

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Established 1861 No 7982

Thursday 18 March, 2010

www.obantimes.co.uk

75 pence

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Council claims advice is 'falling on deaf ears'

TWO businessmen are shocked to discover that council planners have decided 'not to sacrifice any more' time on plans for the Argyll Hotel in Oban. Over the past two years Callum and Alan MacLeod have submitted five sets of plans to Argyll and Bute Council but say their designs for the Esplanade site have been turned down every time. Callum said: 'It is very hard to work with planners when they say they won't talk to you. The building is in a very poor state. We all know the building is coming down but for some reason, unbeknownst to us, we cannot get any of our designs accepted or indeed a demolition order for the site.'

A spokeswoman for the council said: 'We have been involved in discussions with the developer for nearly two years regarding this important site. Despite repeatedly providing detailed advice on design standards and other matters, the pre-application submissions lodged to date are in blatant contravention of local and national policy and guidance. 'It is a matter of great concern to us that this prominent, sensitive and important site in the heart of Oban remains in a derelict and increasingly degraded state, and we are very keen to move matters forward. However, our advice to date appears to be falling on deaf ears.'



Volunteer fire fighter Brian MacIntyre, right, keeps the flames at bay, alongside his colleague Peter Wilson.

Coll hit by biggest blaze in 40 years

SIX square miles of the island of Coll were engulfed in a heath fire last Tuesday and Wednesday while volunteer firefighters worked to keep homes and property safe. The fire is believed to have started just before 10am on Tuesday March 9 and 10 volunteer fire fighters raced to the west side of Arinagour. Fire crew manager on the island John Fraser said: 'It had spread very fast. It has been very dry with little rain for three months. 'The main issue was that there was a significant threat to residential property at one end of the burn. 'We did a preventative burn to create a fire break so that it couldn't blaze close to those particular properties. It

would have got to the houses within two or three hours.' Children's author and artist Mairi Hedderwick's new house was one of those closest to the fire. 'As the devouring edge of the fire spread westwards to Acha it was determinedly held back by Commander Fraser and his team of well trained firefighters,' she told The Oban Times. 'All day and till very late evening I witnessed their impressive teamwork. In appalling conditions they worked tirelessly. In the end, a very serious situation was successfully averted thanks to our local heroes,' she said. Pat Graham at Uig said: 'The volunteer fire fighters battled hard to save many houses and were helped by

many of the islanders who provided them with drinks and food to keep them going. 'The flames were seen as far away as Barra and lit up the night sky.' John and his crew worked until dusk to make sure the fire break was in place and then retreated to the roadside to prevent it from jumping the road. 'We worked up until about midnight that evening,' he said, adding that they monitored it on Wednesday when it finally burnt out. 'We get these fires every five or 10 years but this is the first time since 1968 that we have had a really big fire,' he said. The fire began three miles outside the village and the south-easterly wind spread it on to the hillside.

Protesters to take objections to car park hearing

PROTESTORS on Mull are going to continue their objections to proposed charges at Ledaig car park in Tobermory at a public hearing due to be held next Wednesday. Islanders are concerned by

the introduction of charging in the island's only shopping street as it will push cars out of the main area of the town and encourage parking in other residential areas of the town where it is free to park.

Tobermory Harbour Association, which has a building in the car park, objected, as it believed joint funding to provide the car park was granted on the basis that it was free parking for the island.

Carol O'Donnell of Tobermory feels that it is irresponsible to introduce parking when the country is in recession. The meeting begins at 10am in the Drill Hall in Tobermory.

Care services fees to be extended

New means test could lead to more people paying for support

NEW charges for community care services are coming before Argyll and Bute Council's executive committee today (Thursday). As a result of the budget agreed by the council in February for 2010-11, recommendations include increases to services already charged for, and as of April 12 the introduction of fees for services previously free to users. These include housing support, sleepover services, employment support, day care, progressive care and the provision of occupational therapy equipment and adaptations. These could see housing and employment support charged at £14.60 an hour and sleepover services charged at £51.60 per night. Services which will see a small increase 'to keep pace with the anticipated costs of continuing to deliver services' are meals on wheels, home care, supported living, respite care, community alarms and telecare and blue badges. The executive is also being asked to approve a new mechanism for means testing, which is mainly expected to affect users

under the age of 65 years and those seeking respite care because those over 65 are provided with the bulk of care in the community free of charge. A consultation with carers groups and service providers on the new means testing mechanism is recommended until June 30. Catherine Paterson, chairman of Argyll and Bute Carers Network, said: 'We definitely want to scrutinise anything that comes out and would want to be kept in touch with any consultation process. 'Vulnerable 'We will be keeping on top of what is happening with regard to charges because there is no doubt, with the fact that the council tax is not going up, we realise that Argyll and Bute Council has to try and cover more with the money they have but we don't want the most vulnerable members of society to lose out.' A spokesperson for North Argyll Carers Centre, based in Oban, said: 'Charges are going up, which is unfortunate but not unexpected; it is disappointing though that carers, who work so hard and save the Scottish government an estimated

£5.7 billion each year, should be further stretched financially themselves. 'It is comforting that a consultation period is proposed with carers groups and service users being consulted over the next three months. 'It is also reassuring that the words 'without exposing individual service users to financial hardship' is found in the document. 'Caring places a huge financial burden on people at an already stressful time and we hope that these proposed changes to community care do not have too great an impact on this overstretched workforce.' The report before councillors suggests the new means test will increase the number of people who will be charged but has the potential to be 'more generous' by reducing the charges payable by individuals. It also says that some of those people who receive home care, who could be affected by the proposed changes to means testing, may decide to cancel all or part of their service to avoid paying the charges leading to 'a cost saving...achieved through a corresponding reduction in staff time'.

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Duke shows his spirit of adventure with abseil down Inveraray Castle

THE DUKE of Argyll took the plunge last week and stepped off one of the turrets of Inveraray Castle. With a daring abseil off the castle walls, the Duke of Argyll, Torquhil Campbell, helped to celebrate the relaunch of outdoor activities organisation Stramash as an independent social enterprise. As patron of Oban-based Stramash, which has expanded its courses from youngsters in Argyll and Bute and opening them to adults and families all over the country, the Duke was keen to show that it is not just children who can benefit from a bit of adventure in their lives. 'Adventure, exploration and challenge are all part of what Stramash offers through encouraging the use of the natural environment to promote active and healthy lifestyles,' he said. 'Being a social enterprise and a registered charity means that Stramash can now invest its resources back into communities and individuals, making a real difference to people's lives.' Originally set up in 2004 by Argyll and Bute Council with Big Lottery Funding, Stramash has now established itself as a social enterprise independent from the council. The castle also provided the backdrop for the launch of Stramash's summer programme of activities, from sailing and canoeing to gorge walking to coastering and bushcraft to wild art.



The Duke of Argyll abseils down the side of Inveraray Castle 15_112duke03

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No new ferry at Port Ellen

Remedial work not enough, say politicians

POLITICIANS have joined community representatives in expressing their dissatisfaction with a decision to only carry out basic remedial works at Port Ellen and Kennacraig.

A business case put forward by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) to the Scottish Government outlined a £16 million redevelopment plan for Port Ellen, which would allow the new Islay ferry, Finlaggan, (due to arrive in Spring 2011) to use both Port Askaig and Port Ellen piers on Islay.

However, the refusal to upgrade Port Ellen means the new ferry cannot fit the pier there and will only run from Port Askaig. Islay's two-ferry status will be retained, with the existing Islay ferries serving Port Ellen.

Instead, the government has outlined £3.5 million to rebuild Port Ellen pier and undertake fending works, beginning this year. This will be on top of recent improvements to the quay wall and linkspan at a cost of nearly £500,000.

At Kennacraig, £1.5 million will be spent to remove a sunken barge from the harbour and work is set to commence this summer.

However, many are disappointed that the business case was not agreed, meaning the new ferry will only be able to serve one route.

Lord George Robertson of Port Ellen described the situation as 'bad news', while Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'This news is a disaster for Port Ellen. The local economy will suffer greatly with the new ferry not being able to use the linkspan. The whole of Islay will also suffer because Port Ellen is required when weather conditions prevent the ferry using Port Askaig.

'This is terrible planning by the SNP government. They should have ensured that the new ferry could use both Port Ellen and Port Askaig.'

Islay-based Councillor Robin Currie said: 'The new ferry must be able to use both ports.

'Having two ports is not a luxury; Islay is the most industrialised island off the west coast through all the distilleries and the fact our tourism industry is growing.

'If the new ferry can only use one port, there is a greater likelihood of cancelled sailings.

'There is something wrong somewhere when you build a ferry for an island and it can't use one of the ports.'

In a reply to a letter from Lord Robertson, First Minister Alex Salmond said that CMAL had developed major long-term plans for Port Ellen and Kennacraig that would be taken forward 'when the necessary funds become available'.



Captain Sean Rathbone and Professor Toby Sherwin with the Seaglider aboard Pole Star. 16_t12gilder1

Lighthouse ship goes fishing for malfunctioning SAMS glider

A SHIP based in Oban rescued an unusual subject last week – the Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS) seaglider.

Pole Star, a Northern Lighthouse ship, came to the aid of the glider after it malfunctioned off Valley Island, in the Rockall Trough.

The seaglider, which the team at SAMS named Talisker, is a high endurance luminous pink underwater robot. It has been measuring seawater properties between Scotland and Iceland since October 12 last year, when it was launched 15 miles off the west of Tiree.

'Help me'

Toby Sherwin, Professor of Oceanography at SAMS, discovered the glider had got into difficulty after it sent a 'help me' message to the team of seaglider pilots based at Dunstaffnage.

By a lucky coincidence the Pole Star was in the area and volunteered to retrieve the instrument.

The captain of Pole Star, Sean Rathbone, said 'It was difficult to locate as it had drifted northeast about one hour away from where we believed it to be.

'But the sea was calm and we spotted it

then because of its vivid colour.'

The crew on the ship tied a lasso knot in a rope, lay on the deck and threw it over the top of the glider, before pulling it in.

Mr Sherwin said: 'I am immensely grateful to the Northern Lighthouse Board for helping us to retrieve the seaglider so promptly.'

Talisker represents SAMS latest advance that keeps it at the forefront of institutions monitoring conditions in the north Atlantic. Mr Sherwin added: 'This is the first operational glider in British waters.

'It is brand new technology that will revolutionise the way we monitor ocean circulation.'

Talisker dives 1,000 metres through the water column measuring oxygen, salinity and the temperature of the water.

This is important as it helps scientists to understand the changes in ocean currents and conditions, which relate to the weather and climate.

The glider travels relatively slowly with an average speed of 1/2 knot but it is able to run continuously for six months and travel thousands of kilometres.

Easdale Museum's dedicated staff are ready

AFTER a rise in visitor numbers last year, staff and volunteers at the community owned Easdale Museum are looking forward to welcoming more people to the island.

The group has much to celebrate after a number of years where the future of the venture was under threat.

Iain McDougall explained: 'The museum was set up in 1980 by the island's then owner Chris Nicholson and Jean Adams MBE as the curator.

Danger

'The museum was in danger of closing in 2006 when community group Eilean Eisdeal was invited to take it over.

'Since then the museum has been successfully purchased with the support of the Big Lottery by Eilean Eisdeal for the community.

'The first two seasons were



Gearing up for a new season of visitors are the staff and volunteers at Easdale. 16_t11museum1

mainly directed towards ensuring the museum would firstly survive and then develop.

'But all the hard work has led to last season being the best the museum has had

since it came into community ownership with the number of visitors up to around the 3,000 mark.

'One of the main reasons for this bumper season was the dedicated and enthusiastic

staff, paid and voluntary.

'Without exception each and every one did everything within their power to ensure the visitors enjoyed their experience.

'In addition the museum

archives have proved very useful to those researching their ancestry and once again the knowledge of the staff has been a great asset.

Thanks

'In recognition of this the directors of Eilean Eisdeal gave all those involved in the museum a pleasant evening of food, drink and reminiscences in the Puffer Restaurant as unbounded thanks must go to Lynn, May, Annabel, Ghalia, Mike, Bethan, David, Zoe, Stephen and Pamela for all their hard work.

'Now that the future of the museum is secure the staff have taken the initial steps towards becoming an accredited museum.

'Dr Sharon Webb of Kilmartin House Museum has agreed to become our curatorial advisor and will keep us moving in the right direction.'

Mull guest house owner found guilty of assaulting visitors who cancelled

A MULL guest house owner has been ordered to pay £400 in fines after being found guilty of assaulting two holidaymakers.

David Clowes, aged 62, of Ard Mhor Guest House, Ard Mhor Road, Aros, pled not guilty, at Oban Sheriff Court last week, to two charges of assault against an Edinburgh couple on July 15, 2009 at his premises on the island.

On the day of the assault, the visitors had arrived just after breakfast to drop bags at their accommodation before heading out for a day to Staffa with their two children.

But after being shown around the accommodation the woman was unhappy that there was no bath in which she could bathe her child.

In the meantime her husband had brought a bag containing ointments and medication in through the 'back door' of the guesthouse and left it in the porch.

After a short discussion in the car park the couple decided to cancel the accommodation. The woman said: 'It was unsuitable for a few reasons, but mostly because we needed a bath for our child's treatment.'

She said: 'I went to the tourist information centre in Craignure to cancel the booking. They phoned the guesthouse for us. I was not aware that we owed any money.'

The couple were then told by Clowes they could not have their bag back until they paid an £80 'cancellation charge'. A fee, they argued, they were unaware that they had to pay.

The man said: 'I did not know if the charge was fair or not – so I said 'take my business card and I will sort this out later'. If I owe you any money I will pay it.'

discussion Clowes claimed to be 'exasperated' with the couple and tried to shut the door on them.

But the man placed his foot inside the door and tried to 'step in and reach for the bag because it had medication in it for my children'. The victims claimed that Clowes took the man by the windpipe and neck and as a result of the force he used was pushed down some steps.

The woman said Clowes shoved her down a ramp so hard that she had 'finger-print bruising to my upper right-hand shoulder'.

Clowes said: 'It was me who was assaulted. I thought I had every right to keep the bag while they had a financial obligation to me.'

'I found out later that I had no legal right to keep the bag. But a householder has a right to stop someone who wants to force entry to your home. I merely escorted the couple from my home – I did not assault them.'

Iain Smyth, Justice of the Peace, fined Clowes £150 for each assault and ordered him to pay £50 compensation to both his victims all within 28 days. Clowes told the court he would be appealing the conviction.



Beachd Ailein
Ailean Caimbeul

Tha mi cinnteach, mar a dh' èirich dhomh fhìn, gum bi sibhse cuideachd a' beachdachadh bho àm gu àm air co ris a bhiodh e coltach a bhith ri dreuchd àraid air choreigin. Ball Parlamaid! Neach naidheachd telebhisein! Rionnag fiolm neo ciùil!

Agus ged a bhios gleans chuid de na h-obraichean sin tarraingeach gun teagamh, 's e mo bheachd fhìn gur iad na dreuchdan as am bheil cunnart follaiseach an fheadhainn as intinniche dhan mhòr chuid de dhaoine. Nach e sin is adhbhar gum bheil programan mu iasgach as a' Chuan a Tuath, agus far chladach New Foundland, a' tarraing nan àireamhan mòr luchd-amhairc air telebhisean, gun iomradh air na prògraman mu na fir a' dràibheadh nan làraidhean thar na deighe ann an ceann a tuath Ameireagaidh!

'S e aon rud a th' ann a bhith a' cur do bheatha fhìn ann an cunnart an ceann do chuid cosnaidh, ach saoilidh mise gur e rud gu tur eadar-dhealaichte a th' ann far am bheil an cunnart dhut a' tighinn gun dùil an luib do chuid obrach.

Ann an cùis-lagha aig deas bho chionn ghoidh nochd fiosrachadh uamhasach mun èigheachadh agus a' bhrùidealachd a dh' fhuiling dithis pheathraichean bhon athair fhèin thar deugachadh bhliadhnaichean. Tha esan a-nise as a' phrìosan air binn-beatha, ge b' e dè a bhios sin a' ciallachadh aig deireadh cùise. Dh' adhbhraich na nochd as a' chùirt de dh' ùpraid is gum facas sùileachan nach fhacas a leithid roimhe; sgaoth de sheirbheisean poblach ag iarraidh maitheanas air mar a dh' fhàillig iad nan cuid dhleastanas dha na h-ingean seo.

Tha iomadach leisgeul ann, agus ged a tha e fìor gun robh an teaghlach seo a sior ghluasad gus nach fhaighte cus eòlais air dè bha dol nam measg; agus ged a tha e cuideachd fìor gun robh eagal air oifigich aghaidh a thoirt air an duine seo, bha dleastanas aca dhan chloinn seo! Agus leig iad sìos a' chlànn!

Tha e tuilleadh is furasta breitheanas a thoirt air na h-oifigich sin, ach aig ceann cùise ma tha thu a' gabhail ort dreuchd le uallach seirbheis, is daoine eile an urra riut airson an cuid sàbhailteachd, feumaidh tu do dhleastanas a choileanadh. Chan eil leteach slighe gu feum, agus mura tèid agad air an obair a dhèanamh tha còir agad a leagail suas!

There can be no half measure in the delivery of services which exist to protect children. These provisions have been designed over time to address specific evidence of abuses, principally by adults, which have endangered the wellbeing of young people.

For this reason it cannot be acceptable for public service providers to admit to many years of failure to protect children, as highlighted in the recent case in England, and to excuse their failure with grovelling apologies. Such service provision is not always easy, but where young people's lives depend on such support, the workers involved must fulfil their obligations or resign! Failure here can have terminal consequences!

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)
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Time Team programme unveiling earliest Christian burial is postponed

THE EARLIEST Christian burial in the UK has been found in Tobermory, The Oban Times understands.

But viewers will have to wait longer than expected to have this claim confirmed as Channel Four cancelled this week's screening of the programme, Time Team.

A spokeswoman for Channel Four said: 'We hope to have a date sorted out in the next few days to allow people to see this exciting programme. Scheduling issues have meant that the programme will be delayed but it will be shown this year.'

Time Team came to the island at the invitation of two local amateur archaeologists to investigate a mysterious set of earthworks they had stumbled upon in an ancient forest near the town of Tobermory.

The spokeswoman said: 'The three-day dig on Mull turned out to be one of the most rewarding and revealing in the programme's history. It sheds new light on a lost period of Scottish history, discovers a previously unknown monastery and most extraordinary of all, uncovers the remains of a lost saint.'

John is westering home to take up post at Islay's newest distillery

BUNNAHABHAIN Distillery manager John MacLellan is westering home to help run Islay's newest distillery, Kilchoman.

Mr MacLellan, who starts in the role of general manager on May 3, is delighted to be moving to the west of the island where he grew up. 'I grew up in Port Charlotte, so I suppose I am going home. I'm looking forward to catching up with some old friends.

'My new job is a fresh challenge because Kilchoman is an independent and relatively new distillery.'

John has worked in the whisky industry for more than 20 years, spending the past 12 years at Bunnahabhain.

Kilchoman's managing director Anthony Wills moves into a new sales role as the distillery looks to expand.



Ard Mhor Guest House where the two assaults took place. 16_t12ard1

Clampdown on Oban's illegal parking starts next week

DRIVERS who flout parking laws in the town centre are the target of a week-long initiative by led Oban Police and Argyll and Bute Council.

police officers, traffic wardens and Argyll and Bute Council parking wardens will be clamping down on illegal parking in the town and will issue parking fines and fixed penalty notices.

Anyone with expired pay and display tickets, those parked on yellow lines, or wrongly parked in bus bays, loading bays and disabled bays will be targeted.

Oban Police said: 'We have had an increased number of complaints from retailers in the town centre about drivers parking illegally, or leaving their vehicles in one place all day.

'With Easter coming up and an increased number of visitors to the town, we want to maximise the number of parking spaces available. We will be working alongside traffic wardens

and council parking wardens to enforce the legislation in relation to parking. I would ask the residents of Oban and visitors to the town to bear this in mind when parking in the town

centre.' Inspector McLeish said another similar initiative would be launched this summer. Fixed penalty notices range from £20 - £60, depending on the nature of the offence.

Mull grandmother misses crucial appointment as hospital bed for 'people who are sick and in need'

Pensioner denied overnight bed

AN 86-YEAR-old grandmother has missed out on a crucial hospital appointment after health bosses said she couldn't stay overnight in hospital.

Annabella Cameron, of Knockvologan, Fionnphort, was told her appointment in Glasgow was cancelled because she could not get a bed in Oban on the way home - or be guaranteed to meet the last ferry to Mull.

Her daughter Sandra Morrison, from Fionnphort, said: 'My mum has been getting ready for this appointment for some time. She was hoping to get an answer about her medical condition from a group of experts. Everything was in place.

'The ambulance had been booked for the early hours of the morning, in time to make it to the first ferry on Thursday morning and the last ferry home had been booked.

Bomb shell

'I had taken three days off work and mum was all ready to go when we got the bomb shell that she could not be guaranteed to get home or be provided with a bed in Oban.

'She has always had a bed before. I do not understand what has changed. How are people meant to get to appointments?

'My mother is housebound and needs a zimmer and a wheelchair to get around. She was told she couldn't take these in the ambulance.

'Our family are her main carers and ask the hospital and social work department for

very little. All she needed was a bed for the night - one night.

'We tried, at the last minute, to book a bed and breakfast in Oban but there was nowhere suitable for her.'

Mull councillor Mary-Jean Devon condemned the woman's treatment.

She said: 'I know there has to be cut backs but when an 86-year-old's health and medical treatment begins to suffer there is something far wrong.'

Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, spokesman for social services at Argyll and Bute Council, said: 'I feel very disappointed for this lady. She is suffering because we cannot treat this as a unique situation.

'We live in an island and rural community and we have to make sure this woman can attend her appointment and get the best help that she can. I have been talking with senior health officials to reach a conclusion.'

A spokesman for NHS Highland said: 'Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership works closely with patients who have to travel to attend outpatient appointments and we have in the past provided a list of suitable local accommodation including those that meet the needs of the disabled.

'We cannot however provide patients with accommodation in one of our hospitals as these facilities are for people who are sick and need care from our health professionals.'



The last supper: Children from Pebbles Crèche sit down for their final snack time last Thursday. 07_112d0501

Oban crèche sells off equipment and says goodbye to 18 children

AN INDEPENDENT Oban nursery has had to close after its funding streams ran dry.

Pebbles Crèche, part of Stepping Stones Nursery, moved to the Undercroft at Glencruitten Church Centre after Oban Youth and Community Centre flooded.

Nursery manager Wendy Gray said the extra costs incurred by moving premises, added to the pressure of continuous fundraising, were the main reasons for the closure.

Capacity

It is now hoped that other nursery services in the town, many of which are already at capacity, can take on the 18 children who attended Pebbles Crèche.

On the nursery's final day, last Thursday, Mrs Gray said: 'We have tried all sorts of fundraising to make it work but there's a limit to what you can do.

'The nursery has been living hand to mouth, week after week, but that is no way to do things and we have realised that it is just not a viable business.

'If we didn't close this month, it would have been next month.

'I have worked in nurseries in Romania, where I raised money to keep nurseries going but when you have to do that in this country, it's not right.'

Wage

Ms Gray, who has not taken a wage since December, added: 'I have worked in childcare my whole life and this will probably be my last job.

'Tomorrow, when we sell off all the equipment and say goodbye to the children it will be very difficult.'

Ms Gray said funding had been difficult for private nurseries to find since the credit crunch hit and grant application forms had become more detailed and demanding.

However, she was keen to express gratitude towards Glencruitten Church Centre, which had been sympathetic to her plight by giving her and parents a chance to raise the money owed.

Fellow nursery manager Janice Kay, of Soroba Young Families, was grateful to secure £19,760 from Argyll and Bute Council's Early Years fund recently but admitted it was becoming more difficult to secure grants.

She said: 'I can empathise with Wendy's situation because some of the forms we have to fill in now are about 20 pages long.

'Getting together all the other paperwork to go with the application is horrendous and it is becoming increasingly more difficult to find funding.

'The closure of Pebbles Crèche is a terrible loss to Oban and to the parents of the children who attended the group.'

Soroba footbridge work delayed

WORK to complete the replacement of the foot bridge from Soroba to Drummore Road in Oban will not now be complete until early next month.

The new structure was due to be brought on site this coming weekend but this has been postponed until the following weekend.

This will mean some disruption in the area between 9.30pm on Saturday March 27 to 5.40pm on Sunday March 28 and again from 9.30pm on the same Sunday to 7.45 am on Monday March 29.

A82 closes for overnight repairs

THE A82 under the railway bridge at Crianlarich will be closed for two nights from Monday March 22 for road improvement work.

Weather permitting, the work will be carried out to improve safety on the double bend, including high friction surfacing to improve skid resistance.

The road will be closed from 10pm to 6am between the A82/A85 junction at Crianlarich and the A82/A85 junction at Tyndrum, however local access will be allowed.

Brandy Stone man in Glasgow hospital

A TOURIST is in Glasgow's Western Infirmary following an incident at the Brandy Stone in Oban.

Police were called to the Gallanach area of the town last Thursday to assist the 42-year-old London man, who had overdosed on prescription medication.

Police cordoned off the area around the Brandy Stone just before noon.

As The Oban Times went to press, the man was in a serious but stable condition in hospital.

Car vandalism in Quarry Road, Oban

DAMAGE to a car on Quarry Road in Oban at the weekend is typical of someone running over the bonnet and the top of the car, say police.

The car was vandalised overnight, between Saturday and Sunday, with dents in the bonnet and the top of the car.

Anyone who has any information relating to this incident should contact Oban Police Station on 01631 510500.

Drink driver

A DRINK driver has been released on an undertaking to appear at Oban Sheriff Court after being stopped by police officers on Saturday evening.

The man was stopped by police in Shuna Terrace in Oban.



A vote in Craignure Village Hall recorded that Mull Rally was to get the go-ahead. 16_112rally1

Mull rally gets islanders' backing with Dervaig manager in driving seat

A 300-STRONG crowd, packed into Craignure village hall on Monday night, made a unanimous decision to back plans to stage Mull Rally this October.

And after a mammoth five-hour interview process the newly formed steering committee chose former-competitor Steve Davies, from Dervaig, to be rally manager.

He said: 'The rally will be run as a community event.' It is understood that Mull Car Club will be promoting

the rally with assistance from other car clubs throughout the UK.

The meeting heard that a group had been formed to support the continuation of the rally including farmer Iain MacFadyen, businessman Callum McLaughlin, councillor Mary-Jean Devon and former rally winners Calum Duffy, Neil McKinnon, Iain McGilvray, John Clayton, Eddie O'Donnell senior and Donald Brown.

Ms Devon said: 'This meeting has proved that

the people of Mull really want this event. We will endeavour to make it a success if we all pull together as a community.'

A spokesman for sponsors Tunnocks said: 'We have a great affiliation with Mull. We will need to speak with former promoters the 2300 Club before we make any firm plans about sponsorship. We look forward to hearing from the new steering committee in due course. We have been following the situation on Mull very closely.'

Gavanan flats head for public local hearing

FORTY representations have been received for a planning application for two three-storey flats for 10 homes at Gavanan Sands in Oban.

The application by Gavanan Sands Development was due to come before yesterday's (Wednesday's) planning, protective services and licensing committee at Argyll and Bute Council with a recommendation that it go before a local hearing. Concerns raised by

objectors include the size and scale of the proposed properties, the suitability of the road to Gavanan to take more traffic, the lack of affordable housing within the proposal and the density of the whole Gavanan development.

A report before yesterday's committee said the applicant had provided a photomontage of the buildings to show they were acceptable within the landscape and the ridge height was below that of the neighbouring

property.

A transport impact statement by Aecom demonstrated that there would be little traffic impact.

Although there would be more than eight homes in the two buildings, which means that 25 per cent have to be 'affordable', the committee was told that the affordable element was to be provided 'off-site' at 23 Stevenson Street in Oban.

An application for the Stevenson Street site by

McGregor Hotels was also due to come before the planning committee yesterday, recommended for approval.

The application included the demolition of the present garage/workshop to allow development of a four-storey building with 15 studio apartments and a ground floor restaurant.

The same applicant was given planning permission for a controversial nightclub at 23 Stevenson Street in July 2008.

Footpath may still be stumbling block for start of Oban development

AN OUTLINE planning application for 40 homes at the former NHS site at Gavanan in Oban was due to come before Argyll and Bute councillors yesterday (Wednesday).

But the scheme is unlikely to start while the footpath between the town centre and Gavanan remains incomplete.

The West Highland Housing Association application for 32 houses and eight flats was approved subject to 12 conditions in 2006.

It was some of those conditions which the planning, protective services and licensing committee of Argyll and Bute Council was required to approve at yesterday's meeting.

These include the position, design,

landscaping and layout of the development, traffic calming, lighting, drainage and sewerage details and a tree survey.

While it was made a condition of the outline permission, a footpath did not require to be approved by yesterday's committee.

It will need a complete planning application in its own right before the development can go ahead.

