll and Bute Core Paths Plan consultation last week.

Around 100 people turned up last Thursday to hear the proposals for the 1,004 core path network for the area.

Maps showing the proposed paths network were available for interested parties to view.

Public events are also planned across Argyll and Bute to give people an understanding on the proposals.

John Auld of Argyll and Bute Access Forum said: 'It is important for the public and land managers to spend time



Pictured from left are Councillor Ron Simon, John Auld of Argyll and Bute Access Forum and Jolyon Gritten, access manager. (11path01)

considering these proposals.' argyll-bute.gov.uk/corepaths. For more information visit the council's website at www. The consultation ends on June 1.

ADVERTISING FEATURE



Director Andy Moore with technicians Keith Smith and Harry Russell

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islands offering a convenient mobile service to islanders.

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Other services include window tinting, glass repair and replacement.

Director Andy Moore started the company in October 2007 after working for over 20 years in the trade.

The company have now moved to new purpose-built premises at Glenshellach Business Park in Oban and at the Ben Nevis Industrial Estate in Fort William.

'If someone gets a crack in their windscreen they will perhaps phone their insurance company. But the insurance company will put you through to a call centre.'

'We can offer a better service if people phone us direct, then we can direct-bill the insurance company, saving the customer all the hassle of phone calls and call centres.'

'We can also go over to the

islands and provide a convenient mobile service direct to your door. If the demand is there we can also provide a service without passing on ferry charges to the customers.'

The company also have ambitious plans for the future and plan to expand into providing a one-stop shop for tyres, exhausts and brakes.

Contact Express Windscreen Services on Freephone 0800 917 2709 or using the office number 01631 565565 or the www.express-windcreenservices.co.uk website.

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www.thehighlandtheatre.co.uk for full listings and future presentations

Cinema The Highland Theatre

George Street, Oban, PA34 5NX - Box Office: 01631 562444

From Friday 13th March for 7 days

WATCHMEN	Cert 18 162mins
FRI - SUN	5.30, 8.30
MON - THURS	8.30
CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC	Cert PG 104mins
DAILY	3.15, 6.00, 8.15
SAT/SUN MATINEES	12.45
HOTEL FOR DOGS	Cert U 100mins
SAT & SUN ONLY	1.00, 3.30
REVOLUTIONARY ROAD	Cert 15 100mins
MON - THURS	3.30, 6.15

FROM FRIDAY 20TH MARCH
DOUBT - 15 • THE UNBORN - 15

BIG SCREEN - Tuesday 31st March
Film showing for mums/carers and babies. 'Mama Mia' 11am

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 reconvenes 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.

CONFESSIONS OF A SHOPAHOLIC CERT 'PG'

In the glamorous world of New York City, Rebecca Bloomwood is a compulsive shopper who is up to her neck in debt. She dreams of working for her favourite fashion magazine, but can't quite get her foot in the door - until ironically, she snags a job as an advice columnist for a financial magazine published by the same company. As her dreams are finally coming true, she goes to ever more hilarious and

Notes and quotes

The Journey

A jaunt to the Island of Mull is always a treat - the race for the boat, the sail over by Lismore lighthouse and Duart Castle, the CalMac steak pie, then the bus to Tobermory. But the purpose of the trip is to see Sorren MacLean and his band at that wee gem of a venue that is An Tobar. Sorren and the band have been causing a bit of a stir with the new single - "Bus, tax and bars" and the tour of Scotland's principal cities. Both have rated good reviews - so off it was to Mull. Bowman's busses have been providing excellent service to points North and South on the island for many years. As we boarded, I enquired of the driver 'did the route still go round by Breadalbane Street?'

The reply was simple 'yes, it does - tell me where are you staying and I will drop you at the door'. Now that's called service. And so it was - door to door! Mull is very special.

The Oban Times Social Scene

To buy photos, contact The Oban Times office on 01631 568000

Show organiser Pauline Cameron was announcer for the evening. t11fair07

ARGYLL'S first Fairtrade Fashion Show attracted a large audience to Cuan Mor, Oban, to promote fair wages for women who produce clothing in third world countries. The event, held last Thursday by the Oban Fair Trade Steering Group, featured clothes from the Fairtrade fashion pioneer People Tree. Pauline Cameron, show organiser and owner of personal shopping service, Fashionfair, said: 'Most of the clothing we buy on the high street is produced in south-east Asia. The difference with the clothes on show here is that people - often women - who produce clothing, are paid a fair price for their skills. 'In rural villages in Bangladesh, working in partnership with People Tree to make clothes is the only employment.' Pauline said all profit from the evening's ticket sales will go to develop Fairtrade educational resources for young people in the area.

www.oban.org.uk the definitive web guide to Oban that enjoys 20 million hits

We can help you to help your business. Visit: www.oban.org.uk TODAY!

Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
An issue you may prefer to keep hidden may burst into the open. Or it could be you who is driven to winkle the truth out. If you feel isolated in any way, this probably isn't helping. Your pride can be one of your great motivating forces, but if you're keeping up pretences in order to keep yours intact, it may actually prevent someone from tuning into you. Call me now for more news and advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
This can be an exciting time with lots of possibilities for dramatic new threads to develop, but whether you will view it this way or not, may depend on if you are "in the space" to welcome these into your life. If you are, it can be quirky or rather edgy types who seem to attract you. You can find their caring ways a pleasant contrast to your liking for routine. Call for your in-depth forecast...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
You can either find yourself playing the role of the rebel or needing to deal with someone who sees you as the "out of touch" authority figure. Or else fast-moving events in the professional sphere can put a spoke in the wheel of previously planned family or social downtime. Yet you can show a lot more drive and confidence from here on in Gemini. Call your special prediction line for more...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
It may be time to throw the dice of life, however if you're naturally disinclined towards taking risks, this may go against the grain. But whether you see yourself as a go-getting Crab or someone who prefers being with close family and friends, some part of your life can benefit from a form of breakout. Everyone is different, so just which is down to you. Call now for more astral advice...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
Being the most regal member of the zodiac you're used to a certain standard of living and compromising on this can be hard, especially if the affects of any limitations can be seen by those around you. It's not that you are a snob, simply that your pride is important to your self-image. Yet if you delay any cost cutting, events may move beyond your control. Call for your financial forecast...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
Make or break? It's an oft used expression but it may be entirely apt as to how things stand around a close tie. If you think you're doing and have done everything, to make this work better, and your partner seems immune to all this, a sudden parting is possible, but then a feisty quarrel could bring a lot of issues out into the open, which may need airing. Call me now for your love scope in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
The Full Moon is still much in force as this week kicks off and has coincided with the unpredictable energies of Uranus. With Mars also moving, this would be an opportune time to take a look at your overall health regime, not for any worrying reason, but because there's an excellent opportunity to get fitter - if you're self-honest about what you can improve upon. Call now for more astral advice...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd
If you've found yourself clinging to a situation, perhaps because it's what you have known for some time, a big change is possible. However tough it is to go through with this, you may decide that the only thing worth protecting is your integrity and you can do this by embracing your freedom. Don't expect an uneventful passage. This may prove bumpy. Call your special prediction line for more...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
If there's a major cat or resilience, you'd surely use it now. But if something is in a state of flux, eventually calm will emerge from all this, even if it is simply a clearer understanding of the theory of chaos. Think deeply about the cause of your frustration. However, a word to the good, watch you don't project your angst onto innocent others. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
If you sense that someone is trying to control your point of view - which may not come from direct confrontation - as much as a desire to avoid talking a thorny issue through, you may decide the gloves have to come off. But if you're too quick to react, you may overlook important nuances. If you feel wired up, try to connect with nature Capricorn. Call me now for more news and advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
This week can ebb and flow - especially as far as finances are concerned. If you've been applying yourself feverishly for some time fortune could fall for you, and unexpectedly. Yet equally, there may be a sudden cost that can crop up. If you've been struggling to pay tax or mortgage arrears, you may need to think on your feet. A novel solution may be the answer. Call for your financial forecast...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
Whether it's a physical or psychological disposition you feel you're labouring under you can find yourself craving to escape it. But with freedom comes responsibility and others may perceive any rash moves as selfishness. On the other hand, you may feel neither and simply be in the mood for excitement, to kick up your heels and be a tad crazy. Call your special prediction line for more...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785, EC1P 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline
For entertainment purposes only

REVOLUTIONARY ROAD CERT '15'

Directed by Sam Mendes and bringing Leonardo DiCaprio and recent best actress winner, Kate Winslet together again in this adaptation of the novel by Richard Yates. This is an incisive portrait of an American marriage seen through the eyes of failed actor April (Winslet) who hates the suburban Connecticut life she shares with her corporate copywriter husband, Frank (DiCaprio) who is also in a rut of his own. The movie keeps the period setting, but to its credit, rarely falls into nostalgia. Yates' story of 1950's America poses a question that has been reverberating through modern relationships ever since: can two people break away from the ordinary without breaking apart?

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

What's On Guide

Various art courses available at Airdeny Chalets, contact Jennifer on 01866 822648

Saturday 14th March
O'Donnell's Irish Pub, St Patrick's with Guinness promotions, live band - Hercules Mandarin, live sport - 6 Nations 3pm

Tuesday 17th March
St Patrick's Day - O'Donnell's Irish Pub

Wednesday 18th March
The Enemy, Corran Halls, 8pm

Thursday 19th March
Local Producers Market, Kintallen Farm, Benderloch 10am - 3pm

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 Chillii Pipers, Corran Halls, 8pm

WHAT'S ON GUIDE CONTACT - 01631 568000

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

BRUNO

10 month old Staffy boy, is neutered. Nice friendly wee boy who would make a nice family pet.

Please contact Jean on 01631 566406 after 8 pm.
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
<http://www.smallpaws.co.uk>
Reg. charity SCO13211

O'Donnell's Irish Pub

St. Patrick's SATURDAY 14th MARCH
LIVE BAND
Hercules Mandarin

ST PATRICK'S DAY TUESDAY 17th MARCH
START THE 'CRAIC' LIVE SPORT
WITH A FREE GLASS OF GUINNESS
6 NATIONS SAT 14th 3PM
OLD FIRM GAME SUN 15th 3PM
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED
BIGGEST SCREENS IN TOWN

An Tobar

Supporting Sorren MacLean at An Tobar was a delightful young singer songwriter by the name of Anna Meldrum. Anna enthralled the standing room only crowd with clever songs whose lyrics told stories of angst and procrastination, of loves lost and won, and of under eating. The latter, 'Birdseed' had the audience applaud so long and loud that she declared it the best response she has ever received. 'King of the couch' and 'Soldier song' also impressed the audience and by then we were firm friends. Anna has a bright future so watch out for her and her songs. Available on MySpace.

And so to the main event. Sorren MacLean enters stage with a confidence that says 'I'm home!' Backed by John Barlow on drums and Gordon Maclean on "very big" bass, the band romps through a repertoire of less than a dozen songs. They are great pop and rock. MacLean's skill on guitar appears effortless and the vocals are distinctive enough to be special on songs that are all self penned and satisfying. 'White shoes - no laces' and 'Those golden years' are highlights in a slick show that will now move round the summer festivals.

'It's great to be home and in front of a home audience', declares Sorren after the performance. The band is tight and professional and ready for bigger things. Paulo Nuttini and his 'new shoes' are juxta positioned against Sorren Maclean and his old, broken, but loved white sandshoes. Comparisons will be made. Could Sorren be the revelation of the summer of 2009?

Festival time

2009 might be 'a difficult year' for festivals, some have predicted, but with the exception of Connect which has been shelved for this year, tickets are selling very well. Glastonbury and T in the Park are sold out - no doubt due to them being the best the UK has to offer. Others will do well, I predict, as folk try to escape the persistent talk of financial doom and gloom.

So what's on offer? Well without leaving the Highlands we have the biggies of Loopalu and Belladrum. Smaller and closer at hand might be Colonsay, Tarbert and Dunstaffnage. All are billed as wee and friendly and that's the name of the game. No details of bands are available for the latter two as yet but Colonsay is off the mark with Phil Cunningham and Aly Bain, Donald Shaw and Karen Matheson and Drever, McCusker, Woomble and Talbot providing the headliners for the Hebridean isle. September may be a wee while away but details at www.colonsay.org.uk.

Finally, complementing Colonsay, but earlier in the summer is the Heb Celt Festival in Stornoway. Four days of fun and frolics are promised featuring The Sharon Shannon Big Band, La Bottine Souriante, Michael McGoldrick Band, The Blair Douglas Band, The Wilders, Karen Matheson, Fred Morrison and Le Vent du Nord. The festival is now celebrating its 14th year and takes place on the 15th - 18th July - tickets have yet to go on sale. Details at www.hebelteffest.com

So with tent, fleece and welly boots to hand, strap on the rucksack - it's gonna be a great year!
Campbell Cameron

PUPPET ANIMATION FESTIVAL 2009

THE GARDEN GUZZLER
Sylvia Troon Stories

Monday 16th March 3.30 pm
Tickets £4 3 years +

It is crisis time for King and Queen Flowerpot! The sun and clouds are holding a contest to see who can ruin their beautiful garden. It's up to Barker, the little flowerpot dog, to find Tubby and his magic trowel, to help. The sun and clouds create a great storm and send down a bolt of lightning which strikes an old tree, creating 'The Garden Guzzler'...who is very, very hungry.

The Magic Horse
Yugen Puppet Company
Monday 23rd March 3.30pm
Tickets £4 Ages 3years +

Fingal is seeking his fortune when his tired old horse is replaced by a magical one. He is taken to a Prince, who guides him to a princess. She makes Fingal perform a number of tasks. But who will marry the princess, Fingal or the prince.

Corran Halls, Oban
Box Office: 01631 567333



The Fairtrade Fashion Show was well attended. t11fair11



All eyes are on fashion show model Leanne Gilchrist. t11fair05



Enjoying the show were friends Elizabeth Mason, Kirsty Smith and Mandy Cameron. t11fair08



Laura Hurst, left, and Angela Matthews, centre, with Lucy Hamilton. Laura produced the graphic design for the event and Angela helped with make-up. t11fair10

Accordian and fiddle club night at Oban

FORMER world champion band, The Matthew MacLennan Scottish Dance Band, was guest artiste at the March meeting of the Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club. Joining the Kiltarlity band on the programme at the Argyllshire Gathering last Thursday were a number of players from the Lom area. Twelve Lorn Junior Fiddlers, led by Donald Harrison, opened proceedings with some well-known tunes. Next on stage was young Kilmore accordionist Ruaridh Morrison, followed by fellow accordion players Sileas Sinclair, Connel; Willie Buchanan, North Connel; and Michael Garvin. On drums were Duncan Campbell and Archie Cameron, both Oban. Keyboard player Claire Jordan, Oban, teamed up with Sileas for a few entertaining numbers and the audience was surprised to hear from the chairman that this was only their second time playing together. At the close Michael Garvin remarked on how good it was to see top accordion player Hector MacFadyen in the audience following serious illness. Next month the guest artiste will be Dochie MacCallum and Friends.

The Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon & 10k events take place in Campbeltown, Kintyre on Sunday 24th May 2009.

A variety of activities will be held over the long weekend, to involve all the family, including Fun Run events for children from 6 to 14 years, a pre-race pasta party and post race ceilidh.

For further information about this year's events and how to enter please visit our website at www.mokrun.com

Entries close on Friday 1st May 2009

The 2009 Mull of Kintyre Half Marathon & 10k is a Scottish Athletics permitted race. Competitors enter under UK Athletics rules for competition.

TIMES FORUM

WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

35th Lochaber Music Festival is on the horizon

IT'S THAT time of year again! The 35th Lochaber Music Festival is fast approaching, with excellent numbers of entries this year - 480 in 138 different classes - and the promise of some entertaining performances.

The festival kicks off tomorrow, Friday 13 with piping and chanter competitions, followed by other traditional music classes on Saturday 14 - fiddle, accordion, clarsach, Scots Piano and folk groups - culminating in the Premier Traditional Instrumental Award competition.

The programme continues on Monday 16 with speech classes (poetry reciting) during the day (always good fun, though nail-biting for the parents!) and a splendid evening of string playing in the evening at Lochaber High School - solos, ensembles and orchestras.

Tuesday 17 is the day for singers, with young soloists, choirs and the

ever-popular 'action drama' classes, followed by Group Music Making and brass. Tuesday evening has Scottish Country Dancing at the Kilmallie Hall, and an exciting evening at the Ben Nevis Distillery, with the Young Musician of the Year competitions as well as piano, woodwind and brass soloists.

On Wednesday 18 the instrumental competitions continue, for young players of strings, piano, woodwind and brass, also bible reading; and then what promises to be a most enjoyable and varied evening at the high school with fine ensembles of traditional musicians and woodwind players, followed by the Premier Vocal and Instrumental Award competitions, which, like the traditional award on Saturday, feature the best solo performers from the festival.

