

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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First Festival of the Sea

Highland Airways collapse leaves islanders high and dry

My village - Callander



Isle of Mull castle for sale

TOROSAY Castle on the Isle of Mull is to be put up for sale. The family home and visitor attraction will go on the open market this summer. Christie's Auctioneers will sell the house and contents of the house, which includes centuries-old furniture. Anna Thomas, for sellers Savills, said: 'The castle is owned and occupied by Christopher James and his family. It is for sale because the family have taken the strategic decision to move to the mainland to pursue other family interests.' Staff and the community were informed of the decision last week.

Community fireworks boost

OBAN Community Council has pledged to support this year's public fireworks display, following an admission by organisers that there are insufficient funds. Oban South and the Isles Councillor Roddy McCuish told the community council that the fireworks fund is at £1,800 and requires £5,000 to run the event. He added: 'Given how much we are talking about money shortages, I would find it uncomfortable asking the council for funding.' Chairman Fred Hall said the community council would contact community organisations and emergency services to seek assistance with funding.

Down the drain warning

SCOTTISH Water engineers had to deal with 910 blocked drains in Argyll and Bute last year. The water company is asking customers to be careful about what they put down the sink and flush after a series of strange items - including live animals, children's toys, false teeth and mobile phones - were fished out of sewers.



Jolomo's never-before-seen painting opened the Journey to the Cross exhibition earlier this week.

Unseen Jolomo painting joins Journey to the Cross exhibition

A NEVER-before-seen painting by John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo) in the aftermath of the Bosnian war made a brief appearance at an art exhibition in Ardrishaig this week. The painting is one of the artist's most powerful and personally meaningful religious works, showing the faces of children killed in the Bosnian war.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by JENNY SUTHERLAND

John's painting was briefly on show during an exhibition, Journey to the Cross, in Ardrishaig's public hall. Describing the painting, John said: 'This is a huge and powerful image that incorporates the faces of

children killed in the terrible fighting that divided people and demonstrated the hatred and evil of mankind - the same evil I believe Christ bore and overcame on the cross at Calvary.' John officially opened the exhibition on Wednesday and his painting, which has never been exhibited in public before, formed part of the exhibition launch.

Journey to the Cross is a joint venture between churches and schools across Mid Argyll. Each visitor is taken on a personal and meaningful journey through the unique events of the first Easter, with inter-active displays and experiences. The exhibition will close following a service led by Rev David Carruthers at 7pm tomorrow, Friday.

Care Commission report highlights flaws

Argyll care doesn't make the grade

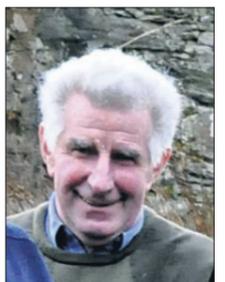
THE FIRST benchmark for quality of care services in Argyll and Bute has revealed that it had the highest percentage in Scotland in the lowest two grades. The report Making the Grade? by the Care Commission, which inspects services, shows that the majority of 245 services out of 330 graded for the first time in 2008-09 provided a good quality of care for the youngest to the oldest in Argyll and Bute.

Unsatisfactory However, eleven services in Argyll and Bute, the second highest after Glasgow's 20, were graded as either unsatisfactory (1) or weak (2) while 33 were either very good (5) or excellent (6). Among the 11 poorest performing, there were both private and local authority services, including two child minders, two local authority pre-five units, two private nurseries, two private care homes for the elderly, council run housing support and support at home services in Bute and Cowal and a day care centre in Mid Argyll.

Ten out of the 11 services have since been inspected again and improvements have been noted by the Care Commission, except at Rockfield Primary School's

pre-five unit in Oban. A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said of Rockfield primary's pre-five unit: 'A full action plan has been formulated and agreed with the Care Commission to address the requirements highlighted in the report. Significant improvements have already been undertaken, and the management at Rockfield Primary has been proactive in advising parents of the ongoing developments. We will continue to closely monitor the situation, and are confident that the Care Commission will see significant and lasting improvements.'

Of the council's 210 approved providers in the private sector only one scored in the lowest grades and the authority is working with them to help them improve their grading. Eight child minders, eight pre-five local authority units - including Bowmore, Dalintober, Port Ellen and Gigha - two voluntary support projects and two private nurseries were among those that got top grades. 'As far as the council's own services are concerned, there is a policy of continuous improvement across the board,' added the spokeswoman.



Jimmy Elliot - tragically killed by rockfall

Crianlarich shepherd killed by rockfall

A SHEPHERD has been killed near his home in Crianlarich. Jimmy Elliot, aged 62, died when a rock toppled on him at Ben More Farm on Saturday morning. It is understood he was trying to free an animal carcass from beneath an avalanche. His son, Jamie, raised the alarm but Mr Elliot was pronounced dead at the scene.

Mr Elliot, of Willow Square, Crianlarich, saw a sheep trapped under a rock and attempted to free it. The rock, thought to weigh about three tonnes, fell on him. Last year Mr Elliot was awarded the Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland's long service certificate and medal. He had worked at Ben More for 30 years. Jimmy Sinclair, chairman of the National Sheep Association Scotland, said: 'Jimmy was a very nice man who put everything into his work, which makes this an absolute tragedy.'



Ballet West

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UHI Millennium Institute

THE NORTH HIGHLAND COLLEGE



A rescued parrot who lives at the only charitable parrot sanctuary in Scotland, based on Kerrera.

Come and see Polly and his pals on Kerrera

KERRERA Island Parrot Sanctuary is offering the public a first chance to see some spectacular and colourful parrots by holding an open day on Sunday, April 11 from 10.30am till 4pm. Yvonne MacMillan, who runs the centre, said: 'We are the only parrot sanctuary registered as a charity in Scotland. Our aim is to educate bird owners, vets and other rescue centres on the welfare and needs of these wonderful creatures. We have about 60 parrots in our care at the moment. We are using our open day to raise funds in order to replace some very old aviaries. There will be extra ferries to accommodate the many people who will be attending and we have guests coming from all over the UK. This promises to be a super event for all the family, with treasure hunts from the ferry to the sanctuary and many activities throughout the day.'

'Who' wears tweed

MAKERS of Harris Tweed have been overwhelmed by the level of interest in their Timeless Cloth by fans of the cult television show Doctor Who. Matt Smith, the 11th 'Doctor', will wear a traditional Hebridean hand-woven jacket in the new series. Since the outfit was revealed in July, interest in the fabric has risen. David Reid, a director of Harris Tweed Textile Manufacturing Ltd, said the choice had created a massive opportunity for the industry.

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Islanders call for ferry fares re-think

ISLANDERS and campaign groups throughout the west coast are calling on the Scottish Government to think again regarding rapidly rising fares on Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) ferry routes.

Restricting ferry use Argyll-based objectors claim that recently announced fare increases will see people think twice about using ferries.

Last week the Scottish Government announced a 4.2 per cent increase for the

majority of west coast ferry users.

The increase comes soon after an announcement of a free-travel concessionary scheme coming to an end on the same routes.

Initial reaction on the Isle of Mull is that the Scottish Government is targeting routes where people have no alternative service and that the increases are being levied on only some of the company's routes.

One islander said: 'While some islands have the road

equivalent tariff fares we have to pay these huge ticket charges.

Unfair

'On some routes we will be paying £20 more for our family to travel with a car. It seems unfair when bus parties travelling to the island, or commercial vehicles, will not face any increases.

'All we want is to be able to travel to the mainland at a reasonable cost but with increases year-on-year it looks unlikely that they will

ever be reasonable.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid, who says he has been dealing with numerous complaints about the fare increases, said: 'This above inflation increase is an absolute disgrace.

'It comes on top of the decision to charge concessionary cardholders in Argyll and Bute £1 for a return ferry journey instead of the free ferry travel they currently enjoy.

'It is absolutely unfair to blame CalMac for the

decision to increase ferry fares. The SNP slashed fares to the Western Isles. Now they're putting up fares to and from islands and peninsulas in Argyll and Bute in order to find the money to subsidise the cheap fares to the Western Isles.

'It is high time this SNP government did something positive for the people of Argyll and Bute instead of seeing us simply as a source of money for their pet schemes elsewhere.'



Anuschka Miller and Helen McNeill from SAMS are gearing up for the Festival of the Sea. 07_t14sea01

West coast communities gear up for first sea festival

THE ORGANISERS of Oban's first Festival of the Sea have been overwhelmed at community support and enthusiasm for the event.

60 events

The finishing touches are being put to a programme of 60 events to be held in the town and surrounding area, between May 21 and 31. The Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) initiated the celebration of the area's connection with the sea, and Helen McNeill, SAMS outreach officer, said the festival had captured the imagination of everyone involved.

'Originally we were planning a marine science festival,' she said. 'We called it the Festival of the Sea as we wanted to really open it up to everyone who wants to be involved.

'We have had tremendous support from the community, a really positive reaction.'

Individuals, groups and

businesses from Appin to Easdale, Taynuilt to Kerrera have agreed to host events. The programme will include a seafood barbecue, art and photographic exhibitions, a shipping heritage walk, environmental talks, a Gaelic ceilidh and boat trips. There will also be an open day at SAMS, with a local food market and battle re-enactment at the nearby Dunstaffnage Castle.

Dr Anuschka Miller said by focusing on the sea, the festival would tie together many important aspects of life in Oban.

'We want people to celebrate what they have and to feel proud of the environment they live in, and maybe learn a bit more about it,' she said.

'We hope if it grows and becomes a regular event, that it will bring people into Oban.

Deep down, I hope that the Oban area will come to represent the sea, in the same way that Fort William is seen as representing the mountains.'

More than 1,000 primary pupils have already taken

part in workshops with SAMS marine scientists and staff from the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute, learning about marine energy, food from the sea and beach litter. They have been set challenges and competitions to work on in the run up to the festival.

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"We have had tremendous support from the community, a really positive reaction."

Helen McNeill SAMS

Lottery grants to help charities face recession

FOUR Argyll and Bute charities have been awarded special grants to deal with the effects of recession.

The groups will share in a £5 million funding package from the Big Lottery Recession Response scheme, designed to help families and community organisations face the tough economic climate.

Argyll Voluntary Action will extend its 'People Plus' project with an extra £27,008 and also received £53,105 for its 'Time for Change' programme, which encourages volunteering through time banking.

Autism Argyll will get £2,150 and Bute Advice Centre is in line for an extra £34,515 to develop its services.

Islay and Jura Community Enterprises Ltd, which owns the MacTaggart Leisure Centre in Bowmore, will get £13,740. Gary Scott, general manager, said: 'Its most welcome, this financial support for a fragile area, on the edge, like Islay and Jura.'

Argyll and Bute Council design team win national award

ARGYLL and Bute Council has won a prestigious award for its sustainable design guides and other development planning work.

The Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning is an annual event which aims to raise the profile of planning and encourage good practice.

The guides are part of a wider aim to improve the quality of architecture and design in Argyll and Bute and make it more sustainable.

Set up along with partners across the industry, the sustainable design guides, a design forum, design awards, the appointment of a design champion and training, make up a whole package.

Scottish Natural Heritage and WHELK Leader+ both contributed funding to the scheme, in which the council has worked closely with Glasgow-based architects Anderson Bell and Christie.



From left, planning development officer Stuart Green, architect Karen Anderson Bell and Christie, Councillor Ron Simon, John Swinney MSP, head of planning services Angus Gilmour and development policy manager Fergus Murray.

Councillor Ron Simon, deputy spokesperson for economy, environment and rural affairs and chairman of Argyll and Bute's

who are equally as interested in and committed to this area's future success as a sustainable, economically viable and high quality place in which to live and work.

'I would like to thank all the architects, builders, agents and so on who have bought-in to the goal of high quality sustainable design. Without their efforts, our own work would be having little impact.'

Judges were Joan Burnie, associate editor of The Daily Record, Richard Holland, development manager, Mansell Construction Services Ltd; and Ben Train, town planning manager (Scotland & NI), Tesco Stores Ltd.

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Sustainable Growth John Swinney, who has responsibility for land use planning, presented the award to the Argyll and Bute team in Edinburgh.

"We are fortunate to have been able to team up with individuals, groups and organisations who are equally as interested in and committed to the area's future." Councillor Ron Simon



Beachd Ailein Ailean Caimbeul

Tha mi creidsinn gum bheil milleanan air feadh an t-saoghail a tha, mar mise, toilichte dha Ceann Suidhe nan Stàitean Aonaichte, Barack Obama, gun deach aige air aonta fhaotainn air reachdas a bheir leasachadh air seirbheis slàinte na dùthcha aige. B' e seo fear de na prìomh amasan poilitigeach aig Obama agus bha mòran as na meadhanan a' cur air mhanadh dha nach soirbhicheadh leis, agus fiu 's dòcha gun cailleadh e a chreideas agus a dhreuchd ri linn na h-ìomairt seo. Ach sheas e ris na gheall e, agus tha na bhuanach e a' ciallachadh gum bi a-nise trithead 's a dhà millean nach a bharrachd as na Stàitean le cinnt air seirbheis slàinte, naodhad 's a còig as a' cheud den t-sluagh aca gu lèir.

Tha e doirbh a chreidsinn gum bheil an dùthaich as beartaiche air an t-saoghal anns an trithead 's a seachdamh àite a thaobh ire seirbheis slàinte. Cò a shaoileadh gur ann mar sin a bhiodh le Ameireagaidh, a tha cho deiseil comhairle a thoirt air dùthchannan eile!

A dh'aindeoin sin bha, agus tha fhathast, na Republainach, partaidh na làimhe deise, daingean an aghaidh an reachdais seo. Gun teagamh tha iad gu h-òifigeil airson leasachadh air seirbheis slàinte, ach chan eil iad dèonach dad a bharrachd a phàigheadh, neo lughdachadh sam bith fhaicinn air na th'aca an dràsta, airson seirbheis na mòrchuid a leigeil air adhart. Sin feallsanachd na làimhe deise co-dhiù agus as an t-seadh sin chan adhbhar annais e, ach tha na Republainach cho làidir nam beachd is gum bheil iad a' bagairt an reachdas seo a chur às ma gheibh iad air ais a riaghladh.

Chan eil ach leth-cheud bliadhna bho thug Ameireagaidh ceum uimhir seo roimhe nuair a fhuair na daoine dubha cead bhòtaidh. A-rèir aithris naidheachd bha luchd-taice Republainach, a' togail fianais an aghaidh an reachdais slàinte seo, a' nochdadh gràin-cinnidh cuideachd. Mar a tha follaiseach cho tric, agus ann an ìomadh dùthaich, cha mhòr an t-astar a tha eadar sìobhaltachd agus faisisteachd!

Chan eil an dùthaich seo fhèin gun mhasladh gràin-cinnidh agus gràin-creideimh, ach nach ann dhuinn a thigeadh a bhith tangeil nach eil partaidh sam bith a' moladh cur às dhan t-seirbheis slàinte a tha cho prìiseil dhuinne uile!

It is good news for 95 per cent of American citizens that they can now enjoy the security of a guaranteed health care service. Five per cent are still apparently without protection.

But isn't it astonishing, and surely a cause for shame, that the world's richest country is only now staggering towards this level of care for its people. Fifty years ago it similarly struggled towards giving its black citizens the right to vote. It was not surprising to read reports that Republican demonstrators against this latest legislation used racial chants.

Britain shares the shame of racism and sectarianism, but at least none of our political parties is proposing the removal of the health care service which we all enjoy in this country!

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

Sanda sale 'close'

SANDA island, off the Kintyre coast, could soon have a new owner.

Edinburgh-based estate agents Knight Frank confirmed this week that Sanda, along with tiny neighbours Sheep Island and Glinimore, are under offer.

But John Coleman of Knight Frank is remaining tight-lipped.

The Gannon family put Sanda on the market in June 2008 for £3.2 million and the price dropped to offers over £2.5 million last summer.

'We are very close to doing a deal and I'm not prepared to say anything,' said Mr Coleman.

The sale includes a farmhouse, a renovated pub and holiday cottages; there were few such comforts when the Gannon family bought Sanda, which is 13 miles south of Campbeltown, in 1989 for £250,000.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig searches for new chief

BÒRD na Gàidhlig, the principal public body in Scotland promoting and developing Gaelic, has begun the search for a new Ceannard (Chief Executive Officer).

The Ceannard's post has been vacant since August 2008 and the duties involved in managing the Bòrd have been undertaken since the summer of 2009 by an interim support management team comprising Donald Martin, Jo MacDonald and Hugh Dan MacLennan.

The post is being advertised at a salary range of £64K - £73k and the Bòrd hopes to hold interviews in May with an appointment to be made as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is Friday April 23.

Google 'creates' Easdale island causeway

ISLANDERS on Easdale are puzzling over the power of internet search engine Google to predict the future after map images make it look as though they are connected to the mainland.

The Google map shows the Isle of Seil and a short strip of land leading to the island of Easdale. But as far as the islanders are concerned the thought of a causeway is the one thing that unites them: they are very proud of their car-free island.

One woman said: 'We use our wheelbarrows to go everywhere on the island. There is no infrastructure here for a causeway. It would completely change our way of life. I hope nobody comes all the way to Ellenabeich and expects a causeway - they will be very disappointed. They can have a causeway on Luing but not here.'

Islander Iain McDougall said: 'Over my dead body will there be a causeway to Easdale. It is called Easdale Island for a reason - it is an island, and we like it that way.'

'There was a lot of talk about the STAG appraisal's plans for a causeway at one time and I wonder if that is where Google got the idea from. I am a director of the museum on the island and we are very proud of its island heritage. I can't imagine anyone would ever really want that to change.'

OBANTIMESTALK TELL US YOUR NEWS FROM YOUR AREA AT OUR WEBSITE: WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Resurfacing work to close one of Oban's busiest road routes

ONE of Oban's busiest roads, which carries ferry traffic to the Caledonian MacBrayne terminal, is to be resurfaced this month by Argyll and Bute Council, with night closures for three days.

From April 12-16, the first phase will involve the road from the library in Albany

Street to Alma Crescent at its junction with Crannaig a Mhinister and from the library round to the dentist surgery car park on Shore Street. The road will be closed at night-time for at least the first three nights, with no vehicular access, but will re-open in time for the early morning

ferry traffic. Some work is expected during daylight hours but is not expected to 'significantly' affect access.

The second phase on Albany Street from Argyll Square to the library is due to start on April 19 and last no more than 14 days, during the day, with access for traffic.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee and spokesperson for transportation and infrastructure, said news of the work would be welcomed by those who use the route.

'I would like to assure

people that every effort will be made to speed up the works in order to minimise their impact on residents and businesses alike.

'But there is bound to be some disruption both in terms of vehicle access and noise, so I would appeal for co-operation and patience from those affected,' he

added.

A spokesman for CalMac said that the council had been in discussions with the company to ensure the work would be carried out in such a way that it would not impact on ferry services.

Oban lifeboat, which is accessed from Gallanach Road and will be cut off

by the road closures from the rest of the town, had also received notification from the council. Coxswain Ronnie MacKillop said he and a number of the crew lived close to the lifeboat and he thought that there would be sufficient numbers to take the lifeboat out if necessary.

Latvian fisherman's body recovered from bay

THE BODY of a Latvian fisherman who had been working on an Oban fishing boat has been recovered from Oban Bay.

The 55-year-old had been working on board the fishing vessel Charnel for a number of months and was living on board.

He died overnight between last Saturday and Sunday, having fallen from the boat, which was moored to two other vessels.

Police were informed of a body in the bay, near to the lifeboat station, at 10.40am on Sunday.

The police contacted the Oban Lifeboat and crew-members recovered the body.

William Burke, a partner in the fishing boat said: 'It was a tragic accident and we are just trying to piece together his last movements.

'He was a family man and myself and skipper Spike Williams, along with members of our crew, sent a message of sympathy to all his family and friends at home.

'The loss of any fisherman is felt within our fishing community and this tragedy will affect all of us.

'We would like to thank the local police and coast-guard services for their help and support, during this difficult time.'

Highland Airways' collapse leave islanders high and dry

LIFELINE air services to Coll, Tiree and Colonsay have been cancelled until further notice, amid strenuous efforts to find alternative operators for the routes.

Troubled airline Highland Airways called in administrators PricewaterhouseCoopers late on Wednesday after the collapse of talks with a potential investor.

The firm operated flights between Oban, Coll, Tiree and Colonsay, as well as weekly services for school children from the islands who attend Oban High School. While talks are ongoing between the administrators, Argyll and Bute Council, the Scottish government, which subsidises the routes, and other potential operators, islanders must rely on ferries.

Thursday morning's flight to Colonsay was the first to be affected, after the company's nine planes were grounded. Crystal Maw, assistant warden at the RSPB Oronsay Reserve, was to travel to Glasgow for a training course. Instead of the 25 minutes flight, the RSPB had to arrange a special boat to take her to Islay in time for the Kennacraig ferry.

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by Christine McCartney cmcartney@obantimes.co.uk

Friday's scholar flights were also cancelled, and the pupils booked to fly were diverted to ferry services. Colonsay resident Andrew MacGregor said: 'Luckily it is the start of the ferry summer timetable and the schoolchildren have the option of coming that way. If it had happened last week, it would have been a very different story.'

Robin Currie, councillor for Mid Argyll and the Islands, said: 'It is disastrous really for a place like Colonsay. Millions have been spent doing up the airports on the islands and Oban.'

'It was certainly a great benefit for the scholars at Oban High School who could get home to the islands for the weekend.'

Flights in the Western Isles have also been affected, though the daily service between Benbecula and Stornoway was taken over by Loganair on Monday, March 29.

Argyll and Bute Council,

which put contingency plans in place in the event of a collapse, said it had been in regular contact with the company.

'We are obviously disappointed Highland Airways was not able to overcome its financial difficulties,' said a spokeswoman. 'Our priority now is to secure another operator for our Public Service Obligation routes from Oban Airport, and every effort is being made in that regard. Discussions are progressing positively, and we hope to be able to make an announcement within the next few days.'

Difficulties at Highland Airways, which employs 100 staff, first came to light in January, after severe weather caused a series of cancellations. Management had been hopeful an investor could be found to secure the company's future, but talks were hit by reports of an outstanding tax bill of £500,000 and the loss of a contract for Welsh services last month.

The firm has been contacting those booked to fly. Passengers are not covered by ATOL, but may be entitled to a refund if flights were booked using a debit or credit card or through a travel agent.



Staff from Scottish Association for Marine Science explained the wonders of seaweed to a class at St Columba's Primary School. The primary one and two pupils learnt that seaweed was in most of the food they eat and even in the plastic on their i-Pods. Pictured are pupils, from left: Amy McGhee, Olivia Morawska, Alex Das and Jamie Wilson. 07_1135ea01

Oban Community Council call for urgent rethink on pitch charging

OBAN Community Council has asked Argyll and Bute Council to reconsider its 90.5 per cent increase in pitch charges at an emotive community council meeting on Monday.

Unanimously voted Argyll and Bute councillors unanimously voted through the recent 2010-2011 budget, which included the price hike for council-owned sports pitches.

The price increase - from £31.50 to £60 - comes into force today (Thursday) and has dismayed sports clubs in the region.

The issue was raised by community council chairman Fred Hall, who

put forward an amended motion to ask Argyll and Bute Council to reconsider the charges and discuss any changes with the sports clubs and groups.

Community councillor Neil MacIntyre, who is also a committee member of Oban Camanachd Club, berated a lack of investment in the pitches, claiming that some of his players have talked about seeking sponsorship to buy grass seed for the pitch.

He said: 'It is taking £20,000 to run our club and things are going to get tougher and tougher for us.'

'If the money from these charges was going back into

facilities, we could work with that.'

Councillor Roddy McCuish said: 'No councillor can say they didn't realise what they were voting for. All 36 of us voted through the budget unanimously.' He suggested that clubs could pay one charge and play two games on one day. However, Mr MacIntyre said he didn't think this was possible.

Others at the meeting pointed out that all council funded services were under pressure, including social care. Community councillor Eleanor MacKinnon said: 'The young people in our area are important, but so are the older people.'

Police appeal after Killin sheep found butchered

CENTRAL police are appealing for information after a sheep was found butchered in the Killin area.

They believe the sheep, a heavily pregnant ewe, was killed and mutilated between Saturday 27 and Sunday March 28, before its remains were discovered near Pier Road in the village. A spokeswoman for Central Scotland Police said: 'The sheep's carcass appears to have been taken from the scene.'

Officers are asking anyone who may have seen anything suspicious to contact them on 01786 456000 or anonymously on 0800 555111.

Oban woman admits drink driving

A TWENTY-one-year-old woman has been fined £270 and disqualified from driving for a year after admitting failing to provide a blood specimen.

First offender Nadine Hughes, 19B Corran Brae, Oban, was stopped by police on October 6 last year near Kilmore and when taken to Oban Police office, refused to provide the blood specimen. Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Hughes was on prescribed medication, which had not been exceeded, but didn't like needles and was 'out of her depth' with the situation she found herself in and thought she was within her rights to refuse.

Benderloch disturbance

POLICE confirmed that they were called to Benderloch on Saturday night following a disturbance involving a large number of youths outside the Victory Hall.

In a related incident, a bus driver alerted police to a disturbance on a Benderloch to Oban bus while one resident, who did not wish to be named, claimed that large numbers youths, many of whom appeared drunk, were roaming the village and surrounding area for several hours throughout Saturday night.

Staff at Lochnell Primary School, opposite the village's Victory Hall, were angered to find glass and broken bottles in the school grounds on Monday morning.

Head teacher Shirley Matheson said: 'From the children's point of view, any glass in the playground is a concern but we don't know who is responsible for it. It seems very inconsiderate.'

New houses plan for Cairndow

ARDKINGLAS Estates have been given planning permission to build 15 new homes in Cairndow.

The £3 million development on vacant land, between the A815 and The Square, is due to be in place by 2015. Five of the houses will be for sale, while the remaining 10 will be rented, four at affordable rates.

Two objections to the plans were made by local residents, but 10 individuals and groups wrote in favour of the plan, because of the housing need in the village.



The carving that has been erected at the Tight Line in Lochawe in memory of the four anglers. 15_114lochwatch02

Lochwatch Loch Awe host open day

Sculpture erected at Lochawe village

AROUND 20 Lochwatch Loch Awe spotter volunteers and boat owners turned out to an open day on Sunday at Ardbrecknish, along with local police, coastguards and Oban Mountain Rescue team.

The open day at Lochwatch co-ordinator Donald Wilson's Loch Awe Boats yard was organised by Oban, Lorn and the Isles Community Safety Forum member Iain MacKinnon, who has been the driving force behind the whole scheme.

The aim was to provide some training to volunteers and allow the various spotters from either side of the loch to meet and understand how they will work as a team.

Around 10 coastguards from as far as Oban and Ardrpatrick near Tarbert, helped volunteers with a compass training exercise, demonstrated how to use throwing lines to someone in the water and let off two orange smoke flares, often carried in boats, to illustrate to volunteers what they would look like.

The volunteers were joined by Les and Anne Currie, whose son Craig was one of four Glasgow men who lost their lives a year ago while crossing from one side of the loch to the other late in the evening in bad weather.

The Curries donated £8,000 to the Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund after several fundraising events in their community, money which is now being used to provide basic equipment to the spotters and boat volunteers.

Relatives and friends of the four who died, Craig Currie, Steven Carty, William Carty and Thomas Douglas, made the journey to Loch Awe on March 21 to commemorate the first anniversary of the drownings.

A number of them camped at the same site and did some fishing on the loch.

A small wooden sculpture of a fisherman, with a dedication plaque, was erected in the garden of the Tight Line, where the four had spent the evening before heading across to their campsite across the loch.

Car towed away during town parking clampdown

TRAFFIC wardens and police towed-away one vehicle and issued 59 parking tickets during a week-long clampdown on illegal parking in Oban town centre.

The joint operation by police, traffic wardens and Argyll and Bute Council from Monday of last week included police officers discovering a female driver with no current car insurance and her car was towed away.

The clampdown has been hailed a success by Oban Police and it is predicted that a similar initiative will be undertaken this summer.

Sergeant Cameron Low of Oban Police said: 'This was a concerted effort by traffic wardens and police that will hopefully result in people changing their parking habits.'

'We hope people will be more mindful of parking legally in future.'

'This is an area we will be keeping a close eye on and there may be further initiatives in the near future.'



Oban police constables Daryl Burnside and Chris McAllister on the beat last week as part of a clampdown on illegal parking. 07_1135par01

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17th May	Bunessan Village Hall, Mull
21st May	Community Hall, Eigg
22nd May	Hootanannys, Inverness

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Spiers & Boden and Saltfishforty
7th July Eden Court, Inverness

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LOTTERY FUNDED

Mull Lines

PUPILS in Tobermory High School are being offered some extra hours at school. Normally, when school closes for the Easter break pupils have an hour to wait for public transport. But head teacher Ms Des Fountain and Mrs Mitchell has offered children an extra hour in school as a safe place to wait for a bus home.

MULL artist Lisa McKenna is holding the first exhibition of the season at the Gallery in the Woods, Calgary. The exhibition will include Lisa's mosaic fish and carved furniture all made from her studio on the island. The exhibition will be open between April 1 to 28; check with the gallery for details on 01688 400256.



The pre-five unit which is under construction, in Tobermory, at the present time.

PUPILS from Tobermory Campus are reportin to The Oban Times on the building of their new pre-fives unit. Ruth Darling, primary seven, said: 'Alison, the architect, and Paul, her assistant, came into our class to talk about the Pre-5 unit, which will be using lots of renewable energy. 'The Pre-5 unit is using a wood pellet boiler for heat and hot water. The unit also has a recycled aluminium roof, newspaper insulation in the walls and sheep's wool in the floor. There are energy efficient windows and roof lights so more natural light comes in and less artificial light is needed. 'Untreated timber cladding is used as it isn't transported far. 'Sensor lights will be installed in the toilets. 'The radiators are on the ceiling so they radiate heat down and there is more wall space.' Kier Carmichael said: 'Renewables are a better source of energy than fossil fuels. Overall I would say the Pre-5 unit will be a success and environmentally friendly, doing its bit towards helping the planet.' Dylan Cobban, primary six, said: 'I found out that there is recycled newspaper in the walls and roof. Sheep's wool is used in the floor, organic paint is used on the walls and ceiling, and no harmful chemicals are used.'