A report before councillors stated: 'This condition will not be capable of being discharged until a planning application has been submitted, approved and the footpath has been constructed in accordance with permission granted.'

Cairn and plaque suggested as permanent memorial to the Loch Awe four

A CAIRN is to be put in place as a permanent memorial to the four men who lost their lives on Loch Awe a year ago on Sunday.

Forestry Commission Scotland has agreed to a cairn being put on its land, where the four Glasgow men and one other were camping during their fishing trip last year.

Craig Currie, aged 30, William Carty, 47, Steven Carty, 42 and Thomas Douglas, 36, drowned when they got into difficulties while crossing in their boat from Lochawe village to the south side of the loch late in the evening, in thick mist, to their

campsite.

Their cries for help could be heard from the shore after a fifth man raised the alarm but the weather conditions and the nearest Strathclyde Fire and Rescue boat being based in Renfrew hampered any efforts to find them.

Since then the families of the men have visited the campsite and left gifts and tokens in memory of their loved ones.

A suggestion of a cairn has been welcomed by Les Currie, father of Craig Currie, whose family raised £8,000 following the tragic accident and has been put towards the Lochwatch Loch Awe scheme.

Forest Commission Scotland has offered to help with the construction of a cairn and mounting for a suitable plaque.

Loch Awe Improvements Association, whose wardens have been keeping the shoreline near the spot clear of litter, and Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council have also been contacted regarding a memorial cairn.

Lochwatch Loch Awe has been well primed this week as the fishing season on the loch opened, with more than 40 spotters around the loch keeping their eyes open for anyone getting into any difficulties.



The camping spot at Loch Awe where a cairn is to be erected.

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Mull Lines

WITH the thaw well advanced and Loch Frisa finally ice free, the female white-tailed eagle Frisa and her mate Skye have been finding a place to renew their 13 year old bond.

RSPB officer David Sexton said: 'Recently they were seen mating way out on the loch ice. This week it was in the top of a shaly spruce tree.'

'All this spring fever can only mean one thing -the first egg cannot be far away. Mull Eagle Watch is swinging into action with the help of Strathclyde Police to protect this spiritual and economic asset for the island. Where will they finally settle? Will there be a good view from the Eagle Hide? Next week, all will be revealed.'



VILLAGERS from Buessan are already into training for their annual Easter Fun Run.

This year will see the Loopy Run with entrants being asked to dress up or down for the race around the town. All the usual activities will take place including the annual Duck Race.

All welcome on April 4, starting in the village main street.



THE Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged) provided the perfect platform to launch Mull Youth Theatre at Druimfin.

More than 90 people, including an impressive number of youngsters, came along to the event as the young actors took the stage.

Colin Govan explains: 'Any lingering tension was quickly dispelled as Lewis MacLeod and Dominic Haundschildt opened proceedings.'

'By the time Dexter Govan and Kate Stevens made their entrances, the audience knew that they were witnessing something rather special. The performers were professional, confident, enthusiastic and very witty. It was a testimony to all the hard work - by the players themselves and by director Andi Stevens - which had preceded the performance that they seemed so assured.'

'All monies raised on the night will go towards the expenses of the youngsters when they take the play to France later in the year.'

Mull Theatre director Alasdair McCrone is hoping that the success of this show will encourage more young people to become involved in Mull Youth Theatre - five more youngsters have already signed up.



The young actors that took to the stage to present the Complete Works of William Shakespeare (abridged)



You can send your local Mull Lines direct to ilee@obantimes.co.uk

Watch out for the next edition of Mull and Iona Life magazine - coming soon

New dental services still on track, claims Oban hospital manager

NEW DENTAL services in Oban will in place by mid-2011 at the former Harbour Bowl premises in Shore Street, according to hospital locality manager

David Whiteoak - despite a contract with the current owners remaining unsigned. A large crowd at the Oban, Lorn and Isles Community

Health Partnership meeting last week heard that money had been ring fenced and the project was still on track for a 2011 opening. Argyll and Bute Councillor

Duncan MacIntyre asked: 'Do I understand you correctly?' 'There is no signed and sealed deal in place for the Harbour Bowl?'

To which Mr Whiteoak replied: 'No.' Then added: 'But there are good relationships between the owners of Harbour Bowl and ourselves.'



Philip Price introduced his new 'business partner', Alba, at the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Argyll Regional Gathering in Oban. 07_112p1101

PSYBT hosts positive Argyll Regional Gathering in Oban

YOUNG entrepreneurs from Argyll assured guests at a business gathering in Oban that it's not all doom and gloom in the credit crunch.

Flourishing

The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) Argyll Regional Gathering, held in Skipinnish Ceilidh House last Wednesday, was attended by some of the young businessmen and women in the area, who said their businesses were riding out the recession, while some said they were flourishing, despite the downturn.

The trust's Argyll chairman Murdo MacLeod opened proceedings saying: It is fitting that this annual gathering is being held in the

Skipinnish Ceilidh House, a venue for traditional music, when Argyll's own 'boy band' Skerryvore has recently won the PSYBT's Young Entrepreneur of the Year Award.'

Mr MacLeod introduced speakers Philip Price of Loch Visions, Natalia Wojtyla of Total Station Service and Ross Angell of Angell Antique Artisan.

'Business partner' Philip, who claimed that his business was growing year on year, despite the credit crunch, delighted the audience by introducing his new 'business partner', an English Setter called Alba, who he rescued from a dog sanctuary.

Philip, whose company runs wildlife photographic

tours by Loch Etive, explained: 'He is attracted to wildlife and seeks out things like grouse.'

'When these animals spot him, they freeze in an attempt to remain hidden and that's when we will be able to get the best photographs. Hopefully he's going to make me millions!'

Other young entrepreneurs in attendance included Pauline Foster of Pure Shores and Struan and Cameron Smith of Coastal Connections.

Since PSYBT launched in January 1989 it has aided 9,500 business start-ups and invested £34.12m in grants and loans to the Scottish economy, £1.2 million of which has been made in the Argyll region.

Woman admits supplying methadone

Benderloch teenager placed on probation and given 225 hours' community service

A COMBINATION of methadone and alcohol killed a man found dead in an Oban hotel in 2008, a post mortem report has found.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week, Ailsa McNaughton was sentenced for supplying the Class A drug to Robert MacDonald after a chance meeting in the street on October 10.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said Mr MacDonald was visiting the town with a friend and was not thought to be a heroin user.

'The conclusion was that the cause of death was methadone and alcohol intoxication,' he said.

'The post mortem report indicates that the level of methadone in his system was indicative of someone who has exceptionally low tolerance of methadone and was not a regular user.'

Drinking

McNaughton, of 4 Ach-an-Duin, Benderloch, admitted the charge last month. She had been drinking with friends in a flat in Albany Terrace when she had gone out for a carry-out with another woman.

Mr Harris said they 'got chatting' with Mr MacDonald who then accompanied them back to the flat. 'When they returned to the flat, Robert MacDonald asked for something,' he said, indicating he meant drugs.

'When the accused goes into the flat, she takes a methadone bottle which is prescribed to her boyfriend. It is described as being half-

full. 'It appears she goes outside the flat...and the bottle is handed across to Robert MacDonald to consume its contents.'

Mr Harris added McNaughton and others present also drank from the bottle and no money changed hands before Mr MacDonald left.

He returned to the hotel room he was sharing around 1.30am and was heard snoring the following morning when his friend left for breakfast. 'However, when [he] returned to the hotel at about 3pm that day, tragically Mr MacDonald had died,' the procurator fiscal said.

Defending McNaughton, Sandy Mitchell said: 'My client expressed deep remorse and regret at this whole matter. She has a considerable problem with her memory in regard to the night and what happened and what exactly she did.'

'Her action seems to have been a misguided attempt to oblige someone who was little more than a stranger, at that time she herself being considerably under the influence.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said after careful consideration, 'it would not be in the interests of justice to impose a custodial sentence'.

McNaughton, who is aged 19 and has a young child, was placed on probation for 15 months and will have to perform 225 hours of community service.

Oban man sentenced for grabbing woman's breast

AN OBAN man has been put on probation for one year and ordered to carry out 80 hours of community service for assaulting a female colleague.

Sentence was passed on Hugo Martins at Oban Sheriff Court last week, after he admitted grabbing the woman's breasts in an Oban supermarket on June 26 last year. The 27-year-old was subsequently fired.

Martins, of 28D McCaig Road, Soroba, will also remain on the sex offenders' register until his sentence is served.

Woman banned for dangerous driving after A82 crash

A BADLY-timed overtaking manoeuvre forced another car off the road, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Vanessa Blower, of 4 Willowmead, Romiley, Stockport, was driving just south of Auch Farm on the A82 between Tyndrum and Ballachulish behind a large goods vehicle on November 27 last year.

She admitted last week she drove dangerously when she pulled out to overtake the truck on a sweeping bend, as another car approached. The oncoming driver was forced to take evasive action and his car ended up in a ditch on its roof. No one was injured in the incident.

Disqualifying the 47-year-old for a year and fining her £440, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'It was very lucky that the consequence of this piece of driving did not result in people being seriously injured or even killed.'

Police make three arrests in Oban

THREE arrests were made for disorderly behaviour in Oban over the weekend, with each offender issued a fixed penalty notice.

At 1.40am on Sunday morning one man was arrested in George Street and nearly an hour later two men were arrested for fighting in Stevenson Street.

Police enquiries are continuing into an alleged assault in an Oban pub on Saturday night. Police received a complaint after one man allegedly punched another man at around 10pm.

MP claims pensioners being betrayed over top-up payments

ARGYLL and Bute's Liberal Democrat MP has accused the other main parties of 'betraying' pensioners after voting to freeze pension top-up payments.

Alan Reid spoke out in Parliament against the government's decision to freeze pension top-up payments for almost nine million pensioners.

Mr Reid gave the example of a constituent whose pension increase this April will be less than half what it would have been if her pension had gone up in line with inflation.

The Government decided to freeze payments of the State Earnings Related Pension and the Second State Pension. Although the Basic State Pension will still go up in line with inflation, the freezing of pension top-up payments means that nearly nine million pensioners will suffer on April 1 when their pension goes up by less than the rate of inflation.

Speaking after the vote, Alan Reid said: 'Labour, Tories and SNP have betrayed pensioners by freezing pension top-up payments. This freeze will leave almost nine million older people worse off at a time when they are already struggling to make ends meet.'

Hard-hitting warning to school pupils

BRITISH Transport Police officers have delivered a hard-hitting warning to school pupils in Oban about the dangers of trespassing on railway lines.

Following the temporary closure of the railway bridge between Drummore Road and Soroba, Oban Police feared youngsters would cut across the tracks, rather than take the long detour past the new primary campus.

Oban Police and their British Transport Police colleagues, in uniform and plain clothes, will be patrolling the railway line and will be present at the high school at the end of the school day in a bid to prevent children crossing the lines.

And on Friday last week at Oban High School transport police officers Peter Quinn and David Howie from Paisley delivered a powerful presentation, that pulled no punches, detailing the consequences of trespassing on the railway line.

PC Quinn warned the pupils that they could lose their lives if they trespassed on the line and would be fined £1,000 if they were seen there.

Oban police community sergeant Mike Wood said: 'It is a hard-hitting message we are getting across because we don't want to see any injuries of casualties on our railway line.'

Off timetable dangers

'The worry is people know the train times so they think they know when they can avoid the trains but there are additional trains that use that line that aren't on the timetable.'

Oban High School head teacher Peter Bain said: 'We are extremely grateful to the Scottish Transport Police for giving up their time to help educate our youngsters in the dangers involved in crossing the railway lines.'

'Their presentations were excellent. They were factual and dramatic, yet were delivered with passion and they really engaged the pupils' interest and expanded their knowledge of such dangers. The pupils all came away from the thought provoking experience with a greater awareness of how to keep themselves safe.'

The British Transport Police recently held a similar talk at the Oban Primary Campus.



Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust's new Argyll manager Sharita Padaruth. 07_112shar02

Dancer to guide young businesses through their paces

THE LAST time Argyll's newly appointed regional manager for the Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) was in the county, she was taking part in Highland dancing competitions.

But Sharita Padaruth returned to Oban in her new role last Wednesday to take part in the Argyll Regional Gathering held in Skipinnish Ceilidh House and is excited about guiding young entrepreneurs through their first steps in business.

'New challenge'

The 22-year-old, who is also responsible for the Dunbartonshire region, moved from the Glasgow region to take on a 'new challenge' in Argyll at

the beginning of March.

Excited

Sharita, who will be based in Lochgilphead and Clydebank, said: 'I realise Argyll will be something very different to working with businesses in Glasgow but I am really looking forward to it and I am excited about seeing what new businesses are coming through.'

'I used to come to Oban every summer for Highland dancing, so it is very familiar to me, but I am looking forward to getting to know the islands, in particular.'

PSYBT support is available to budding entrepreneurs aged 18-25 but the age limit extends to 30 for island-based businesses.

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Woman took shirt off taxi driver's back

A WOMAN who took the shirt off a taxi driver's back has been ordered to pay him £250 compensation.

Pamela McAllister admitted breaching the peace in the incident on July 3 last year. She also pleaded guilty to resisting arrest, striking out at police officers, trying to bite one of them and throwing a cup of water at a police custody and support officer.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week the 20-year-old had begun acting aggressively towards her sister when they were travelling in the cab. The driver stopped the car and got out, to try and calm the situation. Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris said: 'That just made her aggression turn towards him. She took hold of his shirt and dragged it off his back.'

Defence agent for McAllister said the accused struggled with alcohol but since the incident 'she has settled well in Northern Ireland'.

McAllister, whose address was given as care of 2 Elliot Place, Enniskillen, was also placed on probation for a year.

Drug testing order after man punched taxi driver on the head

A MAN placed on a drug treatment and testing order was warned he will not get a sympathetic hearing if he breaches it.

At Oban Sheriff Court last week Stephen Paterson pleaded guilty to breaking a window at a block of flats in the town, punching a taxi driver on the head and kicking his car on January 23.

Procurator Fiscal Craig Harris said Paterson had gone to the flats in breach of a bail condition and was also on probation at the time of the offences.

Defending the 25-year-old, Edward Thornton said his client had abused drugs for 14 years, but had already sought support from an addiction service and a friend.

'This is a young man who has reached a substantial crossroads,' he added. 'He appears to have very strong motivating factors to change his drug habit.'

Paterson, of Flat 10, 104 Buccleuch Street, Glasgow, was ordered to pay a total of £634 in compensation. He also agreed to submit to drug testing for 15 months.

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I'm persuaded you should get the opportunity of being placed on a drug treatment and testing order.'

'If you breach the order... I can tell you I will not be sympathetic because this is a last chance you have been given.'

Going that extra mile for charity this weekend

THE SPORT Relief mile takes place this week and hundreds of people in Argyll and Bute are taking part in the action.

Five locations across Argyll, Bute and the isles are hosting the charity event on March 21.

Oban, Lochgoilhead, Campbeltown, Arran and Tiree will be the setting for participants in the one-mile, three-mile and six-mile events.

The charity is urging everyone to get involved whether they walk, jog or run the distance.

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.

For start times and locations log on to the Sport Relief website www.sportrelief.com.

Young Oban boys left frightened by assault

TWO Oban boys were left concerned and frightened when a man chased and physically assaulted them, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Grabbed by the ear Lukasz Kosowski, of Top Flat, 43 Combie Street, denied chasing the youngsters, who were 12 and 13 at the time of the incident on April 9 last year.

He also pleaded not guilty

to grabbing one by the ear and pushing the other.

Giving evidence from behind a screen, the first victim said he had accidentally knocked against the door of a flat in the Longdale area, after running down some stairs.

He said a man chased them and shouted at them aggressively, before grabbing his friend.

'He just grabbed him and put him against a van,' the

boy said.

Then the man pushed him in the chest, causing him to fall over a small fence, he said.

'I wasn't really hurt, I was just worried and it made me quite frightened.'

The second boy told the court: 'He got me by the ear and he held me over by this minibus. Then he pushed me into it a wee bit.' He added the man was shouting at them. 'I couldn't

understand him; I think he was drunk, his breath was stinking of beer.'

Kosowski said he thought the boys had been kicking his door and he followed them to ask where they stayed so he could speak to their parents. He said: 'One of the boys sat on the ground and started crying. I didn't know what to do and I went home.'

The 28-year-old added he had only grabbed the boys

by the hand to speak to them and had not pushed or hurt them.

Finding Kosowski guilty of breaching the peace and two charges of assault, Sheriff Douglas Small said he accepted the boys' version of events. He said: 'I have to have regard to the fact that these were young boys and that they were extremely concerned and frightened by your conduct.' Kosowski was fined £650.



Isobel Black and Marie Claire Williamson-MacDougall prepare to cut their specially-made Oban lifeboat birthday cake. 07.11.10f03

Local lifeboat crew says Happy Birthday

Friends and crew mark fundraisers' big day

TWO OF Oban lifeboat station's fundraisers, who between them have 80 years' service, were given a birthday to remember as friends and lifeboat crew members threw a surprise party for them.

Surprise party Isobel Black, who is 90 years old on Easter Sunday, and Marie Claire Williamson-MacDougall, who was 80 last Thursday, have clocked up more than 80 years of service to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

To celebrate their landmark birthdays the ladies were taken to Oban lifeboat station, last Tuesday for a surprise party with a lifeboat-themed cake.

Chairman of RNLI Oban Mike Robertson thanked the ladies for their hard work over the years, as they were presented with flowers, plants and chocolates.

It has been estimated that over the past half-century

Isobel has personally raised around £100,000 for the charity and Marie Claire makes £500 every time she sells a batch of marmalade. Fellow Oban fundraiser Peggy Robertson said: 'They both take part in every fundraising venture that happens. You can't speak highly enough of them.'

'Isobel recently had a bar added to her gold fundraiser award, which is the highest accolade you can receive. She has been fundraising for the RNLI before there was even a lifeboat here.'

'Marie Claire is known for her souvenir sales and her organisational skills and works really hard for the charity.'

Oban Lifeboat coxswain Ronnie MacKillop said: 'The work of the volunteers is enormously appreciated by the crew.'

'They are the backbone of the institution because without them, nothing we do is possible.'

Rescue teams come to the aid of lost hill walkers near Bridge of Orchy

OBAN Mountain Rescue Team came to the aid of a couple lost on Ben Achallader, near Bridge of Orchy, last weekend.

A 66-year-old man contacted the emergency services on Saturday at 6.30pm after he and his wife, aged 65, lost their bearings as the weather deteriorated on

the mountain. Strathclyde Police and Oban mountain rescue teams were called to assist and began their search of the hillside within two hours.

Oban Mountain Rescue Team members found the couple, who were not injured, and walked them off the hill.



Smarties nursery takes off for the airport

OBAN Airport had a visit from some young high flyers last week. Smarties Nursery are learning about transport and took a tour of the airport.

They loved visiting the control tower and checking out a plane on the runway, as well as seeing the airport fire engine.

Left: On the tarmac - youngsters and helpers from Smarties Nursery enjoyed an outing to Oban Airport last week to learn about transport. 15.11.2air01

Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club meeting hosts full house

A LARGE audience attended the Oban Accordion and Fiddle Club meeting last Thursday in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall.

MC for the evening was Archie Cameron, Oban, and music began with Robert Robertson, on accordion.

Next on stage was a local group named Box On under the leadership of Sileas Sinclair, Connel. On accordion were

Ruaridh Morrison and John MacKinnon, both Kilmore; Cameron Bennet, North Connel; and Murray Willis, Isle of Lismore.

On keyboard Becky Hill, Connel; and Anna Garvin, Oban.

Other accordionists were Craig McFadyen, Oban; Willie Buchanan, North Connel; drummers were Duncan Campbell and Archie

Cameron, both Oban; and on keyboard Sileas and Neil Sinclair, Connel.

On melodeon was James MacArthur, Oban. The audience appreciated the great variety of music.

Archie Cameron then introduced the guest artiste Ian Cameron and his Scottish Dance Band.

Accordionist Ian, who is from Ballinluig, introduced Jim

Hardie, Aberfeldy, on second box; Jimmy MacDonald, Tighnabraich, on keyboard; and John Peel, Dunoon, on drums.

Archie thanked the guest artiste and all the local players for making the evening such a success. The evening then came to a close with a stramash.

Next month's guest artiste is the Ian Anderson trio.



Elaine Morrison has been chosen as the Green Party candidate for Argyll and Bute

Greens select Inveraray woman

THE SCOTTISH Green Party has selected an Inveraray woman as its candidate for the Argyll and Bute constituency in the forthcoming General Election.

Elaine Morrison is a green energy and community development researcher.

She topped the party's European election list last year and lists among her interests boats, seafood and real ale.

Ms Morrison said she was 'delighted' to be selected for the constituency.

'On the big issues of greening the economy, a sustainable energy policy, social justice and climate change, we need real action from government and not just greenwash,' she said.

'A big Green vote in the next election is one step to achieving these vital objectives.'

Lorn Lines

IT WAS the results of the 'Simply Red' competition at Oban Photographic Club's weekly meeting on Monday, March 8 in the Regent Hotel, Oban. Judge for the evening was Gordon Scott, a member of the Mid-Calder Club. Gordon gave helpful criticism of the images and after the break, showed members some of his own prints. Results were:

1 Maurice Wilkins who also received the Frank Walton Cup and a £5 voucher from Oban Photographic Centre. 2 Angus McKinnon 3 Maurice Wilkins

The club's AGM will be held in the Regent Hotel on Monday, March 22.



PROFESSOR Laurence Mee joined last week's Oban Rotary Club's meeting.

Mr Mee, from the Scottish Association for Marine Sciences at Dunbeg, discussed how the activity of man is affecting the huge area of sea around Scotland.

The gathering was told that the aim of the SAMS organisation was to define how the sea and its bounty, can be managed without damaging it.

It was explained that an act of parliament - the Scottish Marine Bill - was being enforced to manage man's impact on the sea.

Fishing, exploration for oil and gas, recreational sports such as diving and the development of wind and wave power will all be regulated through the proposed bill.

Rotarians from Fort William and Lochgilphead joined their counterparts in Oban for the talk.



THERE was a good turnout of members of the Argyll Members' Group of the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) meeting in the Royal Hotel, Oban on Saturday, March 6.

Group treasurer, Sara Rutherford, introduced Donald McNeil, planning officer for West Argyll for the Forestry Commission. Donald gave the group a very interesting and informative talk on the forestry in Argyll. His facts and figures gave an insight into what was happening not just at the present time, but how global warming was expected to affect the growing of trees.

Donald was thanked by group secretary Jim Kirkpatrick.



CHEST, Heart and Stroke Scotland is appealing for volunteers to operate its support programme in Oban.

The medical charity, which runs stroke services throughout Argyll, is developing services for local people who have had a stroke and need help.

Volunteers work on a one-to-one basis with people either in the home or out in the community, perhaps on a shopping trip, library visit or attending a local event.

Local coordinator Shirley Bateman said this helps to rebuild confidence after a stroke, which is the major cause of disability in Scotland.

She added: 'Volunteers are the lifeblood of our charity - we couldn't operate our services without them.'

If you are interested in joining the Chest, Heart & Stroke volunteer team contact Shirley Bateman on 01479 821 333 or email shirley.bateman@chss.org.uk.



GEORGE Berry had a rest week as he finished his first six-week programme at Energie Fitness. Robin Morton, owner of Energie Fitness said: 'George has taken on huge changes in his life and he is very successful and motivated about making permanent healthy life choices.'

'Part of any exercise regime is learning when to slow down and take stock. And this week we have encouraged George to do just that.'

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KYLE OF LOCHALSH

Your correspondent is **Charlie MacRae:**
01599 544359

Drama festival

THE SOUTH West Ross District Drama Festival was held at Plockton High School on February 19 and 20.

Three plays competed on February 19. They were Plockton Drama Club (North), Lochcarron Drama Club (North) and Plockton Drama Club (West).

On February 20, Lochcarron Drama Club (South) and Plockton Drama Club (South) competed.

The adjudicator was Colin Peter, a former chairman of the Scottish Community Drama Association.

At the close of the second evening, he awarded first place to Plockton Drama Club (South) for its play 'The Opposite of Claustrophobic' by Ron Johnstone. Actors were Caroline Ross and Trevor Savage and it was directed by Gill James. Stage managers were Robert Anderson and Ann MacLaren.



Luig Treasure Island fun

Luig Amateur Dramatic Society presented its pantomime *Treasure Island* to a capacity crowd for four nights during the last week of February.

The club also received the award for the best set. Plockton North came second and received the award for best comedy moment. Director was Diana Williamson. Councillor Biz Campbell presented the trophies.

Plockton South now goes on to the divisional finals in Dingwall on March 26 and 27.

Coffee morning

A COFFEE morning was held in Plockton Primary

School on February 27 with the event raising more than £350 for school funds.

80th birthday

CONGRATULATIONS to John Taylor, 27 Harbour Street, Plockton, who celebrated his 80th birthday on February 23.

Houses ready in June

TWENTY four houses being built at Burnside, Plockton, by Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association are due for completion by the end of June and will be allocated then.

Nine of the houses will be allocated under the new supply shared equity scheme, which means you could become a homeowner in Plockton for as little as £79,050. Six of the nine have now been allocated but the association is looking for three more applicants.

Drama club on stage

PLOCKTON Drama Club West Team performed its

play 'What's For Pudding?' by David Tristram to a full house in Plockton Hall on March 3.

Sports council

SKYE and Lochalsh Sports Council Executive Committee met in Portree in February.

Grants totalling £1,346.99 were made to the following clubs: Kintail Indoor Bowling Club; Skye Badminton Association; Broadford Badminton Club; Skye and Lochalsh Amateur Football Association and Isle of Skye Ski Club.

All the council money for this financial year has now been spent.

The Skye Half Marathon is on Saturday June 12 and the AGM of the sports council is in Portree on April 26.

Tree cut down

THE THIRD palm tree on Plockton seafront has now died and has been cut down.

It was in the garden of Mr and Mrs Martin Allan, 39 Harbour Street, and age seems to have been the killer.

However new small trees have been planted in their place.

Shinty club dinner dance

KINLOCHSHIEL Shinty Club held its annual dinner dance in Dornie Hall on Saturday February 29.

After an excellent meal provided by Jan MacRae, dancing was to the Westward Ceilidh Band.

The Duncan MacRae Trophy for the first team's player of the year was shared by Finlay and John MacRae. The Ian Fraser Memorial Shield for the under 21 player of the year was shared by John MacRae and Neil Fraser. The Tommy MacKenzie Cup for the second team's player of the year went to David Falconer and the committee's player of the year award, the Kenny Wilson MacRae Cup, went to Keith MacRae.

Football AGM

THE AGM of Skye and Lochalsh Amateur Football Association was held in

Portree on February 8. Ten teams will again compete in the league. Portree United entered to make it 11 but later withdrew.

The league begins on April 3.

Plockton weather

DURING February there was only one-and-a-half inches of rain in Plockton - a record low.

The warmest day was 8°C and coldest -5°C.

Music school concerts

THE MUSIC School of Excellence at Plockton High School held two concerts on March 5 and 6.

On Friday March 5 the concert was in Plockton High School hall with Margaret Bennett, Sheila Stewart and the Mick West Band along with students from the music school and on Saturday these artists performed again in Plockton Hall along with local singers.

Condolences

RECENT deaths with a Lochalsh connection have included Gilian MacKenzie in Glasgow, daughter of the late Fin and Jean MacKenzie, Dgeir Bhuidhe, Plockton; Nana MacKenzie from Lagg, Dornie; Donnie MacLennan from Dornie and Bertie Pearl, formerly Sallachy.

Sympathy is expressed to sorrowing relations.

Communion

PLOCKTON and Kyle Free Church held its communion in Kyle Free Church on Sunday February 28 when the visiting minister was the Rev Raymond Arnold from Perth who was previously in Lochcarron.

KILCHRENAN

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson:

01866 833201

Forest haul route

THE FORESTRY Commission Scotland received an application for the construction of a timber haul route on the west side of Loch Awe.

The application was for consent to construct and operate a timber haul route, primarily for the purpose of facilitating timber related activities, but also to be used by traffic relating to the Carrig Gheal Wind Farm.

This route would ensure that timber lorries need not drive through the village of Kilchrenan, thus avoiding Kilchrenan Primary School pupils' route to school.

At various consultation meetings, understandable concerns were raised by Argyll and Bute Council roads authority regarding development traffic predicted to be generated onto the B845; there is predicted to be an average of 32 HGV movements per day for a period of five months. Also, some work may have to be undertaken to protect verges and enhance opportunities for safe passing of vehicles travelling in opposing directions.

There was a good turnout of residents as well as representatives from the Strathclyde Police (Traffic Division) at the recent meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council where the main topic was the Traffic Management Plan for the construction of the Carrig Gheal windfarm and the new forest haul route for timber lorries.

Residents attending were outraged that the roads department of Argyll and Bute Council and the Forestry Commission refused an invitation to attend the meeting to answer residents' concerns regarding the use of the B845 for construction traffic and construction workers' traffic.

