

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Digital Edition

Your local news can now travel with you.



Police seek witnesses to serious assault

OBAN police are looking for witnesses after a man was seriously assaulted in Oban town centre in the early hours of Sunday morning, March 7.

The 28-year-old was found with serious injuries in High Street around 6am and taken by ambulance to Lorn and Islands Hospital before being transferred to the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

Police know that the man had been drinking in various pubs in Oban during Saturday evening before going to a house party in the town which he left at around 2.20am.

But Oban CID are now trying to establish the man's movements between leaving the party and being found in High Street.

Anyone who may have seen or heard anything unusual or who may have any information on the assault should contact Oban CID on 01631 510500.

Mull ben rescue

FOUR visitors to Mull had to be rescued from Ben More after they got into difficulties near the summit on Saturday afternoon.

The walkers from the Dundee area, who were not properly equipped for their hike, had to contact the police for assistance.

Oban Mountain Rescue Team was alerted and a member of Strathclyde Police Mountain Rescue Team made contact with the walkers while Search and Rescue helicopter 177 from Prestwick went to their rescue.



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Emergency services work to free a young woman during the real time crash scenario held in Oban. 16-011crash5

Crash scenario hits message home

A REAL time crash scenario left few people in any doubt of the severity of careless driving.

The display in Tesco's car park, Oban, last Friday evening, hosted by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue and supported by Strathclyde

Police and The Scottish Ambulance Service, showed what it was really like when an accident happened.

Officers removed tarpaulin covers to reveal a crash where one car had driven into another.

Through some very real-

istic acting and the seriousness of emergency teams a woman who had been injured in the crash was cut out of vehicle.

The commentator said: 'Very often when we are called to an incident we are working with victims who

are our friends and neighbours; 49 per cent of the people involved in accidents in Argyll are from the area.'

A crowd of more than 200 people witnessed the scenario with one commenting: 'I am never going to answer my phone when I am driving.'

Mary's Meals short-listed for major national award

MARY'S Meals, the Dalmally-based international charity which feeds nearly 400,000 children in the Third World, has been short-listed for a major national award.

School feeding projects

The charity is one of five that has been short-listed in the Third Sector magazine's awards for Britain's most innovative charity, the winner of which will be announced at a ceremony in London on March 16.

Mary's Meals runs school feeding

projects, providing more than 390,000 of the world's poorest children with a meal a day in their place of education.

This simple act gives them essential nutrition and a reason to go to school, gaining the education that can help to break the cycle of poverty.

The programme, which now operates in 15 countries, began when Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow from Dalmally, the charity's founder, visited Malawi and met a young boy whose mother was dying from AIDS.

Magnus asked the boy what he hoped for in life, and he replied: 'To have enough food to eat and to go to school one day.'

The idea behind Mary's Meals grew from this conversation.

'It is a welcome compliment to be nominated for an award that highlights innovation in charities,' said Magnus.

Other charities short-listed for the award are Tower Hamlets Summer University, St Giles Trust, Mothertongue and Motivation.

Tiree named on school closure draft?

ISLANDERS on Tiree are shocked to hear that their school may be included in a draft document on school closures.

After a number of weeks of claim-and-counter-claim, it has been revealed that a draft Argyll and Bute Council document has been in circulation naming a number of schools for closure.

Despite no-one being willing to confirm the names of schools in the draft, two high schools are consistently being rumoured as included - Tiree and Tarbert.

Councillor Anne Horn from Tarbert said: 'Yes, there are draft proposals from officers putting forward some ideas about how to make savings in future budgets. 'These do include the closure of schools. But these are draft documents. There have been no costings, and no debate about the draft plans.'

'Under legislation brought in by the Scottish government children of these schools will be protected.

'The SNP is strongly against the closure of any schools. You cannot close a school because of financial savings - it could be closed if there were no children in the school, but that is not the case here.'

Turning to the proposals for closures of high schools, Mrs Horn said: 'There are proposals in the documents that every senior officer has been asked to look at. And efficiencies have been proposed in every area of the council.'

'These are very hard financial times and difficult proposals have been put

forward. But some of these proposals need to be torn up and put in the bin, immediately.'

'We need to stand as a united group against any proposed closure or mergers.'

'It would be a scandal for Tiree or Tarbert to close.'

Oban South and the Isles councillor Mary-Jean Devon said: 'Various options have been suggested for cost savings over the next few years. But as Oban High School admitted it was already full to capacity, by my estimation I would think that Tiree High School is safe.'

'There is no infrastructure in Oban to facilitate moving secondary children to the town.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'The parents and pupils of schools throughout Argyll and Bute Council are entitled to know the truth about what proposals may or may not exist.'

'On one hand we have councillors saying there is a secret or draft document that names schools, such as Tarbert and Tiree, that are being considered for closure. While the Freedom of Information officer and the education spokesperson deny that any document exists. It would be a scandal for Tiree or Tarbert to close.'

'The chief executive must mount an immediate inquiry and establish the truth.'

Former councillor Ian Gillies from Tiree said: 'I am

shocked, but not surprised, that Tiree is on a draft list for closure.'

'Whatever problems the council is facing financially it must realise that even though it is more expensive to run an island school it is part of the unique authority area it administers on behalf of the people.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council has been in consultation with the Scottish government for several years as regards our School Estate Asset Strategy and Management Plan, designed to draw up and assess options for the future of the council's school estate. Head teachers and elected members have been involved in this ongoing process, which is part of the authority's normal business.'

'As a separate issue, and in the light of the financial settlements to local government for 2010/11, the council has been quite open in recent months about the fact that budgetary pressures over the next few years will require it to review every aspect of its service provision, including education.'

'Many internal documents have been drafted to date regarding this revision, and many more will be drafted over the coming months as the council seeks to identify possible ways forward.'

'Such documents contain preliminary ideas which may or may not feature in the final 2011/12 budget proposals. They are internal tools to inform the internal debate, rather than sources of public information.'

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LOCAL COLLEGE

Islanders take charge of Mull rally

THE TOUR of Mull Rally is to be driven forward by the islanders themselves after event organisers, the 2300 Club, decided to call it a day after 40 years.

Plans underway

The Oban Times can exclusively reveal that plans to continue with the rally this October are already underway. And a team, including past rally winners, are considering the logistical, financial and practical ways in which they can host the annual October event.

Heading up the negotiations is island councillor Mary-Jean Devon, who said: 'Within 24 hours of the news that organisers,

the 2300 Club, had made the decision to pull out of the event we were making plans to host the rally ourselves.'

'I received 40 phone calls within a few hours - because people are so concerned the rally was cancelled.'

'I can confirm that we have arranged a meeting for Monday, March 15 at Craignure Village Hall at 7.30pm.'

'It is very clear from individuals and businesses that Mull cannot afford to lose the rally - either financially or socially. 'The rally brings in an estimated £2 million to the island's economy.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk

'The 40-year-old partnership between Mull and the 2300 club worked very well but it has now decided to call it a day. There is no one person to blame. We have to move on.'

'A decision will be reached on Monday about what form the rally will take. But I am very hopeful that there will be an event that will maintain all the excitement, thrills and fun that Mull is famous for.'

It is understood that Scottish rally experts are advising the group, two rally organisations are interested in helping with the logistics of the event, funders and private financiers have been approached for offers-in-kind and Argyll and Bute Council officers have given advice on road closures. Past organiser Neil Molyneux has offered to help the group in 'anyway he can'.

An island source said: 'I haven't spoken to one single person who is against these plans. Even people who have made complaints about the event in the past are optimistic that the rally will continue this year.'

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Tha cèol na sgàthan air beatha theaghlachan, an cleachdaidhean, an cànan, agus an cuid feallsa-nachd. Sin mar a chuir aon de na seinneadairean ainmeil againn a beachdan an cèill ann an còmhraidh le neach-naidheachd, agus thuir i cuideachd gur e bàrr euchd sgrìobhaiche ciùil sam bith gun toir a chuid ciùil toileachas, cofhurtachd, agus neart do chuideigin. 'S e gibht iongantach agus cumhach-dach a th' ann an cèoil!

Tha mise ag aontachadh gu tur agus, ged is e 's dòcha peacadh a th' ann, tha mi riann air a bhith cho farmadach ris an fheadhainn aig am bheil an comas seinn is innealan ciùil a chluich.

Ged nach eil cus dòchais agamsa air leithid sin de chomas fhaotainn aig an ìre seo dem shaoighal, tha mi air leth toilichte a ràdh gun bheil an còthrom a th' againn uile èisteachd ri sàr luchd-ciùil a sior fhàs! Nach math agus nach misneachail sin!

Bha mi nam chathraiche air deagh Chèilidh Sgitheanach as a' Ghearastan bho chionn ghoirid; an siathamh tè dheth a leithid a chuir Meur Loch Abair den Chomunn Ghàidhealach air dòigh. Tha iad uile air a bhith math, agus tha e daonnan na thlachd a bhith an cuideachd nan Abrach chòir, agus tha e sònraichte math a bhith a' faicinn dhaoine a' fàgail na cèilidh le plion is toileachas! Meala-naidheachd gu dearbh air Teàrlach is Ceiteag is na buill eile den chomataidh a tha a' cur seo air dòigh gach bliadhna.

Bha cuirm na bliadhna seo sònraichte ri linn na h-ìre 's gun robh òigridh a' gabhail an àrd-ùrlair. Cha b' è dìreach gun robh luchd-ciùil òg a' cluich is a' seinn air a' chuir seo, 's e gun tug iad annlan ciùil dhan luchd-èisteachd a bha cho proifeiseanta agus sgileil ri dad a shùilichte air cuirm sam bith. Eadar Brìghde Chaimbeul, aig aona bliadhna deug, a' toirt grinneas ciùil às a' phìob; an còmhlan aig na bràithrean Nairn; Rebecca Dhòmhnallach, còig bliadhna deug, a' seinn le ealantas; agus cuideachd Màiri is Steaphanaigh Chaimbeul a' nochdadh còmhla.

Nuair a tha sinn cho tric a' caoidh mar a tha beartas cultar na Gàidhlig a' sìoladh, nach grinn an comas a bh' againn leithid seo de thàlant a chluinntinn, agus abair misneachadh! Nuair a chrìochnaich an oidheche seo bha mise cuideachd le plion air mo pheirceall!

Congratulations to the organisers of the recent Skye Cèilidh in Fort William! It was the sixth such event, and while these have all been successful this year's event was particularly significant in that more than half the artistes were under twenty-one, and four were under eighteen!

Brìghde Campbell; Rebecca MacDonald; the Nairn brothers; Màiri and Stephanie Campbell, all gave stunning performances, complementing the predictable excellence of Catriona Fair; Maggie MacDonald; Calum Ross; and Donald Murray.

This was a truly motivating evening of Gaelic entertainment, and how pleasing to hear the appreciation of the audience as they headed home.

An excellent experience and exciting musical memories!

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

Scots Canadian film maker searching for family of South Uist Indian

A SCOTS Canadian film maker is searching for the family of an Indian man who settled in South Uist.

Iain MacPherson, producer of Gaelic film *Bothan air à Phrèiridh*, is searching for the daughters of Ali Mohammed.

Ali, originally from Punjab, married an Irish woman and went on to have two daughters

who were born and raised on the island.

Iain believes the women are now in their 50s and living in mainland Scotland.

Ali came to South Uist in the wake of World War II, working as a salesman. He died in 1970 and his wife approximately four or five years ago. Iain said: 'Ali created a full life for himself in the

Western Isles at a time before the debates on immigration and multiculturalism.

'This film aims to tell the stories behind and beyond the name on the gravestone in both the recent past and the immediate present.'

Unfortunately Iain does not know the Christian names of Ali's wife and children but said 'as was the custom in

South Uist, Ali's wife was referred to locally as Beann Ali and his children Clann Ali.'

Iain has submitted his proposal for the Gaelic language documentary to BBC ALBA, which he hopes will commission the hour-long programme.

The child of an Islay couple who immigrated to Canada, Iain grew up speaking Gaelic.

He later returned to the Scottish Highlands and worked as a lecturer in Scottish Gaelic language and literature in Sabhal Mòr Ostaig University in Skye. He now lives in Northern Ireland and works for the University of Ulster.

If you have any information about Ali's family email Edle Kenealy at ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk.

Tiree piper plays for the Queen

A FORMER Tiree piper has had the honour of playing in front of Her Majesty The Queen at a state banquet for the South African President Jacob Zuma.

Pipe Major Gordon Rowan led 11 other pipers, all instructors or students at the Army School of Bagpipe Music and Highland Drumming which is celebrating its centenary year, at Buckingham Palace last Wednesday.

The 38-year-old piper said: 'It was a great honour for me personally, and the piping and drumming school. It is the first time the school been given the honour to play at a state banquet in front of Her Majesty and we rehearsed at the headquarters to make sure that we got it right on the night, and I am confident that we did.'

'The piping school's 12 pipers were drawn from different regiments in the British Army giving a wonderful, colourful spectacle with all the different uniforms when we played.'

When he is not attached to the piping and drumming school Pipe Major Rowan serves with The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, 5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland.

Since joining up in 1989 he has served in the USA, Kenya, Malaysia, Northern Ireland, Iraq, Israel, New Zealand, and Pakistan.

Gordon is a former pupil of Tiree High School. He is married to Mairi, and they now live in Edinburgh with their children, nine-year-old Alan and eight-year-old Kyle. His mother Catriona still lives in Crossapol, Tiree.

Tiree ringside becomes theatre

WORK has begun on the Ringside Theatre Project in Tiree.

Three months after being awarded £43,000 by the People's Millions charity, work is underway to enable the rural centre to be transformed into a cinema.

A film society will be set up soon to organise, select and run the films so people in Tiree can relax and enjoy the show.



Letter writer Ryan Nathan shows off his letter and prize pack of stamps.

Easdale boy's letter is a winner

A LETTER to Indiana Jones has secured an Easdale boy a place in national competition. Ryan Nathan from Easdale Primary School has been short listed for a prize in a letter writing competition run by Royal Mail with schools in Scotland.

Ryan, aged 12, wrote an imaginative letter to Indiana Jones, a fictional character in a series of films including *The Temple of Doom*, which impressed judges.

In his letter Ryan said: 'You are my hero and I've watched some of the parts where you were a kid and you had a special cross and belonged to a museum. These bad-dies were chasing you and you had to run from them. You have special weapons.'

Ryan went on: 'Indiana was a teacher. You teach the class how to do special things.'

Ryan is one of four children short listed in this category and will receive a presentation pack of 1st Class stamps to encourage more letter writing.

There are three categories in the competition, 7-9 years, 10-11, and a Special Achievement award, for children who overcome particular difficulties to enter.

Winners in each category will be announced on March 16 2010 and will receive a set of stamps and a £50 book token, plus a £75-box of letter writing goodies to share with their classmates.

The three runners up in each category each win a £10 book token.

Oban traveller meets Chilean embassy staff

LAST week's story about Oban Community Council chairman Fred Hall's experiences during the earthquake in Santiago sparked an exchange between the traveller and the son of a Mull woman - who just happens to be a leader in the British Embassy in Chile.

Meeting up for a coffee in the earthquake-torn city they discussed their disagreements on the handling of the situation by embassy staff.

Speaking afterwards Mr Hall said: 'I tried to telephone the British Embassy in Santiago for advice on the Monday after the earthquake.'

'The embassy line was engaged all morning. At about 1.05pm I got through to the Embassy and got a pre-recorded message informing me that the embassy was closed for lunch.'

'Just after lunchtime I got through to the embassy and spoke to a Chilean woman.'

'I asked her if it was best to get a bus to Argentina and arrange flight from there.'

'She replied, 'I cannot make that decision for you, only you can do that.'

'The embassy should have told me what was my best option. Surely embassy staff, our experts abroad, could give guidance. I was not asked if I needed financial assistance or if my family had been contacted - and why was I not put through to an embassy official.'

'The Foreign Office in my view has to review its operational guidance to its staff.'

'It is vital that the Foreign Office, during a crisis, takes into account the full picture of an individual need and at the very least meet up with them.'

Karl Royce, of the British Embassy in Santiago, said: 'My mother lives on Mull and from reading *The Oban Times* told me about how an Oban man, Fred Hall, was involved in Saturday's earthquake.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by LOUISE LEE
lee@obantimes.co.uk



Oban Community Council chairman Fred Hall will come home this week

'I am glad Fred got through it unscathed. I work at the British Embassy in Santiago but was at home when the earthquake struck and was initially terrified.'

Understanding Fred's concerns he said: 'The embassy's emergency response was immediate, with the ambassador leading that response immediately and arriving at the embassy by 7am. Staff volunteered to come in over the weekend, and I myself worked all night Saturday along with other colleagues. This was before determining the extent of damage to my house, and leaving my young daughter in the care of others.'

'Emergency actions carried on through Sunday and all through this week. Communications have been very intermittent, especially with local telephone services.'

'Any difficulties in contacting us are attributable to Brits not being able to make contact because of damage to infrastructure rather than because of the embassy not opening or taking lunch breaks.'

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Helensburgh councillor expelled from SNP group on Argyll and Bute Council

A HELENSBURGH councillor has been expelled from Argyll and Bute Council's SNP group and as a result has resigned from the Alliance of Independent Councillors (AIC).

Councillor James Robb was stripped of the chairmanship of Helensburgh and Lomond Area Committee, his place on the Executive committee and his role as council spokesman on 21st century government last year.

It is understood that this followed outspoken opinions on the ruling administration

of mainly independent councillors, with which the SNP group has a coalition. He also had a three-month press ban imposed by the SNP group in December.

Confirmation

The SNP group confirmed on Monday that it had now expelled the Helensburgh Central councillor.

Group leader Councillor Robert MacIntyre said: 'Following a disciplinary hearing on Thursday March 4, the council's SNP group concluded that Councillor Robb had breached the party's stand-

ing orders.

'Unfortunately, this was not the first such occasion and the group agreed that it had no option but expulsion. The situation is deeply regrettable.'

He added Councillor Robb had a right of appeal.

Councillor Robb, who is secretary of Helensburgh SNP, said in a statement: 'I believed I was exercising my right to freedom of speech when I gave a prepared statement at a public meeting of Helensburgh Community Council.'

'The SNP council group decided that this was a breach

of group standing orders and expelled me.'

'Although I consider many Independent councillors as friends I have concerns over the lack of a coherent strategy within the AIC and the lack of effective scrutiny of council decisions,' he said.

'Thus, while still very much part of the council, I am now free to express my concerns and to hold the council to account.'

'I will continue to put the interests of the people first as I fight for a fairer Argyll and Bute.'

MP meets MoD over nuclear dump fears

One of four regions under investigation

ALAN REID MP met the Ministry of Defence this week after vowing to campaign against the dumping of nuclear waste in Argyll and Bute.

The MP met with MoD officials currently investigating 12 possible sites across Scotland and England to store nuclear waste.

The MoD has not named the 12 sites.

However, it has identified Argyll and Bute as one of four regions under investigation meaning Coulpport, Faslane, Glen Douglas or Machrihanish could be

chosen as a nuclear storage site.

Speaking after the meeting Mr Reid said: 'I told the MoD civil servants that they should dump the nuclear waste at an existing storage facility and not create a new one in Argyll and Bute. They had no answer to this argument.'

MoD officials will make a recommendation on their preferred site to the next Government after the general election.

There will be a public consultation on the preferred option next year.

Oban man cleared of punching woman at town party

AN OBAN man has been cleared of punching a woman at a party in the town.

Martin Russell, aged 25, of Corriemarr Hotel, Oban, pled not guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to assaulting the 19-year-old woman at her flat in Oban on November 28

last year.

The complainer had led Mr Russell out of the flat at around 5.30am after he made a comment to one of the other women at the party. However, witnesses described Mr Russell's comments as 'banter'. The complainer admitted in

evidence that she had 'over-reacted'.

Witnesses also told how she had earlier been aggressive towards Mr Russell, pushing him around the room and hitting him on the back of the head, and displaying 'a weird attitude' towards him.

In the witness box Mr Russell told his solicitor Edward Thornton how the woman had punched him after he tried to get back into the flat.

He added: 'I then pushed her to get her off me and she fell to the ground. 'I didn't punch her.'

Mr Russell claimed the woman then started punching herself in the face.

The complainer denied that claim under cross-examination.

Sheriff Douglas Small found Mr Russell not guilty following the trial.



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Celebrating world book day with volunteer storyteller Maggie Clayton are 1st Steps Day Nursery in the Oban Oxfam shop. Tots, staff and volunteers from the nursery joined manager Olwen Rowlands to celebrate the world of books in the charity shop. 16_11100k1

£1,500 fine follows Oban police assault

A MAN who assaulted a police officer at Station Square in Oban has been fined a total of £1,500 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Paul Carmichael, aged 21, of 7 Glencruitten Avenue, Oban, appeared on a deferred sentence on Monday.

He had been found guilty after a trial on January 19 of assaulting the police officer and of resisting arrest and causing a breach of the peace on May 10 last year.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said: 'I would submit that he is not, by nature, a violent man but the fact he was violent towards a police officer was unacceptable.'

Habitual thief back in jail

A MAN with 33 previous convictions for crimes of dishonesty has had his stay in prison extended after breaching a probation order.

Stuart Wilson, aged 35, who has no fixed abode, had been sentenced to a year's probation for stealing a packet of crisps and two packets of sweets from an Oban shop on September 6 last year.

But after being sentenced to eight months in prison for another shoplifting offence in November last year, Wilson pled guilty to the breach at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Sheriff Douglas Small sentenced him to 90 days imprisonment for the breach of probation. This is to run consecutively to his current sentence.

Sheriff Small said: 'You can't expect me to impose anything other than a custodial sentence. Counting your record of convictions, it is one of the longest records I have seen in terms of crimes of dishonesty.'

Wilson's probation order was also revoked.

Man broke into house

AN OBAN man has admitted forcing entry to a house to look for his partner on two occasions during one evening.

Norman Lindsay, aged 47, of 23E Shuna Terrace, pled guilty at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday to entering the premises of a flat uninvited, pushing past the home owner and placing the occupants in a state of fear and alarm on February 7.

By doing so, he also admitted breaching his bail, with regard to a breach of the peace charge on December 3 last year, which he also pled guilty to on Monday.

The court heard how Lindsay's partner had gone to a friend's house and he had followed later, shouting for her.

About two hours later, however, the women heard Lindsay banging on the door repeatedly, swearing and threatening to kick the door in.

Defence agent Stephen Macleod said: 'At the time of these two incidents he was under the influence of alcohol and was taking medication for depression, which he has ceased taking.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on both charges until March 29 for background reports.



John Fraser and his dog Ailsa, with, from left, DC Colin Wilson, DC Iain MacPherson and PCs Kris MacKenzie and Chris McAllister from Oban police office.

Counter terrorism operation comes to Oban

OBAN ports were subjected to a routine counter terrorist operation last week with boats coming into the North Pier and ferries and fishing boats into the Railway Pier being searched.

A sniffer dog and her handler accompanied two detective constables and officers from the cutter HMC Seeker of the UK Borders Agency (UKBA) in a multi-agency operation.

DC Colin Wilson from the Smallports unit of Strathclyde Police's counter terrorist intelligence section explained: 'We do this at various times throughout the year, especially in the summer months. We are looking at the ferries and the people coming on and off the ferries.'

'We liaise with harbour masters throughout Strathclyde and crews of the boats, who report anything untoward and get round as

many locations as we can. 'The two main threats are international terrorism and Irish dissident Republicans.'

John Fraser, a former police dog handler, brought his Spaniel Ailsa along for last week's operation.

The five-year-old dog is trained to find drugs, explosives and large amounts of cash.

Outbound cars on the ferries were searched and passengers going on board and off. Visits were made to six or seven fishing boats where the detectives spoke to the crews.

The aim is to gather information for the prevention and detection of terrorist activities.

DC Iain MacPherson said: 'We are looking for suspicious and unusual activity, with our focus on small ports.'

'It was a successful

exercise as much as it raised public awareness but we didn't detect any offences or crimes during the two days,' he said.

Accompanying the detectives were two of Oban's police officers, PCs Kris MacKenzie and Chris McAllister, keen to find out more about the operation and to lend an extra pair of eyes.

The UKBA was carrying out checks on the crews of boats and making sure there were no illegal goods being imported into the country.

Steve Brassington, regional director of the UKBA Force, said: 'The UKBA has a fleet of cutters that patrol UK waters 24 hours a day, every day of the year to detect and catch smugglers who seek to illegally import drugs, weapons and tobacco that cause harm to our communities and the UK economy.'

Business rates increase takes many retailers over rate relief threshold

Oban shops face huge rise in rates

'It is absolutely terrifying. I would like to see a rates freeze for new businesses for three years to encourage people into the town centre' - Oban town centre councillor Roddie McCuish

ON TOP of a dozen business premises lying empty or up for lease, Oban town centre is facing a hike in business rates from April 1 this year.

'Terrifying', 'detrimental' and 'unfair' are just some of the descriptions for the revaluations that are based on the rent that a property can command.

All non-domestic properties in Scotland were revalued in 2008, long before the recession started to hit Oban and rents were still buoyant, but they come into effect this year.

Tony Cave, of Craigard Decor, told The Oban Times that his rateable value was going up from £8,800 a year to £13,300 and while properties with a value of up to £18,000 are eligible for the small business rates relief, his new valuation means that he will not be eligible for 100 per cent relief.

'I will only get 25 per cent relief because my rateable value has gone up,' he said. 'The small business rates relief was initially for three years and if it goes next year I will have to find £2,500 this year and then another £2,500 next year.'

Eilidh MacInnes, owner of Something Special in George Street, is expecting her rateable value to go from £7,500 to £10,900, taking her outside the 100 per cent relief threshold.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by MARIAN MILLER mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

'It is hard enough making money without having to factor in extra money on top of that,' she said.

Alister Jackson of Jackson Bros Butchers said his revaluation would see his shop in George Street go from £11,700 to £14,600.

'It is another hit, another cost that businesses could well do without at a time when there is little growth,' he said.

'... look at the number of empty shops in the town'

Deirdre Sharkey of Precious Things in George Street said she was looking at an increase of £2,400 to £9,800 which means she is still eligible for 100 per cent relief but she was concerned at what would happen if that ended and the effect on Oban.

'At the end of the day, look at the number of empty shops in the town; they should be encouraging all the local independent business owners,' David Finlayson, chairman

of Oban Town Centre Trader's Association, said he was going to have to find an extra £4,000 for his property, The Jean Shop.

'I think the most worrying thing is that most businesses in town are not expecting to see an increase in business - at best a stand still - and with the recession on and increase like this, it is not good at all.'

Oban town centre councillor Roddie McCuish said: 'It is absolutely terrifying.'

'I would like to see a rates freeze for new businesses for three years to encourage people into the town centre. 'I think what will happen is that the shops that are empty will stay empty longer.'

'I don't think it is fair that charity shops have town centre locations but are exempt from rates - and a lot of them are selling new goods which takes them into the same arena as other businesses.'

He said because charities didn't pay rates there was no incentive for property owners to bring their rents down, keeping the rateable values in the town artificially high.

For 2010-11, non-domestic property owners have to pay 40.7 pence on every pound of their rateable value which is collected by Argyll and Bute Council on behalf of the Scottish government.

CalMac fares rise

THE SCOTTISH government has announced a further two per cent fare increase to Clyde and Hebrides ferry services to come into force on March 26 - bringing the total increase to 4.2 per cent this year.

The increase will apply to all tickets other than multi-journey tickets, commercial vehicles and coach journeys.

Aspokesman for Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) said: 'We provide ferry services in accordance with an operating contract awarded by the Scottish government. The government is entitled to make whatever changes it wishes to the terms of that contract and require us to implement them, which is what we will now do.'

It is understood an addendum will be added to CalMac brochures that have already been published.

Young pipers flourish

YOUNG Argyll pipers dominated the Juvenile Quartet Piping Competitions held last week in Dumbarton.

Bands from Kintyre, Dunoon, Inveraray and Oban won 10 out of a possible 12 prizes, across four events.

The Argyll-based bands took first place in all events. Dunoon Grammar School B won first place in the Novice Marches event.

In event two, the Novice March, Strathspey and Reel, Inveraray and District A topped the result board.

Oban High School A won events three and four - the juvenile medley and juvenile march respectively.

All competing bands in Glasgow and the west of Scotland were invited to the event, hosted by Dumbarton and District Pipe Band.

Adjudicator John Wilson said he was delighted with the standard of juvenile piping in the west of Scotland.

Cathedral tour

A TOUR of St John's Episcopal Cathedral, Oban will take place this Friday, March 12, at 7.30pm.

As 2010 is the centenary of the church it is fitting that Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society should take the tour, led by the Very Rev. Norman MacCallum and society chairman the Rev Ian Walter.

Visitors are welcome.

Oban social work assistant short-listed for Social Work Student of the Year Award

AN OBAN woman has been shortlisted for the British Association of Social Workers' student of the year award.

Ann Martin, a social work assistant for Argyll and Bute Council, was nominated for the award by a service user.

'I was surprised and delighted to learn that I had been nominated for this award, and even more surprised to hear I'd been shortlisted for it,' she said.

Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for social services Councillor Donald McIntosh said: 'This is a

'I was surprised and delighted to learn that I had been nominated for this award, and even more surprised to hear I'd been short-listed for it'

fantastic achievement and one of which Ann should be incredibly proud.

'With her infectious positive attitude to her work,

Ann is admired by and respected by all her colleagues and service users alike.'

Ann is now in her final year of an Open University BA Honours degree in social work. She is currently on her final placement with West Dunbartonshire Council, after which she will become a fully qualified social worker.

Ann said: 'I am totally committed to achieving my goal of becoming a qualified social worker.'

'I'm now on the final stretch, and I'm really looking forward to getting home and making

a difference to the lives of vulnerable people in the Oban area.'

Ann began working for Argyll and Bute council 21 years ago as a domestic in an elderly care home.

She worked her way upwards from there, becoming a care officer and then a senior care officer before taking up her current role.

Ann will attend an awards ceremony at Edinburgh Castle on March 16, when the winner will be announced.

Ann is married with two teenage children.

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Mull Lines



IONA Primary School raised £315.57 for people in Haiti. At a recent fundraiser the small school held a Chinese New Year lunch.