Chief Inspector throws his weight behind Tour of Mull Rally

AS TOUR of Mull Rally enthusiasts prepare to get into the event's driving seat, Strathclyde Police have offered their support. **First hurdle** A potential hurdle on the rally's road to success has been overcome this week with Strathclyde Police's new chief inspector for Oban, Mull and the isles, throwing his support behind the annual event. Chief Inspector Glen Bland, who is based at Oban, said: 'Without doubt, Strathclyde Police recognises the huge community and economic benefits of the rally on Mull and we will endeavour to keep the policing costs as low as possible. **Commitment** 'I have given a commitment to Councillor Mary-Jean Devon that costs provided to the group are the minimum we can charge for our operations during the event,' he said. 'I have also offered to attend the event in my own time to support my colleagues and the community on the island during the rally. 'It will be a privilege to do so.' It is understood that the charges will be in the region of £7,000. Mike Story, spokesperson for the event, said: 'In three short weeks since the announcement that the 2300 Club had decided not to run the 2010 Tour of Mull, islanders have experienced the complete gambit of emotions, from initial shock to despair and now hope and excitement. **Buzzing** 'The island is buzzing with the news that the 2010 Tour of Mull will be run by the community and take place in its traditional October weekend. 'The out-pouring of support from both off and on the island is terrific. 'Having appointed Steve Davies as rally organiser, the steering group has turned its attention to providing Steve's team with the financial and logistic support needed to pull together such a vital event. 'As well as offers of support from rally experts and enthusiasts, many important groups including The Mull and Iona Community Trust, Holiday Mull, Strathclyde Police, local doctors and medics and Strathclyde Fire Service, have all pledged their help. 'A great deal has been achieved in the three weeks but we have a long way to go. 'Teams of rally fundraisers are now out and about seeking financial support. 'This event is so important to the island that we urge people to step up and show

Tobermory's pay to park plan is scrapped

AFTER six years and countless hours of Argyll and Bute Council time, plans for parking charges in Tobermory were scrapped during a hearing last week. Following a long-running debate, three members of staff and seven councillors attended the island meeting. However, doubt is now being expressed on the competency of the original proposal. Argyll and Bute Council first made plans for parking charges on Mull in 2005. These were subsequently dropped. But using the original consultations as evidence, officers put forward plans to charge to use Main Street parking and the Ledaig Car Park, both Tobermory, during 2010. The meeting heard that Argyll and Bute Council could earn an estimated £40,000 from summer charging in the car park. Local protester and island businessman Brian Swinbank said: 'This does not take into account the loss of goodwill of the volunteers who look after the area or the benefit of a cheaper rent negotiated from Crown Estates.' He continued: 'The townsfolk of Tobermory built the car park. Argyll and Bute Council was one partner in the funding. 'They should have talked with the partners and the landlord before considering introducing this fee.' Six out of seven councillors felt that the objections were upheld. Councillor Neil Mackay said: 'I understand that the roads department have to find revenue for parking but it seems unreasonable when there is no alternative, that parking should be charged for in Tobermory. 'I believe it would have an adverse effect on business and therefore the objections are upheld. 'Plus, the fact that the car park is on rented land and partners who built the car park are not in agreement.' An afternoon meeting to discuss parking on Main Street was shocked when roads manager Neil Brown revealed he was no longer minded to push forward plans for parking charges within the island's capital as he said: 'Tobermory does not have a parking problem.' Members of the public were in full agreement and the public meeting was disbanded. After the meeting Alan Reid MP said: 'I am delighted that Argyll and Bute Council have seen sense and decided not to impose parking charges in Tobermory. 'This was a daft idea, especially in the middle of a recession when our towns need to attract all the business they can. 'The council's SNP and Independent administration is always moaning about being short of money. I wonder how much they wasted on this long drawn out fruitless exercise.'

EXCLUSIVE REPORT BY LOUISE LEE llee@obantimes.co.uk

"Tobermory does not have a parking problem."

Argyll and Bute Council Roads Manager

Killin lorry driver to have retrial in France

A KILLIN lorry driver who has been in prison in France for two years has been offered a retrial by authorities. Alistair Campbell, aged 48, was convicted of trafficking drugs in his absence and was extradited in 2008. Alistair has always protested his innocence but has never had his day in court to give his version of events. A date for the trial is still to be set. Anne McGuire MP for Stirling, said: 'I am delighted to hear that Mr Campbell has been granted a retrial in France, which will hopefully give him the opportunity to present the French legal authorities with all the facts relating to his case and allow him to prove his innocence which he has always maintained.' A spokesperson for Alistair's family said: 'The awkward thing is that we have to more or less prove that Alistair is innocent, rather than the authorities proving him guilty. But we will do it.'

Connel speed limit extended

NEW signs were due to be in place extending the speed limit around the village of Connel. Scotland TranServ announced last year the eastern approach to the village would get a new 40mph zone. Connel Community Council initially argued it would be safer to extend the current 30mph limit to the corner at Dunfinnary. But at last week's meeting, secretary Les Stewart, said it was time to accept this was the best they were going to get in the short term. 'We have had so many arguments with them in the past that I really feel we should be positive rather than nark away.' Residents also expressed concern at drivers speeding through the village and agreed to ask road traffic police to help tackle the problem. A spokesman for TranServ said putting the new speed limit in place had been delayed by works to re-enforce a wall. He said: 'The new speed limit signs are planned to be in place by the end of March. These signs will take effect on the implementation of the traffic order.' The stretch of road is still to be re-surfaced, with some lane closures, due to be completed by mid April.



Rest and Be Thankful crash investigation concludes RAF jet had no room to turn

AN INVESTIGATION into last summer's RAF jet crash at the Rest and Be Thankful has found that the Tornado F3 ran out of room to turn during a routine training exercise. The crash, which happened on July 2 at Glen Kinglas, resulted in the deaths of two RAF personnel. Minister of State for the Armed Forces, Bill Rammell, told MPs last week that the RAF service inquiry found the aircraft had 'insufficient turning room' and crashed into the hillside at Glen Kinglas. The investigation concluded that it was caused by 'controlled flight into terrain' but did not apportion any blame. He said: 'From the Accident Data Recorder information, the Service Inquiry was able to identify the sequence of airborne events and concluded that the cause of the accident was controlled flight into terrain due to insufficient turning room being available within the valley to complete the turn. 'Effectively, once the aircraft had entered into the final turn it was all but impossible to achieve the turn safely. As a consequence, the aircraft crashed into the north slope of Glen Kinglas, Argyll, 14 minutes after take-off.' Both the Tornado's pilot, Flight Lieutenant Kenneth Thompson, and navigator, Flight Lieutenant Nigel Morton, were killed in the crash. Mr Rammell said: 'Our deepest sympathies remain with their families and friends.' The inquiry report concluded that the aircraft's flying control systems, engines and structure were serviceable and all critical systems operated correctly during the flight. It made a total of 26 recommendations largely relating to aircrew training and check and assurance processes. The Ministry of Defence said these were being addressed and would be implemented 'as soon as is practicable'.

Tiree festival attracts big names

TRANS-ATLANTIC performers are heading for the Tiree Festival. The small island festival has already attracted Phil Cunningham and Skerryvore as part of its all-star line up. Kicking off with a concert on Thursday July 22 - the festival is looking to be the biggest yet.

Computer is stolen in break-in

A COMPUTER has been stolen from a house in Villa Road, Oban between 11pm on Friday and 2.15am on Saturday following a break-in. Police want anyone who may have seen anything suspicious in the area at that time to contact them on 01631 510 500.

Museum launches Easter challenge

OBAN WAR and Peace Museum has launched an Easter challenge for local children. The museum has developed a quiz for youngsters to take part in when they visit - with £30 vouchers for WH Smith up for grabs. The challenge is to correctly answer 20 questions about items on display in the museum. If all questions are answered correctly watchkeepers at the museum will enter the child's name into a grand draw at the end of the Easter holidays. The Easter Challenge starts on April 1 and runs until April 18 and mums and dads are allowed to help. The Museum displays cover a wide range of subjects including Oban in the war years, local sport, the first transatlantic cable, the Cruachan story and much more. The museum is open seven days a week from 10am to 4pm and admission is free. The challenge is open to all children up to 12 years old visiting the museum.



Last summer's jet crash closed the road for several days whilst the MoD carried out investigation work. 06_a28jet04

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GORDONS CHEMISTS
16 GEORGE STREET, OBAN

Lorn Lines

AN OLD mariner is looking for help to find an old Liverpool class Royal National Lifeboat Institution lifeboat last known on the Isle of Luing.

Dave Charlton from Northumberland said: 'In the 1980s a converted lifeboat was lost off Muck with its owner. I understand his name was Bruce. But aside from that I don't know anything. I don't even know if this was his forename or surname. I wondered if your readers had any information of this sad event?'

Dave can be contacted via dave.jch@btinternet.com.



MEMBERS of Lorn Garden Club enjoyed a beautifully illustrated talk on Tuesday March 16 with speaker Simon McPhun, former head gardener of illustrious gardens such as Aberdeenshire's Leith Hall and the west coast's world renowned Inverewe.

Mr McPhun brought a wealth of experience on the subject Herbeaceous Borders to a very appreciative audience.

Simon's eye opening slides of blazing colour, texture and exquisite layout of flowers, trees and shrubs, brought many enthusiastic questions throughout the evening. Tea, coffee and home baking followed the talk.

Lorn Garden Club would like to thank staff at the Regent Hotel, Oban, where the meeting took place and where the Lorn Garden Club's AGM will be also held on April 20, 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start. The AGM will be followed by a fun evening of garden demonstrations, plant exchange and sales.

Non members welcome. Contact David Croucher for further information on 01852 300563.



FOLLOWING the late cancellation of the Oban Sport Relief Mile, Oban Saints Under 8s coach Brian Forgivee couldn't abandon the idea after his team made such a sterling effort to raise £750 for Sport Relief. So, he talked to Oban High School and got on his bike to measure out a mile around the school's sports field and the buildings and after the primary league matches on Sunday, he and his team and some sisters of team members ran the mile. Brian said: 'Well done to the players and a big thank you to all who helped.'



SOLICITORS in Oban helped to raise more than £1 million last year for Will Aid's Make a Will campaign run each November.

Anderson Banks in Argyll Square raised £100, while D M MacKinnon in Station Road raised £1,050 through asking people to make a will and make a donation to Will Aid instead of paying a fee.

Will Aid supports the work of ActionAid, Red Cross, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, Save the Children, Sightsavers, Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund and Trocaire.



OBAN Speakers Club used its last winter meeting to discuss a variety of subjects.

Bill Leech talked about the Incas while Frank Walton talked about the motto of the RAF and Alex Clark then talked about In Vino Veritas.

Immediate critics were Donald Macaskill, Jim Fraser, and Iain Fullarton.

Chairman for the meeting was John Maclean and the timekeeper was Eamonn Arthur.

New office bearers were elected at the AGM. A Macphail was elected president; vice president, Frank Walton; educational director, Cameron Fletcher; social secretary, Bill Leech; secretary, Jim Fraser and treasurer, Alex Clark.

Meetings will resume in early October.



OBAN Photographic Club held its AGM in the Regent Hotel, Oban, on March 22.

The meeting opened with President Alex Clark giving his annual report and was followed by the various office bearers giving their reports. It has been a good year for the club and members look forward to a summer of image taking. Office bearers elected were: president, Alex Clark; vice-president, Jim Kirkpatrick; secretary, Katy Weir; treasurer, Nevin Blackwood; competitions secretary, Jane Lobb; committee, Peter Cleave, Ronnie McKillop, Steve Cross, web master; Maurice Wilkins and Eric Shaw.

The club hopes to start its popular Introduction to Oban show, for visitors to the town, on April 19 in the Regent Hotel at 9pm.



OVER the next week Energie Fitness is preparing a gentle rehabilitation programme to build up George Berry's strength following a small operation last week. George is raring to go and the programme is also going to focus on cardiovascular fitness. This means his heart and lungs will become stronger and more efficient.

This will help George boost his metabolism allowing him to recover more quickly and also to burn fat and provide him with energy to give himself more fuel for his Man Versus Mountain challenge up Ben Nevis on September 5. Sponsorship continues to do well and there are several local people meeting regularly to help push the project onwards. Why not pick up a sponsor form from Energie, MacQueen Bros, Oban Express or The Oban Times offices.



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Electronic bridge warning signs are replaced

CONTROVERSIAL height signs near Connel Bridge have been replaced, but opponents still have concerns.

Connel residents mounted a petition against electronic warning signs erected last summer, powered by a small wind turbine and solar panel. More than 100 villagers

opposed the signs, which they said have been placed in the worst possible location, blocking sea views.

Last week, Scotland TranServ engineers were in the village replacing the signs with new ones, wired into the mains electricity, to reduce the visual impact.

But Lloyd Halliday, owner

of the Mactalla guesthouse, said he was disappointed the new signs were in the same place, spoiling views of a protected open space.

Height

'The bulk of what is on top of the poles is going to be less, but it looks as if the poles are the same height as they were,' he said.

'This is industrial strength signage in a village that has beautiful views, it's not just my view.'

'I do feel lots of people in the village will be disappointed that their views have been ridden rough-shod over.'

He added that he had not been consulted by TranServ

about the new arrangements for the sign outside his home.

Cost

Scotland TranServ would not confirm the cost of the replacement and said the equipment which had been removed would be stored and used in another location if possible.

Meetings in Islay and Tarbert to hear of new ferry

PUBLIC meetings to discuss redevelopment at Port Ellen and Kennacraig ferry terminals will be held in Islay and Tarbert next week.

The meetings, hosted by Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL), will highlight the £3.4m infrastructure improvements at Port Ellen pier and works to accommodate the new ferry at Kennacraig.

There has been widespread criticism of the Port Ellen project following an admission from CMAL that the new vessel will not fit the pier and will only serve Islay's other port, Port Askaig. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting at Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, next Wednesday at 7pm and at Templar Hall, Tarbert, the following evening.

ACHA raise rents

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) tenants will see rents rise by 3.4 per cent from April 1.

This means an extra £1.92 a week on an average rent.

An ACHA spokesman said: 'Last year's rent increase was limited and the increase this year is necessary to protect commitments ACHA has given to tenants and our business plan.'



Park pupil Cameron Johnston with PCs Adrienne McIntyre on Oban and James Cairns on Glespin.

Mounted police answer the call

A SEVEN-year-old Oban school pupil left the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police speechless after asking why the mounted and dog branches hadn't visited his school.

But last Wednesday Park Primary School pupil Cameron Johnstone got his wish when two horses, one of which was called Oban, and a dog handler came to the school.

Cameron saw his father, Sergeant Colin Johnston of Oban Police, receive his long service medal at Glasgow City Chambers recently and decided to ask Chief Constable Stephen House his big question.

Colin said: 'The Chief Constable has

dealt with finances, politicians and crime but he seemed to be caught cold by this question.'

With the help of his classmates and teacher Diane Black, Cameron wrote a letter and sent pictures to Chief Constable House asking him to send the police horses and dogs to the school. And he duly did, allowing every child in the school to see demonstrations and play games with the police dog and horses.

Primary one and two teacher Miss Black said: 'All the pupils have had this opportunity because of Cameron's confidence - they have learnt that if they ask, they might get.'

'Our class got a reply from the Chief Constable and the children were over the moon. They feel they have organised this for the school.'

'The class was screaming with excitement when they saw the horses. The children are so small. When they saw how big the horses were, they were a bit overawed at first. The police officers were great and made the children feel at ease straight away.'

The mounted police constables Adrienne McIntyre and James Cairns, whose grandmother Ellen Kerr was from Oban, also visited Rockfield Primary School and toured the town centre.



The top table at this year's Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust Sportsman's Dinner, from left: John MacEachen, Joe Harper, Willie Young and Councillor Roddy McCuish. 07_t14ryan01

Memorial trust sportsman's dinner raises £5,000

HIGH profile guest speakers helped the Ryan MacPhail Memorial Trust raise around £5,000 at its annual sportsman's dinner.

Retired international football referee Willie Young and former Aberdeen and Scotland football favourite Joe Harper provided the entertainment with humorous anecdotes and witty banter.

Fundraiser

The evening was opened by John MacGregor, who told the audience that the trust had handed over nearly £25,000 to charities, groups and clubs in the four years since the sportsman's dinner began. He

then handed over to chairman for the evening, Councillor Roddy McCuish.

Mr MacGregor was delighted with the amount raised at last Friday's event and praised the staff of the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, the speakers and the 150-strong audience.

On the night the caterers worked for no profit, the bar staff provided their services in kind and all bar takings were donated to the trust.

The trust is hoping to have former Glasgow Celtic footballer Frank McAvennie as a guest speaker for next year's event.



Oban Highland dancer Eilidh MacInnes was once again invited by the Royal Tank Regiment to dance at the Cambrai Ball in Honnington, Suffolk. This year Eilidh also took along her nephew, Ryan. Eilidh has been dancing for the military for more than 15 years but this was a first for Ryan, who said it was a great honour.

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ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215
Islay Community Council members elected

IN THE recent by-election, the following Islay Community Council representatives were elected.

The new members and their particular areas of interest are: Ken Wyllie, chairman and lead on Community Planning Partnership; Hamish Campbell, secretary and roads; Islay McEachern, roads; Neil Woodrow, ferries and transportation; Roberta McNeil, licencing, ferries and transportation; Mairead MacKechnie, Shoreline Project; Peter McLellan, Shoreline Project; John McGillivray, planning; Fergus Muir, member; Catherine Gilchrist, member.

Islay Community Council can be contacted by email at islaycc@googlemail.com or by post at Hamish Campbell, Secretary, Trudernish, Kildalton, Port Ellen.

Easter Islay and Jura youth activities

ISLAY has created a new youth services development part-time post, which has been set up to work with young people of Islay and Jura.

Over the coming Easter week, many exciting projects will be available.

This year, Fantastic Friday at Islay High School is being repeated, when young people from the islands and the Borders will get together, with a return visit from Robbie Armstrong and Sam Williams bringing their circus skills workshops. The workshops will run from April 12 to 14, for up to 30 young people.

For teens who want to be in a band, musician Sam Tweedie from Bute will be in Islay from April 9 to 11 helping young people to play music and songs to performance standard.

There are plans for weekly practices and local band nights at weekends so the young musicians can continue to practise and perform.

For aspiring film-makers, JJ Cranston will work with Islay High School's film group from April 12 to 16 in



The senior cookery club with their teachers.

Bowmore Primary School's big bake for Haiti

PUPILS of Bowmore Primary School's after-school senior cookery club got together with their teacher Mrs Paisley and planned a Big Bake for Haiti.

They wanted to do something to help the children of Haiti so a Big Bake was planned. The children made posters, flyers and sent letters to all parent/carers. The junior cookery club

- primary 4/5 pupils - baked on the Wednesday afternoon.

The senior cookery club baked for two hours on the Thursday afternoon assisted by Mrs Paisley and Mrs Stitchell.

The Big Bake sale took place at the morning interval on the Friday. All the baking was set up and the rest of the

children in the school came to buy the tasty treats.

At the end of the day all that was left were five small pieces of apple cake and, more importantly, £250!

The pupils would like to say a big thank you to everyone who helped them raise the money for the children of Haiti.

a workshop named 'Where Does the Sky Start?'. Tracy Hunter, the organiser, says that workshop places will be allocated on a request basis, so anyone interested should book early to prevent disappointment.

High school pupils will be given information about booking and times.

Funding has come from Islay and Jura CVS, Healthy Living Network and Argyll and Bute Council.

Easter time

ISLAY is preparing for family visitors and tourists to arrive for the Easter holidays.

The island's various centres of interest are opening, ready to please and inform the expected visitors.

Already many birdwatchers are visiting, hoping especially to catch sight of rare migrating birds.

Walk Islay Week

WALK Islay week 2010 starts on Saturday April 10, ending on Saturday April 17.

The week includes many beautiful guided walks on Islay, and also trips to Jura and Colonsay if weather permits.

The walks are graded as easy, moderate, challenging

and strenuous, so there is a day out available for everyone. Besides a detailed description of each walk, a guide, available at www.walkislay.co.uk, includes general information about each day's meeting points, times and estimated length of the walk.

A nominal fee will be charged for each walk. Suitable footwear and waterproof clothing is strongly recommended, as well as a packed lunch some days. For further information on, phone Ian Brooke on 01496 850 382, or e mail footsteps@walkislay.co.uk

Dog walking and lambing time

AS OUTDOOR lambing begins, it is essential that dog owners and dog walkers make certain their dogs don't disturb pregnant ewes and ewes with newborn lambs.

No matter how well-trained a dog may be, just seeing a dog makes sheep fearful and they will try to run away from it. Sheep are timid 'prey' animals, so it is best not to let pet dogs come near to sheep.

Where there are signs on field gates asking that dogs be kept away during April-June, please respect

these requests to protect the sheep. Young lambs are very vulnerable. If separated from their mothers, lambs quickly die of cold and starvation. The ewe's milk is their only food, and very frequent feeds are essential.

Brown hares in spring

ISLAY'S brown hares become more active as Spring arrives.

They are seen in small groups, in fields where grass is grazed short.

'Mad March hares' are known for chasing one another and for rearing up on hind legs to 'box' each other as they get ready to mate.

Especially in the Rhinns of Islay, adult and young hares are commonly seen feeding or sitting out in the fields, even through the daytime. When the leverets are born the mother leaves them in well-hidden nests, where she returns to feed them.

In many other places, it's very unusual to see a hare, as they are only active at night unless flushed out of their forms, their lying places.

During the hours of darkness, hares often frequent verges of Islay's country roads and care needs to be taken by drivers as hares' vision may be dazzled by headlights.

KILLIN

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01597 820298

Looking for orchards

THE COMMUNITY involvement phase of the Forth Valley Orchard

Regeneration Scheme is now underway.

Anyone who owns or manages orchards, has one or two trees in their garden or knows of a few trees on public land should please get in touch.

The orchards of Forth Valley are being mapped and information is sought on their location, type, age, condition and current use and whether there is interest in creating and managing orchards, maintaining existing trees or using the fruit.

It would be interesting to know if it would be worthwhile in forming a group to further develop orchards in Forth Valley. This information would help in seeing how valued orchards are by both their owners and the wider community and whether they have any value for wildlife, the local economy and the landscape. It is the aim to work with a range of partners in a second stage of the initiative to develop orchards on a more practical level.

The survey can be completed on www.surveymonkey.com. The survey can be completed for each orchard or collection of trees. A copy of the survey can also be downloaded from www.fvfl.org.uk. Freepost postcards are in the process of being distributed to local libraries and other public places. If anyone is able to distribute these in their area please get in touch. The orchard pages of the Forth Valley Food Links website will give an update on what is happening.



Veronica Spiers will represent Scotland at the Girl Guiding centenary event, Jubjam 100, in Holland.

Connel Guide's camp honour

A CONNEL Guide will be one of 10 from Scotland to represent her country at an international camp to mark the centenary of Girl Guiding.

Veronica Spiers will attend the Jubjam 100 in Holland in July and August this year after she was chosen from hundreds of guides across the country to attend the landmark event.

The 17-year-old said: 'I'm chuffed to bits to be going to Jubjam 100 as Argyll's representative. I have been to Ayrwaves, which is an international camp held in Ayrshire every four years, but this will be a lot bigger because we are in the centenary year.'

Veronica, who lives at Achnacloich, has been in Rainbows, Brownies and Guides since the age of five. She thanked her Guide leader Dr Allison Davies for helping her as she attempts to raise the £650 required for the trip.

As part of the fund-raising, Veronica is organising a soup lunch in Connel Church Hall this Saturday.

SCALPAY

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Weather

WHILE we saw some snow in February, March has been a brighter month, although there is still snow on the higher ground.

Fishing

MARCH marks a renewal of creeling for the local boats for the year.

Whatever the month brings, we hope it will be a success in our home waters.

No herring, as yet, has been detected by our shores in the Minch.

Pollock has been caught by line fishermen in the past week and we hope the story will be even more encouraging as the year progresses.

Poultry

SOME households are taking on poultry, as the mink seems to have been eradicated.

However, others may be suspicious of a return by the mink if it senses the scent of more victims.

Yachts

THERE is the possibility of yachts and cabin cruisers arriving again for the season.

Old buildings

THE TWO oldest buildings on Scalpay are the old shop and the old curing shed, both in a state of disrepair.

Both are beginning to break apart and the windows of the shop and the curing shed is falling down.

They are especially vulnerable during a storm, as they are open to the elements.

Prompt island delivery service

ON SCALPAY a delivery van is helpful as it brings supplies of groceries from Tarbert, Harris.

It is run by F D Munro, who is very obliging to serve his customers promptly.

High hopes for Easter visitors

A FEW tourists have called locally but as we approach Easter, the weather is good and we look forward to seeing more visitors to the island.



Glencoe Primary School egg model winners

Each year before their Easter holidays, Glencoe Primary School pupils plan and design a model of their choice using eggs and or eggshells. Judge this year was the Rev Adrian Fellows, who had the difficult task of choosing the best entry from a wide range of imaginative designs. After much deliberation, Keira Battersley was judged the P1/2 winner, Katie Higgins the P3/4/5 winner and Lynda Cattanach the P6/7 winner.



The chair makers with their finished furniture.

Sgoil na Coille chair-making course success

A RECENT hazel chair-making course run by Forestry Commission Scotland at Sgoil na Coille in Salen, a beautiful wooden gazebo in a native oakwood near Loch Sunart, has shown what can be done using sustainable techniques.

Participants took almost two days to make each chair, but

now each apprentice is the proud owner of a hand-made and unique piece of furniture.

Colin MacDonald, a Commission craftsperson in Ardnamurchan, led the workshop. He has a keen interest in green woodworking using natural materials and traditional skills.

He said: 'The chairs are very

sustainable, which is increasingly important as people become more environmentally aware. The wood is from local trees that have been coppiced - cut back so they can re-grow to be used again in a few years.'

Forestry Commission Scotland's local team run a range of events throughout the year.

Winter ceilidh season ends on a high note

THE MEUR Chruachain branch of An Comunn Gaidhealach held the last of its winter ceilidhs in Taynuilt Village Hall on Saturday March 19.

Iain Hurst, on the pipes, opened proceedings and also played for dancer Eilidh MacInnes, who gave a spirited performance of the Sword Dance, Sean Truibhis, and the Salior's Hornpipe.

Young Robert Robertson from Fort William sang Gaelic songs and performed with the guitar

and accordion and Rachel Walker from Spean Bridge also sang and played the keyboard.

They were followed by Ann Barlow on fiddle, who was accompanied by Hector MacFadyen on the accordion, who also played a few solo tunes.

Seamus Campbell, Mod medallist and choir conductor, sang a number of Gaelic songs. Some of these were unfamiliar to the audience but Seamus

explained the origin of each song before singing.

Seamus' wife Karen was Beann an Tighe for the evening and told some very amusing descriptions of grandparents by eight-year-olds.

The usual home-baking and teas were served at the interval and, after drawing the raffle, the vote of thanks was given by Moira Dunlop.

The ceilidh ended with the singing of Soraidh Leibh.

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Around the Rurals

Dervaig

AT DERVAIG SWRI's March meeting members welcomed Mike Shilson who spoke about his work as a Shiatsu practitioner.

Shiatsu is a Japanese healing therapy which combines age-old Chinese healing wisdom with more modern knowledge gleaned from space technology and the use of magnetic resonance imaging. Shiatsu treatment is a form of natural massage therapy to balance the body's energy and help its natural healing abilities.

Mike supplemented his talk with various demonstrations. He also talked about the importance of diet and the need to avoid foodstuffs that have been grown, or made, and treated with unnecessary chemicals.

He certainly gave the meeting a different perspective on how the human body works and how to look after it, together with suggestions for a more 'body friendly' diet.

Linda Paterson thanked him for coming and members then took a slightly guilty pleasure in their tea and biscuits!

Fionnphort

JANE Russell of Tobermory was guest speaker and craft leader for the March meeting.

She started by explaining the federation activities 'Variations on a Theme' and Ruralympics. Fionnphort is hosting the latter event next year.

Members then got down to the craft activity for the evening, petal pounding. Jane gave an energetic demonstration, then most members got down to the extremely noisy and vigorous activity. There seemed to be a good deal of success and some quite attractive motifs were produced. Everyone felt sorry for the two members who couldn't take part for health reasons; they could have done with some ear-defenders!

Jane judged the three-fruit marmalade competition, which was won by Marilyn Granger. Last month's waterfall photography competition was won by Sue Reed.

Refreshments were provided by Brik Halcrow and Heather Owen.

Salen

THE MARCH meeting began with a visit from Jeanette Cutlack, who gave a talk and demonstration on 21st century sugar craft.

Jeanette began with decorating cupcakes. This was achieved with first piping buttercream. Then she made some flowers with sugar paste for the top. The artistry was clever especially as she had some wonderful cutters, which were purchased on the internet.

This was followed by decorated cookies.

Finally Jeanette showed members how to marzipan and ice an Easter cake.

Lots of questions were asked, and there will be a few nice cupcakes around Salen this Easter.

A very enjoyable evening.

In the competitions, Tula Rowley was first with her salmon quiche.

Morar

VICE president Eileen MacPhie opened the meeting on March 4, the first since the sad loss of president Dorothy Simpson, who will be sorely missed.

Ten members attended. Connie Grant gave a talk on her forthcoming educational trip to Malawi to help build a school and to teach sport. Connie was thanked and presented with a cherub to help towards her fund raising.

Competition: Shortbread - 1 Mary Ferguson; 2 Cathie Stewart; 3 Anne Currie; 4 Pauline Elwell.

Card: 1 June Foxwell; 2 Christine Haynes.

Raffle - Cathie Stewart. Hostesses - Anne Currie and Christine Haynes.



Police Constable David Paterson is retiring after 30 years in the force. 16_t11davyp03

PC Paterson hangs up his uniform after 30 years

After 30 years policing in Argyll, Police Constable David Paterson stepped down last week. Over the years the popular Taynuilt officer has seen a few changes...

DAVY was a trainee quantity surveyor for Dumbarton Council when one of his colleagues suggested that he might be interested in joining the police.

'I don't think that was a reflection on my abilities as a surveyor, more to do with my love of long-distance running.'

'For several years I represented Strathclyde Police at various competitions throughout Britain, which I enjoyed immensely.'

'One of my career highlights was taking part in the torch run between Greece and Glasgow for the European Special Olympics.'

'Our team, which was one of two, started in Strasbourg and we ran through many countries bringing the torch into Portsmouth. We then brought the torch from Newcastle to Glasgow - all in four weeks.'

As a constable Davy has been stationed in places that many people would consider idyllic.

He and his wife Audrey, a theatre nurse, have three children: Euan, born when the couple lived in Dunoon, Innes, born while he lived in

Islay, and Rowan who was born in the police house in Taynuilt.

In his time Davy has worked in Islay, Tiree, Coll, Jura, Colonsay, Mull and Iona. 'It is a good part of the job being able to get out and about and see the islands of Argyll,' he said.

Davy claims he could have had a career in the movies if it hadn't been for the Royal Family.

'I had managed to get a part as an extra in *Rob Roy*. I was all geared up for a day on set when Princess Anne decided to come to town.'

'All leave was cancelled and I had to escort the princess. Rural policing is very different from city policing. Any given day can range from taping up a tourist's glasses to dealing with a fatal road accident and making visits to schools.'

'The job is about crime prevention as much as detection in rural areas. Police officers have to be a jack-of-all-trades.'

'You live in the community that you police and therefore you have to work with the people you live alongside. There has to be a good balance.

I have had fantastic support from the communities where I have worked particularly in Taynuilt and Islay.'

During his seven years in Islay, Davy helped to set up Islay Boys Football Club and became a referee. During his 18 years in Taynuilt he helped establish Taynuilt Junior Football Club and is a regular referee for youth teams in the area and at Oban Saints' Argyll and Keyline cups.

Davy is a member of Taynuilt Gaelic Choir and Còisir Ceann An Tuirc (Argyll Male Voice Gaelic Choir) and is involved in the local branch of An Commun Gàidhealach. He claims to be fourth in the world when it comes to singing duets with Audrey, his Mod silver pendant wife.

Far from sitting back and putting his feet up Davy has signed up for a new career as a tour guide at Cruachan Visitor Centre, learning to play the accordion and spending more time fly-fishing on the hill lochs of Argyll.

He will remain in the village, moving to a new house in Aldersyde.



Children from Taynuilt Primary School perform a few songs, dressed as policemen and robbers, to mark Constable Davy Paterson's retirement.

Primary school and nursery pupils bid a fond farewell

PUPILS at Taynuilt Primary and nursery put on a concert to mark the retirement of the village's policeman, Constable Davy Paterson.

Constable Paterson, who has spent the past 18 years as Taynuilt's policeman, was also presented with a special card and a generous gift

voucher from the children and staff. Head teacher Caroline Boyle said: 'The children dressed up as policemen, robbers or football players, as he is keen on football. They did a selection of policeman jokes, songs and rhymes for him and sang a song written about him. Because Constable Paterson also

sings in Gaelic choirs, our own choir sang two Gaelic songs.'

Constable Paterson said: 'The school asked me up for a 'wee' presentation so I was amazed when they put on a whole concert for me. It was a great day and I want to thank everybody at the school for the kindness and generosity.'