One of the residents made the point that there may have been many meetings between the Forestry Commission, the roads department, the police and Green Power (Carrig Gheal Limited), but there

had been no consultation with residents who travel on the B845 daily.

First Responders

AT THE recent community council meeting, Robert Connor intimated that he had arranged a First Responder training course for March 19 at 6pm in Dalavich Community Hall.

The training would last for three to three-and-a-half hours. There will also be a First Aid course early in April.

Dalavich Oak Woods walk

MRS MACLEAN said a walk in Dalavich Oak Woods had been arranged for Sunday March 21.

ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell:

01496 850215

Offshore wind farms study

A STUDY into proposed offshore wind farm developments in Argyll is now available to download from the Islay Energy Trust (IET) website at islayenergytrust.org.uk.

The Scoping Study was commissioned by Argyll Renewable Communities (ARC), a consortium formed by the community-owned energy trusts on Islay and Kintyre.

The proposed Islay, Kintyre and Tiree wind farms are very large projects; for Islay, SSE Renewables, a subsidiary of Scottish and Southern Energy, may deploy around 138 turbines, up to 690mw covering 93 sq kms, located 13 kms off the Rhinns; total investment of £2-2.5 billion.

A map showing proposed location of the wind farms is available on page 60 of the ARC Scoping Study document.

'We want a seat at the table with the developers and consenting authorities so that we can influence the way the projects have impacted on our local communities,' said IET chairman Philip Maxwell who last week attended a meeting with the Crown Estate, ARC representatives and developers Scottish Power Renewables and SSE Renewables.

Bowmore primary beach cleaning

BOWMORE Primary School's primary seven class cleaned their 'adopted' beach by The Battery, collecting 60kgs of mainly plastic rubbish.

They raised £66 for their school.

ReJig's beach-cleaner extraordinaire Polly Mather said: 'People may wonder why beach cleans are so important.'

'Apart from the obvious visual impact of unsightly plastic rubbish on our beautiful beaches, wildlife suffers from contact with it, too.'

'For example, plastic bags and food wrappers may smell of and be mistaken for food, and may be eaten by a wide range of marine species.'

Any group wishing to raise money for their organisation or club can do a beach or roadside clean and Re-JIG will supply all the equipment needed, dispose of the rubbish and sponsor you.

Contact the Re-JIG Beach Ranger on 01496 810880, or call in to the Re-JIG shop and office at Whin Park, Bridgend.

Islay Schools Band concert

THE ISLAY High School Band together with Islay Primary Schools Band will present a concert today (Thursday) at 7.30pm in Islay High School.

Tickets are available at the door.

Islay Masters Swimming Club

THE CLUB'S AGM will be held tomorrow (Friday) at 9pm in the Lochside Hotel, Bowmore.



Dunbeg money snakes its way to Haiti

Children from Dunbeg Primary School made a snake of money to send to Haiti. Deciding to do something special for the children in the country torn apart by a hurricane was the brainchild of the primary class. 16_t11snake1

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Jeanette MacDonald and Allan and Lorne Carmichael, who submitted the winning entries for a new use for Port Appin's telephone kiosk.

Old phone box to have info at touch of a button

WHEN British Telecom decided to decommission the red telephone box in Port Appin, it was sold to the community and a competition launched to find a new use for the iconic structure.

The winning entries were announced last week: brothers Lorne and Allan Carmichael and Jeanette MacDonald had similar ideas for installing a touch-screen information point with possible internet access in the future. Information carried would include details of organisations in Appin and Lismore and historical photographs of the area, as well as general tourist information such as hotels, restaurants and bed-and-breakfast providers.



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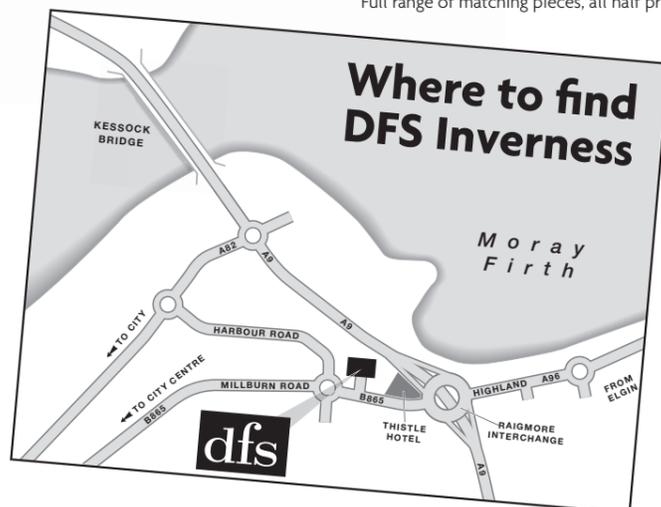
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Moves to create Isle of Skye cultural hub take major step forward

Breakthrough as Glendale Trust secures school lease

MOVES to create a cultural hub for a remote Isle of Skye community have taken a major step forward, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

The Glendale Trust aims to set up a heritage and culture centre in the mothballed Borrodale Primary School - and last week received notification from Highland Council that it can lease the building over the summer.

The news is a major breakthrough for the group, which sees the centre as having a major role in boosting tourism, jobs and local culture in Duirinish, the island's northwesternmost peninsula.

The group was granted permission last summer to stage an exhibition in the school on Glendale's life, people and history.

Hundreds of local people and visitors - many with Glendale connections - came through the doors, giving the trust confidence to push for a more permanent arrangement.

A 70-strong public meeting

EXCLUSIVE
By STEPHEN NORRIS

in December unanimously backed the idea of transforming the school into a heritage and community centre.

The trust then submitted its business plan to the council, requesting a long-term lease on the building.

Last week Highland Council began statutory consultations on closing the school, which has been out of use since 2007 after pupil numbers dwindled to almost zero. The outcome of those consultations, which will run for six weeks, will be reported to the education, culture and sport committee in August.

Pending that decision, the council has offered the building to the trust for the interim. Glendale Trust chairman Ian Blackford, who returns to Skye today from business abroad, told *The Oban Times*: 'As I understand it the council is prepared to give us a lease of

the building over the summer period until September 20.

'We would need to get a level of funding in, but the plan would be to put in a heritage centre and a café - there are no café facilities in Glendale. We would look to be extending the exhibition we held in the school last year.'

Welcoming the move, Skye councillor Ian Renwick told *The Oban Times* it would be good for Glendale to have a central meeting point following the closure of the Strupach café in 2009.

He said: 'It's a great idea, it will bring people together. It's not just tourists from all over the world that will come in, it's local people as well. There's tremendous interest from the local community, who will contribute artefacts to the heritage centre.'

In 1882 John Macpherson and the Glendale crofters were at the forefront in the fight against the Clearances. Runrig immortalised Glendale in their song 'Recovery'.



Korrine MacMillan and Elise Marshall, behind, with Keira Cameron and Lauren MacInnes at Caol Primary School's fund-raising day on Saturday. 10_f12caol01

Crowds flock to Caol Primary School spring fund-raiser

ENTHUSIASTIC support from parents, staff and the local community helped make a spring fund-raiser at Caol Primary School a huge success on Saturday.

The event, which raised £1,200, was officially a 'daffodil tea' but a host of supporting stalls and activities drew hundreds of people throughout the course of the morning.

Tables in the school hall were packed with local people enjoying teas, coffees and cakes while side events included a hamper raffle, a

children's raffle, Easter crafts for children to make, children's games and face painting. An eco-stall on planting seeds, tree planting and composting added to the springtime theme while outside Fort William firemen brought along a fire engine for children to see while they got busy washing a steady stream of cars. Caol head teacher Jennifer Cattanach told *The Oban Times*: It was an excellent day. It was really busy and people seemed to have enjoyed it. It was the best attended event we have had for a long time.'

Got a story for **The Oban Times?**
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Highland Council switches off lights in support of Earth Hour

HIGHLAND Council will support the World Wildlife Fund's Earth Hour 2010 on Saturday March 27 by switching off lights in seven locations for an hour to highlight the dangers of climate change.

In Lochaber every second lighting column along Kilmallie Road in Caol will be turned off from 8.30pm to 9.30pm. Floodlighting on Inverness Castle, the cathedral, Ness Bridge, the Hector Macdonald Monument in Dingwall, the Ross Institute in Halkirk and the Thomas Telford Bridge in Helmsdale will also be switched off.

In Stornoway, Western Isles Council will switch off the war memorial lights, the town hall clock and floodlights outside the main council offices and Ionad Spòrs Leòdhais at 8.30pm.

Fossil fuel levy surplus appeal

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has urged the UK Government to direct Scotland's £150million share of a fossil fuel levy surplus towards connecting renewable power from the Highlands and Islands to the National Grid.

Big wind and tidal power projects in Scotland's renewable energy-rich north and west need sub-sea inter-connectors laid from the Western Isles and across the Pentland Firth to the mainland in order to progress.

Councillor Foxley has asked Chancellor Alasdair Darling to support representations already received from the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Finance John Swinney on the matter.



Kinlochleven Primary School P5/6/7 pupils were recently presented with their 2010 ski awards following sessions on the slopes at Nevis Range. The pupils gained certificates between level 3 and level 6, meeting various requirements at each level, including plough parallel turns, downhill ski carving, side-slip skis control and safety knowledge.

Animal welfare charity rescues unusually high numbers of weak and emaciated mammals from Loch Linnhe

Common seals succumb to stomach and lung parasites

STOMACH and lung parasites are taking a deadly toll of common seals around Loch Linnhe, according to the Scottish SPCA.

The animal welfare charity has rescued an unusually high number of weak and emaciated seals from the loch over the winter, many weighing only half the body weight that a healthy common seal should at this time of year.

To help gauge the scale of the problem, the charity is appealing to local people to look out for underweight and small common seals in and around the loch.

The latest seal to be rescued was found in distress in the River Lochy last Friday. Scottish SPCA Lochaber inspector Dawna Connolly said: 'Common seal are born around June and July so by this time of year they should be well developed and weighing around 30 to 40kgs.

'The ones I've been rescuing lately are closer to 15kgs and look more like pups because they just haven't been thriving.

'Post mortems have been carried out on some of the seals that didn't survive, revealing severe worm burdens of the stomach or lungs.

'We do not know the reason for this, but it seems to be affecting marine life in Loch Linnhe and the surrounding waters.

If someone does spot an unusually small or thin common seal they should contact our animal helpline on 03000 999 999.'

Seals rescued by the Scottish SPCA are treated at the charity's Wildlife Rescue Centre at Middlebank in Fife.

Centre manager Colin Seddon said: 'Last week we were able to release one of the seals Dawna brought to us which had arrived with a very severe worm burden. He was with us for almost six weeks before he was fit enough for release.

Poorly
'The latest one to arrive is very poorly. He does have some worms but we don't yet know if that is the whole problem so we'll be keeping a very close eye on him over the next few days.'

Anyone who spots a seal carcass on the shore should contact the Wildlife Unit at the Scottish Agricultural College, where autopsies are carried out to try to establish why seals are so badly affected this year.

Bob Reid, Higher Laboratory Scientist at SAC Veterinary Services, can be contacted on 01463 243 030.

So far this year Ms Connolly has picked up ten common seals, four live, six dead, compared to one common seal last winter.

Highland Council might not meet target on homelessness

HIGHLAND Council could fail to meet the Scottish Government target of abolishing priority needs tests for housing the homeless by 2012, councillors have heard.

Head of housing David Goldie told the housing and social work committee that by the end of 2012 local authorities will be required to provide settled accommodation for every homeless person over the age of 16 who is unintentionally homeless.

But without fewer people presenting as homeless and/or an increase in suitable accommodation, the council will be unable to meet the target in many areas due to 'significant pressure' on the affordable housing development programme over the next few years.

Local builders have already warned cutbacks in government money for affordable homes could see 200 fewer houses being built next year, threatening a further loss of construction jobs.

Rocky road ahead for sand mine grit campaign

EXCLUSIVE: By STEPHEN NORRIS

CAMPAIGNERS hoping that Lochaline's mothballed sand mine could provide Mr Thornber to treat ice-bound roads are having a tough time convincing the UK government.

Morvern Community Council (MCC) chairman Iain Thornber enlisted the help of local MP Charles Kennedy to press UK transport minister Lord Adonis and Scottish Government transport minister Stewart Stevenson to consider the mine for emergency supplies.

Tarmac closed the mine in December 2008 with the loss of 11 local jobs and the community council is keen to see operations restart.

Mr Kennedy received a positive response to the idea from Mr Stevenson, who stressed it was Tarmac's decision whether to re-open the mine on a commercial basis.

But in his reply to Mr Kennedy, UK local roads minister Sadiq Khan said the Highways Authority 'does not consider' silica sand as an alternative to salt in treating roads in winter

because its particles were the wrong shape. A disappointed Mr Thornber wrote to Mr Khan to say his response contained two 'fundamental misunderstandings' - first, that he was not suggesting sand as an alternative to salt and second, that material from Lochaline could be crushed down to produce any grade of grit, which could then be mixed with salt. 'I would be happy to send you some samples to support my point,' Mr Thornber told the minister.

MCC wants the mine open again to ensure that skilled jobs are retained in Morvern.

Mr Thornber believes adjacent port facilities mean small coasters could take out material from the mine by sea to major city ports and waterways.

'Our priority is to see the mine re-opened and we hope the Government will do everything it can to assist,' said Mr Thornber.

Tarmac has ruled out re-opening the mine for the time being.

Motorists warned over A82 road closures

THE A82 between Crianlarich and Tyndrum will be closed overnight for at least two nights starting from next Monday for safety improvements to the road at the double bend under Crianlarich railway bridge.

Work will include high friction surfacing to improve skid resistance on the approaches to the bridge.

A number of road squads will carry out

the work from 10pm to 6am, during which time the A82 between the A82/A85 junction at Crianlarich and the A82/85 junction at Tyndrum will be closed. Local access for residents will be maintained and a signed diversion route will be in place.

Motorists are asked to consult the Traffic Scotland website for up-to-date information.

Glengarry welcomes two top music acts to community hall

GLENGARRY Community Centre will welcome two of Scotland's best traditional music acts tomorrow (Friday) night when Lewis singer Fiona Mackenzie and the trio of Sandy Brechin, Brian O' hEadhra and Ronan Martin take the stage.

Fiona was nominated twice as Celtic/Folk Band of the Year at the ICA awards and her solo album 'Elevate' was nominated

as Album of the Year at the Trad Music awards in 2009.

Sandy Brechin has already played Invergarry Hall in the 'Accidental Death of an Accordionist', Brian O' hEadhra is well known as a singer-songwriter in his own right and Skye-based fiddler Ronan Martin has taught at many festivals. The night will finish with céilidh dancing.



Donald Cameron receives the cheque from Marine Harvest staff, left to right, Iona MacFadyen, David Corrigan and Jayne MacKay.

Marine Harvest presents £250 to Multiple Sclerosis Society

MARINE Harvest has presented a £250 cheque to Donald Cameron of Lochiel, who received the donation on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

At the Clan Cameron Gathering at Achnacarry last summer, Marine Harvest put on one of its salmon barbecues to fund raise for charity.

Members of Clan Cameron and visitors donated generously with all proceeds on the

day going towards the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Farm manager at Marine Harvest David Corrigan said: 'We were approached to help fund raise on the day with our salmon barbecue.

'Donald asked if donations could go to Multiple Sclerosis, which is something we were delighted to do, particularly as it's such an important cause.'

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Work of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig staff honoured at highest level

TWO MEMBERS of the academic staff at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI, Skye's national centre for Gaelic language and culture, have had their scholarship and research recognised at the highest level.

Dr Richard Cox has been awarded a professorship from UHI, the prospective university of the Highlands and Islands, in recognition of his contribution to Gaelic studies and publishing, and Decker Forrest, BA Gaelic and Traditional Music programme leader, has gained a PhD from the University of St Andrews and the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama for his thesis on bagpipe music.

Professor Cox spent a number of years working on the Historical Dictionary of Scottish Gaelic and lecturing at the University of Glasgow before taking up a post as a writer for the acclaimed Speaking Our Language TV series.

Taught

He taught at the University of Aberdeen before joining the academic team at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in 2006, where he is also director of the academic publishing arm of the college, Clò Ostaig.

Professor Cox has published a number of books, articles and papers on Gaelic language and literature including *Brìgh nam Facal* and *The Gaelic Place-names of Carloway, Isle of Lewis*.

Dr Forrest's thesis, *'Ceòl Beag: The Development and Performance Practice of the 'small music' of the Highland Bagpipe c.1820-1966'* is one of the first theses on bagpipe music to be awarded a doctorate-level degree. Some of his latest research was recently published in the anthology, *The Highland Bagpipe: Music, History, Tradition*.

Principal of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig Professor Boyd Robertson said: 'The awards conferred on Richard and Decker are well merited and fitting recognition of their scholarship and research skills. The honours bestowed acknowledge their personal achievement and further enhance the academic standing of the college.'



Bagpipe solo senior piobaireachd and Premier Scots Traditional Instrumental Award winner James Rosie, pictured with Violin solo (Scots) beginners winner Alistair MacRae. 10_f12music03

Fine start to music festival

THE 36TH annual Lochaber Music Festival got off to a fine start on Friday and Saturday with classes in chanter, bagpipes, clarsach, fiddle, accordion and folk groups.

Adjudicators Archie MacLean, piping, and Lydia Jackson, accordion, Scots violin, clarsach and folk groups, praised the high standard of competition and provided helpful advice, much appreciated by performers.

The two days culminated in the Premier Scots Traditional Instrumental Award competition, contested by the top performer in each category: James Rosie on bagpipes, Rebecca Hill on clarsach, Euan Wilkie on fiddle and Ruari Edmond on accordion.

After four fine performances by the excellent players and long deliberation by the adjudicators James was announced as the winner.

See our Lochaber Music Festival picture news special on page 17.

Dog breeders win clutch of awards at Crufts

FORT William dog breeders have returned from Crufts with a clutch of awards.

Mrs J Robertson won a reserve dog challenge certificate with her Welsh terrier dog, Mrs A Macleod a first place, post graduate, and a third place, yearling, with her Tibetan spaniel bitches, Mrs V Tomkins a first place, veteran, and a reserve fourth place, post graduate, with her Saluki bitches, and Miss LM Brown a reserve fourth place, post graduate, with her Akita bitch.

Lochaber sport goes live online

New media company launches internet service with Camanachd Cup shinty action

A NEW Lochaber media company is gearing up to broadcast local sporting events online, *The Oban Times* can reveal.

Fort William-based Sports Media Online Services Ltd (SMOS) will start with live coverage of Kilmallie's first round Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup clash with Beaulieu at Canal Parks on March 27.

The company, which has only been operating since January, was the first UK company to broadcast amateur boxing live online when it covered an event at Port Glasgow on January 22.

Director Robert Coull, a chef at the Underwater Centre in Fort William, said the venture 'started as a dare' when a friend at Port Glasgow Boxing Club

EXCLUSIVE: By STEPHEN NORRIS

challenged him to stream the boxing night live online. The programme proved a big enough hit to give Mr Coull confidence a market was out there for live coverage of the smaller sporting events that big broadcasters would never consider.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'The whole thing has grown arms and legs since then. We have won lots of contracts since we started up - it's really spiralled.'

Fans will be able to watch the game free on www.lochaber.com, a website owned and set up by Visit Fort William Ltd (VFW) to promote Lochaber to a worldwide audience. The broadcast will begin at approximately 2.15pm with a 2.30pm start.



Robert Coull: putting Lochaber sporting events online.

Andy McKenna said the new broadcast service was another way of increasing spectators through the website. 'People can just go to the website, click on the

link and that will take them to a page and as long as people have a reasonable broadband speed they can sit and watch the game,' he said.

Mr Coull said he was also in discussion with Lochaber promotion company No Fuss Events to cover its 2010 programme. His company has also been granted the rights to broadcast 12 professional boxing events and the Nevis Centre has asked SMOS to cover the Scotland's Strongest Man competition on May 1 and the Hogmanay live show.

He added: 'With the boom of internet television services like the BBC iPlayer and youtube and the onset of the 'laptop television generation' live and on-demand media is the future of entertainment. Long term we are hoping to have Fort William TV.'

Public to get say on new Fort William development

THE LOCHABER public are being invited to help shape plans for a new Greater Fort William residential, retail and services complex next week.

Miller Developments, which aims to develop the Blar Mhor /Corpach Moss site with partners Oatridge Ltd, are staging a three-day public exhibition in the Ben Nevis Hotel, Fort William, starting next Thursday.

The 100-acre site straddling the A830 takes up most of the land inside the Camaghael loop road and an area bounded by the road, the railway, Blar Mhor industrial estate and Caol industrial estate. The site has been identified in the West Highland

local plan as suitable for mixed-use development.

Miller Developments' Colin Graham said the consortium would take the public's suggestions into account when preparing its draft masterplan, which would be presented to local residents for further comment before a final plan was produced and submitted to Highland Council.

He said: 'It's important for us to make sure that we obtain local opinion on what the site should contain. There would be little point in us proposing a development that did not meet or indeed fit the desires of local people.'

Local councillor Donald Cameron said: 'Without prejudicing any debate on the issue, the development has the potential to open up more developments and create the inevitable expansion of a Greater Fort William.'

The site could accommodate 300 homes, a new Gaelic primary school and a Lochaber retail centre, including a major supermarket. Relocating the police station from Fort William and a new hospital to replace the Belford are also on the agenda. It is hoped that the expansion would make the case for the much-needed relief road from Fort William town centre to the A830 via a bridge over the Lochy, the Caol spit and Corpach Moss.



Professor Richard Cox.



Dr Decker Forrest.

Got a story for **The Oban Times**? Call our reporters on 01631 568000.

Death of singer-songwriter

IT WAS announced, this week, that singer-songwriter Lesley Duncan has died aged 66.

Famous for her collaborations with Elton John on his Madman across the Water album, Pink Floyd's The Dark Side of the Moon and as a backing singer for Dusty Springfield, she had lived in Tobermory for many years.

She passed away on Friday March 12 after suffering from cerebrovascular disease.

Cycle for Haiti

CHILDREN from Achalaven Primary School will raise money for the disaster in Haiti by cycling from Dunbeg to Ganavan on Monday March 29.



A seminar was held for leaders of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Volunteer Units in Argyll and Bute area at the weekend. During the day officers were given intensive training on new techniques used in their role. Officers also met with senior officers and members of the Strathclyde Fire Board. At night, they all enjoyed a meal at the Royal Hotel Oban. 16_t11fire2

New air service ready to take-off with golfers

A NEW air service specifically for golfers flying to some of Scotland and Ireland's most remote courses is ready for take off.

Golf Links Express, run by Loch Lomond Seaplanes, is designed to open up some of the most remote courses to time pressed golfing enthusiasts.

The new airline will operate primarily out of Prestwick Airport in Ayrshire flying golfers to Machrihanish in Kintyre, Machrie on Islay, Loch Lomond, Lough Erne and other courses spread throughout the west coast, highlands and islands.

The Cessna 208 aircraft will be able to transport up to nine golfers and their equipment.

The Golf Links Express will operate several flights per day, subject to

demand. Founder of Loch Lomond Seaplanes and Golf Links Express, David West, said: 'Golf Links Express will be able to carry golfers from Prestwick to Islay in around 25 minutes, on to Machrihanish in 15 minutes then to Loch Lomond in another 25 minutes. That's three fantastic locations across Scotland that would usually take a whole day's travel to reach by car.'

He added: 'We've already had bookings from golfers as far afield as the US, Scandinavia, Ireland, England and Scotland for next year.'

Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather said: 'I am delighted to see the potential realised for expanding the golfing appeal of Kintyre and Islay by providing an air ferry service based on Prestwick.'

Police Chief Constable honours Lochaber and Skye staff

NORTHERN Constabulary Chief Constable Ian Latimer presented staff and police officers from Lochaber and Skye with medals, certificates and commendations for long service, retirement and fine police work at a ceremony at Fort William Police Station on Tuesday.

Sergeant Donald MacLeod and Constable Ian Fraser, both Glencoe, received long service medals, Ailsa Cuthbertson from Inverlochty received a long service award for her 20 years work at the station and Joan Vaughan and Neil MacMillan were presented with certificates on their retirement from service in the Fort William area.

Sergeant Douglas Galloway and Constable Alistair MacKay of Portree police were presented with Area Commander's commendations for their work in securing the convictions of two drug dealers on Skye.



Chief Constable Ian Latimer, centre, presented officers and staff with their awards.

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<p>East Coast Scenes - £6.25 £2.62</p>	<p>Isle of Arran - £6.25 £2.62</p>
<p>West Coast Scenes - £6.25 £2.62</p>	<p>Scottish Field Mini - £6.25 £2.62</p>

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West Highland students scoop awards at annual Lantra ceremony



Kate Sheppard from Ford

THREE west Highland students were among the prizewinners at the seventh annual Lantra Land-based Learner of the Year Awards.

The winners met Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, Richard Lochhead, at the awards ceremony.

Shane Kenny from Taynuilt scooped Aquaculture Learner of the Year, sponsored by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation and Marine Harvest. Shane is studying for an SVQ Level 2 in Aquaculture at Inverness College.

Shane who works in fish husbandry looking after one of the fish cage groups for Dawnfresh Farming Ltd, said: 'Almost as soon

as I started working at the fish farm I realised this was a serious career opportunity, and I wanted to learn as much as I could about the aquaculture industry.

'For the first time in my life I could see the value of learning and gaining a relevant qualification.'

Kate Sheppard from Ford, Lochgilphead, was awarded the Trees and Timber Learner of the Year, sponsored by Rural Development Initiatives.

Kate, a Modern Apprentice with Forestry Commission Scotland, has appeared in organisational training videos depicting and promoting diversity and recently represented the Forestry Commission on a study trip to the Czech Republic.

Grant Symmers, from Swordle Bay, Kilchoan, a trainee deerstalker was awarded the Game and Wildlife Learner Runner Up. Grant is studying for an SVQ Level 2 in Gamekeeping at North Highland College and West Highland Hunting, based at Ardnamurchan. Grant says that the most rewarding part of his job is seeing well managed herds of deer on the estate.

'Practical work on the estate is what I feel I have learnt the most from,' he said.

'I am learning new skills everyday. By working hard I hope to achieve my goal to become a head stalker.'

There were a total of 16 prize winners, aged 15 - 29, across Scotland.



Grant Symmers from Kilchoan, a trainee deerstalker was awarded the Game and Wildlife Learner Runner Up

Putechan Texels sell to £68 as cattle trade eases at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 1325 store cattle, 53 young bulls, 50 breeding cattle, 124 cast cows and 984 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday when bullocks and heifers showed an easing on trade on the week.

Bullocks averaged 176.47p (-7.65p) and sold to 238.7p per kg for a 214kg Charolais cross from Toward and £1070 for a 694kg Simmental cross from The Briers.

Heifers averaged 174.35p (-5.07p) and sold to 208.7p per kg for a 192kg Limousin

cross from Wester Hill and £1060 for a 621kg Simmental cross from Pitcairn.

Young Bulls averaged 165.37p and sold to 212.1p per kg for a 305kg Limousin cross from Glenlyon Estate and £870 for a 630kg Simmental cross from Lochmalony.

Texel hogs from Putechan sold to £68.50 and to £66.50 for Cheviots with Suffolks from Low Dunashery to £57.50.

Blackfaces from Ancaster sold to £62.80.

Skye in-lamb ewes and gimmers sell to £140 at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts, sold 2,350 store, breeding and feeding sheep at Dingwall last Wednesday when store hogs met an increased demand, breeding sheep, feeding and prime ewes and rams similar trade.

Lambs averaged £61.09 and sold to £86.00 for a Texel from Burnside Croft, Jamestown.

Ewes averaged £59.22 and sold to £140 for Suffolks from Lochdhu, Nairn.

In lamb ewes and gimmers averaged £81.88 and sold to £140 for Cheviots from the dispersal of the Fasach flock, Watermish, Isle of Skye.

Rams averaged £65.88 and sold to £108 gross for a Texel from Lower Seafield, Portmahomack.

Widders averaged £55.46 and sold to £70 gross for Cheviots from Woodside, Ardvannie.

Prime trade eases on week at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 7483 prime sheep including 5754 hogs averaging 186p (-6p) and 1729 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Hogs sold to £115.50 for Texels from Cupar Road with Suffolks from Broomknowes and Newton of Collessie to £100.

Suffolk ewes from Glenrath sold to £138 with Texels from Broomknowes to £130.

Dingwall mart hosts implements sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd had 40 tractors, loadalls and plant machinery, 797 implements, 18 ATVs, motorcycles and lawnmowers, 25 motors vehicles, 654 small tools forward at Dingwall last Saturday when a Massey Ferguson 4245 tractor with loader sold to £16,200.