Malcolm Alloway, a primary seven pupil, said: 'For just £20 a family in Haiti can be housed so we tried to do our bit here on Iona to help the 2,000,000 who are homeless.'

'We served more than 50 people and after the costs had been deducted we made a profit of £315.57.'

'Many thanks to everyone who came and to those who donated money to this most important cause.'



ISLANDERS on Iona may soon have work completed on their pier - almost a year after the project began.

Iona was at the centre of controversy last year when contractors were placed into administration before completing improvements to the island's only pier.

But islanders report that work has re-started at the pier in the evenings, over a two-week period.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council, which owns the jetty, said: 'The slipway at Iona has had outstanding remedial works which have only just been undertaken by the contractor.'

'The works are believed to be complete and an inspection is due.'



MULL Eagle Watch Diary - update from the Loch Frisa Eagle Hide:

The 18-year-old female white-tailed eagle, Frisa, and her 16-year-old mate, Skye, are busy preparing for the nesting season ahead.

All winter they have been resident around the loch, managed by Forestry Commission Scotland, thrilling the many out-of-season visitors to Mull with their behaviour and courtship.

With the loch partially frozen and the hills still clad in snow, this week both Frisa and Skye have been spending a lot of time along the edge of burns running into the loch hoping to catch the brown trout, which are lurking in the shallows.

They also continue to prepare their chosen nest site with both large sticks and grass lining - it's hard work for them. But have they got another secret nest under construction somewhere else?



Loch Don School proved a happy stop for the runners.

IONA, Mull and Oban were linked with the rest of the world last week as the World Harmony Run took up its torch on the Hebridean island.

Kicking off the Scottish leg on Iona was quite a logistical feat for the runners but they were more than happy to stop by the many schools that they passed and give a message of harmony.



To sponsor Mull Lines please contact Isla at 01631-568000

Far from home fish found on Isle of Mull

A FISH more commonly found in the warm waters off the coast of Mauritius was washed ashore on the Isle of Mull - sparking detective work by island-based conservationists.

Holidaymakers reported the unusual specimen, which they found washed ashore near Ulva Ferry, to the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT) on the island.

A spokesman for HWDT

said: 'Nobody could identify the fish so we decided to make some enquiries which revealed that the fish is a Deal fish.'

'Found at depths during the day, the fish ascends at night time to the surface.'

'Our thanks go to the Ulva ferryman for spotting the fish, the holidaymakers for reporting the sighting and also Argyll Fisheries Trust for helping with identification.'

There is believed to be two different stocks of Deal fish, one in the warm eastern waters and another in the Northwestern Atlantic.

In March 2007, a Norwegian trawler caught a lot of Deal fish while trawling for blue whiting west of Ireland. Scientists on board said that they had never seen so many Deal fish on such a survey before.

Deal fish can grow to be three metres long.



Deal fish are normally found in the warm waters of the Indian Ocean - one has been found washed upon Mull

Curriculum for Excellence to be explained

A COMBINATION of leaflets, on-line information, slides and film clips are to be used to get across to parents what the Curriculum for Excellence is about.

The new curriculum is to be rolled out across schools in Argyll and Bute in August this year and the education authority hopes that parents will get involved with the changes and how they will affect their children.

Councillor Isobel Strong, spokesperson on education, said: 'Curriculum for Excellence represents a significantly different approach to the way in which learning and teaching has traditionally been carried out, and it is very important that parents understand the changes and what they are designed to achieve.'

Education Secretary Michael Russell has urged teachers to take advantage of the new resource to update parents on the Curriculum for Excellence.

Mr Russell said: 'As changes to learning and teaching begin to take place in schools around Scotland, we know parents want to hear more about what's going on.'

'I'd encourage headteachers and teachers to think about when is best to talk to their parents about these changes, perhaps at an upcoming parents evening, and use the parts of this toolkit they feel will work best for them.'

Parents should ask their child's school for more information on the new curriculum or visit www.parentzonescotland.gov.uk and The Parent Toolkit can be viewed online at www.curriculumforexcellence.org.uk.

Drivers to be reminded that 20 is plenty

A CAMPAIGN to remind drivers in the west of Scotland that 20 mph is fast enough when driving in residential areas launched this week.

An advert featuring every parent's worst nightmare has been launched by the West of Scotland Road Safety Forum to get the message across that if a child is hit at 40mph, nine out of 10 will die but if a child is hit at 20mph nine out of 10 will live.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre of Argyll and Bute Council, one of the 12 local authorities on the forum, said: 'Twenty mph zones and areas can help save lives and make people feel more secure when they are out walking or cycling on those roads.'

'There is no question of the value of the 20 mph zones. But we still need to remind drivers of the huge difference in survival rates between accidents at 40mph and accidents at 20mph.'

'As well as the radio campaign highlighting the dangers of exceeding 20mph, we have lots of community involvement in this initiative through community councils, tenants and residents associations, and schools.'

Crinan canal to remain closed

THE CRINAN Canal will remain closed for winter maintenance until Monday March 29 because of the extreme winter weather since the beginning of the year.

British Waterways Scotland says that essential engineering is needed to repair an embankment leak found between Bellanoch Bridge and the eastern end of Bellanoch Bay.

The company has apologised for any inconvenience this may cause.



Oban War and Peace Museum opened its doors for the season last week, all spruced up and ready to go. Between 30 and 40 people passed through the doors each day of the first week and hopes are high that early this season the museum will see its 400,000 visitor. Among the watch keepers giving visitors a warm welcome and answering any queries were, from left, Sandy Shairp, Jay MacDonald and Charles Geddes. 15_11museum02

Loans scam warning

PEOPLE in Argyll are being warned to be wary of companies telephoning to offer loans at what appear to be competitive rates.

The catch is that these companies, phoning from the Manchester area, ask for a payment up front to secure the loan using the Money Gram system at the Post Office.

'Customers' have been paying between £175 and £400 to an unknown location in India and then the money is not seen again and the loan never materialises.

Argyll and Bute Council's chairman of planning, protective services and licensing committee Councillor Daniel Kelly warned that it was a 'very sinister scam'.

'An individual approached by a trader out of the blue offering any goods or services should think twice before taking the matter any further,' he said.

For help or advice contact consumer direct on 0845 404 0506 or trading standards on 01546 604 404.

Oban Sheriff Court tells driver to prove he is not a danger

A CARPENTER who admitted driving across a roundabout and mounting a pavement in Oban has been told to prove he is not a danger to the public.

Careless driving charge
Douglas Shearer, aged 59, of 10 Queens Street, Bozeat, Northamptonshire, pled guilty by letter to a charge of careless driving at the Corran Esplanade, Oban, on June 27 last year and appeared on a deferred sentence at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris told the court Shearer had been breathalysed by police officers at 7pm on the day of the incident but had provided a negative test result.

However, the officers continued to follow the vehicle driven by Shearer

and saw him cut across the roundabout at Corran Esplanade, before mounting a public footpath.

Shearer, who was representing himself, apologised for the incident and put his driving down to an overdose of his medication, which he believed clouded his judgement.

Reports given to the court stated Shearer was recovering from a stroke and had weakness down the right side of his body.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence again until March 30 for Shearer to provide the court with a doctor's letter stating he is still fit to drive.

'I have to be satisfied that you are not a danger to the public if I am going to allow you to keep your licence,' said Sheriff Small.

THE NEW Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead, due for completion in 2013, will only have 32 inpatient beds for mental health patients.

Carers in Argyll and Bute expressed concern over the revised figure at an information event in Lochgilphead last week.

One carer at the meeting said: 'When I came to the first discussion session it was said there would be almost 60 beds. We are now down to 32 in less than two years. By 2013 will we be down to just one?'

Derek Leslie, general manager of the Community Health Partnership (CHP), said that increases in mental health provision in the community meant that people were not spending as much time in hospital.

He added: 'I want to stress that we are designing a whole service model here.'

'Providing our community mental health teams, our crisis service, our locality hospitals, our approach to mental health wellbeing are being addressed we can manage the inpatient service with that number of beds.'

REPORT by EDEL KENEALY ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

'It's a package, it's a whole range of things.'

In June 2009 NHS Highland announced Argyll and Bute Hospital in Lochgilphead would be replaced with a brand new purpose built facility with 50 - 56 inpatient beds.

The latest allocation of beds will be acute admission 14; intensive psychiatric care 4; rehabilitation 4; dementia assessment and challenging behaviours 10.

The plan for 20 dementia continuing care beds remains.

The issue of funding also emerged as a key concern at the meeting. Mr Leslie confirmed that the CHP had made cuts of £4 million but added that none of that would come from the mental health budget. The annual spend will remain at £14 million.

Carers also expressed their frustration at a lack of respite facilities.

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Oban High School news

Twelfth Night

CONGRATULATIONS go to all of the pupils who took part in the audition for Oban High School's production of 'Twelfth Night' by William Shakespeare. The audition was workshop based and Mr Redfeam and Mr Cameron-Goodman were very impressed with the energy and enthusiasm shown by all.

World Book Day

OBAN high celebrated World Book Day 2010, with a treasure hunt in the school's library. The students were given a clue to start with and then had to find their way through different

books and different sections of the library to claim the prize.

The timed treasure hunt was eagerly contested by about 30 students, and the winning team, made up of Taidh Woolnough and James Harris completed it with an excellent time of 17 minutes. This World Book Day was well supported by Oban high, especially the English department and the library. Special thanks go to Waterstone's, Oban which kindly donated the prize of a book for each of the winning team members.

Inspectors

LAST week inspectors in Gaelic and mediators in physical education visited the school.

The inspectors were very impressed and commented on the high standards that were being attained and maintained in both the language and PE departments. Well done to all those involved.

Art exhibition

FOURTH year art students have been working extremely hard this year and this week will be showing the results of their la-

bours with their Standard Grade Design folio 'Work in Progress' exhibition.

The results of their hard work, and a showcasing of their talents, will be on display in the Art Department Gallery on Thursday, March 11 from 4.30pm-6.30pm.

Artwork at Trinity

LAST term the Oban High School enterprising Advanced Higher Art and Design students were approached by Craig Tosh of the local hair salon, Trinity, who wanted to enhance his premises with the addition of some bright stylish art works.

Students were keen to oblige and spent their spare time and imagination creating original work for the walls of the hair salon.

Craig said: 'I am delighted with the work the girls have created. We have had many complimentary comments and one piece of work has already been sold.'

'I would emphasise that you don't need an appointment to view the pictures, just pop in and have a look.'

Oban meeting on Israel and Palestine

TWO leading Scottish thinkers on the volatile situation in Israel and Palestine are coming to Oban.

Wael Shawish, Jerusalem-born chairman of the Scottish Friends of Palestine and Barrie Levine,

chairman of Scottish Jews for Just Peace and member of Jews for Justice for Palestine, will address a meeting on Sunday, March 21 in Glencruitten Church Centre at 7.30 pm. Admission is free.

Oban Times NEWS DESK 01631 568060

Lorn Lines



TAYNUILT Golf Club met on Monday March 1 for its annual general meeting, chaired by captain Mike Urwin, who addressed the 29 members in attendance.

He gave a very upbeat report of the club's activities for the past year.

The men had won all their matches and the ladies had had a busy although less successful season.

Members were given an update on the plans to develop a new club house for which the planning application and building warrant have now been approved. Members are very active in raising funds for the new building however ground work has been delayed by the severe weather. Nevertheless, it is planned to have the shell of the building built during the next few weeks with much of the work voluntarily undertaken by members of the club.

The treasurer presented the accounts for the past year and in order to keep pace with increase costs it was agreed that the subscriptions should be increased by three per cent. However, in line with the club's philosophy of encouraging the young to play, the subscription for junior members was reduced by 20 per cent.

A considerable amount of money has been reinvested in the purchase of some sophisticated machinery to improve the condition of the course and members are looking forward to another successful year.



Graham MacQueen, right, with chairwoman Nan Hopperton and Brigadier John MacFarlane at the monthly meeting of the Conservative Lunch Club. 16.11Conservative1

THE CONSERVATIVE Lunch club took a break from its normal fayre this month and invited local businessman Graham MacQueen to discuss 'any topic he liked'.

Despite the managing director of a local removal and storage firm threatening to talk about wind surfing, he did in fact give an interesting presentation on his reasons for opening the MacQueen Bros Charitable Trust Shop on Oban's North Pier.

Graham told his audience that he was drawn into helping save 346 people who were floating in the South China Sea after they had escaped from the newly-formed regime in Vietnam after the Vietnam War.

It was the feeling of doing something tangible to help that encourages Graham to make a difference to other people.

Of the charity shop he said: 'It is a win-win situation - not only do people get furniture who need it but we raise an incredible amount of money for charity.'

'In one week alone we can raise £2-3,000 for charity.'

'And we have supported an incredible amount of small local charities in Oban, Lorn and beyond.'



'OTZI - The Ice Man' was the title of photographer Hamish Williamson's audio-visual show to Oban Photographic Club members in the Regent Hotel, Oban, on Monday March 2.

His talk was about two visits to Northern Italy in the region where the 5,000-year-old body of a man frozen in the ice was found in 1991.

As well as giving members the very interesting story of the discovery, Hamish also showed some excellent photographs of this very mountainous region and other places visited on his trips there.

Members are now looking forward to their annual 'open' night on March 15, when well-known ornithologist Roy Dennis will give a presentation on 'A life of Ospreys'.

The meeting will be in the McCaig Room in the Regent Hotel, Oban, at 7.45pm for 8.00pm.

Everyone is welcome to come along to hear what will be a very interesting evening.



OBAN Speakers Club was entertained by speeches from Cameron Fletcher, who also sang, about The Vital Spark; John Maclean on Albert Schweitzer, and Peter Abbott on The Elgin Marbles. They were introduced by Donald MacAskill.

The topics session was introduced by Donnie Graham who called on speakers Frank Walton, Roy Wood, Eamonn Arthur, Alec Clark, Jim Fraser and Ian Fullarton.

Timekeeper for the evening was Jim Young and the general evaluator was Bill Leech.



GEORGE Berry is continuing in his ambition to lose weight in order to climb Ben Nevis - and this week's weigh in gave some very surprising results.

Robin Morton of Energie Fitness said: 'This week George's weight dropped by 2.5kg. His total weight loss in seven weeks is more than 33 lbs.'

'Taking measurements of his waist revealed he has lost 10 cm. That is two trouser sizes.'

'George is leading a walk at 1pm each Sunday. Last Sunday he walked to Ganavan and then Dunbeg and back to the club - with a loyal band of six walkers. More people are always welcome to join the group.'



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£400,000 waste water project gets underway in Tobermory

Survey of sewer pipes reveals cracks which allow waste water out and sea water in



Major work to Tobermory's sewerage system is to be completed before Easter

A MAJOR project which will improve a key part of Scottish Water's waste water infrastructure in Tobermory is underway.

The £400,000 project, which started this week, will help to stop leakage of waste water from the mains sewer pipe in the island capital's Main Street area and prevent sea water getting into the pipes.

Investigations by Scottish Water established that there were cracks on a section of mains sewer pipe which runs between a pumping station at Tobermory pier to the waste water treatment works outside the town.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'The cracks or holes, in a section of the pipe below Main Street, have caused sewerage to leak through the harbour wall and into the harbour.'

'To tackle the problem, contractors Insituform Ltd, will reline a 500-metre stretch of the pipe along Main Street from the pier to East Brae and a section of pipe in Back Brae.'

'The work will lengthen the lifespan of the network for many years to come, and reduce the risk of failure of the pipe. This will involve the insertion of a polyethylene lining into the clay pipe, which is more than 60 years old.'

Pre-Easter finish

The work will be completed in about three weeks - before the Easter holiday period when Tobermory will be busy with tourists and visitors to the area.

Simon Harrison, Scottish Water's waste water operations manager, said: 'This important work on our waste water infrastructure in Tobermory will substantially improve the network and tackle the problem of waste water leakage and sea water infiltration to the network.'

Stephen Fraser, the project manager, said: 'We will do everything we can to complete this essential work as quickly and efficiently as possible and to minimise any disruption to residents, businesses and visitors.'

Inveraray Castle abseil celebrates Stramash going national

Providing 'inspiration through adventure'

ARGYLL-based outdoor activities organisation Stramash is celebrating becoming a Scotland-wide social enterprise with a spectacular abseil tomorrow (Friday) down Inveraray Castle.

His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell, is the patron of the newly relaunched social enterprise which hopes to provide 'inspiration through adventure'.

Invest

Stramash takes programmes of activities like canoeing, kayaking, climbing, orienteering and recently ski-ing all over Argyll and beyond and now it can invest its resources back into communities and individuals.

Originally set up in 2004 by Argyll and Bute Council with Big Lottery Funding, for three years, it was hugely successful and Argyll and Bute Council continued the funding for a further two years.

Roddy McCuish, one of the new board of directors, said: 'In 2009 our programme of youth activities attracted more than

700 participants aged between eight and 18 years.

'In 2010 we hope to increase this to 1,000 and also develop our adult skills and expeditions programme.'

Adventure clubs

'Our business plan for Stramash also looks to support the development of the whole outdoor sector within Argyll and Bute and includes helping communities set up their own outdoor adventure clubs, training a number of apprentice outdoor instructors and developing the area as a base for adventure tourism.'

Originally programmes were run in the school holidays for children resident in Argyll but now Stramash intends to extend its programme of activities from spring to autumn and open them up to adults and families across Scotland and beyond.

At present Stramash employs five people including two apprentices but intends to employ a further 10 staff by summer.

Chief executive Niall Urquhart, who has been with Stramash

from the outset, said: 'What attracted me in the first place was how outdoor activities can make a real impact on the personal, social development of people but we also hope to use the outdoor activities as a vehicle to help the development of the Gaelic language and raising awareness of the environment.'

'It can all make an economic impact on the communities we work with by bringing in business and generating more tourism income and also increasing interest in outdoor sports.'

Go Play

Argyll and Bute Council leader Councillor Dick Walsh said: 'At the heart of this was the council's desire to secure long term sustainability for the organisation and we look forward to working with Stramash as a new partner in the delivery of our sport and physical activity strategy and Curriculum for Excellence.'

It is also the only organisation within Argyll and Bute chosen to help deliver the Scottish Government's £4 million Go Play initiative.



Children from Soroba Young Families Group donate 15 backpacks to Mary's Meals to be redistributed.

Soroba children do their bit for Mary's Meals

CHILDREN from Soroba Young Families Group have been collecting items and bags to fill and donate to Mary's Meals.

Parents and families from the unit donated generously to the cause and the children made up 15 bags.

Delivered

The children took the backpacks on the service bus from the nursery and deposited the bags in the

Mary's Meals shop. Staff were delighted to receive the bags and had some photos taken with the children.

The Back Pack project asks schools to fill backpacks with basic educational material to send to children receiving Mary's Meals.

Most of the children who benefit from Mary's Meals have suffered due to war, poverty, famine or natural disaster.

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The new purpose-built DFS Store, designed to make shopping easy.

Grand Opening sale offers end at new DFS Inverness store

By GAVIN CAMPBELL

It's the final chance for sofa shoppers of the Islands and Highlands to enjoy Grand Opening savings at the new DFS store on Millburn Road, Inverness.

After extending their Grand Opening Sale to give sofa shoppers affected by the recent bad weather another chance to save hundreds of pounds on their ideal sofa, DFS have now announced the end of the Grand Opening Sale Savings.

Jonathan Sewell, Head of DFS Scotland told us, "We are delighted that many hundreds of customers have been able to take advantage of the huge savings on offer during the extension of our Grand Opening Sale but, as they say, all good things must come to an end – and so it is that our Grand Opening Sale ends 6pm Sunday"



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Grand Opening offers – final chance to save – Ends Sunday 6pm.

The success of the new store in our region is clear to see with reports from DFS confirming customers have travelled from as far away as Thurso, Wick and Stornaway to enjoy the huge savings on their massive range of exclusively designed furniture available in a wide choice of styles, shapes and colours. And with the reassurance of a 10 year guarantee on everything DFS make in their own UK factories, customers have left the store delighted. "Great choice, great service and big savings...what more could you want!" commented one happy customer.

Mr. Sewell went on to say: "Our Grand Opening Sale is coming to an end so hurry down to the store to make sure you don't miss out...the red carpet, champagne welcome and massive Grand Opening Sale savings are only here until Sunday".



The Grand Opening savings at our new store at Inverness has been more successful than we could ever have imagined. Even with the bad weather, people have found a way to come in to store and save a

fortune. We've helped so many people find their perfect sofa - and the customer feedback has been brilliant. These special opening offers will never be repeated - and they'll soon be gone for good! So if you haven't been able to get in to store yet, I suggest you don't wait any longer.

Richie Cunningham Store Manager.



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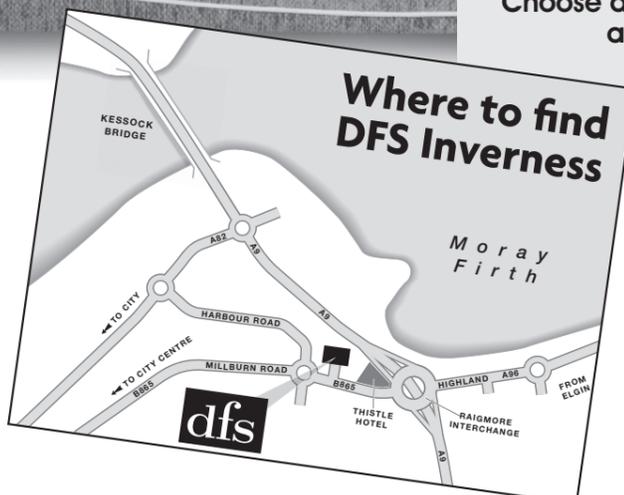
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The New DFS sofa store is next to the Thistle Hotel on Millburn Road, Inverness, just off the A9.

Resounding thumbs-up from residents

Community backs former Glencoe hospital plan

By STEPHEN NORRIS
SOUTH Lochaber residents have given a resounding thumbs-up to a project to transform the former Glencoe Hospital into a centre for community enterprises.

Friday's count of a postal ballot carried out by Highland Council for South Lochaber Community Company found 689 people in favour and 492 against the plan, from 1,182 voting papers returned. One paper was spoiled.

The 56 per cent turnout and the 58 per cent in favour means South Lochaber Community Company (SLCC) has sufficient backing to ask Scottish Ministers to allow the bid to progress.

The community company yesterday submitted its business plan and the ballot result to the Scottish Government for consideration.

A decision on whether the bid can progress will be made within the next three weeks.

The sizeable 16 per cent majority in favour surprised many - Ballachulish Community Council actively campaigned against SLCC's proposal to buy the building and adjacent former ambulance depot from NHS Highland for £450,000.

Its vociferous opposition was not well received in all quarters - and may have boosted, by default, both the turnout and the size of the majority.

One Onich resident said: 'I think the

campaign against maybe swayed people who were unsure to vote in favour of the development and give it a chance.'

SLCC aims to name the 114-year-old building The Strathcona Centre, which would house exhibitions of artefacts, offices, small businesses, medical services, workshops for local tradesmen, a conference centre, a youth club and social functions.

A spokesperson for South Lochaber Community Company said: 'We'd like to thank the residents of South Lochaber for seizing the opportunity and giving our community company a mandate to progress to the next step.'

'We will know within three or four weeks whether or not Scottish Ministers will give us approval to proceed to find funding and acquire the land and buildings under the terms of right to buy legislation. Funding in today's climate will be an added challenge, but we always have in the forefront of our minds Lord Strathcona's motto - 'perseverance'.

If its bid is approved, SLCC has until June 23 to find £450,000 to buy the property.

Negotiations are ongoing with NHS Highland.

According to SLCC, possible funding sources for the acquisition of the building and its refurbishment could include the Heritage Lottery Fund, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and private foundations.



Sifting through the Glencoe Hospital vote ballot papers are, from left, Ann MacDougall, Dot Ferguson and Ellen Morrison. 10_f11count02

Man admits possessing heroin and growing cannabis at home

A FORT William father of two has narrowly escaped a jail sentence after admitting possessing heroin and growing cannabis at the family home.

Steven Munnerley, aged 37, of 27 Ross Place, Fort William, pled guilty to the offences at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday.

On November 4 last year police received intelligence that Munnerley may be in possession of controlled drugs.

He was detained at Fort William Police Station where officers found 0.8 grams of heroin, worth £110, concealed within his body.

A subsequent search of his home by police the following day found a lump of cannabis, weighing 4.1 grams, and 12 cannabis plants.

Procurator Fiscal Emma Knox

explained that the plants were growing and police had also found a 'considerable' amount of cultivating equipment.

Munnerley, who has since found full-time employment, was unemployed at the time of the offence and was responsible for the couple's children, aged 12 and 13, while his partner worked two jobs.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose explained that his client had developed a cannabis habit after being paid off from his job at the local sawmill four years ago. However, he claimed Munnerley had not taken drugs since the police seizure last year and has sought help for his drug problem.

Mr Melrose said: 'His cannabis habit led to him dabbling in the more serious drug, heroin. He lives with his

long-term partner and two children; he knows he has placed an awful lot in jeopardy.'

Sheriff Douglas Small told Munnerley: 'I find it hard to believe you would put your liberty at risk when you have got a long-term partner and two children. I find it difficult to understand that.'

Sentencing Munnerley to 15 months probation, Sheriff Small added: 'I had some difficulty in deciding whether to impose custody but if you take illegal drugs again, I will have no hesitation in sending you to prison. The ball is in your court, Mr Munnerley. You've been given a chance - please don't abuse that chance.'

Munnerley, who had three previous convictions for drugs offences, was also ordered to serve 170 hours of community service.

Shoplifter warned by sheriff

A SHOPLIFTER has been warned that he has 'graduated' into sheriff courts after admitting stealing four cans of lager.

Jamie Leighton, aged 20, of 6 Tor an Eas, Glenfinnan, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday to stealing the cans from the town's Tesco Metro on November 2 last year.

Sentencing Leighton Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'You have graduated to the sheriff court from the lower courts. That is nothing to be proud of. If you carry on like this you will end up in detention.'

Affordable housing money cut

HIGHLAND councillors will have far less money to promote affordable housing developments in future after a huge funding cut.

The Scottish Government will provide £17.5 million in 2011-12 - a reduction of 45 per cent on the current funding level of £32 million.

Housing and social work committee chairman Margaret Davidson said 350 house sites planned would now be 'substantially less.'

A total of 421 houses were completed in 2007-08, 525 in 2008-09 and 391 this financial year.

Walker injured

A 68-YEAR-OLD hillwalker had 24 stitches and 30 staples put in serious scalp wounds at the Belford Hospital after he fell down a boulder field above Loch Treig on Saturday afternoon.

Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team attended the casualty until he was airlifted to hospital.

More investment in Lochaber High School

HIGHLAND Council's investment in Lochaber High School will rise to £15.1 million with the award of a contract to Morrison for the latest phase of the school's redevelopment.

The new contract will incorporate refurbishment of rooms to create new business studies, computing and ICT suites; home economics kitchens and classrooms;

pupil support base and an adaptive kitchen; music and rehearsal rooms and a practical science laboratory. New technology workshops and a graphic communications/ICT suite will be constructed.

Work on an upgraded assembly hall, new grass football and shinty pitches, an athletics track and a new sports and drama centre are already well advanced.

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Astonishment at bid to block new postcode

A LOCHABER councillor has expressed his 'utter astonishment' at eleventh hour moves to block a new postcode for Morvern.

As exclusively revealed in *The Oban Times* last week, Lochaline woman Joyce Denness is leading efforts to stall Royal Mail's plan to give Morvern a new Paisley-based PA80 code in the hope a Perthshire PH code will be considered instead.

Morvern Community Council had already won backing from the Scottish Parliament petitions

committee for changing the present PA34 code Morvern shares with Oban as a way of ending postal mixups.

Royal Mail eventually relented and created a new PA80 code distinct to Morvern. Residents were informed on January 22 the PA80 code would come into force on March 1 - but after receiving 40 to 50 submissions elicited by Ms Denness' campaign Royal Mail is currently considering whether to go ahead.

Concerned at developments,

Councillor Bren Gormley has written to Royal Mail urging the PA80 code be implemented as soon as possible.

In his letter he states: 'Whilst it is true that many residents of Morvern did at an earlier stage in this review believe that a PH postcode was the answer to their prayers, those who have followed the discussions between the community and Royal Mail seem, universally, to have accepted that the PH80 postcode planned is a welcome if pragmatic

response. This has been long in the coming and my understanding is that the overwhelming majority of Morvern residents are wholly in favour, particularly those who have taken the trouble to engage in the step by step democratic approach taken by the community council.'

Threaten

'It is disappointing that after so much consultation some individuals are choosing to threaten the long-awaited outcome.'

'I sincerely hope that, on analysing

the recent representations, Royal Mail are able to conclude that this last ditch effort does not reflect the considered and balanced view of the community - and are able to proceed with the new postcode as planned.'

Ms Denness said: 'It is unfortunate that the campaign done by the community council never made it clear that we want a Highland postcode - or else we may as well keep what we have got.'

Royal Mail is expected to make its decision shortly.

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Primary five to seven pupils at Lochside Primary School are put through their paces. 10_f11aero01

Lochside fund-raiser helps cure children with leprosy

PUPILS at a Lochaber primary school have helped to cure more than 50 children with leprosy by putting on their dancing shoes.

Lochside primary is working with the world health charity LEPROA as its commitment to Lent.

With the help of an instructor from the charity, the pupils completed a sponsored aerobics session at the school.

And by raising around £1,000, all 90 pupils have paid for more than 50 children to receive treatment for the condition.

LEPROA's community manager in

Scotland Rosalind Kerry said: 'This is the third time Lochside school has done something for us and they always do magnificently. Children helping other children is a really powerful thing.'

Head teacher Violet Smith said: 'We are delighted to have raised so much money because, along with other local schools, we collected for the Haiti victims. Our pupils collected £450 for that appeal so to raise another £1,000 within a month is fantastic. The children thoroughly enjoyed the aerobics. Some of them were exhausted but they had a great time.'

Spean woman escapes unhurt from accident

A SPEAN Bridge woman escaped unhurt from an accident on the A82 at the Nevis Range junction on Saturday afternoon.

Her Volkswagen Golf car was travelling south at 5pm when it was in collision with a Cumbria Mountain Rescue team white Renault Traffic van,

which had come out from the ski centre access road.