The festival rounds off as usual with the Grand Festival Concert on Friday 20 at 7pm in Lochaber High

School, featuring a varied selection of the best performances from the whole week, along with the presentation of trophies, which this year will be carried out by Mrs Sandra Henderson, wife of Councillor Allan Henderson, Provost of Lochaber.

Festival chair Margaret Cairns said: 'We are delighted that entries are well up on last year, notably in verse speaking, group music making, piping, accordion and strings. 'We have some excellent adjudicators this year, including the welcome return after a number of years of Jean Graham from Balloch, who is well known in singing circles.'

The Festival programme is available from the High School office, VAL, or the Service Point in Fort William. The Festival 'help desk' will be at the Alexandra Hotel during the day on Mon-Wed.



Lochaber Music Festival 2008: Róisín MacArthur won the French horn elementary competition, while Dylan Simmonds, right, and Robbie Thurlow first and second in the trombone elementary.

TIMES FORUM

We want to hear your views. Contact us at WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Football success
Oban Saints defeated Kilmallie 4-0 in the 5th round of the Scottish Cup and defeated Carrick 2-1 in the 6th round. They now face a home tie against Bellshill Derby in the last 16 of a competition that started with 598 teams - well done lads! DIB16

Scalpay - the legend
Has anyone else seen the Facebook group dedicated to the legend who is Donald Morrison, the Oban Times' correspondent from Scalpay? He has a fan base! I know that he is considered to be a legend in his own lifetime in many quarters. I think he deserves a special column in this forum PILLOW

Music society's final concert of the season

THE FINAL concert in Oban Music Society's 2008/2009 season takes place in St John's Cathedral on Monday, March 16 at 7.30pm.

The Eisd Trio has been performing together since 2004 and the appealing music for combinations of voice, clarinet and piano includes works by Cherubini, Schubert, Corigliano, Arnold and Bliss.



The Enemy are ready for Oban - are you?

THE ENEMY are getting wired-up for a gig in Oban on March 18.

One night after the boys appear at a sell out gig Barrowlands they will be making their way up the west coast to the Corran Halls to play, what they are describing, as a 'mental gig'.

The boys from Coventry have been making a real mark on the music industry with a number one record and two high charting albums.

Touring alongside The Rolling Stones, The Fratellis, Snow Patrol they have hardly had a minute since they formed in 2004.

Drummer Liam Watt spoke exclusively to *The Oban Times* about their gig in Oban.

'People can come along and have a banging night. Its going to be bit mental and there will be carnage. 'Folk will be getting 110 per cent of a top band in the intimate

setting of the Corran Halls.'

Liam, a drummer who is best known for being banned from Tesco for playing football in the aisles, said that being a drummer is one of the most natural things in the world for him.

'It is in the genes. My dad and grandfather are both drummers so from the age of 12, I have hardly put the sticks down. 'The gig will be pretty raw and pretty loud. Bring your earplugs and join in the mayhem.'

Did you win tickets to the gig? The 10 winners of *The Oban Times* competition are: Katie Fleck, Arduaine; Louise Marshall, Oban; Angela Anderson, Oban; Caroline Booth, Kilmore; Anne MacKay, Onich; Kathleen Merrilees, Ardrishaig; Cara MacKay, Banavie; Nicola Tudge, Oban; N Johnston, Oban and Eilidh Douglas, Oban.

A few tickets are available for the gig by contacting the Corran Halls on 01631 567333.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Charity Coffee Morning in Regent Hotel on Saturday March 14th 2009
at 10.30am till 12 noon
Homebaking, Sales Table, Raffle
Run by Oban Inner Wheel in aid of Homestart and the MS Therapy Centre.

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD
Telephone: **01631 568000**

Oban Bowling Club
We are getting ready for the new season. If you are interested in playing bowls and would like to find out more about us please come along to The Clubhouse Dalriach Rd, Oban On March 21, 2009 at 2pm Info 01631 569690 after 6pm

Fasnacloich Gun Club
Open Shoot
2 x 25 dtl
Saturday 14th March
Start 12.00

ALZHEIMER SCOTLAND OBAN & LORN BRANCH
Dennis Hardley Presents
A Slide Show
Wednesday 18 March 2009
Church Centre, Glencruitten Road At 7.30pm.
Refreshments
Entry by donation

Oban 30 April - 3 May
Entry forms from Oban Music or www.obanfestival.org
email: info@obanfestival.org
Closing date for entries 14 March 2009
Ticket sales and information from 30th April
Tel: 07510 8441198

Spicy hot and taking on the world

THE RED Hot Chilli Pipers are making it big. Flying in from Kiev for a special interview with *The Oban Times* they speak about their influences and what they are hoping to achieve in the future.

It is not a fluke that the boys from the Chillies have made it big. Regular members of the band come with bag(pipe)s full of experience not just in this band but making their way through the more conventional routes into traditional music.

Willie Armstrong, a former fireman, was in a pipe band in the Gorbals, Glasgow. He said: 'We had to play on Christmas Day. People used to pelt us with food as we walked down the street.'

He has come along way. People now treat him, and the other band members as celebrities. They have of course given a popular voice to instruments that for a long time that have been in the wilderness.

Stuart explains: 'At one time the only way to play the bagpipes was as a soloist. Competition was the only way someone could perform. Playing in unison with other instruments, especially the mixture of music we play was almost im-

possible for the traditional piper. 'The pipes are very difficult to use as part of a band. 'Over time piping competitions have raised the key in which pipes are played. We play in Concert B flat, we all play the same brand of pipes and we rehearse like no other band. We often spend two or three hours tuning up before the concert begins - getting the sound right is so important to us.'

Three of the five members of the original set-up graduated from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama. The musicianship of the band is in no doubt, but criticism is levelled at them for their composition choice being too popular. Willie says: '90 per cent of musicians are out of work. We took a very positive decision to do something different. People like what we do because it is first class music played in a fresh and exciting way. But we never take our success for granted.'

'The people we most respect, Angus MacColl, Ian MacKerrall and Stuart Liddell other world class pipers give us as a band very positive feedback.'

Stuart reveals the men who inspired him. 'There are two pipers

who have taken risks to keep traditional music contemporary - Fred Morrison and Gordon Duncan. 'Gordon moved his piping from the margins of tradition and started to develop the music into the Scottish folk scene. While Morrison, from South Uist, is renowned for his improvisational style.'

The Chillies are known for their workshops and time they spend with fans. Willie said: 'We like to get fans up at the end of the night and if we can give them any encouragement in their music then we will. Some of the kids are better players than us, that is a bit frightening - there are some kids coming through the system now that will change the traditional music world again for the better.'

Tuning to the spring tour the boys become very animated. 'It is bigger than ever before - 18 people on stage - pipers, drummers, bass section and World Highland Dance finalists this will be a night to remember.'

'There will be a great surprise at the Oban show - it will be the first time we have ever done this thing. We aren't going to tell what it is. Folk will need to come along and find out.'



Willie and Stuart of the Red Hot Chilli Pipers talk exclusively to *The Oban Times* about their Oban concert (11piper01)

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

seal rescue centre **SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY**

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES TOKEN 3

Corran Halls
Upcoming events

RED HOT CHILLI PIPERS
Friday 27th March 8pm
Tickets: Adult £17.50 / £13.50
RESERVED SEATING

ESSENCE OF IRELAND
Friday 10th April 8pm
Tickets: Adult £16.50 / £14.50
RESERVED SEATING

MAD ABOUT MUSICALS
Saturday 11th April 8pm
Tickets: Adult £15 / £14
RESERVED SEATING

Combined ticket offer for **Essence of Ireland & Mad About Musicals Adult £28 - Concession £25**

Corran Halls, Oban
Box Office: 01631 567333

Win tickets to see Red Hot Chilli Pipers in Oban

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers are set to make a spectacular return to Oban with a show that promises to be full of surprises and you can win one of 10 pairs of tickets to see the boys.

The Oban Times has teamed up with the band to offer its readers this fantastic opportunity to see some of Scotland's finest musicians doing what they do best.

The show is on at the Corran Halls, Oban on Friday 27th March at 8pm.

To enter this fantastic competition simply answer the following question:
How many members were in the original band?

Answer.....
Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....
Email Address.....

Send your completed entry form (no photocopies) to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban Argyll PA34 4HB by 4pm 12 noon Fri 20 March.
Usual Oban Times rules apply. The Editors decision is final.

EISD TRIO
A programme of music for soprano, clarinet and piano.
Monday 16th March, 2009 at 7.30pm.
St John's Cathedral, Oban. Tickets £8/ £7 concession, under 18 free.
Part of an Argyll and Bute Concert
Tour subsidised by Enterprise Music Scotland.

Local Producers Market
Thursday 19th March
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch, 1 mile along the Tralee road 10 am to 3 pm
LOTS TO EAT AND DO
Every First / Third Thursday
Interested Producers contact 01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network www.lorn.org.uk

Savour Scotland

Chartroom II
COMING SOON! at Arduaine
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• Breathtaking views
• Modern new menu
Launch date **14 March 2009**
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www.chartroom2.com

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Tel: 01631 569777

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Try our delicious pizza and pasta take away service
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Craigard Road, Oban
Ristorante Italiano

CORIANDEr
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By gum, Oban retailers have the right attitude

All credit to Paul Sloan and his fellow Oban and Lorn Tourist Association members for being prepared to speak out about the shortcomings in Oban's appearance (in this case, the amount of chewing gum on our streets) and the damage being done to our tourist industry. Yes, they have a strong, vested interest in the town being attractive to visitors – but shouldn't we all? As Mr Sloan rightly asks, what has happened to our civic pride? We should be doing everything to ensure that our visitors, our guests, from around the world have a wonderful experience here in every way. More than ever, we need them to return.

Glasgow Letter

Glasgow Islay Association

FOLLOWING its recent gathering in Glasgow University Union, the committee of the Glasgow Islay Association can be well satisfied.

It put together a programme with a varied group of artists. Mod Gold medallists from Falkirk 2008, Kerrie Finlay and Lyle Kennedy, were there as were Kirsteen MacDonald and Arthur Cormack, also both medallists, and they all sang well. The musical items were very much the responsibility of the younger generation and this was most enjoyable.

In the absence of Pipe Major Andrew McCowan, Lysay MacArthur and Sandy McLellan's playing showed why Islay Pipe Band experienced such success in season 2008.

Siobhan Anderson and Sarah MacNeil, together with tutor Fiona Johnston from the Feis movement, make up Sgiobalta and they were a delight to listen to. With Siobhan playing the fiddle and Sarah on clarsach they showed that as well as having excellent skills they could also engage with the audience.

Iseabail Mactaggart made a first class choice of chairman. Her work was not only done on the night but beforehand and this made for an informal and friendly concert enjoyed by everyone I spoke to.

There was no long speech but instead Iseabail referred to the important role of Gaelic music and culture in our lives at various points of the evening, areas in which she is well qualified being a multi-linguist and a Mod Gold Medallist.

Young Cathryn Loach presented Iseabail and her husband Andy with mementoes of the occasion.

Accompanist for the evening was Charles Bonar deputising for Norma MacDouall who unfortunately could not be present. Everyone wishes Norma a speedy recovery.

Feis Glaschu

THIS year's Feis will take place in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama from Monday April 13 to Saturday April 18.

Non Gaelic speakers are welcome at this event, for youngsters aged 4 to 16. Those interested are advised to book now by contacting ailie.fleming@csglasgow.org or telephone 0141 287 8510.

Comunn Taobh an Iar

THE CLOSING concert will take place tonight (Thursday) at 7.30pm in Kessington Hall, Bearsden, when the artists will be Mary MacLean, Sheena Walker, Ian Carmichael and Iain G MacLean with piper Graham Richardson and Fuaim Glaschu.

Box Club Tour

THE BOX Club will play in the Brunton Theatre tomorrow

(Friday) and then in the City Halls on Sunday at 8pm.

This is part of a 14-date tour by the group which consists of a front line of four accordions, Angus Lyon, John Somerville, Mairearad Green and Gary Innes, supported by Martin O'Neill, Duncan Lyall and Michael Bryan.

Charity concerts

THE BETHESDA concert organised by Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association will take place on Thursday April 30 and not April 23 as I intimated last week.

On Friday April 17 the popular and successful Erskine Hospital Concert will take place in Clydebank Town Hall.

Shinty trophy up for grabs

WITH no shinty league fixture scheduled, the above teams will play for the Thomas Ferguson Trophy at Yokermill, Glasgow, throw up 2pm.

Diary dates

Thursday March 12: Comunn Taobh an Iar ceilidh, Kessington Halls, 7.30pm - see above. Star Folk Club, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Paul McKenna Band, CD launch.

Friday March 13: Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, 7.30pm. Box Club, Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh, 7.30pm - see above.

Saturday March 14: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Piping Competition, College of Piping, 9am. Oban High School FP Dinner Dance, Swallow Hotel, 7.30pm. 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 AGBT and ceilidh, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm.

Sunday March 15: Box Club Tour, Glasgow City Halls Recital Rooms - see above.

Friday March 20: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm.

Saturday March 21: Clann Gaidhlig concert, Auchencross Resource Centre, Barrhead, Largs Choir and friends, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm with Fraser McGlynn's Band.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be by Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Burns Brothers on Saturday and Stuart Cameron/Martin Pottinger on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and Norrie MacIver on Saturday.

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



Bonawe Scout Group - 1930s

Hector Morrison of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which is of Bonawe Scout Group in the 1930s. Included in the photo are, left to right back: Mary MacDonald; D McLaren; Bobby Brady; George Jordan; ? Cargyll and unknown. Middle: Bertie Brady; John Alec Morrison; Hector Morrison and Donald Ross. Front: Davie Brady. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of *The Oban Times* being read in far flung places. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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The Jacobite Standard

Sir, I refer to Christian Aikman's letter of March 5 regarding the place where the Jacobite Standard was raised at Glenfinnan in 1745 and the stone in which its staff was placed.

The article she refers to in *The Oban Times* of February 26 was written by a staff reporter and not by me. I agree the spot where the actual event took place has not been established beyond all reasonable doubt. However, the inscription on the knoll above the church is there. It has been authenticated as 19th century by experts and that spot, until irrefutable evidence is produced to the contrary, must remain the best contender.

Ms Aikman implies the perpetrator was a local priest indulging in a piece of Jacobite sentimentalism. If, as it has been suggested elsewhere, this was the work of the Rev Donald MacDonald of Glenaladale (1814-1895), who was responsible for the building of the nearby Catholic Church in 1873, it is highly unlikely. Here was a man who was not only a Latin scholar and a historian, but a member of a prominent and highly respected local family which had supported the Jacobite campaign and built the now world-famous

monument standing at the head of Loch Shiel. It would be flippant to suggest he would be party to such an act. There must have been a reason why the carvings were done and I would suggest it was to mark the place for posterity.

Miss Aikman suggests the hole in the boulder must be natural because it would have taken days to produce in 1745. People have been drilling holes in stone since the Stone Age. By the 18th century making a two-inch hole in a boulder using the hammer and jumper method would have been neither difficult nor time consuming.

It is maintained by some historians that the decision to raise the Jacobite Standard at Glenfinnan was a last minute one. I would submit that the stone with the hole infers otherwise. Your correspondent suggests, on the authority of Seton Gordon - quoting local historian Donald MacMillan - that the spot was on a knoll at the mouth of Glen Finnan on the east bank of the river.

What Donald MacMillan said was the standard was raised 'on a small knoll which comes into sight down on the left as the train approaches the viaduct, travelling westward and that the knoll is comparatively near to the railway'. If Miss Aikman takes the train from Fort William to Mallaig she will see that MacMillan's small knoll is precisely the

Forest plan defeated

Sir, The Scottish government has been defeated in its plans to sell our forests.

The Conservatives have come off the fence and are now against the SNP government's plans to sell our forests meaning the sell-off plan is finished. This is a tremendous victory for people power. I would like to thank everyone who came to the Lochgilphead public meeting and everyone who submitted a letter of objection. At the Lochgilphead meeting the Conservative representative was obviously finding it difficult sitting on the fence throughout the proceedings. The strength of public opposition to the sell-off at that meeting must have been an important factor in persuading the Conservatives to oppose this privatisation of our forests.

The SNP falsely accused me of not inviting the Environment Minister to the public meeting. Email correspondence proves I did. They even falsely accused me of paying for a campaign leaflet with taxpayers' money. However, they must now admit defeat. This successful campaign shows how people power can defeat a government.

Stephen Thomas, Connel.

Alan Reid MP.

Forest plan defeated

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER
By McCAIG

How much of a Democrat is Alex Salmond?

WHEN the First Minister reshuffled his Cabinet recently it was obvious he was swinging behind further fundamentalism.

However, those of us who know and in many cases admire Mike Russell's political dexterity were surprised at the vehemence with which he indicated that he was to follow 'his master's voice' and prepare a Referendum Bill that would deliver Independence next year.