WANTED
Tractors, Plant and Machinery for our next On Site auction at Errol Airfield on 30th March 2010 Free valuations. Transport available
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Shane Kenny from Taynuilt scooped Aquaculture Learner of the Year, sponsored by the Scottish Salmon Producers Organisation and Marine Harvest

Market reports

ISLAY United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £790(10) and £785(5)
Aoradh £775(6) Craigns £770 Aoradh £740(4), £725(14), £680(5), £675(2) and £665(3) Craigns £630 Aoradh.
British Blue X: £900 Blackrock £825(2) and £820 Ardbeg £810 Blackrock £765(2) and £660(4) Ardbeg £630 Blackrock.
Charolais X: £930 and £900(2) Aoradh £900(5) Craigns £875(2) Aoradh £870(2) Craigns £850 and £835 Aoradh £835(6) Eorabus £830(2), £820(8), £805(4), £800(4) and £770 Aoradh £755(5) Eorabus £730(2) and £705 Aoradh £700(2) and £620 Carrabus.
LimousinX: £975, £965 and £945 Eorabus £940 Tallant £925 Dunlossit Estate £905(2) Sunderland £885 Ardbeg £875 Eorabus £870 Ardbeg (6) and Lossit £860(3) Neriby £855(4) Eorabus £850 Aoradh and Lossit(2) £845 Lossit and Dunlossit Estate £825 and £820(3) Ardbeg £820(3) Sunderland £810 Aoradh and Blackrock(2) £795 Sunderland £785(5) Eorabus £780(4) Ardbeg £770(11) Aoradh £765(3) Neriby £760 Blackrock £755(4) Neriby £750 (5) Aoradh £735 (3) Eorabus £730(8) and £715(2) Aoradh £710(4) Ardbeg £685(6) Aoradh £670 (2) Lossit £655 Ardbeg (4) and Dunlossit Estate £645(3) Aoradh £630

Ardbeg (2) and Blackrock £600(5) Carrabus.
Simmental X: £825 Eorabus.
Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: £695 Craigns £670 (2) Aoradh £645(3), £585(3) and £535(3) Craigns.
British Blue X: £810 and £795 Blackrock £665, £635 and £605(2) Ardbeg £590 Blackrock.
Charolais X: £860 Dunlossit Estate £820(2), £800 (2) and £785 (9) Aoradh £755(4) Eorabus £745(2) Aoradh £740 Craigns £730(8) Dunlossit Estate £725(2) Craigns £705 Aoradh(5) and Eorabus(2) £685 Eorabus (2) and Dunlossit Estate £655 Aoradh (2) and Dunlossit Estate (3) £600(2) Carrabus.
LimousinX: £975 and £830 Sunderland £725(6) Neriby £710 Aoradh(2) and Eorabus(2) £705 Neriby £685 Blackrock(3) and Lossit £680(3) Neriby £670 Aoradh £665(3) Ardbeg £660(5) Aoradh £655 Dunlossit Estate £650 Carrabus and Dunlossit Estate (3) £645(7) Aoradh £635 Ardbeg and Dunlossit Estate(4) £625(4) Neriby £605 (9) Ardbeg £590 (9) Blackrock.
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: £226p(5) and £225p(2) Calumkill 213p(5) Aoradh 208p (3) Greanan 201p and 196p Aoradh.
British Blue X: 212p(6) Ardbeg 211p Blackrock 208p (2) and 207p Ardbeg 202p Blackrock.
Charolais X: 230p Carrabus 229p (4) Dunlossit Estate

223p(8), 221p, 218p and 214p Aoradh 204p(2) Dunlossit Estate 202p Aoradh and Carrabus(2) 201p Aoradh(2) and Dunlossit Estate 199p(4) and 197p(2) Aoradh.
LimousinX: 235p(2), 228p(6) and 224p(4) Ardbeg 221p Lossit 213p (4) Ardbeg 211p(2) Blackrock 210p Aoradh(8) and Neriby(4) 208p Ardbeg 207p Aoradh, Ardbeg (3) and Neriby (3) 206p Ardbeg(4), Dunlossit Estate and Neriby(2) 205p(5) Carrabus 203p Aoradh(6) and Lossit 201p (11) and 200p(3) Aoradh 198p(2) Eorabus 197p Blackrock and Dunlossit Estate.
Simmental X: 225p(2) Calumkill.
Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X: 196p(2) Aoradh 192p(3) Calumkill.
British Blue X: 209p Blackrock 206p, 199p(2) and 197p Ardbeg.
Charolais X: 220p(2) Dunlossit Estate 217p(9) Aoradh 205p(4) Dunlossit Estate 201p, 200p(3) and 198p(5) Aoradh 198p(8) Dunlossit Estate.
LimousinX: 229p Carrabus 220p and 212p(4) Dunlossit Estate 208p(3) and 206p Ardbeg 204p Lossit 202p(7) and 199p(5) Aoradh 199p Ardbeg 198p(4) Neriby.

301-350kgs - East Moss-side £710, Elmscleugh 214.3p;
351-400kgs - Millhaugh £825, Dalhanna 215.9p;
401-450kgs - Millhaugh £905, 205.7p;
451-500kgs - Ladybank £960, 199.2p;
501-550kgs - Peacockbank £970, 181.8p;
551-600kgs - Ladybank £980, Millhaugh 174.2p;
601-650kgs - Hopprigshields £1050, 166.1;
651-700kgs - The Briers £1070, 154.2p.
Heifers:
Up to 250kg Greenlands £480, Westerhill 208.3p;
251-300kg - Elmscleugh £590, Corsencon 205.1p;
301-350kgs - Middle Coldrain £660, Whiteleys 199.7p;
351-400kgs - Dalhanna £745, Coshievill 198.9p;
401-450kgs - Gaisland £805, Kepculloch 193.6p;
451-500kgs - West Muirhouse £890, 189.8p;
501-550kgs - Pitcairn £1040, 175.7p;
551-600kgs - Pitcairn £1040, 175.7p;
601-650kgs - Pitcairn £1060, 170.7p.
Young Bulls
Up to 250kg South Lissens £320, Westerhill 147.5p;
251-300kgs - Coshievill £575, Glenlyon 212.1p;
301-350kgs - Rossbank £635, 198.4p;
351-400kgs - Woodcockfaulds £765, 193.7p;
401-450kgs - Kilbucho Place £740, 179.6p;
451-500kgs - South Kirlane £750, 161.6p;
501-550kgs - Lochmalony £785, 140.4p;
601-650kgs - Lochmalony

£870, 138.1p.
Breeding Cattle)
Bull; Newmains (Sim) £800.
In-calf hfrs; Stockbridge (Sim) £1080 and (Lim) £980.
In-calf cow; Percival (Lim) £1100.
Hfr and calves; Cowford (Lim & Lim Bcf) £1700; Strathavon (BA & Cha Bcf) £1420 and £1400.
Cow and calves; Turfberg (Lim & Cha Bcf) £1700; West Park (BB & Lim Bcf) £1600; West Park (Lim & Lim Bcf) £1450; Sunwick (AA & AA Hcf) £1220; Turfberg (BB & Cha Bcf) £1200; Turfberg (Lim & Cha Hcf) £1100.
Sheep
Hogs; Putechan (Tex) £68.50; (Che) £66.50; Ancaster (BF) £62.80; Low Dunashery (Suf) £57.50.
Ewes; Carston (BF scanned twins) £85; £69; West Yett (Chev) £46.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts
Lambs:
TexelX - Easter Dalziel Farm, Dalcross, £80.50;
Cheviot - Ousdale, Berriedale, £79;
SuffolkX - Kirktonmuir, Bunchrew, £75;
Texel - Burnside Croft, £74;
Beltex - Holly Cottage, Clunas, £73;
Cross - Lower Seafield, £71;
Charmoise - Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch, £68.50;
CharollaisX - Lower Seafield, £66;
Blackface - Davoch, Rogart, £64.
Ewes:
Charollais - Greenlands Farm, Arabella, £125;
SuffolkX - Ashton Farm, Inverness, £108;
Cross - Lentran, Kirkhill, £107;
Suffolk - Dunain Mains, Inverness, £104;
Texel - Lentran, £103;
Charmoise - Lentran, £93;
TexelX - Muirton Mains, Urray, £90;
Mule - Lentran, £89;
Cheviot - Viewhill Croft, Easter Kinkell, £86;
Bluefaced Leicester - Wester Raddery, Fortrose, £80;
CharollaisX - Clynmilton, Brora, £71.
In lamb ewes:
Cheviot - Fasach Farm, £135;
TexelX - Little Croy Farm, Croy, £105;
SuffolkX - Little Croy Farm, £100;
Cross - Achagour, Glenfermess, £80;
Suffolk - Little Croy Farm, £72;
HalfBred - Little Croy Farm, £70.
In lamb gimmers:
Cheviot - 177 Muie, Rogart, £72.
Rams:
Texel - Cambusmore Estate, £97;
Cheviot - Erich Farming, £90;
Beltex - Cadbollmount, Tain, £88;
Bluefaced Leicester - Flichity Mains, Farr, £72.
Widders:
Cheviot - Achagour, £69;
Cross - Wester Cairnglass, Nairn, £66;
TexelX - Cambusmore Estate, £51.

IACS 2010
IACS surgeries will be held as follows

LOCATION	DATES
Ardnamurchan	26 April
Coll	7 - 8 April
Colonsay	4 - 5 May
Cowal	14 - 15 April
Fort William	6 May
Islay	19, 20 & 22 April and 27 - 29 April
Jura	21 April
Mallaig	27 April
Mull - Fionnphort	8 - 9 April
Mull - Salen	6 - 7 April
Oban	31 Mar - 1 April and 6 May
Tiree	6 - 8 April and 19 - 22 April

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Argyll trio on form in Portree

THE MARCH meeting of the Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Club held in the Royal Hotel, Portree was opened by a trio of local players introduced by Club MC Jim Campbell. On stage were accordionists John Cameron and John MacGilvray with Donald John Campbell on drums, who provided selections of toe-tapping marches and beautiful Gaelic airs. Fiddler Wendy Riva of Kilmuir gave her usual fine performance which included her version of *The Roses Of Prince Charlie*, before handing over the microphone to solo accordionist Emma Beaton.

A change of instrument from fiddle to accordions

saw the talented young Bruce MacDonald and his sister, Rowan, perform duets on the Highland bagpipes, after which Bruce delighted the audience with two solo sets played with flair and confidence. Next on stage was another young player, nine-year-old Ellie MacPherson, with some tunes on her fiddle and she played with a confidence which belied her tender years.

A member of the audience, Ronnie MacRae, was persuaded to take to the stage to perform a couple of songs and soon had the audience singing along with him, after which it was the turn of 'mine host' of the Royal Hotel,

David Morton, to strap on his piano accordion and play some old favourites including *Whistling Rufus* and *The Bluebell Polka* interspersed by some lovely Gaelic waltzes.

To round off the first half of the programme accordionist Ross MacPherson of Connel, no stranger to the Skye Club, played several selections accompanied by Portree drummer, Donald MacRae.

The entire second half of the evening was devoted to the guest band from Argyll, The Michael Garvin Trio, comprising Michael himself leading on piano accordion, with Ross MacPherson on second box and talented drummer Fraser MacInnes.

The trio launched into a great and varied programme of wonderful music in their great west coast style to delight the appreciative audience and rounded off a fine evening of the best of music with local musicians joining in to the traditional final 'stramash'.

The club meets again in the the Royal Hotel, Portree on Thursday April 1 when, in a change to the advertised programme, the guest band will be Mackay's Dance Band.



Lochnell wishes for world harmony

Pupils at Lochnell Primary School in Benderloch made a wish for world harmony whilst holding the torch which is being carried around the world, spreading just that message. The World Harmony Run is a global relay that seeks to promote international friendship and understanding. As a symbol of harmony, runners carry a flaming torch, passing it from hand to hand travelling through more than 100 nations around the globe. The World Harmony Run does not seek to raise money or highlight any political cause, but simply strives to create goodwill among people of all nations. The team which visited Benderloch was impressed by the youngsters' art displays and the school choir.

Ministers to walk the line

WAYS in which West Highland Lines (WHL) could deliver more value to the region will be discussed at a public meeting on April 23. Pressure group Friends of the West Highland Lines Society (FWHL) say that investment in the railway would enhance economic and employment opportunities in the

West Highlands. Among the guest speakers at the meeting will be Transport Minister Stewart Stevenson and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather. The meeting will be held at the Regent Hotel, Esplanade, Oban. The FWHL aims to promote, improve and safeguard rail services in the West Highlands.

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY GENEALOGY:
Laura Gloag
Saturday 20 March
2.30pm
Port Appin Hall
All Welcome!
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk
SRC No. SCO29411

Charity Car Boot Sale
Co-op Car Park
Sunday 28th March
11 - 2pm

An Comunn Gaidhealach MEUR CHRUACHAIN (Cruachan Branch)
Last CEILIDH of the Winter
Sat. 20th March in Taynuilt Village Hall at 7.45pm
Pipe Major Iain Hurst
Seumas Campbell, Skye, (Gold Medalist), Rachel Walker, Robert Robertson, Ann Barlow - Fiddle, Hector MacFadyen, Accordion
Champion Highland Dancer Eilidh MacInnes
Bean - Taighe: Karen Campbell
Admission £3.00
£2 Members & Children 5 - 16yrs Including Tea
Warm Welcome Extended to All
(Funds collected promote The Gaelic Language, Music & Culture)

OBAN PIANO FUN
Sunday 28th March 2010
At Glencruitten Road Parish Church
Starts 2.30pm
Oban Music Society invite pianists of all ages and all abilities to take part in this year's PianoFun.
Please contact Kenn or Marie on 01631 570955
All donations will be given to the Oban Music Society for the maintenance of the recital piano at St John's Cathedral.
Email: oban_pianofun@hotmail.co.uk

Family Ceilidh Dance
Neil Sinclair Sound
Sat 27th March
Connell Village Hall
7.30pm
Adults £8 Child £4 (under 16's must be acc. by an adult)
Bring your own drinks & nibbles
Tickets Connell Village Store & Oban Music
Profits to HIMDF

Annual Boat Jubilee & Car Boot Sale
Craigish Village Hall, Ardfern
Saturday March 20th from 10.15am - 2pm
Nautical & non-nautical bargains; new and nearly new items.
Bring all the family for a great day out!
Raffle
Entry - £2 (includes refreshments).
Details - 01852 500689

North Argyll House Daffodil Tea
Glencruitten Church Centre
Wednesday 24th March
2pm till 4pm
Admission by Donation
Baking Stall

100 Girlguiding Oban
Invites all ex-members, friends and interested members of the public to join them for their Centenary Celebrations
Corran Halls
Sat. March 20th
2.30pm - 4.00pm
Call Mary Norris: 01852 300339
or email: mary.norris@virgin.net

EIGHTH TRIENNIAL COMMUNITY CONCERT
Corran Hall
Monday, March 22
At 7.30pm
Tickets £3.50 (Concessions £2.50)
from the Corran Hall and Oban Music Shop or at the door
Proceeds to Sargent Cancer Care for Children (Scotland)

NASSA (North Argyll Stroke Support Ass)
COFFEE MORNING
In the Congregational Church Hall
Saturday 20th March 2010
From 10am - 12 noon
With Brac-A-Brac stall
Entry £2

OBAN PALESTINE GROUP PUBLIC MEETING
Glencruitten Church Centre, Oban
Sunday March 21st 7.30pm
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, Newton Oban
01631 563737 newton@tiscali.co.uk

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"Try-A-Drive"
Saturday 27th March
Upper Soroba Farm
(By kind permission of J&S MacLachlan)
11am - 2pm
A wheelchair friendly carriage can be made available
Info 0845 2411376
Argyll RDA Driving Group

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All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details



The Michael Garvin Trio in action in Portree: Left to right, Fraser MacInnes on drums, Ross MacPherson on second box and Michael Garvin on lead accordion.



North Argyll pupils put to the test

Children from Barcaldine and Kilniver primary schools in North Argyll took part in a day's orienteering thanks to Active School co-ordinator Dale Kupris. The two schools met at Sutherland's Grove, in Barcaldine, where their map-reading and team skills were put to the test.

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

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mull theatre
Sat 20. 8pm Mull Theatre
Mon 22. 3pm Mull Theatre
Tue 23. 7.30pm Victory Hall, Benderloch
Wed 24. 8pm Innellan Village Hall
Thu 25. 8pm Cove Burgh Hall
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Fiddlers' Rally's gold-medal guest

MOD Gold Medallist Arthur Cormack will be the guest artiste at the Annual Fiddler's Rally Concert, to be held on April 24 at the Corran Halls, Oban. Founding conductor Charlie Hunter's tune 'The Hills of Lorne' will be the customary opening to the 66th annual concert. Fiddler Maurice Duncan, from Oban, will also be performing, and the Lorne Junior Fiddlers will play Donald Shaw's composition, 'Calum's Road'.

ScottishBallet
LOVE TO DANCE?
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Junior, Mid and Senior Associate classes provide a classically based training for boys and girls. Children can apply for Juniors (P6-7), Mids (S1+2) or Seniors (S3-5) starting in September 2010. Auditions will be held in May 2010.

- Closing date for Junior Associates **Monday 3 May**
- Closing date for Mid Associates **Monday 17 May**
- Closing date for Senior Associates **Monday 17 May**

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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Your mind switches back on, and sharpens up. Anything delayed, can now pick up momentum. However, with the tiny but potent Pluto angling sharply to Mercury, don't expect everyone to simply bow to what you want. You may have to work hard to get people to see what you are trying to do, but avoid browbeating them, it'll be counter productive. Call now for more astral advice...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
You enter a period when you may find yourself happier in your own company, or at least with those you know intimately. However, you may have to ward off a tendency to think the worst of people or situations. Your imagination can be strong, but it can also run wild, which you may need to marshal. You can also find yourself more sentimental this week. Call now for more advice...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
The pace of life and social interaction is set to go up several notches, not that you'll mind Gemini, because this can turn out to be a purple patch for you. However, your zippy ruling planet Mercury does come under intense pressure from Pluto, suggesting that there can be some endings, as well as some new beginnings around some close friendships. Call your prediction line for more news...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
You may be asked to take on a responsible role, this could be to do with a local society, club or committee or something more to do with your work. You may wonder whether you want the extra load or the perceived hassle, but then another side of you can relish the responsibility. If you are not tapping into your potential, why not give it a whirl? Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
If you feel you have been spending too much time inside or involved in heavy business or lifestyle issues, this week is a perfect time to lighten up Leo. As a Lion you may not have wings, but you can certainly find yourself travelling far and wide in search of new adventures. Yet there may be some things, gallingly which prove harder just to drop. Call now for more news and advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
You might experience life or the people you come into contact with as being unpredictable. If you like plenty of surprises, that may suit you, if not, this can prove unsettling. Your love life could, in particular, see you deciding to make some sudden moves, and even some about turns. At a practical level, property and savings come into focus. Call me now for your love scope in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
You can begin this week rather restless. With the Sun then surging forwards into your relating sector, you may find yourself discussing your frustrations with someone close. However, with Pluto stressing your emotional zone, it would be easy to take any frustrations out on your nearest and dearest. Better still to listen to any wise advice you get. Call now for your love scope in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
Nervous tension can be high. You may find yourself changing your mind about something important, which could leave those close to you baffled and confused. Accept that life can be fluid and that not everything may feel as easy going as you'd like. Consider ways you can better organise your time and resources. Most of all Scorpio, do try to stay cool. Call now for more...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
If you're feeling tetchy, might part of the reason for this be that you're simply bored with the status quo? A Sagittarian needs life to be an ever changing vista. If yours has become dull, this is an ideal opportunity to take up new interests and hobbies and especially if they're active or mentally stimulating. In love, the temperature can crank up! Call your prediction line for your love scope...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
You could find yourself in a heated discussion, but the skill will be to know the issues that are worthy going head to head over, and those which are best ignored. If you're not careful, you could end up talking about a really contentious subject, and saying something you regret. If need be, withdraw from intense situations and gather your thoughts. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
An unusual idea of yours can finally get the green light. But money can be rather unpredictable. You can find yourself socializing with people close by, and this may reveal something you didn't know, which could be intriguing, but is someone trying to sow a seed of doubt in your mind, for their own purposes? You may also find yourself feeling wired up. Call now for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
An attitude, relationship or job that's been dogging you may, with one final push, leave your life. Stay strong and be determined to achieve this. This may mean you will have to take the long way around an obstacle, but you can take comfort from sticking to what you believe in. Money and friends just don't mix very well this week, so do try to be cautious. Call for your financial scope...

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

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

No sympathy for cash squeeze

IT is possible to have some sympathy for councils that are facing a cash squeeze because of agreements not to increase council tax and less funding coming from central government; the sympathy wanes when it looks like the vulnerable in society are likely to suffer as a result; and disappears altogether when public money is used to hire a cherry-picker to paint a flag pole on a municipal building.

GLASGOW LETTER

GG concert

AFTER a difficult year it was pleasing for members of the Glasgow Gaelic Musical Association that there was a fairly good attendance at their annual concert in Partick Burgh Halls.

The choir provided a programme of great variety. In addition to the choral pieces Joan Morrison, Catherine Tinney and Alasdair MacArthur sang solo and most of the male members sang a solo verse as the 'boys' led the audience in community singing of Gaelic favourites.

There was also an instrumental selection from Shona Masson, fiddle, Kerr Gibb, guitar, clarsach playing and singing from Eilidh Davies and excellent piping selections from young Ruairidh Morrison.

The duties of ensuring the smooth running of the show were shared by past presidents Angus Ferguson and Alasdair MacMillan. Conductor Kenny Thomson and Gaelic Reader Mina Smith will be looking forward to the National Mod after such a successful evening.

The raffle raised more than £500 which will be donated to Friends of the Beaton in memory of long standing GG member Calum MacArthur.

Memorial competition

THE DUNCAN Johnstone Memorial Competition will take place in the National Piping Centre on Saturday March 20 and will be followed by a 'Suite for Alan', a suite for small pipes, flute, whistle and string orchestra written by Neil Johnstone in honour of his father.

It is free to attend and will feature Roddy MacLeod and Alan and Iain MacDonald.

Glasgow shinty

FOR THE first time in many years Kingussie Shinty Club will be playing a competitive match at Yokermill versus Glasgow Mid Argyll this coming Saturday, throw up 2.30pm.

Clydebank ceilidh

CLYDEBANK'S recent ceilidh, which attracted a good turnout, featured Gaelic singers Janet Campbell, Joy Dunlop and Sineag MacIntyre together with Scots singer Ann Hepburn.

John MacMillan played the fiddle, Andrew Caulfield played piping selections and Kirsteen Grant was accompanist.

Iain Campbell was in the chair to ensure that, as ever, this was a good night at Clydebank.

Glasgow Uist and Barra Piping Competition

THIS was a most successful, well attended event.

Major prizewinners were Ceol Mor, Pipe Major Gordon Walker; March, Strathspey and Reel, Angus MacColl, who was also the winner of the Jigs competition.

Overall winner was Pipe Major Gordon Walker. Full results next week.

Diary dates

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

Saturday March 20: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association ceildh, Partick Burgh (Lesser) Hall, 7.45pm. Motherwell and Wishaw Highlander's Association ceildh dance, Dalziel St Andrew's Church Hall, 7.30pm. Lomond and Clyde Pipe Band, 10 Year Anniversary Invitation Grade 1 competition. Two heats during the day. Doors open 12.15pm and final concert at 7.30pm, Radisson Hotel. Duncan Johnstone Memorial Piping Competition, National Piping Centre - see above. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm, with Iain Muir's Band.

Wednesday March 24: Composing and Arranging Concert, BA Scottish Traditional Music Students, RSAMD, 7.30pm.

Thursday March 26: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Claude Bourbon.

Friday March 26: Glasgow Skye Association Youth Concert, Partick Burgh (Main) Hall, 7pm. Donald Black, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm. Glasgow Uist and Barra Association ceildh dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, 9pm to 1 am. Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association ceildh dance, Commodore Hotel, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

THE VATERSAY Boys make a welcome visit to the Islay Inn on Friday with Crooked Reels on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Monarch Isles on Saturday and Gunna Sound on Sunday.

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



Oban social club trip to Ostend, Belgium - 1976

Nancy Kirkham of Angus Terrace, Oban, submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows members of Oban's Bridgend Social Club ready to leave town on a trip to Ostend, Belgium, in 1976. 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

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Sympathy for Oban shopkeepers

Sir, I have considerable sympathy for the shopkeepers who face a huge rise in rates, *The Oban Times*, March 11.

News of the rise makes it all the more difficult to understand why the Melfort Club received a cash rates rebate from Argyll and Bute Council of £53,983 paid to them on August 21 last, and will receive a 100 per cent rebate each year into the future thanks to the Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS), saving them £47,000 a year.

That money would keep virtually every distressed shop in Oban in business.

It is beyond my comprehension that an organisation with some £5 million in properties under management should benefit from the SBBS, whilst our shopkeepers do not.

John Christlieb, Melfort Pier and Harbour.

Think again over rates

Sir, SNP Councillor Roddie McCuish is absolutely right to label the rate increase which the SNP Government is imposing on Oban shops as 'absolutely terrifying'.

When the Labour-Lib Dem coalition was in power at the time of the last rates revaluation, we brought in a transition scheme to limit the increase in business rates. In England there is still a transition scheme to limit rate increases. With even their own councillors speaking out against the rates increase, I hope the SNP Government will think again and give the Oban shops the transition relief that English shops benefit from.

Alan Reid MP, 95 Alexandra Parade, Dunoon, Argyll.

Coll firefighters praised

Sir, Our volunteer Coll Fire and Rescue service deserve recognition and praise for containing the mystery heather blaze that swept through the centre of our island, starting on the morning of Tuesday March 9.

The blaze that lasted into Wednesday, advanced upon parked vehicles, including our own, and if left unchecked would have threatened homes, farm buildings and the entire west side of the village of Arinagour. Fortunately the wind was light and its direction fairly constant and that helped the fire service to plan its fire fighting strategy.

Grateful thanks to all our firefighters and for remaining on duty until the blaze was safe.

Jim and Astrid Hill, Fiskary Cottage, Isle of Coll.

Local heroes tackle blaze

Sir, This is to sing the praises of Coll Fire Brigade.

I sing it very loudly from the rooftop of my still standing house.

March 9 saw the worst moor fire on the island for 40 years. Approximately six square miles were burned.

As the devouring edge of the fire spread westwards to Acha, it was determinedly held back by Commander Fraser and his team of well trained firefighters.

All day and till very late evening I witnessed their impressive teamwork. In appalling conditions they worked tirelessly.

The team had to be split up regularly and deployed to other threatened areas of the island thus reducing numbers at critical locations

and doubling the intensity of their effort. In the end, a very serious situation was successfully averted thanks to our local heroes. Thanks also to the other islanders who lent a hand.

Mairi Hedderwick, Isle of Coll, by email.

Mindless vandalism of Screen Machine

Sir, It was disappointing to read in *The Oban Times* of March 11 of the vandalism inflicted on the Screen Machine during its recent visit to Spean Bridge.

It is difficult to understand why mindless people choose to destroy such a valuable asset to their, and our, community.

In Lochaline we count it a great privilege to have been included in Screen Machine 2's itinerary over the last two years. To one who enjoyed the grainy black and white wonders of the Highlands and Islands Film Guild's offerings half a century ago, this is a miracle of engineering and cinematographic technology which has brought the most up to date productions to us with a degree of luxury of which we could never have dreamed. No longer are we condemned to read reviews of *Slumdog Millionaire*, or *Avatar*, knowing we will never see them.

We are there at the forefront, experiencing these almost before many places in the Central Belt.

The Screen Machine has opened up a whole world of experience to us, and long may it continue to do so.

Let us hope that the insensate folly of one individual is not seen as representing the mentality of the overwhelming majority throughout Lochaber, or even in Spean Bridge, who roundly condemn this

thoughtless, stupid and offensive act.

Douglas Watt, Lochaline.

A rural community at its best

Sir, Anyone present in Craignish Village Hall on Friday March 12 would have seen a rural community at its very best, coming together to support a local family in their efforts to be allowed to remain in the community to which they belong.

Credit is due to the elected councillors who, in the face of seemingly intractable opposition from the planning and roads departments, brokered a deal to give this family another three years grace, albeit under an enforcement order.

I sincerely hope the whole of Argyll and Bute Council will now feel a collective sense of responsibility to support this community in the valiant efforts it is making to provide desperately needed affordable rented housing in Ardfern. This does not necessarily mean financial support, although I am sure that would be welcomed, but rather a more relaxed and imaginative attitude which does not place unreasonable or unaffordable conditions on this community's housing plans.

This would be in line with Council Leader Dick Walsh's recent budget speech where he said: 'Our priorities are the protection of vulnerable people, education, developing the economy, improving customer service, developing communities and enhancing the environment.'

It would be a cruel irony if, when the community achieves the building of the housing, it finds that those who need it had already been forced to leave.

Name and address supplied.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Modernise the Foreign Office

WHEN ex-Chief Inspector Fred Hall, who gave Strathclyde Police the high street profile that Oban, Lorn and the Isles residents wanted but is lacking again, retired he told me he was going on a trip to South America as a last 'boys adventure' before settling down and we joked about its potential hazards.