Lochaber police have impounded the van to examine whether its brakes failed.

'Depending on the outcome of this, a report may be submitted to the fiscal,' chief inspector John Chisholm said.

Kinlochleven Post Office branch move confirmed

POST Office Limited has confirmed its Kinlochleven branch on Leven Road is to relocate into premises at The Aluminium Store on Linnhe Road.

The move, which follows a formal period of public consultation, will see the post office move 350 yards into its new home with Andrew Baxter remaining as sub-postmaster.

The date of the transfer move is currently being finalised and will be confirmed in due course.

Post Office Limited says customers will benefit from an up-graded branch with a modern, open plan format offering retail services alongside Post Office products and services. Level entry into the premises with an automatic door to assist customers

with mobility difficulties and parking directly outside will also feature. Customers will still be able to access the same range of products and services, including car tax facilities. A range of retail goods including gifts, souvenirs and crafts will be available.

Field change advisor Kenny Lamont said: 'The decision to relocate the branch to new premises is designed to secure continued access for our customers to Post Office services well into the future.'

'The facilities and service that we provide to our customers is of paramount importance and we are confident that our customers will benefit, in the longer term, by this change.'

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West Highland Way move crucial New bid to kickstart Fort West End project

EXCLUSIVE report by STEPHEN NORRIS

THE PROPERTY firm behind a major development in Fort William's run down West End is making a new bid to kickstart the stalled £7.5million project, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Ashford Property currently has planning permission to build a 60-room Travelodge and four retail units on the site of the former McTavish's Kitchen and Grand Hotel, but has struggled to sign up retailers during the recession.

The project also suffered a blow in January when Ashford's venture partner Kilmartin Holdings went bust.

But now it has emerged Ashford is about to sign a deal to make it sole developers of the Fort William scheme - and is investigating whether a pub/restaurant could take the place of shops in part of the ground floor retail space.

Ashford director Andrew Smith told *The Oban Times* an operator had been lined up for the proposed licensed premises in the two retail units nearest Gordon Square, while a clothing retailer was ready to take another unit.

Discussions were underway with Highland Council planners, he said, about a possible change of use which would include permission to put out 'street café' style temporary seating at certain times of the day. A new planning application would be required.

Crucial to Ashford's change of heart appears to be the decision to move the start/finish point of the West Highland Way from Nevis Bridge to Gordon Square, which is expected to bring thousands of thirsty and hungry walkers into the town centre.

Good thing
Mr Smith said: 'The proposed improvements to the public areas of the West End can only be a good thing for the development.'

'I would have thought, particularly with the start/finish of the West Highland Way moving to the area, that this would be a good thing for the town.'

'The operator we have got is champing at the bit - and if they come on board that would trigger another operator to come on board and that would be enough to start building.'

'We have just about finalised arrangements with the receivers of the Kilmartin

Group and Ashford will become the sole owners and developers from this week.

'Thereafter we want to be proceeding as quickly as we can as any delay costs us money.'

Councillor Donald Cameron welcomed any move designed to boost business in the neglected area.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'Without prejudging any future planning application, I would welcome this commercial development on the back of the regeneration of the West End.'

'All this would not have been possible without the end of the West Highland Way being moved to Gordon Square as this was the economic driver to access town centre regeneration funds from the Scottish Government.'

'Shifting the start/finish point will put an extra 25,000 or 30,000 people through the High Street and it is hoped people will see the facilities on offer and stay an extra night.'

Highland Council, through ward manager Dot Ferguson, has submitted a planning application for a bronze sculpture in Gordon Square marking the new start/end of the Way.



Fort William man Bobby MacLeod, with the landslide clearly visible behind. 10_f11slip01

An Aird shinty fans witness huge rockslide

SPECTATORS were treated to a spectacular event at An Aird on Saturday as the 2010 shinty season got underway - but it had nothing to do with the game on the park.

Ten minutes before the 2.30pm throw up the crowd heard a strange noise coming from Glen Nevis and turned round to see a huge rockslide tumbling down the snow covered slopes of Meall an T-Suidhe.

The tonnes of rock and soil left an ugly 250-metre scar on the mountainside from close to the summit down to the tree line behind Claggan Park.

Fort William man Bobby MacLeod, aged 78, was one of the many eyewitnesses to the landslide.

'It must have been about 2.20pm when we heard a big rumble,' Bobby, from Seaview Terrace, told *The Oban Times*. 'We looked round and the hillside was all black.'

Fellow spectator Philip Nolan said: 'We were expecting an avalanche of goals, but got the real thing instead!'

Noel Williams of Lochaber Geopark said that geologically, the event was 'relatively minor' in terms of the volume of slipped material.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The landslide on Meall an t-Suidhe has taken place in Ben Nevis granite. This rock has a number of microscopic joints running through it where water can seep in. The extra weight of snow lying on the rock combined with freeze-thaw of water in the joints has triggered this event. This is exactly how scree is created in the mountains.'

Snow cleared off rail line

WEST Highland Line services between Glasgow and Fort William returned to normal on Tuesday after four avalanches between Tyndrum and Tulloch cut the rail link on February 25.

Network Rail engineers had to clear more than 15,000 cubic metres of snow from the line before inspecting tracks and bridges to ensure they were undamaged.

Lochaber's big freeze the coldest for 50 years

LOCHABER has been at the forefront of Scotland's coldest winter for 50 years, local weather records have confirmed.

During December, January and February, the average temperature near Spean Bridge for each month was never above freezing.

And over the course of one night last month Fort William had 16 inches of snow.

Hydrologist and Lochaber College tutor Andrew Bootman collects weather readings at Achnabonane.

He said: 'There was no pattern that suggested this might happen. We have seen exceptional weather this winter. I don't expect things to continue like this. It has been cold but it has also been dry because the rain we might have had over previous winters has fallen as snow this time. For every inch of rain, you get 10 inches of snow and on February 24 Fort William had 16 inches of snow.'

We only had four inches of rain in the whole of January and two-and-a-half inches in February.'

The 2009/2010 figures for rainfall are well down on previous years. In the winter 2007/2008 there was 14 inches of rain in both January and February and the year before that January saw nine inches of rain.

The past winter was not labelled 'The Big Freeze' for nothing, as Mr Bootman's temperature readings suggest.

In December the average temperature was -0.6°C, while in January it was a frigid -1.3°C. February stayed below zero, averaging

-0.2°C. These freezing temperatures compare with 2005/2006 when the average temperature for November to February was 5°C. 'It's all to do with the Atlantic depression,' said Mr Bootman. 'High pressure to the north is blocking a jet stream of moist air and forcing it southwards. That has caused the floods in Spain and France last week.'

Mr Bootman said he, like everyone else, was hoping for a dry and warm summer, adding: 'I don't do forecasts!'

Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council hear of alarm at windfarm traffic plan

A PLAN for transporting parts to the site of Argyll's largest windfarm is alarming residents of a neighbouring village.

An extra 30 heavy goods vehicles could pass through Kilchrenan, near Loch Awe, each day during the busiest phase of construction, on top of existing forestry traffic.

At a meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council last week, residents expressed alarm about pedestrian safety, disruption for people relying on the single track B845 to get to work and school and the impact of heavy loads on the road.

Jane Organ, chairwoman of the community council,

said: 'My concern about the roads is we will get this 'it will do' attitude; that's not going to do for this volume of traffic.'

She said she was also disappointed no one from Argyll and Bute Council attended the meeting.

Plan
Planning conditions require the windfarm's developers, GreenPower Ltd, to produce a traffic management plan and get it signed off by Argyll and Bute Council before any work can begin on site.

One resident said: 'I have just been told that my son is going to have to walk to school because of the council's budget reductions. That means he is going

to have to walk past timber lorries and windfarm lorries - he is not going to live a week.'

Speed limit
The plan proposes a voluntary speed limit for lorries, extra signs and work to strengthen the B845 and extend passing places.

The largest wind turbine components will not use the single track road, but be brought from Campbeltown to a site access road near Ardfern.

Abnormal loads
More than 130 abnormal loads with rolling road blocks will be needed.

Mark Evans, the company's head of development, said it was happy to discuss the

concerns about the transport arrangements.

He said: 'Dialogue is always open with the community council.'

'We have spoken to them extensively over the last year.'

'If they would like to write to us we would be quite happy to respond and consider their comments.'

Deciding
Mr Evans added the company is currently deciding when the work will begin.

The 20 turbines will take 15 months and cost around £60 million to build and once operational will produce enough electricity to power 32,000 homes.

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'The council is well aware of the concerns of some of the local residents regarding this issue, and has worked to develop a traffic management plan which will address those concerns and minimise any disruption. 'Regrettably, we were unable to be represented at the recent community council meeting.'

Meeting
'However, we have informed the community that the council is more than happy to arrange an alternative meeting should that be required, and of course to answer any queries arising from the last week's meeting.'

Massive liner scheduled to sail up Loch Linnhe

LOCHABER will welcome one of the biggest ships ever to sail through the Corran Narrows when cruise liner MS *Prinsendam* sails up Loch Linnhe to Corpach on September 6.

The 37,983-tonne vessel, operated by Seattle-based Holland America Line, is too big to dock at the ClydeBoyd-owned port and will anchor offshore.

Tender vessels will ferry passengers to waiting buses for excursions across Lochaber, including trips on the steam train, to Glencoe and Glenfinnan and visits to West Highland Museum and Ben Nevis Distillery. Operations manager at

ClydeBoyd, Christine MacColl said the cruise liner business was something the company had been looking to develop for a number of years.

'This is a new thing for ClydeBoyd,' she said. 'It's one of the biggest vessels we have handled. It's a big boost for Fort William and Lochaber's economy.'

Good news
Local councillor Bill Clark, on behalf of fellow ward councillors Eddie Hunter and Provost Allan Henderson, said: 'This is good news for the area. Corpach is the natural place to expand cruise ship and marina facilities.'

Fort William councillor Donald Cameron said the Prinsendam's 'pathfinding' visit gave hope for the future.

He said: 'Highland Council officials have been working positively with the port operators.'

'Let us hope that many more cruise ships will be calling to enjoy the outstanding beauty of the historic Lochaber countryside.'

The ship carries 835 passengers and 470 crew, is 669ft long - the length of two Claggan Parks - and 106ft wide.

The *Prinsendam* will also call at Portree on September 7.

No films at Spean Bridge until Screen Machine vandal caught

EXCLUSIVE report By STEPHEN NORRIS
TRAVELLING cinema the Screen Machine will never return to Spean Bridge unless the culprit who slashed seats with a knife is identified, bosses have vowed.

The popular mobile venue, which brings the latest films in digital 3-D format to small communities with limited or no access to a cinema, was in the Lochaber village on February 22 when two seats were slashed.

Managers informed local police, but subsequent appeals to staff and pupils at local schools for any information on who could be responsible have so far drawn a blank.

Pupils from local primary schools and Lochaber High School attended the showing. The Screen Machine, housed in a distinctive blue articulated trailer with an extendable side to increase seating capacity, also visited Roy Bridge on the same tour - but inquiries established the damage occurred at Spean.

Ron Inglis, director of Regional Screen Scotland which runs the Screen Scene project, said one seat back and one armrest on a different seat were slashed.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'It's not so much the vandalism, it's more the fact that someone was in there with a knife. The damage looked to have been done with a small-bladed sharp knife, such as a Stanley knife. We are not going back until we find out who has done it. The community is losing out because of one very unpleasant person. I don't want to put staff

at risk either. This is the first instance of this kind we have had in five years. We have other communities looking for our services and if we can't get a satisfactory result here we will go somewhere else.'

Lochaber police chief inspector John Chisholm confirmed to *The Oban Times* the damage was reported after a film showing in Spean Bridge, which local children had attended.

He said: 'Officers spoke to staff and pupils at Spean Bridge and Roy Bridge primaries and Lochaber High School with a view to identifying the suspect. However, these inquiries have to date proved negative.'

'It's a great pity that this community asset has been damaged during its use in the Lochaber area. It does not place us in a very good light.'

'The damage was discovered while it was parked in Spean Bridge and our inquiries are trying to follow its movements in the days preceding the damage.'

'The cinema is a public facility which is open to any member of the public and it seems that some mean-spirited individual, not necessarily from the village, has seen fit to cause this damage.'

Regional Screen Scotland is the national development agency set up to ensure remote, rural, coastal and under-served communities throughout the Highlands and Islands can enjoy the cinemagoing experience.



Sleaf Community Trust secretary Henry Mains. 10_f11sleaf01

Forest buyout ballot

BALLOT papers are dropping through letterboxes in Sleaf this week on plans for the local community to buy a 1,000-acre forest.

Sleaf Community Trust (SCT) needs strong support to buy Tormore Forest for £330,000 from Forestry Commission Scotland and develop it for recreation and commercial uses. Projects could include timber extraction and thinning, office space, industrial units, affordable houses, biomass wood projects and tourist trails.

SCT secretary Henry Mains told *The Oban Times*: 'The next thing we have to do is start raising the money.'

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TAYNUILT PRIMARY SCHOOL



The Oban Times have organised a competition to showcase the artistic talents of pupils from Taynuilt Primary School. With the assistance of some local businesses we have selected the best adverts designed by the pupils and The Oban Times will donate 20% of the revenue generated by this feature to Sport Relief.

Sport Relief in a nutshell

Sport Relief takes place this year from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st March. The whole of the UK will come together to get active, raise cash and change lives.

It has a unique history of dedicated people doing extraordinary things to make a difference - from David Walliams' swim across the English Channel, to Eddie Izzard's amazing marathon a day around the UK. And that's not to mention the thou-

sands of incredible people who rise to the challenge by doing the Sainsbury's Sport Relief Mile. Or the amazing fundraisers who do something fun and active to raise cash and help make the world of difference.

All the money raised by the public is spent by Comic Relief to help transform the lives of poor and vulnerable people, both at home and across the world's poorest countries.

So be a part of it... Rise to the challenge for Sport Relief!

What can you do?

There's loads of incredibly simple ways to have fun, raise cash and change lives for Sport Relief. Go to www.sportrelief.com to find out how you can help or simply make a donation online.



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by Luke Emsley Primary 1

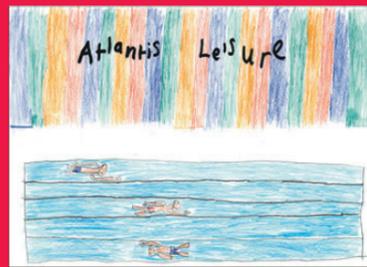


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by Daniel Day Primary 7



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by Kathryn Pennock Primary 7



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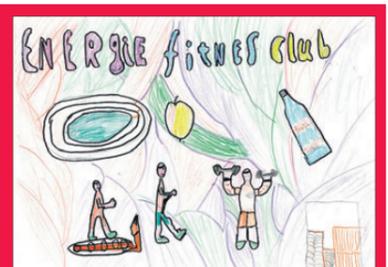


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by Callum Hunter Primary 6

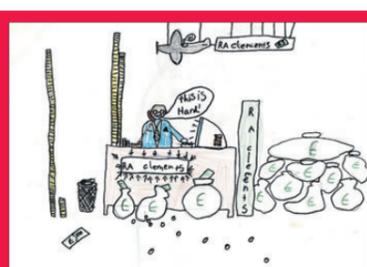


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by Christopher MacKenzie Primary 7



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by Steven Pennock Primary 7



Sport Relief celebrities cycle through Highlands

SOME famous faces cycled through Argyll and Lochaber on Tuesday last week, enduring temperatures as low as -15 °C overnight in the Highlands as part of the Sport Relief Million Pound Bike Ride.

Celebrities Fearne Cotton, Patrick Kilty, David Walliams, Russell Howard, Jimmy Carr, Miranda Hart and Davina McCall took turns cycling down the Great Glen through Fort William, Tyntrum and Dalraddy, turning off to Inveraray and head-



Fearne Cotton

ing off down the Rest and Be Thankful passing through Cairndow along the way. The team successfully completed a four-day 1,000-mile journey

from John O'Groats to Land's End. The team raised over £1m to help people living tough lives in the UK and internationally.

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Lochaline
Your correspondent
is Alistair Scouler:
01967 421285

Community council

MORVERN Community Council's February meeting was attended by seven councillors, 10 members of the public and PC Andy Irvine.

Council secretary and chairman of Morvern Community Development Company (MCDC) Robin Smart stated that the proposed pontoon project on the west side of Loch Aline was under way with new plans ready for presentation at the MCDC annual general meeting in March.

Fish-farming company Scottish Sea Farms is likely to offer practical help during the initial stages of construction.

Chairman of Morvern Community Land Acquisition Steering Group, council member Hector MacKechnie, reported on returns from the group's questionnaire delivered to 148 permanent residences in the area. The overall findings were satisfactory from the group's point of view with a return of six per cent. A breakdown of the total number of answers from the eight proposals on the questionnaire showed a positive response of 555 as opposed to 117 of a negative nature.

Strontian-based PC Irvine addressed the meeting on various issues including the speed of vehicles travelling through Lochaline's 30mph zone. During a recent police operation, only one car driver was logged exceeding the limit.

But there was more concern at the meeting regarding heavily laden timber trucks from Mull travelling out through Lochaline on the single track A884. They have been meeting other such vehicles heading for the west pier, as forest roads were unusable because of severe winter weather.

This also led to timber trucks using the section of the B849 behind Kirk Brae.

Constable Irvine appealed for additional support for the local police as there are no special constables south of the Kinlochail - Lochailort section of the A830. While there is no pay, all expenses



Treats on menu at Guide Thinking Day fund-raiser

Soup, sandwiches, teas, coffees and home-baking were on the menu at the Victory Hall in Benderloch thanks to a fund-raising effort by 1st North Connel Guides on Thinking Day. Around 20 guides and six from the senior section worked for an hour-and-a-half in return for donations to Dalmally-based charity Mary's Meals and managed to raise £260 with more donations still to come. Girl Guiding is celebrating its centenary this year. 15_t10soup01

are met, plus there is a grant of £1,000 per annum and a uniform is provided.

On behalf of his fellow Ardnamurchan High School students, Gregor Smart sought the help of the community council in an effort to have a Saturday bus service from Lochaline to Fort William during the winter. While Acharacle-based Shiel Buses operate a Saturday timetable from June to September, there is no winter service.

Ballachulish

Community council

BALLACHULISH Community Council met on February 2.

Present - M MacAskill, chairman; S Borland; D Campbell; S Grant, vice-chairman; A Jack (AJ); L MacAskill; I Brown - temporary secretary; K Small; M Chisholm. Also present: Martin Blair, Northern Constabulary.

Fireworks/bonfire night: Hall booked for earlier Saturday in November -

further consideration to be given to date as later Saturday was perhaps better. Storage for bonfire equipment likely to be available in container to be sited in Highland Council yard. Financial support for the purchase of same is to be requested from councillors.

A82 works: The chairman confirmed he had met with Bob Mitchell of Transport Scotland who appeared to take all the community council's views onboard, but has subsequently proceeded as earlier planned and ignored the council's views completely. Slip road into Ballachulish at the arches is to be removed and the cycle path is to go straight past the village rather than through it. Action: send open letter to Bob Mitchell to confirm the community council's views.

New Co-operative shop and public car park at village hall: Yet to meet with store management, but will do so when occasion suits. An earlier meeting had been called off because of transport and weather problems.

The council has concerns that important issues like leasing council property to third parties is not being discussed/communicated properly, for example leasing the tourist office car park to the Co-op when the store development may not now even go ahead.

Roadworks in village: Some patching been done, frost damage given as an excuse for poor surfaces. Albert Road is still to be scarified/repared.

Boatsheds: Laurence Young is chasing up Historic Scotland to ascertain the way forward. Still waiting for previous poor works to be corrected.

War memorial: The possibility of moving this into the village has been raised by members of the community. This is to be investigated further.

AJ raised the issue of a pavement at McColl Terrace to the School Brae and it was generally felt, from previous discussions, that there was insufficient room to create a pavement here. The chairman would re-initiate the village walkround with the Highland Council in the spring.

Lismore
Your correspondent
is Pauline Dowling:
01631 760293

Head teacher leaves

THE PARENT Council, staff and children of Lismore Primary School have said goodbye to their head teacher Jennifer Kirkwood.

Sarah Campbell, whose son Tom is in primary seven, made cushions from her Mogwai textile collection to match the quilt the school

had given Jennifer as a wedding present.

Each cushion showed flora and fauna seen on the island - rowan, sycamore leaf and wrens - appliquéd onto tweed with the words 'Many thanks and best wishes from Lismore primary'.

Sarah said it was a pleasure to make something for Jennifer who had brought vitality and creativity to the pupils. Others spoke of her energy and positivity.

Until a permanent head can be appointed - the post has been advertised - the school has welcomed acting head Mary Heath who, until she retired five years ago, was depute head at Rockfield Primary School, Oban.

The school also has a new secretary, Denise Willis, and a new cook, Hazel MacCormick.

Exercise classes

THE VERY popular circuit training held in the hall on a Tuesday and run by Stuart Ashley from Face West Fitness has been augmented with a power walking class on Friday mornings from 10.15am until 11am, starting at Point ferry.

New members are welcome and all abilities catered for.

Concert by North Sea Gas delights audience

THE VERY popular and highly entertaining Scottish folk band *North Sea Gas* recently paid a second visit to the island.

Dave Gilfillan, Ronnie MacDonald and Grant Simpson, who make up the award-winning band, have been together for

more than 20 years and have an international career and fan base. But their many recordings, they told the audience, all started with a Lismore man, Jim Arbutnott, who heard them, wanted a recording and when he learnt they didn't have the money, put it up.

The rest is history; it was a good investment.

They all play a variety of instruments from bodhran to bouzouki, with Grant Simpson great on the fiddle and Dave Gilfillan doing the jokes.

Their music is extremely fresh and whether traditional or contemporary it is all put together with a style of their own.

Numbers included many old favourites such as Ye Jacobites by Name, The Bonnie Lass of Fyvie and Loch Lomond, with some interesting modern additions such as The Classy Lassie with the Slimline Chassis.

CDs were available to buy and the ever-resourceful hall committee provided an excellent tea.

Everyone agreed they had had a great evening's entertainment.

Museum and café opening hours

LISMORE Heritage Museum and shop will re-open on March 29 from 12 noon to 3pm initially and in the season from 11 to 4pm.

The café's opening hours will be 11am to 7pm from Monday to Thursday, 11am to 10pm Friday and Saturday and on Sundays from 11am to 4pm for a Sunday roast or tea coffee and snacks.

Until March 29 the café is open from 11am to 4pm but will be closed from March 6 to 16.

Islay
Your correspondent
is Susan Campbell:
01496 850215

Fèis Òigridh Ìle is Dhiùra

FÈIS Òigridh Ìle is Dhiùra was hugely enjoyable for everyone who took part; the children, the tutors, the ceildh audience and all the helpers.

In just two days, the children not only learned to play new instruments but also how to accompany other musicians with these new instruments. The sight of the whole team, instrumentalists, singers and step-dancers, performing 'S'ann an Ìle' was inspiring.

That the young participants could perform like that

in such a short time only makes the case stronger for the provision of continuous tuition in traditional arts.

This year's tutors were Clare Jordan from Oban teaching clarsach and accordion, Cara MacLean from Skye teaching step-dance, Islay's Fraser Shaw on whistles, Jura's top fiddler Simon Moran and Iseabail Mactaggart teaching Gaelic singing.

Tink Hastings was helper extraordinaire, looking after everyone.

Simon Moran's fiddle lessons are to be funded for a further year and Gaelic singing classes will continue to be taught by Iseabail Mactaggart.

The committee would be grateful for ideas on improving Fèis Òigridh and on establishing and supporting continuing musical tuition for Islay and Jura's children.

Please contact Lorraine Ferguson at ICCI with ideas on 01496 810818.

Re-starting Islay Young Farmers

THE ISLAY Young Farmers Club is planning to set up a new group.

The club will be open to people between the ages of 14 and 26. There is no need for members to have any farming connections. The club will eventually be involved in many activities and trips all over the country.

If you're interested, please phone or text Gemma on 07964 158626 or Matthew on 07810 662321 and leave your name. If enough names are collected a meeting will be arranged to discuss and plan the way forward.

Parents' guide in fifth year

TOY CUPBOARD parents are busy putting together the 2010 Oban Baby and Toddler Friendly Guide - now in its fifth year.

The guide gives essential information to parents living

or visiting the area. Lynsey Swinton said: 'The guide is distributed to more than 90 venues around Argyll and is given out by health visitors and midwives. Twelve local businesses sponsor the guide and the small profit goes to the Lorn Toy Cupboard. The guide lets you know what's on and where you can safely take your wee ones.'

For further information contact lynsya.swinton@unk.com.

Taynuilt ceilidh success

THE MONTHLY ceilidh of Meur Chruachain held on Saturday February 20 in Taynuilt Village Hall was opened by Euan Dewar, Pipe Major of Oban Pipe Band.

Euan also played for the Eilidh MacInnes dancers, Katie MacPherson and Lucy Croakin, who were performing in Taynuilt for the first time.

Also playing together in Taynuilt for the first time was Sileas Sinclair's young group from the Connel area: Becky Hill on keyboard and Ruairidh Morrison, Cameron Bennett and John MacKinnon on accordions, who delighted the audience with their selections. Becky also played the clarsach, accompanying herself.

Margaret MacLellan, a double gold medalist, had driven from Ardnamurchan to sign a number of Gaelic songs, which were much enjoyed.

Maurice Duncan, who is no stranger to Taynuilt ceilidhs, made his violin sing as always and was a delight to listen to.

Singer Freddie MacKenzie stepped in at short notice and was warmly thanked by committee member Moira Dunlop in her vote of thanks.

The Rev Brian Wilkinson was fear-an-Taighe and, as well as keeping everything running smoothly, entertained the audience with amusing tales from Colonsay and other islands.

The evening ended with the singing of Soraidh Leibh.

Village whist raises £100

THE TAYNUILT Whist Committee raised £100 for Erskine - the ex-servicemen and women's charity.

The regular meeting, held in the village hall, was a good evening enjoyed by everyone.

Results: Ladies - 1 Lilly Wilson; 2 Marina MacInnes, Connel; 3 Celia Kennan and Margaret Forbes, Connel, and Ann Sutherland. Consolation prize went to Madeline Henderson, Kilcrennan. Gents: 1 Cathy Reid; 2 Margaret Harris; 3 Dougie McDougall; 4 Evelyn Campbell, consolation prize went to Mary Scott.

Travelling prize: ladies Mairi Kennan and gents Kathy Reid.

There were five tables and card master was Dougie McDougall.

The next meeting, the last of the season, will be held on Friday March 26 in aid of North Lorn Senior Section Guides.

Kilmore Hall Committee

KILMORE Hall Committee met to discuss fund-raising and events for 2010.

Dates have yet to be confirmed for an auction, car boot sale, duck race and a Hallowe'en night. A burger stall will be held at the Kilmore Games on July 31 and again at the Lorn Show on August 7. Volunteers will be needed to help on these dates.

An application for a grant under the Scottish Rural Development Programme is progressing and this will fund modernisation and improvement of the hall but the committee still needs future fund-raising towards these improvements and local support to the above events would be greatly appreciated.

The 100 Club winner for February was I McColl, £100.

Around the Rurals Lochawe

MEMBERS of the Lochawe branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute met in Lochawe Village Hall on Wednesday February 3.

Demonstrator for the evening was Jean Campbell who gave an interesting talk on the origins of the Scottish Country Dance Society. Mrs Campbell had brought a number of dancers with her in order to demonstrate dances.

The dancers were then joined by non dancing members who attempted the steps with much hilarity from dancers and audience. A great time was had by everyone.

Christine MacDougall, president, thanked Mrs Campbell for a very enjoyable evening.

Competitions: Lemon curd - J Wylie, Gold; P McLeod, Silver; T Orr, Red; J Ogden and M MacKenzie, Blue. Photo WRI Activity - M MacKenzie and T Orr, Gold; J Wylie and P McLeod, Silver.

Both competitions were judged by Mrs Campbell and friends.

Glenorchy

ALTHOUGH February 24 was a cold, snowy night, a lot of people turned out to the Glenorchy branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute's meeting to see a demonstration of eucastic waxcraft by Brik Halcrow.

Tables were set out with all the lovely cards Brik had made as well as printed literature on the subject.

Brik spoke to everyone as they arrived and when all members were seated assured them that anyone could do this craft. She started by explaining the equipment required - a travel iron, coloured wax sticks, and special plasticized cards. There were also special styluses, similar to soldering irons, with different heads. One had a brush head, another a hollow tube that sucked up the melted wax which is then put on the card.

Brik demonstrated both abstract and landscape pictures. For the landscape picture she heated the travel iron to just above the low setting, 'tipped' or rubbed some blue, silver and white wax onto the iron and swept it across the card in a downward sweep. She then made mountains with green wax, going lower and lower down the card to make separate peaks. To make the grass, she used the tip of the iron and finished by making lovely red poppies with the hollow headed stylus. A quick rub with a soft paper hankie to shine the surface and Brik had created a lovely landscape picture.

Members were then invited to make a picture of their own and everyone joined in. Everyone had such a lovely time that they were very late going home. It was a marvellous demonstration.

Competitions: Cheese scones - 1 P Villani; 2 equal P Melville and H Gibson. Words of three letters or more from February - 1 S Boardman; 2 P Villani; 3 P Melville.



George Berry with walkers on their regular Sunday jaunt. 16_t11walk1

George steps out with Friends of Oban Hospice

Man versus mountain George Berry and a group of friends from Friends of Oban Hospice are out walking every Sunday. George will attempt to climb Ben Nevis on Sunday September 5 with Glenmor Pipe Band playing a hero's march at the top. In doing so George is hoping to lose weight and raise money for the Oban charity. George and friends walk every Sunday, leaving at 1pm from Energic Fitness, Oban. Everyone welcome.

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Dalmally March sale meets with strong demand

UNITED Auctions held their annual March sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart. A good show of grazing type cattle met with a strong trade with the bullocks averaging 193 pence per kilo and the heifers averaging 187 pence per kilo. Limousin bullocks from Tullochcan Farm, Killin sold to 215 pence per kilo whilst heifers from Garraron and Melfort Farms sold to 217 pence per kilo. Breeding cows from High Ballantyre sold to £1,100. Blackface ram hogs from Cladich sold to £68.50. Cast ewes from Barbreck Farm sold to £60 and cast rams from Cladich sold to £68.