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Constable Paterson said: 'The school asked me up for a 'wee' presentation so I was amazed when they put on a whole concert for me. It was a great day and I want to thank everybody at the school for the kindness and generosity.'



Suzanne Anderson rolls the dice as Coreen Mulvey, aged 4, helps her mum Angela fill in the scores. Coreen starts school at Fort William after the summer holidays. 10_f14bunny01

'Bunny drive' fun at Fort William Primary School raises £100

FORT William Primary School raised around £100 at an Easter 'bunny drive' last Wednesday night.

Rabbits replaced the more traditional beetles for the fund-raiser, which saw all the tables in the classroom annex packed as mums, dads and excited youngsters rolled dice to throw the number they needed to draw in the bunny on cards provided. Parent council chairperson Elaine Tennant said: 'The children had a great time and we would like to take the opportunity to thank all the parents, families, friends and of course the children for coming along and having such a great time.'



Award winners, officers and guests at the 2nd Fort William Boys Brigade at the annual inspection display and presentation of prizes.

Annual BB display and prize presentation

THE 2nd Fort William Company of the Boys Brigade held its annual inspection display and presentation of prizes in Duncansburgh MacIntosh Parish Church Hall on Friday March 19.

Captain Andy Muirhead gave his report on the year before inspecting officer, Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service group manager Pat McElhinney, presented the awards.

Trophy winners: Dan Hunter

Memorial Trophy - Ian MacQueen; Lawrence Wilson Memorial Shield for best squad - Squad 1, L/Cpl Michael Lawrie; Brierley Hill Trophy for the boy showing the most improvement in drill over the year - Pte Christopher Cairns; Duncansburgh Cup for Christian endeavour - L/Cpl Robbie Thurlow; Jim Rodger Trophy for best all-round boy in badge work, attendance and enthusiasm - Pte Fraser MacKenzie. Centenary

Cup for best junior section boy - Jack Mathieson; The Wattie Adam Cup to best junior squad - Jets, Lewis MacInnes.

Promotions: AB to JS and Blue Badges - Ben MacWhirter, Daniel Macleod, Max Fox-Gillies, Soll Coll; JS to CS and junior section Gold Award - Lewis MacInnes, Jack Mathieson, Calum Fraser, Matthew Weir, Ryan Gunn, Dylan MacKenna. Best Anchor Boy - Nathan Johnston.

Cadbury Easter Egg Trails at Arduaine Garden and Crarae Garden

The National Trust for Scotland has teamed up with Cadbury again this year to bring Easter Trails to 35 of our properties across the country from Friday 2 to Monday 5 April!

Arduaine Garden, Oban
Fri 2 to Mon 5 Apr,
9.30am - 4.30pm
Tel 0844 4932216

Crarae Garden, Inveraray
Fri 2 - Mon 5 Apr, 10am - 4pm
Tel 0844 493 2210
There'll be extra fun on Sunday and Monday when there'll be a face painter on hand!

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For more information on family events across Scotland visit
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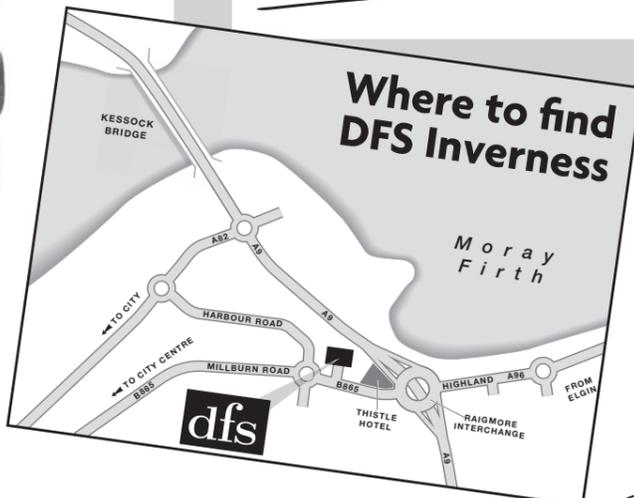
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what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS >	Highland Theatre
NANNY MCPHEE & THE BIG BANG	CERT U
Daily 12.45, 3.15, 5.45, 8.15	
CLASH OF THE TITANS	CERT 12A
DAILY 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30	
Saturdays >	Junior Ski Training
Glencoe Mountain Ltd	10.30am - 2.30pm
Tel 07854 688408	
Saturdays & Sundays >	Glencoe Discovery
Glencoe Mountain Ltd	Guiding service for
Tel 01855 851226	intermediate skiers
Thursday 1st April >	Producers Market
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch	
3rd-5th April >	Easter Eggstravaganza
Inveraray Castle, 1.30pm	
Friday 3rd April >	½ price skiing/
Nevis Range	boarding
Sunday 4th April >	Glencoe Mountain Resort
Tel: 01855 851226	Easter Eggstravaganza
Sunday 4th April >	Easter Egg Roll
Nevis Range	
Sunday 4th April >	Chocolate Egg Hunt
Nevis Range	
Wednesday 7th April >	Ballet West
Corran Halls, 7.30pm	
Saturday 10th April >	Jewellery Course
Barcaldine House, by Oban	

WHAT'S ON

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

gig argyll guide your essential guide to live music in argyll

Friday 2nd April >	The Stone Roses Experience
O'Donnell's	from 8pm
Friday 2nd April >	Chart Sounds
Paparazzi	DJ Jonny 9pm
Friday 2nd April >	The Zodiacs
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Friday 2nd April >	Danny Carroll
The Woody	
Saturday 3rd April >	HERCULES MANDRIN
O'Donnell's	from 8pm
Saturday 3rd April >	Tim o' Connor
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Saturday 3rd April >	DJ Donald
The Woody	
Sunday 4th April >	Trail West
The Woody	from 10pm
Sunday 4th April >	Poker Night
Markie Dans	(Every Second Sunday)
4th and 5th April >	Second Sight
The Woody	Physic evenings
Saturday 3rd April >	Dance Sounds
Paparazzi	DJ 9pm
Friday 9th April >	LIVE BAND
O'Donnell's	from 8pm
Saturday 10th April >	Declan Hegarty
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Wednesday 14th April >	Crooked Reel
Markie Dans	8-9pm then 11pm-12am

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Hundreds drawn to Mid Argyll Music Festival



THIS year's Mid Argyll Music Festival saw more than 1,000 competitors take to the stage on the final day of the competition last weekend.

From singing, to poetry, and pianos to trumpets, the festival catered for every musical need.

Festival organiser Sheila McCallum said this year's event was one of the biggest to date.

She said the festival had been 'very successful' and 'great fun' for all involved.

The 31st festival ran from March 20 to March 27 and culminated with the 'grand' prize on Saturday evening – The CWS Scottish Co-op

Premier Festival Award.

The Premier Award is given to the performer who shows the most promise throughout the event and is awarded by the adjudicators from all the performances they have heard throughout the week.

This year's recipient was 11-year-old Arlene MacKechnie from Strachur. The primary seven pupil wowed the adjudicators when she performed on Friday in the Scots Fiddle Primary class. Arlene is a member of the Lochgoilhead Fiddle Folk.

All photographs can be ordered by telephoning 01631 568000 or 01546 602345.

Left: Louisa Campbell and Catherine Harris from Lochnell Primary School lifted the Kilmarnock Cup in the vocal duet primary competition. The girls won first place for their performance of The Mocking Bird. 09_a13music20



The Inveraray Trumpet Trio won the Cairnbaan Trophy in the instrumental ensemble primary class. From left to right – Freya Corner, Caitlin Crawford and Carys MacPherson. 06_a14music76



Little sister Jessica congratulates big brother Matthew on his win in the brass solo secondary class during Saturday's day of competition. The pair, who live near Kilmartin, competed all week in various classes in the festival. 06_a14music70



Arlene MacKechnie is this year's Mid Argyll Music Festival winner of the CWS Scottish Co-op Premier Festival Award. The 11-year-old Strachur Primary pupil wowed audiences on Thursday when she won The Munro Trophy for the Scots Fiddle (primary) class. Arlene receives her award from festival sponsor, Roger Tanner. 08_a14music66

Ardchattan scout group beetles about for Homestart and Haiti 'quake victims

BEAVERS, cub and scouts from 37th Ardchattan Argyll Scout group held a beetle drive on March 29 to raise funds for Homestart Lorn and the Haiti Earthquake fund.

Around 100 parents, friends, beavers, cubs and scouts packed into North Connel Village Hall for an evening of dice-rolling, a raffle, investitures of beavers into cubs and cubs into scouts which was all followed by a fantastic spread of homebaking, teas and coffees.

A total of £213.10 was raised, which will be split between the two charities.

Appin team takes home trophy dedicated to one its own

A PLAY performed in memory of Appin man Rab MacDonald, who died in a work-related accident last year, has won a cup donated in his memory at the North Lorn Drama Festival.

Rab was a leading light in Appin Drama Club, so it was fitting that in the inaugural year of his memorial trophy being presented, it was Appin who won it for 'A Special Moment in Comedy' with their play, Old Fashioned Remedies.

The three-day Appin based festival attracted plays from as far afield as Dalmally and Lochawe. Lismore Primary School won their section and the adjudicator's award for the primary and youth sections, the Jack Skea Cup.

These prizes made up for not being able to attend last year's event because of a rough sea.

Taking the top prize, the Hon. Mrs Langton-Jones Trophy, was Benderloch and North Connel A With The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimley. The same play won the award for best production, the Mr H J Dobson Trophy.

Oban's Spotlight Musical

Theatre were overall runners-up.

The adjudicator's award for the adult section went to Dalmally and Lochawe A for Teeth, while Dalmally's I team picked up the Special Endeavour Award for their play Bondagers.

Rev Dr Roderick Campbell chaired the event and his wife, Sue, presented the prizes. Adjudicator for the festival, held between Wednesday and Friday last week, was Ronnie Mackie.



Calum Thomson and Jemma Grant from Appin Drama Club receive the Rab MacDonald Memorial Trophy from Sue Campbell. 07_114drama01



Seated, from left, festival director Catriona MacKenzie, Sue Campbell, Rev Dr Roderick Campbell and adjudicator Ronnie Mackie with the festival prizewinners. 07_114drama02

Oban High hosts Argyll-wide dance festival

OBAN High School hosted the third annual Argyll and Bute Dance Festival with 26 teams entering from Oban High, Hermitage Academy, Lochgilphead High, Campbeltown Grammar and Tobermory High.

The event was first organised by Oban High School to provide an opportunity for pupils to showcase their own choreography and take part in

a competitive event.

Three judges from various backgrounds judged the event on Tuesday March 23 - Moira Barbour, former PE teacher from Oban High School, Lami Wright, dance instructor from Atlantis Leisure and Ann Edmunds, a graduate from Ballet West and an accomplished performer and dance teacher.

The quality of performance was commented on

by the judges and the three areas on which the groups were marked, choreography, dance ability and presentation far surpassed previous years.

It was very clear that every group had spent long hours choreographing and performing their pieces.

Oban High School would like to thank all the groups that competed in the event, particularly those who travelled long distances and helped to make the day such a success.



The teams that took part in the Argyll and Bute Dance Festival at Oban High School.

Results: Junior Competition: Best Overall: 1 Hermitage Academy (1), 2 Oban High (Kicc), 3 Oban High (Disaster Zone); Best Presentation: Lochgilphead High (Fusion); Most Entertaining: Oban High School (Kicc).

Senior Competition: Best Overall: 1 Hermitage Academy (2), 2 Oban High (SYG), 3 Lochgilphead High (Fusion); Best Presentation: Oban High (Slam); Most Entertaining: Lochgilphead High (Fusion).

'Traditionally neglected' ferns are brought to life

LORN and Mid-Argyll Members' Centre of the Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT) met at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory to enjoy an illustrated lecture by Professor Alastair Wardlaw of Glasgow.

Speaking on 'A Garden of British Ferns', Alastair amused and delighted his audience, which included the chairman and vice-chairman of the SWT, with an excellent mixture of erudition, enthusiasm and humour, proving just how interesting and ornamental is this traditionally neglected group of native plants.

Another recent activity was the latest in a series of wildlife walks, this time to the National Nature Reserve at Glasdrum, above Loch Creran, an excellent site for Chequered Skipper butterflies later in the season. Members were delighted to find evidence of badgers as well as a good viewing of a peregrine falcon and many of the first primroses of the year.

There followed a circular walk in Glen Creran to see greater spotted woodpecker, oystercatcher and curlew and where a high level path gave great views of the Glencoe hills. Huge quantities of frogspawn were seen in every available patch of water.

Official Dutch monument to sail into Oban

THIS summer a three-mast topsail schooner will be making special nature voyages along the west coast.

Dutch passenger-ship Oosterschelde will sail from Aberdeen to Oban for two voyages in the Hebrides during July and August. One trip will include St. Kilda. As the last remaining Dutch three-mast topsail schooner, she is an official Dutch monument. The ship has been restored to its original state, of 1918, and since the early nineties she has been sailing voyages all around the world.

Club invites folk to 'watch the birdie'

AMATEUR snappers are being urged to turn twitchers for a new photographic competition, launched in The Oban Times today.

The contest marks the 25th anniversary of the Argyll Bird Club and while the club's 200 members will be getting their cameras at the ready, the competition is open to non-members as well.

Cash prizes are up for grabs in both adult and junior sections for the best pictures of wild birds photographed in Argyll.

The top junior entry, by someone under 18 on August 31, will win The Oban Times prize of a digital camera. Second prize is £30 and third prize is £20. In the senior competition, first prize is £50, second £30 and third £20.

David Warden, committee member, said: 'The main role of the club is to generate and encourage an interest in birds. You don't need to be an expert, just have an interest in birds, whether this is just by watching the birds in your garden and your own local patch or whether you like getting out and about.'

Birds indicate the health of the Argyll habitat, he added, and data about sightings gathered by the bird club each year is used by conservation groups and scientists. 'It feeds into the general picture of biodiversity of Argyll and the region. There isn't any other organisation doing that - it's really volunteers who are out there every day gathering information that forms this huge, important recording system.'

Members also attend workshops, field trips and meetings and receive the club's magazine, The Eider.

David added it is the perfect time of year to start catching birds on camera: 'Early migrants are arriving from Africa, such as the Wheatear - look out for its white rump as it flits from place to place. About the size of a Robin, these epic travellers have spent the winter south of the Sahara in Africa.'

Entries close on August 31, 2010 and throughout the competition, there will be regular features about birds and tips on photographing them in The Oban Times. Full details of how to enter are available at www.argyllbirdclub.org.



Wheatears may start to arrive in Argyll from Africa - just in time for keen photographers to catch them on camera for Argyll Bird Club's new photographic competition. Picture courtesy of Eddie Maguire.

Green energy lights up Benderloch

CHILDREN from schools across North Lorn have learned about different sources of renewable energy with the help of ALEnergy and Lochnell Primary School.

At an exhibition in Benderloch's Victory Hall, with displays from children at the school, more than 100 pupils from Lochnell,

Appin and Ardchattan primaries were introduced to energy saving ideas.

The exhibition was also open to members of the public, with Lorn Producers Market providing food and drinks.

Terry Donovan, education officer with ALEnergy and organiser of the energy awareness day, said: 'The idea was to have a link with the children, to involve the community as well, which is why it is open to the public.'

'Every class at Lochnell primary has done something,' she added.

The most popular exhibit though was the bicycle, built by Dunoon Grammar School, which powered light bulbs.

Displays of solar powered gadgets, what energy wind can produce and experiments with water and air under pressure all helped to get the renewable energy message home, helped by members of the ALEnergy team being on hand to answer any questions and offer advice to members of the public.

The children were asked to join the Energy Hero and Super Hero club and the hope was that many of them would take the energy-saving message home with them.



Pedal power lights up bulbs. 15_013energy02



Toni with her music and dance groups at the Corran Halls. 16_011pinc1

Toni's Pink Ladies clarsach group grows up

A SPECTACULAR show of talented youngsters took place in the Corran Halls, thanks to music and Highland dance tutor Toni Russell.

The 10 Years On Concert saw the last performance of clarsach group Na Caileagan Phinc.

Toni said: 'After 10 wonderful years with the Pink Ladies

clarsach group I have decided that it is now time to give up. The girls were all youngsters when I started out, during my university training, and I have watched them develop and grow into excellent performers. It is now time for one of them to consider taking over the group.'

'My dance classes and music tuition are still continuing.'

Ballet West showcase

DANCERS who have completed the pioneering BA course at Taynuilt's Ballet West will perform a showcase, The Next Stage, next Wednesday in the Corran Halls, Oban.

The students are the first in Scotland completing a degree in ballet performance and the show is the culmination of three years of work.

As well as being a public performance, the showcase is the final assessment that the students will take before graduating with a BA in Classical Ballet and Dance Performance from the UHI Millennium Institute.

The nine graduating students have come from all over the UK and studied in a unique collaboration between the ballet school and North Highland College, an academic partner of the UHI Millennium Institute.

Ballet West principal Gillian Barton said: 'In the performing arts, as in virtually every walk of life, employers are looking for professional qualifications and our degree will meet an industry demand.'



One of Ballet West's talented dancers

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

EASTER FAYRE

Seil Island Hall

April 3, 2010

11am - 4pm

Sale, tables and car boot sale

Teas and home baking

Argyll Animal Aid and Seil Natural History Group

To book a table or car contact Richard 01852 300388

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain

COFFEE MORNING

Masonic Hall, Albany Street

Saturday, 3rd April

10.00 a.m. - 12 noon

Local Mod Fund-raiser

OBAN ART SOCIETY Arts and Crafts Fair

Former Red Cross Hall (Army Cadet Centre)

Tweeddale Street

Saturday 3rd and Monday 5th April

10am - 5pm

Entry free Arts and Crafts for sale

FORT WILLIAM ACCORDION & FIDDLE CLUB

Musical Evening

Tuesday 6th April 2010 - 8pm

GUEST ARTISTS: Colin Dewar Trio

Railway Club Inverlochy All Welcome

Admission £4.00 - Tea & Raffle Extra

IN THE EVENT OF LAST MINUTE CANCELLATION BY ANY GUEST ARTIST THE COMMITTEE WILL FIND AN ALTERNATIVE ARTIST

Easter Eggstravaganza at Inveraray Castle

fun and frolics for all the family. Roll your egg and join in the Easter egg hunt with prizes for best Easter bonnet and decorated egg.

Commences at 1.30pm. Normal Castle admission charge applies + £2.50 per child for Easter Eggstravaganza.

Tel: 01499 302178 / 302598

Easter Monday 5th April

Coffee Morning (in the church hall, top of Argyll Street)

10.30 - 12.30

Tea/coffee/homebaking

Church sale stall

Eilean Eisdeal announces

Lau concert 3rd April on Easdale is now

SOLD OUT

lesbian? gay? bisexual? transgender?

OBAN LGBT GROUP

Sat 10 Apr: informal meet

Sat 8 May: workshop: Your Rights - LGBT & the LAW!

More info Katrina Mitchell 07818 287 053

info.argyllbute@tth.org.uk

OBAN U3A

Monthly Coffee Meeting

Caledonian Hotel, Oban

Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 10.30 am

A warm welcome to all members and an opportunity for anyone interested to find out about U3A activities.

The Launch of the Dalriada Project Community History Book

Dalriada A Twentieth Century Kingdom

By Marian Pallister

The Argyll Book Centre

Lorn Street, Lochgilphead

Saturday 3rd April 11am - 2pm

Refreshments

www.dalriadaproject.org

To advertise in the

WHAT'S ON COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

Telephone: 01631 568000

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (plus VAT)

This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.

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

ADVERTORIAL

Have a cracking Easter at Inverawe Smokehouses

DRIVING up the single track road into the Inverawe Estate, you can really appreciate how beautiful Argyll is as spring begins to blossom forth.

To celebrate Easter, Inverawe Smokery and Country Park is warmly inviting local families and visitors to relish in that beauty and enjoy the wide range of activities they have on offer.

Against a magnificent backdrop, the wide open countryside is home to red squirrels, deer, foxes and an abundance of birdlife. In the play and picnic areas, smokery exhibition, produce shop and welcoming cafe there is something for everyone, from young children to grandparents.

Inverawe Smokehouses is the perfect choice for a family day out this spring.

After the success of last year, Inverawe Smokehouses is running an Easter Egg Hunt from April 1-18. Kids of all ages, adults included, can enjoy exploring the great outdoors, solving clues as they go to win some delicious sweets at the end of the hunt. Entry costs just £1.95.

Rosie Campbell-Preston, owner

of Inverawe Smokehouses, said: 'Easter is a great opportunity to spend quality time with your family. At Inverawe, there is plenty on offer whether it be enjoying dizzy heights in the swing park or wandering along the nature trails and walks which will take you exploring through the surrounding woods and down to the shores of Loch Etive.'

After experiencing the great outdoors, the Inverawe Tearoom, which opened for the 2010 spring and summer season on March 20, allows you to drop in and taste some of the finest smoked products and home-made baking that Inverawe has to offer.

And if browsing should turn to buying, the Inverawe Gourmet Shop, open daily from 8.30am until 5pm, gives visitors the opportunity to savour the much-loved taste of Inverawe's premium products at home.

Filled with gourmet delights including a complete range of Inverawe smoked foods and condiments, as well as owner Rosie Campbell Preston's specialist cookery books, the Inverawe Gourmet Shop is a food

aficionado's heaven.

Established on the banks of the River Awe in 1974, Inverawe Smokehouses has become one of Scotland's most revered smokeries, renowned worldwide for its award-winning products.

Visitors interested in the process will also have the chance to see inside the smokery, watching the experts at work as they follow the age-old traditional way of smoking which has been followed by the Campbell-Preston family for over 25 years.

Rosie added: 'The Inverawe estate is a truly magical place and we are delighted to welcome local families as well as visitors to the area to share the experience with us.'

Inverawe Smokehouses is showing their appreciation to regular visitors with a 5 per cent discount card which can be used in The Gourmet Shop and Inverawe Tearoom.

For further information about Inverawe Smokehouses, please contact 01866 822 777 or visit www.smokedsalmon.co.uk.

To contact the shop, please call 01866 822 808.

Grants for two Argyll charities

TWO Argyll groups have been awarded grants to help them grow and develop.

Stramash, which runs outdoor activities for children and adults, will receive £65,323 from the Third Sector Enterprise Fund.

The Gal Gael Trust was awarded £79,894, which will help it give people new skills and confidence by renovating a farm near Dalavich into a bunkhouse.

Jim Mather, Argyll and Bute MSP and Scotland's enterprise minister, welcomed the announcement and described the area's voluntary sector as 'dynamic'.

Eric Smith World Travel

Sponsors the Oban Times Leisure Section

Eric Smith World Travel, 10 Argyll Square, Oban • Telephone: 01631 566818/9

www.gowstravel.co.uk

email: expertise@gowstravel.co.uk

Champions search

THE hunt is on for four young ambassadors from Argyll and Bute to promote the legacy of the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

Young Scot in partnership with the Scottish government, wants to appoint four young people aged between 14 and 21 to help the area's young people get the most out of the games' legacy. Training and support will be provided to the successful applicants, as well as the chance to work towards a youth achievement award. For information visit www.youngscot.org/youthlegacy.

Local Producers Markets

Thursday 1st April

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

YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
A big change occurs in the heavens this week, putting you back in touch with the side of you that loves good food and wine, and the odd expedition to the shops, for some therapy, of the retail variety. Yet with Saturn about to sneak back into your health and fitness sector, you'll need to show a modicum of self discipline. Love can be both saucy and stormy! Call me for your love scope...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
If you have been having a few sleepless nights, perhaps about your love life or because someone has been less than loyal or sincere, you can bounce back strongly now. True, things may not be absolutely perfect, but your sex appeal soars and this can see new interest heading your way. Yet when it comes to changes at home, do be patient Taurus. Call now for your love scope in full...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
A little bit of treachery may be around you. Someone can also tell you something in confidence, and it's essential you don't divulge this. A repair may also unexpectedly need attending to at home. It may even be something that you thought you'd sorted out last year. An older relative may also need extra support or there can be inter-generational tensions. Call for more news and astral advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Friendships really do make the world go around, but one person who tends to take your kindness for granted, could start to grate. If you are someone with old fashioned values, good for you, so don't be tempted to compromise them. Mostly, don't let anyone browbeat you or put a big guilt trip on you around money or possessions. Stay strong Cancer. Call now for your financial forecast in full...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Your sensitivities are set to be heightened, and so are those of someone you need to deal with. This could find you and them, almost accidentally getting into a squabble. Part of the problem is the harsh nature of planet Mars, which squares to both Mercury and Venus. Charm will take you everywhere, an inflated ego, nowhere. Better to adopt a light touch! Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Saturn winds into your zodiac sign after a five month absence. Perhaps a relationship is not as ideal as you thought, or requires more work. Balancing your need for excitement, with the need for commitment, could be another issue. This week particularly, you can find yourself restless. Or is something or someone from your past, still powerfully at work? Call now for more astral advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
This is not a good week to throw caution to the wind, and especially around property, savings, or investments. So if you find yourself with a world beating money making idea on your hands, head down to your local bank or enterprise centre, to get some good solid business advice. Funnily enough, if you do, your project can do really very well Libra. Call me for your financial forecast...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
Love can sizzle, but only if you and yours can agree to disagree on some big issues. If you're looking for a new involvement, you certainly won't be lacking in charisma and this can draw someone to your side. You can be more confident than usual, prepared to cast doubts to the wind. However, someone at work can seem impervious to your charms. Call now for your love scope in full...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
You might find someone wants you to help them out and your first instinct can be to readily agree to do so. The problem is that later you may wonder if they've got around you to do this. However, this can be a time when work can become more enjoyable, as long as overtime and excessive pressures, don't close in on your own personal space. Call your special prediction line for more astral advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Fun, fun, fun! Yes, there is a great deal to look forward to this week, and your love life in particular can get much more passionate. However, if you and yours are finding it harder to get along, jealousy and possessiveness can rear their heads. Either one of you may want to be more of a free spirit, the other be more clingy. Compromise may prove hard. Call me now for your love scope in full...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
Even if you have been resistant to getting things done at home, your drive can go up several notches this week. Now, if everyone is as equally galvanised as you are, be it anyone you live with, or any tradespeople you have hired, all well and good. If not, you could easily become frustrated by the slow pace of things and a few sparks could fly. Call your special prediction line for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
You can prove to be one of the most convivial members of the zodiac this week, with your lively mind keen to have lots of bright and bubbly chit chat. By midweek, the fortune bringer Jupiter, still in your sign, links superbly with the Sun, suggesting that if you are enterprising, your efforts can see you enjoy a slice of good luck. So, have confidence Pisces. Call me for your financial forecast...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1p 1TY
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline For entertainment purposes only

Community to buy Skye reservoir

CAMUSCROSS and Duisdale Initiative (CDI) will become the proud owners of Allt Duisdale Reservoir in a matter of weeks.

The Slead community company has won £6,457 from Awards for All to buy the lochan, which Scottish Water had put up for sale.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise's community land unit are covering conveyancing costs and CDI directors expect the transfer to take place by the beginning of May.

Solicitors, MacLeod & MacCallum of Inverness, have been instructed to be ready for purchase as soon as the transfer has taken place.

Next steps include applying for funding from Community Energy Scotland to produce a detailed business plan for a small hydroelectric scheme. The blueprint will enable CDI to apply for funding from trusts and banks to finance the project.

A biodiversity management group is also planned to show a community-owned reservoir with a hydro scheme is beneficial to wildlife.

Lews Castle aims for multi-million pound restoration

LEWS Castle in Stornoway could be in line for a multi-million pound restoration after the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) awarded development funding of £240,000.

The cash represents a first-round pass for a £2.6m bid towards a £10 million project drawn up by the Lews Castle Trust Steering Group.

Ambitious plans include creating a modern museum and a high-class hotel at the A-listed castle.

Chairman and Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said HLF backing was crucial in raising the rest of the funding needed to bring 'this long-awaited project' to fruition.

Highland Council to consult over community council constitutions

HIGHLAND Council is consulting the public on plans to provide community councils with a model constitution, standing orders and code of conduct for community councillors.

The consultation, which runs until 30 June, also provides the opportunity for communities to further consider potential boundary changes following the first phase of public consultation last year, when 21 proposed boundary amendments emerged.

Oban £1.7 million marina business plan goes back before Argyll and Bute Council

THE BALL regarding proposals to put short-stay pontoons for yachts in Oban Bay has now been thrown back to Argyll and Bute Council.

Regeneration
Oban Bay Marine has resubmitted its business case for the 50 short-stay berths and a chain and anchor breakwater costing £1.7 million to Argyll and Bute Council as part of

its CHORD town centre waterfront regeneration strategy.

The council's project board and Oban Project Board for CHORD had agreed in principle to investing £900,000 of capital in the pontoons off George Street, with Oban Bay Marine borrowing £800,000 which would be paid back via income from the pontoons.

The voluntary organisation

had been given until April 2 by the council's CHORD project board to review a number of issues raised in its proposal, designed by engineers Wallace Stone, after the council's own consultants AECOM felt it would cost more in the region of £3.4 million.

There were technical, operational and sustainability issues, including concerns raised

by CalMac regarding ferries manoeuvring in the bay, which chairman of Oban Bay Marine John MacGregor felt they had now overcome.

'CalMac has conclusively supported the chain proposal as opposed to the pilings proposal made by AECOM. They are happy with what Wallace Stone has shown them and we have got that in writing,'

said Mr MacGregor.

'We have also overcome the sustainability concerns,' he said, adding that the voluntary board of directors had worked hard to counter all concerns raised.

'Wallace Stone are very confident that our costs are much nearer the mark than AECOM's estimates.'

He said the revised business case had been sent to the CHORD programme's

senior responsible officer Robert Pollock.

Argyll and Bute Council confirmed that a revised proposal had been submitted for assessment by AECOM.

'The council hopes that this assessment can be taken forward as quickly as possible, although the timescales will be dependent on the level of detail provided in the revised project proposal,' said the

council's spokeswoman.

'Once assessed, the Oban Project Board will meet to consider the proposal.'

She said the council supported the proposals for a short-stay marina but 'at a time of difficult financial decisions in the public sector, the council must be fully confident that it is investing in a project which is viable and, above all else, safe.'



The Orkney Venus was discovered on the Orkney island of Westray last summer.

Orkney Venus comes to Kilmartin

SCOTLAND'S earliest face, the Orkney Venus, will be displayed this week at Kilmartin House Museum.

Neolithic
The 5,000-year-old figurine is the only known Neolithic carving of a human form to have been found in Scotland.

The Venus was discovered last summer by archaeologists working on the Historic Scotland excavation at the Links of Nollland, on the Orkney island of Westray.

Also known as the Westray Wife, the Venus measures 41mm by 31mm, is made from sandstone and depicts a human face and body.

The figurine will be at Kilmartin House as part of a nationwide tour.

The exhibition will provide an overview of recent research on the Venus and tell the story of current excavations on Westray.

Dr Sharon Webb, from Kilmartin House Museum, said: 'We are very privileged to participate in exhibiting this splendid artefact across Scotland, and we hope the Venus will feel at home in Kilmartin's Neolithic landscape.'

The exhibition will start tomorrow morning with primary school children from Lochgilphead being the first visitors to see the figurine.

The Venus will remain at the museum until April 18 when it will travel to Urquhart Castle on the banks of Loch Ness.

Oban housing priorities questioned

Community council member asks for clarity on housing allocations to dispel confusion

WHO gets priority for social housing in Argyll has been questioned by members of Oban Community Council.

At a meeting on Monday, community councillor Neil MacIntyre asked for more information on the points system used to work out who gets a home. He said: 'Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh has got a house and people are asking me how it works.'

'How are the points allocated and how do you get on the list? Do you have to sell your house before you get on the health list?'