However, these did not include earthquakes and floods. The floods came first in Peru and put an end to the 'grand trek' that Fred was looking forward to, little knowing that it would never take place as severe flooding had inundated a large area of where the 'walk' was to take place. Hasty exit to Bolivia which he describes as 'very beautiful'.

And so to Chile, one of South America's better-off countries with an excellent stable government.

Never did Fred expect that he would be woken up on his first morning in Santiago by one of the most severe earthquakes that the country had experienced despite some major ones in the past half-century. Fortunately, he was in a hotel which just withstood the force of the 'quake and he was able to get out of it and transfer to one of the most modern major hotels which had been built to withstand what had just happened. Conscious that his wife and family, other relatives and friends would have seen and heard the excellent television coverage here, it was essential that he contact them as soon as possible. Phones, landline and mobile, did not work initially - which is hardly surprising. Texting did but only from time to time.

What to do? He told me at the weekend that the British Embassy was as positive as it could be, given that many of the staff had been moved to the south of the country where the damage and loss of life was much more severe than in the capital.

Therefore, apart from trying to get messages to London that he was safe and unscathed there wasn't any help as to how those who wanted to quit Chile could do so. The airport was closed, not because the terminal building had collapsed; it hadn't, but the equipment internally had. However, he found that by the end of the first day partial telephone communication had been restored and he was able to ring his wife.

Within a day or two he was able to text and I was totally astonished at the ease with which we could communicate.

Eventually, he was able to get a flight out and got back home 10 days after the 'quake and after-

shock which was almost as severe. Talking last weekend, I asked him what the major 'down-side' of this adventure was. He said, and will continue to say, that the total unhelpfulness of the Foreign Office was shocking and more reminiscent of the Victorian era than of the 21st century. There was a total lack of preparedness in London for the needs of British subjects in such situations, which are not uncommon. He reckons that knowing and being able to communicate with politicians in Edinburgh and London helped him enormously. He went on: 'For anyone who did not have that knowledge the situation was a disgrace.'

The Embassy did as much as it could, given its slimmed down staff, but the Foreign Office could have helped so much by arranging that everyone with a British passport who approached it could fill in a form, stating their details and who should be contacted at home. This would be transmitted to London or Edinburgh and the police asked to make contact - simple, but not for a major government department that has been allowed to languish in the upgrading stakes of Tony Blair and Gordon Brown.

NHS 24 does a magnificent job

ONE OF my closest friends has been going through a pretty rough time medically speaking.

However, let me say that he has been full of praise for the medical, surgical and nursing staff of the hospital in Oban, but not for the two Glasgow infirmaries. The second one in which he found himself let him come home last weekend on what turned out to be a nightmare journey - no ambulance although he had had an operation the day before, no wheelchair to get him to the car to take him home and no notes for any professional who should have been briefed.

By the time he came to his island home he was being sick all the time and knew that he needed to be back in hospital.

What transpired was a magnificent example of co-operation and medical skill from a local GP who was the NHS 24 doctor on duty, the Oban Mountain Rescue Team, the ambulance staff and the ferryman who got him to the mainland and waited for his wife until she had seen her husband safely installed in Lorn and Isles Hospital. I'm glad to say the non-stop sickness turned out to a bug he had contracted in one of the Glasgow infirmaries and of limited duration. He is now making progress.

McCaig

ISLAY LETTER

Islay gathering

CATRIONA Bell from Bridgend, and a native of Brora, was guest chairman at the Glasgow Islay Association's 148th annual gathering in Glasgow University Students' Union on March 5.

She was introduced by association president Peter Campbell and following her well-received address the former *Ileach* editor received a memento of the occasion from Bowmore schoolgirl Lauren MacColl.

Catriona, who has made a telling contribution to many aspects of the island's life since her arrival on these shores in 1957, was accompanied by her daughter Mairi and husband Donald who similarly presided at the event in

the mid 1970s. Pipers Lyndsay MacArthur and Sandy MacLellan, led by Pipe Major Nigel Morris of Islay Pipe Band, provided the opening selections, and singing the songs, to Norma MacDougall's piano accompaniments, were Mod gold medallists Mairi MacInnes, South Uist, and Mull's Alasdair Whyte. Mod silver medallist and Sgiathanach Iain MacLean added to the vocal input as did Port Ellen contralto Marion Ramsay, now busily involved in the world of classical singing.

Iona accordionist Charlie Kirkpatrick ably filled the instrumental spot with usual good humour and later joined his band members who kept everyone on their toes at the ensuing gathering dance.

The chairperson and the entertainment went down a treat with the audience and among the special guests were representatives from kindred associations, grassroots Ilich and the association's honorary patrons Professor Sir William Stewart and Lord Robertson of Port Ellen, accompanied by their wives.

Vice president Malcolm Campbell attended to the comprehensive vote of thanks and 'Soraidh leibh' brought the curtain down on another successful gathering for An Comunn Ileach.

New manager

A WELL-KNOWN figure in the local whisky industry for more than 20 years is to take up a top managerial position in Islay's newest distillery.

John MacLellan, who has been manager at the Burn Stewart Bunnahabhainn Distillery for the past 12 years, has been appointed general manager for the Kilchoman Distillery set up by Anthony Wills in the Rockside area of the island in 2005. The general manager, who hails from the Port Charlotte district, will take up his new duties at the beginning of May.

Gaelic day

THERE was a great buzz at Ionad Chaluim Chille on Friday when pupils from Bowmore Primary School's Gaelic Unit and scholars from the island high school's Gaelic department met for Latha Mòr na Gàidhlig.

Among subjects addressed by pupils and staff were the

merits of Gaelic medium education, the pros and cons of the local newspaper, favourite animals and musicians. The debate on 'Skerryvore' as opposed to 'Runrig' made telling points and the drama input from the Gaelic Unit proved entertaining.

The 'Skerryvore' musicians question and answer session was a high point of interest as was an insight into the activities of the Gaelic centre presented by members of staff. Last but by no means least was George Harrison, an American from Pennsylvania, currently studying at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, who described his interest in the Gaelic language and the resultant benefits of bilingualism. That same evening, a

number of the participating children shared the stage with the 'Skerryvore' musicians at a family concert in Ballygrant village hall.

Good wishes

EVERYONE wishes a long and happy retirement to Port Charlotte's Sandra Bell who has retired after many years service as a popular auxiliary community nurse.

This was marked by a presentation from Islay Hospital staff and island GPs. This was carried out by clinical director Dr Jean Knowles from Port Ellen.

Well done Sandra and many further happy days. Slainte!
Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43v 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

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

Oban landmark celebrates centenary

THE PROVOST, Reverend Norman MacCallum, says visitors often ask when the cathedral was bombed.

It seems the only possible explanation for the disorientating mix of styles, materials and angles in the building.

'It is a very atmospheric building,' he said. 'Lots of people come through the doors. I asked the Sunday school teachers to get a world map and to take the visitors book and to plot where people had come from - it's literally all over the world.'

Rev MacCallum returned to the parish ten years ago after a stint on the east coast. He found the reddish steel beams put up in the nave as part of the extension works in 1910 reminded

him unmistakably of the Forth Bridge. 'My favourite part of the building I think is the high altar, especially our reredos, the big hanging behind the altar,' he added.

'It depicts a scene of Christ but it's as if he appeared out at Kerrera. It is set here on the west coast and the disciples looking up, they were members of the congregation

in 1910 and I have no idea how they choose whose face would appear. I would love to know who they were and why they were chosen.'

In fact, almost everything about the fabric of the building tells the story of the community that has worshipped here since the 19th century.

The congregation that was to become St John's started to gather in Oban in 1846, when it was little more than a small fishing village. They met first in various temporary premises, including in Cawdor Place, the Caledonian Hotel and the old Masonic Hall on Argyle Square.

Amongst the parishioners were two local lairds - MacDougall of Dunollie and Campbell of Dunstaffnage - who helped to initiate plans for the congregation to have a building of its own.

The original church on the present George Street site was completed in 1864, running east to west. A parallel aisle was added at the southern side in 1882, now the cathedral's narthex, the area at the back through which you enter.

But it was not until the early 20th century that plans for a church on the much grander scale were to become a reality.

The bishop at the turn of the century, Bishop Chinnery-Haldane, favoured expanding the church and commissioned plans, but he died in 1906. The expansion plans became a memorial to him, and the congregation and the bishop's family donated money to make his vision a reality.

The detailed plans were drawn up by James Chalmers of Glasgow but he too died, in 1908, before work could begin. He proposed turning the main aisle of the church by 90 degrees, so the altar stood at the north side of the church. There would be a nave of five bays, a side chapel, a lantern tower and a bell tower at the southwest. The modest church would be transformed to a building of cathedral proportions.

The foundation stone was laid on February 3 1910. It had been delayed until Bishop Chinnery-Haldane's grandson, Alexander, reached the ripe old age of three, so he could lay the stone.

Cathedral verger Lindsay Campbell said the archives show it was a bleak and rainy day. 'I can imagine the Edwardian ladies holding their hats on,' she said.

'There were services going on in church while the building was being put up - I can imagine the kaffuffle.'

Work ploughed ahead for six months until funds were exhausted.

Only one bay of the nave and two of its arches were finished. Modern-looking steel buttresses were erected to support the new part of the building.

A spiral staircase, intended to lead up to the lantern tower that never materialised, was ordered but never installed.

It was sold in 1916 for £12 when iron was at a premium. The curve in the wall where it would have been set is still visible at the back of the cathedral.

The grand altar and the reredos, 40 feet high, were paid for by the bishop's family.

At first it seemed the work was merely postponed and would resume when more funds were found. In August 1910, the new part of the building was unveiled and a week of special celebrations and services was held. On St Columba's Day 1920, the building was formally inaugurated as a cathedral, yet it remained unfinished.

An appeal was launched in 1928 to fund the completion of the cathedral to new plans.

Mary Alice Cisco organised the Oban Cathedral Appeal Fund from Staten Island, New York, to collect subscriptions for the work, but the Wall Street Crash in 1929 wiped out the funds and hope of swift progress.

Another fund-raising drive, spearheaded by Cameron of Lochiel and Maclean of Duart, only raised sufficient money to carry out minor improvements. The floor level of the nave was raised as originally intended and



St John's muddle of angles and styles dominate the upper part of George Street. 07_t11stj02

Walk down memory lane

A TALK on the centenary will be held at St John's tomorrow, Friday, at 7.30pm, organised by Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society.

The congregation is planning a week of special events, including a flower festival, for August 2010.

Lindsay Campbell said: 'There have been lots of efforts to finish the building. I don't think we ever will now. We are stable, we go down to bedrock, we are a bit of a parable in ourselves.'

After 20 years as verger, there are still nooks and crannies that she is discovering or seeing from new angles.

It remains a special building for her: 'My favourite thing, I think, is the atmosphere. I love the woodwork and the needlework, but when you come in it is like the building gives you a hug.'

the south aisle transformed into a narthex, with a glass screen and sliding doors installed. The most recent works, to stabilise the building, were carried out in 1988, though they made little visible difference to the cathedral. This was paid for by a bequest from a couple

who honeymooned in Oban in 1910 and thought it was a shame that work on St John's had stopped.

It appears now, aside from ongoing repairs and keeping up with changing demands of health and safety, the grand plans of 100 years ago will never become a reality.



The arches and bays of the cathedral's nave were never completed. Behind the altar the spectacular 40 ft reredos can be seen. 07_t11stj05

"I love the woodwork and the needlework, but when you come in it is like the building gives you a hug."

Lindsay Campbell, Verger, St John's Cathedral.



The cathedral still has the original records of the work carried out in 1910 and efforts to complete them. 07_t11stj03



A huge crowd turned out to see three-year-old Alexander Chinnery-Haldane lay the foundation stone of the new part of the building in February 1910. The stone, to the left of the altar, is marked by a cross. 07_t11stj01

20 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday March 20 1980

Central Oban plan unveiled

TALKS about the re-development of Oban's central area, including roads, the railway station and piers, took place in town last week.

The meeting was later described as useful and fruitful, but three factors steered it away from taking major decisions: the country's financial situation; the need to give Argyll and Bute District Council further opportunity to consider how a working party's final report can tie in with the council's own Oban plan; and uncertainty about the future use of the piers, particularly by the fishing industry.

Strathclyde's ferries and piers sub-committee convened the meeting, at which the district council, British Rail and Caledonian MacBrayne were represented.

Mr John Reid, chairman of the sub-committee and of Strathclyde's highways committee, said that the working party

report embraced the configuration of roads, possible redevelopment of the railway station and maritime facilities in relation to fishing, oil/commercial and tourism interests.

It was felt by the meeting that further opportunity should be given to the district council to go into the recommendations as far as they would have an impact on the ultimate local plan being considered by the council.

One firm proposal is for the £450,000 reconstruction of the South Pier, but this depends on assurances about its future use by the fishing industry - assurances which the industry is confident it can give.

The work is due to start in the financial year 1981-82.

New Provost for St John's Cathedral

THE REV Nigel Abbott became Provost of St John's Cathedral, Oban, at the weekend in succession to the Very Rev Charles Copland.

In an impressive ceremony on Saturday, the Bishop of Argyll and The Isles, the Rt Rev George Henderson, instituted him as Rector of St John's and installed him as provost of the cathedral church.

Mr Abbott was previously vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Coventry, and hopes to develop a ministry for summer visitors as well as catering for his permanent congregation.

As part of the service of institution and installation, the new provost was led in procession to the west door, font, place of prayer in the centre aisle, lectern pulpit and finally altar.

The sermon was preached by the Rev Richard Holloway, who is leaving Old St Paul's, Edinburgh, to become rector of the Church of the Ascension in Boston, Mass.

The Very Rev G M Wilson, Dean of the Diocese, presented Mr Abbott to the bishop for installation, and Mrs Sheila Gibb handed over the keys of the cathedral to the new provost.

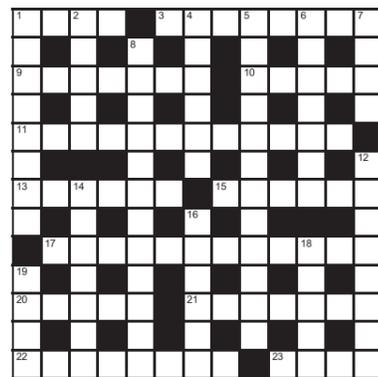
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

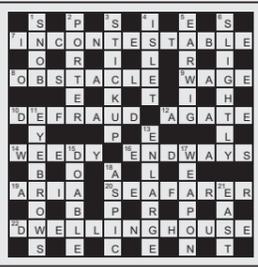
- 1 Protect (4)
- 3 Skin deep (8)
- 9 Interrelationship (7)
- 10 Brazilian dance (5)
- 11 Just for a splash about (8,4)
- 13 Tiny slit (6)
- 15 Edible white tuber (6)
- 17 Special festival day after Lent (6,6)
- 20 Avian chatterbox (5)
- 21 Found at the nose (7)
- 22 Night end (8)
- 23 Bed board (4)

Down

- 1 Home worn on the back (8)
- 2 Fleet (5)
- 4 Pleasure trip (6)
- 5 Made many (4-8)
- 6 You never know what you'll find when you put your hand in! (7)
- 7 Over-garment (4)
- 8 Where heat is removed (7,5)
- 12 Article check (8)
- 14 Uprise (7)
- 16 Secrets (6)
- 18 Drivel (5)
- 19 During (4)



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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.'

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- Modern fully fitted kitchen
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- Electric storage heating
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Budget boost for Lochaber groups

SIX LOCHABER organisations have been awarded grants from local councillors' discretionary budgets in the latest round of applications.

Lochaber Rural Education Trust - £300 for the purchase of gardening tools, equipment and seed for primary school pupils; Eigg Primary School - £300 for a film-making project; Caol in Bloom - £1,000 for the purchase of plants and fertilisers for flower beds and tubs; Lochaber Camanachd Club - £1,000 for works to improve drainage and top-dressing; Roybridge Primary School Parent Council - £300 for the purchase of laptop computers; Outdoor Capital of the UK - £2,000 towards hanging baskets for Fort William Town Centre 2010/11; Kilmallie Community Company - £2,000 contribution to community land ownership costs.

Highland youth funds handed out

SUNART Centre Youth Club has been granted £600 for its Transitions project from Highland councillors' discretionary youth funds.

Fusion Youth Space at the Nevis Centre received £1,650 towards equipment and refurbishment costs, Caol Youth Centre £2,250 for fencing, Mallaig Youth Club £500 and Mustard Seed Youth Club £400.

Cruise ship docks at Corpach

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland chartered cruise ship 'Spirit of Adventure' will dock at Corpach at 7.30am on Sunday May 16.

Passengers will spend the morning visiting National Trust for Scotland properties at Glencoe and the Glenfinnan Monument before returning to the boat for a 1pm departure and a sail down Loch Linnhe and through the Sound of Mull.

The ship will arrive at Muck at 8am the next morning.

Lochaber councillors make new robust case for nursing home

LOCHABER councillors have made a robust pitch for a new council-built and operated Invernevis nursing home to be built at Caol.

Detailed plans for the new 30-bed home had been due to go before Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee on January 19.

But Highland councillors controversially put Invernevis and four other proposed council-run homes on hold in December to re-examine costs.

Tendering was suspended for a 'business case review' - raising suspicions that the ruling Independent-LibDem-Labour coalition, which had previously promised to build the homes, was preparing to jettison the £30million programme and opt for private sector provision instead.

But Fort William and Ardnamurchan ward councillors Michael Foxley, Donald Cameron, Brian Murphy and Bren Gormley are convinced a new Invernevis is essential - and have now

presented their case to the council. They cite increasing demand, Fort William's comparative isolation, the unreliability of private sector homes and big savings on Invernevis' running costs as sound reasons for building the home.

Councillor Foxley said: 'The four councillors, representing Liberal Democrats, Labour, SNP and Independents, have worked hard together to make the very best possible case for the Highland Council to build and run the new Invernevis. This was important

to ensure value for money in the present harsh economic climate as well as ensuring that need and opportunities were fully incorporated within the plans.

'We very much want our detailed work to ensure a new Invernevis residential and nursing home is built.'

The councillors' report warns the risk of market failure in the private sector is 'high', with three homes going bust locally in the past few years.

'Currently, there are no

available private care home beds within Lochaber, with Moss Park being full. Most concerning is the increasing incidence of the number of private care homes which are closing,' it states.

Running Invernevis could be made more than 30 per cent cheaper by 're-working' excessive staff costs and saving on utilities, grocery procurement and stock management, says the report - and any comparative cost exercise with the private sector should be based on what the council

actually pays per bed for private care or in-house care, rather than on National Care Home contract rates.

The report also claims if the proposed care 60/90-bed care home at Camaghael is built, social work could end up with a bill of £1-2million when private funding runs out.

It is anticipated that the number of people with dementia in Highlands will increase from more than 3,000 to almost 7,500 in the next 20 years.



Reader Isobel MacKenzie, depute head at Lochaber High School, tells her Fort William Primary School P1/2/3 audience about the wonder of books. 10_f12book01

Visitors join pupils in book week reading fun

FORT William Primary School last week marked World Book Day with its own 'book week' when it invited members of the Lochaber community into class to read to the children.

Nurse Lynn Donoghue, Sandra

MacLean from the library, Carol Cummings from the Faith Mission and Lochaber High School head and depute head Jim Sutherland and Isobel MacKenzie all came in to encourage pupils to get into the reading habit.

P1/2/3 class teacher Rosemary Robertson said: 'We have been looking at literature and the importance of books. We have been asking people if they would come in and read their favourite childhood story.'

Skye community company raises cash to buy reservoir

By STEPHEN NORRIS

AN ISLE of Skye community company has raised all the money needed to buy a local reservoir it hopes could be developed for hydroelectric power - three weeks ahead of schedule.

Sleat-based Camuscross and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) had been given until April 4 by Scottish Ministers to find £6,475 to purchase Allt Duisdeil reservoir from Scottish Water.

CDI directors submitted a detailed funding bid to a public body in January and was delighted when it was awarded the full amount.

The cash windfall means CDI will only have to find a few hundred pounds for conveyancing fees to complete the purchase.

CDI director Graeme MacKenzie said he was unable to name the public body which provided the money to buy Allt Duisdeil until the necessary paperwork required to rubber stamp the grant is complete. He added:



Graeme MacKenzie: 'delighted'

'Scottish Water has agreed to a two-month extension of the deadline to purchase the reservoir, originally April 4, in order that the Controlled Activities Regulations (CAR) licence issued by SEPA and currently held by Scottish Water, can be transferred to the community.'

Once the deal is sealed, CDI can begin work on a study into the feasibility and cost of installing hydroelectric infrastructure, including piping, a turbine and cabling, to produce power for local homes. Costs of doing so are likely to far exceed the purchase price but power produced from renewable sources currently attracts substantial government subsidies.

Micro-hydro schemes are also actively being encouraged by the Scottish Government.

Mr MacKenzie said: 'We're delighted with recent developments to acquire

Allt Duisdeil for the local community.'

Camuscross and Duisdale people voted 96 per cent in favour of buying Allt Duisdale in January. The one-hectare lochan, which lies on a hillside above the main A851 Armadale to Broadford road at Isleornsay, was priced at £6,475 by Scottish Government-appointed valuers CKD Galbraith.

Plockton teams in top 150

TWO TEAMS from Plockton High School have narrowly missed out on qualifying for a young investors competition.

'Computers4U' - Mattie Ross, Becky Inch, Kieran Murray and Lisa Rollo - and 'Kash Kids' - Cameron MacKenzie, Ross Gordon, Keaten Robertson and Callum Scobie - came 30th and 35th respectively out of 1,800 schools in the Scotland, Northern Ireland and Northern England section of the School of Finance Student Investor competition.

UK-wide, both Plockton teams were in the top 150 out of 7,500 participating schools, which were each given £100,000 of virtual cash to invest in the FTSE 100. 'It was a brilliant performance,' Plockton High School business management teacher David O'Neil said.



Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust chairman John Hutchison, David Stewart MSP, Eigg resident Lucy Conway and NESTA's Graham Downie at the reception.

Eigg islanders congratulated for success in Big Green Challenge

THE ISLE of Eigg has had its winning efforts to claim a share of a £1million green award recognised at a reception in the Scottish Parliament.

The event, arranged by Highlands and Islands Labour MSP David Stewart, saw the island community congratulated for winning £300,000 in the Big Green Challenge, run by the National Endowment for Science Technology and the Arts (NESTA).

The competition was staged to encourage community-based solutions for tackling climate change.

Mr Stewart said: 'In just one year, the community on Eigg reduced carbon emissions by 32 per cent.'

'This is remarkable since the Scottish Government target by 2020 is for a 42 per cent reduction. Eigg made huge progress towards that in just one year.'

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Kilmallie mothers and toddlers had a great time in the Dolphin Pool.

Mum's 'splashing' idea raises £400

KILMALLIE mothers and toddlers group is always looking for new fund-raising ideas so when Tomonie mum Margaret Dunlop suggested a 'sponsored splash' they jumped at the chance.

A short phone call booked the Dolphin Pool at Lochaber Leisure Centre and around 25 mums and toddlers enjoyed an hour away from the cold outside in the soothing warm water.

Margaret said for many it was their first time in the pool.

'Everybody loved it and a lot said they would go back, which was great,' she said.

The sponsored splash raised more than £400. The group, for mums with children aged three and under, meets in Kilmallie Hall every Thursday morning from 10am to 11.45am.

Lochaber school closure consultations

HIGHLAND Council is to carry out statutory consultations to close two Lochaber schools it considers are no longer educationally viable.

Achaphuil on Locheilside and Glenborrodale in Ardnamurchan have been mothballed for some time as a result of falling rolls and the council is now proposing formal closures.

Achaphuil last had children through its doors in 2007, while Glenborrodale has been out of use since 2001. It is also planned Uig Primary School on Skye should close as the roll will reduce to only one pupil in August. The condition of the school is considered to be poor. Nearby Kilmuir Primary School, says the council, offers greater educational opportunities.

Borrodale Primary on Skye, mothballed since 2007, is also earmarked for closure.

The outcome of the consultations, which will run for six weeks, will be reported to the education, culture and sport committee in August and will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Schools Consultation (Scotland) Act 2010.

Portree Rotary Club looks forward to power station talk

PORTREE and District Rotary Club's guest speaker at its meeting in Portree on March 30 will be Bill Ramsay, who will give a talk and photographic presentation on the building of the Storr Lochs hydroelectric power station in 1952.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact club vice president Jan Nicolson on 07748 977699 or j.n.almondbank@btconnect.com.

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New contest for young filmmakers

YOUNG filmmakers in the Highlands are being given the chance to call 'lights, cameras, action' with the launch of a new competition. Highland Council's Waste Aware team is inviting 11-16 year olds to use their creativity and imagination to come up with an original storyline for a short film to promote waste recycling. The winning group will get the chance to work with a professional production company to produce their film, which will be shown throughout the Highlands at a variety of venues. The competition is open to secondary schools and youth groups with a maximum of two entries each. Closing date for the competition is Friday May 7.

Highlands to get own Monopoly game

THE HIGHLANDS is to get its very own customised and official Monopoly game - with streets and landmarks chosen by the region's residents. People will be asked to vote for Highland landmarks and institutions to replace the celebrated London Monopoly streets over the next few weeks. The new game, tipped to be a massive tourism boost for the region, will see more than 30 Highland and Inverness landmarks replacing the likes of 'Mayfair', 'Old Kent Road' and 'Whitehall' - and may appear in both English and Gaelic. To vote, email monopoly@winningmoves.co.uk. Polls close at 10am on Friday April 2.

Trading Standards warn against scam

WESTERN Isles Council Trading Standards officers are warning B&B and self-catering operators not to be conned by a scam. An operator receives an enquiry for an unusually long booking, then a cheque or bankers draft arrives for a much larger sum than quoted for. The operator is then told of the 'mistake' and is asked to send back a cheque for the difference. When the operator subsequently tries to cash the original cheque it fails and he is left out of pocket. A spokesperson said: 'This scam has been doing the rounds for some time, but each year, unfortunately, some people get conned.'

Food and drink forum helps businesses

HIGHLANDS and Islands Food and Drink Forum will host a workshop in Inverness next Wednesday for businesses looking to become more environmentally friendly and cost-efficient. The free event at Inverness Caledonian Thistle FC will offer advice on reducing costs of raw materials, energy, transport, water, packaging and waste disposal, and starts at 5.30pm.

Bilingual after school fun at Plockton

THE GAELIC department at Plockton High School has been successful in securing funding for a programme of bilingual after school activities. The programme, which covers football, shinty, crafts, cookery, badminton, piping and drumming is now well underway and is proving a great success. Visting Gaelic-speaking specialists, funded by Bòrd na Gàidhlig, are providing tuition.



Acharacle pupils show off the glass artwork window in the community corridor.

Display of artworks of local and national significance is icing on the cake for £6m community building

Delight as innovative art project centres on Acharacle school

AN INNOVATIVE project to place artworks of local and national significance in the new Acharacle Community Primary School is almost complete. Local artists, pupils and community groups joined forces to produce commissioned pieces including paintings, glass artworks, ceramics, sculptures and textiles for permanent display throughout the school which also boasts a temporary exhibition area. The imaginative works represent the icing on the cake for the specially designed £6million building, which opened last May to widespread acclaim. The school is built almost entirely from wood to the highest European standards and incorporates radical design principles based on low or zero energy use. The artworks fit that theme, with local and recycled materials widely used to create pieces which reflect the local Gaelic culture and landscape. Rosbheinn-based ceramic artist Helen Michie has been working with community organisations to create sculptural ceramic pieces, while teaching a variety of techniques and firing methods. **Storytelling** Portrait painter Andrew Sinclair, based at Resipol, has created an oil painting based on the tradition of storytelling, assisted by local historian and storyteller Angus Peter Maclean. Acharaclepupilsarehelping Rosbheinn-based Rob Fairley produce beautifully designed notice boards using collected recycled materials, and are assisting Acharacle landscape photographer

Andy Lock with a huge panel of photography reflecting local landscapes. Ardnamurchan-based ceramic artist Maureen Minchin is creating hand made and drawn ceramic tiles illustrating the Sunart Oakwoods, Resipol mountain and other local scenes, while stained-glass artist Emma Butler-Cole Aiken, who has Kinlochmoidart connections, created a Gaelic poetry-themed glass artwork in the community corridor. Janette Borwick, based at Glenborrodale, is making portraits of each child in felt and has created a series of panels to present a colourful and fun display for the classroom corridor. Head teacher Lyndsay Bradley told *The Oban Times*: 'The project means the children have had a fantastic opportunity to work with a whole range of local artists. They have used new skills and have been really inspired by the commissioned pieces, which have personalised the building through their links to the local area and culture.' Freelance arts co-ordinator Ali Berardelli, from Torlundy, is leading the project which is funded by LEADER, Highland Council, McGregor's Construction Limited, Acharacle Community Primary School, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Councillor Michael Foxley's discretionary budget. Councillor Foxley said: 'I am always very keen to see local art in our public buildings. Ali and I have worked hard to assemble the funding package and our local artists worked very closely with the pupils and staff of our new community school to develop their material. The results are beautiful and a real asset to the area.'