Did either he or Mr Salmond really believe that the three Unionist parties would sit idly by and not properly represent the views of their supporters to allow Mr Russell's Bill an easy passage?

It would appear so, but this was an astonishingly puerile gaffe.

To have a hope of getting a positive result in the proposed multi-option referendum, the government was well aware of the mathematics required to achieve a positive vote in parliament.

After all, the First Minister was a senior analyst with the Royal Bank before he entered politics.

I'm not suggesting that he had anything to do with RBS's current sorry state but the antics of his senior financial adviser, a former chairman and chief executive of that bank, has caused severely raised eyebrows at his increasingly 'fat cat' image - as each week passes he is exposed as having substantial investments in tax havens through which to achieve grossly inflated profits with the added benefit of paying very little tax on them.

Why no opinion polls?

FOR ALMOST the first time in this parliament, the three Unionist parties found sufficient common cause to unite in opposition to Mike Russell's proposed Referendum Bill.

Of course, their numerical strength saw them maul the general concept far less any detail of the aforesaid Bill.

This should effectively remove the necessity of Mr Russell having to neglect the other parts of his portfolio at the expense of a Referendum Bill that is 'doomed to failure' if the other three parties retain their current stance.

I'm sure Mike Russell hoped that Tavish Scott would lead the Liberal Democrats to support such a Bill, but apparently not.

However, I want to pose this question: whatever has happened to the opinion poll?

In the first years of the current parliament there was at least one a week during the 'honeymoon period' but now there is a sudden dearth of them.

It could be that the serious Scottish media are feeling the pinch and not prepared to fund a weekly interrogation of '1,060 electors in various constituencies' to interpolate

the answers to give a putative national state of the parties.

If the SNP has lost ground - and after defeats on its initial budget, the withdrawal of its Local Income Tax proposals and now the emphatic rejection by Parliament of the proposed Referendum Bill, the polls should tell us what the electors think of them as a potential government with an overall majority at the next election.

Our heritage under threat

NOW IT has leaked out that the world-famous Arduaine Gardens are to close because the National Trust for Scotland is 'skint' or, to put it more politely, suffering a severe cash-flow shortage, it is to be hoped that Argyll and Bute Council and VisitScotland will throw their not inconsiderable weight behind a major campaign to force the National Trust for Scotland to think again.

The superb collection of rhododendrons and azaleas at Arduaine attracts visitors from all over the world to Argyll as well as Scots.

I find Arduaine Gardens a most tranquil and inspirational place.

There's that sense of undefinable purity that's also to be found on Iona. It enters one's soul and cleanses it.

Since the latest round of cuts were announced with the closure of historic houses, national icons and wonderful gardens, there seem to have been two separate feelings of disgust: a wasting of precious reserves until there are almost none left to meet this type of 'rainy day' and sharp criticism of those who run the National Trust for Scotland.

I should add that I don't count the professional staff among these but those who get themselves elected to committees more for the alleged kudos that such brings in the eyes of their clique and, they hope, in public esteem.

There needs to be 'a wind of change' to blow through the rather stuffy, almost clueless hierarchy and the appointment of those who are dedicated to the heritage of Scotland but are, at the same time, commercially attuned as to how this should be managed sympathetically.

What a howler!

WHILE HBOS and RBS, at one time Scotland's two leading banks, have been pilloried for the situation in which they find themselves, currently the regulatory body that is supposed to monitor them dropped a major clanger as far as HBOS was concerned.

Its Financial Services Report report, just months before that bank came within hours of being made insolvent, gave it a gold-plated level of regulatory clearance.

It became only one of two UK banks to get clearance to carry out its own 'stress testing' without regular FSA inspection!

McCaig

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 300 words in length for publication on this page. The editor also reserves the right to shorten, to amend or to refuse to print them. Names and postal addresses must be supplied, including on emails, to indicate good faith. A daytime telephone number is also required for verification. Anonymous letters or those supplied without a contact telephone number will not be printed. Please write or fax to: Letters page, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB. Fax: 01631 568001. Email editor@obantimes.co.uk.

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WE AT *The Oban Times* do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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

Islay Letter

Venison supper

THE FINLAGGAN Trust's annual candlelit venison supper lived up to expectation and delighted 70 diners in Ballygrant Village Hall.

Trust member Gina MacAuslan was the welcoming hostess, between busy spells in the kitchen, and the entertainment was linked in friendly fashion by her trust colleague Donald Bell.

The venison feast was followed by a tuneful programme which got off to a lively start with fiddle selections from Catriona MacGregor and Neil Oliver.

Local folk singer Norma Munro handled her song selection with her usual professionalism and more songs came from Libby Morris, Iseabail Mactaggart and Janey Torrance.

The male vocalists vying with the songstresses were Graeme Allison, Eoin Brown, Iain MacPherson and Andrew McCowan.

The event attracted visitors from Manchester and Edinburgh and further entertainment came from central Scotland's Janet and Russell Hannah.

Also in attendance was archaeologist David Caldwell who has a long association with the ancient seat of the Lords of the Isles.

The raffle swelled the coffers, the cooks worked like Trojans and everyone was highly appreciative of the culinary

delights and entertainment on offer. Finlaggan will open for visitors at Easter and the new centre at the historic site will be officially opened on May 16.

Distillery retirement

MANAGEMENT and staff at Bunnahabhain Distillery held a retirement lunch and presentation for one of the distillery's longest serving employees on February 16.

Victor MacLellan, a dedicated member of staff for almost four decades, received a bottle of the in-house product and a framed photograph of the distillery from his colleagues.

He was also presented with a retirement cheque from Burns Stewart Distillers, owners of the island distillery.

Victor's wife Flora Anne was not overlooked in the celebrations and she received flowers from Lilian MacArthur, distillery secretary. Victor and Flora Anne have three grown-up daughters and their only son David is coxswain of Islay lifeboat.

Everyone wishes Victor a long and happy retirement and the assurance there is much to commend a life of leisure!

RNLI awards

THE ROYAL National Lifeboat

Institution (RNLI) is to honour two locals in recognition of their voluntary efforts for the island's lifeboat branch.

Bowmore GP Dr David Latta, the station's medical officer and management committee member for the past 12 years, will receive the institute's silver badge while the bronze award goes to Marie Corson, a stalwart member of the fundraising committee and a former group treasurer.

They are among 13 Argyll and Bute residents who are being honoured by the institution for 'their outstanding support of the charity'.

The presentations will take place at the RNLI's Scottish annual meeting in Perth Concert Hall on June 2.

World news

KORK Day of Prayer was marked locally with an ecumenical act of worship in Port Ellen Baptist Church on Friday.

More than 50 worshippers attended and the offering of almost £130 was donated to the stipulated cause.

Conespie resident Bronwen Currie, a member of the Society of Friends, will be the guest speaker at Kilarrow Parish Church Men's Lunch Club in Bowmore's Lochside Hotel today (Thursday) at 12.30pm.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

My Village

Aberfeldy

What makes the village special for you?

I was born in Aberfeldy Cottage Hospital in 1950 in the same place as my sisters. Life in Aberfeldy in the 50s and 60s was very different from today due to cultural changes. Everywhere around Aberfeldy there were children playing in parks, on bicycles or in and around the 'Birks' woodlands.

Neighbours were much more interactive with each other then and liked to keep a watchful eye on what was going on.

Aberfeldy boasted a railway station, cattle market and a

William Leszke, chairman of Aberfeldy Community Council, talks to Oban Times reporter Louise Glen-Lee about the Perthshire town's history and character and why it is popular with tourists.

cinema. Although these areas are now redeveloped the backdrop scenery around Aberfeldy makes it very special. Two minutes from town and you are in the Scottish countryside with many wonderful walks.

The Birks of Aberfeldy provides a great place to walk or stroll among the numerous red squirrels and roe deer.

Aberfeldy is also in a unique position in the heart of Scotland as depicted in the beautiful

wrought-iron signs on the approach to the town. The north, south, east and west are all a mere 90 minutes away. Day trips to Edinburgh, Dundee, Glasgow, Inverness and Oban are within easy reach.

All these factors make Aberfeldy special to me being a true, local resident.

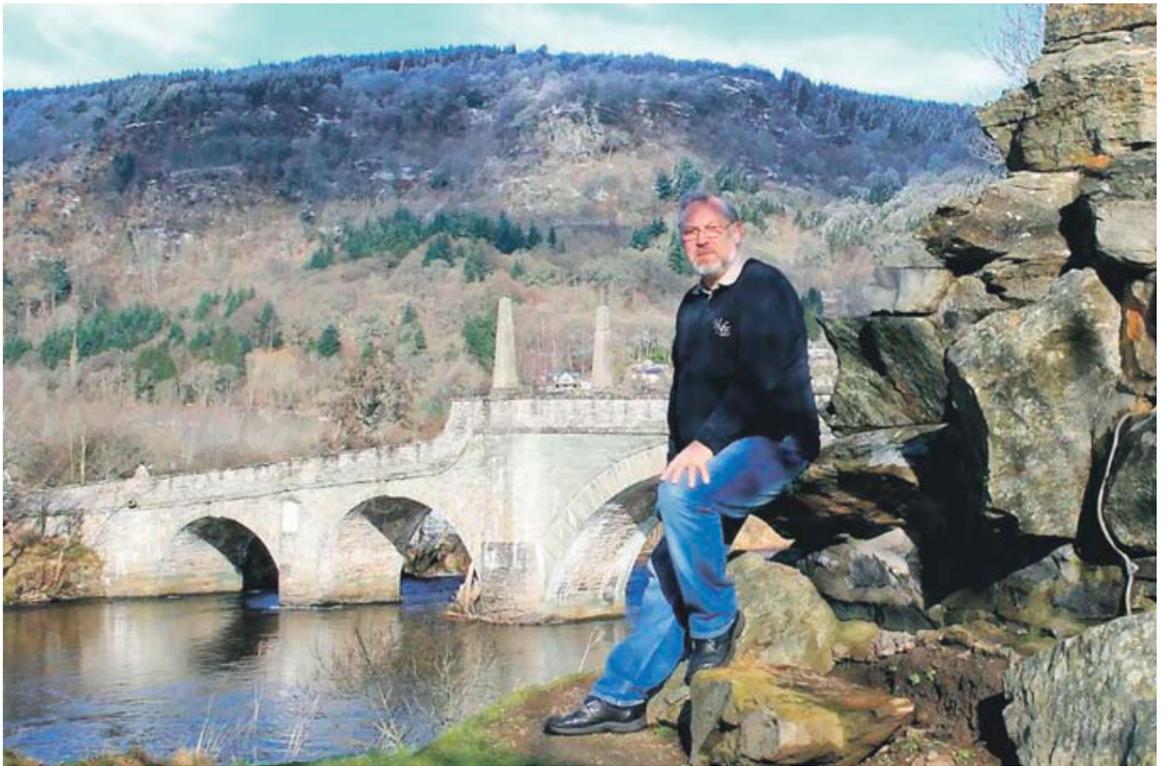
Does it have an interesting history?

Landmarks which are predominant in Aberfeldy show some of the local history. General Wade's Bridge was built in 1733 and The Black Watch Monument marks Aberfeldy as the birthplace of The Black Watch regiment.

The Birks of Aberfeldy were also the inspiration for the poem by Robert Burns and the town is also mentioned in *The Loch Tay Boat Song*.

Aberfeldy was probably one of the most northerly places the poet visited on his 'Highland tour.'

A landmark building in Aberfeldy must be the art deco building of the Birks Cinema which a local group are now trying to resurrect.



William Leszke who was born and raised in Aberfeldy sits by the beautiful General Wade Bridge over the River Tay.



The Black Watch Monument remembers the war dead from this, one of the finest Scottish regiments.

How important is it to Perthshire? What does it offer that other villages in the area can't?

Aberfeldy is an important part of the tourist route in Perthshire.

Whether you are interested in golf or a visit to Aberfeldy Distillery, built in 1898, there's lots to do.

People come to Aberfeldy for the many outdoor pursuits

such as river rafting on the Tay or hill safaris.

There are also outdoor centres with climbing frames within easy reach. Nearby hills such as Farragon and Scheihalion make it popular for walking holidays. Fishing is also a popular pastime with Kenmore being the venue for the opening of the salmon fishing season. Aberfeldy is getting a new school community campus which will also

have a new swimming pool for all.

The town also has a beautiful caravan site by the River Tay. Tourists also have a number of quaint coffee shops to stop and rest for a while.

Do you have a favourite time of the year in the village?

Spring is very colourful and the colours in autumn are stunning. However the green trees dominate in summer.

Is there anybody famous from the village?

One of its most famous residents is J.K. Rowling, author of the wonderful Harry Potter books that are now world famous.

And of course the music band *Aberfeldy* are named after the town.

What are the challenges facing the village or how could it be improved?

Aberfeldy now has a conservation area which will prevent any drastic changes to buildings. The challenge for the town is to make sure it is a predominant attraction for tourists which are the life blood for local shops. Many groups within the town are making a difference to its appearance during the summer months with many good ideas. Aberfeldy is improving every year.

An easy-going nature, combined with an urgency to help people, made him a favourite

Law leaves the streets of Oban

PATROLLING George Street with his hat at the trademark jaunty angle he was easily the most recognisable of Oban's police officers.

But after giving more than 32 years' service to Oban and the surrounding district, PC Raymond Law has called time on his police career.

At the Oban, Lorn and the Isles area committee meeting last week, Councillor Duncan MacIntyre presented Raymond with an inscribed silver plate, adding: 'We have a role model for community policing in Raymond Law. I thank you, on behalf of the whole community, for the years of service you have given.'

Role model

That sentiment was echoed by Inspector Neil Wallace of Oban Police, who will no doubt miss an invaluable asset in Raymond, whose easy-going nature, combined with an urgency to help people, had made him a favourite with the communities he served.

Originally from Lochgil-

PC Raymond Law talks to Marian Millar about his 32 years in Strathclyde Police, serving under eight chief inspectors

thead, Raymond moved to Oban and attended high school in the town. He has been a policeman all his working days, joining the force on December 27, 1976.

After 16 years with the traffic police [1980 - 1996] Raymond went into community policing and had responsibility for the area south of Oban, which included Seil, Luig and Colonsay. A year as the station constable followed before he went back into community policing in 2003.

'The years have just disappeared,' he said. 'I will miss my colleagues and the camaraderie in the office.'

'Probably the latter stages of my career have been the

best, when I have been out and about mixing with members of the community. I had particular responsibility for Rockfield Primary School, which involved going into the school and speaking to the kids.

'That was probably one of the best parts of the job, I think, speaking to the kids and getting to know them and they get to know a friendly police face that they can trust and it should hold them in good stead throughout their lives.'

Oops

There have been many enjoyable moments in his career but one of Raymond's more memorable occasions was

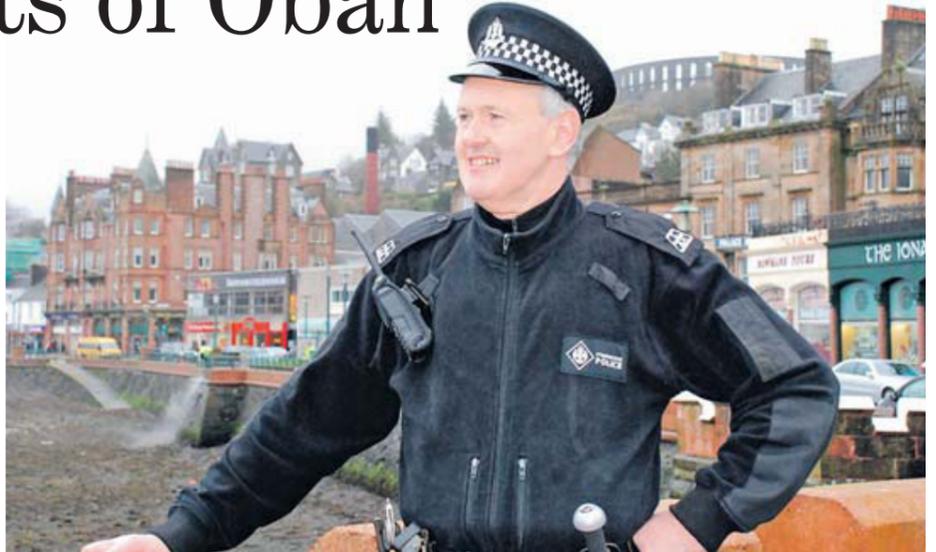
on January 26, 1995 when he drove the police Range Rover into Loch Etive at Kilmarnock, near Connel.

The Range Rover became submerged in exceptionally fast flowing tidal currents but Raymond had a lucky escape through a window.

The first thing Raymond looked for when the vehicle was recovered? His lunchbox. 'It's still in the loch,' he admitted.

And after recovering from the traumatic accident, sympathetic colleagues at Oban Police Station renamed the accident scene as 'Law's Leap'.