Mr MacIntyre stressed he was not querying an individual decision but wanted to dispel confusion about how applications are prioritised. He added: 'I find it amazing that you can keep your own home, rent it out and get a council house. Why do some people have to sell their house to pay for private care?'

Andy Birnie, a tenant representative on the board of Argyll Community Housing Association, said: 'There is a common housing register for the whole of Argyll. Anyone who has medical problems, living in unsuitable housing, which he [Skye] was, is entitled to apply for a house.'

'You can get a house and keep your own house and rent or sell it.'

He accepted the number of homeless people was

" I find it amazing that you can keep your own home, rent it out and get a council house. Why do some people have to sell their house to pay for private care? "

Community councillor Neil MacIntyre

in the hundreds and was increasing.

After the meeting, Councillor McIntosh said he was completely above board in his application for a suitable house, after he developed a medical condition which made climbing stairs impossible.

He said: 'If I'm medically homeless, because I can't live in my house, I'm entitled to apply like anyone else. I was a prisoner in that house, because it was three floors up.'

'I was stuck two years on the housing list to get a house, to make sure everything was alright, to make sure no one could ask questions. If I hadn't been a councillor I could have had a house before that.'

Councillor McIntosh moved into his new property two months ago and said it had greatly improved his quality of life. He added any other property he owned was not relevant to

his application. 'It doesn't matter if I have 10 houses,' he said. 'That house was bought 10 years ago and it's got nothing to do with my present health condition.'

Housing associations operate a joint waiting list through HOME Argyll, using the same criteria to allocate houses according to priority need. 'Reasonable preference' is given to applicants living in unsatisfactory housing, including if it is unsuitable for their health. Their policy document also states 'the value of any property or properties owned by the applicant of the applicant's family' is not taken into account.

An ACHA spokesperson said: 'Argyll and Bute Council makes the decision on who qualifies under the homeless legislation and refers these applicants to the housing associations in Argyll and Bute. That is what happened in this case.'

£300 fine for breach of the peace

A TWENTY-five-year-old man has been fined £300 after admitting breaching the peace at a flat in Westbay Apartments in Oban.

Steven Paterson, 4A Glencruitten Drive, Oban, committed the offence on December 19 2009 after an argument with his partner over a telephone call which his solicitor said the accused was concerned might involve drugs, an issue which both were struggling with at the time.

Paterson had since been placed on a drug treatment and testing order for another offence following this incident, the court heard.

Paterson had been heard shouting at his partner and when a worker at the apartments had gone into the flat, his partner had been shaking with fear. Both had been drinking at the time.

Oban man placed on probation

AN OBAN man who admitted breaching the peace at his home and a neighbour's home on two separate occasions has been placed on probation for 15 months.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Norman Lindsay, aged 47, 23E Shuna Terrace, Oban, had shouted and sworn at his partner on December 2 around midnight and in the early hours of the following morning, after she took refuge at a neighbour's flat. After an argument, he had also followed her to a neighbour's flat on February 7 2010 where he entered the flat uninvited, shouting and swearing, looking for his partner.

Both incidents had followed a spell of drinking by Lindsay, who was placed on probation by the court with a condition that he attend alcohol counselling.

Lights to be fixed

BROKEN street lights are set to be fixed in Connel, at least seven months after they were first reported.

Residents living on the A85 main road through Connel had counted eight lights out of action and complained to Scotland TransServ, the agency responsible for street lights on trunk roads.

Campbeltown aims to redevelop town's marina

CAMPBELTOWN has secured £150,000 for a feasibility study into the redevelopment of the town's marina.

The European funding was secured by the Sail West Partnership Project, a new project designed to promote the west of Scotland as a world-class sailing destination.

The £7.8 million new flagship project

was launched this week in Donegal.

The project aims to promote the west of Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to the global sailing fraternity, and to encourage greater sailing traffic between the three regions.

Councillor Donnie MacMillan, chairman of the Mid Argyll, Kintyre

and the Islands Area Committee, represented Argyll and Bute at the launch.

He said: 'Sail West clearly has the potential to have a major impact on the local area and economy, and I'm delighted that one of its first successes is to secure this substantial European grant.'

Dangerous driver says he overtook off-duty police officers

TWO off-duty police officers described at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday seeing a BMW overtake twice, crossing double white lines on the road between Dunbeg and Oban.

The two officers were giving evidence at the trial of Vojta Musil, aged 34, who denied driving dangerously on July 11 last year on the

A85. Both PC Lorraine Hay and Daniel McBeth were off-duty at the time, driving towards Oban from Connel in their red Renault Megane and described seeing a silver BMW being driven by the accused in front of them.

Both said he had pulled out to overtake a car in front just past the junction

to Dunbeg, crossing into the chevroned area over a broken white line but had to encroach over double white lines before getting back into his side again.

Both said a car coming in the opposite direction had to brake to avoid a collision.

Both officers then said that the BMW again overtook a car just before a 'blind' bend,

crossing solid double white lines, after the Halfway House Filling Station.

Under cross examination from defence agent Robert T McCormack, both denied seeing the BMW overtaking their car just after Connel or that they had been mistaken about the second overtaking manoeuvre.

Computer programmer

Musil, 22 Calder Road, Livingstone, told the court he had overtaken a red Renault Megane just after Connel, which he felt had speeded up as he overtook it. He said there had been no car approaching from the opposite direction when he had overtaken a grey Mazda near Dunbeg, which he said seemed to be moving in an

erratic manner. He denied overtaking a second time near the left-hand bend, saying the officers must have been mistaken.

Sheriff Douglas Small found Musil guilty of dangerous driving, banned him from driving for year, ordered him to re-sit his test at the end of the ban and fined him £650.



Jill MacKechnie along with Ken Moncrieff, Rotary Club of Oban, and Helen Hope, Principal Teacher of Languages at Oban High School.

Oban High School pupil wins trip to the European Parliament

Rotary Club of Oban selects student to represent the town

AN OBAN High School student won a prized place on a visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

Jill MacKechnie, in year six at Oban High School, was picked by the Rotary Club of Oban to represent the town, following a gruelling selection process including essay-writing, French and an interview.

Jill took part in a five-day Euroscola visit to the European Parliament - conducted almost entirely in French - with 27 other young Scots and participated in a special youth debate in the European Parliament chamber.

Last week, Jill told Rotary members about her trip and how it had been a unique and memorable experience. She was presented with her Euroscola Certificate by David Mitchell, president of the Rotary Club of Oban.

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ScotRail in sleeper re-think

FIRST ScotRail is to carry out an internal review of the Fort William to London 'Caledonian Sleeper' telephone and online booking system.

The move follows a meeting on Friday between Ross, Skye and Lochaber MP Charles Kennedy and First ScotRail managing director Steve Montgomery.

Mr Montgomery is to request internal data which matches up berth bookings made with actual berth occupancy. Investigations should reveal the extent of any discrepancies in the booking system, which has come in for heavy criticism.

Examples include potential customers being advised of berth unavailability, only to discover empty berths available at the time of travel. Mr Montgomery will also require spot checks of future sleeper availability through the electronic booking system to log incidences of would-be passengers abandoning preferred bookings because they were given misleading or wrong information on availability. Evidence gathered will be made available to the MP and to the public.

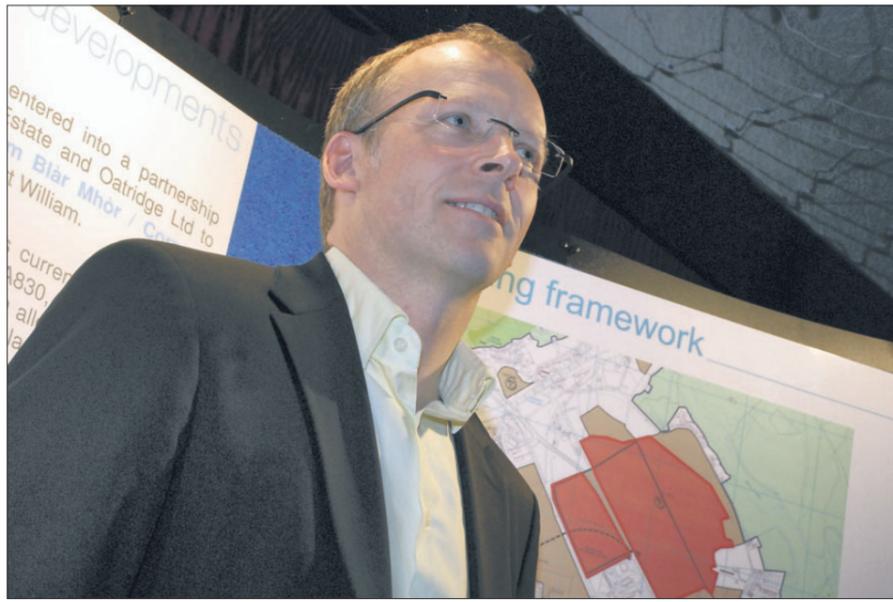
Mr Kennedy said he was able to cite 'chapter and verse' examples where information and fares given out to would-be passengers did not match the booking reality. He said: 'I appeal to people to keep coming forward with their own experiences. I am particularly interested in hearing from those who have tried and eventually abandoned their efforts to make a booking. As things stand that situation does not show up as lost passenger traffic, which can create a misleadingly low figure in terms of interest in the sleeper services.'

A ScotRail spokesperson said: 'We had a constructive meeting and the points raised will be pursued. ScotRail also made clear its commitment to the sleeper, including a £1m upgrade and discounted fares to help fill seats at quieter times.'

Indian visit for dive centre

TRADE links between India and Scotland will be in the spotlight today (Thursday) when Consul General Anil Kumar Anand attends a civic reception at The Underwater Centre in Fort William.

Provost of Lochaber Councillor Allan Henderson and centre owner Finlay Finlayson will meet Mr Anand.



Looking to the future: David Milloy.

Royal Mail bosses finally go ahead with new postcode

EXCLUSIVE report:
By STEPHEN NORRIS

MORVERN is finally to get its own postcode as Royal Mail bosses this week decided to go ahead with plans to allocate the area a separate postal identifier from May 17.

In January, campaigners thought they had won their 12-year battle to scrap the PA34 postcode Morvern shares with Oban and end years of misdirected letters and parcels.

The Scottish Parliament petitions committee had backed their fight and Royal Mail subsequently informed residents on January 22 that a new PA80 code would come into effect on March 1.

A few residents objected to remaining under a PA designation and made a late plea for a PH Perthshire code, forcing Royal Mail to put the change on ice pending further investigations.

But in a letter to residents yesterday, customers were told that, after consideration, the new PA80 code would be implemented after all.

It states: 'Royal Mail has concluded that in order to sort and route mail more

efficiently to the Morvern peninsula, the creation of a new outward postcode sector is necessary. It is therefore our intention to go ahead with the proposal to change the Morvern postcode from PA34 to PA80. The new postcode will come into effect from May 17 2010.'

It adds: 'It has never been Royal Mail's view that a change from PA34 to a PH-based code would be beneficial to customers. Our review showed that such a change would provide a detrimental service to our customers resulting in a delay in delivery times, and we would not be allowed to take such a course of action under the terms of our Universal Service Obligation licence.'

'PA is not a 'Paisley' postcode. It covers the whole of Argyll and Bute as well as Renfrewshire and Inverclyde. Mail to and from Morvern does not go anywhere near Paisley.'

'You may also wish to note that delivery and collections times of mail in Morvern will stay exactly the same as they are now. We will continue to use the local ferry service from Oban in our delivery arrangements, however

the bespoke postcode will allow us to make operational efficiencies through less handling and less sortation at the Oban delivery office.'

Royal Mail say they will make 'every effort' to minimise any inconvenience and the second part of Morvern postcodes will stay the same.

The new code will be only be for the Morvern and mail will continue to follow the same route, with delivery responsibility still lying with Oban delivery office.

Lochaline man Douglas Watt, who together with Morvern Community Council orchestrated the campaign for a new code, said the late bid to derail the decision had been 'stupid and unnecessary'.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'This will come as a great relief to all those people who have supported our campaign. I am sure the whole community will be delighted. It is the end of a long struggle.'

Highlands MSP Peter Peacock led political efforts to lobby Royal Mail and presented Morvern's case to the Petitions Committee.

Group pledges to reverse Fort's decades of retail decline

THE CONSORTIUM planning a multi-million pound retail, residential and community services complex on the outskirts of Fort William has pledged to reverse the Lochaber capital's decades of retail decline.

And according to Miller Developments managing director David Milloy, if views expressed by local people at a three-day public consultation event in the Ben Nevis Hotel are anything to go by, that won't be a moment too soon.

Miller and partners Oatridge Ltd want to bring a 75,000 sq ft supermarket and big brand name retailers to its 105-acre Blar Mhor site at Camaghael next to the A830 Road to the Isles.

The masterplan also envisages more than 300 homes and a relocated Belford Hospital, police station and ambulance station - but will only be finalised after hundreds of written comments from the consultation have been analysed. Only four out of 270 attending the event opposed the plan, Mr Milloy said, indicating 'a real desire from a public desperate to see development take place'.

Speaking exclusively to *The Oban Times* in the hotel on Saturday, Mr Milloy said Fort William had fallen far behind its regional rivals.

'In my view over the past

two decades there has been very limited development in the town, whereas conversely there has been a lot of development in Oban and Inverness,' he said.

'Given the fact that Fort William is the biggest town in the Highlands, that just seems fundamentally wrong. With all the development that has been happening in those towns, they have become a greater pull and there has been a greater leakage from Fort William. When people go further afield they are not just doing their food shopping - they are doing all their shopping.'

'In terms of commercial uses there was real support for another supermarket as well as a complimentary retail park similar to what you find in Inverness or Oban. For community use there was a desire for an all-weather playing field and a relocated hospital, police station and ambulance station.'

Asked about impacts on the town centre, he said: 'What the town needs is investment - and on a scale that will return spend to the town. A retail centre at Blar Mhor could be complementary to the High Street, which at the moment is mostly made up of tourism type shops.'

'We can offer a facility that allows people to have choices

so they can stay in the town to do their shopping - and that will allow new businesses to evolve on High Street. 'The Blar offers up not just commercial benefits but also community benefits - ours is the only site that does that. We are very keen to see a high quality, well-designed layout and see it evolve properly.'

Mr Milloy said public responses from the event would be used to evolve the masterplan, which will be brought back as a detailed presentation in May. 'We will seek further comments then and make further amendments in advance of a planning application being lodged in June or July,' he said. Reminded that other schemes had failed to meet deadlines, he said: 'That's a definite. You can't get any clearer than that. Ours is the obvious site - it is economically viable and deliverable within a limited time.'

The consortium has reached agreement with Lochiel Estates for the site, which is identified in the Highlands and Islands Local Plan for mixed-use development.

'Highland and Islands Enterprise are very supportive and they want to see early action to support the development of Corpach Moss site for industrial and business uses,' said Mr Milloy.

Nursery pupils visit centre

THE RURAL Education Centre at Aonach Mor welcomed 19 nursery children from Banavie Primary School last Wednesday for a fun morning of activities.

The tots made their own biscuits for a morning snack, helped by Linda Campbell, then went for an educational walk round the centre to feed the ducks and see the animals.

On view were assorted Polish, Belgian and Japanese hens, rabbits, guinea pigs, quails and doves, with many of the animals enclosed in a new run designed and built by community service workers.

The centre's 'Seed to Supper' project to encourage schoolchildren to grow their own veg is also getting into full swing as spring replaces the long, cold winter.

Inverloch, Fort William RC and Lochside RC primaries are involved this year in the nine-week gardening course and are busy planting their varieties of new potatoes, with Stagecoach laying on free transport to and from the schools throughout.

Acharacle nursery children visited the centre last Tuesday to learn home-baking skills.



Banavie nursery children enjoy their morning at the rural education centre. 10_f14banavie01

New South Lochaber water supply goes on stream

AROUND 3,000 South Lochaber residents have a new water supply after £6.9million Scottish Water project went on stream.

Ardgour, Ballachulish, Duror, Glencoe, North Ballachulish and Onich are no longer supplied from individual treatment works but are instead connected to the main drinking water supply from Fort William.

New pipes have been laid over the last year to make the connection.

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Glendale Heritage Exhibition

THE GLENDALE Trust on Skye is to open Borrodale School to the public over the Easter weekend for The Glendale Heritage Exhibition. The exhibition will be on display on Friday April 2, Saturday April 3 and Monday April 5 between 10am and 4pm. The trust is looking to transform the school, which is currently earmarked for closure, into a permanent exhibition centre.

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Young pipers impress contest judges

LOCHABER Piping Society staged a highly successful annual junior piping competition on Saturday – despite a switch of venue from Lochaber High School to Lochyshire RC Primary School.

Society secretary Morag Melville told *The Oban Times* the judges were impressed by the standard of playing from the 50 competitors, an entry consistent with last year.

'The quality was of very high standard and they came from all areas, from Oban, Skye, Kyle, Inverness, Invergarry, Spean Bridge and Fort William,' she said. 'Everything worked out fine.'

Results: Chanter: under 10 years – 1 Kayleigh MacMillan, 2 Ailsa MacDonald, 3 Romy Melville; 11-13 years – 1 Laura Paterson, 2 Michelle MacKinnon, 3 Liam Stewart-Stevenson; 14 and under – 1 Kayleigh MacMillan, 2 Laura Paterson, 3 Megan Stewart-MacDonald.

Bagpipes: Novice, March – 1 Laura Paterson, 2 Rebecca Shearer; Slow air – 1 Rebecca Shearer;

16 and under, March – 1 James Rosie, 2 Andrew Heburn, 3 Roslyn Oliver; Slow air – 1

Seumas o' Baoighill, Angus MacColl, Brighde Chaimbeul; Under 15 years, March – 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, 2 Seamus o' Baoighill, 3 Rona Nicholson; Strathspey and reel – 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, 2 Rona Nicholson, 3 Seamus o' Baoighill; Piobearachd – 1 Brighde Chaimbeul, 2 Seamus o' Baoighill, Rona Nicholson; Jig – 1 Rona Nicholson, 2 Seamus o' Baoighill, 3 Brighde Chaimbeul;

18 and under, March – 1 Alexander Levack, 2 Angus MacColl, 3 James Rosie; Strathspey and reel – 1 Alexander Levack, 2 James Rosie, 3 Donald MacDougall; Piobearachd – 1 Angus MacColl, 2 Donald J MacDougall, James Rosie; Piobearachd, ground only – 1 Harry Stage, 2 Conall MacLlechiar, 3 Rebecca Robertson; Jig – 1 Alexander Levack, 2 Donald J MacDougall, 3 Angus MacColl; Piobearachd, Donald MacLeod – 1 Angus MacColl, 2 Alexander Levack, 3 Seamus o' Baoighill.

Overall prizes - The Miss MacRae Conchra Cup, Ben Fulford; Hugh MacPhee Memorial Quaich, Angus Anderson; Buchanan Sheild, Rebecca Shearer; Fort William Town Council Cup, Roslyn Oliver; John MacLellan Trophy, James Rosie; Evan MacRae Trophy, James Rosie.



Sleat success: Brighde Chaimbeul with her father Aonghas Phadraig, from Ferrindonald, after she won the under 15 years Piobaireachd for the second time.

MSP sees Uist coastal erosion at first hand

SOUTH Uist residents took their MSP on an eye-opening tour of the island's disappearing west coast on Sunday under an Oxfam Scotland (OS) initiative to push coastal erosion issues up the political agenda.

Local people showed Alasdair Allan MSP and OS representatives how Atlantic storms are destroying coastal machair at Kilphedar and along the western seaboard at a rate of up to five metres per year.

At the following public drop-in session at the Borrodale Hotel, Daliburgh, local crofter Kenny Campbell of Tipherton, Smeircleit, told how 40-foot waves came crashing over local homes with such force during one recent storm that many feared for their lives.

One man tried to tie himself to his home in an attempt to prevent himself from being washed away and another found the bodies of 37 of his sheep on a roof where they had been deposited by waves.

Although estimates for repairs are submitted to the authorities every year, Mr Campbell said, nothing ever happens and islanders are left to carry out repairs.

Former crofter Seumas MacDonald took part on Sunday's tour and briefed Mr Allan. He said: 'Ideally I would like to see something positive happen this summer.'

'We really need a proper defence system to protect us and our island from the sea. Things have been getting worse for years,

so we need to use this opportunity to get something in place.'

Mr Allan has written to all Uist residents asking for their views on coastal erosion and on planning for extreme weather events.

He said: 'The tour was a real eye-opener for everyone. Speaking to people in Uist about their concerns face to face has also been very useful. Many spoke of the tragedy in 2005 when three generations of one family were swept off a causeway by a freak wave during a storm surge, and they are understandably anxious to know what the options are for preventing something like that happening again.'

'The council is currently carrying out a number of surveys to establish what, if any, role the causeway network has had on the situation. Now it's time to look at the next step forward and I will do my best to consult with the community.'

OS delegates, including Caluna Campbell from Daliburgh, met Stòras Uibhist on Monday morning and visited the rocket range at Gerinish on Tuesday to view damage still evident from the January 2005 storm, which swept five members of a local family travelling across the causeway to Benbecula to their deaths.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency has predicted that the seas around South Uist will rise by at least 37cms by 2080.

Fergie's Folk with Fergie MacDonald



Robert Nairn from Kintra, Acharacle, Argyll. THIS Gaelic speaking young man plays button accordion, fiddle, bagpipes, whistle, guitar and sings Gaelic songs in true traditional style.

Where does he excel? Take your pick. He is brilliant at them all.

Although Robert lives near me in Acharacle, I really didn't pay much attention to his musical talents until one year I was button accordion tutor at the summer course in Sabhal-Mor-Ostaig, Isle of Skye, and Robert was a student on the course. He was a dedicated student. Although lectures finished at 5pm, Robert was just getting into 'top gear' at that time. He would still be in the lecture room at midnight, playing marches, reels and jigs to his fellow students who could hardly believe what they were hearing.

This 15-year-old - which he was at that time - was totally amazing. Robert attended a number of these courses at the Gaelic college and I note with great interest that this year Robert himself is the tutor for the button accordion summer

course at Sabhal-Mor-Ostaig. It's a funny old world. I knew then Robert Nairn was an outstanding musician, and he is proving me correct. Where he will finish up is anyone's guess. At present, Robert is a third year student at the Royal Academy of Music in Glasgow, sitting his final degree exams this year. I fully expect him to pass with honours.

Congratulations are very much in order, in that his band recently passed the audition to broadcast on the popular BBC *Take the Floor* programme. We all look forward to his first broadcast which I bet will be a cracker. Robert Nairn is a true west highland country lad. When at home his time is spent attending to his sheep and cows on the croft in Kintra. He looks so happy when he is ploughing, fencing or driving the tractor with the dogs on board. Being a keen sportsman, Robert plays shinty for Ardnamurchan Shinty Club. I often tell him to give it up. I am terrified he gets a whack on the fingers from big Jim Clark or Garry Innes!

Robert's newly-formed band gathers momentum by the day and is destined for the very top in the world of traditional music. We will all take much pleasure from following his music career with great interest because, I tell you now, this button key accordion virtuoso will be one of the biggest names that ever graced the fraternity of button box players.

Well done Robert.

Clan Donald Lands Trust open day

CLAN Donald Lands Trust welcomed Sleat residents to its open day at the redesigned Clan Donald Skye Visitor Centre on Saturday.

The trust also used the occasion to introduce the masterplanning team for the proposed new village (Baile Chlann Domhnaill: A' Chill Bheag) at Kilbeg. The team, led by Steve Nelson from Gillespies Architects, will stage a second public consultation in the summer to inform and involve local people.

Local MP Charles Kennedy also attended the event to hear of the pressing need for more affordable housing in Sleat for young people and families.

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Lochaber duo play to Chancellor

Gaelic College Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (SMO) celebrated the launch of its new development trust in style – at a reception in 11 Downing Street.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Alistair Darling and his wife Maggie hosted the event, attended by SMO representatives and members of the Gaelic community in London.

Lochaber musicians Allan and Ingrid Henderson, who work at SMO, were part of the college delegation and played at the reception ceilidh.

The launch was given an additional boost with the announcement of a major legacy of £100,000 being gifted by Professor Caroline Tisdall, who along with her partner, the late Paul Van Vlissingen,

has been a generous supporter of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig over many years.

SMO lecturer Ingrid, from Glenfinnan, told *The Oban Times* she managed to leave her clarsach behind following the 'typical Highland ceilidh'.

'I had to go and knock on No 10's door the next morning to ask if I could pick it up,' she said. 'There's a huge Gaelic community in London and they really enjoyed us going down to support them. I think that's because they are so far from the Highlands, they do a lot to preserve their ties.'

Allan, from Mallaig and SMO musician in residence, piped in guests and entertained on the fiddle at the event, held two days before the budget. The new independent

charitable trust will aim to help broaden the range of cultural activities and courses open to students and the wider community.

Chief officer Donnie Munro said: 'The new development trust will play a vital role in ensuring that Sabhal Mòr Ostaig's significant contribution to the regeneration of the Gaelic language and culture, through education, economic development, enterprise and the arts continues and that future aspirations for the college can be achieved.'

'The trust will offer supporters of the Gaelic language throughout the world a direct opportunity with which to engage in supporting the work of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.'



Allan and Ingrid Henderson, left, on the steps of 11 Downing Street with SMO principal Professor Boyd Robertson and his PA Anna Deplano.

Local history society meets

THE LAST of this year's Lochaber Local History Society meetings will be held in the Alexandra Hotel, Fort William, tonight (Thursday) at 8pm.

Matt Ritchie, Forestry Enterprise archaeologist, will give an insight into local archaeological sites and how they are protected and conserved.

The society's annual trip in mid May will be to Callart House, Glencoe Hospital and Castle Stalker.

Plockton High School raises £820 for Haiti

PLOCKTON High School has sent a cheque for £820 to support the Red Cross effort in Haiti.

The school made Haiti a special area of study in French and geography since January's devastating earthquake and the whole school community agreed to support the emergency work of the Red Cross there.

On the final day of term all pupils paid at least £1 not to wear uniform and staged an 'X Factor for Haiti'. Fourth-year pupil Mattie Ross won after a sing-off with 'Spice Girls' Stephanie James, Kate MacDonald, Tibbie MacKenzie, Sarah MacRae and Mr MacAskill.

Plockton High School rector, Duncan Ferguson said every single pupil had contributed. 'It has been a superb whole school effort in addition to enhancing our international education programme,' he said.



Hoppy Potters managing director Rachael MacPherson, third right, and directors, left to right, Sebastian Maksymiuk, Gabriel Silva, Aoife Tangney, Melanie MacLennan and Katherine Haines with their hand crafted pottery. 10_f14marys01

Enterprising pupils lead the way at Fort William RC Primary School

ENTERPRISE and initiative were to the fore at Fort William RC Primary School last Wednesday at the school's Easter Fair.

P6 and P7 pupils formed their own company 'Hoppy Potters' to make all the goods for sale, including pottery items, bookmarks, knitted toys, home baking and Easter cards.

Under the direction of managing director and P7 pupil Rachael MacLennan, the company negotiated a £50 loan from the school and bought all the ingredients and materials they

needed to make their impressive range of products.

With preparations well in hand for the rush of customers at 4pm, Rachael told *The Oban Times* she and her team had really enjoyed their enterprise project. She said: 'We have been working really hard for some time preparing lots of items for the sale.'

'We are expecting a lot of parents and children at the school to come.'

'We have not decided what to do with the money we will raise yet.'

Lochaber Duke of Edinburgh Award group plans

A MEETING to set up an open Lochaber Duke of Edinburgh Award group will be held at An Drochaid, Fort William, on April 15 at 6.30pm.

Lochaber Outdoor Learning Partnership Ltd (LOLP) is looking for adults interested in becoming group leaders, volunteers and trainers to help small groups of young people through the award. Disclosure will be required which will be arranged along with full Duke of Edinburgh Award training.

LOLP is also looking for organisations willing to provide suitable volunteering opportunities for the volunteering section of the award. More information on 01397 772467 or e-mail info@lolp.co.uk.

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Argyll and Bute Council take increasing charges for care to consultation

ARGYLL and Bute Council is to consult with communities across the area on new charges for adult care services and a new means test for charges. The council's executive committee agreed to go out to consultation until June 30 on the new policy and

charges. As a result of the budget agreed by the council in February for 2010-11, the executive agreed to increase charges for services such as meals on wheels, home care, supported living, respite care, community alarms and telecare and blue badges.

But the consultation will look at charges for 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. During the executive meeting, Kintyre councillor John Semple asked head of adult care Jim Robb if people receiving state benefits would be eligible for the charges.

Mr Robb said: 'Yes, because their benefits would allow them to contribute to the charges. We will come back in August and if the community accepts the proposals, then every client in Argyll and Bute will be visited and their state benefit will be maximised.'

Headed: 'These proposals will allow us to create an income for reinvestment into the services.' The executive also agreed to consult on 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. Councillors also agreed that the charging mechanism for respite in care homes be amended to reflect the amount of capital owned by users.

Mary's Meals in top charity awards

DALMALLY-based charity Mary's Meals was runner-up recently in the Most Innovative Charity category of Third Sector's Britain's Most Admired Charities. Mary's Meals feeds thousands of children across the third world with its innovative programme which sees local volunteers prepare one meal a day in a school, to encourage youngsters to attend school where often it is the only meal they will have.

Mary's Meals had been short listed for the award along with five others and the category was won by the St Giles Trust, a London-based charity which supports disadvantaged people with multiple problems in the south of England achieve their potential. The awards were launched in 2004 and this year's overall winner was FareShare, which redistributes surplus 'fit for purpose' food from the food and drink industry to those working with disadvantaged people.

The awards were launched in 2004 and this year's overall winner was FareShare, which redistributes surplus 'fit for purpose' food from the food and drink industry to those working with disadvantaged people.

New care information line

A NEW information line helping older people find out about care options has been launched.

Councillor Donald McIntosh, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for social services, said: 'The new Care Information Scotland service will be a one-stop shop through which older people and their friends and family can find out accurate, up-to-date information on services available and how to access them. 'I am sure it will prove a welcome addition to the support already available to residents in Argyll and Bute seeking information about care for older people.'

Care Information Scotland can be contacted on 08456 001 001 and online at www.careinfoscotland.co.uk.

Fuel price concern

JIM Mather, MSP for Argyll and Bute, has repeated his calls for petrol price regulation, after a report predicted record highs at the pump in the coming weeks.

He said: 'An Automobile Association (AA) report forecasts a pump price for petrol of £1.20 but that is already present and exceeded at various points in rural Scotland as those at the end of the supply line pay more in every instance.'

Scottish Tory leader views marina plan on visit to Oban

SCOTTISH Conservative leader Annabel Goldie has pledged her support for plans to build short stay pontoons in Oban Bay. Oban Bay Marine is behind the proposed pontoons and floating breakwater plan, which has been submitted to Argyll and Bute Council.

"I think this is an exciting and visionary idea for Oban"

Ms Goldie toured Argyll on March 19, incorporating visits to Lochgilphead and Inveraray, as well as Oban.

In Oban she met with representatives of Oban Bay Marine on Oban's North Pier and congratulated the group on its efforts.

Ms Goldie, who has sailed on Scotland's west coast, said: 'I think this is an exciting and visionary idea for Oban and I think the yachting world would be delighted to see.

'Oban has so much going for it in terms of natural beauty but it needs something to harness that and this marina plan could be the way to do that.

'There needs to be another economic driver in the town.'

Right: Scottish Conservative leader Annabel Goldie and fellow Conservatives Gary Mulvaney and Jamie McGrigor MSP met Mike Robertson, left, and Elaine and Adrian Lauder of Oban Bay Marine.



Dr John Day examines micro-algae at the Scottish Association for Marine Science at Dunstaffnage.

Biofuel project comes to Dunstaffnage

THE SCOTTISH Association for Marine Science (SAMS) has been selected by the Carbon Trust to work on a project to produce algae biofuel.

