

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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### Island flights back on track

### My island: Islay



#### Aldi denies Oban rumours of store to close

INTERNATIONAL food chain Aldi has said that it has no plans to close its store in Oban.

Rumours have been circulating around the town that the store is set to shut its doors for good.

But a spokesperson for the chain, which won UK Grocer of the Year and Discounter of the Year in 2009, said it was not closing the Oban Aldi store.

#### Serious assault charges

A TWENTY-year-old Oban man appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Robert Lopez appeared on two charges of serious assault, made no plea or declaration and the case was continued for further examination. Lopez was released on bail.

#### University appoints new Gaelic centre leader

THE UNIVERSITY of Glasgow has established the first ever Chair of Gaelic in Scotland.

The position, which is to be filled by Professor Roibeard Ó Maolaláigh, has been created to recognise the University's Department of Celtic and Gaelic as a centre of excellence for the study of the language, history and culture.

The announcement came on Tuesday as Glasgow City Council launched its first Gaelic Language Plan.



Tim Bromfield and Lynn Morris from the Atlantic Rising expedition launched the huge message in a bottle containing letters from Tiree high and 16 other schools. Now it has washed up in Brazil.

### Tiree pupils' message in a bottle washes up in Brazil

Launch team's surprise and elation that it crosses Atlantic and is found so soon

LETTERS from Tiree have travelled more than 1,000 miles in a unique 'message in a bottle' project.

**Five-week journey**  
Tiree High School was the first school to join in the Atlantic Rising project, learning about the challenge of rising sea levels. Last week, messages written by the schoolchildren about the planet's future washed up in Brazil, after bobbing more than 1,000 miles across the Atlantic in a special buoy.

The Atlantic Rising expedition team set off from Tiree last summer to travel around the ocean's coastline highlighting the effects of anticipated sea level rises at schools along the route.

Five weeks ago they released the huge message in a bottle, containing the children's letters and equipped with satellite tracking equipment so pupils could follow its progress on the ocean's currents.

Last week, it was caught and hauled aboard by curious fishermen just off Brazil, who brought it ashore. Staff from

a nearby luxury hotel helped to retrieve it for the expedition team.

**Surprised**  
Will Lorimer, a director of Atlantic Rising, whose family has a house on Tiree, said they were surprised and elated that the capsule had crossed the ocean and been found so soon.

He said: 'We will be travelling up to Fortaleza within the next month to meet Ageu and the hotel staff who helped recover it, work with local schools to respond to the students' letters and hopefully pick up

the buoy so that we can launch it again when we are crossing back from America.'

Will and his colleagues will be travelling north from Brazil along the Atlantic's western shore before returning back across the ocean to finish at Tiree again.

They are due to return to the school to tell the pupils about their adventures, which have been sponsored by the Royal Geographic Society and Land Rover. Their progress can be followed on www.atlanticrising.org.

Ardchattan man opts for tidal barrage on Loch Etive to replace iconic Connel Bridge

### Power of Falls of Lora could be harnessed

THE famous Connel Bridge should be replaced with an underwater tunnel and a tidal barrage, generating electricity and funds for the local community.

That ambitious idea is being put forward by one Ardchattan man who wants local communities around Loch Etive to work together to develop green power projects.

Iain MacDonald, chairman of Ardchattan Community Council, believes the untapped potential of tidal flows should be investigated.

He said: 'It is in its infancy and I don't think there are any proven systems. But from a layman's point of view, all you have to do is stand on Connel Bridge and look at the Falls of Lora to say there must be some way of harnessing it.'

Other 'pinch points' at Bonawe and on Loch Creran should also be researched to see if a barrage or under-water turbines could work, he said. 'The feedback I'm getting on tidal energy generation is not as enthusiastic as I would like. Part of the problem is the research and development is at its early stages. There

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY**  
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and while it looks like there is enough energy there, it is not consistent enough to generate electricity,' he said.

Mr Speirs said the delicate eco-system could be disrupted by adding new technology: 'All these things can be looked at, but anything which would change the environment inside the loch would probably be frowned on by environmentalists as well as the aquaculture industry.'

Experts at the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS) have been studying the impact of renewable energy systems. Anuschka Miller, head of communications, said Scotland was at the cutting edge of marine energy, but the technology was in its early days.

She said: 'Any form of harvesting energy will have an impact. You can't put something in or take anything out of a marine environment without it having an impact.'

While SAMS has monitored currents and marine life in Loch Etive, more detailed studies would be needed to test specific sites and devices.