Oban police sergeant Neil Owen admitted Raymond



PC Raymond Law spent the latter years of his police service as a friendly face around town. t10ray02

would be a big loss to the police service. He said: 'I have known Raymond for the last 18 years and I would say without hesitation that he

has become the police officer most familiar to the public.'

'Raymond personifies the public idea of a community police officer and has a useful

sense of humour. His ability to network, engage and converse with anyone and everyone has been of immense value to the police and the

numerous groups, schools, and organisations who have benefited from his support.'

Raymond has worked under eight chief inspectors, from Angus Munn to the current acting chief inspector Judy Wilson.

'So how has the job changed? 'Policing is more structured now,' said Raymond.

'Over the years it has become more preventative and information-led and the development of IT systems has helped in detection and prevention of crime, without a doubt.'

'Paperwork still takes up a lot of an officer's day, but I feel it is a necessary evil because we are more accountable these days.'

Raymond, who is married to Molly and has two children, Alastair and Emma, has lived in Benderloch for the last 16 years.

He refused to say what his future plans were but admitted: 'I'm sure there will be plenty of challenges ahead.'



PC Law receives a token of gratitude from Argyll and Bute councillors Elaine Robertson, Duncan MacIntyre and Mary Jean Devon. t11ray01



The police Range Rover that Raymond drove into Loch Etive at 'Law's Leap' in 1995 is recovered.

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SELLING YOUR FARM STOCK?
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Caledonian Marts Oban last week reported its highest-priced sheep sale since its move to new premises. Prices were markedly higher than usual at the mart's sale of cast tups, store hoggets, feeding sheep and store and over-30 month cattle on Tuesday. Pictured are store cattle from A H MacDonald, East Hynish, Tiree, in the sale ring. t10mart01

Oban market hits highest sheep trade

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 140 store cattle, six young bulls and six Over 30 Month cattle, plus 700 hoggets and ewes at Oban last week when sheep hit the highest trade ever experienced at the centre. Suffolk hogs from Homestead, Ardfern and Mules from Dalrannoch, Connel both sold

to £72, with Limousin bullocks from 19 East Hynish, Tiree selling to 210p per kilo. Bullocks averaged at 172.3p per kilo with three 230kg Limousins from 19 East Hynish selling to 210p per kg and £640 for a 370kg Limousin from Achnaba, North Connel. Heifers averaged 161.1p and

sold to 195p per kilo for a 225kg Limousin from No3 Balleuillinn, Tiree and to £620 for a 335kg Limousin from Upper Largie, Kilmartin. Young bulls averaged 168p and sold to 180p per kilo for a 200kg Limousin from Back of Keppoch and to £450 for a 270kg Limousin from 19 East

Hynish, Tiree. An eight-year old Limousin bull from Scoor, Bunessan, Isle of Mull sold to £950 while in-calf cows from Invenahyle fetched £720. Texel hogs from Inion sold to £71 with Mule ewes from Ardencaple and Scammadale fetching £59.

Killin calves lead at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their annual March sale of 127 cattle and 458 sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. A good offering of grazing type cattle sold well at prices well above seller's expectations. Sheep also sold at keen rates and in keeping with current prevailing trends.

Cambusurich
Limousin bullock calves from Cambusurich sold to £640 per head and to

244pence per kilo. Sale average for bullocks was 188.3p/kg whilst heifers averaged 172.51p/kg. Limousin heifer calves from Garraron and Melfort Farms sold to £620 per head whilst Charolais cross heifer calves from Balliemeanoch sold to 200pence per kilo. Blackface ram hogs from Claddich sold to £62 whilst Cross bred hogs from Barrachander Farms sold to £66.50.

Charolais heifers sell to 220p per kilo at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 438 store cattle, two breeding cattle and 36 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall when all classes maintained the recent high rates of previous sales. Bullocks averaged 180.9p and sold to 214.6p per kg for a pen of 275kg Simmental crosses from Refoube, Glenfermess, and £990 for a 550kg Limousin from Culdoich, Culloeden Moor. Heifers averaged 176.5p and sold to 220.2p per kg for a pen of 268kg Charolais crosses from The Cloy, Fortrose, and £875 for a 515kg Limousin from Culdoich. Young bulls sold to 150.7p per kg and £520 for a 345kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Craggiemore, Rogart. Bulls sold to £1,150 for a Simmental from Fairmuir Road, Muir of Ord. In calf cows sold to £600 for a Limousin cross in calf to an Aberdeen Angus from Craggiemore.

Kintyre stock sell at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2,203 store cattle and 1,043 store hogs and grit ewes at Stirling last Wednesday. Bullocks averaged 185.5p (+5.5p) and sold to 231.7p per kg for a Charolais cross from Cretelevane and £1,110 for a Limousin cross from Easter Moffat. Bullocks from Killocrow sold to 222p per kilo and 182.8p per kilo from Glenehervie. Heifers averaged 172.7p (+7.6p) and sold to 315.9p per kg for a Charolais cross from Cretelevane and £1,150 for another Charolais cross also from Cretelevane. Heifers from Glenehervie sold to £980, and £960 Largie more. No9 Killeonan sold to £660. Cast cows averaged 110.4p and sold to 156p and £1095 for a Belgian Blue cross from Monzie. Continental hogs from Croft sold to £73.50 with Texel crosses from Balgowan to £68.50. Blackface hogs from Dunsan fetched £55 with ewes hogs from Callard to £51.

Mull bull tops special sale at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 11 cattle, 38 sheep, 388 lots of poultry and 32 lots of poultry equipment at their poultry and rare breeds of livestock sale at Dingwall. Cattle sold to £800 for a Highland bull from Kentallen, Aros, Isle of Mull while sheep sold to £78 for a Dorset ewe with a tup lamb at foot from Smallburn Farms, Elgin. Poultry sold to £120 for a quartet of Gold Sebright bantams from Doune Park, Stirling.

Market reports

DALMALLY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £455 Goatfield £425 Machrins, Colonsay, British BlueX: £575 and £485 Garraron and Melfort Farms. CharolaisX: £600 and £565 - Balliemeanoch £525 - Couston Farm Co. LimousinX: £640 (2) and £610 (2) Cambusurich £605 (2) Garraron and Melfort Farms £570 (4) Balliemeanoch £565 (4) and £555 (5) Garraron and Melfort Farms £545 and £495 Glenshellach. Luining: £580, £475 and £455 Pit-

castle Estate ShorthornX: £570 and £490 Pit-castle Estate SimmentalX: £570 (2), £565 and £540 Pitcastle Estate £505 Garvachy. **Heifers**
Aberdeen AngusX: £420 (2) Machrins Farm British BlueX: £565 and £500 Garraron and Melfort Farms. CharolaisX: £550 Couston Farm Co. LimousinX: £620, £565 and £540 Garraron and Melfort Farms £525 Glenshellach £515 (3) Garraron and Melfort Farms. **Prices per kilo**

Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 186p, 183p (6) Goatfield. British BlueX: 183p Garraron and Melfort Farms. CharolaisX: 222p and 203p Balliemeanoch 202p Couston Farm Co. LimousinX: 244p (2) Cambusurich 215p (4) Balliemeanoch 213p (4) Garraron and Melfort Farms 206p Cambusurich (2) and Garraron and Melfort Farms (5). Luining: 194p and 193p (2) Pitcastle Estate ShorthornX: 197p Pitcastle Estate. SimmentalX: 202p Homefield,

Colonsay 200p (2) Garvachy 197p (2) and 193p Pitcastle Estate. **Heifers**
British BlueX: 182p Garraron and Melfort Farms. CharolaisX: 200p and 192p Balliemeanoch LimousinX: 198p (3) Tullochcan. SimmentalX: 185p Garvachy. **Sheep**
Hoggs Blackface: £62.00 Cladich £58.50 Glenstraie Farmers Cross: £66.50 Barrachander Farm. SuffolkX: £58.00 Barrachander

Farm Ewes £46.00 Balliemeanoch Farm. **OBAN Caledonian Marts**
Bullocks
£630 Upper Largie, £620 Potalloch, £605 Fidden, £540 Blarghour. **Heifers**
£610 Laganulva, £590 Tyree, £580 Mid, £570 Achnaba and Fidden. **Prices per kilo**
Bullocks : 202p Oban Seil Croft, 195p 19 East Hynish, 180p Invenahyle, 176p Selma

Heifers: 187p Tyree, 185p Airds, 183p Fidden, 174p Oban Seil Croft. **In calf-cows:** £720 Invenahyle, £650 Inshaig. **Sheep**
Hoggs Texel £71 Inion, £69 Mannal House Mule: £67 Dalrannoch Blackface: £63 Creich Ewes: Mule £59 Ardencaple and Scammadale, £58 Tyree, Cheviot: £41 Ensay Blackface: £39 Shenavallie Cross: £40 Mingary

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The business a strong attachment to the local area. Regional press is the relevant choice for property advertising.
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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.
Not Regional Press

When moving home, 62% of people relocate within a five-mile radius.
This illustrates a strong attachment to the local area. Regional press is the relevant choice for property advertising.
Not Regional Press

New leaseholders have big plans for Lochnell Arms Hotel

OBAN couple Colin and Joan Felgate have taken over the lease of North Connel's Lochnell Arms Hotel.

Last summer the couple took over the former Shenanigans Tex-Mex restaurant and turned it into a popular family-style diner and grill called Rascals.

But they were keen to expand into the catering side of the

business and the opportunity arose through Oban businessman John McGregor, who was looking for someone to take on the lease of his hotel as well as providing catering at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls.

Colin and Joan have taken on locally well-known chef, Jens Thissen, to run the kitchen at the Lochnell Arms and take on

the outside catering, with Colin, who has many years' experience as a chef, overseeing both establishments.

The original popular Sunday carvery was open to the public again on Sunday at the Lochnell, where there are also plans for bar, dinner and take-away menus as well as providing a menu for senior citizens on

Monday-Friday.

With four full-time members of staff and six part-time, the Felgates predict that once the hotel, with its 11 rooms, is up and running for the season, more jobs will be created.

'We will be able to do anything from an eight year old's birthday party to a wedding to a function for 400 people,' said

Colin. With a wedding and silver wedding anniversary already booked, he added: 'I'm quite excited about it all.'

The pair have been happy with the amount of business Rascals has achieved since it opened and delighted with the local support they have received.

'Lots of families have come and that is exactly what we

wanted,' explained Joan.

Colin added: 'We deliberately got a refreshments licence not a public house licence so that kids wouldn't have to leave at a certain time and we get teenagers coming in and being able to sit down for a milkshake or something. We also open for teas and coffees and homebaking in the mornings and afternoons.'



Victor and Flora-Anne MacLellan were presented with gifts from staff at Bunnahabhain Distillery at Victor's recent retirement.

Bright outlook will help weather storm

ARGYLL businesses have been told to look on the bright side to weather the economic storm.

Against the grain of economic doom and gloom, experts from Glasgow and Inverness said the region was well placed to harness opportunities in the current climate.

David Sutherland, chief executive of Tulloch Homes, said if business leaders saw the glass as half full it would have a knock-on effect on employees and customers.

He told an audience of 60 in Lochgilphead last week: 'Keep positive. You have got to maintain your confidence. In Argyll and Kintyre, you have some really vibrant businesses.'

'I think most of all we need business and the private sector to come through this strongly and confidently.'

West coast jobs could go as charity folds

JOBS in Fort William and Inveraray could be under threat after a Scottish charity went into administration.

The Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) Scotland peeled off from its UK charity, which has been in existence for 25 years, to set up as a separate but sister organisation in November 2007.

However the loss of a key funding package from Scottish Natural Heritage has seen the board decide that it can no longer trade and the charity has gone into liquidation.

It is believed that up to 30 jobs in 15 offices around Scotland, including Inveraray and Fort William, may be at stake as a result.

The charity gave out advice on policy, helped to develop farm business plans, set up projects bringing farmers and environmental groups together in partnership, represented the needs and views of farmers locally and nationally by feeding into other organisations and helped to secure funds from other sources for major initiatives.

NFU Scotland's chief executive James Withers said: 'The demise of FWAG Scotland will come as a blow to the delivery of environmental works in rural Scotland.'

• Do you have a business story for The Oban Times? Call our reporters on 01631-568000



Pictured from front left clockwise are: senior site manager Mark Lochhead, brand home lead guide and business administrator Fiona MacIntyre, brand home shop assistant Etta MacDonald, distillery operators Donald MacSween and Gordon Sinclair, brand home lead guide Dorothy Morrison and site operations manager Cathie MacLeod.

Skye distillery expands

TALISKER Distillery on Skye has expanded its production under its new site manager, Mark Lochhead.

The expansion of capacity saw two more operators being recruited last year, taking the total number of employees at the site to around 16 full-time permanent staff.

One of Mr Lochhead's first tasks was to oversee the installation of two new washbacks - in which the fermentation stage of the distilling process occurs - and a tunroom extension as part of an investment programme.

Mr Lochhead took up his post last autumn. He was previously employed by Diageo as senior site manager at Clynesh Distillery, near Brora.

He said: 'For me the appointment was one of the most exciting steps of my journey, career-wise. The move here

comes at a really exciting time for Talisker, which has a fantastic profile as a global brand.

'I'm really looking forward to the challenges ahead, as the opportunities for the brand are phenomenal.'

Delighted
Mr Lochhead said he and his wife Wendy were delighted with the move. The couple relocated to Skye with their young sons Matthew and Simon.

They kindled their romance through a shared love of whisky - meeting in June 1997 at a ceilidh at Knockando Distillery on Speyside when Wendy was working for Diageo's heritage visits team. The pair later held their wedding reception at the distillery in 2002.

The distillery employs a further 12 seasonal employees to cater for 40,000 visitors who visit each year.

By George, he's an optimist!

Oban joiner sees a bright future through windows

CALL George Gage a business optimist but he is sure he can see a real window of opportunity despite the global economic gloom.

While others are shrinking their operations, he is expanding his Oban joinery firm.

He has introduced a sister windows company, a new look brand and a new website. He also hopes to take on an apprentice.

Staff from Gage Joinery headed down to Oban's North Pier and turned quite a few heads as they set up windows and patio doors outside at their recent launch photoshoot. Although the grey weather may have somewhat reflected the economy, owner George Gage is excited about the year ahead.

Having previously been fitting windows but only running under Gage Joinery, George saw the opportunity to grow this side of the business and it now operates under both Gage Joinery & Gage Windows.

Support
Thanks to the initial support and a training grant from Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) in 2006, Gage Joinery has gone from strength to strength over the past three years. The company has secured various contracts in joinery work from kitchens and bathrooms to property renovations and new builds.

George Gage, proprietor of Gage Joinery & Gage Windows, said: 'After the success of our previous windows service, I felt it was time to expand in this industry and I identified that there is a real market for this locally and Argyll wide. This is a fantastic opportunity for Gage as a business and for local residents to have access to an affordable service that is just along the road.'

From purely word of mouth and via customer recommendations, Gage's dedication to providing a high quality local service and commitment to the local community has proven to have worked well.

While windows of opportunities has



Oban joiner George Gage.

opened for Gage, so too will there be employment and training opportunities available. Since starting the business, owner George Gage has taken on two professional joiners local to Oban and plans to employ an apprentice joiner in the next year.

Always keen to transfer his trade skills onto young people, George regularly takes on work experience pupils from Oban High, where he himself went to school, and plans to continue working with the school's work experience programme. Scott Maitland, aged 16, is currently working with Gage Joinery & Gage Windows as part of the school's employment training initiative.

Co-op spends £1.57bn buying Somerfield

THE CO-OP Group, the UK's fifth largest supermarket chain, has bought over the supermarket chain Somerfield. The sale went through on February 27 and cost the Co-op £1.57 billion.

New Islay boat is going down a storm

AN ISLAY boatbuilder has launched an eye-catching new boat which was influenced by American special forces.

Boatbuilder StormCats launched the Stormbreaker Island Cruiser recently from its yard on the Hebridean island of Islay.

The boat shares the same hull as the hugely popular Stormbreaker model based on a design used by US special forces.

The Islay company modified the design to create a fast, spacious leisure boat including overnight facilities.



The Stormbreaker Island Cruiser.

The Stormbreaker Island Cruiser is 23 feet in length has two berths with carpet lined interior and teak decking.

A spokeswoman for

forces. She also shares the same reinforced structure as all StormCats boats, making her ideally suited to our unpredictable and often tough weather conditions.

'Stylish'
'At the same time her stylish, streamlined appearance gives a striking, sleek effect.'

The vessel cruises at 22 knots and is powered by a self-contained turbo diesel engine which makes it economical to run and, due to the absence of propellers, environmentally friendly, says the maker.

Engraving firm expands its services

KEATEK, the home of engraving on the west coast of Scotland, is now expanding its services to include vinyl signs.

The Barcaldine company uses traditional and modern engraving practices to achieve what is considered a very high quality and excep-

tionally quick service.