Lochaber Music Festival hits the high notes

THE 36th Lochaber Music Festival (LMS) continued on Monday with speech classes in Duncansburgh Hall, singing and group music-making in Fort William RC Primary School and string classes in the evening at Lochside Primary School. Tuesday and Wednesday morning saw a full programme of music, speech and dancing classes all day. Some of the best festival highlights will feature tonight (Thursday) in the Grand Festival Concert at Kilmallie Hall, Corpach, at 7pm. Trophies will be presented at the end of the concert. This year's festival has been notable for the number of high quality performances, LMS honorary secretary Ian Strachan told *The Oban Times*. 'The standard has been really high and this has been reflected in the difficulty the adjudicators had when they came to choosing the premier award winner. There were quite a number of 'outstanding' marks given.'



Left to right, accordion solo elementary winner Liam Stewart Stevenson, chanter solo 10 and under winner Finlay Cameron, bagpipe solo third year piobaireachd winner Sandy Cameron and John Stewart Stevenson, second in the violin solo (Scots) beginners class. 10_f12music05



Solo chanter 12 and under winner Michelle MacKinnon, front right, with adjudicator Archie MacLean and runners-up, from left, Ally Weir, Sarah Clelland, Angus Anderson, Celise Cameron and Thomas Dempsey. 10_f12music01



Right: Bagpipe solo piobaireachd own choice winners Lean Philip, second year, and Lee-Anne Russell, first year. 10_f12music02



Violin solo (Scots) elementary winner Frances Oliver with Leigh MacGillivray, left, and Eilidh Ann MacLennan, right, who were joint third in the class. 10_f12music04



Left: Syeda Chowdhury of Lochaber Music School, winner of the clarsach solo (beginners) class at Lochside RC Primary School on Saturday. 10_f12music07



Rebecca Hill from Connel - Clarsach solo (advanced) winner and Premier Scots Traditional Instrumental Award runner-up. 10_f12music06

Results

Results for March 12-13. 'Outstanding' performances of 90+ marks are shown with an asterisk:

Chanter: Age 10 and Under: 1 Finlay Cameron, 2 Wallace Dempster, 3 Kayleigh MacMillan. Age 12 and Under: 1 Michelle MacKinnon, 2 Ally Weir, 3 Sarah Clelland. Age 13 and Over: 1 Rachel MacGillivray, 2 Megan Fraser.

Piping: Novice - March: 1 Laura Paterson, 2 Rebecca Shearer. Intermediate - March: 1 Roslyn Oliver, 2 Lee-Anne Russell, 3 Ewen MacQueen. Age 15 and Under - March: 1 Sandy Cameron*, 2 Andrew Hepburn, 3 Kayleigh Graham. Age 15 and Under - Strathspey and Reel: 1 Andrew Hepburn, 2 Rebecca Robertson, 3 Leah Philip. Ages 16 to 18 - March, Strathspey and Reel: 1 James Rosie*, 2 Pamela MacLeod, 3 Lisa MacInnes. 1st Year Piobaireachd: 1 Lee-Anne Russell, 2 Ewan MacQueen. 2nd Year Piobaireachd: 1 Leah Philip, 2 Rebecca Robertson. 3rd Year Piobaireachd: 1 Sandy Cameron*. Senior Piobaireachd: 1 James Rosie.

Age 18 and Under - Jig: 1 James Rosie*, 2 Sandy Cameron*, 3 Andrew Hepburn. Bagpipe Quartet - 18 Years and Under: 1 Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band Quartet B, 2 LSPB Quartet A.

Scots Violin: Beginners: 1 Alistair MacRae, 2 Mary Ellen McIntyre and John Stewart-Stevenson. Elementary: 1 Frances Oliver, 2 Megan MacPherson, 3 Eilidh Ann MacLennan and Leigh MacGillivray. Advanced: 1 Euan Wilkie, 2 Hannah MacRae, 3 Kayleigh MacDonald.

Accordion: Beginners: 1 Lewis Robertson. Elementary: 1 Liam Stewart-Stevenson, 2 Ronan Cameron. Intermediate: 1 Ruari Edmond.

Clarsach: Beginners: 1 Syeda Chowdhury, 2 Sammy White, 3 Niamh Burns and Ruby Tilling. Elementary: 1 Roslin Wilkinson, 2 Emma MacFatrige. Intermediate: 1 Isabelle Tilling, 2 Heather MacBeth and Niamh Henderson. Advanced: 1 Rebecca Hill*, 2 Helena Rose*, 3 Pieternel Baak and Jessica Barker.

Solo Singing with Self Accompaniment - Secondary: 1 Rebecca Hill.

Folk Groups: Age 17 and Under: 1 Buidhinn Feis Lochaber. Adult: 1 The MacKillops of Loch Treig.

Premier Scots Traditional Music Award: Winner - James Rosie (Bagpipes). Runners up - Rebecca Hill (Clarsach), Euan Wilkie (Scots Violin) and Ruari Edmond (Accordion).

Trophy winners: Alec MacDonald Memorial Quaich: James Rosie. DCB Maitland Memorial Findlay Memorial Trophy: Euan Wilkie. Lydia Jackson Trophy: Rebecca Hill. Lochaber Cup for Chanter: Finlay Cameron. William MacLeod Trophy: Michelle MacKinnon. Kenny Nicholson Memorial Trophy: Laura Paterson. David MacGregor Cup: Roslyn Oliver. Archie Kennedy Memorial Trophy: Sandy Cameron. Alexander MacDonald Cup: Andrew Hepburn. James Grace Memorial Trophy: James Rosie. Ewan MacRae Trophy: Lee-Anne Russell. Lochaber Piping Society Trophy: Leah Philip. David MacGregor Trophy: Sandy Cameron. John MacCallum Trophy: James Rosie. Lochaber Pipe Band Trophy: James Rosie. Alec MacDonald Memorial Trophy: Lochaber Schools' Pipe Band Quartet B.

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Diesel, Ultra Blue, 5 door, 08 reg, 43,000 miles, PAS, ABS, Central Locking, CD/Radio, recent full service, new discs/pods, taxed Nov 2010, Excellent Condition

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Absolutely stunning car in very good condition and perfect working order, gun-metal grey metallic with grey leather interior, 18" alloys, CD player, beamto brackets, stainless steel exhaust, aircon etc. Only 31,000 miles from new Oct 05, never thrashed and well looked after. 276hp but 30mpg (almost). Taxed and tested, professionally wax-oiled.

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77,000 miles, X reg, Petrol, Manual, Electric sunroof, windows and mirrors, New timing belt, New tyres, 12 months tax, 9 months MOT, Good condition.

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07 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab pick-up, 4wd, cd, met silver, 19k £8,950

07 MITSUBISHI L200 4Life, double cab pick-up, elpack, cd, load liner, met silver, 20k £8,950

07 MITSUBISHI L200 Club Cab pick-up, 4wd, cd, black, 40k £9,450

07 MITSUBISHI L200 Club Cab pick-up, 4wd, load liner, cd, white, 40k £9,450

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab, met grey, leather, canopy, 27k £11,450

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick-up, full spec, elpack, alloys, silver £9,950

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Trojan double cab pick-up, canopy, leather, full spec, £8,450

06 MITSUBISHI L200 Trojan double cab pick-up, leather, full spec, black, 50k £8,450

06 MITSUBISHI L200, cd, double cab pick-up, white, 29k £8,950

03 MITSUBISHI L200 4Life, double cab pick-up, full spec, new Goodrich tyres, cd, black £4,750

09 NISSAN Navara Outlaw double cab pick-up, full spec, alloys, air con, met grey 29k £12,900

07 NISSAN Navara De Haven double cab pick-up, canopy, full spec, leather, 6 speed manual, grey £11,750

07 NISSAN Navara Outlaw double cab pick-up, full spec, alloys, cruise control, black, 50k £10,450

07 NISSAN Navara King Cab pick-up, silver, alloys, air con, £9,050

05 NISSAN Navara Outlaw King cab pick-up, elpack, cruise control, silver 60k £7,950

07 FORD Ranger, single cab pick-up, 4WD, new straps, silver, canopy, £8,450

05 FORD Transit 350 crew cab tipper, alloy body, towbar, dark blue £8,950

05 FORD Ranger, Super Cab pick-up, 2WD, 19k, as new £9,950

06 FORD Transit 220 van, panel van, 100 hp, cd player, dark blue £5,250

04 FORD Transit 350 crew cab tipper, 113hp, alloy body, small hatch, towbar, white 50k choice £9,250

06 MERCEDES Sprinter 311 CDI LWB crew van, new shape, 6 speed, rear windows, white £8,950

06 Mercedes Sprinter 311cdi, mab crew van, 5 seater, storage area, white £8,950

05 MERCEDES 311 CDI 12 Seat Mini Bus, mab, high roof, 60k, white £7,950

07 SANTANA Station Wagon crew cab, SP10 LWB, met blue, 9k, no vax £8,950

07 SANTANA Station Wagon - SP10 LWB, 9 seater, 18k, no vax £8,950

08 NEW HOLLAND 55 wheeled tractor, 4 in 1 bucket, 4 wd, 4200 hrs, very clean, £14,950

03 DAEWOO DLS602, Skid Steer, 2 High bucket, 400 hours, very clean £7,950

05 LDV Convey LWB high top, 17 seat luxury mini coach, overhead storage, tinted glass, white, very rare £7,950

05 NEW HOLLAND TC21 compact tractor, 4wd hid mid mount mower + welderman grass collector 350 hrs £8,950

Many other vehicles in stock. All above vehicles plus VAT at 17.5%

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**Comhairle Chontae Dhun na nGall
Donegal County Council**
Wish to recruit for the following post:-

PROJECT MANAGER

Donegal County Council, in conjunction with Project Partners on the INTERREG IVA Sail West Project, has been awarded funding from the European Union's European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVA Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) for the implementation of the Sail West Project. The Sail West project aims to develop and improve marine tourism links between Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

Salary:

The post of Project Manager will be analogous to a Grade VII (Administrative Officer) for pay and related purposes. The salary scale for a Grade VII post is currently €47,013-€61,418.

Timeframe:

Specific purpose contracts will be offered to the successful candidates on the basis that it is anticipated that contracts will run to October 2013.

Applicants may be shortlisted for interview on the basis of information supplied on or with their application form with regard to qualifications, training undertaken and experience of relevance and value.

Particulars of the posts, including job specifications and application forms can be obtained by sending a Self Stamped Addressed Envelope (9" x 7") to Human Resources, Donegal County Council, County House, Lifford, Co. Donegal, by emailing amartin@donegalcoco.ie or by accessing www.donegalcoco.ie.

Closing Date for receipt of completed application forms:

4p.m. on Friday 9th April 2010

Date of Interview: Tuesday 4th May 2010

Donegal County Council is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



The Special EU Programmes Body is the Managing Authority for the European Union's INTERREG IVA Programme.



Harness Nature's Power

**Wind Farm Site Managers
Campbeltown / Lochgilphead area**

Salary: Negotiable, benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme, medical and life insurance. Full or Part time basis considered.

The B9 Energy group of Companies operates and maintains a number of renewable energy projects across the UK and Ireland, and is currently the largest independent wind farm operation and maintenance Company in the UK. Due to expansion, we wish to appoint a wind farm site manager in the Campbeltown area. The position is primarily for a wind farm in the Kintyre area of Scotland.

The principal duty of a Wind Farm Site Manager is the local, on site management of the windfarm Owner's operational risks, be they technical, safety, environmental, etc. The site manager will be supported in the delivery of this function by the company's wider supporting structure and resources.

Typical duties will include:

- Managing & controlling all work on site
- Co-ordinating all planned and unplanned maintenance, inspection and repair
- Inspecting contractors' documentation such as risk assessments, method statements, lifting plans.
- Identification and management of critical spares
- Implementing the site Health Safety and Environmental plans
- Maintaining site emergency plan
- Carrying out site inspections & routine site safety & behavioural audits
- Reporting and investigating all accidents/incidents
- Maintaining records such as environmental compliance, accident/incident reports, statutory inspections, PPE inspections
- Co-ordinating and liaising with the windfarm owner and representatives.
- Site reporting, daily, monthly, annually

Candidates should have experience in engineering / technical management environment, if possible. In addition, a full driving licence is also essential due to the site locations as is a reasonable degree of physical fitness, as the successful candidate must be able to climb wind turbines as part of the on-site quality obligations, as part of their overall management duties. Proficiency with computer use is essential - Microsoft Office and preferably some asset management software experience.

An application form and additional information can be obtained from the company's website www.b9energy.co.uk or by applying in writing or telephoning

The Personnel Department
B9 Energy O&M Ltd
Willowbank Road, Millbrook Industrial Estate
Larne, Co. Antrim BT40 2SF
Tel: 028 2826 3900

The closing date for completed applications is Friday 2 April 2010.



Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of farmed Atlantic salmon with 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. We are currently looking for a skilled and highly motivated individual to lead our engineering team based at Barcaldine, near Oban.

MULTI-SKILLED ENGINEER

(Salary in the region of £30k)

The ideal candidate will have a recognised qualification in mechanical engineering with experience of small engines and plant, hydraulics, fork lift trucks and lifting gear.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate competences in planned maintenance programmes and record keeping, cost-effective spares procurement and stock control. It is essential that all tasks are completed in a professional manner with H&S requirements and good house-keeping practices underpinning all activities.

As team leader, good communication and interaction with other team members is essential. We expect the successful applicant to be a self starter, highly motivated and with a positive attitude.

Scottish Sea Farms operates and maintains a fleet of 17 coded workboats within this area and therefore relevant marine engineering experience would be a key advantage.

All applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence.

Application packs can be obtained from:

Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com

Closing Date: **Friday 02 April 2010**



ACHA - Putting Tenants First.

Committed to creating home and places across Argyll & Bute where people want to live. Can you help us achieve that vision?

Customer Services Assistant (2 posts)

Lochgilphead & Oban
Salary Grade 7 £15,399 - £17,111 **35 hours per week**
Temporary contracts to 30th June 2011

You are required to hold 3 Standard Grades or equivalent and/or a secretarial or administrative qualification, along with relevant work experience and aptitude.

Modern Apprenticeship - Finance Team

Lochgilphead
Salary Grade 8 (£12,740 - £14,014 per annum) **35 hours per week**

The Association is keen to provide a Modern Apprenticeship in business administration and numeracy. The duties of this post will involve administrative tasks as well as studying towards a Scottish Vocational Qualification up to Level 3.

For further information and a recruitment pack:

Go to the Recruitment section of the Association's website at www.acha.co.uk;

Email fiona.connor@acha.co.uk; or

Contact the HR & Corporate Services Department, 63/65 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX, Tel No 01546 604098.

Closing Date for Applications:

12 noon on Friday 6 April 2010

Interviews will be in April.

ACHA welcomes applications from all sections of the community and is committed to promoting equal opportunities. This post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.



Scottish Sea Farms is the UK's leading producer of farmed Atlantic salmon throughout the West Coast and Northern Isles of Scotland. Many of these Salmon are processed, for our customers, through our ultra-modern filleting plant at South Shian, Oban. Due to steady growth of product, we are looking to recruit a:

FILLETING TEAM LEADER

Reporting to the Filleting Manager, the Team Leader will form a supportive role with the existing supervisory team and to assist with the smooth and efficient operation of the department. The successful candidate will demonstrate a mature approach to responsibility and be able to lead others by example in all aspects of hygiene and health and safety.

This role is very much "hands on" and will involve constant line monitoring to keep production moving and reporting of performance through computerised production packages. Also, the role will support the training and coaching of other team members so good people skills, self-motivation, and confidence are essential characteristics.

Previous operational experience of high-speed, high-volume processing within a similar working environment would be an advantage and would be built upon further with a full training programme.

If you are interested and confident that you can fulfil this role and wish to receive an application pack, then please apply to:

Application packs can be obtained from:

Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com

Closing Date: **Friday 2 April 2010**



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. Based at Mallaig, we are now looking to recruit a member of staff to our Loch Nevis farming team.

MARINE HUSBANDRYMAN

Ideally, the candidate will be experienced in aquaculture and fish welfare, but consideration will also be given to those applicants who offer relevant, transferrable skills and be prepared to take on further training. A high standard of workmanship is a must, as well as enthusiasm to accept new challenges within a dynamic and supportive team structure. In return we will offer an excellent salary and benefits package.

All applicants are required to have a full, clean drivers licence.

Application packs can be obtained from:

Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or email claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com

Closing Date: **Friday 02 April 2010**



Hire Desk Co-ordinator

Based: Oban Salary: Excellent

You will be the first point of contact for all customers contacting the John MacLachlan Group. You will deal with sales enquiries, contribute to the preparation of quotations and schedule deliveries via our computerised systems. Ideally you will have a construction/building supply industry background, a positive, customer orientated approach and the ability to work under pressure in a busy, dynamic and fun environment.

On offer is an excellent salary and benefits package together with the opportunity for career development. Interested -please email your CV and salary details to susan@jmaclachlangroup.co.uk.

DMS, the market leader in Mortgage Arrears Counselling require Self Employed

Experienced Field Agents in the local area. The successful applicant will be professional with arrears experience and an excellent TCF approach. For details please call Alison Hogarth on 01635 517013

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Oban Times RECRUITMENT



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**

Due to expansion the Floorshop Oban Ltd are seeking a motivated Salesperson

This is a full time permanent position
Please apply in writing to the Floorshop,
12 Mill Lane, Oban, PA34 4HA.



**JC & IM Duncan BDS
Dental Practice**
14 Cross St
Campbeltown
Argyll
PA28 6HU

Dental Nurse required (part-time).

Experience preferred but not essential.
Applications in writing, enclosing CV to the above.

Closing date for applications: **31/03/10.**

ARGYLL INN

Full time experienced cook/ chef required

Salary negotiable
Please phone Kelly between 10am - 11am
Telephone **01546 602221**



CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Nursery Teacher (Gaelic)
Tollcross Primary School, EH3,
£20,937 - £33,399, 35 hours per week. Ref: EDN1116

Primary Teacher (Gaelic)
Tollcross Primary School, EH3,
£20,937 - £33,399, 35 hours per week. Ref: EDN1117

Closing Date: 2 April 2010

To find out more and apply go to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs.

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www.edinburgh.gov.uk/jobs

Cleaning Supervisor

Required for prestigious retail outlet in Fort William 6.00am - 9.00am 6/7 days £7.25 p/h
Please call **0141 587 0700** for interview quoting Ref: 4005s

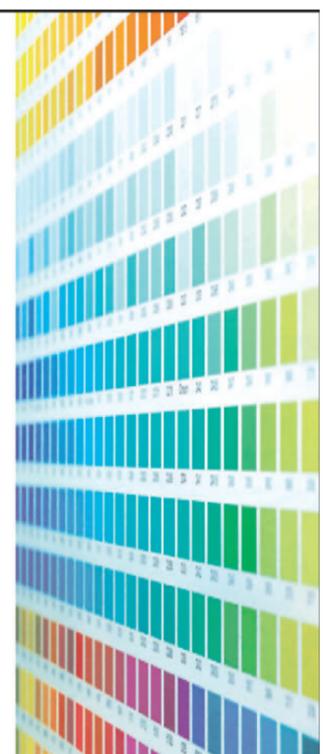
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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES



Argyll & Bute Citizens Advice Bureau Administrative Assistant

Salary: General Grade 2 £14,241 pro rata + 6% pension
Hours: 15 per week over 3 days
Based: Lochgilphead

Motivated person required to co-ordinate the bureau's clerical & administrative systems. Excellent written and oral skills essential as is an ability to work as part of a team.

Further information and application packs: Tel. 01546 605551 or info@abcab.org.uk

Closing date: 7th April 2010
Interviews: 16th April 2010

Scottish Charity No: SC030477

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, 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
10/01134/FUL	29 Abroch Road Inverloch Fort William PH33 6LZ	Single storey extension in garden ground to rear of two storey terrace dwelling house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01164/PIP	Land 140m South West of 2 Bohenie Roy Bridge	Proposed house site. Demolition of existing storage building.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/00044/PI/PO	Land 70m North of 2 Glenculish Ballochulish	Erection of house	Ballochulish Post Office (14 days)
10/01165/PIP	Land 40m South of Banada Upper Inverroy Roy Bridge	Proposed house site	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01174/PIP	Land 50 Metres West Of Bay View, Ardho Acharacle	Proposed house site	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01175/PIP	Land North West of Bay View, Ardho Acharacle	Proposed house site	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01176/FUL	Land East of 8 Clovullin Ardour	Demolition of garage and erection of residential annex. Amendment to 07/00465/FULLO	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01179/FUL	Yallung Duror, Appin PA38 4BS	Alterations and extension to dwelling house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01206/FUL	Glen View Duisky, Fort William PH33 7AW	Remove existing tin clad cottage and erect single storey timber frame house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01072/FUL	Woodlands 22 Achintore Road Fort William, PH33 6RW	Deletion of Condition 14 of Planning Permission 07/00486/FULLO	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01123/FUL	Argive Transmitting Station Acharacle	Installation of 2 x yagi antennas on the existing tower coupled with the removal of 2 x yagi antennas and 1 x gpus antenna	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01112/PIP	Land 110m East of Woodside Cottage Glen Borrodale Acharacle	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01083/FUL	Loch Lochy 1.4km North East Of Muarum Gairloch Spean Bridge	Variation of condition 1 of planning permission 10/1994/254 and non compliance with conditions 2,3,5 and 6	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Planning and Development Service
eplanning@Highland1, PO Box 5740, The Highland Council, Inverness IV1 9DH

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

- Ref No: 09/01764/LUB**
Applicant: Ms Sarah H. Troughton
Proposal: Installation of a steel framed window
Site Address: Ardechtan Priory, Ardechtan, Oban, Argyll and Bute, PA37 1RQ
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00399/PP**
Applicant: MacDougall of Dunollie Preservation Trust
Proposal: Formation of car park
Site Address: Land South East Of Dunollie House, Ganavan Road, Oban, Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

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, 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 08/04/2010

- Ref No: 10/00229/PPP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Van Rhyen
Proposal: Site for the erection of dwellinghouse with sewage treatment plant and soakaway
Site Address: Land South West Of Torlochan Byre, Gruline, Isle of Mull, Argyll And Bute, PA71 6HR
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Salen
- Ref No: 10/00234/PP**
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Robin Grey
Proposal: Erection of two detached dwellings and associated works.
Site Address: Land At Elerag, West Of Loch Tralaig, Kilmiver, Argyll
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00292/PP**
Applicant: Marti and Iona Larg
Proposal: Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and septic tank
Site Address: Land North West Of Harbour House, Milton, Isle of Tiree
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00314/PP**
Applicant: Mrs Penny Dixon
Proposal: Upgrading existing access
Site Address: 1 Keil Croft, Benderloch, PA37 1QS
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/00379/PP**
Applicant: Oban Marina Ltd
Proposal: Renewal of planning permission reference 08/00201/DET for the further retention of tension canopy for a period of 2 years and use for up to 6 months per year.
Site Address: Oban Marina, Ardairive Bay, Isle of Kerrera, Argyll and Bute, PA34 4SX
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST.

An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk

A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

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

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT PENNYGATE LODGE, CRAIGNURE, ISLE OF MULL, ARGYLL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 24/09

Take notice that the above Authority in terms of the powers conferred upon them by Section 161 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has confirmed the above Tree Preservation Order which took effect on 3rd February 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

Susan Mair, Head of Legal and Protective Services



PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AT GLENBORRODALE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
Monday 3 May 2010	6.00 pm	Acharacle Primary School

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper, in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the relevant statutory requirements of appropriate legislation, regarding a proposal to change the provision of education at Glenborrodale Primary School, by closing the school and extending the delineated area of Acharacle Primary School to encompass the community of Glenborrodale.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss with parents of children and members of the community who may in the future be affected by the above.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from Mrs Rosemary Bridge, Senior Education Officer, ECS Offices, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NE, to whom written observations must be submitted no later than **Monday 17th May 2010**.



PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN GREATER FORT WILLIAM - CAOL, LOCHYSIDE RC AND FORT WILLIAM RC PRIMARIES

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
Monday 26th April 2010	7.00 pm	Council Chambers, Lochaber House, Fort William

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper, in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the relevant statutory requirements of appropriate legislation, regarding a proposal to change the provision of education in Greater Fort William. It is proposed to build a new Caol Primary School and to merge Lochside RC and Fort William RC Primaries on a new Roman Catholic campus, both on the site of the current Caol Primary School.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss the proposals with parents of children and members of the community who may in the future be affected by the above.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from Mrs Rosemary Bridge, Senior Education Officer, ECS Offices, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NE, to whom written observations must be submitted no later than **Monday 17th May 2010**.



PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION IN GREATER FORT WILLIAM AREA (FORT WILLIAM AND UPPER ACHINTORE PRIMARIES)

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
Tues 27 April 2010	7.00 pm	Council Chambers, Lochaber House, Fort William

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper, in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the relevant statutory requirements of appropriate legislation, regarding a proposal to amalgamate Fort William Primary School and Upper Achintore Primary School in a new school on a site yet to be identified.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss the proposal with parents of children and members of the community who may in the future be affected by the above.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from Mrs Rosemary Bridge, Senior Education Officer, ECS Offices, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 7NE to whom written observations must be submitted no later than **17 May 2010**.



PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE PROVISION OF EDUCATION AT ACHAPHUBUIL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Date of Meeting	Time	Venue
Monday 3 May 2010	8.00 pm	Treslaig Village Hall

The Highland Council has issued a Consultative Paper, in terms of the Education Authority's agreed procedure to meet the relevant statutory requirements of appropriate legislation, regarding a proposal to change the provision of education at Achaphubuil Primary School, by closing the school and realigning the existing delineated area of the school between Banavie Primary and Ardour Primary.

Arrangements have been made for representatives of the Education Authority to discuss with parents of children and members of the community who may in the future be affected by the above.

Copies of the paper may be obtained from Mrs Rosemary Bridge, Senior Education Officer, ECS Offices, Camaghael Hostel, Camaghael, Fort William, PH33 7NE, to whom written observations must be submitted no later than **Monday 17th May 2010**.

AM BLÀR MÒR PRE-APPLICATION PUBLIC EVENT

Town and County Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by
The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)
(Scotland) Regulations 2008 (Regulation 7(2)(b))

Miller Developments has commenced work on a masterplan for the Blar Mhor / Corpach Moss site in Fort William, with the intention of submitting an application for planning permission in principle in the summer of 2010. This application will include a variety of uses, namely Shops (Use Class 1), Financial & Professional Services (Class 2), Food & Drink (Class 3), Business (Class 4), General Industrial (Class 5), Storage & Distribution (Class 6), Hotel (Class 7), Residential Institution (Class 8), Houses (Class 9), Non-Residential Institution (Class 10), Assembly & Leisure (Class 11) and Sui Generis (Police Station), plus associated roads, junctions, servicing, drainage, landscaping & infrastructure.

A public exhibition will be held at the Ben Nevis Hotel & Leisure Club on the following dates:
Thursday 25th March - 1pm to 9pm
Friday 26th March - 10am to 8pm
Saturday 27th March - 9am to 1pm

If you wish to obtain further information, or make comments on these proposals, interested parties can either:

- Attend the public meeting above OR
- Send an email to blarmhor@miller.co.uk OR
- Visit our website at www.millerdevelopments.co.uk/fortwilliam.aspx OR
- Write to Colin Graham at Miller House, 2 Lochside View, Edinburgh EH12 9DH OR
- Call us on 0870 336 5283

Comments must be received no later than 8th June 2010. It is our intention to hold at least one other public event in May before an application is submitted.

Please note that all comments must be sent to the above address and are not representations to The Highland Council. An opportunity to make representations to the Council will exist when a formal application is made.



Oban Times Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES PUBLIC NOTICES



NOTICE OF CHANGES TO THE STRATHCLYDE CONCESSIONARY TRAVEL SCHEME

SPT Subway services - from 1 April 2010, the basic concessionary fare will increase to 60p single and £1 return. First ScotRail services within the Strathclyde area - from 23 May 2010, the basic concessionary fare will increase to 60p single and £1 return. Please note there is no change to the 50% discount available to concessionary cardholders for rail fares on journeys over 10 miles. Ferry services within the Strathclyde area - from 1 April 2010, a basic concessionary fare on ferry services of 60p single and £1 return will be introduced and will be available to FerryCard holders only.

These changes will ensure the long term future of the Scheme while maintaining benefits for passengers.

For more information, please visit www.spt.co.uk

SPT operate and administer the Strathclyde Concessionary Travel Scheme on behalf of the 12 councils in the west of Scotland.

www.spt.co.uk

Alan Reid MP

will hold a surgery on Lismore on Saturday 27 March 2010 at the Lismore Public Hall between 12 noon and 1.00pm.

To make an appointment please phone Alan Reid's office 01369 704840

Funded from Alan Reid's Communications Allowance

A Meeting of Creditors Duncan's of Tobermory Ltd

Registered Office - 37 Main Street, Tobermory, Isle of Mull, PA75 6NU

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that Meeting of Creditors of the above named company will be held within the offices of Smith Inglis Ltd, 45 Hope Street, Glasgow, G2 6AE on Friday 26 March 2010 at 10am for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99 to 101 of the said Act.