Cost effective fuel The Carbon Trust this week announced plans to take on the world in the global race to develop a sustainable, cost effective biofuel from algae. Eleven institutions were selected to work with the Carbon Trust on the project. The aim of the team is to

find a winning formula that will cultivate 70 billion litres of algae biofuel a year by 2030.

This will be the equivalent of six per cent of road transport diesel and a saving of more than 160 million tonnes of CO2 every year.

Tom Daly, chief executive of the Carbon Trust, said: 'We have pulled together a dream team of more than 70 algae scientists who have the expert knowledge to turn algae into a British biofuel success story. 'Applying principles this

country has developed from its proud agricultural heritage and leading bioscience expertise we will be developing a truly sustainable biofuel that could provide up to 80 per cent carbon savings compared to diesel savings in car and jet fuel.'

Costs of algae biodiesel are currently estimated to be approximately \$5 - \$10 a litre.

The Carbon Trust is focusing on more cost effective production methods with the aim of

bringing the cost down to less than \$1 a litre.

The Carbon Trust selected SAMS from more than 80 initial proposals to join the project.

It followed an extensive competition and detailed assessment process.

Dr John Day of SAMS said: 'We are delighted to be involved with the Carbon Trust project and look forward to addressing the challenges of mass culturing micro-algae for biofuel, as part of a UK-wide scientific team.'

Mull sewage problems resolved quickly

PROBLEMS with sewage on Mull have been cleared up promptly.

Island residents phoned The Oban Times to complain about raw sewage leaking onto the street and into a burn at Bunnassan. But pro-active Scottish Water workers cleared up the problem within two days.

A spokeswoman for Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) said: 'The Oban Times contacted us on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 17 to relay complaints from residents of Bunnassan, Isle of Mull about the Millbrae septic tank in the village. 'Sewage was leaking from the tank and running down the public road/footpath into the nearby Bunnassan River, creating a public health hazard and potentially polluting the river.'

Tanker SEPA immediately contacted Scottish Water, who in turn deployed one of their Mull operatives to assess the extent of the problem. A tanker was despatched from the mainland on Thursday 18 March to empty the septic tank and remove any sewage debris from the road and footpath.

Jim Frame, senior environment protection officer at SEPA's Lochgilphead office said: 'We are grateful to The Oban Times for bringing these complaints to our attention and are pleased to note Scottish Water's prompt response in this instance. 'One of our local team was

in the area on Friday, March 19 and confirmed that the area around the septic tank had been cleaned up and there were no impacts noted on the Bunnassan River.'

Scottish Water was not able to confirm the exact cause of the spillage and was due to carry out further investigations with a view to establishing what is required to provide a permanent solution.

Specialists

Martin Dunne, Scottish Water's island multi-functional team leader, said: 'A team with specialist equipment was sent from the mainland on the first available ferry and cleaned up the affected area and carried out an investigation, including the use of a CCTV camera, to try to establish the source of the problem. 'They were not able to identify the exact cause of the spillage and we will attend again to carry out further investigations with a view to establishing what is required to provide a permanent fix.'

Anyone in the West Highlands and Argyll area who wishes to report a pollution incident, can contact SEPA directly at any time using the 24-hour Pollution Hotline number on 0800 807060.

Contact

Alternatively, during office hours, they can contact the local office in Lochgilphead for the Argyll and Bute area telephone 01546 602876, or in Fort William for the Skye, Lochalsh and Lochaber areas telephone 01397 704426.



THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD... NOW ON SALE

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Styling for top fashion show

AN OBAN hairdresser will soon be styling for one of the most prestigious fashion shows in the UK. Iain Bruce-Low, manager of Ferguson's hair salon, was chosen to be one of a small number of stylists working at the Edinburgh College of Art Graduate Show. But with more than 400 styles to prepare per day he and the team working under Colin McAndrew, Scottish hairdresser of the year, will certainly have their work cut out.

Iain said: 'I am looking forward to the challenge of the day. It is a great opportunity to work alongside some of the best stylists in the country. 'I am sure there will be some amazing and outrageous fashion designs. But if we are following this year's hair fashion - styles will be simple with blonde shades with soft, wispy looks and fluffy, feminine edges.'

Iain, originally from Kinlochleven, was a stylist at Glasgow salons Rita Rusk and Rainbow Rooms before moving to work in Oban four years ago.

NHS Highland calls for feedback

NHS Highland is calling on patients to give them feedback to help improve its services. The Independent Advice and Support Service (IASS) and Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership (CHP) have launched the Patient Experience Project to look at the patient experience once a person has been discharged from hospital. The project wants to hear from any patients living in Argyll and Bute who were discharged from hospital in the last 12 months and are willing to share their experience. Caroline Champion, planning and public involvement manager for Argyll and Bute CHP, said: 'For a while now we have heard anecdotal stories about what has happened to patients when they have been discharged from hospital. 'This project will enable us to start documenting these stories and really get our patients involved in helping us to improve how they experience health services.'

Josie Walker, an IASS worker based at the Citizen's Advice Bureau office in Lochgilphead, said there were a number of ways people could share their story: 'You can call me on 01546 605556, email me at j.walker@abcab.org.uk or write to me at Argyll and Bute Citizens Advice Bureau, Riverside, Oban Road, Lochgilphead, PA34 8NG.'

The Patient Experience Project began on March 15 and will run until August 15.

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The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Care purchasers have rights too

WHEN we purchase goods and services from the private sector, and the product or services fall below the expected standard, the purchaser is legally entitled to a full refund or replacement - and rightly so.

Over recent weeks Argyll and Bute Council have announced their aim to increase fees for care services. Existing services such as home care, respite care, supported living and telecare will cost the elderly and disabled more, while fees will be introduced for housing support, day care and provision of occupational therapy equipment.

This week, following an inspection of care services throughout Scotland, a Care Commission report highlights that Argyll and Bute was awarded the highest percentage of low grades. 'Grading,' according to inspection director Ronnie Hill, 'gives everyone information about whether the service is performing well or not.'

Will Argyll and Bute Council and private care providers now refund those who have been receiving a below standard service, plus the taxpayers who funded it?

GLASGOW LETTER

Traditional Tour in Glasgow

THE CENTRE for Traditional Music at Plockton High School is now very well established and it was a treat for Glasgow audiences that their tour of the sixth year cohort, to let them sample the life of musicians 'on the road', spent several days in the area.

Early in the week they had a great evening at Douglas Academy, Milngavie, when they were able to share experiences with more classically trained pupils. They followed this with an evening at Glasgow Fiddle Workshops and then finally as the guests of Partick Folk Club in St Peter's Church Hall.

This turned out to be a specially arranged meeting of the folk club and it was terrific to hear the quality of musicianship of the youngsters.

It was an eight person line up consisting of Heather Shelley from Golspeie on keyboard; Amy Cameron from Brora, vocals/whistle; Hannah Beaton from Achmore, Gaelic vocals/clarsach; Natalie Chalmers from Fraserburgh, vocals/fiddle; Mhairi MacKinnon from Perth, fiddle; Jayne Paterson from Strathay, fiddle; Catriona Gibb from Portree, pipes/whistle, and the one male student Ewan Duncan from Newtonmore, also on pipes and whistle.

From the outset, with a traditional Highland bagpipe selection from Ewan and Catriona, the audience was treated to an evening of fantastic music and song and, yes, even a Doric story from Natalie.

Having auditioned to gain a place at the school it was obvious the students have made the most of their 10 hours of tuition per week.

All areas of Scotland were represented in the group and surely this is healthy for the continuation of the different styles of traditional music and song.

It was pleasing for the Plockton representatives to see some of their former pupils, most now following successful musical careers, in the audience but I would hope that any future tours by the Plockton pupils will play to a packed venue. That is certainly what their music deserves.

Feis Glaschu

THIS year's Feis in Glasgow will take place in Hutcheson's Grammar Junior School, 44 Kingarth Street, Glasgow, from April 12 to 16.

All the favourite activities

will be available, and there is even Tai Kwon Do, one of a group of new activities added in this year.

For the younger age groups the cost will be £40 and for older children £50 with reductions for more than one family member.

It is expected there will be a high demand for places and bookings can be made with Feis Glaschu, c/o Comunn na Gaidhlig, 22 Mansfield Street, Glasgow, G11 5QP, or for further information contact feisglaschu@iive.co.uk

Piping competitions

THE RESULTS of the recent Lomond and Clyde Anniversary competition were: 1 House of Edgar Shotts and Dykehead; 2 Inveraray and District; 3 Fife Constabulary; 4 Robert Wiseman Dairies Vale of Atholl.

At the Duncan Johnston Memorial Competition held at the National Piping Centre the results were as follows: 'B' Grade Piobaireachd, Alasdair Henderson, March, Strathspey and Reel, Craig Muirhead. 'C' Grade Piobaireachd, Graham Drummond, March Strathspey and Reel Andrew Travers. 'B' and 'C' Grade Jigs Craig Muirhead.

James Cameron

IT IS with sadness that I have to intimate the untimely death of accordionist James Cameron.

Our sympathy is extended to his wife Anthea and daughter Rhona at this sad time.

Diary dates

Thursday April 1: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Tannahill Weavers. Treacherous Orchestra, Renfrew Ferry, www.tuneup.org.uk.

Saturday April 3: CLASP Piping Competition, National Piping Centre.

Thursday April 8: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Flossie Malavialle.

Friday April 9: Fiddlers Bid, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

Pub scene

IN THE Islay Inn it will be Crooked Reel on Friday with Trail West on Saturday while in the Park Bar the music will be played by Burns Brothers on Friday, Pneumatic Drills on Saturday with Martin Pottinger/Stewart Cameron on Sunday.

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

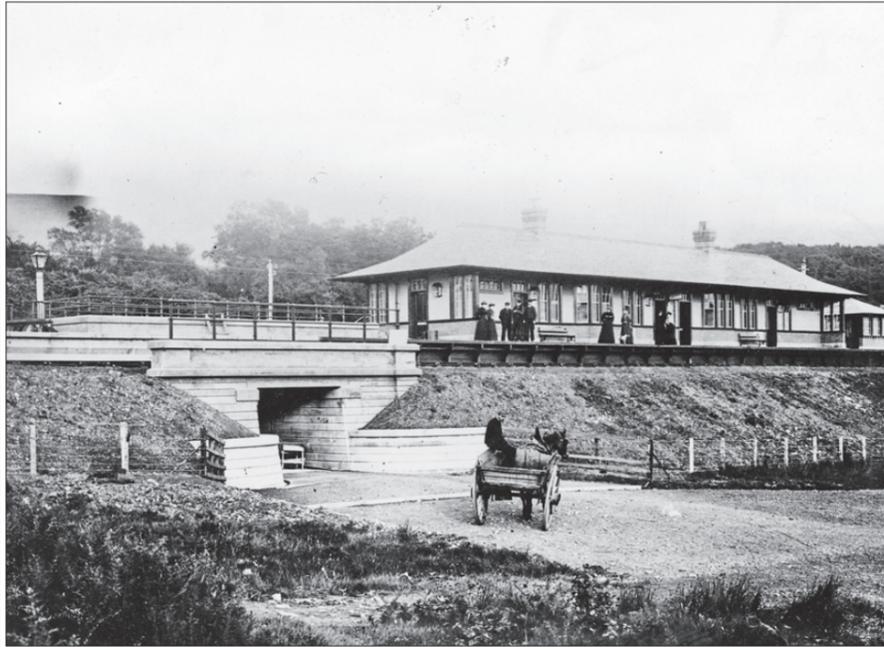
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WE AT The Oban Times do our utmost to make sure that all our reports are fair, accurate and balanced, but we accept that, on occasion, mistakes can occur in the hectic process of producing the biggest local newspaper in the West Highlands.

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



Shandon Station on the West Highland Line

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times and shows Shandon Railway Station shortly after the opening of the West Highland Line. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

Letters to the editor

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Telephone: 01631 568000
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Unacceptable increase in sports pitch hire costs

Sir,
With reference to last week's lead story regarding increased charges for the hire of council sports pitches, Oban Camanachd Club, as the main user, find the level of increase unacceptable.

Oban Camanachd Club has five teams within the club and has a responsibility to provide proper facilities for these teams to train and play.

To offset these costs, the club has a weekly lotto and also attracts sponsorship, thanks to the goodwill of local businesses.

The increase proposed by the council, which almost doubles the present cost, would be an added burden to the volunteers and team coaches who give their time freely.

The council has to recognise when making such decisions that Oban Camanachd Club provide the youth of Oban with an opportunity to play at the top level of their chosen sport.

This increase may deny them the opportunity and that is a responsibility the council must consider when deliberating over this

important issue. The impact felt by these charges may have a lasting effect on sport in Oban for years to come.
Nigel Evans, President, Oban Camanachd Club.

Support for Tyndrum gold mine

Sir,
In my capacity as chairman of Strathfillan Community Council, I wish to respond to the letter 'Tyndrum gold mine concerns' by David Hardie of 12 Mansfield, Tyndrum.

Mr Hardie seems unaware of the comprehensive consultation process, which is still in progress, on the planning application by Scotgold Resources to open a gold mine at Cononish, near Tyndrum.

For example, community councillors and Strathfillan Community Development Trust (SCDT) directors attended a consultation with Dalgleish Associates and representatives of Scotgold in Tyndrum Village Hall on the evening of October 29 2009. There was a full day exhibition and consultation, open to everyone, on Thursday November 12 and another on Wednesday December 2 2009. On February 18 2010, Moira Robertson, community

secretary and vice chairman of SCDT, accompanied me at a presentation to SEPA, SNH, National Park Authority (NPA) and various other consultees in the planning process, by Dalgleish Associates and Scotgold representatives at NPA Headquarters. The purpose of this session was to allay any fears about environmental damage.

The community council has debated this application in great depth and wrote a letter of support to Gordon Watson, Director of Planning and Economic Development of the NPA on February 17. It's a pity Mr Hardie seems unaware of all the work our community and its representatives have carried out both to assure the protection of the environment and to gain the maximum benefit for the community, should the application be successful.

Mr Hardie should attend our community council meetings and take part in debates on the numerous issues affecting our community.

John Riley, chairman Strathfillan Community Council, Lower Station Road, Tyndrum.

Piping thanks

Sir,
May we, through your columns, thank Alistair

Dewar and his committee of Nether Lorn Piping Society for all their hard work.

As former members of the society committee formed by the late Arthur Gillies in 1978, we have seen Arthur's vision to encourage young pipers such as Angus McColl, Ian Hurst and Fred Morrison. As a guest piper, our grandson Jamie is a keen piper and is being tutored by Angus McColl. We thank you and look forward to the next session.

Gilbert and Chrissie Muir, Lynn Court, Oban.

Just the ticket

Sir,
I am a regular visitor to the West Highlands and travel extensively by rail.

As a member of Scotrail's Club 55, I expect to visit more often. The cheap £15 fare favours long distance travel and as it is only valid outwith peak travel periods, Oban and Fort William could benefit by filling hotel beds in quiet periods.

The 55s and over often take holidays when children are at school so May and September could be months when hoteliers and VisitScotland should be looking to Scotrail to give marketing support to this excellent ticket.

We need extra trains to and from Oban.
G Lund, Girvan.

ISLAY LETTER

Death of Jura minister

THE SUDDEN death of the Jura minister the Rev George Campbell on March 16 saddened everyone who knew this friendly and popular clergyman.

He was 64 years of age and had been on a short trip to the mainland when his death occurred.

During his time on Jura he greatly endeared himself to his island congregation who held him in the highest esteem. He was also greatly respected on Islay where he served as locum at the Round Church at Bowmore on two separate occasions.

A service of thanksgiving for his life and ministry was held in a packed Jura Church on March 23, and paying tribute to their colleague was the Rev Dr Rob Barlow, parish minister at Kilarrow and Kildalton and Oa, and the Rev Angus Morrison, the retired former minister of St John's Church, Port Ellen. A service of committal followed at Jura's Kilearnadale cemetery.

Sincere condolences are extended to George's wife Margaret, his family and to everyone who was deeply touched by his untimely passing.

'Lochside' ceilidh

VIGOROUS dancing and robust singing were among the pleasures on the ceilidh programme mounted by 'mine hosts' Roberta and Duffie MacNeill in Bowmore's Lochside Hotel on Saturday.
Piper James Carmichael provided

the tuneful openings and accordionist Niall Kirkpatrick and drummer David Hastie supplied the enticing dance music.

Local entertainers lifting their voices in song were Janey Torrance, Libby Morris, Eoin Brown and Angus Darroch. The visiting singer was Islay MacTaggart, well known on the Glasgow ceilidh scene and further forth. He is undoubtedly a 'Lochside' favourite and his cabaret spots were applauded to the echo.

I was the adequate fear an taighe who prevailed on hostess Roberta to add to the song input which she did with her usual aplomb.

An 'in house' raffle was generously supported and raised £202 which was donated to Bowmore Gaelic nursery.

The audience, which included a number of local senior citizens as well as visitors from Japan and Australia, were in party mood far into the night and gave little thought to impending clock changes!

Church presentation

THE CONTRIBUTION to the church to George's wife Margaret, his family and to everyone who was deeply touched by his untimely passing.

This expressed the congregation's gratitude for the sterling work she had carried out as locum during a long vacancy.

The monetary gift, handed over by Session Clerk Marian Senior, included donations from grateful parishioners.

Angela thanked everyone for their generosity and acknowledged the invaluable assistance and support she had received during this time from her husband Chris.

She will now carry out further similar duties on neighbouring Jura following the death of the Rev George Campbell.

Fiddlers' gig

SHETLAND-BASED band 'Fiddlers' Bid' will pay their second visit to the island on April 6 when they appear in concert in the Rhinns Hall, Portmahaven.

The fiddle band, which has appeared in the United States, Australia and throughout mainland Europe, continues to attract rave reviews and has produced five highly acclaimed albums, the latest being 'All Dressed in Yellow'. They have also won the Scots Traditional Music award 'Album of the Year' and the highly coveted Spiral Earth 'Instrumental Album of the Year'.

Their current tour began in Gatehouse and climaxes at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh on April 11.

Their Rhinns gig is being promoted by Islay Arts Association which encourages everyone to visit Portmahaven and enjoy a band that has been described as 'having the precision of a Swiss watch and enough energy to power a small town'.

Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay, PA43 7JX. Telephone: 01496 810658.

A view from the tower

by McCaig

An insipid budget

THERE was little in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget last week that could be praised, and almost nothing about which to become euphoric.

However, we have to admit that Budgets are something about which we can rarely become even moderately excited as they are almost without exception designed to take more than will ever be given. In the early days of North Sea oil exploration very many of us expected that we would be rolling in money as we looked to the Middle East and saw repressive monarchies growing enormously wealthy but it was not to be. The cost of extracting oil from sand is tiny compared to those taking it from the sea-bed.

Even the SNP, which put our expected oil wealth into their justification for claiming independence, has gone very quiet about their slogan: 'It's Scotland's Oil', preferring to draw attention to how much better Norway has handled its 'bounty from the sea'.

Very rarely do we remember the USA is a major oil producer - although not one that does not need to buy oil to meet its enormous over-consumption of it. Therefore, it, like Britain, rarely has any visible signs of its oil riches and has the same economic problems as we have currently. And, I have to remark snidely that they are responsible in many ways for the current economic mess in which the western world finds itself.

Whichever party, or parties, forms the next government will be producing another Budget within a short time of their election. If the Tories are successful they have made it clear they will do away with most of the current government's proposed increases in National Insurance contributions which affect both the employer and the employee as does the freezing of Personal allowances but there's no promise to restore them at the current rate of inflation. However, remember the old Latin tag about 'fearing the Greeks even when they are bearing gifts'; not much chance of that in the literal sense as they are in a more parlous state than we are economically just now.

But, we have to remember that: should the Tories get a clear majority next month we are going to be subject to an austerity Budget comparable to those of the immediate Post Second World War era.

Of course, since Scotland is spinning in a different orbit to the rest of the world - according to the pronouncements of its First Minister who is going to get a rude awakening when 'Dr Who' doesn't come to his rescue and he has to cut his cloth in the same way

as the rest of the world - we are all going to feel the pinch. Better start buying Lottery tickets!

'The Voices'

FEW of us who come from generations of natives of the West Highlands, and the Inner and Outer Hebrides paid much attention to who were our ancestors and what they did.

We knew little of the lives they led and how they stayed - or emigrated to far off parts of the world, never to return - and attended to the 'daily round, the common task'.

As we have grown up, we have come to recognise that what we have neglected was a rich, cultural heritage which should not be allowed to fade away but explored, cherished, and passed on to those who come after us.

These thoughts have been stimulated by a new book which will be on sale in Oban and South Uist from this weekend.

I am delighted to recommend it to all who love our part of the world, native or not.

Alex MacRae, a former Oban Times employee, has given us a carefully researched piece of family history, illustrated with fine photography from his father's love of using a camera very effectively. His two great aunts: Peigi and Mairi MacRae, from a chance meeting with one of the most extraordinary ladies of the last century: Margaret Fay Shaw who although born in America became one of the great Gaelic folklorists of the age. She found a veritable cornucopia of unpublished songs and stories available to her from the MacRae sisters, recorded it and with her husband, John Lorn Campbell of Canna has made it central to what is now known as the 'Canna Collection'.

The slim volume - priced £9.99 - is published by the Elk Classic Publishing and is accompanied by an excellent CD featuring many unpublished Uist songs.

Who is the numpty?

FOLLOWERS of First Minister's Questions in the Scottish Parliament are becoming more bemused by the week as they listen to the ill-judged rantings of the old Etonian Presiding Officer Alex Fergusson - note the snobbish double 'ss'.

Last week, he turned himself into a bit of a 'dunderhead' as he exploded at Labour financial spokesman Andy Kerr referring to Mr Salmond as a 'numpty' which seems to be a good Scots word for 'an ineffectual' person'.

To compound his pomposity he also scolded Mr Salmond for using the term 'sap' to describe Mr Kerr: 'Get real' Sir!

McCaig

YOUR LETTERS

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



Loch Lubnaig near Callander.

My Village Callander

This week we turn the spotlight on the beautiful Perthshire village of Callander. Community newsletter editor Anne Docherty spoke to *The Oban Times*.

My town is Callander in Perthshire. Why is it special?

It is special for me because, although I had only occasionally passed through it or stopped briefly, when I came to live here 14 years ago, I realised I had come home.

The house I now live in immediately seemed the right one for me and I thought I would just have to take a chance with the town.

It has also proved to be the right one for me.

The town is a comfortable size, and where I may not know everyone, I am sure of a friendly greeting. I can be sure of help given unconditionally, short or long-term, if needed. And there is no shortage of activities to become involved in, according to choice. I feel settled and contented.

What is the history of Callander?

Callander has a lot of history which ranges from Roman forts and burial grounds, drovers routes to markets in central Scotland, its status as the first planned town, its association with great literary figures like Wordsworth and Scott, its importance to tourism in the Trossachs and the architecture of its public and domestic buildings.

Callander is easily accessible from major cities in Scotland and is often described as the gateway to the central highlands.

The town offers an

interesting heritage trail, woodland walks, fishing on the River Teith - a river of special scientific importance - a mountain to climb - Ben Ledi - and several independent shops as opposed to the same old look to every high street and a good standard of places to eat.

Callander offers all of the above within walking distance.

It is a town where visitors are regarded as important. They are well catered for. One can spend many days in the area and have plenty to do. Callander has something for everyone.

Have there been any changes in the town?

The main change I have noticed since I came here is that the population has increased considerably by around 1,000 people to 3,000 residents.

What is your favourite place and favourite building?

My favourite place is my own house, in particular the south facing view of the River Teith, the wildlife on it and the backdrop of woodland where colour changes season by season are spectacular.

My favourite building is the compact Hamilton Toy Museum which is brimmed full of everything, and much more, that I remember from my childhood.

The other building that means a lot to many Callander people, and has

come to be a landmark, is St Kessog's.

It was formerly a church but now houses the Tourist Information Centre, and may soon be further developed for the community. Its spire is a landmark in the town and signifies that one is in Callander.

What is your favourite season?

I have become very conscious of the seasons since coming to Callander. My favourite is autumn because the colours here are glorious. Late winter sunset over the river is stunning.

What threats are there to the way of life in Callander?

Certain parts of the town are subject to flooding to an alarming level.

Transport can be a problem as local services are limited and access to other rural areas can be a problem.

Lots of Callander people like to take the bus to Oban for the day.

There used to be the 'Blue Bus' and Citylink covering this route.

Citylink gained monopoly of the route, then withdrew the service for the winter months.

So Callander folk can't get to Oban till summer and Oban travellers to Callander are similarly affected.

There is a shortage of affordable housing.

Employment tends to be seasonal and young people find Callander does not have



Tourists flock to Callander, especially in summer, as it offers something for everyone.

enough life in it for them, though that is probably true of many places.

Why do people come to the town?

Visitors appear to like the town because of the outdoor activities it has to offer those who are fit and mobile.

For those that are not so mobile there are the gentler walks by river and nearby lochs, or the woollen mill shops, fish and chips by the river and feeding the ducks. There is something to do for everyone.

Are there any famous people from Callander?

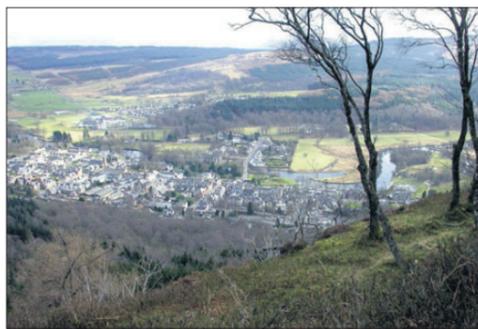
Many famous people had and have associations with Callander but I am unable to name a famous person who actually belonged to the town.

Despite local rumour otherwise, Rob Roy did not belong to the town.

His name appears as a large motif on the wall of one building and the current Tourist Information Centre is called the Rob Roy Centre, so some may think he belongs, but he does not.

Rob Roy was from the wider Trossachs area, but myths and legends abound.

There are many people who were/are famous within Callander itself, but not of national or international stature. But they are celebrities all the same.



A bird's eye view of Callander.

Callander fact file

- Callander Crag, a visible part of the Highland Boundary Fault, rises to 343m outside the town.
- Callander railway station opened on June 1 1870 and closed on November 5 1965.
- The town was used during the 1960s as the setting Tannochbrae in the TV series Dr Finlay's Casebook.
- The fictional villain Destro, from G I Joe, a military-themed toy, is said to come from Callander, with his family having lived there since at least the 15th century.
- The second last person to be tried and imprisoned for the crime of witchcraft in the UK was Helen Duncan, from Callander, during World War Two.
- Track from the dismantled Callander and Oban Railway was used in the construction of the transit system for the 1968 summer Olympics in Mexico City.

"It is a town where visitors are regarded as important. They are well catered for. One can spend many days in the area and have plenty to do. Callander has something for everyone."

Anne Docherty.



Old Kirk, Balquidder, near Callander, is an attraction for visitors.



Anne Docherty, second left, and Susan O Boyle, second right, of Callander, receive the Central Scotland Calor Village of the Year Award from BBC Breakfast News presenter Bill Turnbull, far left, and Alex Davis, Managing Director for Calor, far right, at the 2008 awards ceremony in London.

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25 Years Ago Those Were The Days
The Oban Times Thursday April 4 1985

Hall committee floored by repair bill
ONLY two years after the floor in the newly-renovated Port Charlotte Hall on Islay was re-laid, a warp has developed and major repairs have had to be done.
Members of the Port Charlotte committee noticed that some of the floorboards were 'rising' and arranged for this to be investigated.
On taking up the floor-boards, the under floor area was discovered to be in 'an appalling condition' said the secretary of the hall committee Mrs Annette Sinclair.
Joists and other structural pieces had to be replaced, and the repair cost the hall £900 - taken out of funds destined for other things.
A possible cause of the dampness within the under-floor area is a field drain which runs close to the side of the building. It has now been suggested that the drain should be diverted further away from the hall, at a further approximate cost of £500.
Port Charlotte Hall renovation was a major project by Strathclyde Regional Council, with assistance from other authorities and Mr Mike Breslin of the education department is concerned at the setback to the hall.

Mistaking otters for the monster
OTTERS swimming in single file have almost certainly caused reports of the Loch Ness Monster.
This was the opinion of Mrs Jane Twelves, who gave an entertaining and informative talk, laced with much charm and humour, and illustrated by some excellent pictures of wild otters.
The lecture, entitled 'South Uist and its Otters' was given to the Scottish Wildlife Trust (Lorn Group) at a recent meeting at Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory.
Her view was supported by very convincing slides showing family groups of otters - a bitch with one or two cubs - the cubs swimming in file with heads briefly submerged but backs arched above the water surface. When the leading otter's head is up, such a group makes a strong bow wave and closely resembles the classical Loch Ness monster - a small head and a body consisting of a row of humps.
Mrs Twelves' photographic evidence will probably convince all but the most extreme monster devotees.

Bill could be death knell for Argyll bus services
BUS SERVICES in Argyll and Bute could virtually cease to exist if a Bill at present in the House of Commons goes through.
This was the stark message delivered in Inveraray last weekend by Mr Malcolm Waugh, Highways and Transportation chairman of Strathclyde Regional Council.
Mr Waugh said that he had previously been asked how many routes in Argyll and Bute could fall through the Bill. He had replied that with the exception of three bus operators in Argyll all subsidised routes could fall.
'This is not scaremongering. I am telling you the facts,' he said.

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Across

- Place for a needle (6)
- Flat (6)
- Band member (4)
- User (8)
- Play area of castles (7)
- Desire (5)
- Wuss (5)
- Log holder (7)
- Fretting (8)
- Game of pieces trying to go home (4)
- Healing fir? (6)
- Breathing trouble (6)

Down

- Ordeal (6)
- Fizzy drink (4)
- Type of exercise (7)
- Discomfit (5)
- Dough tubes (8)
- Ap plenty (6)
- Unable to tell secrets to (8)
- A rag man is one (7)
- Ethically indifferent (6)
- Water retention (6)
- Device (5)
- Not alive any more after dark (4)

Last Week's Solution

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 L C S N G
 D E A D P A N O C T E T
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Come to the Tree Shop....One of Scotland's finest independent garden centres. We have a huge range of plants, many of which are grown locally at Ardkinglas Estate Nurseries.

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End of the Road for Braevallich Nursery

This Nursery, founded in 1973 on the shores of Loch Awe, was one of several similar ventures started in Argyll around that time to supply the growing retail sector. Throughout its history it has specialised in Rhododendrons and Azaleas and was respected in the trade for its quality and range.

Over the last 37 years the market-place has changed dramatically and it has become increasingly difficult to compete due to the location - high transport costs - and demands of the retailers. With no successor waiting in the wings the proprietor has reluctantly decided to close the operation down.

With substantial stocks still on site - **2 Large Clearance Sales** will be held in the **Oban Mart** on the weekends of **April 24/25** and **May 29/30** - a truly great one-off opportunity to stock your gardens with high quality rhododendrons and azaleas at minimal cost; Refer to O.T. for opening hours nearer dates.

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Cakebread's

At Cakebread's Garden Centre this Easter you'll find everything you need to start your season off in the garden. There's an outstanding range of plants including stunning collections of Acers, Camellias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas. In addition to these there are also super ranges of other well known shrubs, herbaceous and alpine plants plus some more unusual varieties to tempt those looking for something a little bit different. With all that choice if you still can't find what you're looking for we're happy to try to source the plants you have difficulty finding.

We also have a range of aquatic plants, at this time of year stocks are a little low but there will be new supplies towards the end of the month.

If you're looking to instantly brighten up the garden there's a great range of spring bedding and for those wanting to plan further ahead there's a fabulous collection of summer flowering bulbs and tubers which when planted now, many will, extend the flowering season well into the Autumn.