Run by Derek Grier, Keatek produces general engraving including small signage, labels, control panels and stainless steel identity plates. Its engineers use the latest technology to produce almost any designs required by the customer. 'This allows you to

design and send your project to us for an almost immediate result and proof,' said Derek.

'Proofs will then normally be sent to you within 24 hours of the project arriving on our doorstep. We would then aim to have your completed product sent to you within seven working days of your project

being accepted.'

Keatek offer a full trophy service on silverware, metalware or glassware available. They also stock a huge range of high quality crystal and glass trophies and awards.

The company also have a specialist and industrial engraving service.

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DRIVING FORCE



THE economic crisis affecting Britain at the moment might not be bad news as far as buying a new or used car is concerned.

Sales of new cars in Scotland have begun to recover over the last couple of months with more and more used cars also being sold.

The banks have also played their part too with an improvement in the availability of funding for lending and low interest rates meaning more disposable income for some.

So new car purchases could be back on the agenda for a lot of people in Scotland.

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54 Vectra 2.0 DTI Design Silver (high miles).....£4995	54 Renault Traffic LWB 1.9 Diesel Crew Cab Load area Fibre Glassed - Tow Bar.....£6995
04 Vectra 2.0 DTI Club Blue.....£3695	05 Vauxhall 1.3 CDTI Corsa (used as private car - immaculate).....£3695
03 Vectra 1.8 LS Gold.....£3195	02 Vauxhall 2.5 Movano LWB Max Roof - loads of room.....£3695 + vat
52 Corsa 1.2 Life 5DR Silver.....£2995	51 Vauxhall 1.7 DTI Combo Van with Tow Bar.....£2395 + vat
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V Vectra 2.0 SRi 5DR Black.....£2295	03 Citroen Dispatch (high miles).....£1995 + vat
W Vectra 2.0 DTI 4DR Metallic Red.....£2495	TO CLEAR
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John can be contacted on 07831 808702 to make an appointment

new car index

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FEBRUARY sales figures have given a shot in the arm to the retail motor industry in Scotland.

Figures released recently showed that the level of new cars sold has increased over the last few months.

Douglas Robertson, chief executive of the Scottish Motor trade Association said there has been an improvement over the past few months when decreases of up to 30 per cent were seen.

Mr Robertson said: 'We hope the upsurge in used car sales in February means that we starting to see an improvement in consumer confidence and an improvement in the availability of funding for lending. Interest rate reductions may give some consumers more disposable income.'

On a model-by-model basis, the Ford Fiesta was the best-selling car in February for the fourth month in a row, selling 3,260 units.

It was followed by the Ford Focus, with sales of 3,241, and the Vauxhall Corsa, up 2,856.

With new cars Vauxhall remained the top selling marque in the UK with Ford close behind.

Other marques selling well in 2009 include Toyota, Peugeot, Audi, Renault and Volkswagen.

There is nothing quite like the smell of a new car. When you are the first owner, you know exactly where the car has been and exactly how many miles it has done.

Some people just cannot feel comfortable in anything but a new car and there are some great deals out there just now.

With sales of BMWs and Mercedes falling by 41 per cent and 57 per cent in the UK respectively there are some great bargains to be had.

There are even examples of some people getting as much as £7,000 off the price of a new Jaguar.

Sales of small cars rose by nearly half in February compared to the same period one year ago. The rise in the sale of small cars may be due to increased fuel prices or downsizing, but owning a small car is extremely economical and can cut motoring costs including road tax if the model produces low emissions.

Fuel efficiency is also a major factor for used car sales. The price of fuel and changes to vehicle excise duty are taking their toll on used car buyers so fuel efficiency becomes an even more crucial factor for potential customers.

Although the used car market is showing some resilience, buyers will be looking to find the best package, as well as the best price.

Used car sales are rising as buyers take advantage of low prices, according to new research and auction results.

Sharp rises in vehicle depreciation and slow sales have pushed down used car prices in recent months, according to research by industry analysts EurotaxGlass, but the bargain prices are now tempting buyers.

Some of the best prices can be had from compact MPVs such as the Citroen Picasso and Renault Scenic.

Trade values of three-year-old, petrol-powered models are down by 31 per cent, compared to identical cars of the same age at the start of 2007.

Car supermarkets across the country have been reporting strong sales in recent weeks, with keen-eyed customers snapping up well-priced cars quickly.

The country's leading auction houses have also noticed an upturn in sales since Christmas and there appears to be a scramble for good condition vehicles offering the best value.

Large SUVs, performance cars, large MPV and even family cars are all looking like a great buy. If you've got the money there are savings to be made.

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55 FORD Ranger Thunder double cab pick-up, leather, canopy.....	£5,950
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Fiat 500 1.2 Pop	36 Monthly payments	£129.00
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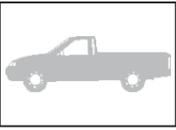
^Offer applies to Ibiza SC 1.4 Sport only, sold and registered between 15th February and 31st March 2009. Retail Sales only. Subject to vehicle availability. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18's only from participating dealers. SEAT Finance, Freepost SEAT Finance. Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time.

Official fuel consumption for the New SEAT Ibiza range in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 31.7 (8.9) - 57.6 (4.9); extra-urban 53.3 (5.3) - 94.2 (3.0); combined 42.8 (6.6) - 76.3 (3.7). CO₂ emissions 98 - 157 g/km.

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<p>FORD TRANSIT CAMPERVAN</p>  <p>N reg, 1.9 diesel, 6mths tax and MOT. Telephone: 01631 760337</p> <p>£3500</p>	<p>MAZDA 3 1.6</p>  <p>taxed till August 09, excellent condition, (new car), 400 miles Tel: 01631 563947 or 01631 566115</p> <p>£9500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>MITSUBISHI L200 WARRIOR</p>  <p>first reg October 04, MOT Oct 09, mileage 80,000, good condition Tel: 01852 500273, mobile 07710060021</p> <p>£5,000 plus VAT</p>	<p>06 MALAGUTI GRIZZLY</p>  <p>Suit Age 8 - 12 Very good condition Telephone: 01770 (Arran) 700743</p> <p>£500</p>	<p>SUZUKI ALTO GL</p>  <p>Metallic Blue 03 Reg MOT July 09, Tax 01/10 Low Tax class. 33,000 miles High Mpg. Good condition. Telephone: 01770 (Arran) 820271</p> <p>£2150 o.n.o.</p>
<p>VOLVO S40 1800CC</p>  <p>taxed and MOT'd till June 09, 78,904 miles. Telephone: 07751 971476</p> <p>£1000 o.n.o.</p>	<p>WANTED LANDROVER 90 OR 110</p> <p>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</p>	<p>RENAULT TRAFFIC VAN</p> <p>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</p> <p>£1500 ono</p>	<p>IFOR WILLIAMS TRAILER</p>  <p>5m long x 2m wide Double axle Hardly used. Telephone: Ali 07879024046 (Arran)</p> <p>£1,700 o.n.o.</p>	<p>38' EX HARBOUR LAUNCH</p> <p>mahogany on oak, 70hp Ford D Series, Brog Warner gearbox, fully marinised, needs some TLC Telephone: 07977148625 Loch Lomond</p> <p>Offers</p>
<p>VAUXHALL VECTRA 1.8 SXI</p>  <p>04, 5 door hatch, 61,200 miles, MOT'd, taxed, good condition, family car, service history. Telephone: 01631 562166</p> <p>£3500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>TOYOTA HILUX</p>  <p>2.4 Turbo diesel, 2000, W Reg, 9 months MOT, 102,600 miles, Truckman type cab. Telephone: 01855 821265 (after 7pm)</p> <p>£2750 o.n.o.</p>	<p>RENAULT MEGANE RN 1.6E CLASSIC</p>  <p>REG: 1998, MOT September 30th 2009, TAX MARCH 31st 2009, You can see the car at Great Western Hotel's car Park</p> <p>£750 ono Tel: 07864766434</p>	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p>54% of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car</p> </div> <p>Regional press is the relevant choice for motors advertising.</p>	
<p>KTM 125 SX TYLA RATTRAY</p>  <p>05 model new rear tyre new brakes new rear sprocket new kickstart dome racing pipe vgc just been serviced ready for the season. Telephone: 07796752974</p> <p>£1500 o.n.o.</p>	<p>LANDROVER 110 PICK-UP</p>  <p>03 reg, one owner, 90,000 miles, Caledonian blue, radio stereo, adjustable towbar, Ifor Williams top, BF Goodridge tyres, good runner. Telephone: 07810451670</p> <p>£5995 o.n.o.</p>	<p>FORD SIERRA SAPPHIRE</p> <p>G reg, Tax and MOT to May 09 Good runner Telephone: 01586 552496</p> <p>£300</p>	<p>Source: Consumers' Choice V, The Newspaper Society</p> <p>Regional Press closer to home</p>	
<p>BAILEY DISCOVERY 500</p>  <p>1993, 4 Berth Caravan, regularly serviced, one owner, no pets, in very good condition. Telephone: 01397 712231</p> <p>£2500</p>	<p>SUBARU IMPREZA TURBO WAGON</p>  <p>1999. Standard apart from Scoobysport backbox. 95,000 miles and in excellent condition. 17" prodrive alloys, good tyres, service history and well maintained. Tel: 01369 705564</p> <p>£2799 o.n.o.</p>	<p>VOLKSWAGEN GOLF ESTATE</p>  <p>X reg, 1.9 tdi 130bhp, 9 months MOT, 4 months tax, 6 speed box, 69,000 miles, Very good condition for year, Very economical Telephone: 07799 164311 / 01546 602550</p> <p>£2650 o.n.o.</p>		

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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
Highlands and Islands Airports Limited
Head Office, Inverness Airport
Inverness, IV2 7JB

Telephone: 01667 464314
Fax: 01667 464209
Email: recruitment@hia.co.uk
Website: www.hia.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 fulfil 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, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT.

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



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 Lochgilphead 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, Ardrishaig, 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



Regional & local press advertising gets the job done.

Source: Recruitment Choice, The Newspaper Society 2008

Regional Press
closer to home

Our friendly team are looking for seasonal staff for both full time and part time positions.



We are looking for 3 team members to join our Shoreline Coffee Shop, 1 to work in our gift shop and 1 in our Front of House admissions area.

For these positions we require applicants who are friendly and approachable, have strong customer focus and high personal standards.

We also have a position working closer alongside the Animal Care Team as an Entertainments Person who will be in the Displays area talking and interacting to our customers. Undertaking this role needs an outgoing, enthusiastic person able to make a crowd cheer!

We will be holding an open evening for applicants on Friday 20th March at 6:00pm.

To apply for a position please forward a covering letter and CV to
Alastair Law, Scottish SEALIFE Sanctuary, Barcaldine, By Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SE

Senior Aquarist
Oban, Scotland



The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary is Scotland's leading animal rescue centre caring for dozens of sick, injured and orphaned seal pups every year. To continue this wonderful work we are seeking a senior aquarist to join our team.

The Role

In this varied and highly rewarding role, you will have the responsibility of ensuring that all livestock displays are well presented and maintained, as well as caring for the resident seals, otters and rehabilitation of seal pups.

The Person

To be successful, you will have a proven track record within the fish husbandry field and a good knowledge of plant & equipment. A relevant qualification would be useful but more important is a good understanding of our product and a passion for the welfare of our animals. Good communication skills, being well motivated, flexibility with working hours and a driving licence are essential.

The Application

Joining us also means you'll be apart of the Merlin Entertainments Group, the worlds second largest attractions operator. That means there'll always be further opportunities to grow, develop and try new things - plus full and continuous support along the way. As you'd expect we offer an excellent package of benefits including:

- Free tickets to all Merlin attractions
- A bonus scheme that rewards individual and attraction performance
- Pension scheme
- And more.....

If you are interested in the position and have the necessary skills to fulfil the position apply online at www.sealife-jobs.com or apply in writing with cover letter and CV to **Alex Blackman, Scottish SEALIFE Sanctuary, Barcaldine, By Oban, Argyll, PA37 1SE**

We believe in equality of opportunity and employ people solely on the basis of their abilities.

Closing date: **Friday 20th March**



Fisheries Biologist

Salary from 22 - 28k, Subject to Experience

In an exciting development, the Argyll Fisheries Trust seeks an experienced biologist to fill a new post created to allow AFT to meet its objectives towards the sustainability of wild fish and their habitats in Argyll.

Based at the AFT office at Inveraray, the person will be part of a team developing programmes to restore and support wild fish populations underpinned by monitoring and research. The AFT undertakes a wide range of projects in partnership with stakeholders, conservation bodies and local communities where developed people/communications skills will be required. The Trust is part of the Scottish Government's Tri-partite Group Area Management Agreement initiative and a familiarity with aquaculture practices would be an advantage.

As well as holding a degree in a scientific or environmental discipline with further practical experience working outside academia, AFT is looking for a person who is enthusiastic, aspires to develop, is self motivated, able to manage projects and has an innovative approach to the Trust's development, including fundraising.

Qualification to SFCC team leader standards in electro fishing, a familiarity with GIS mapping programmes and an understanding of Catchment Management Planning are desirable.

A full job description is available from Jane Wright, Manager AFT, Woodbank, Cove, Helensburgh, Argyll and Bute, G84 ONU

Tel No 01436 84 2312 e-mail jms.wright@btinternet.com

Applications with a CV should be at the above address by March 22nd



Lighthouse CALEDONIA

Lighthouse Caledonia is a leading independent producer of high quality Scottish salmon. The company is engaged in all stages of the value chain of farming Atlantic salmon, from smolt production through to harvesting, processing, packing and sales and a principal player in the Scottish aquaculture industry. We are committed to high standards of animal welfare, sustainable operations and promoting a responsible environmental policy.

We are currently recruiting for Marine personnel in the Loch Fyne and Gigha areas of our South Production Region:

MARINE SITE(S) MANAGER - (Ref: SLFSM1/09)

MARINE OPERATIVES (5 Posts) - (Ref: SLFGM01/09)

YARDMAN - (Ref: SSTYM1/09)

Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate previous experience in working in small, focused teams. Applicants for the position of Marine Site(s) Manager must be able to offer extensive experience in aquaculture and fish husbandry combined with management of personnel. Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for the other posts but not essential as the company can offer further development opportunities through its in-house training scheme. The role of Yardman requires candidates to hold current fork-lift truck certificates for all-terrain and masted vehicles.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential.

To apply, please write enclosing an up-to-date CV and a covering letter to:
Veronica Anderson, HR Officer,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd., Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH
Closing date for applicants: 27 March 2009

Visit our website at www.lighthousecaledonia.com



Hanover (Scotland) Housing Association
95 McDonald Road
Edinburgh EH7 4NS

SHELTERED HOUSING MANAGER

Heatherlee Court, Kinlochleven
Salary £9,395 - £10,595 pa

We seek an enthusiastic, caring person to provide a housing and support service promoting independent living for older people.

You will have the personal skills and approach to fill this role, the ability to liaise with care services and relatives, and be a capable administrator.

You will preferably have SVQ level 3 in Health and Social Care or equivalent qualification, or be committed to achieve this via our staff qualifications programme.

The post involves working 20 hours per week on a Monday to Friday basis. (Ref: 035)

This post is subject to enhanced disclosure of criminal records via Disclosure Scotland.

Call 0131 557 7430 (24 Hour Answer line) or email recruit@hsha.org.uk for an application pack. Application packs also available on: www.hsha.org.uk Please quote reference number in correspondence.