In accordance with the provisions of the said Act, a list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the aforementioned offices, during normal business hours on the two business days prior to the date of this meeting.

Dated this 10 March 2010
By Order of the Board
Duncan Cattanach, Director



APPLICATIONS TO CREATE A NEW CROFT

Keith, Allan and Roy Campbell, owners of Drimsynie, Lochgilphead, Argyll are applying to create two new crofts.

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 6 April 2010 quoting 5.01.22874. Please specify your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

The results of The South Lochaber Community Company Ballot on 5th March, 2010 were as follows:

Number of persons eligible to vote -	2089
Number of eligible persons who voted -	1182 56%
Result of vote -	
YES:	689 58%
NO:	492 42%

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

UNDER THE FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976

The Sheriff of GRAMPIAN HIGHLAND AND ISLANDS AT FORT WILLIAM will hold an Inquiry on 20 and 21 May 2010 at 10:00am within the SHERIFF COURT HOUSE, HIGH STREET, FORT WILLIAM with a Preliminary Hearing on 28 April 2010 at 10:00am into the circumstances of the death of KENNETH CAMPBELL, Mechanical Fitter, 9 Etive Road, Dunbeg, Oban, PA37 1QF.

ALISON WYLLIE
District Procurator Fiscal for the District of FORT WILLIAM

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Friends of Oban Hospice AGM Thursday 18 March 7.30 pm Glencruitten Road Church of Scotland Centre All welcome

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BABY EQUIPMENT

BABY ACTIVITY CENTRE £20 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

BICYCLES

GIRLS BIKE suit 7 - 9yr, very good condition, £48 Telephone 01546 603915.

BOOKS

BOOKS travellers atlas of the world, ideal for the globe trotter, buyer collects Oban, £8 Telephone 07747 492780.

BUILDING / DIY

PATIO DOOR sliding double glazed patio door in wood, good condition, £49 Telephone 01631 562746.

CAR ACCESSORIES

RUBBER MATS for ford fiesta zetec, new shape, 3 door, £40 Telephone 07799 891319.

COMPUTERS AND GAMES

COMPUTER apple i mac (g3) computer, working order, buyer collects Oban, £49.99 Telephone 07747 492780.

DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

BIFFINET MINI OVEN £25 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

FRIDGE FREEZER

FRIDGE FREEZER £49 Telephone 01631 562712.

HOTPOINT UPRIGHT FREEZER

HOTPOINT UPRIGHT FREEZER model FZ150P, capacity 6.9ft³, dimensions H150cm, W60cm, D64cm, condition as new, £100 Telephone 01546 606836.

PHILIPS TV

PHILIPS TV 28 inch Philips TV with stand, good working order, North Connel, £40 Telephone 07770 623486.

SMALL FRIDGE

SMALL FRIDGE small table top fridge, very good condition, £35 Telephone 01546 602764.

EQUESTRIAN

PONY WANTED over 13.3hh, Telephone 01681 700287.

RIDING BOOTS

RIDING BOOTS Harry Hall, full length girls riding boots (black), excellent condition, size 12-13, £15 Telephone 01631 566197.

WELSH X GELDING

WELSH X GELDING 13hh, 10 years old, lives out, good potential with the right owner, passport and microchipped, sadly outgrown, Telephone 01499 500248.

FIREARMS

FIREARMS Parker-Hale Safari Super 7mm with a Scherer Scope, old but sound, £200 one, Telephone 01369 840289 07765 608035.

SAKO 7.5 FIMMIGHT

SAKO 7.5 FIMMIGHT 243, SC, 30mm mounts, firearms certificate holder, £1200 one, Telephone 07990 886646.

SAKO 75 LAMINATED

SAKO 75 LAMINATED stainless in 308 cal with swarovski 3-12-50 scope, as new, only 50 rounds, license holders only, £1200 Telephone 01583 431344.

FREE AND SWAP

INTERIOR DOOR wooden panelled stained dark oak door with handle ex condition, free to take away, Telephone 01631 720369.

FURNITURE

Z BED fold up single Z bed, £20 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

ARMCHAIR

ARMCHAIR moss green, comfy, very good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

ARMCHAIR

ARMCHAIR light green brocade style fabric armchair with matching footstool, £20 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

BED SETTEE

BED SETTEE dark blue, good condition apart from arms faded in the sun, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

BEDSIDE TABLES

BEDSIDE TABLES solid wood finish bedside tables, with draw x 6, 4* hotel quality, in good condition, £8 Telephone 01631 562746.

CHAIR

CHAIR Upright floral pattern chair, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

CHEST OF DRAWERS

CHEST OF DRAWERS modern with 3 drawers, £35 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

COFFEE TABLE

COFFEE TABLE in dark wood with coloured marble top, 43" L, 22" W, 17" H, £40 Telephone 01631 563544.

COMFY ARMCHAIR

COMFY ARMCHAIR pastel colours, graphic print, £10 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

COMPUTER DESK

COMPUTER DESK £20 telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

CUPBOARDS

CUPBOARDS 2 small cupboards, £10 each, Telephone 01631 567212.

DINING ROOM TABLE

DINING ROOM TABLE and chairs, pine, £30 Telephone 01397 703446.

DRAWER UNIT

DRAWER UNIT seagrass, £10 Telephone 01631 567212.

DRAWERS

DRAWERS good, functional wooden chest of drawers, £8 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

DRAWERS

DRAWERS old fashioned solid wooden chest of drawers, £29 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

HEADBOARD

HEADBOARD modern double silver coloured metal headboard, £20 Telephone 01631 564393.

HEADBOARDS

HEADBOARDS bed headboards, £10 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

IKEA SINGLE BED

IKEA SINGLE BED white metal complete with metalwork headboard and footboard, £45 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

KITCHEN TABLE

KITCHEN TABLE sits 4, £10 Telephone 01631 563935.

LEATHER ARMCHAIRS

LEATHER ARMCHAIRS off-white with wood inset, pair, £20 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

LEATHER CHAIR

LEATHER CHAIR £49 Telephone 01631 567212.

ROOM DIVIDER SCREEN

ROOM DIVIDER SCREEN modern, £3 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

ROUND TABLE

ROUND TABLE solid pine, also extends to 8 people, £40 Telephone 01631 563935.

SELECTION OF SUITES

SELECTION OF SUITES terracotta colour, two seater settee suites, £50, three seater settee suites, £60, pine dining room tables and chairs, £30, Telephone 01397 703446.

SINGLE BED

SINGLE BED pine bed and mattress, very good condition, £28 Telephone 01546 603915.

SINGLE BED

SINGLE BED good, clean single bed with headboard, £9 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

SINGLE DIVAN BED

SINGLE DIVAN BED £49 Telephone 01631 567212.

SINGLE WARDROBE

SINGLE WARDROBE solid mahogany, 3ft wide, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

SMALL BED SETTEE

SMALL BED SETTEE attractive floral pattern, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

SOFA

SOFA comfortable fawn coloured chesterfield style sofa, £19 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

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SOFA BED fold down, lilac, ideal for child's bedroom, good condition, £49 Telephone 01546 605278.

THREE PIECE SUITE

THREE PIECE SUITE quality Ercol 3 piece suite with wooden frame, £14 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

UPRIGHT FIRESIDE CHAIR

UPRIGHT FIRESIDE CHAIR in good condition, £4 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

WARDROBE

WARDROBE large double flatpack white wardrobe, modern, £45 Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

WARDROBES

WARDROBES 3 mirrored door wardrobes, £15 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

WHITE WARDROBES

WHITE WARDROBES x 2, £12 Telephone 01631 564848 during office hours.

GARDEN

GREENHOUSE FRAME 10 x 6 greenhouse frame (aluminium) with some glass and fittings, already dismantled, buyer uplifts, £49.99 Telephone 01838 200419.

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MIDI HIFI philips midi hifi system, 200 watt output, cd, tape deck, radio and remote, buyer collects Oban, £30 Telephone 07747 492780.

MULTI-REGION DVD PLAYER

MULTI-REGION DVD PLAYER technika dvd player, converted to multi region, instruction manual and remote, excellent condition, item located in Duror, £10 Telephone 01631 740334.

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PANASONIC TV 25" nican stereo with remote, good clean condition, £10 Telephone 07887 513286.

SKY BOX

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SONY 44" TV rear projection screen TV, huge set, needs a large room, £49.99 Telephone 01838 200419.

SONY DVD PLAYER

SONY DVD PLAYER and remote, DVPS355, plays most formats, Oban, £20 Telephone 07849 871196.

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VIDEO RECORDER video recorder, working order, buyer collects Oban, £10 Telephone 07747 492780.

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BEDSIDE LIGHTS various bedside lights and shades x 9, price £5 each, Telephone 01631 562746.

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CARPET bedroom carpet, brown two years old, excellent condition, size 14ft wide by 11ft long approx, £35 Telephone 01546 602764.

CARPET

CARPET 407cm x 300cm, £20, also carpet 325cm x 249cm, £15, Telephone 01631 567212.

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CURTAINS 1 pair flower design curtains, 36x36, buyer collects Oban, £5 Telephone 07747 492780.

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WALL MOUNTED RADIATORS slimline, £10 each Telephone 01631 569819 between 9 and 4.30pm.

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SEASONED HAZEL SHANKS for walking sticks, Telephone 01855 81618.

PERSONALS

Happy 60th Lewis Love from all the family

Brian and Pene Askew

Would like to thank everyone who attended our surprise Silver Wedding Party, and for all the cards, gifts flowers and good wishes we received. We would also like to thank everyone who helped in the organising of the party, especially Adele for doing a fantastic job. We had a brilliant night.

"Jesus which delivers us from wrath to come."

"Jesus which delivers us from wrath to come." Is Christ your Lord? Any time for Him? Eternal damnation for those who know not Christ is Biblical Truth, not mythical nonsense

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7.

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West Highland Times

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in law of Iain and John, cherished granny of Donald-John, Lewis, Connor, Matt and Angus. Funeral Mass at St Margaret's R C Church, Lochgilhead, (today) Thursday, March 18, at 11am, interment thereafter at Carrick Cemetery, Tarbert, to which all relatives and friends are respectfully invited. Collection if desired for Tarbert Nursing Aid.

MACLEOD - Lachlan (Lofty), retired teacher and hotelier, very peacefully at home in Oban after a short illness on March 12, 2010, beloved husband of the late Catherine Monica (née MacKintosh) proud father of James, Allan and Calum, grandfather and great-grandfather.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BEATON - Dorothy, Niall and Lesley would like to thank most sincerely all family, friends and former colleagues for the kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of Calum. We would also like to thank John Fraser for a very moving funeral service and May McIntyre, Organist. Heartfelt thanks are also due to Mairi Russell for the wonderful care she provided in making funeral arrangements both in Fort William and Alesand, and to Mike McFall for his assistance in Fort William. The British Heart Foundation has benefited from the generous donations made at both services.

COWAN - The family of the late Jean Cowan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and phone calls received in their sad bereavement. Thanks to the local medical staff and the staff of Wards B and C of Lorn and Islands Hospital for their kindness and care to Jean, to Rev Liz Gibson for her comforting service, to all who attended the church and graveside, also Campbell and Frank for the lovely music and Iain for the piping, D and A Munn for efficient and sympathetic funeral arrangements. Glen Orchy Lodge for catering services. The collection for church funds raised £291.

FYFE - All the family of Ellen our mother, grandmother and great-grandmother wish to thank relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, flowers and phone calls. We wish to express our appreciation to all doctors and nurses who attended mum. The Very Rev Norman MacCallum, Rev Ian Walter and the Very Rev Alex Gordon for comforting words and conducting the services. To the staff at Eader Glinn for the wonderful care of mum and the family. All those from near and far who attended the church and graveside. Thanks also to Hamish Hoey and son for efficient and sympathetic funeral arrangements. A collection of £500 to go equally to St John's Cathedral and Eader Glinn.

LITSTER - Christina, Marina, Tom and Tamara would like to thank all relatives, friends and to David's wonderful family, especially, cousin Jean, for their kind expressions of support and sympathy by the way of cards, flowers, telephone calls, baking and visits following the sad loss of David. Thanks to Doctors and Nurses at both Oban and Mid Argyll Hospitals, and to Mid Argyll Ambulance Crew. Thanks to Rev A Dunlop for visits and a comforting service, and to the Cairnbaan Hotel for buffet. Grateful thanks to Roddy MacDonald and Fiona for their caring and efficient funeral arrangements, and to the staff at Tesco Superstore, Oban. Our grateful thanks to those who came from near and far to pay their respects. The generous sum of £750 was collected for Mid Argyll Cancer Care.

LONGBOTTOM - Eilidh, Hugh, Kathy, Kay and Tim are very grateful for the many cards, and letters of support and condolence and for the esteem expressed for Donald. Also many thanks to all who attended the very moving memorial service, some travelling long distance, and to the ministers Margaret Millar and Robert Brooks, organist Daphne Campbell, the elders of Muckairn Church Taynuilt. Our sincere thanks also to Hamish Hoey and Son for their organisation of the Cremation and to the staff at Taynuilt Surgery and of Lorn and Islands Hospital for looking after Donald so compassionately during his recent illness.

MACVARIISH - Neil and family would like to thank all relatives and friends for the flowers, cards and kindness shown to them on the recent passing of Dolly, beloved wife and mum. Special thanks to Father Donald MacKinnon for an uplifting service at St Mary's, Fort William and to all who attended at New Morar Cemetery with thanks also to Mike McFall Funeral Directors. Special thanks to all the staff at Aigmore Medical Practice, Raigmore Hospital and Ian Charles Hospital, Granton on Spey, for all their care. Donations for Marie Curie Cancer Care totalled £624.

PATERSON - Tommy, Irene and family would like to thank family, neighbours and friends, for their support, kind expressions of sympathy, cards and flowers received following the death of their mother and granny, Katie. A special thanks to Dr Kennedy and Dr Haunschmidt and all staff at Dunaros for their excellent care, to Rev James Beaton for his comforting sermon, Billy McClumont, Funeral Director for his kindness and professionalism and to those who paid their last respects at Dunaros and the graveside, also staff at the Mediterranean Restaurant for friendly and efficient catering services. £200 was raised for Dunaros Comforts Fund.

WEATHERALL - Katie, Anne, Carine and family would like to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for the kind expressions of sympathy received on their recent sad loss of Jack. Thanks to Donald MacKinnon for his caring and comforting service, to Ian MacInnes of D and A Munn Ltd for his considerate and efficient handling of funeral arrangements, the Rowantree Hotel for catering and also to those who cared for Jack in his last weeks on Ward C, at the Lorn and Islands Hospital. Special thanks are due to Iain and Mary MacMillan, Neil and Ina MacKechnie and Tam Pearson, who with their kind words and deeds, helped and supported us in many ways, throughout Jack's illness and passing. Finally, thanks to all who paid their respects at the church and graveside, allowing us to realize the sum of £500 for Oban Hospice.

WILSON - The Wilson family would like to thank all the relatives, friends, neighbours and work colleagues for their many kind expressions of sympathy, help and support over the past few weeks following the loss of their brother, Duncan. Thanks to Dr Ellis and the staff at Kinlochleven Surgery, Helen and Douglas MacIntyre and Rev Donald Davidson for the beautiful service held at Kinlochleven Parish Church on Wednesday, March 10. Retiral collection was taken for Macmillan Nurses and Marie Curie. The sum of £505.36 was raised. A special thanks to Shaun, Sele, Cathy and Ann MacCallum for the help and support they gave Duncan during his illness.

MACLEAN - Remembering with love Jennifer Hazel MacLean, who sadly passed away March 17, 2008. I think about you every day. And miss you more than words can say. - Chrissie X.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear auntie Annie MacLeod, Tobermory, Mull, who died on March 17, 1987. Treasured thoughts of one so dear. Often bring a silent tear. Thoughts of scenes long past. Years roll on but memories last. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. - Inserted by Ann, John, Alistair and Patricia, Rosyth, Fife.

MACMILLAN - In loving memory of Jane, treasured daughter and sister, died March 11, 1983, aged 17 years. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. - Mum, Dad and Graham.

MACPHAIL - Fond and loving memories of John. Miss you today and always. - x Dad and Mary x.

McCLOUNNAN - In fond memory of my dear son Calum who died on March 27, 2007 at Dalavich. Quietly today your memory I treasure. Missing you always, forgetting you never. - Your loving mum, Balephuil, Tiree.

RENNIE - In loving memory of dearest mum Mary Elizabeth (née Robertson), March 17, 2005. Oh for the touch of your loving hand. For the sound of your voice long gone. But your love remains locked up in our hearts. And gives us the strength to go on. - Inserted by her loving daughter Angela and son-in-law David.

ROWAN - To my most dear, most loved wife Christine. I do not stand at your grave and weep. You are not there, you do not sleep. You are a thousand winds that blow. You are the diamond glint on the snow. You are the sunlight on ripened hay. You are the gentle Autumn rain. When I awake in the morning's hush. You are my swift uplifting rush. You are the stars that shine at night. I do not stand at your grave and cry. You are not there, you did not die. Until we are together again. - Your loving husband, Robert.

ROWAN - To my mother, March 15, 2009. You fought a fight That I could not. You endured pain and suffering that I could not. But now I have to believe That you are at peace. And until I am at peace with you. You will always be in my thoughts. - Duncan.

IN MEMORIAM

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of my dear mother and grandmother, Betty Lyall, who died on March 19, 1979. Never a day but in our thoughts. - Inserted by her loving daughter Ann, Angus, Lorne, Gordon and Gillian. Ardness, Tirahgoil, Bunnassan, Mull.

CORNELIUS - In loving memory of Sidney, who died March 21, 2009, a loving husband, father, seair and brother. Remembered with a smile. - Emily, Craig, Corinne, Colin and Ricky. To our seair Love you Miss you. - Kayley and Chelsey.

GRANT - In loving memory of Steven Grant, a devoted husband and dad who died on March 20, 2009. In our hearts you will always stay. Loved and remembered every day. - Adeline, Colin, Stephanie and Jacqueline.

HAY - In loving memory of Jimmy, a dear husband, father and grandfather who died on March 18, 2006. Loved and remembered always. - Joan and all the family.

KELLY - In loving memory of my grandson and our nephew, Charles, who died March 16, 2007. RIP. - 118 Kilmallie Road, Caol.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Lachie, dearly loved husband, dad, father-in-law and papa, who passed away March 21, 2002. Treasured memories of my beloved husband. - Effie. Thinking of you today and always. - Neil and Mairi-Anne. Remembering our papa. - Kieran, Kyle and Ryan. Remembering also my dear brother Neil, who passed away January 14, 2006. - Effie. Also remembering those gone before and after.

MACGILLIVRAY - In loving memory of a dear husband and dad, Hector, died March 18, 2007. Always in our thoughts. - Mora and Joy.

MACLEOD - Remembering with love Jennifer Hazel MacLean, who sadly passed away March 17, 2008. I think about you every day. And miss you more than words can say. - Chrissie X.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of our dear auntie Annie MacLeod, Tobermory, Mull, who died on March 17, 1987. Treasured thoughts of one so dear. Often bring a silent tear. Thoughts of scenes long past. Years roll on but memories last. Also remembering loved ones gone before and after. - Inserted by Ann, John, Alistair and Patricia, Rosyth, Fife.

MACMILLAN - In loving memory of Jane, treasured daughter and sister, died March 11, 1983, aged 17 years. Loving you always. Forgetting you never. - Mum, Dad and Graham.

MACPHAIL - Fond and loving memories of John. Miss you today and always. - x Dad and Mary x.

McCLOUNNAN - In fond memory of my dear son Calum who died on March 27, 2007 at Dalavich. Quietly today your memory I treasure. Missing you always, forgetting you never. - Your loving mum, Balephuil, Tiree.

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Bi-annual church event raises £881 for charity

Guid's folk of Oban and Kilmore Parish Church raised £881 for charity at their bi-annual fundraiser. Visitors to Glencruitten Road Church Hall helped to raise the cash for a 'still to be decided' charity by drinking tea, coffee and eating cakes.

Obituaries

Bob Wilson 1951 - 2010

BOB WAS the fish farming industry's first professional safety officer.



He joined Marine Harvest in 1991 at a crucial time in Scotland's new industry. The initial development work to industrialise salmon production had been done by Unilever in Lochailort in the 1970s and 1980s. The concept of fish farming was then enthusiastically adopted as Scotland's new sunrise industry to address the decline of traditional heavy industry and unemployment in the Highlands and islands.

In 1988 the European Union introduced the COSHH regulations which imaginatively regulated the use of substances hazardous to health in the workplace and the European multinational Unilever felt obliged to take things seriously for their new fledgling industry and appointed a full time qualified safety officer. Bob was new to his profession at this stage but his dedication and professionalism has left a lasting legacy for a crucial Scottish industry. He joined the company when they were expanding rapidly

pesticides. He quickly realised that the potential health risks could be reduced by tight work practice and training for the workers. The directors and managers accepted his conclusions and a generation of employees were spared the toxic exposure to organophosphates which sheep farmers just took for granted.

He moved onto the most obvious risk, which was the sea itself. Buoyancy vests had been the pragmatic solution in the early days of the industry which guaranteed flotation without maintenance and gave physical protection against cage posts.

Men had fallen in regularly and not drowned. Then along came the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) who knew better: 'They are not lifejackets,' they told Bob. He knew the technicalities inside out but lost the argument with the HSE. They threatened legal action against the company. Bob put up his hands and true to style said: 'If we are going to use lifejackets, we are going to do this properly.'

He introduced rigorous training, implementation and logging of automatic inflation lifejackets for

the fish farm workers. However the men progressed to the early days of paramedics in as usual and often the automatic lifejackets did not inflate. Bob ordered a return to buoyancy aids in the face of consternation by the HSE, lifejacket manufacturers and the company, which had spent thousands implementing poor government policy.

He remained popular with the farmers and nobody drowned. The HSE grew to accept his wisdom on fish farming and his ideas spread to other smaller companies.

The professional role of the safety officer in an industry is often lonely. The employees don't like you because you just cause them hassle and the managers don't like you because you just cost them money. Bob had a clear sense of his convictions and stood up for what he thought was right based upon cool logic and evidence. He worked for 20 years in the fish farming industry and is now regarded as the founding father of health and safety culture and practice in that industry.

Bob was born in the East end of Glasgow and felt surprised by his achievements despite his early start. He trained as a registered general

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BIRTHS

GOSLING - To Simon and Carol (née Donaldson), on March 4, 2010, a son, Douglas Patrick, brother for Robert.

JOHNSTON - Wini and Jim, Levenside, Ballachulish are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their first grandchild Owen James, born March 15, 2010, to Iain and Jessica at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, third grandchild for Maggie and Graham Cox, Norfolk.

McGLEISH - GRAHAM - Brian and Lorna are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter, Eilidh, at RAH Paisley on February 27, 2010. Special thanks to all midwives.

STEWART - Mark and Sarah (née Seaton), are delighted to announce the birth of their son, James William, on March 8, 2010, a brother for Rachael. First grandson for Mike and Anne, Callander and Gordon and Moira, Oban. Many thanks to midwives at Oban Maternity Unit and Stirling Royal Infirmary.

GOLDEN WEDDING

BALLANTINE-McLEAN - At Kilmichael Church on March 18, 1960 by the Rev Charles Henderson, Jim to Kay.

DEATHS

CAMPBELL - Suddenly in Dunedin, Florida, on March 10, 2010. Colin, beloved husband of Grace, brother of the late Bobby and Hector. Much loved father, grandfather, great-grandfather and uncle.

DUFFY - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban on March 14, 2010, in his 54th year, James Duffy, beloved husband of Sam, dearly loved dad of Charlie, Andrew, Mickey and Paddy. Much loved son of Nancy and the late Albert, brother of Alan and the late Ilene.

FERGUSON - Peacefully on February 9, 2010 at Islay Hospital, Mary (Maisie), much loved daughter of the late John and Mary, and dear sister of the late Donnie. Formerly of Gorton, Bruchladdich, Islay. Interred in Kilchoman, on March 13, 2010.

HAY - At Ardfeanag in Ardrishaig on March 15, 2010, Berenice Mabel Hay, (née Clark), aged 91, wife of the late Archie and mother of John, David and Janette. Service at Linn Crematorium, Glasgow, on Monday, March 22 at 11.45.

MACCALL - Ian, Whitson/Edinburgh. Peacefully at the Western General Hospital on March 9, 2010, Ian aged 85 years, devoted husband of Connie, loving father of Iain, Malcolm, Connie, Dorothy, Fiona, Cathy and David. A much loved father-in-law, grandfather and great-grandfather. Will be sorely missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service already taken place.

MACDONALD - Peacefully at the local hospital on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at 12.45pm. Andrew, dearly loved and loving husband of Margaret (née Livingstone), brother of James, Norman, Flora, Chrissie and Mary.

MACDONALD - On March 7, 2010, at RAH Paisley, Cecelia MacDonald, née Makintosh, aged 78 years, beloved wife of the late Donald MacDonald and much loved mother of Mary and Helen, dearly loved sister of Mary, dear mother

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Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, R.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

Miss Ina MacDiarmid
INA MACDIARMID, who died recently at Abbeyfield Nursing Home, Ballachulish, retired to North Corran, Argyll, after a long business career in Glasgow. She was the daughter of Neil MacDiarmid and his wife Christina MacLellan who came from Peninerine, South

CHARITY DONATIONS

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 21st March 2010
Passion Sunday
St John's Cathedral, Oban Holy Communion.....08:00
Choral Mattins.....08:00
Sunday School and Crèche Parish Eucharist.....11:30
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost. (01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknash, Cladich No Service
St Columba, Gruline, Mull Mattins.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona Holy Eucharist.....10.00

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 21st 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 21st March 2010 11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh (01631) 567076
All welcome

Thought for the week
'Being there'
I'm writing from Israel/Palestine, where I'm spending three months in a small village as a 'protective presence' in a potentially violent situation. I'm here as a volunteer with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). This Lent - I believe that doing something like this is more use than my giving up chocolate - I'm learning a lot about how conflict can arise between people and some of the things that help make peace: also (as the Bible tells us) that there cannot be peace without justice. I'm learning this by 'being there'. Ten years ago Christians in Palestine sent a letter asking fellow-Christians to, 'Come and share our lives. See what is happening to us, and then go home and tell your people.' So that is what we're doing, living among Christians and Muslims and also Jews who challenge some of the things the government of Israel is doing just now. We work with them, walk alongside them, privileged to share meals and family life, hopes and fears, 'being there' for them. But you don't have to be in the Holy Land to do this. Many of you who read this are also doing God's work of 'being there' - for family, for neighbours, maybe strangers. You know what I'm talking about because others have accompanied you through difficult times. Christians take accompaniment seriously, because of Jesus, who shared our human lives, and our mortality, who died on the cross - and then was there in the garden for Mary and walked beside two friends on the Emmaus road. Jan Stutch Pickard, a Methodist lay preacher living on Mull

Special guests for Palestine group
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 speak at a meeting of the Oban Concern for Palestine group. The open meeting on Sunday, March 21 in Glencruitten Church Centre at 7.30 pm.

Dr James Douglas, Fort William

Fort score twice but still miss out on points at Fraserburgh

Football

FORT William scored more than one goal for only the second time in their Highland League campaign last Saturday - but still ended up on the wrong end of a 6-2 scoreline away at Fraserburgh.

Sam Urquhart struck on 12 minutes to cancel out Hale's opener but Fort, still missing defender and captain Andy Martin, then shipped five goals without reply before Urquhart nipped in to score his second on 74 minutes.

Despite the loss, Fort still have Strathspey Thistle and Rothes below them in the league and will be looking to pick up points from their game against title-chasing Huntly at Claggan Park on Saturday.

Fort were due to play Forres Mechanics away, also in the league, last night.



Michael Rodger went close with this fierce drive. 10_f12kil01

Kilmallie gets league season off to a comprehensive winning start

KILMALLIE Shinty Club got its league season off to a winning start with a comprehensive 5-1 victory over Inverness in Marine Harvest North Division 1 at Canal Parks on Saturday.

Towering forward Liam MacDonald set Kilmallie on their way with a close range shot midway through the first half then John Stewart took advantage of some slack Inverness defending to double the advantage before the break.

Inverness came out in the second half determined to cut the deficit and did just that on 50 minutes when Fraser Heath scored.

Kilmallie only took a minute to find a response when Liam MacDonald netted his second to restore his side's two-goal lead and John Stewart doubled his tally with a spectacular drive from outside the box to make it 4-1.

Now in complete command, Kilmallie kept the best until the last minute when Michael Rodger caught the ball sweetly on the half volley to score a brilliant goal from 22 yards to complete a fine victory.

Committee member James MacIntyre said: 'We were obviously a bit rusty in places, but we eventually came through.'