Killochrao leads Stirling show and sale

UNITED Auctions sold 1,818 head at their March Show and Sale of store cattle, plus 124 cast cows and 1245 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday. Bullocks averaged 184.15p (+0.58p) and sold to 234.3p per kg for a 414kg Limousin cross from Killochrao and £1140 for a 687kg Charolais cross from New Blainslie. Heifers averaged 179.42p (+8.02p) and sold to 222.6p per kg and £1180 for a 530kg Simmental cross from Torbrex. Cast cows averaged 110.83p and sold to 161.4p from Stoopshill and £1295 for a Charolais cross from Ardnave. Forward cattle averaged 145.06p and sold to 163.1p per kg for a Limousin cross from the Croft and £1075 for a British Blue cross from East Blairquhanan. Texel cross hogs from Dalorn sold to £70 with Continental crosses from Langfauld to £67.50. In-lamb Mule hogs sold to £110. Mule ewes, scanned with twins, sold to £110 Springhall. Ewes with singles from the same home sold to £75. Springhall also sold to Suffolk cross grit ewes to £121.

Sheep scab eradication initiative hit by withdrawal of cypermethrin dip

A NEW due to get underway in Scotland may be under threat after animal health firms decided to abandon the manufacture cypermethrin sheep dip products. The change will also increase sheep producers' reliance on other products to control parasites such as mites, flies and ticks. **Scottish trials** Following concerns over water pollution in parts of England and Wales, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) halted the routine use of cypermethrin as a dip in 2006. At that time, the VMD temporarily suspended the marketing authorisations of three cypermethrin sheep dip products to allow time to consider whether measures could be put in place to permit their safe use. In response, work in Scotland involving the national Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) and SEPA was conducted which the Union believes justified the use of cypermethrin dips being reinstated. Unfortunately, the VMD has failed to accept the results of the Scottish trials. With the VMD unprepared to consider re-authorising such dips, the manufacturers of the cypermethrin products have now said they no longer want to produce them. This makes their availability to sheep farmers extremely unlikely at any point in the future and increases producers' reliance on a limited number of products such as organophosphate dips, pour-on controls and injectable treatments. NFUS Vice-President Nigel Miller, a sheep farmer and qualified vet said: "This is a major blow which ignores the positive results of trial work carried out by SEPA in collaboration with NFUS Scotland which demonstrated that by adopting best practise when dipping sheep with cypermethrin can provide the necessary environmental protection. "We believe there were clear options to allow the use of cypermethrin dips with the safeguards of added controls on their use and training. The evidence was presented to the VMD but, to the Scottish sheep industry's detriment, it has been subsequently. Despite the opportunity for the VMD to react positively to our suggestions on cypermethrin dips, its intransigence left the manufacturers with little option but to withdraw from their production in the future. "This means that the treatments available to sheep farmers for controlling parasites such as sheep scab mite, ticks and flies are now restricted to organophosphate dips, pour-ons or injectables. For both organophosphates and some pour-ons, concerns have been expressed over implications for human health. For injectables, most of which also treat internal worms; there is a danger of escalating the rate at which resistance to such wormers develops. "The Scottish Government, in partnership with industry stakeholders, is to launch a sheep scab eradication policy underpinned by a new statutory order, to tackle the continued threat of this disease to the health and welfare of Scottish sheep. I believe that the impact of that initiative is undermined by the VMD's uncompromising position on cypermethrin dips."

Quality store cattle sell well at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 365 store cattle and 52 OTM cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when quality store cattle were short of requirement selling extremely well whilst trade for plainer sorts tended to be easier on the week. Bullocks averaged 188.9p and sold to 219.1p per kg for a pen of 340kg Simmental crosses from Bunchrew Farm, Inverness, and £1,010 for a 630kg Limousin cross from Milton of Gollanfield, Ardersier. Heifers averaged 177.8p and sold to 272.2p per kg and £980 for a 360kg Limousin cross from Coldhome Farm, Fortrose. Young bulls averaged 181.1p and sold to 204.4p per kg for a 225kg Limousin cross from Glenside, Glenurquhart, and £715 for a pen of 388kg Limousin crosses from Strone Farm, Fort William. OTM prime and feeding cows averaged 108.5p and sold to 126.3p per kg and £1,200 for a 950kg South Devon cross from Drummond Farm, Evanton. OTM clean bullocks and heifers averaged 127.2p and sold to 136.1p per kg for a 665kg Simmental cross heifer from Drummond Farm, and £965 for a 770kg South Devon cross heifer also from Drummond Farm. OTM bulls sold to 87.5p per kg for a 360kg Highland from Cluny Estate, Newtonmore, and £885 for a 1040kg Simmental from 22 Achfrish, Shinness. sold 365 store cattle and 52 OTM cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when quality store cattle were short of requirement selling extremely well whilst trade for plainer sorts tended to be easier on the week. Bullocks averaged 188.9p and sold to 219.1p per kg for a pen of 340kg Simmental crosses from Bunchrew Farm, Inverness, and £1,010 for a 630kg Limousin cross from Milton of Gollanfield, Ardersier. Heifers averaged 177.8p and sold to 272.2p per kg and £980 for a 360kg Limousin cross from Coldhome Farm, Fortrose. Young bulls averaged 181.1p and sold to 204.4p per kg for a 225kg Limousin cross from Glenside, Glenurquhart, and £715 for a pen of 388kg Limousin crosses from Strone Farm, Fort William.



The Arran and Kintyre nursery trials team travelled to Lanark for the Scottish Inter District Nursery finals where Brian Strachan, Roybridge and Sweep were third overall. Nine districts and 45 dogs and handlers competed. The Arran and Kintyre team were: Peter Clark, Ronachan, with Vic; James Henry Weir, Appin with Gwen; Brian Strachan, Roybridge with Sweep and Mac and Mike McNally, Invergarry, with Tig. Picture - Jimmy Barr

Annual ploughing match celebrates 10th anniversary

PLOUGHING enthusiasts will gather at Saulmore Farm, near Connel on Saturday, March 20 for the annual Lorn Ploughing Match. This will be the 10th year since the competition was reinstated to the local agricultural calendar and the event has proved to be very popular over the years and has raised considerable funds for its chosen charity Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD). It is hoped that horses will make a return to this years event which will also have teas, coffees and refreshments on the field. The fun starts at 10am.

Lorn Show requires horse and pony expertise to go ahead

ORGANISERS of the Lorn Agricultural Show may be forced to axe the horse and pony competitions from this year's event. The show committee currently has no-one with the knowledge and expertise to run the events on August 7 and is prepared to cut the section from the programme for what is believed to be the first time in the event's history. Show secretary Fiona Dickie said: "The events are in serious jeopardy because there is no-one on the committee who knows anything about the rules and regulations associated with horse shows. "If no-one comes forward we won't run the competitions in the show - we are serious about that." Mrs Dickie denied that dropping the horse and pony section would damage the credibility of the show but admitted the financial loss would be considerable. "If we don't have a horse and pony section quite a bit of revenue would be lost. It would also be a loss to the spectators, many of whom come just for the horse and pony shows." Anyone who can take over the running of the horse and pony section is encouraged to contact Mrs Dickie on 01631 770228.

Market reports

DALMALLY United Auctions
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: £475 High Balantyre Farm LimousinX: £665(2) Tullochcan Farm £630 Garraron and Melfort Farms £615(5) Aird Farm £615(4) Garraron and Melfort Farms £535 and £525 Tullochcan Farm £515(3) - Garraron and Melfort Farms £500 Carie Farm. SimmentalX: £635(2) Pitcastle Estate £595(3) Blarghove Farm £570 Pitcastle Estate.
Heifers
LimousinX: £565 High Balantyre £535(3) Tullochcan Farm £500, £485(3) Garraron and Melfort Farms. LuingsX: £455 and £450(2) Carie Farm
Breeding cattle
Cows with calves: £1100, £1080, £1000, £980(2) and £800 - High Balantyre Farm.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen AngusX: 212p High Balantyre LimousinX: 215p(2) Tullochcan Farm 202p(4) and 199p(3) Garraron and Melfort Farms 198p(5) Aird Farm 197p Tullochcan Farm 194p Carie 192p Tullochcan Farm and Garraron and Melfort Farms.
Heifers
LimousinX: 217p(2) Garraron and Melfort Farms 202p High Balantyre Farm 195p(3)

and 190p(3) Garraron and Melfort Farms.
Sheep
Hoggs Blackface: £68.50, £58.50 and £58.00 Cladich Farm SuffolkX: £54 Low Cat-tadale
Rams
Suffolk: £67 Musdale Farm Texel: £68 Cladich Farm Cheviot: £62.50 Musdale Farm Blackface: £58 Cladich Farm
Ewes
TexelX: £60 Barbreck Farm Blackface: £53 Barbreck Farm.
STIRLING United Auctions
Bullocks:
Up to 250kg - The Ross £540, 216p; 251-300kgs - Low Dunasherry £610, 219.4p; 301-350kgs - Middle Ballat £775, Cretlevane 227.7; 351-400kgs - 9Killeonan £840, Middle Ballat 226.8p; 401-450kgs - Killochrao £970, 234.3p; 451-500kgs - Dykes £950, 195.5p; 501-550kgs - Cretlevane £990, Wester Boreland 195.2p; 551-600kgs - Carmichael Est £1070, 185.6p; 601-650kgs - Auchangarth £1070, 173.6; 651-700kgs - New Blainslie £1140, Carmichael Est 171.5p.
Heifers:
Up to 250kg Macharhoch £525, 216p;

251-300kg - The Ross £570, Low Dunasherry 200p; 301-350kgs - Ardacheranmor £690, Gleneherve 202.6p; 351-400kgs - Robertson Mains £850, 216.8p; 401-450kgs - Stirton Mill £840, Bargany 196p; 451-500kgs - Cretlevane £970, 196p; 501-550kgs - Torbrex £1180, 222.6p; 551-600kgs - Wester Boreland £1020, West Carse 183p.
OTM cows: Ardnave (Cha) £1295, 152.4p; Drumoider (Lim) £1165, 154.1p; Meikle Camoquhill (Mont) £995, 134.5p; Inchgall (HF) £975, Hillend 119.1p; Wester Bleaton (Sim) £955, Stoopshill 138.9p; South Hill of Dripps (BB) £945, Stoopshill 161.4p.
Forward cattle: East Blairquhanan (Sim) £1075, 132.7p; Macharhoch (Cha) £915, 140.3p; Craigend (Lim) £865, Croft 163.1p.
Bulls: Parkhead (Cha) £965, 111.2p; Hillview (Sim) £925, 92.5p.
Sheep
Hoggs: Daldorn (TexX) £70; Langfauld (ContX) £67.50; Glorat (Mule) £65; Kilwinnet (Btex) £63.50. (Mule in-lamb) £110.
Mule ewes scanned twins; Springhall £110; Kilwinnet £109 and £108; Springhall £105.
Mule ewes scanned singles; Springhall £75.
Grit ewes; Springhall (SuffX) £121; (TexX) £114; Baads (Chev) £88.

Ewes scanned twins; Muirton (TexX) £102; Springhall (SwaX) £90; Baads (BF) £89; Springhall (SwaX) £86; Springhall (BF) £81.
Ewes scanned singles; Baads (BF) £76; Springhall (BF) £54.
DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd
Bullocks
201-250kg - Guisachan Farm, Tomich, £520, 212.2p; 251-300kg - Woodside of Culloden, Inverness, £560, Refouble, Glenferness, 203.7p; 301-350kg - Clune Farm, Dores, £750, Bunchrew Farm, and Clune Farm, 217.4p; 351-400kg - Clune Farm, £800, Bunchrew Farm, 213.7p; 401-450kg - 145 Badnellan, Brora, £900, Bunchrew Farm, 207p; 451-500kg - Tomcluiich, Nairn, £965, Blairnafade, Nairn, 197.6p; 501-550kg - Kinnahaird Farm, £501, 199.6p; 551-600kg - Milton of Gollanfield, £1,000, 177p; 601-650kg - Milton of Gollanfield, 160.3p.
Heifers
201-250kg - 27 Fasach, Dunvegan, £440, 176p; 251-300kg - Conan Mains, Conon Bridge, £595, 208p; 301-350kg - Clashinglash Achue, Spinningdale, £715,

204.3p; 351-400kg - Conan Mains, £770, 218.8p; 401-450kg - Ordmuir, Muir of Ord, £780, 190.2p; 451-500kg - Woodside of Culloden, £900, 185.6p.
Young bulls 201-250kg - Glenside, £460; 351-400kg - Strone Farm, £700, 184.3p.
DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts Ltd
Rare breeds
Cattle Heifers: Hgh - Corriebeinn Farms, £950, £500 (twice); Muirends Croft, Munloch, £500. Bulls: Hgh - Savalbeg Farm, Lairg, £800; Drummond Farm, Evanton, £680; Highfield, Achterneed, £600. Cow and heifer calf: Hgh - Balnafetach Estates, Cromdale, £580, £500 (twice). Cow in calf: Hgh - Naviedale, Helmsdale, £380. Rams: Shet - Bogallan, North Kessock, and Buachaille, Fortrose, £20. Ewe with lambs: Dorset - Bogallan, North Kessock, £62. In-lamb ewe: West - Wester Cornhill, Ardgay, £52; JCB - Bogallan, £40. Ewe hoggs: JCB - Greenlands Farm, £40. Ponies:

Gypsy colt foal - Westbank, £460, £400.
Poultry Large Fowl: 2 Light Sussex pullets - £85; 3 Buff Orpington pullets - £80 (twice); Trio Copper Blue Maran pullets, 2 Light Sussex pullets and 2 Buff Sussex pullets - £65. Ducks: 2 Magpie - £70; Trio Ringed Teal, Trio Tufted, and Trio Muscovy - £60; Pair Chiloe Wigeon, and Trio Indian Runner - £55. Call ducks: Trio - £65; Pair Silver, and Trio Call - £55; Pair Chocolate - £65. Bantams: Quartet Old English Game - £70; Trio Mille Fleur Barbu D'ucelle - £65; Trio Old English Game, and 2 Gold Sebright pullets - £55. Pigeons: Racing - £25. Pheasant: Pair Lady Amhurst - £40; Pair Golden - £35. Quail: Trio White Texan - £70; Trio Californian - £65; Trio Californian - £50. Geese: Pair Barnacle - £85; Pair Roman - £80; Pair - £50. Turkeys: 3 Bourbon Red poults - £60; Pair Crollwitzer - £40. Peacocks: Pair Indian Blue - £35; Indian Blue peacock - £30. Rabbits: £18. Eggs: Dozen Copper Blue Maran - £28; Dozen Rhode Island Red - £28. Poultry equipment: Coup & run - £50; Corti Semi-automatic incubator - £35.

Notes n Quotes

HebCelt hall of fame honour for Runrig!

Scotland and Europe's favourite Celtic rock band, Runrig, have been confirmed as one of the first inductees into the new Heb Celt festivals hall of fame.

The 15th anniversary of the Stornoway based event brings the inception of the Hebridean Celtic Festival Hall of Fame.

Festival Director Caroline MacLennan said: 'We are delighted to be announcing Runrig for our programme this year, and our Hall of Fame. They will not only provide our audience with a fabulous night out, but they will act as HebCelt ambassadors, taking our reputation as a fantastic festival to other musicians and audiences around the world.'

The Gael rockers join Julie Fowlis and the Peatbog Fairies for the July spectacle on the West side.

Coasting

It's not often that a CD drops onto the 'notes and quotes' stereogram and makes an impact quite like the debut offering from Southampton based Coast.

The album is opened by Oceanos, a crackin' stand out track that gets under your skin immediately. Influences of Runrig and Dire Straits combine and abound throughout the album created by a band that is described by the Runrig lead man Bruce Guthro as 'awesome!'

TGI Friday night celebrations got underway at the Ceilidh house in Oban and were in for a treat?

Front-man Paul Eastham commanded the band with confident, powerful, keyboard and vocal performances echoing the great performances by his heroes. Highlights included the Runrig hit "Scandinavia" and self penned classics "To the Windward" and "Big Blue Sky" which allowed Chris Lappage to exercise his lead guitar with soaring solos. Solid and innovative drums and percussion make for a great sound with the bass and acoustic guitars underplayed to complete the rounded sound of a band destined for greater things.

News of a Danish recording deal emerged on the night and Iain Bayne has now been announced as their new manager. The Runrig drummer completes the circle and his continental audience connections will be ecstatic when they hear Coast's signature anthem "Oceanos." The Oban folk were when it topped a fine outing as the well deserved encore.

Rock and Roll Party time

The Buick 55's and local band the Zodiacs came together for a crackin' night out at the Corran Halls.

Lead singer Steve Mitchell's Teddy boy drainpipes were ironed to perfection, the quiff combed to a tee and the jive dancing ladies and there men were magnificent as rockers from all over the west coast descended on Oban.

Fresh from the Grand ol' Opry in Glasgow, the Buicks played all the favourites, from Elvis to Carl Perkins via Buddy Holly. The 55's, are a four piece Rockabilly / Rock 'n' Roll band and have just finished a tour with the Tennessee Three - The Legendary late Johnny Cash's backing band! If you didn't manage along - well - there's now a new album "Thrill of the year" which features 12 great tracks all self written. The album has had great reviews from "Now Dig This" magazine, Raucous Records & Koolville but the Corran halls were the place to see the live versions. Jim Swan's Zodiacs were a great warm up and we look forward to the next "wee social," as he described it, very soon.

Fred, Auld Dogs and Alyth - the champions league!

Showcase Scotland got a fine audience at the Glasgow ABC recently all of whom from all parts of Europe were ready to be impressed by what we as a nation have to offer.

The whole of the recent Celtic connections is of course a major show case of the best available in itself but the ABC event none the less focused delegations from promoters and festivals throughout Europe.

Heading the bill of fayre was Fred Morrison - bagpipe maestro. Fred and his band did not disappoint with his South Uist piping heritage showing through a set of driving tunes that had the audience in raptures. Fred's passion and delight were evident and that made for a great night in Glasgow.

Surprise of the night was The Old Blind Dogs.

I had them niched as a great band if you need a traditional solid Scots song sung with passion. Well! I don't know what the boys have been on since then but boy have they livened up! It must be hanging about with Morrison. More peat bog fairies than blind dogs now - they have rediscovered their puppy enthusiasm and the audience lapped it up.

The Shee - an enthusiastic group of young ladies did well in this august company. Then came Alyth MacCormack who has dropped her surname and like Madonna, favours the red basque which certainly focussed half the audience. But it is the Lewis girl's delightful vocals sung in that distinctive island accent makes her a fatal attraction.

The Showcase was tailed by a deserved encore for Fred Morrison and his band that had us wowed with the best of "Outlands," his new solo album. Expect to see our musicians all across Europe next year.

Campbell Cameron



Fair Trade Campaigners enjoyed a good turn-out at it's stall in Tesco's entrance to mark the end of Fairtrade fortnight. 16.11.10/air1

Fairtrade Fortnight success may encompass Argyll and Bute

OBAN area and the Isle of Iona, were praised for the way in which they have embraced the principals of Fairtrade. And it is hoped that moves will be in place to adopt the policy as a region.

Target zone

As Fairtrade fortnight drew to a close a meeting between MP Alan Reid, Councillor Elaine Robertson and campaigner Rev Murdoch MacKenzie in Tesco's supermarket tried to find a way forward to realise Argyll and Bute as a Fair Trade zone.

Mr MacKenzie said: 'Local authorities in Scotland are already switching on to the benefits of Fairtrade and we do not want to be left behind here in Argyll. It is a great encouragement to us to have the support of local and national politicians. To become a zone the council will need to continue to get local authority support for

Fairtrade, make a range of Fairtrade products readily available in shops and cafes, have local businesses and community organisations use Fairtrade products, attract media coverage and popular support for Fairtrade and set up a local authority-wide steering group to ensure progress and continued commitment to Fairtrade status.

'These are all do-able things,' he said: 'I just hope that the council will support us in getting the plans off the ground. Council offices already provide Fairtrade tea and coffee as a matter of course therefore it may not be such a big step to meet these requirements.'

Alan Reid MP said: 'Alan Reid said: 'I congratulate Oxfam, Tesco, the Co-op and the many other shops in Oban who are supporting Fairtrade. I would also like to thank the many volunteers who

have helped Oban to gain and maintain its Fairtrade status. Goods displaying the Fairtrade brand assure customers that the workers who made them received a fair wage and the goods were made in an environmentally sustainable way.

'I would also like to thank Argyll and Bute Council for its support for Fairtrade goods. I hope that the council, will develop its Fairtrade policies further and so enable Argyll and Bute to become a Fair Trade Zone, a status already achieved by ten councils in Scotland.'

Councillor Elaine Robertson said: 'The local Authority is most supportive of the philosophy of Fairtrade, has already hosted a meeting of the local Fairtrade groups across the Council and will continue to work with the organisers to promote Fairtrade in Argyll and Bute.'



Teresa Russell is the memory keeper for the Oban and Lorn area Girl Guides 16.11.10/eres01

Girl Guide memories in demand this year

A GIRL Guider is keen for people to share their memories of the organisation during the centenary year.

Teresa Russell who is the archivist of the local branch is happy to stop and chat about Girl Guiding memories.

She said: 'The Girl Guides are the only organisation that puts girls in the lead. I have been a guider for 30 years and it is a great experience. I was recently stationed in Tesco's supermarket and so many women stopped to tell me a story.'

Boaty bargains galore at Craignish

CRAIGNISH'S now-famous annual boat jumble sale will be held this Saturday, March 20, with all manner of nautical items for sale.

Space for tables is fast running out; they can be booked by contacting 01852 500 689. The event runs from 10.15am to 2pm.

Argyll gardens get ready for Easter visitors

ARDUAINE Garden, near Kilmelford and Crae Garden, Inveraray are holding Easter Extravaganzas on the weekend of Friday April 2 and Monday April 5 between 9.30am and 4.30pm.

Sweet partnership And the days look like they will be a sweet success thanks to the partnership between Cadbury and National Trust for Scotland.

Coco Stephens for National Trust of Scotland said: 'As a special treat for families, there will be Easter egg trails at Arduaine and Inveraray this year.

'Bringing to life the magic of Easter, each egg trail event will be unique and provide a host of exciting activities for all the family.

'Youngsters can play detective, hunting high and low for the clues that will lead them to a delicious Cadbury treat, enjoying plenty of fresh air and family time in the process.

'The perfect way to keep kids entertained while adults enjoy the stunning surroundings.'

To join in with the family fun, simply visit the website www.easteregtrail.com to find your nearest Easter Egg Trail event.

room 9 restaurant

Craigard Road
Oban PA34 5NP
01631 564200 or 07880810533
Open Mon - Sat 5.30pm-9.30pm

3 Course Meal for £12.50 every Thursday
Early Bird Specials
Now Taking Bookings for Mothers Day Sunday 14th March

NOW OPEN THAI PALACE

For collection or free home delivery (within 3 miles) please call 01631 564800

45 Combie Street, Oban

ARGYLL ANIMAL AID

CREGGAN

Very nice girl, nice natured and good with other dogs. Afraid of really loud noises.

Please phone Jean on 01631 566406 after 8pm.
jean.sutherland1@tiscali.co.uk
http://www.smallpaws.co.uk
Reg. charity SCO13211

Local Producers Markets

Thursday 18th March
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch
1 mile along the Tralee road
10am to 3pm

Lots to eat and do
Every first / third Thursday
Interested Producers contact
01631 720223
Local Origins Rural Network
www.lorn.org.uk

TIMES FORUM
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Lochaber Strathspey & Reel Society

24th Annual Fiddlers' Rally
on Saturday 13th March at 7.30pm
in Lochaber High School.
Chairman Hector MacLean,
Guest Singer Paul MacCallum Mod Gold Medallist.
Tickets available from any member of the Society or telephone 01397 704062.
Cost Adults £8, Concessionary £6, children & students Free

Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival
(29 April - 2 May)

SYLLABUS & ENTRY FORMS
from
Oban Music
www.obanfestival.org
Tel 01631 710787
Closing date 15 March

Lorn Garden Club
Join us for a talk on **HERBACEOUS PLANTS**
By Simon McPhun
Regent Hotel Tuesday 16th March
7.00 for 7.30pm
Followed by refreshments.
All welcome
Please note change of venue

Oban Congregational Church

Spring Fayre
In the church hall
Saturday 13th March
10.30am - 2pm
Tea, Coffee, Home Baking, Soup Sales Stalls

Netherlorn Piping Society
Performance by **Lorne MacDougall**
(Finalist - Traditional young Musician of the Year 2008/2009)
Ross Kennedy
(Highland Bagpipes, Small Pipes, Whistle & Guitar)
Argyllshire Gathering Halls
Wednesday 17th March 2010
at 7.30pm
Admission: Adults £3 Children: Free

OBAN PALESTINE GROUP PUBLIC MEETING
Glenruthven Church Centre, Oban
7.30pm
Sunday March 21st
Two speakers
WAEEL SHAWISH - Chairman of the Scottish Friends of Palestine
BARRIE LEVINE - Chairman of Scottish Jews for a Just Peace, member of Jews for Justice for Palestinians
Admission free
Info: Graeme Pagan, Neaveon
Oban 01631 563737
neaveon@tiscali.co.uk

To advertise in the WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Telephone: 01631 568000

Artmap Argyll Spring Workshop Programme
Exploring texture in painting with Sian MacQueen (at Lochgiphead Community Centre) 27.28 March
Stone carving workshop with Melanie Chmielewska (at Crinan Boatyard) 27.28 March
Art as Journey with Derby Stewart-Amsden (at Oban High School) 27 March
Colour painting workshop with Lesley Burr (at Crae Gardens) 24 April
Introduction to copperplate etching with Fraser MacIver (at Lochgiphead Community Centre) 24, 25 April
For details of all Workshops, contact Melanie tel: 01546 830144 or see website www.artmapargyll.com

STUART TOWNEND
will be in Concert on Monday night 15th March in the ALBERT HALL, STIRLING at 7.30pm.
Tickets are £10 each and are available either by contacting Elma Stewart on 01360 860449 or direct from the Albert Hall.
Any profits after expenses will be donated to Strathcarron Hospice. Stuart Townend is one of Britain's leading Christian Worship Bands.
Don't miss this opportunity.

what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS > Highland Theatre
THE HURT LOCKER
Daily 6.00, 8.30 Sat/Sun 5.15, 8.00 Tue-Thurs 7.30
VALENTINE'S DAY
Fri 7.30 Sat/Sun 3.00, 5.30, 8.00 Mon 7.00 Tue-Thurs 7.00
PONYO
Sat/Sun 3.00
TEA WITH MUSSOLINI CABARET
Mon 15th 2.00 Mon 15th 6.30

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

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

Thursday 18 March > Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

Saturday 10 April > Jewellery Course
Barcaldine House, by Oban

WHAT'S ON
in association with the Highland Cinema,
George Street, Oban Tel: 01631 562444

gig argyll your essential guide to live music in argyll

Friday 12th March > Crooked Reel
Markie Duns

Friday 12th March > George Noble
The Woody 9.30pm

Saturday 13th March > Declan Hegarty
Markie Duns

Saturday 13th March > Texas Express
The Woody Live Band 9.30pm

Wednesday 17th March > Finn
Markie Duns St Patricks Party 9.30pm

Friday 19th March > John McIntosh
Markie Duns 9.30pm

Saturday 20th March > St Patricks Party
O'Donnell's The J.mac Sound with Flint & Terry

Saturday 20th March > Brass Monkeys
The Woody

Friday 26th March > Filthy Kinky
The Woody

Friday 2nd April > The Stone Roses Experience
O'Donnell's from 8pm

Friday 2nd April > Chart Sounds
Paparazzi D.J Jonny 9pm

Saturday 3rd April > HERCULES MANDRIN
O'Donnell's from 8pm

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
If you are someone with a tendency to keep things tightly close to your chest, this can be a challenging week. It can seem to you that people are a little too keen to pry into your private affairs. Someone may also let you down, letting something slip that you have told them in confidence. Steer clear of all intrigue and gossip - a time to be discreet, therefore. Call now for more astral advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
If you're someone who likes plans to be solid - this is a week when someone's unreliability can frustrate you. This may seem to have a last minute change of mind, or drop out of a group expedition, which means someone else has to be found at the last minute, or more money needs to be paid by the remaining people. Be prepared and stay watchful Taurus. Call for more astral advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
This week can work in a number of ways. You might find yourself yearning for a change of scene work wise, or after months of fruitless searching, finally snaffle yourself a new role, but in quite a sudden way. Yet a hint of rebellion is in the air. Rules may seem to be broken, not necessarily by you but by someone you have to deal with. This could be disruptive. Call me now for more news...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
You can feel quite receptive to opening up your situation, but this may mean travelling further afield, perhaps for work, learning a foreign language or becoming more comfortable with different cultures or even religions. However, events can move quickly. Information received may not be what you expect. Yet such knowledge can influence your moves. Call your prediction line for more news...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
You are going to find yourself keen to get to the bottom of any outstanding issues, especially by the week's end. You need to know where you stand, but equally you could change your mind several times this week. A romantic involvement could be turbulent, being off, on and then off again. Business affairs can also prove to be unpredictable Leo. Call now for your love scope in full...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
The person you're most attracted to this week, may not, strangely, be a person you find particularly easy to get along with. However, just because there is something about them which is a turn-off doesn't mean that there can't be a more elemental fascination. In an on-going relationship there can also be a dash, but it may help to clear the air between you. Call now for your love scope in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
The Sun and Mercury spin tightly together and then meet with the unpredictable Uranus. Be open to new approaches around diet and exercise. If you get offered a job in an area you know little about, don't instantly dismiss it. Getting a good balance between being productive and resting is going to be very important. Look to your time management. Call your special prediction line for more...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
You are more set in your ways than you're prepared to admit? If so this can be an excellent week to indulge in some derring-do. In fact, you could find yourself yawning if you push yourself to comply too readily with life's mundane features. Dancing, laughing and flirting, well...you get my drift. Give yourself permission to let go and be more liberated Scorpio. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Any restlessness you've been experiencing at home or in close emotional ties can peak. Then again, you may have to adapt to deal with someone close to you who is unsettled, which in turn affects your peace of mind. Perhaps you need to accept that certain elements of your world are in a state of flux. If you fight all this, it may prove counter productive. Call your prediction line for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Don't sit on your hands. Make the most of the stars' influence, as this is a fine time to be busy, witty and active. If you naturally like a lot of hustle and bustle, you really will be in your element. Your boredom threshold will however be low, so if there is not a lot going on, you could get a bit crabby. Because of this you need to be as proactive as possible. Call me now for more news and advice...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
There is an erratic side of being an Aquarian that can see you will be changeable. However, this makes for you being a lively companion, and someone with ideas way ahead of your time. In any matter related to finances, try not to be too impulsive. However, if you feel someone is unfair over money, you're likely to speak out rather than bottle things up. Call me for your financial forecast in full...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
If you've been putting up with a situation which is physically or psychologically constraining, few times will ever give you license to break free, as now. And even if your natural inclination is not to rock the boat, sometimes we have to accept that change is a necessary part of our personal development - even if it means giving up the "good bits" too. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

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The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

People need proper support, not policies

THIS WEEK, 150 soldiers from the 1st Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland left Edinburgh to join the increasing numbers of Scottish-based troops deployed to the heat and dust of Afghanistan.