If you're planning to 'grow your own' there's still time to get your seed potatoes planted there's a fantastic choice of these the choice dependant on how you like to eat your potatoes. A wide selection of vegetable and flower seed is also available but if you'd like to grow vegetables but don't fancy sowing them small plants will be available over the coming weeks.

New stock is always coming in so it's a good idea to visit us regularly. Tel: 01631 565141

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Kilcamb Lodge hosts function with a difference

KILCAMB Lodge Hotel in Strontian hosted an evening function with a difference when bottles of champagne were opened with a sabre. International gastronomic society Chaîne de Rôtisseurs chose Kilcamb for its latest 'Sabrage Dinner' with the traditional custom of 'sabrage' - the removal of the top of a champagne bottle with a razor-sharp sword - the centrepiece of proceedings. The event was supervised by Julian White, Ambassador of La Confrérie du Sabre d'Or, who had travelled from London especially for the occasion. Eight guests performed sabrage before tucking into a seven-course gourmet dinner.

Kilcamb Lodge general manager Phillip J Fleming was honoured to welcome guests to Ardnamurchan from far afield as Abu Dhabi. 'We are pleased the event went with a pop!' he said. The Chaîne, founded in Paris in 1950, unites lovers of gastronomy, good food and fine wines from all over the world.

New half marathon at Nevis Range

NEVIS Range near Fort William is to host a new half marathon on Sunday May 16.

The Outdoor Capital Trail Half Marathon and 5km fun run will be run over a figure of eight loop on roads, cycle paths and walking tracks around the ski centre.

Starting from Nevis Range, runners will follow the new Cour Trail towards Spean Bridge offering stunning views of the Grey Corries and the Great Glen throughout.

Sections of the Witch's Trail in Leanachan Forest and a disused narrow gauge railway track will also form part of the 13-mile course.

Chloe Patterson of organisers No Fuss Events is delighted Lochaber has landed yet another sporting spectacular - the promotions company's first half marathon.

She said: 'The emphasis is on fun with a friendly atmosphere for runners of all abilities. The Nevis Range is a setting we know better than anyone so entrants can expect a challenging course of stunning beauty and a warm welcome at the finish.'

The race takes place the day after the No Fuss flagship mountain biking event Benromach 10 Under The Ben. The half marathon starts at 12 noon.

Portree pupil's voluntary work recognised

A PORTREE High School sixth year pupil was recently presented with a Young Quality Scot award in recognition of his volunteer work in the community.

Martin MacKinnon, aged 17, from Broadford, and 12 other Highland youngsters were among around 150 young people from across Scotland receiving certificates.



Donald Cameron of Lochiel cuts the ribbon to officially open the new path. 10_f14path01

New two-mile path links memorial with Spean Bridge

A NEW two-mile path linking the Commando Memorial and nearby Spean Bridge officially became reality on Friday - thanks to a huge cash donation and the support of a local farmer.

Renowned Northumbrian engineer Dr Alan Reece gifted the entire £180,000 cost of the project after forming a close bond with local people during his many holidays in Brae Lochaber.

And local farmer Rory MacDonald, of Blarour, agreed the path could be laid over his land for a nominal sum.

Donald Cameron of Lochiel cut the ribbon across the gate at the Commando

Memorial at 12 noon before many of the 40 spectators set out along the winding gravel path for the first time.

Although the route is short, it is packed with sites of historic interest.

It passes High Bridge, built by General Wade in 1735-36, and the site of the first skirmish of the '45 Rising when Major MacDonnell of Timadris ambushed Captain Scott and his government troops before marching them to Glenfinnan in time to see Charles Edward Stuart raise his standard.

Donald Cameron told the crowd: 'It's been a tremendous effort by a lot of

people. Congratulations to everybody.' Dr Reece said: 'The great thing about this path is that it is the best short path in Scotland.'

'It will also last and will be here for hundreds of years ahead.'

Dr Reece, chairman of Newcastle-based Pearson Engineering, helped design the path, which required tons of sand and gravel to be flown in by helicopter and bridges built at seven places along the route.

Recently formed High Bridge Spean Bridge Pathway Group, a limited trust company, is leasing the land from Mr MacDonald.

South Skye and Lochalsh health project underway

A TWO-YEAR NHS Highland pilot project to keep people fit and well to prevent future health problems is underway in south Skye and Lochalsh.

The Well North initiative, funded by the Scottish Government, seeks to reduce health inequalities in remote rural communities by promoting healthier lifestyles.

Four medical practices at Broadford, Kyle, Sleat and Glenelg are taking part through a survey to find out how local residents access and prepare food and keep physically active. The survey also asks whether sufficient opportunities for exercise and other activities are available locally. Results will help shape Well North activities across

South Skye and Lochalsh during the next 12 to 18 months.

Project leader Sarah Bowyer, said: 'Keeping well is not just about adding years to life, but adding life to years. We are already aware of some wonderful examples in South Skye and Lochalsh of groups and communities working in such a positive and supportive way.'

'We would like to document these examples so that they can be suggested to other communities.'

Anyone wishing to become involved in the project or wishing more information should contact Sarah Bowyer at Kyle Health Centre on 01599 530945.

History made as Harris Tweed appoints first female mill boss

THE FIRST woman in the history of the industry has been appointed to run a mill producing Harris Tweed.

Clothes designer Ann MacCallum is taking over as general manager of Harris Tweed Textiles' Carloway Mill on Lewis. The new mill boss was formerly a designer of fashion wear incorporating the famous cloth. A white Harris Tweed dress and coat she designed for singer Alyth MacCormack's wedding last year drew widespread acclaim.

Ms MacCallum, previously a manager of Woolworths in Stornoway, has also worked for Edinburgh Woollen Mill, Asda, C&A and Marks & Spencer. She is married with a 21-year-old son Graham and her husband Neil works at the Western Isles Infirmary. Mrs MacCallum told *The Oban Times* the mill currently employs 16 staff and works with 20 self-employed weavers, a figure expected to rise.

'Our order books are very buoyant,' she said. 'However, as we progressing more into the ladies' market, the interiors market is picking up too. People do recognise the quality of the tweed in interiors.'

Ann, 48, conceded she has

heard that her appointment has already raised a few eyebrows.

'The fact that I'm a woman is irrelevant. I may be the first mill boss but this whole industry was pretty much founded by Catherine Murray, the Countess of Dunmore.'

'And we also have, in Lorna Macaulay, the first woman as chief executive of the Harris Tweed Authority. Maybe that is all too much for some people but that is how it is.'

'While it's true no other woman has done this job before, maybe there is a reason for that.'

'It is a tough job, there is no doubt about that, and it is going to get a lot tougher as we grow the business.'

She added: 'I just happened to be in a position to be able to do this job when the opportunity came up. It is the culmination of, and a combination of, the many other jobs I have done in the past.'

'I think I am more suited to do this job now than I have been at any time in the past.'

In the next few years, Ms MacCallum hopes the Carloway Mill, one of three producers on Lewis, will build on the customers they have already secured all around the world and in all kinds of sectors.

She said: 'Another aim is to get away from the traditionally busy but short period between April and August with little work at other times of the year.'



Spinning up for success: new Carloway Mill boss Ann MacCallum.

Lochaber gears up for Six Days Trial

RIDERS from as far afield as Australia and Canada will line up in a 275-strong field for the 99th Scottish Six Days Trial (SSDT) in the first week of May.

The 2010 event, organised once again by Edinburgh and District Motor Club, will kick off on Monday May 3, with competitors facing what remains - even in the modern era - one of the greatest challenges in the sport of trials.

Six days of racing over hill, mountain and moor will follow in some of Lochaber's roughest terrain through May 8.

Kinlochleven ace Gary MacDonald will be among the top Scottish riders challenging for honours while 12 times FIM Trial World Champion Dougie

Lampkin will return to defend his title after defeating Alex Wigg by a single mark during last year's epic duel.

Lochaber and DMC numbered riders to look out for include Kevin Dignan, 80, on a Thistle Beta 290, Gary Macdonald, 81, JST/Highland Gas Gas 300; Dougie Gibson, 122, Beta 290; Andrew Stevenson, 123, Montesa 250; Rodger Mount, 228, Beta 290; and Gary MacLennan, 229, Beta 250. Inverness and District MC entrants are Sean Mackay, 76, Sherco 290; David Moffat, 100, Montesa 249; Gordon Murray, 164, Beta 300; and Frank Mackle, 165, Beta 250. Allen Cowe, Beta 250, of Skye Trials Club will be wearing number 75.

This year's entry list includes 59 newcomers and six female competitors, the first-timers lining up beside professional riders who earn their living in the FIM World Championship.

Covering nearly 100 miles each day, the SSDT is a gruelling test of endurance. Each day of the trial starts and finishes at the West End Car Park in Fort William, which also hosts the traditional parade of competitors through the High Street. Edinburgh and District Motor Club will also run the traditional two-day trial for machines manufactured before 1965 immediately before the SSDT.

The pre-'65 event starts and finishes in Kinlochleven.



Duisky-based haulage firm E M Bowman has been unveiled as new sponsors of Kilmallie Shinty Club. Owner Ewan Bowman presented club secretary Linda Cameron with a cheque and the team with new strips for its first division game against Lochcarron. The new gear did Kilmallie no harm - they won 6-0.

Architects get chance to showcase work in design awards

ARCHITECTS in Skye and Lochalsh, Wester Ross and Lochaber are being given the chance to showcase their work in a competition to celebrate design excellence in the region.

The Inverness Architectural Association (IAA) Design Awards will feature the very best buildings, built environments and landscapes completed across the north of Scotland in the past two years.

Local area judges would like to hear from architects or clients about new structures of all sizes,

restored buildings, external spaces and innovation within the industry.

Members of the public will also have the chance to nominate their favourite new building and the design they believe demonstrates the best use of timber in an open award category.

Winners in the inaugural 2008 event included The Shed at Tokavaig by Dualchas and a development of four houses at Coishletter, Edinbane, by Rural Design. Speaking at last week's

competition launch in Inverness, IAA president Scott Donald said the 2008 awards demonstrated the immense pool of talented and skilled architects working throughout the Highlands and Islands.

He said: 'These architects continue to make significant contributions to their local communities and I am confident that the 2010 awards will clearly illustrate this.'

Local competitions will run in Shetland and Orkney, Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross,

Skye and Lochalsh, Wester Ross and Lochaber, Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey, Moray and the Western Isles. Winners from each will then be featured in a local exhibition and put forward to the region-wide judging.

Residents wishing to nominate a project for the open awards and practitioners wishing to enter the local area categories have until April 30 to make their submissions. For full details email awards@highlandarchitects.org.

Housing association passes first inspection

ARGYLL Community Housing Association (ACHA) received its first inspection by the Scottish Housing Regulator.

Good progress

The report shows the housing association, as a relatively young organisation, has made good progress on commitments to tenants since transfer of housing stock.

The regulator praised ACHA for its new build housing, estate management, financial reporting and access to housing lists. But it was ranked overall as grade C due to the slow pace of the housing investment programme and asked the association to improve its business planning and performance management framework.

A spokesperson for the local

housing organisation said: 'The association's board of management has used the inspection as a tool to assist continuous improvement.'

'Areas within the inspection that need to be progressed will be reported to the board on a quarterly basis to measure progress.'

The full inspection report is available on both the Scottish Housing Regulator's website and at www.acha.co.uk.

Advertorial Save almost 70 per cent this April with Gordon's Chemist

WITH Easter just around the corner there's never been a better time to stock up on all your everyday essentials - thanks to Gordons Chemists.

Once again Scotland's favourite independently owned pharmacy, health and beauty chain has come up with some unbelievable retail offers to complement their already rock bottom prices across thousands of lines.

Says John Clark, general manager of Gordons Chemists in Scotland: 'We are focusing on monthly sales events going forward that reward families through giving extra savings on selected big name brands.'

'We pride ourselves on being able to offer incredible offers all year round and with the summer season approaching we have an incredible range of products coming into our stores at rock bottom retail prices.'

Speaking of summer, why not take this opportunity to stock up on the award winning Ambre Solaire sun cream range? 'We are taking this opportunity to really assist holidaymakers and in particular families who can avail of the Ambre Solaire range at an incredible and unheard of 50 per cent off.'

So what additional goodies has Gordons in store this April?

'We work hard each month to deliver fantastic money saving offers as a special thank you to our customers and this is how we will continue throughout the year. Save £2 on Gillette's state-of-the-art shave gel, an incredible half price on Garnier's Ambre Solaire and 70p on the market leading Pantene shampoos range.'

'We've also secured an exclusive deal on Mr Muscle Kitchen Lemon Fresh, now on special offer and selling at half price for just 99p. Listermint Antiseptic Mouthwash is also on sale at 'better than half price' for just 99p.'

To locate your nearest store please go to: www.gordons-chemists.com



The miracle of colour

I HAVE just returned from one of the most interesting conferences I have ever attended.

I have previously written about the use of colour with children who have reading difficulties. Many health and educational professionals and even some optometrists have ridiculed the idea that coloured filters can have any beneficial effect on the ability of a person to read more accurately, more fluently and with greater speed.

Last week at the prestigious Royal Society in London world experts in visual processing laid all these doubts to rest. I was shown MRI scans of the brain working as patients read text. Coloured filters dramatically enhanced the brain's ability to process information. I also discovered how specific colours can dramatically enhance or corrupt the way the brain processes visual information to an extent I had not realised was possible. Coloured filters were also shown to help in cases of photo-epilepsy and in some light induced migraines. The science of precision tinted filters has finally come of age.

Perhaps the most moving part of the conference was when a seventeen year old lad told the story of his time at school. From a very early age he had been labelled by the system as educationally sub-normal. As he moved through the school system he became more and more disruptive in class and was frequently "in detention". His problems stemmed from an inability to read. As he was ridiculed in class even by teachers his frustrations grew and his behaviour worsened. Luckily he eventually met a colleague of mine who recognised the lad was suffering from "visual stress". He was prescribed precision tinted spectacles and suddenly he was able to read. He was even able to read aloud in class! He has rebuilt his self-confidence, has left school and is now attending a local college where his performance is above average.

John Wallace BSc (Hons), FCOptom, DipCLP Wallace Optometrists & Podiatrists The West Highland Orthokeratology Clinic 11/12 Argyll Square Oban Tel: 0845 230 3937 (EYES) www.wallaceoptometrists.co.uk

Glencoe pupils head to London

GLENCOE Primary School P5-7 pupils are to visit the Houses of Parliament on a trip to London on April 20 to 23.

Activities, some chosen by the children, will include two shows 'The Lion King' and 'War Horse', the London Eye, the Tower of London, a bus tour, a boat trip on the Thames, a visit to the Imperial War Museum and a shopping trip to Harrods. The visit to the Houses of Parliament includes a tour and workshop.

The school has raised more than £1,000 towards the subsidised trip, with the Ice factor in Kinlochleven chipping in £250.

Head teacher Marylin MacDonald extends her thanks to colleagues, the local community and businesses for all their support.

She said: 'All parents and staff very much appreciate the generosity of all the people in South Lochaber who have helped the children of Glencoe access so many places of interest and shows in London. The tour and workshop in the Houses of Parliament will be on the last day. It is hoped that a local MP will meet the children and take them on the tour.'

Schools' winning art work goes on show at gallery

MORE than 50 winning art works from the National Galleries of Scotland art competition for schools 2009 will be on show at the Lime Tree Gallery in Fort William from April 2 to May 19.

The exhibition will be opened by Charles Kennedy MP at 7pm on April 1. The competition, now in its seventh year, is sponsored by Scottish Widows.

New youth forum set for action

By STEPHEN NORRIS

A NEW youth community action group is up and running in the West Highlands.

Lochaber Youth Forum (LYF) aims to make Lochaber a better place to grow up and be young in, with health and tackling crime and anti-social behaviour top of the agenda.

Transport, road safety and youth services and facilities also figure highly in the group's action plan.

Young representatives from across Lochaber have already met for the first time to draw up a strategy designed to make the

powers that be sit up and take note. At its inaugural meeting in Fusion Youth Space in the Nevis Centre, Fort William, the 16-strong group of 12 to 17 year olds identified six projects as a priority in the coming year.

These were: Questionnaires to be sent out to each young person in all schools across Lochaber to gauge interest in and potential attendance at youth clubs and Fusion

A young person's liaison officer to bridge the gap between Northern Constabulary and young people in areas of Lochaber

a public awareness campaign to address young people's concerns on the legality and safety of using the plant food drug mephadrome, also known as m-kat, miaow or bubble

Suitable buses from rural areas to and from Fort William so young people can attend Fusion at weekends

A zebra crossing installed between Lochaber High School and Farmfoods to ensure pupil safety

More open Fusion nights at Lochaber Leisure Centre to allow young people from Mallaig,

Ardnamurchan and Kinlochleven to attend.

Local Highland councillors have given LYF £400 to develop its work and councillors Eddie Hunter and Brian Murphy attended the inaugural meeting. Councillor Murphy declared himself 'very impressed' with what he heard. He said: 'So often the older generation are critical of young adults without really trying to understand them. Many of us tend to forget what it was like to be young and have your concerns ignored.'

Forum co-ordinator and youth service worker Rachel Carmichael

said: 'I felt very proud listening to the maturity and diplomacy of the discussions. This is an exciting new project to get my teeth into, I am looking forward to seeing the results and outcomes that the young people will achieve.'

Youth development officer for Greater Fort William Graeme Livingstone vowed to continue working alongside local youngsters to deliver 'positive results for the people of Lochaber'.

He said: 'It was an impressive start for this new group. They certainly hit the ground running.' LYF meets again on April 14.



Rachel Carmichael: 'very proud'.



Duror Primary School's ancient Egyptians.

Ancient Egypt comes top of the class at Duror

ANCIENT Egypt was the theme when Duror Primary School P4-7 pupils invited parents in to see the new Curriculum for Excellence in action.

Ahead of the special sharing and learning event, pupils had been given a choice of topics to study in term three and picked the ancient Egyptians.

After brainstorming what they knew and wanted to investigate, the children, encouraged by class teacher Mrs MacLeod, built up their knowledge by working on tasks of their own choice then shared research through power point presentations, timelines, labelled drawings, fact sheets, sketches, writing, poetry and posters.

For the parents' visit, children and staff dressed up in ancient Egyptian costumes - with parents Mrs Leitch and Mrs Malcolm enlisted to help with make-up.

The pupils also produced Egyptian artwork with artist in residence Mrs Cockerill, who runs a Room 13 Art Club in the school each Thursday.

Head teacher Marylin MacDonald said: 'Pupils talked confidently either in groups or individually on aspects of their topic, then made a quiz on their information to the parents. The parents found the new collaborative learning style a fun way to learn together and saw their children's strength and interests developed.'



Ballachulish pupils enjoy their outing to Marine Harvest's salmon farm on Loch Leven.

Loch Leven fish farm fact-finding fun

BALLACHULISH Primary School P5, 6 and 7 pupils recently got up close to their local salmon farm on Loch Leven.

The fact-finding trip followed a visit to the school from Marine Harvest managers Ronnie Hawkins and Davie Corrigan, where the life cycle and all the various aspects of salmon farming were explained.

The pupils, on a wet and windy day, met Mr Hawkins and farm assistant manager Donald MacDonald to hear about the day to day running of the farm.

The children then helped to check water

quality and feed the fish, with feeding monitored using underwater cameras. Data collected by the pupils was entered into the farm control systems.

Marine Harvest staff praised the children for their enthusiasm shown during the visit to their school and the trip to the farm.

Head teacher Sam Clark said: 'We all had a great time over at the fish farm and the pupils were able to recall all the details about their visit.'

'Marine Harvest has certainly made a good impression with them.'



Work is underway on the new Soroba footbridge and is due to be finished tomorrow (Friday). 07_x14bridge02

New railway crossing bridge goes in at Soroba

EIGHT lorries, each carrying large section of the new Soroba footbridge, slowly trundled through Oban town centre last Friday afternoon.

Railway crossing Work on the new footbridge, which crosses the railway line,

began on Sunday and is expected to be open for public use at the end of this week.

Diversion Alistair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA), which commissioned the work, said: 'I would

like to thank our partner agencies, namely the police, Corillian, Argyll and Bute Council and Network Rail, for assisting us in ensuring the safety of the public by highlighting the dangers of using the railway as a shortcut during the diversion.'

National swimming pool meeting at Oban

A FLAGSHIP meeting held in Atlantis Leisure Centre, Oban has proved that social enterprises are in the fast lane.

Successful operation A conference to discuss the future of social enterprise swimming pools in Scotland attracted more than 60 delegates.

James Hilder, chairman of Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ASBEN) said: 'I am delighted that we attracted this national

conference to Oban, and it was great to see our own local social enterprise, Atlantis Leisure, leading the way.

'Delegates were impressed by its excellent facilities and customer focussed management outlook.

'It is a successful operation run by the community for the community, and we are very grateful to the Atlantis team for allowing us to use them as a case study.'

Oban High School news logo and text.

Remote operational vehicles win

THE Scottish Championships for school-designed remote operational vehicles was held in Aberdeen last Friday.

Mr Ian Morrison and a group of S4 pupils from Oban High School developed a mini submarine (ROV) that was based on an actual vehicle used by scientists in Hawaii.

During the championships, each ROV had to perform certain tasks which are based on actual tasks faced by scientists in a real time environment. Oban High Group performed tasks such as bringing samples of AGAR to the top of the pool and taking temperatures in certain areas.

In an outstanding achievement, Oban High School won the best newcomer prize along with £125 to add to next year's build-budget.

Congratulations to Jamie Chapman, Alistair Taylor, Michael Leplar, Callum Davies, Alex Dunning, Lewis Bigham, Angus Sinclair, Richard Thomson, Josh Maguire, Thomas Dalgaty, Roheel Arshad and Sam Nichols.

Dance Festival

ARGYLL and Bute Dance Festival was held with great success.

S2 and S3 Juniors received a first place for Most Entertaining; the seniors came 2nd and S3's won an award for Best Presentation

Rugby

OBAN High S1/S2 rugby team won three out of four games in a rugby weekend. Special mention must go to Craig Carey who won a medal for his quality of play. Well done to all those involved.

Leader's family link with Achaphubuil revealed

School closure plan rekindles memories

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley has expressed his sadness that a school attended by members of his family is being recommended for closure.

The councillor gave his personal view as the council begins a consultation on provisionally closing Glenborrodale Primary in Ardnamurchan and Achaphubuil school on Locheside.

Dr Foxley said 40 years ago Achaphubuil was a two-teacher school serving Stronchreggan, Treslaig, Camusnagaul, Blaich, Duisky and Garvan.

The school roll dwindled over the years as children went instead to Ardgor, Banavie, Lochside and the Fort William Gaelic Unit. Three years ago the roll had dwindled to two and the children transferred to Banavie and Ardgor.

Achaphubuil opened in the mid 1960s as a replacement for the previous school in Duisky and, prior to that, Treslaig.

Dr Foxley's mother went to Treslaig and his first cousins to Duisky. Some of their children attended Achaphubuil. He said: 'There is always a loss when a rural community loses its primary school and these closures follow previous closures in Arisaig, Glenfinnan, Kingairloch and Mingary.'

As this school is the only public building in Glenborrodale, I have spent years trying to persuade the local community to own and manage this resource as a village hall.

'As a new Highland regional councillor, I was part of a campaign to re-open Glenborrodale Primary School in 1986 led by Karen MacGregor and Jill Calver of that community.'

'We successfully prevented the school from being closed in 1990 when it had a school roll of around 15. The school roll subsequently declined and nine years ago the remaining five pupils opted to transfer to Acharacle Primary School.'

'As this school is the only public building in Glenborrodale, I have spent years trying to persuade the local community to own and manage this resource as a village hall.'

'This has been unsuccessful and the building will be used for local housing needs, which was the preferred alternative.'

Cinema campaign stops off at Fort

MOBILE cinema the Screen Machine cinema arrives in Fort William today (Thursday) on the last leg of a four-stop Highland tour to promote a Scottish campaign against domestic abuse and raise awareness of services available to women locally.

The tour, which is being backed by local women's aid groups and support services, features a screening of hit musical 'Mamma Mia'.

Lochaber Women's Aid service manager Julie Wileman said: 'The idea behind the film screening was to bring the organisations that we work with and members of the community together to show the local solidarity and support for the campaign. This is an opportunity for us to raise awareness in the communities we serve across Lochaber of the practical support that is available to women, children and young people affected by domestic abuse on issues such as legal advice, accommodation and finances so they can move on with their lives.'

Housing and communities minister Alex Neil said: 'This cinema tour will bring together local support groups and members of the community and once again get the issue of domestic abuse out in the open.'

The screening, in the car park opposite Lidl at An Aird, starts at 7pm for 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to attend should contact Fiona MacColl at Lochaber Women's Aid on 01397 705734.



Primary 6/7 pupils at Lochside RC Primary School held a Mad Hatter's Tea Party as their Fair Trade enterprise project before the Easter holidays. All proceeds went to the Royal Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh.

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- Bathroom
- Storage Heating
- Double Glazing
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- Shower Room

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29 Dalavich, By Taynuilt
Rural Semi-Detached Cottage suitable as starter home or quiet holiday retreat.



- Semi Detached Cottage
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- 2 Bedrooms
- Study/3rd Bedroom
- Bathroom
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- Open-plan Lounge, Kitchen And Dining Room
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- Study
- Double Glazing
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- Parking For Multiple Cars
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- Rural Location
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- Bathroom
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- Double Glazing
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- Semi-Detached Dwellinghouse
- Village Location
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- 2 Bedrooms
- Bathroom
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- Double Glazing
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- Greenhouse

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Predominantly double glazed. Mains gas central heating. Off street parking. Large, easily maintained gardens.

Offers in the region of £520,000

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Price Guide £65,000



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- Views to Surrounding Countryside
- Serviced Site

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- Semi-Detached Victorian Townhouse
- Well Presented
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Dining Room
- 4 Bedrooms
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- Bathroom
- Shower Room
- Utility
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Garden
- Garden Shed

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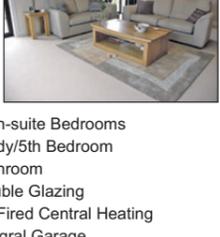
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Mo Dhachaidh, Ceum Dun Righ, Benderloch
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- Electric heating + coal fire in lounge
- Neutral decor throughout
- Viewing recommended

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- Kitchen
- 2 Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Electric Storage Heating
- Double Glazing
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- Off Street Parking
- Close to town centre

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A community has taken over an area of Kilfinan forest to create new land-based jobs and affordable homes

Cowal community raise forest funding

'Acquiring and developing our own community woodland is a way of allowing all of us to thrive'

AN ARGYLL community has achieved its remarkable goal of raising £130,000 in just nine months to buy an area of forest.

Kilfinan Community Forest Project took control of 125 hectares of forest on the Cowal peninsula last week after reaching their fundraising target.

Donations
Michaela Hunter, local resident and secretary of the Kilfinan Community Forest Company, said the group passed their fundraising target with generous donations just days before the deadline. 'This is great news and what an achievement,' she said. 'This is testament

to a lot of hard work over the past five years.' The land will help tackle a shortage of jobs and affordable homes in the villages around Tighnabruach, Portavadie and Kilfinan.

Michaela explained: 'We recognise that employment is very seasonal here and inflated house prices mean that families cannot afford to buy a home. This threatens the viability of our local school and other community services.'

'Acquiring and developing our own community woodland is a way of allowing all of us to thrive in this very beautiful but isolated part of the world.'

The group's business plan includes training, woodland smallholdings and land-based jobs, including supplying wood fuel and timber products locally. They hope to employ staff to help manage the woodland and to make the community woodland self-financing within a few years.

Half the money was contributed by Highlands and Islands Enterprise's Community Land Unit while the rest was raised from community donations, pledges, fundraising events and loans.

There will be a community bonfire and disco to celebrate this landmark on Saturday, April 3 at the Kames Hotel.

Hoggets back 3.9p per kilo on the week at Stirling

Neriby sells Suffolk rams to £154.50

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 3526 sheep comprising 2900 prime hoggets, 626 cast ewes and tups at Stirling last Tuesday.

Prime hoggets averaged 186.7p per kilo (-3.9p on the week) selling to 246.1p per kilo for a pen of 39kg Beltex hoggets from DS and RC Taylor, Easter Ochtermuthill.

Ewes sold to £154.50 for Texels from J McKerrow, Riverview House to average at £68.66 while rams sold to £154.50 for Suffolks from R Cunningham, Neriby to average £84.39.

Neriby also sold Beltex rams to £87.50. Continental rams from Balliemartin sold to £115.50 while Carrabus sold Texel crosses to £88.50. Blackface rams from Cladville sold to £63.50.

Caledonian Marts (Stirling) Ltd also sold 215 prime cattle including 24 young bulls, 35 OTM cattle and 101 cast cows and bulls.

Bullocks averaged 158p per kg and sold to 188.5 p per kg for a Limousin cross Rathillet Farm, Cupar and £1,268 per head from Learielaw Farm, Broxburn.

Heifers averaged 174p per kg and sold to 202.5 p per kg for a 535kg Charolais cross from Luckenbun Farm, Slamannan and £1210 per for a 645kgs, Blairsgreen Farm, Saline.

Deer Commission and SNH merge

THE SCOTTISH Parliament has given the go-ahead for the Deer Commission for Scotland (DCS) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) to merge.

Ratified by Parliament this week, the merger is expected to be finalised on July 1, with the organisations already sharing headquarters in the same building in Inverness.

Minister for Environment Roseanna Cunningham said: 'This Government is committed to simplifying the public service landscape in Scotland.'

'Bringing the responsibilities of the Deer Commission for Scotland into Scottish Natural Heritage is a sensible move, which will combine the strengths of both organisations

'The merger will also build on the excellent work the Deer Commission has carried out to improve the sustainable management of wild deer in Scotland.

'The two organisations have worked closely together to ensure a smooth transition, and with both

having their headquarters on the same premises, I believe that impacts on staff will be limited and that the deer sector will continue to receive a high quality service.'

Wildlife management
Chairman of DCS John Milne said: 'The Deer Commission for Scotland has a reputation for providing a good, customer-focused service to land managers. I can assure managers that we will continue to do so between now and the merger with Scottish Natural Heritage on July 1.'

'The Board and staff of DCS have been working closely with SNH for many months to ensure a smooth transition. DCS staff will bring a wealth of wildlife management knowledge and experience of working with land managers and an understanding of rural economies to complement the resources and expertise within SNH.

Reassurance
'I'd like to reassure those that we work with every day - land managers and others managing deer - that we will

make sure all the normal routes for getting information to and from our staff will remain clear and easy. There will not be a fundamental shift in our approach to deer management: continuity is something we have discussed with SNH, and we all agree on the same basic principles.'

SNH Chief Executive Ian Jardine added: 'We have been working well with the Deer Commission toward a merger this year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of both organisations and many of our stakeholder groups, who have worked hard to prepare the way.'

'It has been an interesting and useful experience so far, and I am confident that we can benefit in the longer term from the combination of skills and experience we will have.'

DCS and SNH have been working together on the transition since the Scottish Government announced plans to abolish or merge a number of public organisations in Scotland.

Store cattle trade drops back

Texel cross hoggs sell to £76

UNITED Auctions sold 1107 store cattle, 73 cast cows and 1086 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 180.46p (-8.54p) and sold to 221.4p per kg for a 315kg British Blue cross from Kinpurney and £1,000 for a 564kg Charolais cross from Craigend.

Heifers averaged 175.69p (-5.88p) and sold to 210.4p per kg

for a 328kg Limousin cross from Kilmichael and £1,000 for a 628kg Blonde D'Aquitaine cross from Over Kellie.

Cast cows averaged 99.86p and sold to 149p for a Limousin cross from Threepwood and £1,005 for a Aberdeen Angus cross from The Ferme.