Closing date: 27 March 2009.
Scottish Charity No. SC 014738
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER
QUALITY HOUSING NATIONWIDE

LEADING PLUMBING MERCHANT
COMING TO THE AREA

We will be recruiting for the following positions:

Branch Manager
Assistant Branch Manager
Warehouse Person/Drivers

Please apply in writing to box number 31 with copy cv to The Oban Times Ltd, PO Box 1, Oban, PA34 4HB

Senior Development Officer
£33,870 - £37,045
Business Gateway
T 01546 604286
Lochgilphead Ref: DSE01012

Business Advisor
£30,074 - £32,903
Business Gateway - 3 posts
T 01546 604286
Lochgilphead Ref: DSE01013

Business Improvement Officer
£25,932 - £29,198
Excellent development opportunities
T 01546 604034/604044
Lochgilphead Ref: CES01021/2

Business Support Officer
£22,994 - £25,147
Business Gateway
T 01546 604286
Lochgilphead Ref: DSE01016

Pupil Support Assistant (Term Time)
£17,081 - £18,140 (pro rata) (15 hours per week)
Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSE52620

Lochnell Primary School
T 01369 70 8546

Area Committee Services Assistant
£17,081 - £18,140
Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: CPD22216
Support Elected Members and officers, within our area team
T 01546 604395

Technical Assistant (Part Time)
£17,081 - £18,140 (pro rata) (21 hours per week)
Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: CPL23225/1
Hours worked over 3 days per week.
T 01546 604395

Gaelic Language Auxiliary (Term Time) x 3
£15,147 - £16,570 (pro rata)
Post 1: (27:30 hours per week) Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSE54180
Oban High School
Post 2: (27:30 hours per week) Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSE53660
Rockfield GMU, Rockfield Primary School, Oban Joint Campus
Post 3: (12:30 hours per week) Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: CSE53650
Bowmore Primary School
T 01369 70 8546

Information Worker
£15,147 - £16,570
Oban Ref: CSD62112/R2

Community Services - Adult Care
T 01546 604713

Clerical Assistant x 2
£13,869 - £14,709 (pro rata)
Post 1: (Part Time, Temporary, 17:30 hours per week)
Campbeltown Ref: CPF22105T

Creditors Section
Post 2: (Term Time, 16:30 hours per week) Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CSE51120
Barcaldine Primary School
T 01546 604395

Clerical Assistant/Typist
£13,869 - £14,709
Lochgilphead Ref: CSA31356/2

Criminal Justice Partnership
T 01546 604713

Cook (Part Time)
£11,953 - £13,066 (pro rata) (16 hours per week)
Oban Ref: CSD32158/R2

Community Services - Children and Families
T 01546 604713

Domestic
£249.75 per week
Adult Care
T 01546 604713
Mull Ref: CSD63273

Library Assistant (Part Time, Bank/Casual/Relief)
£7.60 per hour (variable hours)
Lochgilphead Ref: CSE90090
Lochgilphead Library
T 01369 70 8546

Catering Assistant (Term Time)
£6.75 per hour (17:50 hours per week)
Islay Ref: OSF20982
Islay High School
T 01546 604873
Closing date 27 March 2009
Pay Award Pending
To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs



As part of our ongoing commitment to continual improvement West Highland Housing Association Ltd. and its subsidiary are looking for people who would be interested in joining the Committees of these organisations.

We are looking for people with

- Enthusiasm and a positive attitude;
- An interest in housing and people;
- Specific skills in one of the following;
 - being on a Committee or having experience of Committee work
 - understanding finance;
 - working in or a good knowledge of building
- A desire to work as a Team to solve problems
- An interest in the services and responsibilities of the Committee

Committee Members receive:

- Support, training and development
- Out of pocket expenses
- The opportunity and satisfaction of giving something back to the community

We hold our Management Committee meetings on a Friday morning and sub-committees are generally held in the evening.

West Highland Housing Association welcomes applications from all members of the community, if you are interested in obtaining an application pack, please contact Ruby Campbell.

Closing date for applications is 23 March 2009
Registered Charity in Scotland No. SC017357

OBANTIMESTALK
TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK




It's easy to apply for jobs through local newspapers.

People find regional press recruitment sections easier to use than any other media.

So, if you're looking for a new job or new staff, use the regional press, the best medium to get results.



Local newspapers & their websites are the number one choice for local jobs.

40% of people only consider jobs in their local area.

So, if you're looking for a new job or new staff, use the regional press, the best medium to get results.



51% of people turn to their local newspaper first when looking for a new job.

The regional press is the best medium to use when looking for local people for local jobs.

So, if you're looking for a new job or new staff, use the regional press, the best medium to get results.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYST

Marine Harvest (Scotland) is the largest Aquaculture Company operating in Scotland. Our marine and freshwater sites are located throughout the West Coast and Outer Isles.



An important role has arisen within our Environmental Team, based in Fort William. We are seeking an Environmental Analyst to collate, interpret and present a range of environmental data sets. The role will play an important part in the company's commitment to EIA and the sustainable and profitable development of its production base.

The successful candidate will be educated to HND or Degree level in Environmental Science, Marine Biology or another related discipline. In addition 1-2 years experience in an environmental role or postgraduate qualification would be desirable, but not essential as full training and support will be provided. Candidates should possess excellent computer skills, particularly in Microsoft Excel and Word, along with competence in basic statistics and exceptional literacy skills, a driving license is also essential.

In return, Marine Harvest offers a competitive salary and assistance will be considered should relocation be required.

If you would like to be considered for this interesting post, please apply in writing:

Vicky Ferguson, Human Resources Manager, Business Resource Centre, Blar Mhor Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 7PT. The closing date for the receipt of applications is Friday 27th March 2009.

Administration Assistant

Storvik Ltd is a dynamic and growing leader in the Aquaculture industry who are currently seeking to recruit a dynamic individual to assist with general office administration, within their UK office. You will be working mainly for the General Manager, but duties will also include occasional administrative provision to other members of department, therefore you will need to be willing to work under your own initiative and willing to undertake new tasks. A good working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages is essential. Knowledge of Sage Line 50, Tax and customs is desirable although training can be provided for this.

This position will be based on 22.5 hours per week, which can be operated on days that suit both parties, and there may be an opportunity to increase the hours as the job progresses. Salary is negotiable depending on experience.

Closing date - **25th March 2009.**

Please apply in writing, with CV and present salary to:-

**General Manager
Storvik Ltd
Kilmory Industrial Estate
Lochgilthead
Argyll
PA31 8RR**

A' toirt fàs air Gàidhlig CEANNARD

Àite-obrach: Sùbailte
Tuarastal: c £64k gu £72k + pasgan tarraingeach

'S ann air Bòrd na Gàidhlig a tha am prìomh dhealasach airson a bhith a' libhrigeadh rùintean Riaghaltas na h-Alba a thaobh Gàidhlig agus a' coileanadh miann coimhearsnachd na Gàidhlig. Tha am Bòrd a' co-obrachadh ri buidhnean de gach seòrsa ann a bhith a' cur an gnìomh Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig.

Tha dreuchd Ceannard a' Bhùird riannach ann a bhith a' dearbhadh inbhe na Gàidhlig mar nua-chànann beò. 'S e dreuchd fhollaiseach, dhùbhlach, air leth tarraingeach a tha seo. Bidh tu, mar Cheannard, a' greimeachadh air gnothaichean aig àm làn chothroman agus air ceann sgioba-stiùiridh a bhios air a leudachadh.

Tha am Bòrd a' sìreadh neach le sàr chomasan conaltraidh; stiùiriche dealasach a bhios a' riochdachadh cor na Gàidhlig agus a bhios buadhach aig gach ìre; neach lèirsinneach a thogas sgioba gheulasta a bhios comasach air prògram-obrach adhartach a libhrigeadh. Tha fo-fhastaidhean di-beathte.

Mar Oifigear Cunntachail, bidh stiùireadh iomlan na buidhne an urra ris a' Cheannard.

Ceann-latha airson tagraidhean **27 Am Màirt 2009, gu ar neach-comhairle, Barbara Robastan, aig Diamonds HR Etc.**

Tuilleadh fiosrachaidh agus foirm tagraidh: www.bord-na-gaidhlig.org.uk/obraichean

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

Times Forum

We want to hear your views. Contact us at www.obantimes.co.uk

If you have a story to share, call us on **OBAN 01631 568000 FORT WILLIAM 01397 703003**

Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership

Mid Argyll Locality

Bank Staff Nurse - Band 5
£20,225 - £26,123 pro rata
Hours as Required
Ref: 09ab/040

Mid Argyll Community Hospital & Integrated Care Centre

We are looking for motivated, enthusiastic individuals to join our nursing bank team within the Mid Argyll Community Hospital, Lochgilthead. Experience in general medicine is essential. The post may involve rotation between the Acute Medical Receiving ward, A&E Department and a Rehabilitation unit allowing staff to develop their skills, gaining valuable experience. You should be flexible in your approach to work as this post involves regular rotation to night duty.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Kirsty Armstrong, Ward Manager on 01546 462 355.

Campbeltown Hospital

Nursing Auxiliary - Band 2
£12,922 - £15,950 pro rata
Part-time, 18.5 hours per week, Fixed Term (6 months)
Bengullion Ward
Ref: 08ab/210

An opportunity has arisen for a part-time nursing auxiliary to work in Bengullion Care of the Elderly Ward at Campbeltown Hospital. The ward is looking for a committed person wishing to join our team and make a difference to the care of older people.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Sister Cathy Wardrop, Ward Manager on 01586 555823.

Application forms and job descriptions are available from the HR Department (Helensburgh), Argyll & Bute CHP by contacting Tracey McAllister: tracey.mcallister@nhs.net or Helen Cameron: helen.cameron@nhs.net Tel: 01436 65059.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 27th March 2009.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. www.nhs.uk

J.M. BRECKENRIDGE
Oban
Require

Tele Sales

Full time permanent position
Office experience would be beneficial but not essential as full training will be given.
Applicants must be able to demonstrate good communication skills and telephone manner.
Immediate start.
Cameron McDonald,
01631 563711

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, Lochgilthead, PA31 8JH.

Alcan Aluminium UK Ltd
Lochaber Smelter

Production Operator

Applications are invited for the post of Process Operator to work within the Lochaber Smelter.

We are looking for persons with the ability and desire to work within our company. Candidates should be able to demonstrate practical working skills, and able to train to a recognised national qualification.

For further information and an application form, please contact:

E Stewart
Safety, Training and Communications Officer
Alcan Aluminium UK Ltd
Lochaber Smelter
Fort William PH33 6TH

Closing date for applications is **Friday 3rd April 2009.**

Alcan Aluminium UK Ltd is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Lynn of Lorne Care Home

require the following

FULL/PART TIME/BANK CARE ASSISTANTS

Day duty

Car transport from Oban can be provided
Telephone 01631 720278
Sandra or Brenda for details

Regional Press

PUBLIC NOTICES

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
John Smith Former Water Treatment Works Site 550m West of Inverskilavulin Glenlyon Banavie Fort William 09/00073/FULLO	Conversion of former water treatment works into holiday accommodation	Corpach Post Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: **Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022, e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk**

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The following Lochaber Community Councils will hold their elections over the next few weeks:

- Acharacle
- Inverlochy & Torlundy
- Kinlochleven
- Caol
- Kilmallie
- Mallaig

Anyone wishing to stand for their local Community Council should be on the Electoral Roll for that area.

Nomination papers are now available from the Returning Officer - Dot Ferguson, Lochaber Wards Manager, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William, PH33 6EL, Tel: 01397 707231, e-mail: dot.ferguson@highland.gov.uk or from the Service Points in Fort William, Acharacle, Kinlochleven and Mallaig.

Nomination papers must be returned to the Returning Officer by 3pm on Thursday 26 March 2009.

CHANGES TO THE BULKY UPLIFT SERVICE

From 1st April the Highland Council will introduce charges for bulky uplift requests. The charge is £15 for up to 3 items and £30 for 4 to 6 items. All requests must be prepaid either by credit/debit card if telephoning our service centre, or by cash or cheques if calling in person to a service point.

You will be advised of a collection day and every effort will be made to complete your request on that day.

Recycling centres will still be available and you can obtain details of the nearest one to you by contacting the Service Centre.

To arrange a bulky uplift please call the Council Service Centre at (01349) 886603.

Reduce Reuse Recycle

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

PLANNING
TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban 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: 09/00255/OUT
Applicant: Mr John Anderson
Proposal: Site for erection of croft house
Site Address: Croft No 5A Kivaree By Connell Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connell
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Ref No: 09/00256/OUT
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Vinh Burton Smith
Proposal: Demolition of various barns and out buildings and conversion and refurbishment of stone built farm steading to form 4 dwellings - Renewal of 05/02567/OUT
Site Address: Barbeck Farm Bungalow Kiltrean Taynuilt Argyll and Bute PA35 1HF
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Section 34 Advert - 14 Days

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT CONTRARY TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN) (SCOTLAND) DIRECTION 1996

The following planning applications have been lodged for determination with Argyll and Bute Council and are available for inspection during normal working hours at the local area office/Post Office identified below 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: 09/00255/OUT
Applicant: Mr John Anderson
Proposal: Site for erection of croft house
Site Address: Croft No 5A Kivaree By Connell Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connell
A18 Local Plan Potential Depart AD (21)
Potential Departure from Policy HD25 of the Lorn Local Plan

Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 1999
PROPOSED WIND FARM AT LAND 1200M NORTH WEST OF ANNAT FARM, CORPACH, FORT WILLIAM

Planning application for the erection of 4 wind turbines, 80 metres high to tower hub and up to 121 metres high to maximum blade tip extension, construction of 2.3km of access tracks, the upgrading and use of existing access to disused quarry from the A830 road, erection of switchgear control building and temporary hard standings, erection of a meteorological mast (max height 70metres), installation of underground on-site cabling. Ordnance survey grid reference: easting 207655, northing 778436

Planning Application Ref: 09/00074/FULLO

The Highland Council has received a planning application accompanied by an Environmental Statement for the construction of 4 wind generators with associated access tracks, substation and ancillary works and equipment at LAND 1200M NORTH WEST OF ANNAT FARM, CORPACH, FORT WILLIAM.

The applicants are North British Windpower Limited

Copies of the Planning Application and Environmental Statement can be inspected during normal office hours at the following locations:-

1. The Planning and Building Standards Office, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY.
2. The Planning and Development Service, Council Offices, Glenquhart Road, Inverness.
3. Corpach Post Office, Corpach, Fort William, PH33 7JG.
4. North British Windpower Limited, Lochside House, 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9DT.

Copies of the Environmental Statement may be purchased from North British Windpower Limited, Lochside House, 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9DT at a cost of £200.00 for the printed copy and £20.00 for a copy on CDROM. Copies of the Non Technical Summary are available from North British Windpower Limited, Lochside House, 3 Lochside Way, Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh, EH12 9DT free of charge. (Tel: 0131 452 2018).

The application is advertised as a potential bad neighbour and as a potential departure from the Development Plan as well as an application accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

Any person wishing to make representations to the Highland Council should make them in writing to the Director of Planning and Development, Highland Council, Glenquhart Road, Inverness, IV3 5NX within a period of 28 days beginning with the date of the publication of this notice on the 12 March 2009. For the avoidance of doubt the 28 day period for making representations shall end at the close of business on Thursday the 9 April 2009.

Ken McCorquodale, Planning and Development Service, The Highland Council, Glenquhart Road, Inverness IV3 5NX.

www.highland.gov.uk - 01463 702000

AGM

Will be held on 25 March 2009
At 7pm in the

Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre (Oban) Ltd
Glencruitten Road
Oban
Argyll PA34 4PU
Telephone/Fax 01631 566602
e-mail oban.msc@virgin.net

National Forest Land Scheme

Forestry Commission Scotland wishes to notify community and environmental groups that it is considering sale of the following woodland properties:

Name:

1. Auch (south)
2. Balinoe
3. Tiroran/Kilfinichen
4. Glen Forsa
5. Three Bridges
6. Mungosdail

Areas:

1. 297 ha.
2. 1196 ha.
3. 790 ha.
4. 598 ha.
5. 878 ha.
6. 699 ha.

Grid Refs:

1. NN 311 353
2. NM 890 227
3. NM 480 300
4. NM 635 368
5. NN 068 122
6. NM 581 532

Locations:

1. Between Tyndrum & Bridge of Orchy
2. South of Kilmore by A816
3. Isle of Mull
4. Isle of Mull
5. North of Inveraray by A819
6. Bonnavoulin near Drimmin, west of Lochaline by B849

Enquiries to **John Mackenzie, Asst. Acquisitions & Disposals Officer, Forestry Commission, Tower Road, Smithton, Inverness, IV2 7NL** tel: 01463 791575. Full details are being sent to the Community Council and Non-Government Organisations.

www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:

Croft House Site and Garden Ground
Ardaily Mill, Gigha

Direction dated 3 March 2009 granted to Lachlan M Wotherspoon and Mrs Fiona A Wotherspoon. Area ext to 0.161 ha.

Condition: Complete enclosure of the site with a stockproof fence or barrier within 4 months.

Case Number: 4.85.16272

Lodge St.Modan No.985

Regular meeting to be held on 18th. March @ 7:45pm in the Victory Hall Benderloch E.A.Degree A.O.C.B.

Rehearsal to be held at above Hall on 15th.March @ 7pm
Test Fees Due

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

We want to hear your views. Contact us at www.obantimes.co.uk

Times Forum

We want to hear your views. Contact us at www.obantimes.co.uk

www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk

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.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT

CD PLAYER JVC car cd player, KD-G612, brand new in the box, remote control and aux input for plugging in mp3 players etc. Oban, £49.99 Telephone 07920 116297.

BABY EQUIPMENT

STEAM STERILISER Avent express, sterilises up to 6 bottles in approximately 8 minutes, contents remain sterile for up to 3 hours, £20 Telephone 01546 606635. CAR SEAT Bebe Confort Creatis Fix Car Seat, safe side protection to reinforce baby's safety, comes with hood and newborn insert, £30 Telephone 01546 606635.

CARRYCOT soft bodied carrycot, suitable from 0-6 months, £10 Telephone 01546 606635.

CHILD CARRIER Littlelife explorer Child Carrier, excellent condition rarely used, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564690.