Although the modern regiment names may be unfamiliar to even the most ardent of army followers, the traditions that these soldiers carry with them firmly remain. However, in a break with common tradition, public support for our armed forces appears to be at an all-time low as many civilians struggle to separate the policy behind a war from the people sent to fight it.

At a time when economies are being called for across a wide range of public spending, many question the multi-millions being spent on funding a war far from our shores. War does not come cheap, and if soldiers lives are not to be put at additional risk daily by the lack of proper equipment, proper funding and proper support, then the decision facing politicians is simple - if you support the policy, support the people that have to implement it.

Glasgow Letter

Another successful concert

WITH the pattern set by the Mull and Iona Association and the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs' concerts, it was the turn of Glasgow Islay Association to welcome a capacity crowd to its annual concert in Glasgow University Union.

President Peter Campbell introduced Catriona Bell to the chair for the evening, surely a most deserving recognition of a lady, born in Brora, who arrived on the island as a young teacher in 1957.

Since then Catriona has contributed, as well as raising a family of five, to most aspects of Islay life serving on many committees.

In her address Catriona spoke fondly of her life on the island and the friendship and fun of the Ileachs throughout the years and expressed the hope that in future many more young people will be able to follow their chosen careers on the island.

Both Catriona and her husband Donald were presented with mementoes of the occasion by Lauren MacColl.

Opening the concert, the Islay Pipers - Pipe Major Nigel Morris and pipers Linsay MacArthur and Sandy MacLellan, this year all members of Islay Pipe Band - played beautiful selections.

They were followed by the singers for the evening, Mairi MacInnes, Marion Ramsay, Iain MacLean and Alasdair Whyte while the accompanist was Norma MacDougall. With a range of songs, many from Islay, but other areas also well represented, the audience was treated to an evening that ranged from the classical to the traditional.

Prior to performing at the dance, Charlie Kirkpatrick played accordion selections to get the audience into the dancing mood.

The Islay committee will surely be pleased that such a large audience was so well entertained.

Piping events

THE NEXT two Saturdays will feature two events guaranteed to please all supporters of quality bagpipe music.

This coming Saturday, the Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Piping Competition will take place at the College of Piping, Otago Street, from 9am to 6pm.

An important date on the solo piping calendar, the association is looking

forward to a good attendance to hear some of the country's best pipers.

The following Saturday, March 20, Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band is celebrating its 10th anniversary by staging an international Grade One indoor competition at the Radisson Hotel.

In the first heat Ballycoan, House of Edgar Shotts and Dykehead, Tayside Police and Fife Constabulary pipe bands will battle it out.

Heat two will feature Inveraray and District, Torpichen and Bathgate, Robert Wiseman Dairies Vale of Atholl and Cullybackey pipe bands. The top two in each heat will play in the evening final.

For tickets www.ticket-scotland.com.

Diary dates

Thursday March 11: Comunn Taobh-an-Iar closing ceilidh, Kessington Hall, 7.30pm. Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm - Tich Frier, Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Free Church, 7.30pm.

Friday March 12: Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association Annual Concert, Partick Burgh Halls, 7.45pm. Clydebank and District Highlander's Association ceilidh, Lesser Town Hall, 7.30pm. Perth Gaelic Society ceilidh, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, 7.30pm.

Saturday March 13: Glasgow Uist and Barra Association Piping Competition - see above. Oban High School FP's Dinner Dance, Swallow Hotel, Ibrox. Stirling Branch, An Comunn Gaidhealach, ceilidh, Lesser Albert Hall, 7.30pm.

Sunday March 14: Blazin Fiddles, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Thursday March 18: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, Maggie MacInnes with Brian McAlpine, 8pm.

Saturday March 20: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association ceilidh, Partick Burgh Lesser Hall, 7.45pm. Motherwell and District Highlander's Association ceilidh dance, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band 10 Year Anniversary - see above.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn this weekend it will be Gunna Sound on Saturday, with Scunner Daft on Sunday, while in the Park Bar it will be the Andrew MacDonald Band on Friday, Pneumatic Drills on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Moran on Sunday.

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



Proclamation of Accession to the Throne of King Edward VII, Oban, 1936

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of *The Oban Times*. It shows crowds gathered at Argyll Square, Oban, for the Proclamation of Accession to the Throne of King Edward VIII on January 24 1936. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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A sad day for Mull

Sir,
It says something about the country that we live in when a small minority of moaning minnies and the threat of litigation combine to terminate what has become widely known as the best rally in the world.

This year will see Mull significantly poorer both commercially and socially with the loss of the rally.

To Neil Molyneux and the 2300 Club Committee I would like to express thanks for your unstinting and unpaid effort in organising and running the rally for so many years.

I know I speak for many when I say that I hope 2010 just signals a suspension rather than the termination of an event that has given the island so much and that with a bit of co-operation and commitment from us all the rally will live to fight another day.

Fiona Brunton, Calgary/Hinckley.

Unique motor sport event

Sir,
May I, through your newspaper, extend my gratitude to all members of the 2300 Club, past and present, for 40 years of the excellent Tour of Mull Rally.

To the late Brian Molyneux and his team for having the foresight and courage in bringing the rally to the island where it has developed and grown in magnitude to become a treasured weekend in the rallying calendar for many. I would also like to thank them for all the years of dedication, hard work and effort that it must continually take to run each annual event.

To that committee's perseverance, fortitude and diligence in helping to obtain the closed road act of parliament that enables any sporting, social or entertainment event the ability to apply for road closure to permit the safe passage of their participants on public roads in a controlled and safe environment.

Gratitude must also go to the multitude of volunteers in all their various capacities that have been required over the years. And last but not least the Muilechs for their sustained support and considerable contribution to this unique motor sport event.

The 2300 Club has decided to cancel this year's event

and we must respect this decision. I wish them all the best of luck in their future endeavours whether they are connected with Mull or not.

Now Mull islanders and all interested parties have been granted a great opportunity and an exciting challenge to form a new team that will run a rallying event on the island. It requires the expertise and experience of those individuals who have run similar events before. Reaching out to the rallying fraternity and asking for their assistance in assembling this team is paramount. Each islander and interested party has a part to play if it is to succeed. It can be done.

I, for one, pledge my support.

I will assist in any way possible with the organising committee. I am certain I do not stand alone.

Sheena MacKinnon.

Postcode comedy

Sir,

I refer to last week's article regarding the Morvern postcode situation.

It is almost comical that after 10 years of trying to have the postcode changed to give Morvern a unique postal identity, with Royal Mail having finally capitulated and agreeing to a change, that a new campaign has emerged against the postcode change.

Comical, certainly, that they appear to have come to this conclusion with a very underwhelming 16 - 20 per cent response rate from their postal questionnaire.

Surely it would have made more sense to discuss possible concerns at the time of the original postcode consultation headed by Dr Douglas Watt, six months ago?

I suspect many people had a good chuckle last week when they read about the 'Morvernites' snatching defeat from the jaws of victory! You couldn't make it up.

I H MacKechnie, Savary, Lochaline. I would add my postcode, but you will appreciate the predicament I'm in!

Fond memories of Islay Lions

Sir,
As the founder of Islay Lions Club nearly 30 years ago, I was saddened to hear about the demise of the Lions of Islay.

From its enthusiastic beginning when we met for our first Charter dinner attended by Lions from clubs across the UK and with the best wishes from the Queen, the Lions of the island worked hard to enhance the lives of many across the island. It was fun, friendly and hard work.

I remember the way the business leaders on the island responded so very positively when I 'bullied' them into forming the club. Little did they know about the mad fund-raising schemes they were letting themselves in for. The mad fancy dress cycle rides across the island, the cold nights touring the island carol singing and, of course, the annual Round Table versus Lions Cricket match on the airport runway which had to be stopped on one occasion when I had to see in an air ambulance.

This must be the only time in the world that cricket stumps have had to be pulled up for an aircraft landing!

Fortunately the match was already won by the Lions and the game was abandoned to make sure we still had time for a collective dram at Laphroaig, courtesy of one of the distillery managers who were Charter Lions.

Many thousands of pounds have been raised since that first meeting and Lions International, the biggest service organisation in the world, can be very proud of the Islay Lions and their commitment to service.

Well done fellow Lions, you did Islay proud and you certainly made life so enjoyable and fulfilling for me and my family.

I wish the island all good fortune for future years.

Iain J McConnell, Last Islay Airport Manager and Charter President, Islay Lions Club.

Luig causeway

Sir,
I read with interest the letters from Eric Chapman and Colin Davidson regarding the proposed Luig causeway.

As a small boat sailor myself, I would also oppose this option.

With careful tidal calculations, it is possible for even a novice sailor to safely sail through the channel either south to Croabh Haven/Ardfern or north to Dunstaffnage/Tobermory.

Having already witnessed the loss of the island mentality on Skye, surely Luig residents would balk at the very thought of becoming attached to the mainland by such a means

other than an improved ferry service.

Peter Halcrow, Birnam, Perthshire.

Cuan sound

Sir,
I was disappointed to see your correspondent Robert Kincaid would not object to the closure of the navigation channel provided by Cuan Sound.

However, I strongly support his view that our tidal streams should be used to generate electricity.

This can be done using proven technology without any significant obstruction to navigation as is being done at present in the entrance to Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland.

Much more power could be provided in the sheltered waters of the Sound of Luig than could ever be provided in Cuan Sound.

Colin Davidson, Chartered Engineer, Ardfern.

No borrowing powers

Sir,
For someone with aspirations to be a serious political commentator McCaig displays a rare gift in getting it consistently wrong.

Surely he knows that the Scottish Government and the First Minister have, as yet, no borrowing powers to enable them to pile up real or imaginary debt?

On the other hand such strictures do not apply to the allegedly 'prudent' Treasury Department in London and as a result the UK is at the top of the European league for debt as a proportion of our GDP.

Kenneth MacColl, Oban.

Generous support for Sportlochaber

Sir,
We would like to thank John and Stacy McGill for the enormous generosity they have shown in their support of Sportlochaber Youth Support Fund.

At their recent wedding they asked that no presents be given, just donations to be split between ourselves and Macmillan Nurses.

Lochaber's sporting youngsters are very lucky to have two people who believe so passionately in their futures.

We would also like to thank their friends and families who donated so generously and we wish John and Stacy every happiness.

Jane Blanchard, Sportlochaber.

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig



Another broken promise

FORMER Prime Minister Tony Blair, in one of his many clarion calls over his decade in No 10, used the phrase: 'Education, education, education' to impress on the electorate that he regarded a good education as the priority above all others as his driving force while he was in office.

Unfortunately, he did not succeed very well as there is still far too big a percentage of those leaving school who are unable to do simple arithmetic, far less quadratic equations, and roughly the same number who cannot string more than three words together in a sentence.

Who has failed these children? I'm certainly not going to lay the blame solely on teachers, dreadful although some may be.

Unwilling children, backed by couldn't-care-less parents, do, unfortunately, come into the answer although not as much in Scotland as in England.

But no one, unless they are educationally sub-normal, should leave primary school without a basic knowledge of 'the three Rs'.

It will be interesting to see how the new cuts in the money being spent on education at local government level will impact on not only the special classes for those who cannot read and write but also on those who are about to find themselves in much bigger classes than they could have ever imagined.

They are there because the Scottish Government has been forced by economic necessity to allow councils to merge classes to give numbers in excess of 30 despite the SNP manifesto commitment to reduce class numbers to around 20, and less in the initial primaries.

As I have pointed out previously through the ill-thought out 'concordat' between the government and local government, the council tax freeze has meant that councillors' hands are tied so they have to prune within existing budgets.

There comes a time when the 'pip' cannot be squeezed any further so that even the basic services, such as education, have to be attacked.

Cuts all round

I FEEL sorry for Education Minister Mike Russell, as the last thing he would want to do is to preside over an almost total demolition of giving every child such extra help as is needed and can only be given in small classes where almost individual attention can be given.

But this must be just the tip of the iceberg.

Merging schools in cities where there are empty classrooms and a further look at doing likewise with both city and rural primary schools may save money, but what is to be done with teachers made redundant?

Are they to get a substantial pay off, enhanced pensions

paid out at age 45 then subsequently being allowed to become 'supply' teachers at a daily rate approaching £200 per day?

Millions of pounds have been spent on training teachers, fresh from colleges with degree standard qualifications, and encouraging those with degrees in other disciplines to train as teachers with guarantees of enhanced salaries.

What is to happen to them?

To be fair, the problem with the latter lies not just with the current Scottish Government but also with its predecessors who created the schemes initially.

First, the teachers and the children, who next?

The 1,000 new cops on the beat may be welcome and necessary - if the lack of any on Oban streets is the norm - but where's the money to come from?

Raging at the Westminster government and parliament is not the solution.

Is that the best Alex Salmond can come up with?

Society v the individual

FEW OF us can understand how political correctness can take priority over the needs of an individual in distress.

Yet two instances in the past few days of those pharisees who tell the public that the urgent needs of the individual in need of being 'the exception to the rule' are of no consequence where they are in control.

One is already in the public domain, the other I became involved in because of what happened to a friend of mine whose husband had to be taken to hospital in Glasgow urgently, leaving her to run a farm single-handed.

Because she was supervising the lambing she couldn't accompany him and found no-one was prepared to talk to her about her husband's condition.

And there was the high profile Fatal Accident Inquiry into the death of a female lawyer who got trapped down a 50ft shaft and died because a senior fire officer forbade a colleague to go down to rescue her as all the minutiae of what he considered were the appropriate health and safety regulations were not going to be observed.

Even now, he claims he was right - heaven help us all if he gets promotion.

When my friend phoned one of Glasgow's infirmaries where her husband had been taken she was greeted by a very rude female who barked out that 'patient confidentiality' was her only concern and that if she wanted to know how her husband was she should come to the hospital and identify herself otherwise she wouldn't help her.

This was despite her having been told the reason why she, the next of kin, could not be there.

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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It is the policy of *The Oban Times* Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your day-time telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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My Island Lismore

What makes Lismore special for you?

This is where I was born and where I have lived all my life, so it will always be a special place for me.

I love the beautiful scenery; the views; the clean, unspoilt environment and the peace and quiet. It is very fertile, due to the limestone geology – and we produce good livestock here.

There is a strong sense of community, folk rally round in times of need and there is always someone to give you a hand if you need it.

There is virtually no crime and we don't need to lock our doors.

We have a good social life – there are plenty of dances and events and there is often a ceilidh going on somewhere.

Folk here have a good sense of humour and there's usually something to laugh about.

Does Lismore have an interesting history?

Lismore has an extremely long and interesting history – there is evidence of settlement since the Neolithic period and there are many archaeological remains to be seen, including various bronze age cairns, a pictish broch, six duns dating from the 3th to 6th AD and various early Christian artifacts.

The Vikings were present from the 8th century onwards.

Saint Moluag came to Lismore in 561 and was equally as important as Saint Columba in the development of the early Christian church in Scotland.

Lismore once supported a cathedral (on the site of the parish church) and was the seat of the Bishop of Argyll until the 16th Century.

The fertile land on Lismore always supported a variety of crops – although nowadays, farms support mainly breeding sheep and cattle.

Historically, the other main industry was lime burning - the last lime kilns, at Port Ramsay, ceased at the outbreak of the second world war.

How important is it to Argyll? What does it offer that other islands can't?

Historically, Lismore had an extremely important place in Argyll and the rest of Scotland. As well as being home to St Moluag and the Bishop of Argyll, Lismore was an important centre in the spiritual, cultural and political development of ancient Scotland.

The lime kilns were also important – lime was once exported from Lismore to other parts of Argyll and beyond.

Lismore attracts a range of Gaelic scholars and visitors interested in the archaeological and cultural history of the island. Being a limestone island it supports a unique flora and its beautiful landscape and rich flora and fauna also attracts many visitors.

Lismore lies very close to the mainland at its north end – the ferry crossing here only takes about five minutes, although

the car ferry from Oban takes 40 minutes – so there is easy access for islanders and visitors alike.

How would you describe the island to someone who has never been there?

Lismore is a small island – about 12 miles long by 1.5 miles at its widest point; with a population of about 180.

The scenery is breathtaking and the island is packed with archaeological and historical features to visit. But it is the peace and quiet that attracts most visitors and many come to walk and cycle on roads that are very quiet (apart from ferry times, when there can be a sudden flurry of activity).

Lismore, *Lios Mòr*, means *big garden* or *great garden* and many people are surprised at how green it is compared to the surrounding mainland. Although it is fairly low lying compared to Morvern and Appin on either side, the ground is quite rocky and the raised beaches, sea cliffs, scrub woodland, three freshwater lochs and many wetlands add variety to the landscape.

We have a primary school and a well stocked shop and post office but there is also a heritage centre with a licensed cafe that is open throughout most of the year and the public hall hosts various weekly clubs and societies. Dances held in the hall throughout the summer are well attended and the New Year dance in particular, attracts folk from across the country. We have a variety of concerts from time to time and our annual raft race and sports day is also hugely popular.

Life runs at a different pace here if you live and work on the island but many people now commute off the island to work and their schedules are always tied to ferry times – and the weather! It can feel a little cut off here in rough weather when the ferries aren't running, even though we are so close to the mainland at Port Appin.

Were you born on the island? How long have you lived there?

I was born and brought up on Lismore and I have never lived anywhere else.

My grandfather came from Mull originally but my mother's family were here for generations - we have always farmed here.

My father died when I was 10 and I ran the farm from then, with the help of my mother, brothers and sister - and my aunt and cousin who came to live with us.

How much has the island changed since you were a child?

It is almost unrecognisable compared to when I was young.

In those days, nearly everyone living here came from Lismore and a high proportion of islanders spoke Gaelic. Now the majority of people living here have moved from elsewhere, many are English, and Gaelic is spoken by only a few.

EUAN PATERSON talks to Isle of Lismore crofter **ARCHIE MCGILLIVRAY** about life on one of Scotland's most beautiful, yet most accessible islands.

Archie has lived all of his life on the island and took over the reins of the family farm at a very early age.

The land is in his blood and he has an uncanny, indefinable affinity with his surroundings - an inner contentment that is searched for by many - but seldom found.



Archie McGillivray - Lismore born and bred. He wouldn't live anywhere else



Lismore Hall - the centre of social activity on the island

'In those days, nearly everyone living here came from Lismore and a high proportion of islanders spoke Gaelic.'

In the old days, there were many young people here, who stayed to live and work on the island – now the young people go away to high school all week then on to jobs or college and few return to live here.

When I was a child, there were few cars and most people ploughed with heavy horses – we were the last farm on Lismore to stop ploughing with horses. There are quite a lot of horses on Lismore nowadays, but they are all for riding and recreation – there are no heavy breeds.

The employment base is much broader now, where once every-

one farmed or fished (apart from the nurse, shopkeeper and island school teacher), now we also have folk working in the Glensanda Quarry, on fish farms and in Oban and Fort William in a range of jobs. Several people work from home and many others travel across Scotland for business, on a regular basis. Of course, our lives are much more comfortable now and our homes are warmer and drier – but the community was much closer when I was young and we did have a great time.

Do you have a favourite building or place on the island?

The view from our sheep fank – looking up the length of the north end of the island, across Sheep Island and Shuna, to the head of Loch Linnhe, Ben Nevis and the hills beyond. It really is spectacular.

Do you have a favourite time of year on the island?

There are good things about every season but I like the early part of spring, when the spring flowers are just beginning to show their shoots and birds are starting to prepare for nesting.

Everything is bursting with promise and you know that the summer is ahead.

However, the weather can be stormy at that time and we know

that the lambing is yet to come.

Another good time is in May, when lambing is finished and we are not working quite such long hours and we can focus on keeping everything healthy and growing well until the late summer/autumn sales.

What do visitors like about the island?

The scenery; the views; the peace and quiet – also, the abundant wildlife and the archaeological features.

Visitors who stay for a week or more get to meet islanders and experience some of community life and we get people who have been returning here regularly for years. Because we are so close to the mainland, it is also a good base for visiting other places in Argyll and Lochaber – even as far afield as Skye, Inverness and Perth.

Is there anybody famous from the island?

Not exactly famous by modern terms, but Alexander Carmichael, a notable folklorist, came from Lismore and is known the world over.

Lismore has produced many influential people over the years – in business, industry, education, the clergy, politics. Of course, centuries ago, Lismore was central to the political and religious development of Scottish society.

What are the main challenges facing the island, how can it be improved?

There are many challenges facing the community.

In common with many small rural communities, we are an aging population facing rising house prices, relatively low wages, and limited access to local amenities and services.

The age profile on Lismore is one of the oldest in rural Scotland. The island's young people don't come back to live here when they leave school.

There is a lack of affordable housing for locals, particularly young people; a lack of jobs and few amenities locally.

We used to have a nurse based on the island 24/7 but that is no longer the case and in an emergency, help must come from the mainland. The nurse is based here some of the time but we continue to campaign for island based health services during the out of hours period – which we always had in the past. This is a basic requirement and we are sure that the lack of island based health services does put families with young children off coming to live here.

The other main issue is maintaining and improving the ferry services – we are totally dependent on our ferries and any reduction to our current services would be disastrous to the community. A STAG appraisal on Lismore ferry services was carried out last year but we are still waiting for the outcome.

We are establishing a Community Development Trust on Lismore, which will work with the council and others to try to resolve some of these issues.

Lismore

Lismore, in geological terms is somewhat unique, being composed almost entirely of Dalradian limestone.

The native islanders of Lismore are known as Liosachs

LISMORE HERITAGE CENTRE
Ionad Naomh Moluag
 The gathering place of Saint Moluag

Museum Shop

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6,000 years of Lismore life in an eco friendly, award winning building
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10 Years Ago

Those Were The Days
 The Oban Times

Thursday March 16 2000

Five Argyll schools face closure

FIVE Argyll primary schools have a fight on their hands to stave off closure

Argyll and Bute Council's education committee will decide whether to begin formal consultation procedures over closure proposals.

The schools facing the axe are Islay's Newton Primary, Ulva primary on Mull, Glassary Primary near Lochgilphead, Drumlemble primary near Campbeltown and the 28-pupil Toward Primary in Cowal. Three of the schools - 18-pupil Newton, 41-pupil Drumlemble and 24-pupil Glassary - have all survived previous closure attempts.

Supporters of the schools are now preparing to fight the closures, if the education committee presses ahead with the consultation process.

Another twist in the Ganavan saga

THE LONG running saga over access to the beaches at Ganavan, near Oban has taken another twist.

Argyll and Bute Council has been

criticised in the Court of Session for its handling of the adoption of the Ganavan access road. Lord Osborne said the way in which the matter was handled 'left much to be desired'.

Alexander MacKinnon, who owns the pavillion and surrounding land, leases a second area and has a management agreement over another part of the land - applied for a judicial review of Argyll and Bute's decision to adopt the road.

Lord Osborne last week quashed the council's action. He ruled that the council had not answered legitimate questions from Mr MacKinnon which amounted to a 'breach of natural justice'.

Mull and Iona communities commended after tragedy

ISLANDERS from Iona and the Ross of Mull have been honoured for 'exceptional community spirit' shown at the time of the Iona tragedy. Chief Coastguard John Astbury was so impressed by islanders efforts in searching for the

bodies of the four young men who were drowned that he felt that they should be recognised. Oban Coastguard district controller Tony Arden and regional inspector Brett Cunningham travelled to Mull and Iona to present the Chief Coastguard's Commendation to the two communities involved.

Long service medals were also presented to station officer Hugh Morrison and deputy station officer David Greenhaugh who have both completed 20 years' service with the Ross of Mull Coastguard Team.

Big Lottery win for Lochgilphead teachers

LOCHGILPHEAD Primary School teachers were celebrating after their Lottery syndicate won just over £147,000.

Fifteen staff chose five numbers and the bonus ball from the draw, winning £9,805 each.

Only five members of the school staff were not involved but Margaret Davidson, school administrator, said that, even though they missed out, they were genuinely jovial about the win.

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

7 Not open to dispute (13)

8 Roadblock (8)

9 Payback for services (4)

10 Deprive of something by fleeing (7)

12 An entrance stone? (5)

14 Not a strong plant! (5)

16 Lengthwise (7)

19 Song (4)

20 One who travels on water (8)

22 Where we live (8,5)

Down

1 One who is condescending to others (4)

2 Baggage handler (6)

3 Mug (7)

4 Iona for example (5)

5 Nosey creature (6)

6 Just a little (8)

11 Hair seen above the viewpoints (8)

13 Blow up (7)

15 Within reach (6)

17 Used against another (6)

18 Jellied garnish (5)

21 A point on the right of north (4)

Last Week's Solution

1	A	L	M	A	N	A	C	1	D	E	B	U	T
2	S	A	O	R	R	Y	H						
3	S	E	D	E	N	T	A	R	Y	P	A	Y	
4	E				S	S	E	R	S				
5	T	R	I	C	K	1	H	O	R	M	O	N	E
6					M	I	B			D	L		
7	B	L	I	N	D	M	A	N	S	B	U	F	F
8	O	T			R	O	C	R					
9	O	P	A	Q	U	E	R	1	M	E	T	R	O
10	K	T	N	I	E								
11	L	E	T	1	C	E	S	H	E	E	T	S	
12	E	O	O		R	O	M	E					
13	T	E	N	O	N	1	S	A	W	D	U	S	T

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Margaret Freytag has been with The Oban Times and its sister papers since June 2000 and has been involved with the property pages for the last seven years.

She has been the main point of contact for estate agents and private house sales and rents and is experienced in advising the best way to promote a property.

A friendly face at The Oban Times, she is only too happy to give advice and options to those who might be first time sellers on presenting a property to its best advantage and working to a budget.

IT'S a new year and time for a new look and a new way to sell your property using the best resources available to you – The Oban Times and its associated publications.

In this financial climate everyone wants to get the best value they can out of every penny they spend and when it comes to selling your home this is even more relevant.

We at The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser understand that you want the maximum exposure over the longest time period possible in order to get your property details out to as many people as possible.

We are refurbishing and updating our property pages to help you, the seller, achieve just that goal within your budget.

Anne Martin, sales director at The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser, explains: 'We are offering everyone the chance to reach a wider audience including exposure via our websites. 'Customers will also be able to use more pictures to display their property to its full advantage.'

Anyone who is selling a property, agents or private individuals, will have the opportunity to take advantage of this new service and with our friendly property advertising executive Margaret on hand to give advice and information, it will be as easy as A,B,C.

The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier and Argyllshire Advertiser have several advantages over other means of advertising your property for sale:

- We are a one-stop-shop which gains you access to 63,817 readers from Campbeltown to Fort Augustus and the Western Isles to Killin, not forgetting our substantial, worldwide subscribers, many of whom subscribe in order to find properties in the area.

- One advert at a fixed price featuring just your property will be seen in those three publications for not just one week but THREE weeks.

- Your property's details and pictures will automatically feature on our website West Coast Property Guide and remain there until your property is sold.
- Offer exclusive to re-sale property only.

The West Coast Property Guide is a fantastic resource for those looking to buy properties on the west coast of Scotland with a large number of visits by people viewing more than just one page on the site.

It ranks in the top five positions in Google for searches under keywords such as west coast property, west coast property guide, Highland property, west Highland property and property of the west coast of Scotland.

Being able to tap into this resource with our new service will enable you to get your property instantly to the exact audience which is looking to buy property in Argyll, Lochaber, the West Highlands and islands.

With Kintyre looking to offshore renewables, Oban moving towards being the transport hub of the West Highlands, Fort William gaining kudos as the Outdoor Capital of the World and the islands offering a unique quality of life, there has never been a better time to sell your property in the West Highlands or a better way to do it.

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Oban Road, Oban

Semi detached 3 bedroom property in a central location, close to shops. Excellent local bus service.



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Semi detached 3 bedroom property in a central location, close to shops. Excellent local bus service.



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- Modern fully fitted kitchen
- Fully double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Off street parking
- Garden and front and rear

Offers Over £140,000

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OPTION 3

Greens
Oban Road, Oban

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- Modern fully fitted kitchen
- Fully double glazed
- Electric storage heating
- Off street parking
- Garden and front and rear

Offers Over £140,000

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See our current property listings on page 17



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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.

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The Shearing, Kinlochell, 12 miles from Fort William, 1 1/2 storeys, 3/4 bedrooms, large lounge, downstairs bathroom with shower, upstairs shower room, electric CH, ample parking, spectacular views, £650pcm + bills.
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4C Millpark Place, Oban Spacious First Floor Flat.
 Comprising, Sitting room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Bedroom and Box room. Shared garden.
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 For viewing telephone 07891 087010

West Coast Property Guide
West Coast Property Guide

HOUSE TO LET
 Near Fort William town centre, long let, views over Loch Linnhe, three bedrooms, bathroom, living room, kitchen/diner. Available April 1. £460 pcm.
 Tel 07974 660062.