Mull singer hits the Big Apple



Kirsty Netta Mackinnon will lead celebrations in New York

A TOBERMORY singer is taking a bite of the Big Apple during Scotland Week.

Kirsty Netta Mackinnon will lead celebrations in New York with movie star Alan Cumming OBE by her side.

Kirsty was chosen by the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama to perform at the twelfth annual Scotland Week festival in New York.

Kirsty said: 'I am very proud to be asked to take part in Scotland Week.'

'We are all excited about the opportunity to represent the academy and to participate in this weeklong celebration of Scottish culture in New York and Toronto.'

'It's also exciting getting to meet other alumni from the academy, especially Alan Cumming.'

Tobermory head teacher Jenny Des Fountain said: 'I am delighted that Kirsty is taking her talents to entertain folk in New York and Toronto as she has so often done in Tobermory.'

### Lithuanian fisherman is victim of Campbeltown flat fire

FIRE fighters had to battle deadly, thick smoke after fire broke out in a flat in the town centre of Campbeltown last Friday morning and took the life of a 27-year-old fisherman.

The emergency services were called at 6.50am to the flat on Main Street, which was very badly damaged by the fire; breathing apparatus had to be used.

The body of Marius Kliuskas, a Lithuanian fisherman who was a crew member on a Campbeltown-registered fishing boat, was found inside.

Strathclyde Police confirmed afterwards that Mr Kliuskas' family had been informed of the tragedy and that there appear to be no suspicious circumstances surrounding his death.



On Easter Day, Spotlight Musical Theatre 'bunnies' handed over a cheque for £1,000 to Margaret MacGregor of Friends of Oban Hospice which is the group's chosen charity of the year.

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**Men tried to avoid drug search when stopped by police**

POLICE hunting a man thought to have brought heroin to Oban were forced to follow him into a flat where he was trying to hide, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

**Tip-off**

Two police officers said they had received a description of Allister Douglas Strattan, aged 40, and intelligence that he may be arriving in the town on September 24 last year by public transport carrying Class A drugs. He was thought to be meeting and staying with a local man. Strattan, of 4 Clachan

Bridge, Helensburgh, and Jason James Gregory, aged 37, of 9 Graham Court, Oban, denied obstructing police officers and running away after being informed they were being detained for a drugs search. Strattan was on bail at the time of the incident.

Detective Sergeant Alistair Davidson and Constable Lorraine Hay were on patrol in an unmarked police car when they noticed two men they believed to be Strattan and his associate leaving Station Square towards Shore Street. They caught up with the pair in Shore

Street just after 9.30pm, pulled over and got out of the car.

**Full uniform**

Constable Hay said it was clear to the two accused they were police officers. 'I was in full uniform so that was obvious,' she said. She added that Sergeant Davidson, who was in plain clothes, had shouted 'stop, police' and informed the two they were going to be searched for drugs.

The pair turned around and ran into a nearby close. Constable Hay said: 'We saw them attempt to close the door [of the close] in an

attempt to lock us out.' The officers reached the door before it shut and found the two men trying to enter a flat there.

After a short struggle, the two men were taken to Oban Police Station, where a subsequent search did not find any drugs.

Defending Strattan, Gary Miller said the fact no drugs were found raised questions about the officers' version of events. He said: 'It would make no logical sense for Mr Strattan to run from police officers when he was not in possession of anything unlawful.'

Healsosaidinconsistencies in the two officers' evidence raised doubt about whether a clear warning had been given and whether the two men were clear those chasing them were police officers.

However, Sheriff Douglas Small said their evidence was reliable enough to satisfy him that the men were trying to avoid a drugs search.

He did not accept they tried to lock officers out of the close.

He found the pair guilty, deferring sentence until April 26.

**Community and charity projects in Argyll gain cash**

Almost £400,000 in grant to help wide range of groups

A TOTAL of £382,527 in grants has been given out to charities and community groups in Argyll and the islands.

Among the projects supported by the area's LEADER programme are an outdoor classroom, greening a village hall and the protection of native hazel trees.

Mull and Iona Community Trust has been awarded just over £3,000 for a wildlife viewing hide. Jan Dunlop, Mull's countryside ranger, said the new facility on Forestry Commission land off the Dervaig Road would provide another rainy-day activity and allow people to get up close to wildlife on the island.

'It wouldn't be manned all the time,' she said. 'But what we actually wanted was lots of little honey pots all around the island where people could drop into a hide and have a fairly good chance of seeing sea eagles, eagles and deer.'

West Highland Housing Association will get £63,000 to investigate the feasibility of biomass district heating systems at five locations.