DOOR BOUNCER Lindam bounce about plus door bouncer, hardly used, £10 Telephone 01631 564690.

NURSING CHAIR Baby-Lo mid brown wood rocking nursing chair with matching rocking footstool, with beige cushions/covers, VGC and very comfortable, great for feeding and helping baby to fall asleep, £49.99 Telephone 01631 563919 07885 916559.

PLAY PEN Lindam safe and secure play pen, padded base is blue, £40 Telephone 01631 564690. PRAM SEAT babydan toddler pram seat, adjustable fit, will fit most prams up to 44cms, gives toddler a seat while pushing baby, £15 Telephone 01546 606635.

BICYCLES

CHILD'S TRAILER BIKE good condition, Ardferr, £49 Telephone 01858 500347.

BOOKS

FINLAY J. M A C D O N A L D OMNIBUS (Harris), paperback in very good condition, £3 Telephone 01631 563307.

BUILDING / DIY

DOOR Hardwood full double glazed door, 1990mm high x 850 wide, £40 Telephone 07808 094020.

DUROPAL WORKTOPS 3 duropal worktops, Black Brazil, 2 6'x2", 1 4'8"x2", uplift only, £45 one Telephone 01631 566678.

FOR SALE

CONCRETE BYSONS, 4 metres long x 1ft wide, ideal for bridges and walls, £20 each, can deliver

PRECAST SLABS, 4 metres long, 1 metre wide, 6 inches deep, £50 each,

Telephone 07796 760830.

GARAGE DOOR Henderson up and over garage door, white, unused, 6'0" x 7'0", £60 Telephone 07808094020.

PATIO DOORS Hardwood full double glazed patio doors, 1990 high x 1700mm wide, £75 Telephone 07808 094020.

PLYWOOD 2 Sheets, 8x4, £15.00 Telephone 01855 821482.

WALLPAPER STRIPPER Powerbase extreme 2000w wallpaper stripper, new, still in box, £10 Telephone 01631 569773. WATER PIPE Approx 70m coil 32mm black PE water pipe, new, £40 Telephone 07900 954312.

CALENDARS

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishfield.co.uk/calendar 2009.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR, fabulous

views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2009.

CAR ACCESSORIES

CAR TRAILER single axle car transporter trailer, good working order with ramps and spare wheel, £300 one, Telephone 01586 553469 or 07909 991388.

JEEP WHEELS jeep wheels and tyres, £49.99 Telephone 07810 565968.

LARGE TOP BOX for car roof, complete with fittings, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821482.

SAT NAV Marks and Spencer Sat Nav, £45 Telephone 07932 635849. TOM TOM version 3 sat nav plus charger, £48 Telephone 01880 820772.

CARAVAN EQUIPMENT

QUANTITY OF UTENSILS cutlery, kitchen utensils, plates, kettle etc for caravan/camper, £15 Telephone 01855821482.

TOWELS Dark Paisley design, suitable for caravanning/camping, £5 Telephone 01855 821482.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES

BROWN SHIRT "officers" German reproduction brown shirt, dress dagger, £35 Telephone 07932 635849.

GORETEX JACKET Sprayway TL Reaction Lite Gortex jacket, size medium, colour blue and black, excellent condition, £30 Telephone 07912 22123.

WETSUIT child's wetsuit excellent condition unisex age 7 to 8 worn twice colour black and red, £15 Telephone 01586551356.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER MONITOR 19" Philips Computer Monitor, for Mac or PC, £10 Telephone 07835 350017.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

GHD HAIR STRAIGHTENERS black, vgc, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720240.

MICROWAVE Cookworks microwave oven, £26 Telephone 01631 570081.

OIL FIRED ESSE (green) with boiler for hot water, good working order, buyer must collect (Oban), £300 Telephone 01631 566122.

PRO STAR OVEN 31 litre stainless steel 'Pro Star' oven with microwave, grill and convection oven, brand new, in box, cost over £100 new, £49 Telephone 01866 822351.

UPRIGHT HOOVER Electrolux upright vitesse staimaster Hoover (bagless) reasonable condition ideal for pets, £10 Telephone 07747092689.

GARDEN

ELECTRIC LAWN MOWER Challenge electric rotary mower with box, seldom used, £25 Telephone 01855 821482.

GARDENING BELT Makita cord and twine dispenser complete with waist belt, both brand new and sealed, Oban, £13 Telephone 07920 116297.

H U S Q V A R N A CHAINSAW Petrol, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821482.

LEAF BLOWER never been used, £20 Telephone 07879 018842.

SNOWDROP BULBS £5 per 100, £5 Telephone 07879 018842.

FIREARMS

BRNO .270 RIFLE, Scope, mounts and slip for sale. Very accurate, very good condition and light use only, open to offers, Telephone 07765591074.

BROWNING 12 BORE O/U 425 grade 1 multi choke, 28" barrel, beautiful gun in as new condition, Shotgun Certificate Required, £900 own, Telephone 01586 553469 07909 991388.

SAUER RIFLE Sauer 202.25.06 L-H rifle, wood blue, apel mounts, VGC, £900 Telephone 07990 886646.

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FIREWOOD Firewood, 8'x4' trailer load, well

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FIREWOOD bags and larger quantities, split logs, hardwood, softwood and kindling, good prices, free delivery 25 mile radius of Oban, Telephone 07748 750784.

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LOGS £10 per car boot load (3 loads), £10 Telephone 07879 018842.

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SOFA BED and recliner chair, reasonable condition, free to good home, Telephone 01631 730437.

FURNITURE

2 SEATER SETTEE Adapts to double bed, hardly used, ideal extra bed for self catering, cost over £700 when new, Buyer collects, £150 Telephone 01397 702646.

3 PIECE SUITE blue red and green a three seater a two seater and a chair, £49.99 Telephone 07923 697774.

DOUBLE PINE BED double solid pine bed with nearly new (sweet dreams) mattress. mattress rarely used, good condition, £49.95 Telephone 07747 092689.

KNOLL ARMCHAIRS in blue, vgc, £75 for two, Telephone 01586 810246.

NEST OF 3 TABLES by Meredew, real mahogany veneer, largest w22,d17,4, h18, £25 Telephone 01855 811879.

PINE TABLE solid pine drop leaf oval table, seats 4-6, antique pine, good condition, £40 Telephone 01546 602107.

SETTEE 2 Seater settee, adapts down to a double bed, hardly used, ideal for self-catering etc as extra bed, cost over £700 new, buyer collects, £150 one, Telephone 01397 702646.

SINGLE BEDFRAME single metal bedframe, modern design with wooden slatted base, vgc, £30 Telephone 07900 445034.

TABLE and 4 chairs, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570136.

TEAK WALL UNIT with display and storage areas, 6ft x 6ft vgc, £150. Two Parker Knoll armchairs in blue, vgc, £75 for two, Telephone 01586 810246.

THREE PIECE SUITE black/grey velour, first reasonable offer secures, Telephone 01631 562839.

TV UNIT dark pine tv unit with drawer height 21" width 32" depth 24", £20 Telephone 07810 565968.

WALL UNIT Teak wall unit with display and storage areas, 6ftx6ft, vgc, £150 Telephone 01586 810246.

GARDEN

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GARDENING BELT Makita cord and twine dispenser complete with waist belt, both brand new and sealed, Oban, £13 Telephone 07920 116297.

H U S Q V A R N A CHAINSAW Petrol, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821482.

LEAF BLOWER never been used, £20 Telephone 07879 018842.

SNOWDROP BULBS £5 per 100, £5 Telephone 07879 018842.

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 lounge exerciser, good condition, £30 Telephone 01855 821482



EXERCISER / GRAVITY WALKER, as new, buyer collects, £550, telephone 01631 560294 after 6pm.

REEBOK EXERCISE BIKE hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 07799 737031.

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2 OIL-FILLED ELECTRIC HEATERS thermostatic controlled, movable on wheels, £30 Telephone 01631 565403.

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HIGHLAND DANCE OUTFIT highland dance kilt waistcoat and blouse would suit age range approx 7 to 9 years good condition, £40 Telephone 01586 551356.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

SHOOTING STICK steel shooting stick with brown leather folding seat, £18 Telephone 07932 635849.

WORKMATE BENCH workmate bench, £15 Telephone 07932 635849.

ZOOM TELESCOPE with tripod, 35mmx50mmx50mm, £35 one, Telephone 07932 635849.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

DVD RECORDER with hard disk drive, boxed, never used, £90 one, Telephone 01880 820772.

FILM PROJECTOR Bell and Howell 16mm film projector (1940's-1950's) transformer, Telephone 07932 635849.

JVC CAMCORDER JVC Everio camcorder, which takes photos, additional battery and charger and carry bag, used once, £200 one, Telephone 01880 820772.

PORTABLE TV pink portable colour tv, new with remote control, £25 Telephone 07932 635849.

HOME FURNISHINGS

BRASS HEADBOARD 4ft 6in brass headboard, in very good condition, £40 Telephone 01631 562272.

LOUNGE CARPET 17' x13' Approx rust background green/cream pattern, perfect condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570988.

PERSIAN RUG Genuine Persian Heriz rug, unused, 3mx2m, £600 Telephone 01631 70360.

HOME OFFICE

PHILLIPS TELEPHONE/FAX as new, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821285.

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GLASS SHOWER SCREEN thick glass shower screen complete with bath mountings, hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821285.

SHOWER SCREEN Thick glass, with bath mountings, hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821285.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

BILLIARDS-POOL playing funny dogs on 4 types of art prints, 15 1/2" X 11 3/4", the lot for £49, Telephone 02392 431503.

POOL TABLE 7 ft Slate Bed Pub Pool Table, excellent condition, all accessories included, delivery can be arranged £395 one, Telephone 07050 325527.

MARINE ELECTRONICS

MARINE RADAR Raytheon RX40 display unit and 24inch display

raydome scanner in working order with cable and display mounting bracket., £49.99 Telephone 01967 431350.

MISCELLANEOUS

AUCTION SALE 10.30am Friday 27th March.

Ferpoint Hotel is closing its bar restaurant/bar kitchen. For sale 6 burner cooker, fryers, microwaves, s/s tabling/fridges/coffee machine/sinks, tables, leather chairs, 17 picnic tables, carpets, laundry dryer and much more. Viewing Thursday 26th 2-7pm and morning of sale Telephone Enquiries Bob 07748128923 or Donald 07711071681.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

SOLITAIRE PAYPHONE Solitaire 3000 pay phone, £40 one, Telephone 07932 635849.

TELEPHONE AND FAX Phillips telephone/fax machine, as new, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821285.

MOBILITY

WHEELCHAIR Self Propelled, Red, £49.99 Telephone 01855 821482.

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LEATHER JACKET ladies leather jacket with shoulder and elbow protection, £40 Telephone 01546 606635.

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DRUM KIT great kit to learn on, 5 piece with large range of cymbals, new bass drum pedal, Remo drum skins, comes with drum cases, good condition, £400 one, Telephone 01852 300493.

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VIOLIN Hoff German violin, £120 Telephone 07932 635849.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

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LOUIS WAIN 1860-1939 funny cats on 4 types of art prints, the lot for £49, Telephone 02392 431503.

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WRITING PAPER & envelopes - Personalised and matching, an ideal present, Contact Krisp Printing and Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. 01586 554975.

WANTED

OYSTER BAGS wanted, Telephone 07900 954312.

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WANTED chainsaw and other forestry equipment, Telephone 07887 608082.

WANTED Morris 100/minor steering rack, any condition considered, Telephone 01631 570542.

WORLD WAR 2 UNIFORMS battle dress, helmets, 1939-1945, if you wish to sell telephone 01855 811467.

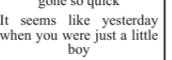
PERSONALS

Happy 21st Birthday Rory



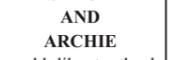
How could the years have gone so quick It seems like yesterday when you were just a little boy Running out to play. Lots of love son Mum, Dad, Zoe and all the family.

Happy 21st BIRTHDAY HANNAH MOVAT



Love from Mum and Dad

Happy 70th Birthday on 15th March 2009



Lots of love from all of the family

SHAUN AND ARCHIE would like to thank everybody who helped to make Friday night such a success and for all the presents and cards received. We raised £705 for Stobhill Kidney Patient's Association. Thank you all!

Ivy MacDougall Would like to thank Mr Kumar and staff of Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley for their care during her operation and would also like to thank staff of Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban for their excellent after care. Thank you also to relatives and friends for cards, flowers and telephone calls. God bless you all. Lynn Court.

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Countdown to launch date

Time is marching on to get boats ready for the new sailing season - so gear up, get the overalls on and get cracking to get your boat ready for the water.

Prepare your checklist of work, prioritise on the important jobs and be prepared with the right tools for the work in hand. Otherwise engage the professionals as soon as possible, remembering this is their busy time of year.

Hull and topsides

Scrub and clean the underside of the hull removing as much old anti-fouling as possible to ensure a good surface for re-application. Be guided by your chandler on choice of anti-fouling. This will be dictated by use and area with a wide range available from specialist racing finishes to cruiser coatings. Apply according to instructions with a stronger build-up in the high impact areas - the leading edge of the keel and skeg and the keel to hull joint - make sure you anti-foul under the keel and cradle support points before the boat takes to the water

Before anti-fouling inspect the keel for signs of rusting or pitting and wear at the keel to hull joint. Check keelbolts and beware of rusting. Inspect the rudder and skeg fittings as well as the propeller and grease the shaft well. Check the an-

ode is doing its job and replace if necessary. The topsides should be thoroughly cleaned of winter dirt and any damage repaired. When sound, apply a protective wax and polish well to keep the boat looking pristine throughout the season - an extensive range of products is available and your local chandler will give advice.

Powerhouse and Deck

Service engines - both inboards and outboards. Renew oil, filters, anodes etc and grease stern gear. Check steering gear and bilge pumps. Look for wear on hose and electrical connections as well as servicing seacocks. Where gas is used, check the system annually and ensure it conforms to current gas regulations. Re-charge batteries.

Service deck gear and check over rigging and renew as required - boat insurance can be invalidated if it is suspect. Check instrumentation at the masthead - it is easier to do this when the mast is stepped. Overhaul warps and sheets and replace as required. Similarly, look for corrosion on anchors and chain. Varnish any wood on deck, touch up paintwork and polish bright work.

Clean-up interior

Clean the interior thoroughly. Pump fresh water through the water tank. Inspect central heating systems and reinstall VHF, Navigation and other

equipment etc removed for winter storage.

All safety equipment must be scrutinised, remembering lives may depend on it. Inspect fire extinguishers, flares, life-rafts, life-jackets, rubber dinghies and replace or repair. An RNLI safety check is available free of charge to see if your safety and other equipment aboard the boat is up to scratch. Make an inventory and display in boat - items can be then be found quickly and easily.

Sails must be checked for wear - it is always advisable to get a professional sail-maker to attend to this. Similarly, inspect your berth cushions and clean before re-installing - the interior should be fresh and inviting to start your season.

Expert advice

If you launch the boat yourself get organised with tools and a selection of split pins, tape, extra anti-fouling and a brush. Otherwise liaise with your yard to get a suitable slot for launching.

Don't forget there is always expert advice to be gained from your local boatyard manager, chandler, or sail-maker - these people are the experts so if in doubt about anything - ask.

Now thoughts can turn to planning your activities on the water - whether it be cruising or racing to enjoy a safe and successful 2009 season.



Shinty fixtures

Shinty

- Premier Division**
 Glenorchy v Newtonmore
 Duncan Kerr
 Glenurquhart v Bute
 Ron Kennedy
 1.00 Throw Up
 Kingussie v Kyles Athletic
 Ronnie Campbell
 Lochaber v Fort William
 Colin MacDonald
 Oban Caman v Inveraray
 Ted McDonald
- North Division 1**
 Beaully v Lovat
 Willie Anderson
 Inverness v Kilmallie
 John Sloggie
 Kinlochsheil v Lochcarron
 Graham Irving
 Strathglass v Caberfeidh
 Donald MacRae
- South Division 1**
 Ballachulish v Oban Celtic
 Dougie Cameron
 Kilmory v Lochside Rovers
 David Mitchell
 Tayforth v Inveraray
 Robert Baxter Jnr
- North Division 2**
 Caberfeidh v Newtonmore
 Derek Cameron
 Glengarry v Kingussie
 Daniel MacRae
 Kilmallie v Kinlochsheil
 Neil Ferguson
 Lovat v Glenurquhart
 Charles Young
 Skye v Fort William
 Evan MacRae
- South Division 2**
 Col Glen v Bute
 Innes Wood
 GMA v Glenorchy
 Andrew MacKenzie
 Kyles v Ballachulish
 Jim Innes
 Strachur v Aberdour
 Billy Wotherspoon
- North Division 3**
 Aberdeen Uni v Lochaber
 Jock Matheson
 Boleskine v Beaully
 Russell Ross
 Inverness v Kinraig
 Derek Cameron
 12.00 Throw Up
 Lochbroom v Strathglass
 Roddie MacLennan
 Lochcarron v Ard/murchan
 Joey Smith



Spray it again - there is a ball in there somewhere as Lochaber's Ben Delaney gets down and dirty at Spean Bridge on Saturday (c1shinty02)



Kingussie defender Rory Fraser digs the ball out from the rising tide (c1shinty01)

40 seconds to wait for first goal of the new season

Ross wades in at Spean Bridge with four goals

Hat-trick in under 13 minutes for shinty's top scorer

LAST SATURDAY'S start to the new shinty season was nothing if not predictable - numerous fixtures, particularly in the South, falling foul of the heavy and persistent rain; disagreements within the sport's governing body catching the headlines ahead of the Association's AGM; and Kingussie's Ronald Ross netting a hat-trick within the first 13 minutes.