TO LET FURNACE, Argyll
 End-Terrace House, Furnished, 3 bedrooms, loch views, garden, wheelchair access, near surgery, shop and bus route. References required £495 pcm + bills & C/T.
 Contact 0141 586 7093.
 mark@timos.co.uk

The ideal place to look for property advertising
 The regional press is perfectly placed for property advertising. Almost one-in-five adults choose their local paper as their main source for this information, more than any other medium.
 Source: Consumers' Choice V. The Newspaper Society
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Regional Press
 closer to home

OBANTIMESTALK
 TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE:
WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Are you looking to move house?
 43% of those planning on buying a house in the next year have been exposed to advertising in the regional press, which is double the number in any other medium.
 Source: Consumers' Choice V. The Newspaper Society
 CALL 01631 568000
Regional Press
 closer to home

PUBLIC NOTICES

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997
 The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).
 Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice. Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/00045/MISLO	Land 55m South East of Ar Duachaidh West Laroch Bollaichulsh	Erection of house - Plot A	Bollaichulsh Post Office (14 days)
10/00050/FULLO	Land 250m South West of West Lodge Roshven Glenaig	Erection of one and a half storey dwelling, single garage and associated drainage (amended design)	Glenaig Post Office (14 days)
10/01067/FUL	Burnside Salen Acharacle	Demolition of existing Colt bungalow and erection of new house, partially on foundations of original	Acharacle Post Office (14 days)
10/01074/FUL	Land East of Park House Aitor Inverie Knoydart Mallaig	New affordable 3 bedroom dwelling	Knoydart Post Office (14 days)
10/01125/FUL	Land To North West of Rhemore Drimain	Erection of new house using existing access track	Drimain Post Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service
 eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

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 Phone: 01349 862152
 Fax: 01349 866829
 charles@highlandibdem.org.uk

Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
 All of nature for all of Scotland
 Nàdair air fad airson Alba air fad
INFORMATION NOTICE
NATURE CONSERVATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2004
Lynn of Lorn Small Islands Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
 Scottish Natural Heritage gives notice that on 8 March 2010, in accordance with its rights under Section 9(1) of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004, it intends to de-notify land at NM831382, NM839384, NM835371, NM874421, NM870420, NM899463, NM900468, NM899477, NM890474, NM887477, NM886461, NM886464, NM881459, NM879461, NM880463, within Argyll and Bute as being of special interest by reason of its natural features (flora, fauna, geological or geomorphological features). A copy of the notification, a boundary map, a description of the natural features and an explanation of why SNH considers the land to be no longer of special interest can be inspected and obtained free of charge from Liam Wright, Cameron House, Oban, PA34 4AE, together with clarification of any aspects of the notification.
 SNH will consider any written representations received at the above address by 11 June 2010, and refer any outstanding scientific objections from persons with a legal interest in the SSSI to the Advisory Committee on SSSIs, established under Section 12 of the Natural Heritage (Scotland) Act 1991 and continued under Section 21 of the Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004.
 This new notification will cease to have effect if SNH withdraws it or does not confirm it to the notified interested parties by 08 March 2011.
 Angus Laing
 Area Manager - Argyll and Stirling
 Scottish Natural Heritage
 Cameron house
 Albany Street
 Oban
 Argyll
 PA34 4AE

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

Argyll Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING
 TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT
 MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 01/04/2010

- Ref No: 09/01169/PPP
 Applicant: Barbeck Farm Partnership
 Proposal: Application for Permission in Principle for 16no. dwellings houses
 Site Address: Land Adj to Barbeck Cottages, Kilchrennan, Taynuilt, Argyll and Bute, PA35 1HF
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
- Ref No: 09/01566/PP
 Applicant: Mr Pete Cooper
 Proposal: Erection of a self contained composting toilet in wooden shed
 Site Address: Land Opposite Lower Gylen Farmhouse, Kerrera, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4SX
 Location of Plans: Lorn Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00219/PP
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs R Lang-Anderson
 Proposal: Erection of dwelling house, installation of septic tank and formation of access (amended details to previous application 09/01426/PP)
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office West of Rhuaba Garbh, Appin, Argyll and Bute
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/00340/PPP
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs Keith Organ
 Proposal: Site for the erection of 2no dwelling houses.
 Site Address: Lower Achachenna, Kilchrennan, Argyll and Bute, PA35 1HG
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
- Ref No: 10/00032/PP
 Applicant: Gallagher Developments Ltd
 Proposal: Erection of 5 dwelling houses
 Site address: Land at Craigsuir Lane, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, Argyll and Bute PA75 6PU
 Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
- Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishag PA30 8DX, the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishag PA30 8DX, by the 01/04/2010
- Ref No: 10/00136/PP
 Applicant: Mr Jonathan Farrell
 Proposal: Erection of dwelling house and associated works.
 Site Address: Site 2c, Kilmoughton, The O.A., Isle Of Islay, PA42 7AZ
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
- Ref No: 10/00279/PP
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs G Logan
 Proposal: Erection of a side extension
 Site Address: Glenora Kells, Craighouse, Isle Of Jura, Argyll And Bute, PA60 7XG
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craighouse Isle of Jura

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
 Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.
 An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
 A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949
SINGLE MOORING: ARDNASTANG, LOCH SUNART
 Notice is hereby given that **Stephen Bassett** has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to install a single mooring at Ardnastang, Loch Sunart:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Moorings position	56 41.290N	05 35.081W

(WGS84)
 Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **The Post Office, Strontian, Acharacle, PH36 4HZ**.
 Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC12/5395
Stephen Bassett
 Guisachan Cottage
 Tomich
 Cannich
 Inverness

CROFTERS COMMISSION
 UGDHARRAS NAN CROITTEARAN
Proposed Assignment of a Croft
 Duncan MacGregor, Cruachan View, Ardconnel, Connel, crofter, is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of part of the croft at 3 Ardconnel (Croft 2), Connel, Kilmore & Kibiride to Alexander MacGregor of Cluaran House, Ardconnel Farm, Connel, Argyll.
 If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by the 8th April 2010, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

AGM
 Will be held on
 23 March 2010 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
 Scottish Charity No: SCO16889

Proposed Assignment of a Croft
 James Corbett, crofter, is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the croft at Dohran Croft, Lochbuie, Isle of Mull PA62 6AA to Thomas Corbett of Teachatt Farm, Evanton, Dingwall IV16 9UU.
 If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW by Thursday 8th April 2010, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Oban Tennis and Squash Club
Annual General Meeting
 Tuesday 16th March 2010
 7pm at Atlantis Leisure
 All welcome

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PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES

WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")
 Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Loch Awe Management Co Limited for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:
 1. Discharge of 28.8 m3 per day of sewage effluent from a secondary treatment plant to the mouth of the Dubh Uisge at Dalavich, Loch Awe at NGR NM 9731 1329.
 Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number: CAR/L/1081360.
 The Registry Department, SEPA, Dingwall Office, Graesser House, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.
 A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address between 9.30am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smiddy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA.
 Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request.

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"WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003
WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")
 Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by J H H Turner for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:
 1) Abstraction of 3110 m3 per day from New Orleans Burn at NGR NR 7505 1766 from 1 September 2010.
 2) Impoundment of water within the New Orleans Burn at NGR NR 7505 1766 from 1 September 2010.
 Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/S/1081638:
 The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty Way, Dingwall Business Park, Dingwall, IV15 9XB.
 A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Lochgilphead office, 2 Smiddy Lane, Lochgilphead, PA31 8TA.
 Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request."

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07 57 Subaru 2.5 WRX white	£11,995	07 57 Subaru Outback 2.5 S Auto	£13,495
06 06 Subaru WRX sti Mercury	£13,995	05 05 Subaru Legacy 2 litre saloon	£6,995
08 08 Subaru Impreza Sti	£19,495	08 08 Saab 93 Aero Coupe	£18,995
07 07 Subaru Impreza RB320 PPP	£21,695	07 07 Volvo S80 SE Auto Diesel	£14,495
07 07 Subaru Impreza 2litre R Sport	£9,995	06 06 Peugeot 307 CCS Coupe	£7,495
07 57 Subaru Impreza 1.5 R	£9,495	06 06 Mercedes C180 Elegance Estate Auto	£11,495
		Commercial	
		06 06 Nissan Navara King Cab	£7,895 +vat
		05 55 Isuzu Rodeo 3 litre td	£5,995 +vat
		04 54 Isuzu Rodeo 3 Litre td	£7,250 +vat

Ben Nevis Motors



New Focus RS Now In Stock Choice of Colours From £26,995



New Fiesta Zetec S Various Colours From £12,995



09 Ford Ka 1.2 Style Crystal White Remote Central Locking E/Windows CD Player 6,900 miles.....	£7,995
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new car index

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Corrou is a large private Estate located near Spean Bridge with interests in stalking, holiday cottages, forestry and renewable energy production. See www.corrou.co.uk for more details.

Accounts Assistant (Part-time)
A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Accounts Assistant to help out in our very busy Estate Office. Primary duties will include invoice processing, Bank reconciliations, month-end reporting and general office duties, but in this environment, the willingness and ability to help across a wide range of tasks is essential.

The Estate has a remote location, which is a large part of its appeal to many visitors and staff alike. However, this remoteness does present some logistical challenges, and we therefore take a very flexible approach to fitting this work around other commitments that you may have. We believe there is the equivalent of 2 to 3 days full-time work per week.

Housekeeping Staff (Part-time)
We require part-time staff to carry out housekeeping, waiting, laundry and kitchen duties for up to 8 weeks per year. Applicants must be able to work as part of a team but also be self-motivated. They must be honest and reliable and have a friendly and pleasant manner. They must be willing to undertake a variety of tasks within the Lodge and be prepared to work flexible hours whenever necessary. Although experience would be an advantage, training in all aspects of their work will be provided. Accommodation will be available if required.

Gardener (Part-time)
We also require a part-time gardener (2 - 3 days/week during the season) to look after approximately 1.6ha of informal gardens including alpine lattice beds, and the wider context of some 100+ hectares of designed landscape, including a World-renowned collection of rhododendrons.

Duties will include basic maintenance tasks together with managing a part-time labourer and liaising with the Garden Designer, and other advisors. You should have a sound knowledge of basic garden management techniques and an appreciation of higher altitude challenges. Experience with or knowledge of rhododendrons would be a distinct advantage.

Seasonal Stalking Ghillie (x2)
We would be interested to hear from individuals with experience of hill stalking, able to drive an Argocat ATV and possessing good interpersonal skills and a high level of integrity. Both positions will be for approximately 4 months work, commencing in July and covering the main sporting season. Accommodation on the Estate will be provided as part of the remuneration package. A current FAC would be an advantage. In all instances remuneration will be in line with experience, and is coupled to a generous benefits package. Please apply in writing, clearly stating the position you are applying for, to: The Estate Manager, Corrou Estate, by Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH30 4AA.

Self-employed Agents
Oban, Fort William, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown and surrounding areas
Commission generated on collections, typically in the region of £10 per hour

We are looking for people to become Self-employed Agents, covering an established customer base.

As a Self-employed Agent, you will be lending and collecting on behalf of the market leader in weekly home collected credit. All you need is access to a vehicle, a mobile phone plus the drive to be self-employed and the ability to grow your business.

Interested? Please call Brian Docherty on 07739 592978
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£8,790 pa pro-rata. A range of opportunities from 6 months to two years.

Stramash is looking for enthusiastic and committed individuals to fill these exciting new posts based in Oban. Be part of a developing organisation delivering outdoor activities and outdoor learning. For more information email info@stramash.eu or telephone 01631 566080. Stramash is delighted to be working with a range of partners, including LEADER, West Highland Housing Association, North Lorn Forest Education Initiative and Inspiring Scotland to offer these job opportunities.

Stramash Social Enterprise - Registered Company SC355120 - Registered Scottish Charity SC040538

JC & IM Duncan BDS Dental Practice
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Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of farmed Atlantic salmon from its farming operations throughout the West Coast and Northern Isles of Scotland. To be the best in our field, we need to recruit and develop the best staff and to realise our ambition, we are looking for an exceptional Site Manager to join our mainland farming team at in the Oban area.

MARINE SITE MANAGER

The ideal candidate will be highly experienced in the automated aquaculture environment and be able to demonstrate a career history of solid biological performance and outstanding feed conversion. In addition, the successful candidate will have excellent leadership and management skills. Also required will be the ability to further develop their staff within a culture which is driven by success and be able to maximise the performance of assets in a safety-focused environment. In return, the Company will offer a first class remuneration package including pension, plan private healthcare, and relocation package.

Application packs can be obtained from:
Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com
Closing Date: Friday 26 March 2010

ALIENERGY
Argyll, Lomond & the Islands Energy Agency

Administrator

Based in our offices in Oban, you will provide administrative support to the Manager and to ALIENERGY's projects and initiatives. With good communication skills, you will be computer literate and experienced in the use of Word, Excel, databases, email and internet. Some experience of financial administration is desirable but not essential.

21 hours per week, flexible working.
Salary: £12,245 pro rata
Contract until March 2011 - but may be extended

Closing date: Friday 26th March.

For job packs or further information, contact Dr Mandie Currie on 01631 569195 or 0791 937 3097 or mandie@alienenergy.org.uk, stating the post that you are interested in. Job Packs can also be downloaded from www.alienergy.org.uk

KEYLINE BUILDERS MERCHANTS LTD

Temporary driver/ Store person required

Minimum 3 months employment for our Oban Depot.
A class 2 HGV licence is essential.

Please forward copy of CV by email to iain.hunter@keyline.co.uk or in writing to Keyline Builders Merchants, Soroba Road, Oban, PA34 4GS

Lorn & Oban Reuse Initiative

p/t Volunteer and Training Co-ordinator
c£17K pro rata

LORI is a Reuse project based in Oban, Argyll. We collect furniture and household goods and redistribute by donation to homeless/housing charities or sale at our showroom. We are looking for an enthusiastic person to manage our volunteer team and to organise training.

The post is for 3 days per week, for 1 year in the first instance with the possibility of extension.

Please contact Elizabeth@lorireuse.co.uk for an application pack.
Closing date 25th March 2010.

Social Worker (4 Posts)
£30,823 - £33,724 (pro rata for part time)

Community Services, Full Time Islay Ref: CSC32093/R
Community Services, 2 Posts, Full Time Oban Ref: CSD32060/R
Community Services, Part Time, 17:5 hours Oban Ref: CSA31100/R

Receptionist/Clerical Assistant
£14,216 - £15,074 pro rata Lochgilphead Ref: CSC62120
Part Time, Temporary, 17:50 hours per week

Cook
£6.92 per hour Oban Ref: CSD32158/2
Community Services, Part Time, 16 hours per week
☎ 01546 604713 for the above 6 posts

Customer Services Centre Agent
£17,501 - £18,596 Oban Ref: CPD23202/E
Permanent Customer Services Centre Agent based in Oban
☎ 01546 604395 for this post only

Clerical Assistant
£14,216 - £15,074 pro rata Mid-Argyll Ref: CSE51510/1
Glassary Primary School
☎ 01369 708546 for this post only

Cleaner
£6.92 per hour Campbeltown Ref: OSF21034/R1
Aqualinium, Part Time, 22hrs to be worked over a two week period
☎ 01546 604625 for this post only
Closing date: 26 March 2010.
To apply visit our website

www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs

Mission Aviation Fellowship

Head of MAF Scotland
Salary: circa £35,000

Our mission is to bring hope and to isolated people - are you a leader with a passion to raise awareness of MAF in Scotland?

We are looking for a senior manager who has proven experience in strategic planning and people and financial management. The aim of this role is to raise the awareness of MAF in Scotland in order to increase prayer support, donated income and new staff to serve overseas. MAF UK has put in place a new strategic plan and this role will aim to implement a strategy for growth in communications with Scottish Supporters.

This full-time role will be based at our office in Glasgow, though flexibility for work and travel will be required.

Closing date: Thursday 18 March
Interview date in Glasgow: Wednesday 31 March
Applicants must be committed to MAF UK's evangelical Christian beliefs.

For an application pack, please email rachel.phipps@maf-uk.org or telephone (01303) 850950.

Registered charity in England and Wales (1064598) and in Scotland (SC039107)

Flying for Life

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

KILMARTIN MUSEUM HOUSE

Outdoor Education Officer Post

Kilmartin House Museum is seeking to appoint an Outdoor Education Officer to join the education team. The post is full time initially for one year, but may be extended for a further two years. The post has been created in a partnership between the Kilmartin House Museum, Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland. The successful candidate will deliver an Outdoor Education Service for Mid Argyll & Kintyre. Candidates require degree level education, computer literacy, and a clean driving licence. Knowledge of the natural heritage of Scotland and experience in delivering educational activities is essential. The salary is £19,000 per annum. Full post details and application forms can be found at www.kilmartin.org or by contacting Anne Smart (Museum Administrator) on 01546 510 278 or e-mail admin@kilmartin.org.

Closing date: 25th March 2010.

argyllholidays
Everything you need to make a great holiday!

Argyll Holidays is currently going through an exciting period of expansion and, as such, we have vacancies for a

Park Warden & Cleaning Assistant

Based at Loch Awe Holiday Park. These two vacancies would be ideal for a couple, although separate applications will be considered.

The Park Warden will be responsible for the smooth running of the park and will carry out general maintenance on site and must have a basic understanding of plumbing, electrical and joinery work. Siting of caravans and lodges and general ground maintenance are also required, plus all holiday park administration duties. The successful applicant must be a real people person with good communication skills. They must be adaptable and have the ability to work unsupervised. As the warden must live on site, accommodation will be provided.

The Cleaning Assistant will be responsible for general cleaning duties as required and possible administrative support to the Park Warden. The successful applicant must be hard-working and be able to prioritise their work.

Applications for both positions should be sent with an up to date CV to Laura Hardy, Drimsynie Estate Office, Lochgoilhead, Argyll PA24 8AD. Email laura.hardy@drimsynie.co.uk. Closing date Friday 19 March.

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Administrative Position

Personable Individual with excellent administrative skills required for well established Ballet School and Company in Taynuilt.

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Telephone: 01866 822 760 (after 6pm)

£500

Community trust photographic competition

KINLOCHLEVEN Community Trust (KCT) has opened its photographic competition for its 2011 calendar.

Up for grabs is a £50 photography related first prize in two categories, under 18 and over 18. Up to 10 runners-up prizes are also on offer.

Local amateur photographers are invited to submit photographs to KCT, in a digital format, on the theme 'Around Loch Leven' by close of business on May 3.

KCT is also running a competition for best winter scene for its 2010 Christmas card. Entries and signed entry form should be sent to Kinlochleven Community Trust, Unit 4A, Kinlochleven Business Park, Kinlochleven, PH50 4SH or emailed to jayne@kinlochleven.co.uk.

For further information call 01855 831779.

Nature reserve changes

THE ISLE of Rum's national nature reserve (NNR) designation is to be adjusted following a review by owners Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

The move, part of a national exercise to ensure all Scotland's NNR boundaries match with nature conservation objectives, will see woodland and fields around Kinloch village removed outwith Rum SSSI and NNR boundaries. The change will mean a less restrictive development environment for islanders looking to take over ownership of Kinloch from SNH.

Man had heroin in supermarket toilets

A MAN has admitted being in possession of heroin in the toilets of Morrisons supermarket last Hogmanay.

Donald Reid, aged 28, of 9 Kentallen Travellers' Site, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday to possession of 0.4 grams of heroin in the supermarket.

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said Reid has sought treatment for his heroin addiction.

He claimed Reid had not gone to the toilets to smoke the drug but had gone to the cubicle to do facial exercises, which he was required to do after suffering a stroke recently. Sentence was deferred until June 24 for Reid to be of good behaviour and to get medical reports.



Kirsty MacIntyre from Kinlochleven excelled at last year's Lochaber Music Festival. 10_f11music01

Curtain up on 36th Lochaber Music Festival

THE 36TH Lochaber Music Festival gets underway tomorrow, raising the curtain on a varied five-day programme of competitions and performances.

Lochaber's finest young musicians will put their talents on show in a range of disciplines including piping, fiddle, clarsach, accordion, piano and singing.

Chanter, Scottish folk, strings, woodwind, brass, verse and drama competitions will also feature.

St Andrew's Church Hall hosts the first festival events tomorrow when the chanter and chanter/piping sections begin at 10am and 2pm, while Lochside Primary School is the venue for more piping classes at 7pm and all competitions on Saturday from 9.30am onwards.

Monday sees verse speaking competition at Duncansburgh Hall at 9.30am and again at 1.45pm, vocal solos/duets and choirs at Fort William RC Hall at 9.30am, group musicmaking and singing in the same venue at 1.30pm and strings classes in Lochside School Hall at 6.30pm.

On Tuesday, Duncansburgh Hall hosts verse speaking at 9.30am and piano at 2pm, Fort William RC School Hall hosts strings, action/drama and singing games at 9.30am and woodwind/brass at 1.45pm, while Kilmallie Hall will be the venue for

the Scottish Country Dancing competition at 5.30pm.

Lochside School will host the young musician of the year, instrumental ensembles and the premier vocal and instrumental awards at 7pm.

On Wednesday, Duncansburgh Hall will host woodwind and brass classes at 9.30am and Bible reading at 12.15pm.

The festival concludes with the celebratory Grand Festival Concert in Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, on Thursday March 18 at 7pm.

Lochaber Music Festival Association membership secretary Catherine MacDonald told *The Oban Times* entries were slightly down on 2009.

Lochaber High School full time strings tutor Monica Das had moved away, while the absence of regular music tuition in primary schools was also a factor behind the dip in numbers.

'We have nobody going round the primaries. We have no peripatetic [travelling] music teachers any more,' she said.

'But we have a new brass teacher at Lochaber High School, Mark Reynolds, who has been in place for a year so we will be looking forward to see what his pupils can do.'

'We are all busy and I'm sure the festival will go well.'



HRH Princess Anne congratulates Mark McCann, second left, for his 20 years of service to Victim Support Scotland.

Fort William man honoured for service to Victim Support

A COMMUNITY campaigner from Fort William has been honoured for his services to Victim Support Scotland for the past 20 years.

Mark McCann was presented with an engraved vase to mark his two-decade involvement with the charity at a dinner in Prestonfield House, Edinburgh. He was subsequently invited by the Scottish Government to attend the 25th anniversary celebration of the charity at Edinburgh Castle, in the presence of HRH The Princess Royal.

Mr McCann said: 'Victim Support was founded in Coatbridge, which is where I was born, so that was a

talking point with HRH Princess Anne. I had a great night and also had a special invitation to see the crown jewels, which was fascinating.'

Mr McCann has held the offices of executive board member; national council member; chairman of the witness service and now vice chairman of Victim Support Highland during his time with the charity, which has a staff and volunteer roll of more than 900.

The charity was established to support the victims of crime and is recognised throughout the world.

However, Mr McCann said more volunteers were needed in Lochaber.

Petrol station attendant smelt alcohol on driver's breath

A DRINK driver was stopped by police in Fort William after a petrol station attendant smelt alcohol on his breath.

Derek Love pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday to driving on the Belford Road on January 30 with 55 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

The court heard how Love had gone to buy a lottery ticket at the petrol station the morning after a night out and the attendant, who smelt alcohol on his breath, telephoned the police.

Love was stopped and breathalysed shortly after leaving the petrol station.

He was fined £300 and disqualified from driving for 15 months.

Famous piper to open concert

ONE OF the three famous piping MacDonald brothers from Glenueig is to open proceedings at the annual Gaelic Society of Inverness concert at Eden Court tomorrow evening.

Dr Angus MacDonald will play sets of tunes reflecting the theme chosen for this year's event, 'Seasons and Moods'. Also appearing are singers Kathleen MacInnes, Paul MacCallum, Maggie Macdonald and Arthur Cormack, the singing group Canntaireachd and Monach Isles Ceilidh Band.

Dr MacDonald, who practices on Skye, is one of the world's foremost pipers and has won a host of awards.

He has family connections with South Uist and spent many years living and working in Cape Breton. His brothers Allan and Iain are also well known in piping circles.

Dr MacDonald is a trustee and piping advisor for the Clan Donald Lands Trust at Armadale.



Concert premiere for new composition

The sound of music filled the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday night when 140 young musicians from across the Highlands performed a concert featuring the premiere of a new composition, *Thugainn*, by Scottish composer and performer Patsy Reid. The piece was written specifically for the Highland Youth String Orchestra and Ceilidh band 'snas to perform on the night. Pictured above are Lochaber 'snas members Lucy Doogan, Euan Wilkie, Robert Robertson and Kirsty MacIntyre at the premiere.

Artist goes solo in Lochaber

ALOCHABER gallery is to host a solo show of work by an internationally admired artist later this year.

Resipole Studios near Salen, Sunart, will display paintings by self-taught artist Alan B Hayman, who moved to Drimmin on Morvern recently after a 15-year career as a commercial artist in Dundee and a period painting the wild landscapes of Glen Lyon in Perthshire.

Mr Hayman's present home overlooks the Sound of Mull and Tobermory, where he spends his time on his boat exploring and sketching the spectacular coastline to provide the raw materials for paintings of local scenes. Mr Hayman previously

has been commissioned by a number of famous clients to travel extensively throughout the world painting the animals, birds and landscapes of Africa, North America, Peru, Austria and Bali. Author Wilbur Smith owns a collection of Mr Hayman's African paintings.

The exhibition at Resipole Studios opens on May 28 and will run throughout the month of June. The exhibition will be Mr Hayman's first one-man show for 20 years.

Mr Hayman, 62, a native of Montrose, has drawn and painted animals since a boy and to improve his understanding of their anatomy taught himself taxidermy.



In fine form at the Caol ceilidh: Iain MacKay with organisers Joan Kennedy, left, and Mairi Weir.

Friends' Caol ceilidh raises £2,500 for Marie Curie

A CEILIDH in aid of Marie Curie in Caol Community Centre raised more than £2,500 for the charity.

Locheilside woman Mairi Weir and friend Joan Kennedy got together to organise the fund-raiser - and were swamped by a wave of goodwill.

Local ladies got busy baking to feed the multitude at the halftime tea and musicians and singers from across the West Highlands and islands played for free.

Accordianists at the ceilidh were Robert Nairn from Acharacle and Caol man Alec MacLean who brought across a contingent from South Uist to play, Mairi, from Camus Na Ha, told *The Oban Times*.

Performers also included Gaelic

singer Iain MacKay from Lewis, singer Amy Davis from Invergarry, Lochside fiddler Angus Grant and Caol fiddler Jimmy Cameron.

The evening, with Charlie MacColl as fear an taigh, proved a resounding success with 180 tickets sold out of 200.

'We just decided to do the fund-raiser and others quickly offered their services. All the musicians gave their time for nothing,' Mairi said.

'There was great traditional baking for half time. People had put in clootie dumplings, shortbread and scones - real traditional Highland fare. Thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to the night. More than £2,500 was raised for such a worthy cause.'

Cost of placing children spirals

THE SPIRALLING cost of placing Highland children with complex needs in suitable accommodation locally or elsewhere in Scotland will cost Highland Council an estimated £700,000 more than anticipated, according to new figures.

The shock findings, compiled by Highland Council head of children's services Jonathan King, will be discussed at the joint committee for children and young people in Inverness tomorrow.

The overall number of children placed has not increased significantly, but helping those with 'extremely complex needs often associated with health, including mental health and disability, is proving very costly.

The unit cost of placements

also continues to rise. To compensate for the pressure on purchased placements, all managers in different budget areas have been instructed to maintain current underspends.

'Our current estimate is that across the full budget there is likely to be a very small underspend of £27,000, but management action continues because of the risk that the costs of placements could still alter that position,' Mr King states.

A review of the purchasing of residential care has also been extended to include all activity and associated costs relating to accommodated children, including those in council provision, family placements - fostering and kinship care - and outsourced specialist foster care.

The findings will be reported to a future committee.

Primary pupils gear up for quiz

PRIMARY school pupils from Lochaber and Skye will today pit their wits against 12 other teams from across the Highlands in a Scotland-wide topical knowledge competition.

Four P6 pupils from Banavie and Portree have been swotting up for the 'Euroquiz'

heats at Millburn Academy in Inverness as they bid to represent Highland Council at the Scottish final.

Schools from all 32 Scottish local authorities will be in the national final on Monday May 10 in the debating chamber of the Scottish Parliament in Edinburgh.

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Man found with heroin

A 50-YEAR-OLD first offender has been fined after admitting two charges of possession of heroin in Fort William.

Mario Falcao, of 10 Young Place, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday to being in possession of the class A drug on September 23 last year in High Street and on December 9.

Procurator Fiscal Emma Knox told the court that Falcao had 0.2 grams of heroin, worth around £20, on his person on September 23 and 0.05 grams, worth £5, on the second occasion. Sheriff Douglas Small asked defence agent Hamish Melrose if Falcao had a problem with drugs. The solicitor replied: 'I would hope not. If he has a problem, it is at a very early stage because he was abusing the drug in relatively small doses.'

Mr Melrose added Falcao, a domestic assistant at Fort William Health Centre, had placed his employment in jeopardy. 'He has learnt a lesson from his appearance at court,' said Mr Melrose. Falcao was fined a total of £570.

Please help fund-raiser

MAGGIE'S Highlands cancer care centre at Raigmore Hospital is looking for volunteers to help at its Monster Bike and Hike on May 1 and 2.

The event starts in Fort William with a 30-mile cycle to Fort Augustus, after which competitors can choose to walk eight, 22 or 43 miles.

Volunteers are needed for all parts of the route including Fort William, Fort Augustus, Invermoriston, Drumnadrochit and Inverness. There is a variety of roles available and volunteers can work for as long or as little as they like.

Maggie's Highlands community fund-raiser Judith Ross said: 'Please come along and help us.'

Contact Judith on 01463 706302 or at judith.ross@maggiescentres.org.

Splashing the cash in Barra

THE OUTER Hebrides LEADER Innes Gall programme has paid out its first full grant of £8,635 to a community project in Barra.

Recipient Barra Watersports Club is managed by volunteers and provides water-based activities to the communities of Barra and Watersay. The money will go towards a fleet of Royal Yachting Association (RYA) sailing boats, windsurfing and kayak equipment, RYA sailing instructor fees and windsurfing instructor fees.

Skye theft

SKYE police are asking the public for help after 100 fence posts were removed from the Storr Lochs area of the island.

The theft took place sometime between 5pm on Thursday March 4 and 9.45am on March 5.