Islands communities will also benefit, with £1,460 for Development Coll, £18,354 for the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust and £20,000 for Islay and Jura Community Enterprises to develop a community-owned social enterprise.

*"This in turn will encourage people with ideas and projects for improving their communities to take the next step."*

Jim Mather MSP

Argyll Training has been awarded £82,420 to develop jobs and the Lorn and Oban Reuse Initiative, based at Moleigh Civic Amenity Site, has £57,700 to invest in new types of recycling.

One of the smallest grants goes to Appin Community Council, which received £1,000 towards its communication strategy.

Jim Mather, Argyll and Bute's MSP, said the LEADER funding, which totals £4 million since 2008, made a 'tremendous difference' to the groups. He added: 'This in turn will encourage people with ideas and projects for improving their communities to take the next step.'



Trainers from Argyll Voluntary Action and Cllr Elaine Robertson hand over certificates to participants in the STEPS programme. 07\_113steps01

**'Motivational' training helps young people STEP forward**

ARGYLL Voluntary Action celebrated the success of one of its projects recently, just as they received news of funding to keep it going.

The Steps to Excellence for Personal Success (STEPS) programme help participants to identify their skills and get the confidence to fulfil their ambitions.

Keri Logan, Robert Carson, John Gigsan, Natasha MacDougall, Erin Gordon, Ashley McGuire, Bruce Tickell and Ashleigh Munro were the latest to take part in the two-week programme.

Councillor Elaine Robertson presented their

certificates at a special event in Oban.

She said: 'It amazes me just how much work goes into the course and the results that it has. Sixty people have gone through the course in the last three years.'

'I want to thank you because it just means you have a whole group of young people who are willing to put time and effort in.'

'Young people are the lifeblood of our community; you really are the economic driver for the future.'

Participant Keri Logan described the scheme as 'brilliant'. She said she had

already explored taking on a business and was planning to enrol on a college course in counselling. 'I never would have done that and taken the risk before,' she said. 'The course is just so motivational and encouraging; you realise your own self-worth.'

Past participants also attended the drop-in day, to demonstrate skills they had developed in health and beauty, crafts and childcare.

Argyll Voluntary Action heard last week they had been awarded a Big Lottery Recession grant that will allow them to continue running the STEPS training.

**Oban man on trial for swallowing suspected drugs package**

AN Oban man who denies trying to evade a drugs search by swallowing a small packet in the street went on trial last week.

**Anonymous call**

Two police officers went to Breadalbane Street, Oban, shortly after 2am on August 9 last year following an anonymous tip-off that a man was selling drugs there.

Constables Joel Edwards and Iain Young both told Oban Sheriff Court as they approached Andrew McMillan, aged 30, and informed him he would be detained for a drugs search, they saw him put something

in his mouth.

Constable Edwards said: 'We told him to spit out whatever it was in his mouth for his own safety.'

'We could see some sort of plastic wrapping.'

'Because of the intelligence we received, I thought it was some sort of controlled drugs.'

Both officers said McMillan made choking sounds for around a minute before swallowing something to clear his airway.

McMillan, of 4 Glenshellach Terrace, pleaded not guilty to obstructing officers by swallowing an item believed

to be drugs. He previously admitted possession of cannabis, found by officers in his jacket pocket at the police office.

Defence agent Sandy Mitchell denied his client had swallowed anything: 'You were dealing with a man who was just choking or coughing because of a throat condition.'

The trial was adjourned after Mr Mitchell argued his client had no case to answer as the officers' evidence in court and statements given shortly after the incident did not match. The trial will now continue at Oban Sheriff Court on April 12.



Children enjoy the teddy bears' picnic in Benderloch's Victory Hall.

**Teddies come to Benderloch for charity picnic**

A BENDERLOCH woman has raised more than £3,000 for the Royal Alexandra Hospital's neo-natal unit with a lot of help from generous members of the community.

Maimie Cattanach held a number of fund-raising events with the theme of children running through them, from guessing the birthday of the teddy to selling donated hand-made cards to a quiz sheet

on nursery rhymes all culminating in a soup lunch and teddy bears' picnic in the Victory Hall in Benderloch. 'It was very well supported,' said Maimie. 'It was a lovely day and the children were great.'

'I was over-welcomed by everybody's support across all the fund-raising events.'

'We raised £3,150 from all these things combined. People have donated, participated and helped to

support us.'

She chose the neo-natal unit at Paisley because she wanted to 'give something back' after the tremendous support it gave to her family last year.

'The care they give there is magnificent and I will be very proud to hand this cheque over on April 12.'