Forward cattle averaged 138.24p and sold to 144.9p per kg and

£965 for a Charolais cross from Netherton.

Hillview sold grit Cheviot gimmers to £83 and grit Cheviot ewes to £86 and £83. Blackface ewes from Sherlarich and Swale cross ewes from Glenmollachan sold to £51.

Texel cross hoggs from Drumnessie sold to £76, with Mules from Sauchie mains to £67 and Blackfaces from Dallegles selling to £63.

Green first for west coast mussels

MUSSELS grown on the west coast of Scotland are the first in the UK to achieve the prestigious Friend of the Sea certification.

The Scottish Shellfish Marketing Group, a farmers' co-operative of west coast and Shetland producers, earned the environmental accreditation after eight months of rigorous auditing.

Stephen Cameron, managing director of Scottish Shellfish, said: 'This is a first for the UK and achieving this certification is testimony to the hard work and dedication of our member farms in employing best practice procedures that ensures there is minimal environmental impact during the growth cycle of our quality rope grown mussels,' he said.

'Our mussel farmers are totally dependent upon nature and merely provide a helping hand in their production.'

'The presence of mussel farms can actually be beneficial to the environment.'

Rather than dredging wild stocks, the groups' farms collect the microscopic larvae on ropes.

The mussels then grow naturally by feeding on plankton. Paolo Bray, director of Friend of the Sea, said it had been one of the most complex audits the organisation had carried out.

He added: 'We believe that the farming of rope-grown mussels is one of the most sustainable ways of producing an excellent source of protein.'

'The presence of mussel farms can actually be beneficial to the environment.'

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks:
Up to 250kg-Knockderry £480, Kinpurney 199p;
251-300kgs - Candy £620, 221.4p;
301-350kgs - Dyke £730, Kilmichael 212.7p;
351-400kgs - Greensburn £800, Chapel 206.6p;
401-450kgs - Little Galla £845, 198.4p;
451-500kgs - Priorletham £890, Townhead 183.1p;
501-550kgs - Craigend £990, 183.2p;
551-600kgs - Craigend £1000, 177.3p;
601-650kgs - Greenlands £920, 150.3p.
Heifers:
Up to 250kg Kilmichael £515, 208.5p;
251-300kg-Kilmichael £590, 205.2p;
301-350kgs - Kilmichael £690,

210.4p;
351-400kgs - Brisbane Glen £775, Kirvennie 194.6p;
401-450kgs - East Banknock £790, 184.6p;
451-500kgs - Blackburn £855, Brisbane Glen 185p;
501-550kgs - Titwood £860, 171p;
551-600kgs - Over Kellie £990, 168.4p;
601-650kgs - Over Kellie £1000, 159.2p.
Bulls: The Grange (Lim) £1085, Skipperton 134.3p; Clunebeg £985, 103.2p; Hardridge (BSH) £965, 97.7p.
Sheep: Hoggs: Drumnessie (TexX) £76; Sauchie Mains (Mule) £67; Dallegles (BF) £63; Hillview (Che) £61; Lettre (BF) £60.50; Urlar (BF) £60.
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Auchenburn £95; Lochend £71.

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX by the 22/04/2010.

● Ref No: 10/00381/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Mundell
Proposal: Change of use and erection of extension to house and school to form one dwellinghouse
Site Address: Kilkoman Schoolhouse, Grunart Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA44 7PS
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Bridgend

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST.

An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 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 22/04/2010.

● Ref No: 10/00336/PP
Applicant: Mr Hamish Matheson
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Plot 4 Aldersyde Taynuilt Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt

● Ref No: 10/00338/PP
Applicant: British Telecom
Proposal: Erection of 10 metre steel pole with a 1.2 metre diameter dish aerial.
Site Address: Telephone Exchange Isle of Lismore Argyll and Bute PA34 5UQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Lismore

● Ref No: 10/00431/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs D Aspinall
Proposal: Change of use of former Royal Observer Corps bunker to dwellinghouse (Class 9)
Site Address: Former Royal Observer Corps Bunker Ledaig Benderloch PA37 1RW Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

Argyll and Bute Council maintain a Register of planning applications which can be viewed between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST.

An extant list of planning applications which can be viewed on the Councils website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk
A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at 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. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS

● Ref No: 10/00342/PP
Applicant: Anne Wylie
Proposal: Installation of replacement windows.
Site Address: Dunyvaig Main Street Port Charlotte Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA48 7TY
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Charlotte

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

COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or e mail - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel 01688 302689 or e mail - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by e mail - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by e mail - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

COMMUNITY SERVICES: EDUCATION

CHANGE TO SECONDARY SCHOOL CATCHMENT AREAS

Argyll and Bute Council has agreed to adopt the proposal that secondary-school-aged children from the island of Gigha should have the option of attending either Campbeltown Grammar School or Tarbert Academy. At present these pupils have the option of attending Campbeltown Grammar School or Oban High School.
The Council is now seeking views on this proposal from interested parties, including parents of pupils who could be expected to attend either school within the next 2 years.
Full details of the proposal can be found in the consultative document which is available at either school or can be obtained by telephoning 01369 704000 or on the Council's website www.argyll-bute.gov.uk.
Comments on the proposal should be made to:-
Carol Walker, Head of Education, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ
Comments must be received by 2nd June 2010.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice.
Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

Reference Number	Development Address	Proposal Description	Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments
10/01345/FUL	South Side of Alcan Site Entrance, North Road, Fort William	Section 42 Variation of condition 1 of permission No 06/00521/OUTLO to extend the time limit for submission of matters specified by conditions by 2 years (to 2nd May 2012) and to extend the life of the planning permission in principle by a further year (to 9 May 2013), or to the expiration of 1 year from the final approval of matters specified in conditions, whichever is the later.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01135/FUL	Roy Bank Roy Bridge PH31 4AN	Demolition of wooden garage and 6ft x 8ft shed and construction of new garage (retrospective)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01508/PIP	Grounds of Caman View West Trindrish Spean Bridge	Formation of house site	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01085/FUL	Site 40m West of Coberfeidh Onich	Demolition of existing and erection of proposed workshop	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022
e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

Proposed Let of a Croft
David, Richard, Michael and Robert Urwin, joint owners, Larach Bhan croft, Kilchrenan, Argyll are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to let the tenancy of the croft at Larach Bhan, Kilchrenan Appin, Argyll to Mrs Ann Urwin, Larach Bhan, Kilchrenan, Taynuilt, Argyll.
If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by the 29th April 2010, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

North Argyll Eventide Home Association

Notice is hereby given that the AGM of the above association will be held at 7.00pm in the home, Wednesday 28th April.

WE ARE MACMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT Oban Branch AGM

Thursday 15th April 2010 at 7.30pm
Lecture Theatre of Oban Hospital
All interested made most welcome

APPOINTMENT OF GRAZINGS COMMITTEE
Case Number: 4.33.5742
CORPACH, BANAVIE, CAMAGHAEL AND LOCHYSIDE COMMON GRAZINGS
A meeting of shareholders for the above Common Grazings will be held for the purpose of electing a new Grazings Committee.
Venue: Corpach Hotel, Corpach
Date: Monday, April 19, 2010
Time: 8.00pm
Signed: M. Dennison (Grazings Clerk) Date: March 26, 2010

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Education Scotland

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In implementation of the objects of the above Trust, the Governing Body may in each financial year award grants of such annual value as they think fit to assist applicants of either sex:-

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- (b) to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
- (c) to undertake a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered or are about to register.
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In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Government Body shall:-

- (a) satisfy themselves that the applicant is a Protestant, has completed his/her school education, but is not at the time of award, more than 25 years of age, and is ordinarily resident within the area of the former County of Argyll.
- (b) Associate the names of Charles and Barbara Tyre with each award made under the scheme.

Further details and an application form may be obtained online at www.charlesandbarbaratyrettrust.org.uk or from the Clerk to the Governors. Completed applications must be received no later than 31 May 2010, and applications received after this closing date will not normally be considered except in exceptional circumstances. Please note application forms will be accepted before results are received.

Clerk to the Governors, Charles and Barbara Tyre Trust,
168 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TP
Tel: 0141 566 7000 Fax: 0141 566 7001

crofters commission
ughdarras nan croitearan

James G Porter has applied to **decroft** part of the croft at 1, 2 & 3 Port Ellen, Kildalton & Oa extending to 0.76 ha for the purpose of providing sites for 7 dwellinghouses. Ref: 4.86.23131

If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposal in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or info@crofterscommission.org.uk, by 19 April 2010 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

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Quality Systems Auditor

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Location: Negotiable

Mainstream Scotland Limited farm fish across the length of Scotland today to the highest standards and is committed to truly sustainable aquaculture. An exciting opportunity has arisen within our company for a 'Quality Systems Auditor'.

The position will require the successful applicant to assist the development and implementation of our Quality systems to achieve and maintain ISO accreditation, with ability to complete audits and compile reports for the systems in place throughout the Organisation. Due to the location of our sites a full driving license is requisite to this position.

You must be able to demonstrate the ability to work within a small team. You should be self-motivated, have excellent communication skills and have the ability to manage your own workload effectively: with well developed skills in Microsoft Office. Candidates should have auditing experience (a formal qualification is essential). Knowledge of quality systems and familiarity with food production or fish farming would also be beneficial.

Duties must be carried out in a consistent manner and to a high standard that will comply with all Food Hygiene and Health, Safety and Environmental legislation, along with current welfare recommendations.

If you feel you have the experience required to contribute to a progressive, results orientated company then please send your application to:

Vicci Laird, Human Resources Manager, Mainstream Scotland, Crowness Point, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG.

Electronic applications welcomed - vicci.laird@mainstreamscotland.com

Closing date for this vacancy is Thursday 8 April 2010.

Scottish Natural Heritage is the leading public body responsible for advising Ministers on matters relating to the natural heritage. The natural environment is a key asset that underpins Scotland's wealth, health and quality of life. Our job is to conserve this resource, to promote its sustainable management and to encourage people to access and enjoy it responsibly.



Area Officer Mull, Coll & Tiree

Starting salary £19,338
Oban or Lochgilhead
(Ref: 071-016)

You will undertake casework officer duties on Scottish Rural Development Programme - Rural Priority Scheme applications within designated sites. As key contact with scheme applicants, you will assess statements of intent, submitted and confirmed formal applications, and provide feedback to the Regional Priority Area Committee as requested. As the lead on the Nature Conservation Act review programme for designated sites within the Mull, Coll and Tiree area, you will administer and deliver the reviews in liaison with SNH colleagues. You will also contribute to the delivery of the Joint Working Programme on designated sites in unfavourable condition in the area, meeting relevant customers to discuss and progress positive land management initiatives arising from SSSI management statements and site condition monitoring results.

With a minimum of Degree qualification or equivalent in a related subject such as ecology, geography, landscape, countryside management, agriculture, planning or species, you will possess knowledge of relevant national and international legislation, including that covering nature conservation, access and planning as well as knowledge of local land use and natural heritage issues, including an understanding of designated sites, wildlife management, community partnerships, and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. As well as having good communication skills, you must have good computer skills, with experience of using Windows XP package including MS Word and Excel.

We're as supportive, committed and proud of our people as we are of the natural world around us. Find out more, and apply, online. Alternatively, call 01463 725182.
Closing date will be 18th April 2010.



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Argyll College UHI has a purpose-built, childcare nursery adjacent to the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) at Dunstaffnage, called Little Learners' Nursery. We would now like to appoint a

**Part-time Nursery Support Worker
Maternity Cover**

We require a Nursery Support Worker to participate in the development and planning of the curriculum through play based activities for up to 32 children aged between 3 months and 5 years. Applicants should be qualified to or working towards SVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

The position is to cover a maternity leave period from June 2010 to March 2011, working Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm, ie 20 hours per week. The hourly rate is £7.57 which includes a payment in lieu of annual leave of 73p per hour.

The successful candidate will assist children with meal times, personal hygiene, quiet times and outings and will be subject to an enhanced Disclosure Scotland check.

Applications in the form of a CV (maximum 2 pages A4) and one page covering letter should be sent by Friday 9th April 2010 to:

Kathleen McNiven, Nursery Manager, Little Learners' Nursery,
Dunstaffnage, Oban, PA37 1PZ
email: kathleen.mcniven@argyllcollege.ac.uk
Tel: 01631 559522

Argyll College UHI Ltd is a charity, reg no SC 026685



Lynn of Lorne Care Home

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Telephone 01631 720278
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North Argyll Carers' Centre
North Argyll Carers' Centre is a value-based charity, which supports those who look after a family member or friend on an unpaid basis due to illness, disability, frailty or addiction. We provide information and advice as well as practical and emotional support through our Carers' Centre. The organisation is seeking to recruit the following:

Market Stall Coordinator
16 hours per week - £11,893.41
This is a new and innovative post which requires a highly motivated individual. You will work with carers' in North Argyll supporting them in the setting up and development of a stall at the local Producers' Market.
For an application pack or more information contact the Carers' Centre on 01631 564422 or Email: ruth@northargyllcarers.org.uk
North Argyll Carers' Centre's commitment to Equal Opportunities is reflected in our selection process.
The post is fixed term for 2 years.
CLOSING DATE: 29th May 2010 12 noon
Registered Charity no: SC040902

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With responsibility for 10 marine sites and support services, you must be able to demonstrate an impressive career to date along with a forward-looking innovative approach across all key marine production parameters. You will be target driven and will value and be pro-active in all aspects of health and safety. A strong motivation to achieve financial, biological and environmental excellence and an appreciation of the value of staff development will be a pre-requisite of the role.

You will have competence in infrastructure management and be sensitive to the needs of local stakeholders. Scottish Sea Farms Ltd are a major local employer and you should be committed to ensuring that the Company plays it full role within the local community.

If you have the experience we require, the energy, drive, imagination and skill to develop our business please contact Claire Scott on 01786 445521 or claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com for more information.

In return for your commitment to us we will offer an impressive salary and benefits package.

Closing date for applications is Friday 16th April 2010.

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Gallanach Road, OBAN

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ASSISTANT MANAGER
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We will be offering an attractive remuneration.
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BICYCLE vintage classic, 1930s, £49.99. Telephone 01631 564578.

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INTERNAL DOOR pine, 15 panel, frosted glass, with handle, 760 x 1908, £45 Telephone 01631 564558.

PASTE/DECORATORS TABLE formica folding table, very good condition, £15 Telephone 01631 720495.

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CARAVAN AWNING Trio Family, Sienna, 875cm, little used, suit caravan 4.4m approx, burgundy/grey, £250 Telephone 01631 566270.

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IKEA DAY BED metal frame, excellent condition, cost £300 selling £95, Telephone 07932 635849.

LARGE BEECH ROCKING CHAIR good condition, £35 Telephone 01631 730256.

NEST OF TABLES Regency, £45. Telephone 01631 564558.

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DOG BED Large plastic, £15. Telephone 07766 756699.

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BIRTHS

MACDONALD - Gordon To Colin and Karen a precious baby girl, Daisy Elizabeth, born on March 19, 2010. A granddaughter for Margaret, Dunluie and first granddaughter for Liz and Tom, Lanark.

MACLEAN

To John and Lindsay (née Wren) on March 21, 2010, a son, Dexter Duncan, a wee brother for Finlay, another grandson for John MacLean, Dunbeg and Phil and Maxine Wren, Corpach. Thanks to all at Oban Maternity, especially Elaine MacAlister for the water birth.

McKINNEY - McINNES

- Ian and Ria are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son Innes Daniel, a brother for Aaron. Many thanks to Oban and Paisley Maternity Units.

ENGAGEMENTS

GALBRAITH - DALY

Both families are delighted to announce the engagement of Barbara, daughter of Mr and Mrs D Galbraith, Comrie to Paul, youngest son of Mr and Mrs J Daly, Belfast on 27 February, 2010.

RUBY WEDDING

BIRCH - MACNEILAGE

- At All Saints, Parish Church, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, on April 4, 1970, by the Rev D Bond, Alan to Doreen.

GOLDEN WEDDING

CLARK - RALPH

At Cardonald Parish Church on March 29, 1960, Donald Clark to Elizabeth Ralph, by the Rev. F. Rae, Present address, Ardchorra, Clachan Seil.

MAY - MACDONALD

At St Columba's, Argyll Square Church, Oban on March 29, 1960, by the late Rev. William MacDonald, Ivor to Betty.

DEATHS

BIRSE - James At Mearns Kirk House, Glasgow, on March 27 2010, James, formerly of Cal Mac, beloved husband of Lorna, and a much loved father of Fred and father in law to Lorraine

BUICK - Ann Patricia Buick: Who passed away peacefully (aged 61) in early hours of Tuesday, March 23, 2010 in ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital. Loving daughter to Catelyn, and the rest of the family in New Zealand and Australia. Also wife to Ewen, mother to Bridget and Shane, Nana to Marcus, Freya and Kate. Sadly missed and loved by family in Scotland and further afield. Rest in Peace my love.... xx

CLEGG - Peacefully at home in Tobarmony on March 22, 2010, Joan Margaret Clegg (née Robson). Beloved mother of Sally and Miles, sister of Jean. Funeral Service was held on Friday, March 26, 2010 at St. Columba's Church, Gruline, Isle of Mull. Sadly missed by all the family.

GAULD - Suddenly, at home on March 26, 2010, aged 71 years, Ronald (Ronnie), beloved husband of Jeannie and a much loved dad and grandad.

JAMESON - Peacefully, at home, after a long illness, on Saturday March 27, 2010, aged 76 years, Peter, beloved husband of Myra, a much loved dad and grandad. Funeral will take place from St. Oran's Church, Connel on Friday April 9, at 12noon, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired for Macmillan Nurses.

MACARTHUR - Suddenly at his home in Aberdeen on March 25, 2010, aged 60 years, John, much loved elder son of Anne and the late John MacArthur of Middleton Farm, Tirez.

MACDONALD - Flora. Peacefully at Ailsa Craig Nursing Home on March 27, 2010. Major Flora (formerly of Arisaig), beloved sister of Catherine MacPherson and dear aunt to all the family. Fortified by Rites of Holy Church RIP. Reception and vigil at Our Lady of Lourdes RC Church, Lourdes Avenue, Glasgow on Monday, April 5, at 6.15pm. Funeral Mass on Tuesday, April 6, at 10.00am thereafter to Craighton Crematorium, Berryknowes Road arriving approximately at 10.50am. No flowers please.

MACINTYRE - Passed away peacefully at home on Saturday, March 27, 2010, Duncan MacIntyre, 26 Drumdevan Place, Inverness, aged 86 years. Former Chief Inspector Northern Constabulary and latterly Secretary of the Highland Region Licensed Trade Association. Will be sadly missed in the Shinty and Golf Communities, two of the sports he loved and in which he excelled. Beloved husband of the late Frances, much loved father to Isabel, Alex and Laurie, dear father-in-law, grandfather, brother and good friend to so many. Funeral service on Tuesday, April 6, at 1pm, in the Crown Church, Inverness, thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, for the Police Benevolent Fund at the service or forward to William T Fraser and Son, Funeral Directors, Culduthel Road, Inverness.

McLULLICH - Suddenly at his home, Acharonich Farm, Barbreck, Ardforn on the March 30, 2010, Alexander (Alex) McLulich, in his 80th year. Beloved brother of Archie and of the late Mary, Stewart and Frank. A dear cousin and uncle to all the family. Much respected neighbour and dear friend and work colleague to many. Funeral service will be held in Craignish Parish Church, Ardforn on Thursday April 8, 2010, at 1pm, thereafter to Kilvean Cemetery. Family flowers only please. All family and friends are respectfully invited to attend.

MILLIGAN - Peacefully at Perth Royal Infirmary on March 26, 2010, in her 87th year, Isabella (Bella) Milligan, beloved mother of Marie, Alison, David, Vera and Alex, grandmother, great-grandmother, in-law and aunt to many nieces and nephews. Sadly missed.

SWEENIE - Peacefully at Morar Lodge Nursing Home, Helensburgh, on March 28, 2010. David, formerly of Factory Land, Inveraray, beloved husband of the late Gwen and much loved father of David and Shirley. Funeral service at Cardross Crematorium on Friday, April 2 at 1.30pm.

WILSON - Peacefully after a long illness, bravely fought, at the Western Infirmary, Glasgow on March 24, 2010, in her 80th year, Effie Wilson, beloved wife of the late George, a much loved mum to Hugh and Sheena and the late William. A much loved mother-in-law, nana, sister and friend. Will be sadly missed by all. R.I.P.

CAMPBELL - Margaret and family of the late Rev George Campbell, Jura, would like to thank their relatives and friends for sympathy extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to the Rev Angus Morrison, Rev Rob Barlow and Rev Alan Donald for the comforting service at Jura Parish Church and graveside and also to all others who took part in the service. To Jean MacAffer our heartfelt thanks. Thanks to all who donated to the Jura church roof fund, a total of £1000.00 was raised

DAIRON - The family of the late Mary Dairon, 9 Lynn Court, Oban, wish to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards and phone calls following the sad loss of their mother. Thanks to Reverend Dougal Cameron and Donald MacKinnon for a comforting service at the Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, and to all who attended the church and graveside. Grateful thanks to Hamish Hoey and Son for their efficient and sympathetic funeral arrangements. Special thanks to the staff for the caring attention received while Mum was a patient in Ward B, Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, and finally to the management and staff at the Royal Hotel for their excellent purvey. A collection at the church was taken in aid of Cancer Research Campaign.

MEMORIALS

BIRD - Nan (née McCuish). In loving memory of my dear wife who died April 2, 1999. I miss you Nan and always will. You left a place no one can fill. You shared my life. My smiles and tears. Thank you Nan for all those precious years. -Your loving husband, Terry xx

BIRD - In loving memory of Nan, our dear mum, nannie and great-nannie, who died April 2, 1999. We miss you in so many ways. We miss the things you used to say. And when old times we do recall. It's then we miss you most of all. Ruthie, Murdo, girls and Kyde.

CAMERON - Fond memories of Hugh, devoted husband, dad, father-in-law and grandpa, who passed away on March 31, 2002. Always in our thoughts. - Bella and family.

CAMERON - In loving memory of my dear wife, Margaret, who died April 6, 1991. I love and miss you everyday. - Jimmy.

CAMERON - In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother, Margaret, who passed away April 6, 1991. - Iain, Heather, Craig and Laura.

Loved and remembered each passing day. - Shona, John, Jamie and Nicola.

CLARK - Remembering with love my darling fiancé, George, who died April 7, 2006. Though you are far away I know you'll always be near to me. - Love Jackie

DEAKIN - In fond memory of my dear son-in-law, John, died April 4, 2003. Quietly today your memory I treasure. Missing you always. Forgetting you never. Lots of love. - Mum in law, Margaret Childs x.

HEAP - In loving memory of our darling son and brother Edward Alexander (Eddie), accidentally killed at work on April 4, 1979 aged 18 years. We can't get over losing you. No matter how we try. You'll always be within our hearts. Until the day we die. Your loving mum, dad and family xx. No need for words except to say. You're loved and missed everyday. Aunties Peggy, Mary and family xx.

McCAMLEY - In fond remembrance of Joan (née Matheson), a loving and loved wife, mother and gran who died at Edinburgh April 1, 2004. No longer here our love to share. But in our hearts you are always there. - Bill and all the family"

MACDONALD - In loving memory of Margaret, who died April 3, 2009, beloved wife of James (Jimmy), loving mother of Jacqueline and Fiona and sister of Iain, beloved granny of Michael, Dawn and Kenzie. Forever on our thoughts.

MACDONALD - Cherished memories of our dear neighbour and friend, Margaret, died April 3, 2009. Always in our thoughts. - Bill and Chrissie.

McKILLOP - In loving memory of my dear husband, David, who died April 3, 1996. Memories are like leaves of gold. They never tarnish or grow old. Quietly today your memory I treasure. Loving you always forgetting you never. - Cissie.

McPHAIL - In loving memory of my dear wife Mary McPhail who died April 3, 2004, devoted mother to John, Sheona and Drew. Sadly missed, forever in our thoughts. A light is from our household gone. A voice we loved is still. A place is vacant from our hearts. Which never can be filled. - Inserted by her husband Charlie, Dalmailly. Love and miss you always Granny

- Elizabeth and Andrew xx

WALKER - In loving memory of our father and grandfather, Archie, passed away March 29, 1996. Always in our thoughts. - Allan and family, Islay, Gartmore and Blainfield.

WALKER - In loving memory of our dear father, Archibald, who died March 29, 1996. Forever in our thoughts. - Inserted by Donald and Morag, Airport Cottage, Islay.

CHURCH NOTICES

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Easter Sunday
North Connel Hall
10:30am
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www.lorncf.org.uk

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 1 April 2010
Maundy Thursday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist..... 19:30
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 19:00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 18:00

Friday 2 April 2010
Good Friday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
The Good Friday Watch
12.00 - 15.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins, Litany and Ante-Communion 11.00
Devotional Service... 14.00
St Columba, Bishop's House Iona
The Good Friday Liturgy
15.00

Saturday 3 April 2010
Holy Saturday
St John's Cathedral, Oban
The Easter Vigil..... 20:00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Blessing of the Lights. 20:00

Sunday 4 April 2010
Easter Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10:15
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St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00

Kilbrandon Kirk
No Service

St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Mattins..... 11.00

St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 18.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 4th April 2010
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
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Rev. Archie McPhail
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Nether Lorn parishes welcome new minister

FIVE Argyll churches welcomed a new minister this week and despite the unwieldy nature of the charge he is looking forward to his tenure.

The Reverend Professor Kenneth Ross was inducted into the Church of Scotland parish of Craignish linked with Kilbrandon and Kilchattan linked with Kilniver and Kilmelford at a service held on Saturday.

Mr Ross, who has worked in the most northerly parish in Scotland in Unst, Shetland, then as a professor at the University of Malawi, and for the last 11 years at Church of Scotland headquarters at 121 George Street, is looking forward to the challenge of ministry in such diverse parishes.

He said: 'When Hester and I were telling people where we were coming to the Nether Lorn Parishes they raised their eyebrows.

'On the surface it may seem like an unwieldy job. Furthermore, when we said we were looking forward to it, they would look at us with disbelief. But there is a different kind of ministry here, where each person can share his or her own gifts.

'I am moving from a job as general secretary of the Church of Scotland World Mission Council, a job with worldwide involvement. In that light, perhaps the churches of Nether



The Rev Kenneth Ross and wife Hester in their new manse kitchen in Kilmelford. 16. t14ross1

Lorn don't seem so far apart. 'The experience of ministry in Nether Lorn may be a way forward for the wider church. 'It is time for the church to look for new ways of ministry, while respecting our heritage. 'For that to happen, everyone to be involved not just people who think of themselves as church people. It is time for the church to break new paths in ministry - I hope that the churches in Nether Lorn will be a guiding light. Ken is joined by his wife Hester

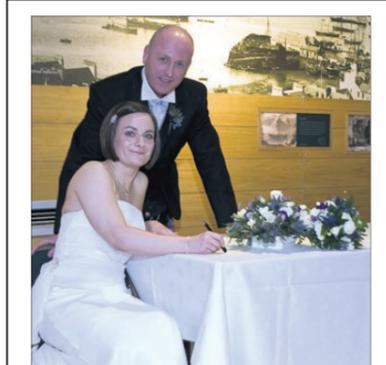
nee Carmichael, a facilitator in creative writing who grew up in the Mull of Oa, Islay, and their cat, Zara, an Egyptian mau. Ken continued: 'Argyll is somewhere we have always come to for our family time. We were always heading west whenever we could. 'We have received a fantastic welcome at my induction and beyond. 'People have been working very hard to get our home in Kilmelford ready for us.'

Another 'pregevac' for Oban

OBAN'S RNLI Lifeboat, accompanied by two Mora Edith Macdonald launched at 24 minutes past midnight, last Wednesday, to assist in the transfer of a pregnant lady from the Isle of Mull, The lifeboat crew,

accompanied by two paramedics, arrived at Craignure at 0054 departing with the patient at 0106. Following an uneventful passage the patient was disembarked for transfer to hospital.

WEDDINGS



Susan MacKie and Innes Ferguson both of Edinburgh, were married on March 20, 2010 at Oban Distillery by Gemma Cummings. They held their reception at The Oban Bay Hotel. This is the first wedding to take place in Oban Distillery. Photograph: Cameron Harris of Highland Photos.

GRADUATION



Caroline Grace recently graduated from the University of Strathclyde with a BA in Childhood Studies. Caroline is the eldest daughter of the late Hugh and Nan Cameron, Saleen, Mull. She is continuing her studies with the University of Strathclyde towards a PGDE in Primary Education. Caroline lives in Helensburgh with her husband and family where she works for Argyll & Bute Council.

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Obituaries

Bob King, July 6, 1938 - February 26, 2010

BOB King, one of the Highlands' best-known journalists, and something of an *enfant terrible* of his profession, died early on Friday morning in Raigmore Hospital, Inverness aged 71.

Bob, who had suffered poor health in recent months, was admitted to hospital the previous afternoon after suffering an aneurysm of a throat vein.

Born in Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Robert Davidson King, who was proud of his Ross-shire Davidson roots, and who in earlier days gloried in a fellow scribe's description as 'Scotland's most cultivated savage,' was educated at Airdrie Academy and Glasgow University, where he graduated with honours in Classics.

After a short period as a trainee reporter with the Glasgow Herald, he joined the BBC in London, where he was the first to take a call about the Aberfan disaster of October 1966, when a subsiding coal waste tip engulfed a Welsh village school, killing 144 people including 116 children.

Later that year he moved with his wife Marie and young family to Inverness, as press officer for the fledgling Highlands and Islands Development Board, with which he remained until joining the staff of a short-lived Cromarty Firth-based oil-related firm.

From there he moved to Edinburgh, as press officer in charge of the Scottish Office's overseas publicity department. However, the call of the Highlands remained strong, and his first marriage having been dissolved, returned to Inverness as news editor for the newly-formed Moray Firth Radio.

He made his home at Dores, and later worked for spells with the Highland News and the Press & Journal, before

eventually becoming a freelance. His second wife Hilda, whom he married in 1982, died suddenly in 1997, and in 2004 he married a neighbour, Lily MacLennan, sister-in-law of late clan chief Ron MacLennan, with whom he found happiness until his death.

An elegant writer and a natural linguist, who could converse fluently in several languages, including Gaelic, Bob was possessed of both a strong sense of justice and a fiery temper. He tended to see the world in terms of good or bad, and could range from being a fiercely loyal friend to being a bitter enemy.

An exceptionally well-educated man, who could converse with authority on a huge range of subjects, he had a rapier wit and was extremely entertaining in company, especially over a dram or two of malt whisky. Among his many interests was Roman history, a subject he could make almost come alive.

In his 20s Bob was commissioned from Glasgow University Officer Training Corps into 5/6 Highland Light Infantry, at that time one of Glasgow's famous Territorial Army battalions. Having resigned his commission on moving to London, he was later re-commissioned into Elgin-based 2/51 Highland Volunteers TA, and served for a time as Scotland's first Territorial Army public relations officer at Army Headquarters Scotland, Edinburgh, retiring in the rank of captain.

In recent years the onset of severe diabetes restricted his activities, curbing his love of striding the local moors and woodlands.

Bob is survived by Lily and by his family from his first marriage, Morag and Donnie.

Ian Matheson

THE PASSING of Ian Matheson, Erisort, Kyle, on March 25 after a short illness came as sad news to his many friends and the whole village of Kyle.

At 94, Ian was the oldest man in Kyle. He was born in Balmacara but when his father returned from the war the family moved to Kyleakin and Ian went to school there, before moving to Kyle when he was seven.