Anyone with any information regarding the theft or who saw anyone acting suspiciously in the area should contact Portree Police Station on 01478 612888 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Fort Augustus plans second fèis

FORT Augustus is to host a Gaelic-medium fèis for a second time following the successful inaugural event last year.

Freumhan 2010 will see young people in first to fourth year at secondary school gather at Stravaigers Lodge from April 5-9 for instrumental workshops and other Gaelic language and musical-based activities.

Places will once again be limited to 20 in order that participants receive intensive high quality tuition to develop their skills.



Colin Redstone OBE, Commander Royal Navy Area Officer North, with cadets from Lochaber Sea Cadets checking their map reading skills during his annual inspection.



Commander Rodger Heaton hands over a £500 cheque from the Fleet Air Arm Officers Association to Catriona Calder, chairman of Lochaber Sea Cadets Unit Management Team.

Lochaber Sea Cadets ship shape for inspection

LOCHABER Sea Cadets were on parade at an inspection carried out by the Royal Navy's Northern Commander Colin Redstone MBE.

The cadets' Royal Naval Parade is held every two years to see how the unit is progressing.

The inspection involves a lot of hard work by the cadets and staff, who have to make sure everything is up to standard and paperwork is in order.

On parade night cadets do Colours, two Evolutions and Evening Colours, as well

as being inspected by visiting officers. This year's parade was a special one as the Lochaber cadets were selected to receive a £500 donation from the Fleet Air Arm Officers Association.

Commander Roger Heaton MBE, from Pitlochry, travelled to Fort William last Tuesday to present the cheque on behalf of the association.

Catriona Calder, chairman of the cadet unit management team, said: 'We are very grateful to the Fleet Air Arms Officers Association for their kind donation.'

Crown Estate reform key to future coastal benefit

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has told a UK government committee major reforms of the Crown Estate in Scotland are needed to ensure coastal communities receive maximum benefit from offshore developments.

Councillor Foxley was giving evidence at Westminster to the UK Government's Treasury sub-committee, which is reviewing the body's role in Scotland.

The Crown Estate owns much of Scotland's foreshore, tidal riverbeds and almost all the seabed within the 12 nautical miles limit—including rights to all minerals but excluding hydrocarbons. All revenues raised go directly to the UK Treasury. Councillor Foxley told the committee Highland Council felt it was vital to secure major local financial community benefits - in addition to employment, training and

business benefits - from marine energy development around the Highlands and Islands. Highland Council is currently working with Crown Estate commissioners to agree a memorandum of understanding with the commissioners.

Councillor Foxley said: 'We need to learn from mistakes of the past to ensure Highland and Islands communities benefit from offshore renewables. We should seek community benefits similar to those gained by the Shetland oil fund.'

He added: 'A further concern is that marine renewable energy development takes place in a sustainable manner that is fully integrated with the marine spatial planning process at a national and local level. The importance of appropriate consultation as part of this process is obvious. Highland Council wishes to

Widow grateful for council condolences

By EUAN PATERSON THE WIDOW of former cycling champion Jason MacIntyre acknowledged condolences from Highland Council at a fatal accident inquiry last week into her husband's death.

Caroline MacIntyre said the condolences, conveyed to her by the council's solicitor Jackie Watt in her final submission at Fort William Sheriff Court, was the first time she had heard such a message from the council.

Mrs MacIntyre said that was all that she could have asked for from the local authority, adding that she was grateful for the opportunity to hear the full facts on the circumstances surrounding her husband's death.

Mrs MacIntyre, the mother of Mr MacIntyre's 11-year-old twin daughters Chloe and Morgan, attended all three days of the inquiry and said it had been 'tough' listening to the details of her



Jason MacIntyre's widow Caroline was grateful for the evidence, which arose from the fatal accident inquiry into her husband's death.

husband's death. But she added: 'I am very grateful for having the opportunity to hear everything that we have.'

'I think for Chloe and Morgan it is important when they are older that they know the few facts about

what happened to their dad. I'm not going to speculate on what the sheriff will say - I am happy to wait for the decision.'

'I think it [the incident] has been explained in as much detail as I hoped and I am grateful for that. It doesn't change things on a daily basis but I am thankful that I got that.'

Mr MacIntyre, aged 33, died after a Highland Council pick-up truck, being driven by Robert McTaggart, aged 36, crossed his path on the A82 at the junction into Carrs Corner Industrial Estate on January 15 2008.

The cyclist, a potential Olympian, died from a severe head injury sustained in the collision. Mr McTaggart, a recycling loader for Highland Council, was fined £500 and banned for six months after admitting careless driving.

During the inquiry, held between Monday and

Wednesday last week, witnesses claimed there was no reason why Mr McTaggart should not have seen the cyclist as he prepared to turn into Carrs Corner Industrial Estate.

In summing up, Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie said: 'We have established that the cause of the accident was Mr McTaggart's manoeuvre. 'Although this is not a blame finding exercise, at the end of the day I don't think there is any way of getting round that.'

'However, Mr McTaggart has already been dealt with by a criminal court.'

Mrs MacIntyre has also raised a £500,000 damages claim against Highland Council at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

A total of 11 witnesses gave evidence at the three-day inquiry. Sheriff Douglas Small said he would submit his determination in writing at a later date.

Trial adjourned

A MAN facing two charges relating to indecent photographs of children has had his trial adjourned.

Neil Gray, aged 23, of 45 Sunnyside, Culloden Moor, Inverness, has denied taking indecent photographs of children, or permitting the photographs to be taken at the Inverness address between February 24 and May 23 2007. He has also pled not guilty to being in possession of indecent photos of children between the same dates.

At Fort William Sheriff Court last Thursday, defence agent Gerry Sweeney successfully requested more time to prepare his case.

The trial, which was due to go ahead on March 15, will now be held on May 17, with an intermediate diet of April 29.

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SOUTHEND DOWN THE DECADES Photographs bring a Kintyre village's history vividly to life

RAINBOW ORCHIDS Lord Mansfield's collection of exotic plants at Scone Palace, Perthshire

WIN...

WIN: A £300 stay at the Enterkine House hotel

DISCUSS...

GO TO OUR FORUMS: Share views, rate whiskies or restaurants, or submit book reviews at www.scottishfield.co.uk

Man broke window with fist

AN ENGLISHMAN broke a reinforced window with his fist at a Fort William hotel in response to a racial slur.

Philip Walker, aged 32, of 2 Croft Cottages, Brampton, Carlisle, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court on Thursday to breaking the window at Ossian's Hotel with his fist on August 30 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Emma Knox told the court that Walker had heard the words English b*****d as he passed a group of youths and believed that the insult had been directed at him. She said: 'Punches were exchanged

but one of his punches missed the intended target and hit the window, causing it to break.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose explained that his client had been drunk at the time and had injured his hand in the incident.

Compensation

Sheriff Small fined Walker £150 and ordered him to pay £80 compensation to the hotel to cover the cost of replacing the window.

He added: 'I take into account that you were insulted and reacted to that but you can't go about doing this sort of thing.'

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Corryvreckan malt proves awards winner

ARBEG Distillery on Islay has claimed two prestigious whisky awards for its Corryvreckan single malt. The famously peaty whisky has been named World's Best Single Malt Whisky at the World Whisky Awards and Single Malt of the Year by a US-

based whisky magazine. The whisky is named after Europe's largest whirlpool, the Corryvreckan, which lies to the north of Islay and Jura. The single malt was launched in September. Ardbeg brand director Hamish Torrie said: 'We are

thrilled to have won these prestigious awards. With the hundreds of single malt whiskies that are entered for these competitions it is a great testament to the hard work of our distillery team on Islay and the whisky creation team led by Dr Bill Lumsden.'

Free hospitality training boost for Kintyre tourism sector

Two-day course on food hygiene

FREE hospitality training is being offered to people in Kintyre following a number of hotel developments planned for the future in the area. The number of trained waiting staff required is expected to rise to more than 70 and to meet that demand a two-day course is being offered to anyone over the age of 16. Aileen MacLennan, town centre manager for Campbeltown, said: 'Part of my remit is to encourage

more training opportunities for people living in the Kintyre area. 'This two-day course will enable those who attend the opportunity to obtain their REHIS Introduction to Food Hygiene Certificate (Level 1), as well as their City and Guilds Staff Working in Licensed Premises qualification. 'Training and advice will also be given on practical customer care and customer service.' Councillor John

Semple, chairman of the Campbeltown CHORD Project, said: 'With work due to start in the near future on the renovation of The Royal, Ugadale and Keil hotels, these qualifications could lead to a new career in hospitality in what will be a growing, dynamic, high quality tourism product right here in Kintyre.' The course will take place in The Ardshiel Hotel, Campbeltown, on Monday April 12 and Tuesday April 13.

Fledgling cleaning company gets off to a flying start

AN OBAN company has flown in the face of standard business practise during a recession and started a new business – and so far things are looking very good. After one month's trading Argyll Cleaning Solutions has a strong order book and is working flat out. The biggest seller is a Kitchen Extraction and Certificate of Cleanliness (HVCA TR19) or, to the uninitiated, a kitchen and extractor fan deep clean.

But the company offers a full range of cleaning services for customers such as home valeting, chimney cleaning, window cleaning, drain unblocking, steam cleaning, guttering – all from the back of a van. James McCahey, aged 26, and Roddy Dixon, aged 32, decided to start the business using knowledge from former careers as chefs, window cleaners and quality and food management to best use and started Argyll

Cleaning Solutions. James said: 'I thought it would be difficult at first, and I was hoping that by April we would maybe have a few contracts. 'But after only one month's trading we have been going non-stop. 'The fact is we are well priced for the jobs that we do – customers don't have the extra costs of bringing a contractor up from Glasgow. We are right here in Oban.

And we are doing a good job. We are hoping that people will consider having monthly contracts with us – it is certainly an area of the business that we would like to grow. 'For instance I don't know anyone else who offers de-carbonising for industrial kitchens in Oban and it can make an incredible difference to businesses.' John Christlieb, owner of Melfort Pier and Harbour, said: 'We recently employed

Argyll Cleaning Solutions to deep clean the kitchen in our Melfort Mermaid Restaurant. 'They proved to be excellent timekeepers, and their thoroughness and professionalism could not be faulted. 'It is always a pleasure to see a young company set such high standards and I would happily recommend them to any one requiring any of the cleaning services offered.'

'Apprentice' joins Argyll Holidays



Ruth Badger

SHE MAY have been fired by Sir Alan Sugar on The Apprentice television show but Ruth Badger has impressed one potential employer and has been snapped-up by Argyll Holidays. The runner-up from the 2006 show now runs her own consultancy firm and has been tasked with helping the Lochgoilhead-based Argyll Holidays.

Ruth Badger Consultants will be working with Argyll Holidays in all areas of the business, with an emphasis on efficiency and providing training at every level. It is another big step for the Argyll company, which in January moved the existing reservations team to specially commissioned offices adjacent to the Drimsynie Estate Office in Lochgoilhead. Although initially reluctant to join a company based in 'remote' Argyll, Ruth said she has fallen in love with Cowal so much that she has booked a family holiday there in May.

'Princess' has make-over for summer

THE HEBRIDEAN Princess, the five-star luxury cruise ship which sails out of Oban during its summer season, is sporting a make-over for 2010. As part of a four-year programme to ensure she complies with new design and construction regulations, the Hebridean Princess has had a major overhaul and renovation over the winter in Middlesborough. The Treet lounge, library, conservatory, look out lounge and Columba restaurant have all been refurbished too with new carpets, upholstery, furniture and lighting. Even the hull colour has been returned to its traditional dark blue after spending last year as a different colour.

New training kitchen and hairdressing salon

Argyll College moves to Oban base

Wider range of full-time courses planned

INCREASING student numbers has encouraged Argyll College to move into larger premises in Oban. Sam Tweedie, assistant centre manager with Argyll College in Rothesay, said: 'Whilst we shall all miss the splendid views of our previous centre in Dunstaffnage we believe the people of Oban and surrounding areas will benefit enormously from our new location in town. Increased range of courses 'Besides being more accessible to the majority of people via bus routes and for

some within walking distance, we will be able to offer a much wider range of courses.' Argyll College aims to increase the range of full-time courses in particular. School leavers and those who want to re-train or return to work after a break will have a much-needed opportunity of accessing certificated training without having to leave the area to do so. Current courses include five levels of Childcare up to HNC and Digital Media Computing. Short full-time courses include General Catering Skills and

a National Certificate in Administration. From August 2010, the new Argyll College premises, with its modern training kitchen and hairdressing salon, will expand catering courses to include SVQ level 2 in Professional Cookery and will introduce full time SVQ level 2 and 3 courses in Hairdressing. The college will also be offering an advanced Digital Media Computing course. Sam said: 'Our aims for the future include full time courses in Horticulture, Music Production and

Sound Engineering, Music Performance, SVQ level 3 in Professional Cookery and a variety of Beauty courses. 'With our new 'state of the art' video conferencing facilities we will also be able to accommodate many more students who wish to embark on a degree or other university level course by distance learning through the UHI Millennium Institute.' 'To find out how you can benefit from this marvellous facility on your door step, why not come along to our open day.' See page 5 for details.

Exploiting business opportunities in tough times

WHEN market and employment conditions are uncertain, starting your own business may be an option worth examining. In an economic downturn, overall economic activity decreases and as a result businesses could experience falling sales, cashflow problems, employment freezes or redundancies. However, in such a climate there are also opportunities to be exploited. By choosing the right type of business and conducting it in the right way, your business could thrive when economic conditions are tough. A well-thought out business idea, proper sourcing of finance

and good business planning can ensure that your business has the best chance of success. Even in the current difficult climate, entrepreneurs across Argyll and Bute have been spotting opportunities. Statistics from the Committee of Scottish Clearing Bankers show nearly 250 new businesses started in the 12 months to last October. Many of these businesses received support from Business Gateway to help them realise their start-up ambitions. The Business Gateway team can offer

individual support from an experienced business adviser, a range of locally delivered workshops covering a range of business skills and access to a wealth of online information to help with researching and planning a new business. As well as help in exploring ideas and developing your business plan, Business Gateway can help you identify potential sources of funding for your business. To find out more about the support on offer call the local office on 01546 605 459 or email business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk.



Attendees at a recent business start-up workshop held in Rothesay, Isle of Bute

Creagan Inn on the market

THE CREAGAN Inn on the shores of Loch Creran, between Barcaldine and Appin, is up for sale. The inn has been virtually rebuilt in the last three years with a £500,000-plus investment and is on the market at a guide price of £750,000. The bar, restaurant and three rooms with a family flat also include a

mooring and a safe landing as well as being on the roadside of the A828. 'The Creagan Inn really does have the best of both worlds, with a first class main road trading position, and access to a very popular sea loch,' said Adam Lansdown, director of selling agents Colliers Robert Barry, Glasgow.

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Get your boat back in the water

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 anode 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 2010 season.





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New temporary loading pontoon Spring 2010.

For information contact Martin Waterhouse
Barcaldine Marine, Barcaldine, Oban, PA37 1SH
Tel: 01631 720291. Mob: 07767 380235
e-mail: moorings@barcaldinemarine.co.uk
www.barcaldinemarine.co.uk

New Pontoon Berth at Barcaldine Marine

The development of facilities at Barcaldine Marine, Loch Creran, continues with the construction of a short term berthing and landing pontoon to improve the service to yachts on long term moorings, and to visitors.

The new pontoon, which will be ready in Spring 2010, will be built by Fusion Marine, who are based at the Marine Resource Centre, home of Barcaldine Marine. The hammerhead arrangement will provide temporary berthing for up to 6 vessels at a time allowing ease of access for loading/unloading. Extensive seabed monitoring has ensured that the pontoon will be installed in 5m of water, and will be moored in a way that avoids damage to the sensitive serpulid reef at the periphery of Loch Creran.

Barcaldine Marine currently has 50 deep water swinging moorings in a minimum depth of 6m. These are professionally laid and serviced and are suitable for vessels up to 11.6m in length or 15 tonnes gross weight, although larger or heavier vessels can be accommodated on request. In addition visitors moorings are available for occasional overnight use.

More information on the range of services at Barcaldine Marine is available on the website: www.barcaldinemarine.co.uk.

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For more information
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info@fusionmarine.com
[WWW.FUSIONMARINE.COM](http://www.fusionmarine.com)

Innovative pontoon design helping to boost West coast businesses

Barcaldine based Fusion Marine says it is delighted to have won the order to construct the new pontoon for the Marine Resource Centre.

Fusion Marine has supplied many of its innovative pontoons to customers all over the West Highlands for the past five years as they provide the ideal means for providing convenient and cost-effective marine access in a variety of locations, including remote coastal areas. The pontoon for the MRC is 116m long with a 20m hammerhead at the end.

Constructed from environmentally friendly recycled plastic and tough polyethylene (PE), the flexible nature of the individually designed pontoons allows them to be sited on shelving beaches and other coastal locations. As the tide drops the pontoon follows the contours of the foreshore, providing the perfect answer for businesses and other operations looking to attract visitors or gain easy round-the-clock access to the sea.

The pontoons are ideal for hotels looking to attract leisure craft; mooring associations and yacht clubs; community associations; country estates; angling and leisure boat operators and fish farming operations.

In addition to pontoons, Fusion Marine supplies a wide range of outdoor furniture made from recycled plastic including picnic tables, benches and boardwalks. The company also specialises in the supply of a full range of tough polyethylene pipes and fittings.

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Neil Cameron would like to say a huge thank you to friends from Lismore and beyond for their cards and presents on his 50th Birthday. Special thanks go to staff at the Claredon and to Angie for organising everything. 'Thanks a million for making my 50th Birthday so special.'

Happy 40th Mary Chin - Chin from the Neigh - bours

Happy 40th Yvonne Lots of love from all the family

Happy Birthday Susan Love from all the family

Catherine and Willie Campbell would like to thank all family, friends and neighbours for making their Golden Wedding Anniversary such a success. Also for the many gifts, cards and flowers we received. A special thanks must go to our two daughters Fiona and Janice who did so much towards organising our special day. Thank you all.

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uncle, cousin, grand-uncle and nephew. A dear friend and work colleague to many. Funeral service was held in Glassary Parish Church on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, followed by interment at Achnabreac Cemetery. Sadly missed.

MACLEOD - On February 26, 2010, Colin John, of Newark, Nottinghamshire, in his 82nd year. A dearly loved father, grandfather and brother. Funeral Service at Newark Parish Church on Monday, March 29 at 11.00am followed by a private cremation. Floral tributes or if preferred donations for Nottingham University Hospitals Charity (for the Renal Unit at City Hospital, Nottingham) to E Gill and Sons Ltd, Funeral Directors, 55 Albert Street, Newark, Notts NG24 4BQ. Tel. 01636 677461.

McNEIL - Catherine Christina MacColl (née McNicol) (Galashiels), peacefully at home with her family, on Thursday, March 4, 2010, Cathie, beloved wife of the late Roderick MacKinnon McNeil, daughter of the late William and Catherine McNicol of Ardyhcle, Glen Dochart, cherished mother of Roddy and Colin and mother-in-law to Karen. Funeral service on Friday, March 12, at Mortonhall Crematorium, Pentland Chapel, at 3.30pm, to which all friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

PATERSON - Peacefully at Dunaros Eventide Home on March 3, 2010, in her 88th year, Katie Ann (née MacKenzie) of Salen, Isle of Mull. Funeral Service was held at Dunaros on Monday, March 8, 2010 thereafter to Pennyngown Cemetery. Sadly missed by all her family. Never forgotten.

ROWBOTTOM - Jim, peacefully at Raigmore Hospital after a short illness. Beloved husband of the late Tina Rowbottom and father of Jill and Alan. Dearest friend of Shirley and father-in-law of David. Funeral to be held in Duncansburgh/Macintosh Church, Fort William on Monday, March 15, at 11am. Family flowers only.

WEATHERALL - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, on March 6, 2010, John (Jack), in his 91st year, dearly loved husband of Katie (Simpson), much loved father of Anne and Carine, father-in-law of Wolfgang and grandpa (Ali) of Andy and James, also a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle. Funeral service will take place from The Church of Scotland, Glencruittan Road, Oban, on Friday 12, 2010 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only. Retrial collection/donations will be taken for Oban Hospice Ltd.

WILSON - After a short battle with cancer, our brother, Duncan, passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, March 6, 2010. A much loved and missed brother, uncle and friend.

who paid their respects at the graveside, Kilmonivaig. Once again they extend special gratitude to Ewen MacLennan for his unstinting faithfulness to their father over many years, and for all the support and friendship he continues to show the family.

MACKENZIE - Margaret and family would like to thank everyone who attended Ross's funeral at The Church of Scotland and also at Duroc Cemetery. Special thanks to Morag for her wonderful service. I would also like to thank doctors at Kinlochleven Surgery, Paramedics and doctors and nurses at A and E, Belford Hospital, for their kindness and care of Ross. Thanks also for donations at the church for the Army Benevolent Fund which amounted to £120.

McKELLAR - Donna and family would like to sincerely thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for the many kind expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards, phone calls and messages received following their recent bereavement. Special thanks to local emergency services for their efforts and their support to our family through this difficult time. Grateful thanks to Rev Hilda Smith for a comforting service, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for caring and professional services, to the Cairnbaan Hotel for fine purvey. Thanks also to Charles Ferguson for beautiful piping and to the Flowershop for lovely floral tributes. Finally, thank you to all who attended at church and graveside to pay their respects, especially those who travelled a distance. The collection for RDA and Church Funds raised in excess of £1,050

RICHMOND - Johan and the family of the late Mary Richmond would like to thank all friends who travelled to Mary's service in Cardross Crematorium on such a horrible day. Thanks to Rev Margaret Sinclair for her lovely service, to Roddie and Fiona for such efficient funeral arrangements. The staff of the Coachman Hotel Cardross, for the most welcome soup and sandwiches. The Nurses of Glenaray Ward who made Mary's last days so peaceful and comfortable. To Dr Sphink and the Macmillan Nurses in Tarbert. To Mr Scobie and his team in Oban. A special thank you to Margaret, Myra, Elma and Jean who have been a great help to Johan. At Mary's service a retiral collection was taken for Glenaray Ward of the Mid-Argyll Hospital £230 was raised thank you all very much.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear mother, Mary, who died on March 16, 2007, also our dear father, James (Jimmy), who died January 21, 1999. In our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day.
 - Gordon and Hazel.
CAMERON - In ever loving memory of Iain (Don), died March 15, 2005. Remembered always.
 - Heather, Nik and family.
CLARK - Precious memories of Margaret, who was taken from us on March 9, 1997. Remembering you is easy I do it every day Missing you is something That will never go away.
 - Love Mum.
 Time passes memories stay Loved and remembered every day.
 - Love Dad and Lotta.
 No words, no verse Mum Can ever say How much we miss you every day.
 - Love Natalie and Carrie-Anne.
 No need for words We'll never forget.
 - Love Marilyn, Matthew and Aileen.
 Love and miss you always Auntie Margaret.
 - Love Caroline, Robert, Craig, Sharree and Darren.
COUTTS - Treasured memories of my dear parents, Isabel, died March 8, 1992, and Alex, who died June 17, 1976, my brother Alistair, who died November 2, 2007, my aunt Jean, died October 26, 1988. Also remembering loved ones gone before and since.
 Loved and remembered every day.
 - Cathie, Inverness.
GARNER - In loving memory of a dear sister and auntie, Bella, who died March 13, 2006. Always remembered.
 - Joan and all the family.
GILLIES - Treasured memories of a much loved daughter, sister and auntie, Phemie, who died March 17, 1979. We love and miss you every day.
 - Joan and all the family.
HOGG CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear brother and uncle Alistair, who died March 17, 2008. Just to say we still remember.
 Rest in peace Alistair. Love you always.
 - Grace, Colin, Shiona, Colin, David and Serena, Serenity, Fort William.
LAFFERTY - In loving memory of our da John J, who passed away March 15, 1989. God saw the road was getting rough The hill was hard to climb He gently closed your eyes And whispered peace be thine.
 - Inserted by daughter Denise and Kerry.
MACLEAN - Precious memories of a dear wife, mother and nana, Jennifer MacLean, passed away March 17, 2008. You may be gone from our lives But you will never leave our hearts
 - Your loving husband John and daughter Hazel.
 It's sad to know you won't be here To share with us this special year.
 - John, Lindsay and Finlay.
MACLEAN - In loving memory of John, a devoted husband, father, father-in-law and grandfather, died March 11, 2006. You had a smile for everyone You had a heart of gold You left the dearest memories This world could ever hold Sadly missed and ever remembered.
 - Bella, Donald John, Janette, Keith, Iain and Allan.
MACPHAIL - In loving memory of my dear nephew, Allan, who passed away on March 11, 2004. Love and miss you always.
 - Auntie Ann.
MACPHAIL - In memory of Allan, March 11, 2004. Forever in my thoughts.
 - Maureen.
MACPHAIL - In memory of Allan who passed away on March 11, 2004. Lovingly remembered.
 - Jennifer x.
NICHOLSON - In loving memory of Jessie, who died March 11, 2000, wife of the late Malcolm. Ten years have passed since that sad day You closed your eyes and slipped away Remembering you is easy we do it every day But missing you is the heartache That never goes away. Loved and remembered always.
 - Donald, William, Catherine, Jane, Caroline and families.
OMAND - Treasured memories of a loving mother, mother-in-law and precious Nana, Cathie, Isle of Tiree who sadly passed away on March 14, 2008. Time cannot dim the face we loved The voice we heard each day

The many things you did for us In your kind and loving way We think of you in silence And make no outward show But what it meant to love you No one will ever know.
 - Rosemary, Iona, John, Murray, Norma and families, Tiree, Lewis and Renfrew.
OMAND - In loving memory of our dear auntie Cathie, who passed away on March 14, 2008. Deep in our hearts Your memory is kept To treasure and love And never forget.
 - Iain, Elizabeth, Iona and Ewan.
SCOTT - In loving memory of Jimmy, my dear husband, who died March 14, 2005. Always in my thoughts.
 - Jessie.
SCOTT - In loving memory of our dear dad, papa and old papa Jimmy, who died March 14, 2005. Forever in our thoughts
 - James, Sandra and family.
SCOTT - In memory of a dear brother in law, Jimmy, who died March 14, 2005. Very sadly missed.
 - Pat and Malcolm.
SINCLAIR - In loving memory of our parents and grandparents, Helen, who died February 1, 1991, and Jimmy, who died March 3, 2004. Also Cathy Morrison, much loved sister of Jimmy, who died February 23, 2008. In our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day.
 - Angus, Irene and family, Bowmore.
STODDART - In loving memory of our dear mother, Isabella Livingstone, died March 11, 1990. Always in our thoughts - Inserted by family, Glasgow.

Muckairn Church Guild

Inspiring talk on the work of Amnesty International

MUCKAIRN Guild met in the church on the afternoon of Monday March 1. Stella Huntingford welcomed everyone and Evelyn Campbell accompanied the hymn 'Brother, Sister, Let me Serve You'.
Amnesty International
 A reading from Micah Chapter 6 ending: 'The Lord requires us to do what is just, to show constant love and to live in humble fellowship with God' was reminder of this session's theme: 'To act justly'.
 Dr Anushka Miller, marine scientist, then

gave an inspiring talk on Amnesty International. She said human rights issues had always occurred during the history of mankind. Many examples can be found in the Bible, including the trail and crucifixion of Jesus. Ethical cleansing happened in Scotland - the Highland Clearances - and throughout Britain - witch burning, hanging and torture and continues to this day in countries such as Darfur. Amnesty International was constituted in 1962 to stand for basic rights and freedoms, dignity, liberty and equality of brotherhood. It is secular and not allied to governments. There are now members in most countries financed by donations. Amnesty International fights for women's rights, for example against sex trafficking. Amnesty International opposes violence against women and children, the death penalty. It supports rights for asylum seekers and calls for arms control. Although many people suffer great injustice, many others are helped to survive and become an inspiration to others. There is the power of the pen - writing to encourage prisoners of conscience - or petitions to authorities or objections to unjust regimes and donations. Margaret Harris thanked Anushka on behalf of everyone present. Sadly many could not be there. The hymn 'God of Freedom, God of Justice' and a prayer concluded the meeting. The next Guild meeting will be on Monday April 5 when a speaker from 'Feed the Minds' will be the guest.

BIRTHS

BYRNE - Tony and Fiona (née Graham) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Neil Arthur Iain on February 28, 2010, a brother for Madeleine and Alasdair. Many thanks to staff and midwives at Stirling Royal Infirmary.

MACBEATH - John and Fiona (née Johnson) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Hector John Farquhar, on February 8, 2010, a wee brother for Charlie. Thanks to midwives at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness. Special thanks to the Special Care Unit at Raigmore.

MILLER - In St Louis, USA, on February 19, 2010, to Eric and Amali, a daughter, Ailsa Roland. First grandchild for Margaret Miller, Bearsden and great-grandchild for Mary MacColl, Lorn Road, Dunbeg.

DEATHS

COWAN - Peacefully on March 5, 2010, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Jeannie (Jean), beloved wife of the late Donald Cowan, 6 Edendoch, Dalmally. Funeral service will take place at Dalmally Parish Church, on Thursday (today), March 11, 2010 at 1.00pm, thereafter to Dalmally Cemetery. Retiring collection/donations will be taken for Dalmally Parish Church.

DAVIS - On February 28, 2010 in Ringwood, Hampshire, Catherine Jessie (née Black) beloved wife of Roy Davis (ex R.A.F. Oban) aged 95. Much loved mother of Fiona, Alison and Calum and sister of Isobel, Curstan and Nancy.

DOUGLAS - At Freemantle Hospital, Western Australia, on Friday, March 5, 2010, Annie (née Stewart), beloved wife of Fraser, much loved mother of Alison and Fiona, daughter of the late Tommy and MaryAnn Stewart formerly of Heanish, Tiree.

FORSYTH - Peacefully at Blairgowrie Cottage Hospital on Sunday, March 7, 2010 surrounded by his family, after a long illness bravely borne, Alvin, loving husband of Lexy and the late Margaret, dearly loved dad of Alison, Duncan, Mo and Bruce, dear son of Sandy and the late Margaret, much loved father-in-law and grandfather, dear brother of Thelma and good friend to many. Funeral service will be held in Perth Crematorium today, Thursday, March 11, 2010.