Spirited Kinlochshiel side put in good performance at Spean Bridge

Lochaber forced to fight all the way

LOCHABER Camanachd opened their North Division 1 account with a victory at Spean Bridge on Saturday - but they were made to fight all the way by a spirited Kinlochshiel side.

Lachlan Campbell opened Lochaber's account midway through the first half when he took a rebound from the keeper on the volley and fired home.

'Shiel held the deficit to a single goal until half time but Lochaber, with Neil MacDonald impressive in midfield, got a grip on proceedings after the break and doubled their lead on 63 minutes when Keith Neville hit home.

But 'Shiel were in no mood to capitulate and put themselves right back in the game when Gordie MacDonald found time and space to score from 12 yards.

Lochaber took that as a wake-up call and captain for the first time Sean Nicolson sealed the points when he



Kinlochsheil's Crisdean MacRae takes the low road in this clash with Lochaber's Neil MacDonald. 10_f12loch01

fired a great drive into the bottom corner. Kinlochshiel, however, had the last word when a long ball in took a wicked deflection off the turf past Neil MacDonald and Keith MacRae made no mistake to fire past Jake Keenan in the 91st minute to make it 3-2.

Lochaber coach Ally Ferguson said: 'It was a fairly even game and considering it was Lochaber's first game of the season and only Kinlochshiel's second, it was a decent match considering the conditions. 'We were very pleased to get the two points.'

Shinty leagues

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bute	2	2	0	0	8	1	4
Ft William	2	2	0	0	6	2	4
Inveraray	2	2	0	0	5	3	4
Newtonmore	2	1	1	0	5	1	3
Kyles Athletic	2	1	1	0	6	4	2
Glenurquhart	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Kingussie	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Lovat	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Oban Camanachd	2	0	0	2	2	8	0
GMA	2	0	0	2	2	9	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beaulie	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
Kilmallie	1	1	0	0	5	1	2
Caberfeidh	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Lochaber	1	1	0	0	3	2	2
Lochcarron	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Lochcarron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Skye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Strathglass	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Kinlochshiel	2	0	0	2	2	5	0
Inverness	1	0	0	1	1	5	0

Marine Harvest North Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Fort William	1	1	0	0	6	3	2
Kingussie	1	1	0	0	5	2	2
Glenurquhart	1	1	0	0	5	3	2
Beaulie	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Glenarry	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Lovat	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
Kilmallie	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Skye	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Newtonmore	1	0	0	1	3	6	0
Kinlochshiel	1	0	0	1	2	5	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
Bolaskine	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	2	1	1	0	4	2	3
Kilmory	2	1	1	0	6	5	3
Glenorchy	1	1	0	0	4	0	2
Ballachulish	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Taynait	1	0	1	0	3	3	1
Inveraray	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Lochside Rovers	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

Marine Harvest South Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdour	1	1	0	0	3	2	4
Kyles Athletic	2	1	1	0	3	1	3
GMA	2	1	0	1	7	4	2
Tayforth	2	1	0	1	7	5	2
Bute	2	1	0	1	5	6	2
ColGlen	2	1	0	1	5	8	2
Strachur	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Ballachulish	1	0	0	1	2	3	0

Athletes test themselves in Fort's Wee Triathlon

ALMOST 120 competitors turned out for No Fuss Events' Wee Triathlon in and around Fort William on Saturday and Sunday.

Organisers had tried to squeeze the event into a single day, but demand was such that Sunday was also required.

Athletes from all over Scotland came to test themselves in the triathlon, comprising a 400-metre swim at Lochaber Leisure Centre, a ten-mile mountain-bike challenge in Glen Nevis and a three-mile run back round the peat track to the Leisure Centre finish.

Fort William brothers Stephen and Daniel Cant came in third and fourth respectively while Lochaber AC's Nix Forster was the first woman home and 11th overall to ensure local athletes were well represented at the head of the field.

Top 30 results - from 117 finishers: 1 Eamonn Staunton 1.14.12; 2 Sean McFarlane 1.17.05; 3 Stephen Cant, Fort William, 1.18.30; 4 Daniel Cant, Fort William, 1.19.46; 5 Paul Carmichael 1.20.17; 6 Graham McNab, Lochaber High School, 1.21.37; 7 BJ Doherty 1.23.27; 8 John Stewart 1.23.58; 9 Robin Sutton 1.24.20; 10 Terry Davidson 1.24.25;



Contender: Stephen Cant was quick over the mountain bike stage and finished third overall. 10_f12stephen01

11 Nix Forster LAC 1.24.43; 12 Barrie Dallas 1.24.52; 13 John Woodrow 1.25.03; 14 Crispin Walsh 1.25.13; 15 Scott Sharman 1.25.48; 16 Mark Haran 1.26.00; 17 Graham Corner 1.26.00; 18 Jonathan Young 1.26.08; 19 James Norris, Gallovidian, 1.26.35; 20 Steven Martin 1.27.01; 21 Rohan Corlett 1.27.15; 22 Damian Forster 1.28.30; 23 Alex Craufurd 1.29.05; 24 Rory Healy 1.29.10; 25 Philip Stokoe 1.29.32; 26 Allan Maclean 1.29.35; 27 Yan Valentine 1.29.42; 28 Richard McGhee 1.29.44; 29 Matt Drew 1.30.20; 30 Brendan O'Hagan 1.30.50.



Captain of the Goon Squad Ian Lamont receives the Ali Young Trophy from Ali's grand-daughter Molly Henderson. Also pictured are runners-up Achintore FC.

Good Squad win football league by a single point

GOON Squad are the Ali Young Winter League champions - by a single point.

The team could not be caught after last week's penultimate round of games - which was just as well after HWE No Stars shocked the champs 1-0 at the Nevis Centre on Sunday night.

Achintore FC maintained their fine form to beat Lochaber leisure 2-1 to

finish second, while Funky Five held on to third despite a surprise 4-2 defeat to Rangers Supporters.

Fine win
Wanderers finished their season strongly with a fine 3-0 win over Alcan and Livercaol edged out Sawmill 3-2.

Final table:
Goon Squad 53

Achintore FC	52
Funky Five	44
Livercaol	40
Lochaber Leisure	35
Sawmill	29
Alcan	24
HWE No Stars	18
Wanderers	15
Rangers Supporters	15

Runners tackle alternative route for last winter league race

THE LAIRIG Mor route was unsuitable for Lochaber Athletic Club's last Winter League race on Saturday because of ice and snow conditions.

An alternative 13.6-mile route from Lochaber Leisure Centre sent runners via Inverlochty to the canal towpath through the Strone Farm tunnel and back via the road onto the canal path at Torcastle.

Many thanks go to all the runners and marshals who helped complete the last 'long course' run of the Winter League.

Visitors Robbie Simpson, Davey Duncan; 2 Bert Bindells; 3 Deeside, sprinted 100 metres from

the finish to beat Paul Raistrick, Highland Hill Runners, by one second in 77.05. John Kay, Male vet 50, was third in 85.46. Amanda Blackhall continued her fine form as first female in 95.17, with Sara Byrne second female in 96.50.

The Winter League presentation followed the race. Thanks went to sponsor Off Beat Bikes for their support, trophies and 'Buffs' prizes.

Overall: Men: 1 Manny Gorman; 2 Bruce Poll; 3 Oli Bloomfield. Vet 40: 1 Neill MacBeth; 2 John Binnie; 3 Ali Kennedy. Vet 50: 1

Visitors Robbie Simpson, Davey Duncan; 2 Bert Bindells; 3 Deeside, sprinted 100 metres from

Female: 1 Amanda Blackhall; 2 Sara Byrne; 3 Arlene Rowan. Vet 40: 1 Nix Forster; 2 Emma Pearce; 3 Jo Ness. Vet 50: 1 Nancy Kennedy; 2 Elma Murdoch. Best newcomers Male: Oli Bloomfield, Female: Keri Page. Most Improved Male: John Binnie. Special Commendation: Bruce Davey. Female: Amanda Blackhall. Special Commendation: Sara Bryne.

Other runners who completed the league and were presented with an athletic club 'Buff' were: Brenda Paul, Laura Marshall, Julie Corner, Sharyn Morgan, Margaret Rose McPhee, Christine

Dougan, Foss Forster, Ron Turner, Colin Denny, Bruce Davey, Andy Dale, John O'Neill, Colin Denny, Graham McNab, Richie Collins, Jim Hamilton. Congratulations to everyone.

Winter League racing is now over but athletics club training continues on Tuesday and Thursday evenings with Jog Scotland on Monday and Wednesday evenings. Everyone welcome. Details on the Leisure Centre notice board or via the website.

Race results: 1 Robbie Simpson (Deeside) 77.05; 2 Paul Raistrick (Highland Hill) 77.06; 3 John Kay 85.46; 4 Oliver Blomfield LAC 88.21; 5 Tim Brand LAC

89.20; 6 Niall MacBeth LAC 91.57; 7 Andy Dale LAC 93.48; 8 Fos Forster LAC 95.07; 9 Amanda Blackhall LAC 95.17; 10 Ali Kennedy LAC 95.17; 11 Bert Bindells LAC 96.31; 12 Sarah Bryne LAC 96.50; 13 David Duncan Ochil 97.17; 14 Ron Turner LAC 97.21; 15 Duncan MacEachen (Oban) 97.42; 16 Alistair Hall Oban 97.53; 17 Bruce Davie LAC 101.09; Jim Treasurer LAC 101.09; 19 Owen Bass (Deeside) 101.39; 20 Colin Denny LAC 102.10; 21 Ken Rungay LAC 106.41; 22 Ritchie Collins LAC 108.17; 23 Brian Campbell LAC 111.43; 24 Arlene Rowan LAC 113.12; 25 Nancy Kennedy LAC 113.59; 26 Ernie Orr LAC 115.02; 27 Emma Pearce LAC 117.16; 28 Brian MacDonald (Jog Scotland) 123.57; 29 Laura Barbour LAC 125.49; Iain Adams LAC 125.49.

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Saturday's shinty fixtures

SHINTY

March 20 2010

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Glenurquhart
Graham Cameron
GMA v Kingussie
Charles Young
Lovat v Inveraray
Ronnie Campbell
Newtonmore v Fort William
Billy Wotherspoon
Oban Camanachd v Kyles
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest North Division 1
Kilmallie v Lochcarron
John MacLeod
Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel
Ron Kennedy
Beaully v Skye
Donald MacRae
Inverness v Strathglass
John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest South Division 1
Glenorchy v Ballachulish
Ted McDonald
Lochside Rrs v Oban Celtic
Robert Baxter Jnr
Taynuilt v Kilmory
Graham Irving

Marine Harvest North Division 2
Beaully v Kinlochshiel
John MacPhee
Fort William v Lovat
Russell Ross
Glengarry v Kilmallie
Evan MacRae
Glenurquhart v Kingussie
Innes Wood
Skye v Newtonmore
Deek Cameron

Marine Harvest South Division 2
Aberdour v GMA
Daniel MacRae
Ballachulish v Strachur
Colin MacDonald
Col Glen v Kyles Athletic
Euan Pearson
Tayforth v Bute
Dougie Cameron

Marine Harvest North Division 3
Ardnamurchan v Inverness
Duncan Kerr
Lochbroom v Caberfeidh
John Sloggie
Lochcarron v Aberdeen Uni
Duncan Kelly
Strathglass v Boleskine
Jock Matheson

Lochaber win by 1

SHINTY

LOCHABER won their first game of the season by the odd goal in five at Spean Bridge on Saturday. Lachie Campbell, Keith Neville and Sean Nicolson on target for the home side with Gordie MacDonald and Keith MacRae scoring late for Kinlochshiel



Oban Camanachd defender Daniel Cameron drops in to tackle Newtonmore's David Cheyne at Mossfield Stadium on Saturday. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

'More hit five as Oban implode

SHINTY

FOR 45 minutes at Mossfield on Saturday, Oban Camanachd looked well worthy of their slender one goal advantage and appeared in complete control of their destiny following Aiden MacIntyre's well struck goal in the 19th minute. With Scott MacMillan driving the play to Newtonmore from midfield and defender Daniel Cameron repeatedly stalling the visitors' fluency in attack, Oban Camanachd created numerous problems for Newtonmore to ponder over at the interval. However, within 10 minutes of the restart, spectators were left wondering if they were watching the same match. The Oban defence were opened wide for Glen Macintosh to equalise and the move was repeated as Danny MacRae and David Cheyne added two more. As the tie became increasingly tenuous, Oban defender Liam MacIntyre, booked in the first-half, received a second yellow card, followed by red from referee Duncan Kerr and Newtonmore completed a miserable afternoon for the home side with further goals from MacRae and Cheyne.

sealed the 5-2 win with his second goal five minutes from time. With the Dell unplayable, Kingussie's tie against Inveraray was switched to the Winterton and Russell MacKinlay took six minutes to give the visitor's defence a wake-up call with an early goal. With Ronald Ross carrying an ankle injury, Thomas Borthwick equalised after 15 minutes but Gary MacPherson wasted no time in putting Inveraray back in front. After 32 minutes Euan McMurdo gave the home side a 3-1 lead they took into the interval and, despite Ronald Ross reducing the deficit to one in the 65th minute, Inveraray held out to take both points. This weekend, both Inveraray and Kingussie are away with the Royal Burgh heading for Kiltarlity while Kingussie are in Glasgow. Oban Camanachd welcome Kyles Athletic to Mossfield Stadium while Bute have another home tie as Glenurquhart come to the Meadows. In the remaining Premier fixture, Fort William travel to the Eilan, Newtonmore.

New Scotland manager airs his views

SHINTY

NEW Scotland manager Drew McNeil is determined to restore Scotland's fortunes against Ireland and challenge the notion of a bias against south players. The former Fort William manager was controversially sacked at An Aird last year despite winning three Camanachd Cups in a row. Now one of the brightest young managers in the country is back in shinty as Fraser Mackenzie's successor in the national team. McNeil hopes to make structural changes to the set-up but also wants to dismantle the idea there is a north v south divide in the camp. Last year, Scotland's final squad consisted of mostly north players with representatives failing to turn out for training session in the lower half of the country. 'From the outside, it seems there is this perception that there is no point in some south players turning up because they won't get picked. That is something I will be looking at,' said McNeil.



Drew McNeil - appointed as new Scotland manager

"This job is a real honour for me and I am delighted to be given the opportunity"
Scotland manager, Drew McNeil

McNeil's blueprint as national coach involves the creation of an online information service so all prospective players can be kept informed with developments. The former Scotland international captain also wants to bring the senior and U-21 teams closer together in the way they function. 'Ideally, I want the 21s training with the senior team

and greater co-ordination here. I think it is important for young players to see what is required if they are to step up in the future. Creating continuity is vital for the structure to work well. Whenever approaching a job, I think it is important to look at the longer term health of the operation.' Many shinty enthusiasts were stunned when McNeil was relieved of his duties at Fort William. A man with progressive ideas, clashes of personality signalled the end of his reign. However, the sourness of the experience at An Aird will not see him shy away from key decisions in his new role. 'I am still disappointed at what happened at Fort William. Clearly there were people on the committee who didn't like the changes I wanted to make. You can't let that stop you, though, if you believe it is for the good. This job is a real honour for me and I am delighted to be given the opportunity. 'Obviously, the key aim is to get the structure in place and get back to winning ways against Ireland.'

McNeil could be the first Scottish boss to face Ireland twice in the same year. A home and away international is being investigated for this season. 'That would be very interesting,' he said. 'Given the short length of time between the two games, I wouldn't envisage too many team changes, though.'

MacPherson hat-trick helps Glenorchy to four-nil win

SHINTY

THREE goals from Grant MacPherson, including one from the penalty spot, saw Glenorchy take a comfortable 4-0 win over a young Lochside Rovers team at the Mart Park, Dalmally on Saturday. Glen's James Livingstone gave the home side an early lead after 10 minutes, a lead they were to determinedly hold onto until after half-time. Referee David Mitchell had his work cut out in the second-half and sent

off Lochside's Diarmid MacMillan following a clash with Kieran MacKay, who needed hospital treatment to a hand injury. This coming Saturday, Glenorchy have another home tie when Ballachulish come calling, while Lochside Rovers and Oban Celtic meet at Ganavan in the first local Oban derby of the new season.



Duncan Smith, Glenorchy and Lochside's Josh Rippon clash during the league tie at Dalmally. 07_112glen03

Shinty results

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute 4 Lovat 1
Glen/hart 1 Ft William 3
Inveraray 3 Kingussie 2
Oban Cam 1 Newtonmore 5

Marine Harvest North Division One
Kilmallie 5 Inverness 1
Lochaber 3 Kinlochshiel 2
Lochcarron 1 Beaully 1
Strathglass 1 Caberfeidh 3

Marine Harvest North Division Two
Beaully 3 Kilmallie 1
Ft William 6 Newtonmore 3
Kinlochshiel 2 Kingussie 5
Lovat 3 Glenurquhart 5
Skye 1 Glengarry 3

Marine Harvest North Division Three
Ardnam'n w/o Strathglass
Boleskine P Caberfeidh P
Inverness 0 Lochaber 8
Lochbroom 0 Aberdeen U 3

Marine Harvest South Division One
Glenorchy 4 Lochside 0
Oban Celtic 2 Kilmory 2
Inveraray P Ballachulish P

Marine Harvest South Division Two
Ballachulish 2 Bute 3
GMA 6 ColGlen 1
Stachur 0 Kyles 0
Tayforth 2 Aberdour 3

Celtic and Kilmory share spoils at Ganavan

SHINTY

OBAN Celtic and Kilmory shared a 2-2 draw at Ganavan on Saturday with a late John Strachan goal robbing the home side of victory. Ian Robertson had given Kilmory the lead after only three minutes but Celtic found their passing rhythm and equalised in the 15th minute when Kenny Wotherspoon fired home from 30 yards. Five minutes later Wotherspoon doubled Celtic's advantage with a low drive from a tight angle and for the majority of the rest of the tie the teams were fairly evenly balanced. In the second period, keeper Alan Duncan had two fine stops before the home side found their forwards and had several efforts over the bar. But it was Kilmory's driving play coming out of defence that won them a point when Strachan fired a low ball from the left passed keeper Duncan and into the Celtic net. Kilmory pushed for the winner but the Celtic defence stayed firm with a share of the league points a fair reflection of the play.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1300

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1. If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries. If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday. You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
K MacKenzie, Conic Way, Drymen and I Livingstone, Port Ellen, Islay

Corporate stationery
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Personal stationery
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Tel: 01586 554975 Email: staff@krispprint.co.uk
www.krispprint.co.uk

Vote for your sporting volunteer heroes

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are being encouraged to submit their nominations for the Argyll and Bute Sports Volunteer Awards 2010. The 2010 awards have four main categories – Adult Volunteer, Junior Volunteer, Sports Organisation and, for the first time, Sports Event. In addition, nominations are invited for adult and junior volunteers in each of the council's four administrative areas – Bute and Cowal, Helensburgh and Lomond, Oban, Lorn and the Isles and

Awards
Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands. Nomination forms are available from leisure centres, schools and Active Schools programmes, on the front page of the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk. Nominations close on May 14 and winners will be announced by the council and its partner Argyll Voluntary Action at the Volunteer Week Awards in June.

Easter football festivals

NEW ARGYLL and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae has announced the dates and venues for the Easter holiday coaching programme for five - 16-year-olds. The Oban festival will take place from April 6 - 8 on the 3g pitch at Oban High School. The Mull festival will take place at Tobermory High School from April 12 - 14. The Campbeltown festival

Football
will take place from April 6 - 8 in the Victoria Halls. The Lochgilphead festival will take place from April 12 - 14 at the Mid Argyll Sports Centre. The Islay festival will take place from April 12 - 14 at Islay High School. Application forms are available from football@argyll-bute.gov.uk.



Some of the primary school pupils who took part in the inter-school athletics competition with the coaches who ran the event. 07_112a01

Oban schools in Atlantis dead heat

FOR THE second year in a row Rockfield and Park primary schools finished on equal points in the Oban Primary School Inter-school Athletics Competition. But this year organisers were ready in case of history repeating itself and judged

Athletics
Park to be the winners, because of their quicker time in the final event, the mixed relay. Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid handed out the prizes to the winning teams and

individuals at the final of the track and field competition in Atlantis Leisure, Oban, last Thursday. Active Schools co-ordinator Dale Kupris said: 'We couldn't believe that

Park and Rockfield tied for first place again this year. 'We had decided that in the 'unlikely' event of a tie this year we would separate them by their performance in the relay. It was a great

event that made the children aware of athletics and it was obvious that the schools had been putting in a lot of training beforehand.' Three teams from Oban and three teams from the rural schools in the Lorn area qualified for the final.

Keep your eye on the ball

Saints manager's message to players as title looms closer

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division OBAN SAINTS 5 INVERCLYDE 2
TABLE-topping Saints took a step closer to the Premier Division title after beating Inverclyde at a canter on Saturday.

But manager Iain Jackson says his players must concentrate on every one of their final five league games and not start thinking about the championship yet. He said: 'I know it sounds obvious but the focus has to be five wins from five games and not on the title. 'We are in the driving seat but we just need to take care of our own results and let the other teams worry about theirs.'

Saturday's match was over as a contest after half an hour, when the men from the tail o' the bank were hit with a four goal onslaught. Saints got off to the perfect

start with a goal in the second minute when Asen Gaydardzhiev and Allan MacKay combined to set up Donald Campbell who was sent through the middle

themselves 2-0 down when Allan MacKay dispossessed Jamie Docherty and raced goalwards. He cleverly turned another defender before showing the keeper the 'eyes' and sliding the ball into the other corner of the net - an excellent opportunistic goal. The visitors didn't know what had hit them and they almost lost another goal when Willie Gemmell found Asen with a great crossfield ball, but the Bulgarian's attempted chip over the keeper went inches past the wrong side of the post. On the 20-minute mark the home side took a 3-0 lead when Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan combined for the latter to net a well taken goal. The game was over as a contest in the 27th minute when Allan MacKay made progress up the right and fired a dangerous cross into



Craig MacEwan

the box only for the unlucky Ryan Begley to slide the ball past his own keeper and into the net while attempting to clear his lines. The visitors came out strongly at the start of the second half and it was no surprise when they pulled a goal back in the 57th minute when Saints gave away a needless corner. The ball was whipped into the box and Stephen Gillan outjumped everybody to bullet a header past the helpless Saints netminder Graham Douglas to make the score 4-1. Although Inverclyde had a fair amount of possession Saints always looked dangerous on the break and they netted a well taken fifth goal in the 72nd minute when Willie Gemmell threaded a great ball through the Inverclyde defence for Craig MacEwan, who cleverly beat the offside trap to calmly take the ball round keeper Darren McLaughlin before knocking it into an empty net to make the score 5-1. Inverclyde knew they were a beaten side now, but kept plugging away and pulled another well taken goal back when Jamie McDonald turned his marker in the box before thumping a great shot high into the net to make the final score 5-2. This Saturday Saints travel to the famous Cathkin Park, former home of Third Lanark to take on Glencastle Sparta. **Youth results:** Saints Under-13s were dumped out of the League Cup 6-0 by an impressive Ardencaple side at Helensburgh last Sunday. The Under 15s lost a very close game 2-1 to Blair Thistle. Netting for Saints was Sean MacIver. This Saturday the Under-15s are at home to Milngavie and the Under 13s are away to Lenzie.

before slotting the ball past Clyde keeper Darren McLaughlin. The visitors were stung by this goal and nine minutes later they found

themselves 2-0 down when Allan MacKay dispossessed Jamie Docherty and raced goalwards. He cleverly turned another defender before showing the keeper the 'eyes' and sliding the ball into the other corner of the net - an excellent opportunistic goal. The visitors didn't know what had hit them and they almost lost another goal when Willie Gemmell found Asen with a great crossfield ball, but the Bulgarian's attempted chip over the keeper went inches past the wrong side of the post. On the 20-minute mark the home side took a 3-0 lead when Myles McAuley and Craig MacEwan combined for the latter to net a well taken goal. The game was over as a contest in the 27th minute when Allan MacKay made progress up the right and fired a dangerous cross into

Squash league goes to final week

Squash
B&H Autospares extended their lead to two points in the Rio Tinto Alcan Squash League at Atlantis Leisure, Oban. B&H beat Oban Filling station 10-5, with David Mackay setting the tone with a 3-2 win over David Lamb. The Building Restoration Co. beat Simmers & Co. but the builders' number one, Warren Cameron, nearly missed the game altogether after initially turning up at Lochaber Leisure Centre for his match. With two games left to play the league looks like going to the final week to decide the winners.

Taynuilt's Dalriada two-in-a-row

Rugby
TWO ARGYLL rugby clubs enjoyed great success at the Dalriada Gathering in Oban. Mull RFC and Taynuilt primary school won in two categories at the mini rugby competition. Taynuilt primary 6/7 team won first place for their age group at the tournament on March 7. Mull RFC won the primary 4/5 category whilst Taynuilt took second place. The Oban competition was the second win for the Taynuilt primary 6/7 team who won the previous Dalriada Gathering in Dunoon.



Taynuilt primary 6/7 team - Dalriada Gathering winners.

Cobras bitten for league absence

Football
WITH the Cobras missing Sunday's Oban Express Primary Football at the high school there was an opportunity for the other sides to make up some ground on the leaders. Warriors took that advantage with three victories to leapfrog two sides into pole position. It was also a good day for Lochnell, who recorded two straight 1-0 wins thanks to goals from the McMillan brothers, Ross against local rivals Tralee and young Craig against Saints Boys. Ben Coates of Oban Saints had one of those Midas days when everything he touched turned to gold, a goal from an inswinging corner, another goal from his own half and the winner against Tralee summed up his great day. The juniors are back in action at the High School this Sunday.

Ladies defeated in first league game

Football
THE newly-formed Oban Saints Ladies team played their first ever league match in the Scottish Women's Football League West when they played host to Milton Rovers on the 3g pitch at Oban high School last Sunday. Unfortunately the girls lost 8-0, but coach Chris Picken was reasonably happy with the performance. He said: 'We are improving all the time, but it's going to take a lot of hard work, to compete at this level. Most of the girls are really keen and as long as they keep coming to the training sessions on a Wednesday evening, then I'm sure it won't be long before we get our first win.'

Kerr's podium finish

Motocross
BENDERLOCH motocross rider Jordan Kerr enlisted brother Jamie as his mechanic and finished on the podium at the first race of the new season. Jordan is competing in the Scottish Youth Motocross Championship and attended the first round at Leuchars. Jordan, of 3J Racing, never finished lower than fourth place and ended up third overall from the weekend.

Islay golf results

Golf
WINTER League Week 8: 1 Ruaraidh MacIntyre 36pts; 2 Kenny Gillies 33pts; 3 John Campbell 32pts. C.S. 70. Magic twos - Ruaraidh MacIntyre. Winter League Week 9: 1 Brian O'Neill 41pts; 2 Alec Chasemore 39pts; 3 Ruaraidh MacIntyre 38pts. C.S. 69. Magic Two - Nigel Carmichael. March Medal: 1 Alexander MacLean net 69; 2 Jim Rozga net 70; 3 Charles Holyoake net 71. C.S. 71. Magic Twos - Lachlan Gairns and Keith MacDonald.

Pool League Cup

Pool
THE OBAN Pool League Cup will be contested by Kelvin Dale and Markie Dan's B after respective victories over Gluepot and Claredon A. The final will be played at Markie Dans on April 29. Oban Pool League is sponsored by Oban Filling Station.

Tides

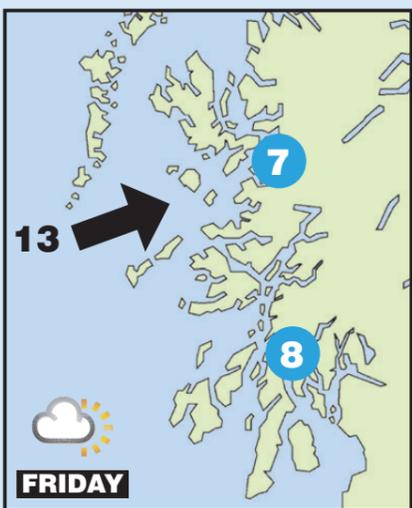
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, March 18, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	01.02 0.8 07.03 3.9 13.20 0.9 19.04 3.8	
Fri	01.25 0.9 07.28 3.8 13.44 1.0 19.31 3.7	
Sat	01.50 1.0 07.56 3.6 14.14 1.2 20.02 3.6	
Sun	02.22 1.2 08.30 3.4 14.53 1.3 20.39 3.4	
Mon	03.04 1.4 09.12 3.2 15.43 1.5 21.26 3.2	
Tues	04.05 1.6 10.14 2.9 16.36 1.6 22.35 3.0	
Wed	05.55 1.8 12.39 2.7 18.26 1.6 **** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardershaig	-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
Expect heavy rain throughout the day. Winds moderate to strong south/south-easterly. Temperatures 8°C to 9°C

Friday
Sunny spells forecast. Winds moderate west/south-westerly. Temperatures 5°C to 9°C.

Weekend Outlook
Sunny spells to continue over the weekend. Winds light northerly. Temperatures 2°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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