Ian loved the sea and when he left school he went to Gravesend Sea School in Kent, then to Lowestoft where he got his 'ticket'. Ian volunteered in 1939 and worked on minesweepers firstly, travelling around the coast of Britain and then in the Adriatic Sea where he gained his skipper's ticket. After demob, Ian began his long career as a fisherman, buying his first boat, the *Tina*, to fish for clams. A few years later he bought the *Springing Well*, fishing for white fish in the deep water off Rona. Later he bought the *Crest* and in 1963 he married Mary who was manageress in the Nor West Hotel. She belonged to Lewis. Sadly she died about a year ago.

With the *Crest*, Ian was at the forefront of the developing prawn fishing industry on the west coast and later his

Palestine group hears of 'atrocities'

OBAN Concern for Palestine heard two speakers, Wael Shawish and Barrie Levine, at the latest meeting.

Barrie Levine told the meeting that he was a Scots-born Jew who had lived in Israel and has family and friends living there but that this did not mean that Israel has a right to represent all Jews. He said: 'Jews are as entitled as anyone else to be outraged at the atrocities being inflicted on the Palestinians and express criticism of the Israeli state.' Wael Shawish explained that he had been born in Jerusalem but that he had been forced into exile and that he was now one of six million Palestinians living around the world.

He said: 'Palestinian land has been reduced and fragmented to such an extent that it is now often impossible to go from one part of Palestine to another part of it without going through Israeli checkpoints with all the delays, restrictions and refusals that that entails.'

Anyone wishing to join the Oban Concern for Palestine group or wanting further information should contact Graeme Pagan, neaveton@tiscali.co.uk

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Fort fall short despite fightback

MacDonald on the mark

TRIALS BIKING

KINLOCHLEVEN ace Gary MacDonald scored an impressive win in the Ian Pollock Memorial Trial at Kinlochleven on Sunday.

And Gary's young cousin Duncan MacDonald, from Ballachulish, made it a real day of success for the family when he came in fourth.

The event, hosted by Lochaber and District Motorcycle Club Ltd, attracted an entry of 108 from all over the country.

Competitors were tasked with completing two tough laps up to Blackwater dam and back with as few foot-downs as possible.

Gary proved more than equal to the task, dropping only seven points, while Duncan dropped 54.

Lochaber's Roger Mount came second with 25 while Callander's Tony More was third with 49.

Squash league decider

SQUASH

B&H AUTOSPARES kept their two-point lead over The Building Restoration Company in the Rio Tinto Alcan Squash League after an eight-all draw between the two teams.

B&H had their usual number one away on holiday but still got the draw when Murdo Murray beat Warren Cameron in the last game 3-1, playing his best game of the season in the process.

In the other all-Oban encounter the same scoreline was the final result between Simmers and Co and Oban Filling Station, with the game of the night between Peter Strange and Niall Campbell ending with Peter winning 3-2, with three of the games going to 12-10.

This leaves the league decider going to the last game of the season in Oban on April 3 at 2pm.

Winter league nears end

MOUNTAIN BIKING

THE PENULTIMATE race in the West Highland Wheelers winter league was held at Balmacarra last Sunday.

The course is the toughest of the series with several thousand feet of gruelling climbs and an abundance of technical slippery tree rooted descents.

Top time trialist and mountain bike downhiller Gavin Shirley from Roy Bridge showed his class when he led from start to finish to win comfortably. Former Scottish silver medallist Andrew Foggo had a battle with John Shirley for second place.

First lady home was Colleen Foggo, who finished just ahead of the much-improved Marie Meldrum. First youth went to Orrin Macdonell who finished in seventh place overall. The club would like to thank course organiser Henry McNicol.

Results: 1 Gavin Shirley 1hr 17m 52sec; 2 Andrew Foggo 1hr 26m 20sec; 3 John Shirley 1hr 30m 59sec; 4 Graham Brooks 1hr 37m 28sec; 5 Alan Dent 1hr 43min 30sec; 6 Gavin Linfield 1hr 49sec 37sec; 7 Orrin Macdonald 1hr 50min 29sec; 8 Jamie Keene 1hr 54m 22sec; 9 Neil Wright 1hr 56m 28sec; 10 Colleen Foggo 1hr 57m 48sec.

FOOTBALL

Highland League Fort William 2 Keith 4

FORT slid to another defeat on Saturday against a fast-moving Keith side - despite a late rally which could have earned them a draw.

Donaldson applied a sweet finish to a MacAllister cross on 20 minutes to put the visitors ahead before Fort were awarded a penalty for handball by ref Doug Ross.

However, the linesman was able to persuade the referee otherwise.

Keith took heart from that windfall and Lennox went close with a free kick before Cammy Keith was given far too much space at the far post to convert Donaldson's cross with ease to put the visitors two up.

Response

Fort though found an instant response when Hewitt was felled in the box and got up to send Shearer the wrong way from the spot to put Fort right back in the mix.

Sean Ellis fizzed a 25-yard free kick just over as Fort looked for a leveller before Urquhart's lob beat Shearer and the crossbar then Finnis just failed to connect right on half time.

Keith came out the stronger after the break and Walker was desperately unlucky to see his shot strike both posts yet somehow stay out.

A goal looked on the cards and the visitors duly increased their lead on 62 minutes when Lennox beat the offside trap to draw Campbell and square for Keith to finish before Sean Keith made it 4-1 with 18 minutes left.

To their credit Fort never gave up - and gave themselves a glimmer of hope when Hewitt fired home after great link up play between Urquhart and Finnis had carved open the Keith defence.

Sean Ellis almost cut

the deficit to one but his shot clipped the far post with Shearer beaten, then Urquhart cracked a great shot inches wide just before the end.

Fort manager Calum MacLean said he was 'not overly happy' with the performance, although he paid tribute to his team's late fightback.

Fight

He told The Oban Times: 'We can play better than that, but we did fight hard in the second half especially. We gave away a couple of silly goals which has cost us again.'

Fort were due to play Lossiemouth last night with captain Andy Martin expected to make his return after weeks out with knee ligament damage.

'He's been a big, big miss and it will be great to have him back,' MacLean said.

Fort are at home again on Saturday, when title-chasing Fraserburgh come to Claggan.



Sean Ellis flights a great free kick narrowly over. 10_1140fort01

Shinty leagues

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	4	3	1	0	12	2	7
Fort William	4	3	0	1	13	5	6
Kyles Athletic	4	2	1	1	9	6	5
Glenurquhart	4	2	1	1	6	5	5
Bute	4	2	0	2	10	6	4
Inveraray	4	2	0	2	7	11	4
Oban Camanachd	4	1	1	2	5	10	3
Kingussie	4	1	0	2	9	9	2
Lovat	4	1	0	2	6	8	2
GMA	4	0	0	4	3	18	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	3	2	1	0	8	3	5
Lochaber	2	2	0	0	14	2	4
Kilmallie	2	2	0	0	11	1	4
Skye	2	1	1	0	6	4	3
Beaulie	3	1	1	1	5	5	3
Lochcarron	3	1	1	1	3	8	3
Strathglass	3	1	0	2	5	5	2
Kinlochshiel	3	0	0	3	2	8	0
Inverness	3	0	0	3	1	19	0

Marine Harvest North Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenurquhart	3	3	0	0	9	3	6
Glengarry	3	3	0	0	7	2	6
Newtonmore	3	2	0	1	13	5	4
Lovat	3	2	0	1	8	8	4
Fort William	2	1	0	1	7	5	2
Kingussie	3	1	0	2	6	5	2
Beaulie	3	1	0	2	4	6	2
Kinlochshiel	3	1	0	2	4	10	2
Kilmallie	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Skye	3	0	0	3	4	12	0

Marine Harvest North Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen Uni	3	3	0	0	15	1	6
Lochaber	2	2	0	0	15	0	4
Caberfeidh	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Lochcarron	1	1	0	0	4	1	2
Ardnamurchan	3	1	0	2	8	7	2
Boleskine	3	1	0	2	5	11	2
Inverness	3	1	0	2	5	17	2
Lochbroom	2	0	0	2	0	5	0
Strathglass	3	0	0	3	0	14	0

Marine Harvest South Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kilmory	3	2	1	0	9	5	5
Glenorchy	2	2	0	0	9	0	4
Oban Celtic	4	1	2	1	6	7	4
Lochside Rovers	4	1	1	2	6	8	3
Taynuilt	3	0	2	1	5	8	2
Ballachulish	3	0	2	1	3	8	2
Inveraray	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Marine Harvest South Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	3	2	1	0	11	1	5
Col Glen	4	2	0	2	8	17	4
GMA	4	1	1	2	9	7	3
Aberdour	2	1	1	0	5	4	3
Strachur	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
Tayforth	3	1	0	2	8	8	2
Glenorchy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bute	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

Bellahouston boxers trade blows with Fort's Phoenix

BOXING

BELLAHOUSTON Boxing Club sent 17 members to Fort William last weekend for a training camp as the reputation of Lochaber Phoenix boxers continues to grow in Scottish boxing circles.

Arriving on Friday night and departing on Sunday afternoon, the Glasgow boxers trained with their Fort William counterparts in four gym sessions and two training runs.

The gym sessions involved ground work, boxing drills and sparring between both clubs as the boxers aged between 10 and 29 years old went through their paces.

This training camp has come at an ideal time for the Lochaber club which

have to keep our fingers crossed that no-one picks up any serious injuries before April 10th with some boys simply training through various niggles as nobody wants to miss boxing at home.

The event is scheduled to feature nine Phoenix boxers and two from Glasgow, Aberdeen and Dundee travelling to Fort William for this show.

'We have had to turn down umpteen requests from other clubs to appear on the bill as the excitement in the gym has reached fever pitch with our boys straining at the leash for next Saturday.'

For more information on the event contact Nevis Centre on 01397 700707, Niall Clark on 07887711457 or and Charlie Anderson on 07919526089.

Lochaber beats Argyll teams

RUGBY

LOCHABER Under-14s travelled to Oban recently to take part in a rugby development day.

Lochaber started the day off with a fine 12-0 win against Oban and if they had taken some of their other chances when they had clear overlaps this would have been more.

The next match was against a Mid-Argyll and Mull joint team and Lochaber won 26-0.

The young Lochaber forwards were playing well in the set pieces with their scrum working well.

The final game of the day was against effectively an Argyll select team with players from Oban, Mid-Argyll & Mull all taking part against Lochaber.

However, the game went the same way as the previous two with Lochaber winning 17-0.

The Lochaber squad was; Daniel Thomas, Callum MacDonald, Oskar Wineberg, Jordan MacPhee, Michael Lawrie, Finlay Ireland, Calum Sandison, Aaran MacPhee, Calum Boyd, Joseph Tangney, Dylan Fraser, Greg Cameron, Rory Bell, Angus Cameron, Andrew Haines and Finn Munro.

Caol's cross country champions

CROSS COUNTRY

THE ANNUAL Primary Schools Cross Country Championships staged at Nevis Range last Tuesday saw almost 100 youngsters take part.

The competition provided young runners with the opportunity to compete individually and in school teams - and for once the weather was kind.

The sun shone throughout, engendering a festival atmosphere conspicuous by its absence in recent years when competitors huddled in team buses to try and stay warm and dry.

The girls raced first this year, with the top three spots all being taken by pupils from Fort William RC Primary. Caol and Lochside also put in good performances, so the schools' competition all now rested on the boys' placings.

In the end the boys from Caol came out strongest, securing first and third spots, which was more than enough to secure them the overall school shield for the third successive year.

Thanks go to the Forestry Commission, Lochaber College's environmental conservation team for



Cross country championships winners, Caol Primary.

marshalling, and to Paul MacLean and Aileen Duncan who ran with the pupils.

The event, sponsored by Samuel and Partners, was organised by Lochaber's Primary PE teachers and active schools co-ordinators and saw a total of 97 boys

and girls from 18 Lochaber primary schools compete.

Results: Girls: 1st Rachel MacPerson 11:17, FWRC; 2nd Frances Oliver 11:18, FWRC; 3rd Margaret-Jane Malcolm 11:37, FWRC.

Boys: 1st Innes

Blackhall 9:30, Caol; 2nd Thomas Kennedy 9:57, Mallaig; 3rd Donald MacRae 10:19, Caol.

Schools Competition: 1st Caol, 2nd Fort William RC, 3rd Lochside RC, 4th Fort William, 5th Inverlochy.

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Fixtures

Saturday April 3

SHINTY

MacTavish Cup 1st Round
 Fort William v Kinlochshiel
 John MacPhee
 Glenurquhart v Kingussie
 Deek Cameron
 Lochaber v Inverness
 John MacLeod
 Lochcarron v Skye
 Donald MacRae
 Newtonmore v Lovat
 Graham Irving
 Strathglass v Kilmallie
 Innes Wood

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup 1st Round
 GMA v Taynuilt
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Kilmory v Ballachulish
 Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Caberfeidh v Beaulieu
 Duncan Kelly

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Glenorchy v Inveraray
 Duncan Kerr

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Beaulieu v Glengarry
 Daniel MacRae
 Fort William v Glenurquhart
 Colin MacDonald
 12 noon
 Kinlochshiel v Skye
 Ronnie Campbell
 Lovat v Kilmallie
 Ron Kennedy
 Kingussie v Newtonmore
 Dougie Cameron

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
 Euan Pearson
 Col Glen v Strachur
 Robert Baxter Jnr
 Kyles Athletic v Aberdeen
 Jim Innes

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Boleskine v Ardnamurchan
 Graham Cameron
 Inverness v Caberfeidh
 John Sloggie
 Lochaber v Lochbroom
 Russell Ross
 11.30am start
 Lochcarron v Strathglass
 Robert Morrison
 12 noon

Lochaber run riot at Inverness

SHINTY

Marine Harvest North Division One Inverness 0 Lochaber 11
 LOCHABER moved to second place in North Division One, with a game in hand, after an 11-goal thrashing of Inverness.



Michael Rodger beats Dougie Blain's challenge to flash a shot just past 10-14kilm01

Kilmallie progress in cup after extra time against Beaulieu

KILMALLIE are through to the first round proper of the Camanachd Cup – but only after a titanic struggle with the men from Beaulieu in the preliminary round at Canal Parks.

With an internet TV crew filming the game from a platform on the touchline, viewers online and pitchside were treated to a meaty encounter in which the strong wind was a factor throughout.

Early lead

The gale favoured Kilmallie in the first half and the Blues were mostly on top - but a sluggish start cost them dear when Beaulieu's Jamie MacLennan fired past MacNiven in eight minutes to put the visitors one up.

Kilmallie soon got a grip on proceedings with Michael Rodger, John Stewart and Liam MacDonald causing Beaulieu's defence no end of problems only to find keeper Martin Davidson in inspired form.

Twice he saved brilliantly from Stewart in as many minutes then somehow kept a Peter MacIntyre drive out.

Barrie MacDonald shot over at the other end but it was all Kilmallie as Davidson pulled off another great stop, this time to deny Rodger and push the ball away for a corner.

When the ball came across, however, it was Rodger who had the final say when he found a split second to crash a great shot high into the net for the equaliser.

Beaulieu came more into things and had a goal chalked off for foul play on 35 minutes and then Stewart whistled a shot inches past Davidson's left hand post just before the break.

The second half saw a much more even encounter but neither side could break the deadlock in the 90 minutes and the game went into extra time.

With the tie on a knife-edge Kilmallie grabbed the initiative through a Martin Stewart penalty on 95 minutes then doubled their lead when Liam MacDonald's cross cum shot from the touchline beat Davidson.

Kilmallie pressed for a fourth, but Beaulieu broke up the park and Neilson ensured a nervous last five minutes for home fans when his shot beat MacNiven.

Kilmallie chairman Hugh MacIntyre was delighted Kilmallie had won through to earn a first round tie against Taynuilt.

'In the first half Kilmallie should have been well ahead, but in the second when Beaulieu had the wind they were doing most of the pressing. It was a fairly even game but at the end of the day it was Kilmallie who were determined to win,' he said.

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round Kilmallie 3 Beaulieu 2 after extra time

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Fort knock Kingussie for six

THE full-time news from An Aird rocketted around the shinty world on Saturday afternoon as two-goals-a-piece from Gordie MacKinnon and James Clark helped Fort William to a comfortable 6 - 0 scoreline over champions Kingussie.

John MacDonald and Bryan Simpson joined Clark and MacKinnon on the scoresheet with neutral claiming that the scoreline didn't flatter the home side who could have added to their goal tally.

The victory takes Fort William into second place but Newtonmore's late revival at the Eilan against Inveraray allows them to retain top spot.

Following a very even first 45 minutes, Danny MacRae took less than five minutes of the second period to open the scoring. Glen Mackintosh had added a second from the penalty spot before MacRae unleashed a thunderbolt to the Inveraray net for number three.

With 15 minutes left, youngster Drew MacDonald chipped in with a very soft fourth.

At Tighnabruach, a first-half strike from Robert Zaveroni took Bute to within 20 minutes of an away win, only for Tom Whyte to equalise for Kyles, then snatch the winner with less than five minutes of the tie remaining.

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Fort William 6 Kingussie 0

Newtonmore 4 Inveraray 0

GMA 1 Oban Camanachd 2

Kyles 2 Bute 1

Lovat 1 Glenurquhart 2

Two early goals from Calum Miller and Neale Reid had Glenurquhart well ahead against Lovat at Kiltarlity but the home side fought back and set-up a grandstand finish after Ryan Ferguson clawed a goal back in the 82nd minute. But it proved too little, too late.

Oban Camanachd took their first points of the season with a 2-1 away win against Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Ian MacMillan and Jonathan Will secured the points for the visitors, while Andy Mathie had scored for Mid Argyll in the opening 15 minutes.

With cup ties in both North and South areas this weekend, there are no Premier Division fixtures.

Results

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round
 Kilmallie 3 Beaulieu 2 after extra time
 Kilmory 0 Kinlochshiel 2

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Fort William 6 Kingussie 0
 GMA 1 Oban Camanachd 2
 Kyles 2 Bute 1
 Lovat 1 Glenurquhart 2
 Newtonmore 4 Inveraray 0

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Caberfeidh 2 Skye 2
 Inverness 0 Lochaber 11
 Strathglass 1 Lochcarron 2

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Lochside 0 Ballachulish 0
 Taynuilt 2 Oban Celtic 2

Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Beaulieu 0 Glenurquhart 3
 Kilmallie P Fort William P
 Glengarry 2 Kingussie 1
 Kinlochshiel 0 Newtonmore 4
 Skye 2 Lovat 3

Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Bute P Aberdeen P
 Col Glen 3 Tayforth 1
 Strachur 1 GMA 0

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Aberdeen Uni6 Strathglass 0
 Caberfeidh P Lochcarron P
 Boleskine 0 Lochaber 7
 George O'Rourke
 Lochbroom P Inverness P

Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1st Round
 Lewis 0 Inveraray

Kinlochshiel go through

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Preliminary Round Kilmory 0 Kinlochshiel 2

KINLOCHSHIEL made the long trip to Lochgilphead on Saturday and left it late to overcome a plucky Kilmory who held out against the fancied 'Shiel for more than an hour.

After 67 minutes of even play on a difficult surface, Kinlochshiel's Gordie MacDonald put the visitor's ahead but it took until seven minutes from the final whistle that 'Shiel could feel safe, Neil Fraser netting the vital strike.

This Saturday, Kilmory are at home to Ballachulish in the Celtic Cup while Kinlochshiel face a tough test away to Fort William in the MacTavish Cup.

Taynuilt come back to take a share of the points against Oban Celtic

Home substitute Campbell almost strikes hat-trick to snatch late winner at Taynuilt

SHINTY

Marine Harvest South Division One Taynuilt 2 Oban Celtic 2

A KEENLY fought contest at Taynuilt resulted in both teams sharing the points after the home side mounted a strong comeback, and almost snatched a dramatic winner, in the last quarter of the match.

Tough tackling from the

start saw the game develop a clutch of fascinating individual battles in all areas of the pitch. While Oban Celtic developed their attacks via a passing game, Taynuilt's strong hitters preferred the more direct approach to test the visitors' defence.

Both Taynuilt's keeper Andrew Servant and Celtic's Niall McNab were forced to make good saves around the half-hour mark, but it was the Oban side that made the

eventual breakthrough on 34 minutes.

Neil Carmichael won a free hit deep in Taynuilt territory - taking the hit himself, he swung a high cross towards right half-forward Daniel Madej who unleashed a low drive beyond Servant to put the visitors ahead.

Just before the break McNab made a tremendous save, getting his body in the path of a rocket shot from Neil Gillies.

Play raged on after the

break with both defences on continued high alert.

On 63 minutes Celtic substitute Alan Miller gave his side a vital two goal cushion, pouncing on a clearance and driving it back into the home goal from 20 yards.

However Taynuilt surged back, with strong play from Ewan Neilson and Willie Gillies driving the attacks forward to a point where Oban's centre line was pushed further and further

back to shore up a defensive unit that was creaking under the pressure. They were rewarded after 72 minutes when Celtic lost possession in mid-field. The ball was pushed wide to Taynuilt substitute David Campbell whose low shot cut across McNab and in at the far post. Driving forward to salvage a point the same player scored in similar manner in the 83rd minute - and almost snatched a winning hat trick when his

30-yard volley sailed inches over the Celtic crossbar.

This was a fine game of shinty highlighted by strong individual performances on both sides, but it also indicated how evenly matched the teams are in South Division 1 where close encounters will be the order of the day all season.

This weekend, Taynuilt travel to Glasgow to play Glasgow Mid Argyll in the Celtic Cup while Oban Celtic have a free Saturday.

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach "Spot the Shinty Ball" Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time.

Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.

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:
 L. Dunn, Burnside Court, Oban and L. Cattanaich, Lorn Drive, Glencoe

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Business cards, letterheads, envelopes, comp slips

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Lorne victorious in Carrick cliffhanger

SHE West Division One
Carrick 27
Oban Lorne 28

A ONE-point win at Carrick extended Oban Lorne's winning run to four games and consolidated an impressive turnaround in form this season.

With seven first team players unavailable, coach Corrie Louw rang the changes with Mark MacQueen coming in at stand off, Craig McGougan moving to blindside flanker and student Max Beckmann made his last appearance for the club at centre before returning to his native Germany.

Oban drew first blood after relegation-threatened Carrick were penalised for hands in the ruck and Euan Wilson made no mistake to give an early 0-3 score line. The home team came

straight back into the game when their winger went over for an unconverted try.

In what was becoming a ding-dong match of enterprising rugby the men in green took the lead when flanker Andy MacDougall beat several defenders before powering over in the right hand corner for an unconverted try. MacDougall then turned from saint to sinner as he was somewhat harshly penalised for not releasing a tackled player and sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes.

Although Oban defended well in this period the reliable Carrick number 10 was able to slot over three penalties in a row for handling in the rucks to make the half time score 14-8. In second half Oban's

lineout began functioning particularly well and this allowed several turnovers from the home throw in. From one of these Andy MacDougall made inroads to the home 22 before the pack then rumbled on. Man of the match MacDougall was then on hand to finish off the move with his second unconverted try.

Just when it seemed Oban were gaining momentum Carrick came back and finished off a try in the left corner.

Both sides then traded penalty kicks until Oban executed a training ground move of catch and drive from a 10-metre lineout which was finished off superbly by Mark McTighe.

This amazingly still left Oban trailing by 22-21 with more than 60 minutes played in what was now an

enthralling game of rugby. Oban held their nerve to surge forward once more and when Corrie Louw was stopped just short of the line, Euan Wilson was on hand to dot down for the try which he then superbly converted from wide on the right in the swirling wind for a 22-28 scoreline.

The drama was still not over as Carrick finished off a sweeping move after 75 minutes in the right hand corner giving a 27-28 score.

The conversion from the right hand touchline was just too big an ask for the home 10 and there was relief from Oban as this sailed wide.

Oban held on for several nerve-jangling minutes to record their best away win of the season.

This win now lifts Oban to sixth place in the league with three matches remaining.

The next league match is away to Strathclyde Police on Saturday, kick off 3pm.

RUGBY

Saints youths

FOOTBALL

SATURDAY'S results: Kilpatrick 3, Under-15s 1. Netting for Saints was Robert Johnston. The Under-13s had no game.

Both the Under-13s and Under-15s have no game this Saturday due to the Easter holiday weekend.

The Under-15s' next match is away to Renton Youth on April 17 and the Under 13s, who are already league champions, play their final game on the 3g pitch at Oban High School on April 24 against Westerton United.

Mini festival

RUGBY

OBAN Lorne RFC recently hosted the latest Argyll and Bute mini rugby tournament at Glencruitten last Sunday.

The day included teams from all over Argyll and also a visiting Hamilton primary seven team. They were joined by Glasgow Warrior professional players John Welsh, Peter Murchie, and Mark MacMillan who were on hand to give the players some coaching and to sign autographs.

The primary 6/7 tournament was won by Hamilton, while the non-competitive primary 4/5 tournament was used more for the players' development.

Season underway

GOLF

TOBERMORY Golf Club's summer season started on Sunday with a Greensome Competition.

For the second year running the father and son pair of Ewan and Ross MacCrone won with a joint net score of 67-1/2, just ahead of Catherine Ann MacCrone (Ross' mother) and Graham Davidson with 68 net.

In third place John Wilshire and Lewis (grandfather and grandson) carded a 69 net.

The Hairy Legs Trophy was won by Iain MacNaughton and Gordon Chalmers.

Fitters are champs

FOOTBALL

CARPET Fitters retained the Atlantis Leisure Works League with games to spare.

A LEAGUE	P	Pts
Carpet Fitters	12	36
Atlantis	11	24
RM & GE Builders	10	15
Oban Times	11	13

B LEAGUE	P	Pts
Hydro	12	16
Aggregate Ind.	12	15
Oban High	12	15
Connaught	12	3



Scary Carey: Argyll's Craig Carey tormented the Garnock defence. Picture by Kevin McGlynn

Craig's a natural as he 'tries' his hand at rugby

AN AMERICAN youngster, who played only his second game of rugby at the weekend in a regional tournament, helped himself to 11 tries and a man of the tournament award.

Oban's Craig Carey, who came to Oban High School from Wisconsin, helped Argyll's S1/S2 team gain second place at the Glasgow West Regional Festival.

Natural ability

Rugby coach and Oban High School PE teacher Murray Hamilton said: 'Craig is a big, strong boy but he has outstanding natural ability.'

'He played rugby a couple of times in PE and his friends persuaded him to come to training. In his first match he scored two tries and he has

RUGBY

been a breath of fresh air for the whole team.

'His brother, Kellen, has also shown a natural talent for rugby.'

The Argyll squad, which was made up of players from Oban, Mull and Mid-Argyll, kicked off with a two scores to one victory over Ardrossan - with both tries coming from Craig.

In the second game against a bigger and beefier Garnock side Oban were flying; Craig scored five tries and Neil Morrison added two of his own for a 7-2 win.

In the third game Argyll were drawn against Dumfries. Argyll's forwards continued to dominate, creating chance after chance

for the backs, and the backs duly obliged.

Craig turned in another cracking performance with four tries - two running from his own 22-yard line - beating four and five men a time to touch down. Again the jinking runner Neil Morrison scored a brace for a 6-1 Argyll victory.

The last game of the group was against Kilmarnock, who were bigger, stronger and better organised than Argyll, who lost 4-0.

Argyll coaches Murray Hamilton and Ben Radford from Oban and Duncan 'Brochan' Aitken from Mid-Argyll said they were pleased with the performance of the whole team, many of whom had won the same competition last year.

MacCrone's debut hopes punctured in Welsh rally

MULL driver John MacCrone's Rally Team Scotland had a difficult but promising opening event in the 2010 British Rally Championship.

At the Bulldog Rally of North Wales the 20-year-old showed the speed that had seen him top the Motorsport News poll for the top young drivers to watch, from all UK motorsport disciplines, during 2010.

RALLY

ruined his chances of an impressive finish.

The Bulldog Rally in Welshpool took in some classic Welsh forest stages with some fantastic levels of competition.

Rally Team Scotland faced challenges from 11 other crews in the hotly-fought R2 class and the team's JP Motorsport prepared Fiesta R2 was also entered in the Fiesta Sport Trophy, taking third place.

John said: 'I've learned a lot this weekend and I'm under no illusions that this year will be all about learning and getting progressively faster.'

Puncture

John put in a sterling performance in his first event with the new team and car, but a troublesome puncture on just the second stage dropped him 12 minutes down the time-sheets and



It was simply cricket at a training event for primary kids at Atlantis Leisure. With a good turn out of pupils, many who had never played the sport before, it is hoped that some will join Oban Cricket Club. Contact the club captain on rangersac@googlemail.com for more details. 16.11.11cricket1

Saints pip Cambria for win

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division

CAMBRIA 0
OBAN SAINTS 1

SAINTS travelled to take on Cambria in an important league match and at the end of an entertaining 90 minutes the Oban lads came away with all three points in a closely fought match that flowed from end to end.

The Glasgow side fielded four former Oban Saints players in their starting line-up - Daniel Cassells, Calum Hill, Joe Lopez and Scott Johnston with Eddie Swift on the bench, but they certainly weren't handing out any favours to their home-town team.

Saints took the lead after nine minutes with a well taken goal when Donald Campbell and Ross Maitland combined on the left before Ross played a great ball through for Craig MacEwan

FOOTBALL

SCOTTISH AMATEUR LEAGUE - PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oban Saints	15	12	2	1	45	10	38
Greenock HSEF	13	9	3	1	29	14	30
Aikenhead Thistle	9	5	2	2	34	14	17
Inverclyde	11	4	1	6	24	25	13
Cambria	13	3	3	7	12	27	12
Kilpatrick	5	3	2	0	13	5	11
Castlemilk	10	2	4	4	25	26	10
Postal United	12	2	3	7	20	33	9
St Josephs	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
Glencastle Sparta	11	0	1	10	7	50	1

to run clear before clipping the ball past Daniel Cassells to give Saints the advantage.

An interesting tussle was developing in midfield with Willie Gemmell and Sean Ford in direct opposition to former workmates and friends Joe Lopez and Scott Johnston.

Saints created two excellent chances just before the

Cobras claim championship

COBRAS were crowned senior league champions of the Oban Express Primary Football League on Sunday.

But the Oban team lost one game on the day to blemish their unbeaten record.

The final fixtures of the season were played out at the Oban High School with four sides in genuine contention for the title but the Cobras won their games in hand to take the trophy.

Cobras eliminated both Lochnell and Saints Boys from the race to the title by defeating them, which added to a further win over Tralee.

However their dream of winning undefeated came unstuck when a gritty Oban Saints scored a penalty through Ben Coates, the only goal of the match. Wins over Spartans and Stoddarts

FOOTBALL



Action from Stoddarts versus Tralee. 07.11.11April01

ensured the Cobras would win the league before they played out a goalless draw with their nearest challengers and runners up Lochgilphead Warriors.

At the other end of the table, Appin got their first win of

the season against Stoddy Boys with Dean Turner netting a hat trick. The win was just reward for the Appin team and in particular young ever present Abi Malcolm who have stuck with it all season against the odds.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, April 1, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.57 0.2 06.50 4.1 13.23 0.5 19.09 4.0	
Fri	01.38 0.4 07.24 3.9 13.59 0.7 19.44 3.8	
Sat	02.18 0.7 07.57 3.6 14.38 1.0 20.19 3.6	
Sun	02.59 1.1 08.31 3.3 15.20 1.3 20.59 3.3	
Mon	03.46 1.4 09.08 2.9 16.11 1.5 21.47 3.1	
Tues	04.41 1.7 09.57 2.7 17.13 1.8 23.05 2.8	
Wed	05.51 1.9 13.24 2.5 18.30 1.8 **** **	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrihaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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FRIDAY

the weather

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Thursday
Light rain showers to be expected. Winds strong west/north-westerly. Temperatures 3°C to 6°C

Friday
Light rain showers to continue. Winds moderate southerly. Temperatures 2°C to 8°C.

Weekend Outlook
Light rain showers. Winds light to moderate northerly. Temperatures 4°C to 9°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate to rough
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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