GALBRAITH - Suddenly on Friday March 5, 2010, Finlay Neil Galbraith, beloved husband of Mary, father to Neil, Mhairi and Iain, son of Archie and Annie Galbraith and brother to Christine. A service will take place in Holmsford Bridge Crematorium, Dreggh on Friday, March 12, to which all friends and family are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please.

LITSTER - Peacefully, after a short illness borne bravely, at his home, Laggan, Kilmartin, on March 3, 2010, David Donald, aged 71 years. Dearly beloved husband of Christina MacDonal, much loved Dad of Marina, dear father-in-law and friend to Tom. Adored Shenair of Tamara. Dear brother, brother-in-law,

WEDDINGS

John McGilp formerly of Kilmours, East Ayrshire and now Inverloch and Stacy Simpson of Kilwinning, married on Sunday 14th February 2010, at House for an Art Lover, Bellahouston Park, Glasgow.

GRADUATIONS

Billie Jones graduated from Stirling University with an honours degree in Film and Media. Billie is an ex pupil of Oban High School and Bunessan Primary and is the eldest daughter of James Williams and Terry Jones, Fionnphort, Isle of Mull.

Dr Barry Fudge graduated from Glasgow University with a PhD in Physiology. Barry is the middle son of Celia and Fred Fudge, Fort William and is the husband of Kelly Hewitt, formerly of Corpach. Barry is currently working in Loughborough at The English Institute of Sport as a Physiologist for UK Athletics.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION

Sunday 14th March 2010
Mothering Sunday
 St John's Cathedral, Oban
 Holy Communion.....08:00
 Sung Eucharist.....10:15
 Sunday School and Crèche
 Loop System
 Large Print Hymn Books
 All Welcome
 Norman MacCallum, Provost.
 (01631) 562323
Holy Spirit, Ardechattan
 No Service
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
 Holy Eucharist.....11:00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
 Holy Eucharist.....10:00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday 14th March 2010
Oban High School
Main Hall
10:30am
 All Welcome
 Telephone
07836 342 622
www.lorncf.org.uk

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN

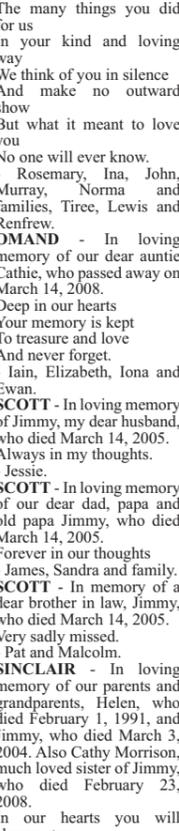
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 14th March 2010
 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
 Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail
MA, MTh
(01631) 567076
 All welcome

CHARITY DONATIONS

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 CARING FOR THE FUTURE
 Donations always gratefully accepted
 Please contact
David Mudie (Treasurer)
Oban Hospice Ltd
The Croft
Kilmore

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 Please send to **Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ**



Mrs MacInnes, Mrs Pearson, Nancy and Alfie May, Roddy MacKenzie

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Ben race goes green

THE BENROMACH 10 Under the Ben cross-country mountain bike race at Leanachan Forest on May 15 is to have a special green theme this year - a special competition to celebrate the renewable energy sector and pedal power.

Mountain biking

The challenge, essentially a race within a race, will see mountain bike riders involved in renewable energy projects throughout the UK and further afield sign up for the inaugural Renewables Race, joining up to 1000 off riders taking part in the main event.

10 Under the Ben is run on an endurance format with riders competing as a solo or in relay teams of two, three or four to see who can complete the most laps of the 10 mile course in 10 hours.

As the 2010 course passes within 20 metres of the Highland Wood Energy Headquarters, the biomass heat specialists will provide

hospitality all weekend - from race registration and a drinks reception on the Friday evening to a post race barbecue and after party on Saturday night.

A Renewables Race through in Leanachan Forest is fitting as the woodland already plays a major role in supporting renewable energy.

Low value wood from the forest is currently used to heat local schools, Lochaber College, the Community Centre and the Fort William Medical Centre.

Frazer Coupland, from No Fuss Events said: 'We are delighted that 10 under the Ben and Highland Wood Energy will host the inaugural Renewables Race.'

'Our events are great for bringing likeminded people together and what could be better than riding a superb course.'



Lochaber RFC midi rugby teams, who took part in a tournament held at their home park Banavie on Sunday. Lochaber 'A' were winners on the day.

Lochaber boys are masters of the midis

LOCHABER under 14s welcomed Ross-Sutherland, Oban and Lochgilphead to Banavie for a Midi rugby tournament on Sunday.

Lochaber A started with a fine win over Lochgilphead and then went from strength to strength with wins following against Ross-Sutherland Oban A and Oban B.

Lochaber B lost their only match of the day to Lochgilphead in the penultimate match but came back to win their final game against Ross-Sutherland.

The Lochaber A and B teams collectively scored 39 tries and only conceded 14 in all their matches with Lochaber A being the

Rugby

ultimate winners on the day.

The crowd of spectators were rewarded with a day of good running rugby with some of the Lochaber tackling and ball handing quite superb.

Lochaber would like to thank the referees, cooking ladies and of course the travelling teams from Oban, Ross-Sutherland and Lochgilphead.

Lochaber squad: Daniel Thomas, Brian Campbell, Callum MacDonald, Jordan MacPhee, Finlay Ireland, Calum Sandison, Arran MacPhee, Calum Boyd, Joseph Tangney, Rory Bell, Oskar Wineberg, Andrew Haines, Keir Coupland, Finn Munro, Greg Cameron and Angus Cameron.



Action from the match between Oban and Lochaber. Picture by Kevin McGlynn

Pam stretches her lead in ten-pin league

Lead at the top now 23 points

AFTER the fifth week of the ten-pin bowling singles leagues at the Nevis Centre, Pam Weller has stretched her lead at the top of the handicap table.

Pam's lead is now a massive 23 points in the chase for Robert Cairns trophy after she scored 39 out of a possible 41 points, leaving her on 168.

Alan McPhail moves into second place with 145 points. David MacDonald remains in third with 144 points.

Ten-pin bowling

maximum 41 points this week with the top handicap score of 446, moving him up nine places in the table from 29th to 20th.

Mover

The biggest mover up the table this week was Gus Fraser who moved up 10 places to 18th after finishing second on the week with 40 points. Nearer the top Colin Pinkett moved up eight places to 8th.

After gaining the maximum 41 points this week Pam Weller now also leads the Nevis Radio scratch league with 191 points, taking over from Tony Whitelocke who drops to second on 189.

Tim Attack remains in third with 180 points. Pam also had the top individual game this week rolling 180 pins.

Biggest mover near the top this week was Colin Pinkett who moved from 7th to 4th after finishing second on the week.

Shinty leagues

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bute	1	1	0	0	4	0	2
Ft William	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Inveraray	1	1	0	0	2	1	2
Glenurquhart	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Newtonmore	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Kingussie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lovat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kyles Athletic	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Oban Camanachd	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
GMA	1	0	0	1	0	4	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaully	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Caberfeidh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Inverness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilmallie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lochaber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lochcarron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strathglass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinlochshiel	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Marine Harvest North Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaully	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fort William	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glengarry	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Glenurquhart	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kilmallie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kingussie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kinlochshiel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lovat	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newtonmore	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Marine Harvest North Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen Uni	1	1	0	0	6	1	2
Lochcarron	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Caberfeidh	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Lochaber	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lochbroom	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strathglass	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ardnamurchan	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Boleskine	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Inverness	1	0	0	1	1	6	0

Marine Harvest South Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Celtic	1	1	0	0	2	0	2
Kilmory	1	1	0	0	4	3	2
Ballachulish	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Taynuilt	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Glenorchy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lochside Rovers	1	0	0	1	3	4	0
Inveraray	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Marine Harvest South Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tayforth	1	1	0	0	5	2	2
Col Glen	1	1	0	0	4	2	2
Kyles Athletic	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Aberdour	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ballachulish	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bute	1	0	0	1	2	4	0
GMA	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Strachur	1	0	0	1	2	5	0



Defender Stuart Reid of Glenurquhart, and David Cheyne, Newtonmore, clash at Drumnadrochit on Saturday as 'Glen' and 'More met in the first match of the new shinty season. Despite Newtonmore dominating long periods of the tie, the score remained goalless after 90 minutes with 'Glen's Lewis MacLennan missing a late, and hotly-disputed, penalty. Picture by Dave Fallows



Around 200 Commandos from around the UK took part in the annual Speed March Race from Spean Bridge station to Achnacarry Castle on Saturday. Local Royal Marine Reservist David Rodgers, pictured, won the event for the third time, taking 46 minutes to complete the course wearing military kit and carrying a rucksack of 36lbs.

Fort frozen out of Claggan

CLAGGAN Park was unable to recover from weeks of frost and snow in time for last Saturday's first round Foster's Highland League Cup tie with Fraserburgh - and Fort William paid the price.

A Friday inspection ruled the pitch unplayable and the game was switched to Lossiemouth's Grant Park.

That move meant Fort had to travel without several key players and Calum MacLean's men came up short against a slick Fraserburgh outfit.

Football

The men from the Broch scored two goals in each half to book home match against Clachnacuddin in the next round, scheduled for the 20th of May.

Fort were due to play Lossiemouth last night at Claggan Park, which was looking in good condition on Tuesday afternoon, according to committee member John Corbett.

Fraserburgh provide Fort's again the opposition this Saturday, this time away in league.

School team knocked out of the cup

LOCHABER High School senior boys' football team lost out narrowly to Ellon Academy in their quarter-final tie of the Northern Schools Cup held at the school last Thursday.

Ellon scored within 15 seconds - and that proved to be the only goal of the game despite desperate attempts by the Lochaber boys to pull back the deficit.

The boys are still undefeated in the league.

Basketball boys into final

Basketball

LOCHABER High School's senior boys' basketball team Lochaber Reign are through to the Highland Schools final.

The boys defeated teams from Portree High and Alness Academy in their last pool matches in Inverness last weekend.

The final against Fortrose had been scheduled for this Saturday, but has been postponed to a later date.

Deputy head teacher Paul Reynolds congratulated the team, coached by PE teacher Jamie Currie, for reaching the final at their first attempt.

Runners brave the elements

Athletics

NINETEEN hardy runners took part in Lochaber Athletic Club's Vitrified Fort Race on Sunday.

Underfoot conditions were tricky with a combination of ice on the lower slopes and knee-deep snow near the summit.

Tom Smith (LAC) made light work of the conditions winning in a time of 32.51. Second place went to Michael Bossard (LAC) in 34.11 and third was Manny Gorman (Westies) in 34.19.

First lady was Julie Corner (LAC) in 43.03 and Lindsey Shaw (LAC) was second in 44.06. Nix Forster was third in 44.37. Brian Campbell (LAC) had a good race finishing ninth in a time of 42.54.

Thanks go to Aileen and Ellen for timekeeping and all the marshals on the hill - Raymond, Laura, John, Gavin and Robert. Next race, the Lairig Mor, is this Saturday.

Basketball boys into final

Basketball

GOON SQUAD are champions of the Ali Young Winter League after defeating Wanderers 4-1 at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

The leaders' victory means they cannot be caught in the race for the title, which ends on Sunday with the final round of games.

Achintore FC have chased Goon Squad all the way and thumped Rangers Supporters 5-0 but their late charge was not quite enough.

Funky Five in third fought out a 3-3 draw with HWE No Stars, Livercaol beat Alacan 3-0 and Lochaber Leisure just got the better of Sawmill in an entertaining encounter 4-3.

The trophy presentation will take place in the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Table

Goon Squad	53
Achintore FC	49
Funky Five	44
Livercaol	37
Lochaber Leisure	35
Sawmill	29
Alcan	24
HWE No Stars	15
Wanderers	12
Rangers Supporters	12

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Saturday's shinty fixtures

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier League
 Kingussie v Inveraray
 Graham Cameron
 Glenurquhart v Fort William
 Charles Young
 Bute v Lovat
 Graham Irving
 Kyles Athletic v GMA
 Colin MacDonald
 Oban Caman v Newtonmore
 Dunkie Kerr
Marine Harvest North Division One
 Strathglass v Caberfeidh
 Deek Cameron
 Lochcarron v Beaulieu
 Russell Ross
 Kilmallie v Inverness
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Lochaber v Kinlochshiel
 Ron Kennedy
Marine Harvest North Division Two
 Skye v Glengarry
 Ronnie Campbell
 Lovat v Glenurquhart
 Evan MacRae
 Beaulieu v Kilmallie
 John MacPhee
 Fort William v Newtonmore
 John Angus Gillies
 Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
 Duncan Kelly
Marine Harvest North Division Three
 Boleskine v Caberfeidh
 John MacLeod
 Ardnamurchan v Strathglass
 Robert Baxter Jnr
 Inverness v Lochaber
 John Sloggie
 Lochbroom v Aberdeen Uni
 Donald MacRae
Marine Harvest South Division One
 Inveraray v Ballachulish
 Dougie Cameron
 Glenorchy v Lochside Rovers
 David Mitchell
 Oban Celtic v Kilmory
 Ted McDonald
Marine Harvest South Division Two
 Tayforth v Aberdeen
 Innes Wood
 Strachur v Kyles Athletic
 Jim Innes
 Ballachulish v Bute
 Daniel MacRae
 GMA v Col Glen
 Euan Pearson

D R Macdonald Isle of Skye

MANY in the shinty world were saddened to hear of the death of Donald R Macdonald, Skye - 'D R' as he was universally known. He passed away last Saturday at Highland Hospice, Inverness. He was 73. His funeral took place on Wednesday at the Church of Scotland, Portree, and he was laid to rest at Portree Cemetery. The sympathy of the whole shinty community is extended to his sons Somhairle, Aonghas and Gilleasbuig, and also the supporting group of family and friends who comforted DR in his illness which was bravely borne.

Innes double gives Fort victory

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division Fort William 3 Oban Camanachd 1

TWO Gary Innes goals, 10 minutes from the start and 10 minutes from the final whistle, helped Fort William to an opening day of the season 3-1 victory over Oban Camanachd at An Aird. In almost perfect playing conditions, the home side made a lively start and took the lead from the penalty spot after James Clark had been upended in the box. Gary Innes swept the ball behind Gavin Stobbart for a 10th minute lead but the visitors came back two force two outstanding saves, particularly from Camanachd first team debutant Lorne Dickie.

Both teams saw their share of the ball over the following 20 minutes but Fort William put together a sweeping, passing, move five minutes before the interval which was clinically finished by Bryan Simpson from 15 yards. Oban Camanachd immediately struck back with Jonathon Will working the ball well for Ian MacMillan to score.

The second-half was evenly balanced throughout with camanachd introducing Liam MacIntyre for Andrew Pearson in defence and Danial MacIntyre for Ian MacMillan in the forwardline, but they couldn't find that elusive equaliser and went further behind in the closing minutes when Gary Innes struck again to seal the points for Fort William. This Saturday, Fort William are away to Glenurquhart at Drumnadrochit, while Oban Camanachd welcome Newtonmore to Mossfield Stadium.

Taynuilt net first point in new league away at Ballachulish

Shinty

South Division One Ballachulish 3 Taynuilt 3

TAYNUILT started their South Division One league campaign with share of the points after a hard away fixture at Ballachulish on Saturday. The step up in class from last year was evident in the first 20 minutes as Taynuilt were second best for every ball.

Ballachulish opened the scoring after eight minutes when Taynuilt defence failed to clear and Andrew Young shot past the keeper. After the early nerves, Taynuilt began to settle and after 30 minutes a well worked move resulted in Willie Neilson netting the equaliser. With half-time approaching, two more defensive slip-ups resulted in Craig Munro and Grant Mackenzie giving Ballachulish a 3-1 half-time lead.

The second half was a complete turn around with Taynuilt laying siege to the Ballachulish goal. David Campbell scored from close range after 60 minutes and Willie Neilson fired home the equaliser two minutes later. The home team and their support were stunned by this set back and appeared relieved to hear the referee's final whistle. Taynuilt were happy with their first point in Division One but must cut out mistakes in defence or they will be punished at this level.



Oban Celtic's Kenny Wotherspoon takes on the Inveraray defence at Mossfield. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

Oban Celtic get season off to perfect start with two goal win

Shinty

South Division One Oban Celtic 2 Inveraray 0

OBAN Celtic got their season off to a perfect start with a two goal victory over Inveraray at a dry, bright Mossfield Stadium. The opening exchanges saw both defences tested, but within five minutes

'Aray keeper MacPherson made a tremendous save, stooping low to parry Alan Miller's swerving shot around the post. Ten minutes later, a well worked free hit just outside the area saw Kenny Wotherspoon push Oban ahead as he latched onto a slipped pass and kept his shot low and accurate and, this time, beyond MacPherson. On 20 minutes Alan Miller hit the bar but it was Neil Carmichael who got the second breakthrough just before the interval, tucking a low shot in from the left after a flowing break up the right wing by Kieran Gallagher had drawn the visitor's defence crossfield leaving Celtic's half-forward with clear sight of goal once the ball was switched to the other wing. Oban Celtic may have

breathed easy with their two goal cushion at half-time, because it was scant reward for all the possession that they had enjoyed and the shooting chances they had created. The second half was to offer more of the same as the home side mounted wave after wave of attack. Inveraray, however, were always a threat on the break, but Celtic's full backs John Hill and Gordon Gibson stood strong and worked hard to ensure that keeper Duncan was put under minimum pressure. Equally the visitor's defence toiled hard to take the sting out of the Celtic attacks and were aided by in their efforts by the Oban forwards who sent a flurry of shots high or wide. In the last quarter, lack of match fitness was evident in both squads with large gaps beginning to open up



Duncan Kerr turns the Inveraray defence at the Winterton. Picture - John MacTavish

Bute take early season lead in Premier league

Shinty

Premier Division GMA 0 Bute 4 Glen/hart 0 Newtonmore 0 Inveraray 2 Kyles 1

BUTE start the new season at the top of the Premier Division table thanks to a 0-4 away win in Glasgow. Hector Whitelaw opened the scoring from the penalty spot after 25 minutes but Mid Argyll held out for the majority of the remainder of the match until John MacCallum struck, quickly followed by a double from Robert Walker. At Inveraray, Russell McKinlay celebrated his return to the home side's line-up with an early goal which was then cancelled out by Duncan Kerr of Kyles.

Grant Griffen claimed both league points for Inveraray with a goal in the 65th minute. Newtonmore dominated long periods of their opening encounter against Glenurquhart at Drumnadrochit and only a tremendous series of saves by Drum keeper Stuart Macintosh kept them from taking the lead before the

interval. The Glen introduced Eddie Tembo to their centreline at the start of the second period and looked a more stable and confident team. The home side were awarded a very dubious penalty with 10 minutes remaining but Lewis MacLennan blasted the spot hit wide. The match ended as a goal-less draw. The remaining scheduled Premier tie between Kingussie and Lovat, at the Dell, was postponed due to the park being unplayable.

Saturday's results

Shinty

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Ft William 3 Oban Caman 1
 GMA 0 Bute 4
 Glenurquhart 0 Newtonmore 0
 Inveraray 2 Kyles 1
 Kingussie P Lovat P
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Beaulieu 2 Kinlochshiel 0
 Caberfeidh P Kilmallie P
 Inverness P Skye P
 Strathglass P Lochaber P
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Ballachulish 3 Taynuilt 3
 Kilmory 4 Lochside Rvrs 3
 Oban Celtic 2 Inveraray 0
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Kilmallie P Kingussie P
 Kinlochshiel P Ft William P
 Lovat P Glengarry P
 Newtonmore P Glenurquhart P
 Skye P Beaulieu P
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Aberdour P Ballachulish P
 Bute 2 Col Glen 4
 Kyles Athletic 3 GMA 1
 Strachur 2 Tayforth 5
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Aberdeen Uni 6 Inverness 1
 Ardnamurchan P Caberfeidh P
 Lochaber P Strathglass P
 Lochcarron 4 Boleskine 1

Beaulieu win with penalty

Shinty

BEAULIEU overcame difficult underfoot conditions at Braeview Park to take an early lead in North Division One thanks to a 2-0 win over Kinlochshiel. Home keeper Martin Davidson did well to deny Kinlochshiel's Gordie MacDonald in the opening 10 minutes and Beaulieu snatched the lead when youngster Jack MacDonald fired the ball passed 'Shiel keeper Graham Kennedy. With the tie evenly balanced, 'Shiel were awarded a penalty but John MacRae's well-struck drive cannoned off the post and was cleared. At the other end, Beaulieu secured the points with another penalty - Barry MacDonald making sure of a top of the table slot for the home side.

Ken Smith Newtonmore

A MINUTES silence was observed before the start of the Premier league tie between Glenurquhart and Newtonmore to mark the passing of Ken Smith, Newtonmore. Ken Smith has been an outstanding player for his club throughout the 70s and 80s. The funeral took last Monday at St Bride's Church of Scotland, Newtonmore.

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: D Gibson, Silverways, Inveraray and A Whyte, Bowmore, Isle of Islay

SRU chief is stand-in ref

SCOTTISH Rugby Union president Jim Stevenson was called upon to referee the second half of Mull's Scottish Cup tie on Saturday after the match official twisted his ankle.

Players and spectators alike were stunned to see Mr Stevenson, who was a guest of the island club, pull on his boots to take charge of the match against Wigtownshire,

which would have otherwise been abandoned.

Mr Stevenson had been invited to this year's Silver Sevens in May to mark the 25th anniversary of the Isle of Mull Sevens but was unavailable and said he would come to see the cup game, which was for a place in the last 16 of the competition.

He also attended the Oban Lorne Rugby Club dinner on Saturday evening.

Gerry Ralston of Mull Rugby Club said: 'It was great of Mr Stevenson to referee the match but, despite who he was, he did get a bit of grief from the boys. However, he swiftly reminded the captains that he was doing them a favour.'

Despite Wigtownshire being two leagues above Mull, the islanders had already pulled off shock results at Loch Lomond and at home to Clydebank in earlier rounds of the Hydro Electric Scottish Cup and were the last remaining Argyll team in the competition.

However, the mobility and experience of the visitors' forwards proved the difference on the day, with Mull's teenage back line taking many plaudits for their performance, not least 17-year-old Sean Black, who touched down both Mull tries.

Gerry said: 'The boys were really disappointed but we will focus on the league now, where we have only lost once in 11 games and are looking good for promotion. 'We have a great balance to the team this season with the young back line and the older and bigger guys in the forward pack.'



Saints' Connor Howe and Jamie Easton battle for possession. Picture by Kevin McGlynn

Saints juniors are league champions

THE ALL-conquering Oban Saints Under-13s clinched the Dumbarton Development League title on Saturday with a 5-2 home win over Baljaffray.

Netting for the Oban side were Douglas Tyrell-Bunge,

Connor Howe, Jamie Easton, Stuart MacLeod and Zak Straub.

The youngsters have triumphed with two league games to go and have a

100 per cent record so far - played 12, won 12. They have scored an incredible 89 goals and lost only 7.

This Sunday the boys travel to take on Ardencaple

in the preliminary round of the League Cup.

The Under-15s game against Dumbarton Rock was called off last weekend due to a frozen pitch. This Saturday they are at home to Blair Thistle.

Karate Scottish Cup

Karate

SPECTATORS were treated to plenty of action at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre in Lochgilphead on Saturday during the first Scottish Cup Open Knockdown Karate Tournament.

Fighters from clubs in Edinburgh, Perth, Oban and Lochgilphead fought in middle and heavyweight categories for the title of Scottish Cup Champion.

Also on the day a special fight was arranged between two young up-and-coming fighters; Eamon Cramb of IKOI Perth beat Oban's Mark Welsh.

The Spirited Fighter award went to Slawomir Fligel of IKK Kyokushin-kan Edinburgh.

Results
Heavyweight: 1 Paul Williams (IKOI Perth); 2 Simon Smart (KSK Oban); 3 Iain Potter (KSK Oban).
Middleweight: 1 Bartosz Silski (IKK Kyokushin-kan Edinburgh); 2 Danny MacMillan (Muay Thai Lochgilphead); 3 Patryk Koszyk (IKOI Perth).

Thistle are league winners

Football

THISTLE started the day as hot favourites for the Oban Express Primary Football League (junior) and they didn't disappoint, starting with a 6-0 win over Pumas.

Thistle also saw off the challenge of an excellent Lochgilphead side that were unbeaten until today, with Oran Bright getting two goals in a title-clinching 5-1 win.

The runners-up spot was clinched by Saints U8s after a hard fought encounter with Lochgilphead.

Euan Logan put the Oban side in front as the game went from end to end until Lennon Campbell popped up with the all important second goal to seal second place.

Chairman Kenny Campbell and league co-ordinator John Scott gave out the prizes with Thistle captain Ryan Woodrow lifting the Winter League trophy to the delight of his team mates.

This Sunday sees the Senior league sides back in action at the Oban High School all-weather pitch.

Mull sensei is 8th Dan

Ju-jitsu

TOBERMORY Sensei Andy Russell has achieved one of the highest awards in martial arts by gaining his 8th Dan Blackbelt in Ju-jitsu.

Andy is now the highest registered Amateur Martial Arts graded Instructor in Scotland and was also awarded the honour of the status of 'Professor of Martial Arts' by The Executive and Technical Advisory Committee.

Andy has been practising martial arts for over 45 years and has trained world champions, having been one himself. In 2004 his junior club became champions of the world, when they won the gold medal in Canada.

Ladies lose

Football

OBAN Saints Ladies were beaten 9-0 by an experienced Raith Rovers side in the first round of the League Cup.

Coach Chris Picken was quite pleased with the performance, but unhappy only 11 players travelled.

This Sunday the ladies play their first home league game of the season when they take on Milton Rovers on the 3g pitch at Oban High School, kick-off 2pm.



Stand-in referee Jim Stevenson instructs a scrum.

Tides

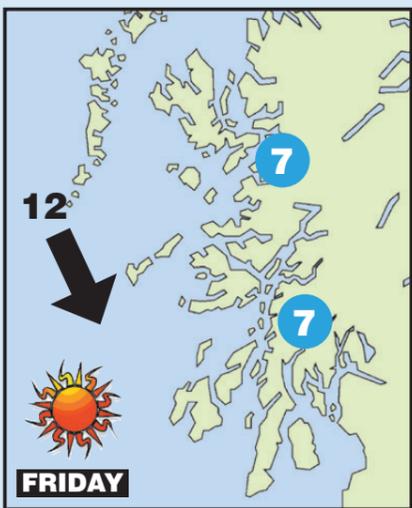
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 11, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	03.22 3.0 09.52 1.7 16.27 2.9 21.59 1.5	
Fri	03.58 3.3 10.31 1.5 16.28 3.2 22.38 1.3	
Sat	04.31 3.5 11.03 1.3 16.50 3.4 23.12 1.1	
Sun	05.04 3.7 11.31 1.1 17.19 3.6 23.42 0.9	
Mon	05.37 3.9 11.59 0.9 17.49 3.8 *** **	
Tues	00.10 0.8 06.08 4.0 12.27 0.9 18.16 3.8	
Wed	00.38 0.8 16.37 4.0 12.55 0.8 18.40 3.8	

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

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

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the weather

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Thursday

Light rain and showers throughout Argyll and heavy rain in the north. Winds moderate westerly. Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Friday

Expect a sunny day. Winds light to moderate north/north-westerly. Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook

Forecast is for sunny intervals throughout Argyll at the weekend but grey cloud expected over Highland region. Winds moderate west/north-westerly. Temperatures 6°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Calm to Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Gemmell delivers at Postal

Football

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division

POSTAL UNITED 1

OBAN SAINTS 3

SAINTS midfielder Willie Gemmell stamped his authority on this match with a superb hat-trick that secured three points away to Postal United.

Haghill Sports Centre in Glasgow was the venue for this Premier Division league encounter with the home side coming out of the blocks at a blistering pace.

Gradually the visitors fought their way back into the game and they took the lead in the 12th minute with a superb goal.

Gemmell started the move by playing the ball out wide on the left to Allan MacKay who beat his marker before

squaring the ball back to Willie who had continued his run forward and the Saints midfielder wasted no time in firing a thunderbolt past the helpless Michal Suchy into the postage stamp corner of the net from 25 yards.

That man Gemmell was at it again two minutes later. Saints were awarded a free kick at the edge of the Postal penalty area and this time Gemmell bent a superb free kick round the Postal wall into the other top corner to give Saints a 2-0 lead.

The Oban side almost snatched a third goal when a Sean Ford effort looked to be heading into the bottom corner of the net, but Postal keeper Michael Suchy pulled



Willie Gemmell - hat-trick.

off a great save, one of many he was going to make during the afternoon. Saints should have taken a 3-0 lead into

the half time interval break when Asen Gaydardzhiev sent over a great cross for Donald Campbell who knocked the ball wide of the post from three yards when it looked easier to score.

The home side were given a lifeline to get back into the game when they were awarded a penalty in the 57th minute when Jamie Graham was adjudged to have brought down Simon Burns in the box.

Craig Robertson was entrusted with the spot kick and he calmly slotted the ball home to make the score 2-1 - game on.

The visitors were on top as the game wore on and Myles McAuley made a great run

Lorne's three in a row

Rugby

SHE WEST DIVISION 1

Paisley 5

Oban Lorne 10

OBAN Lorne recorded their first away league win of the season at Paisley to stretch their recent winning run to three games.

However, Oban could not have made a worse start against relegation threatened Paisley. They failed to collect the kick off and Paisley took advantage to score the first try after a few minutes.

Oban started the second half better and were rewarded with their first score of the afternoon from Mo Flynn, his first try for Oban Lorne. The score was converted by scrum half Euan Wilson.

A last-minute Wilson penalty sealed a narrow win. The victory moves Oban within a few points of fourth place in the league.

Oban have no game next Saturday.



You don't have to be 'loopy' to take part in the annual National Student Rodeo Kayak Championships - but it helps! George Holmyard from Taynuilt is pictured at the recent event performing a 'loop', or front somersault, in the final of the competition. Held at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham, the rodeo is the biggest student kayaking event in the UK and one of the largest freestyle kayaking events in the world - attracting more than 660 entries, and several world champions. George was delighted to reach the final, where 12 competitors battled it out on the slalom course, performing their best tricks.