Torrential rain delayed the start of the Premier encounter at Spean Bridge between Lochaber and Kingussie, with referee Charles Young giving ground staff every opportunity to try to clear rising surface water from the surface.

The tie may have started late, but Ronald Ross wasted no time in setting his standard for the new season with a goal in the opening 40 seconds.

Lochaber set out their stall to keep it tight at the back for the first 20 minutes but

Shinty

Premier Division
 Lochaber 2 Kingussie 6

Ross destroyed the plan with another two goals before the 13th minute mark. His third, following a free hit, was a walk around the home defence as they slithered in ankle-deep mud.

Lochaber now faced an uphill battle but re-organised and showed much more resolve for the remainder of the half without really finding a direct route to Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick.

With heavy rain continuing to make underfoot conditions a lottery, Kingussie introduced Kevin Thain for Ally Borthwick shortly after the interval and Thain extended Kingussie's lead with almost his first touch of the ball thanks to a fierce low shot from the left.

Three minutes later Paul Gow was allowed too much room and he fired home a fifth goal passed keeper Angus Morrison who repeatedly thwarted the visitor's attack and could not be faulted for the rapidly rising scoreline.

Thirty minutes into the second-half Lachlan Campbell drew a goal back for Lochaber but almost immediately from the restart the ball broke kindly at the edge of the box for Ross and he netted his fourth and Kingussie's sixth of the day.

With four minutes remaining Ben Delaney put a better reflection on the scoreline from a Lochaber perspective.

This week, if the Spean surface recovers, Lochaber entertain near neighbours Fort William in a tie that should draw a good crowd, while Kingussie start their home campaign with a fixture against far-travelled Kyles Athletic.

Glenurquhart start back with 5-0 defeat

Shinty

Premier Division
 Newtonmore 5
 Glenurquhart 0

GLENURQUHART'S first game back in shinty's Premier division following a 10 year-absence resulted in a 0-5 defeat at the hands of Newtonmore at the Eilan with the visitors finding the pace of life in the top flight a little too hot to handle.

Despite an even and end-to-end first half-hour, Newtonmore then struck three times within nine minutes as Norman Campbell opened the scoring, then Paul MacArthur broke through from midfield to add Newtonmore's second, and Norman Campbell finding the Glen net once again one minute off the interval whistle.

Further goals in the second-half from David Cheyne and young Chris Sellar ensured that the home side started the season on a high.

This coming Saturday, Glenurquhart welcome Bute to Drumnadrochit for a 12 noon start while Newtonmore are scheduled to travel to Mart Park, Dalmailly for a fixture against Glenorchy.

Shinty results

Shinty

Marine Harvest Premier Division
 Glenorchy P Kyles Athletic P
 Inveraray P Bute P
 Lochaber 2 Kingussie 6
 Newtonmore 5 Glenurquhart 0
 Oban Caman P Ft William P

North Division One
 Beaully 1 Kinlochsheil 1
 Caberfeidh 1 Kilmallie 3
 Inverness 0 Skye 4
 Strathglass P Lochcarron P

South Division One
 GMA 5 Kilmory 0
 Lochside Rvers P Inveraray P
 Tayforth 2 Ballachulish 4

North Division Two
 Glenurquhart 4 Ft William 2
 Kilmallie P Caberfeidh P
 Kingussie 2 Newtonmore 1
 Kinlochsheil P Skye P
 Lovat 2 Glengarry 1

South Division Two
 Aberdour w/o Col Glen
 Ballachulish P Kyles P
 Bute 0 Kyles Athletic 2
 Taynuilt P Glenorchy P

North Division Three
 Aberdeen Uni 3 Inverness 1
 Ardnamurchan 3 Boleskine 2
 Kinraig 0 Lochcarron 3
 Lochbroom 1 Beaully 0
 Strathglass 5 Lochaber 1

Surprise result

Shinty

BEAULY and Kinlochsheil played out a very competitive league tie at Braeview Park, with Sheil's Gordie MacDonald returning from injury to score the opener after 20 minutes.

Beaully's trouble deepened when Sandy Tulloch was sent off but they came back to take a share of the points when Barrie MacDonald equalised from the penalty spot on the hour.

GLENURQUHART'S second string produced a shock in North Division Two at Drumnadrochit by defeating a Fort William side 4 - 2 that swept all aside in the league last season.

Late MacMaster goal gives Ardnamurchan winning start
 Home side comes back from two goals down to defeat tiring Boleskine

Shinty

North Division Three
 Ardnamurchan 3 Boleskine 2

MANAGERLESS Ardnamurchan took full points from their North Division opener against an experienced Boleskine last Saturday.

The young west coast outfit only had one player in the starting 12 over 20 and conditions were hardly ideal with one end of the park heavily flooded.

Boleskine dominated the opening minutes of the game as the home side found it very difficult to control the ball in the wet conditions and Kevin Hunter left the home keeper with no chance with his powerful close range drive in the first half.

The second half started bet-

ter for 'Ard' as the forward line could work in more favourable conditions. The addition of ex-Oban Celtic player, John Nudds, added to the Ard attack it wasn't long before chances were created and it was against the run of play that Boleskine's Kevin Hunter added a second seven minutes into the second half.

Ardnamurchan, spurred on by a large support, were rewarded for all their pressure with a goal by the young James Strachan after some

clever play between Nudds and Stewart Carmichael.

Boleskine then came back and put the young Ard defence under a lot of pressure, Lochaline's Shaun Olsen clearing many a dangerous ball from the edge of the D.

Finally, with ten minutes to go, Nudds took his chance and drove a powerful strike into the back of the net from the right wing.

Ardnamurchan were not content with a draw and pressed forward for the win-



John Nudds made a splash at Drimnatorran on Saturday

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1200

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
 I Mitchell, Tayinloan and J MacIntyre, Ballachulish

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



Obermory reach first bowl final

Combined Oban and Tobermory side in schools showpiece

A COMBINED Oban and Tobermory rugby team has become the first Argyll side to reach a Scottish schools final since the 1980s.

The team have played five matches, three away from home, to reach the final of the Scottish Schools Bowl at the home of Glasgow Academicals on March 20.

Team coach Murray Hamilton said that it was a 'great achievement' by the team.

'The boys deserve all the praise,' he said.

'They have worked very hard and travelled from coast

Rugby

to coast. This is the first time any Argyll school team has reached any final since the early 1980s.

'We would love to see a large contingent of Argyll supporters at the final, I know it is not Murrayfield but we should certainly make it feel like it.

'These boys deserve everybody's support for a great achievement, I cannot speak highly enough of all the players.

'All the coaches are ex-

tremely proud of every single player.'

Obermory will play another Borders side in the final, Earlston High School, thanks to a 36-0 semi-final win at Jedburgh Grammar School last week. The Argyll team were on top form right from kick-off taking only three minutes to get a score on the board - Calum McLaughlin started the scoring and picked up two more tries during the game. The half-back pairing of Ciaran Whyte and Patrick Carmichael were linking well and providing time and space for Angus McCallum and Ruaridh Aitken in the centres.

David Black has made full back his own position and he consistently ran back any high balls making good territory and keeping the pressure on Jedburgh. The forwards dominated and kept the pressure on at scrums and rucks to give Jedburgh little time.

Alex Dunning led the pack as captain and put in a solid performance at back row along with Calum Cooper, Magnus Bradbury and Scott Sinclair. The front row kept things tight when it needed to be and showed good tactical awareness, Connor Ferris, Euan McFie and Fergus Moore worked well as a unit.

Ferris picked up a try along with McLaughlin's three and Angus McCallum got one try and all but one conversion.



Oban Saints on the attack during Saturday's Scottish Cup win over Bellshill Derby. ©11saints06

Saints head into last eight

OBAN SAINTS are through to their second appearance in the quarter finals of the Scottish Amateur Cup in three years.

With the heavy rain making the grass park at Glen-cruitten unplayable the game was switched to the new astro-grass community pitch at Oban High School.

Saints got off to the perfect start with a goal in six minutes through Willie Gemmell. The visitors looked comfortable on the ball and were knocking it about confidently, but they were being closed down quickly by a hard-working Saints midfield.

The home side increased their lead in the 28th minute when Allan MacKay, lurking at the back post, headed in a goal.

Allan MacKay and Donald

Football

Foster's Scottish Amateur Cup 7th Round

Oban Saints 5
Bellshill Derby 1

Campbell combined on the right flank before setting up Joe Lopez who drilled a low shot into the back of the net with the help of a slight deflection.

Saints netted their fifth goal with 10 minutes remaining and again it was a cracker. Myles McAuley picked up the ball in midfield before going on a rampaging run leaving several Derby players in his wake before slipping the ball wide to Allan MacKay who fired a right foot drive in off the post.

The Oban side were rampant with Allan MacKay and

Donald Campbell in sparkling form and they could have scored another couple of goals, but in the end had to settle for a 5-1 win.

Manager Iain Jackson was delighted with the performance, and obviously the result.

He said: 'We played some excellent stuff against a good Bellshill team. Everybody worked really hard and we fully deserve to be in the quarter finals for the second time in three years.'

This Saturday the Oban side face a tough away fixture in the fifth round of the West of Scotland Cup when they take on last year's Scottish Cup winners Eddlewood.

The match will be played at Hamilton with a 2pm kick-off.

Oban Saints youth teams

Football

OBAN Saints under 14s won 8-1 against Helensburgh with Martin MacPherson (4), Cammy MacLean, Robert Johnson, Neil MacFarlane and Ciaran Jackson all on the scoresheet.

Saints under-16s won 2-1 against Everton BC.

Netting for Saints were Michael MacMillan and Steven Delebecque.

The under 13s v Clydebank BC match and the under-17 match against Glenvale were both postponed.

This Saturday's fixtures:
Clydebank Phoenix v Under 13s
Renton v Under 14s
Under 16s v Glenbrae Colts
East End v Under 17s

Keith Millar, Willie Gemmell and Jamie Graham have been selected for the Scottish squad who take on the Central League in a John Smith's Trophy match to be held at Glasgow Green on Monday March 16, kick-off 7pm.



Colin Fleming.

Oban champ in GB Davis Cup match

Tennis

CURRENT West Highland Tennis Champion Colin Fleming represented Great Britain in the Davis Cup at Braehead last weekend.

Colin made his return to the world tour shortly after winning the Oban Scottish Grand Prix event at Atlantis Leisure last year and has quickly risen up the world rankings.

Along with partner Ross Hutchins, Colin lost a close five set doubles thriller against the Ukraine but is likely to feature in captain John Lloyd's thoughts for Great Britain's next tie in September.

Last orders for Tennents at yachting week

Sailing

ENTRY forms are now available for the 30th West Highland Yachting Week.

The popular boat race between Craobh Haven, Oban and Tobermory will be held between Friday July 31 and August 7.

Further details can be found online at www.whyw.co.uk.

Meanwhile drinks company Tennents, who have been a long term sponsor of the event, have said that this year will be their last.

Oban pool league

Pool

	Pl	Pts
Lancaster	18	28
Balmoral A	18	26
Markie Dans	18	26
Lochavullin A	17	22
Claredon	17	16
Lochavullin B	17	16
Lochnell	17	14
Cellar	17	12
Balmoral B	17	6
Kelvin	17	4
Gluepot	17	4

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, March 12, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.

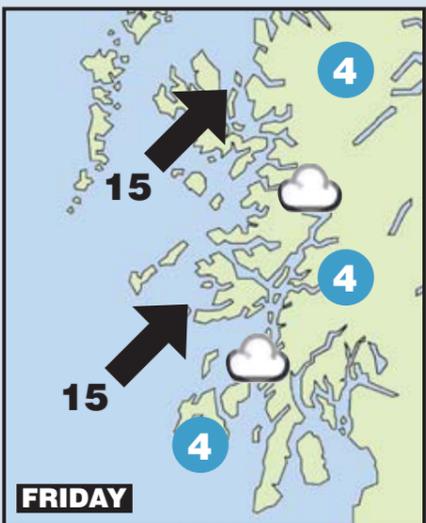
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.21 0.3 06.21 4.2 12.57 0.6 18.42 4.0	
Fri	01.00 0.3 06.53 4.1 13.30 0.7 19.13 4.0	
Sat	01.36 0.5 07.24 4.0 14.01 0.8 19.42 3.9	
Sun	02.11 0.7 07.53 3.7 14.34 1.1 20.11 3.7	
Mon	02.46 1.0 08.22 3.5 15.09 1.3 20.43 3.4	
Tues	03.24 1.4 08.52 3.2 15.52 1.6 21.21 3.2	
Wed	04.10 1.7 09.25 2.9 16.48 1.8 22.11 2.9	

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

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

Thursday

Expected to be cloudy with a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds moderate westerly.

Temperatures -2°C to 6°C

Friday

Again expected to see a mixture of sunny spells and showers. Winds moderate north-westerly.

Temperatures -1°C to 5°C

Weekend Outlook

Saturday and Sunday expected to be cloudy with sleet or snow at times. Winds moderate north-westerly.

Temperatures -1°C to 3°C

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate

Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above

Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Glasgow Celtic cancel Oban coaching event

Community football sessions called off due to lack of interest

CELTIC Football Club has cancelled a community coaching event in Oban, scheduled for this weekend, because of a lack of interest.

Despite the cost of the course being reduced to £10 per day, after the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Fund and Cash for Kids donated money, only

New head coach for Scotland

Shinty

SCOTLAND'S head coach for the next two years will be Lochcarron's Fraser MacKenzie, it was announced this week.

Ballachullish's Charles Young, Fort William's Drew McNeil and Lochcarron's Kenny Ross have also been appointed as assistant coaches for the same period.

Between them the squad have a vast and varied amount of coaching and playing experience both in club shinty as well as at representative and international level.

Last year's captain, Kenny Ross, has been added to the coaching team as a developmental opportunity.

The first match will be the Shinty/Hurling International in October at the Bught Park, Inverness.

The Camanachd Association's Graham Cormack said: 'It is expected that with these appointments the Scottish squad will continue to develop and succeed in the international event and build on the success of recent years.'

Football

11 children signed up to take part.

Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish, who helped to organise the event, said: 'I am extremely disappointed with the low number of bookings, consid-

Young players to represent Glasgow Thistle in France

Rugby

EIGHT young rugby players from Oban have been selected to take part in an international training camp in Perpignan in France.

The youngsters are to represent Glasgow Thistles in the elite programme at Canet, near Perpignan, which uses the same training facilities as those used by the Australian national side and top English clubs Sale and Harlequins.

Dee Bradbury of Oban Lorne Rugby Club said: 'This is a training camp for talented rugby players for two weeks this summer.'

'The concept behind the programme is to give them a taste of what it would be like to travel and participate in training camps as international players.'

'The emphasis is upon skills and training, immersion in French culture and overall dedication and attitude to the sport.'

Dee added that the boys are actively encouraged to raise funds themselves via sponsorship and fundraising.

The Oban Lorne coach and

ering we had between 70 and 80 children the last time Celtic came here.

'If we don't encourage this type of coaching course then they won't come back to Oban.'

'I hope the Rangers coaching course in July gets a better response.'



Jonathan Reid.

Tarbert shooter hits the target

Shooting

AN ATARBERT shooter has been awarded the Scottish Clay Target Association Achievement Award following his heroics at last year's Commonwealth Championships.

Jonathan Reid won a gold and a silver medal for Scotland at the championship after winning the Olympic Trap singles event and gaining a silver medal in the pairs, alongside Lochaber's Ewan MacColl.

The achievement award is the second in four years for Jonathan, who was the youngest ever Olympic Trap competitor at the Commonwealth Games three years ago in Melbourne.

Shooting

Not only was Jonathan against some of the top marksmen in the world at the recent Commonwealth Championships, the 23 year old also had to contend with some of the worst weather Gibraltar had seen in recent times.

His father John, who also shot for Scotland, said: 'He did a fantastic job because of the weather over there. He had to hit the target on his last shot, in the wind and rain, to win the gold and he did it.'

Jonathan will be competing in the Southern Counties Championship next month to qualify for Team GB.