She added her grateful thanks to everyone who had helped her to raise the funds.

**Modern apprenticeships boost job opportunities throughout the west**

MORE THAN 300 people in Argyll and Bute have begun modern apprenticeships over the past year.

Local apprentices have found training and skills opportunities in sectors such as construction, hospitality and health and social care.

Skills Development Scotland has been implementing a number of government initiatives and programmes to encourage businesses to offer apprenticeships.

Armitage Ground Works, on Arran, took part in the Adopt an Apprentice scheme which offers employers £2,000 to employ a redundant apprentice.

Rachel Armitage, company

director, said: 'We employed an apprentice joiner that we knew had been made redundant.'

'The government grant helps towards the overhead costs that are involved when employing any member of staff, for example insurance costs, access to vehicles, clothing allowances, etc.'

'The money also helps us to invest in the training of staff and their development.'

Skills Development chairman Willy Roe said the number of apprenticeships 'shows in tangible terms that the Modern Apprenticeship and ScotAction programmes have been able to deliver across a wide range of sectors.'

**Beachd Ailein**

Ailean Caimbeul

Air chuairt ann an Sasainn bho chionn ghoirid laigh mo shùil air sanas mòr ann am paipear naidheachd a chuir iognadh agus tàmailt orm.

Thairis air dealbh bhreagha dhathte de dh' aisean feòil-uan bha aithris air co às a tha an fheòil as fhearr a' tighinn. As an earrach à Sealainn Nuadh; à ceann iardheas Shasainn agus à Chiumrigh san t-samhradh; agus à ceann a tuath Shasainn sa gheamhradh! O, agus mo dhìochuimhn', cha leig luchd-ceannachd a leas ach a dhol chun na bùth Tesco as fhaigse airson an fheòil seo a cheannach!

Seadh Tesco, oir 's e sanas bhupa a bha an seo! Tè de na buidhnean as nochdte ann am bailtean Alba, agus gu sònraichte air Ghàidhealtachd, ach a-rèir an t-sanais seo chan eil mothachadh sam bith aca gum bheil fìor fheòil-uan ga thogail an seo, gun iomradh air iomadh stuth bidh eile! Mar Ghàidheal, agus mar Albannach, bha mi air mo thàmailteachadh! Tha fhios gum bheil dleastanas, gun ghuth air a' chiall eaconomaigeach a tha na chois, aig buidhinn a tha a' deànamh uimhir de a cuid maoin ann an Alba, a bhith a' cur taic ri gnìomhachas àiteachais na dùthcha le bhith a' ceannach bhuaithe.

Ach tha an cron a dol fìù 's nas doimhne na sin, oir le bhith a' deànamh luaidh air feòil-uan à àiteachan eile tha Tesco, theagamh gun fhiosa, a' cur às dha inbhe agus ire a' bhìdh a tha tighinn à Alba gu lèir.

Thill mi dhachaigh agus thog mi paipear làitheil Albannach. Bha dealbh agus aithris mhòr bhreagha an sin de thriuir bhrìtheamhan ainmeil a bha toirt breith ann am farpais stuthan bidh ann an Roinn a' Mhonaidh. 'S e Daibhidh Reid, Cathraiche Tesco, fear de na bhrìtheamhan sin, agus a-rèir coltais thuir e gun do ghabh e fìor dheagh bheachd air na chunnaic e, agus gun toir e teachdaireachd air ais chun an luchd-ceannachd aca.

Tha Tesco am beachd trithead millean no a chosg a' leudachadh ann an Alba am bliadhna, agus a' cruthachadh suas ri trì cheud cosnadh. Bu mhath gum biodh iad cuideachd a' gabhail cothrom biadh a cheannach an seo, ach seach rud sam bith chan fhaod iad inbhe thuathanach agus chroitearan Alba a mhùchadh!

*I was surprised and annoyed to see an advertisement in an English newspaper in which Tesco promoted lamb from New Zealand, England; and Wales, but with no mention of Scottish product.*

*Arriving home I read a report in a Scottish daily paper on the Grampian Food Forum Innovation Awards. I particularly noted that one of the judges, Tesco Chairman David Reid was apparently "mightily impressed" and would take messages back to his buyers.*

*Good news Mr Reid, and while you're at it can you advise your advertising copy writers that it is quite wrong to ignore Scottish lamb, and any other food, in Tesco promotions. Tesco should recognise the potential value of the Scottish producer, as well as its consumers!*

Ailean Caimbeul (Allan Campbell)  
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**Down-sizing costs HIE £3.9 million in severance payout**

Further redundancies are not ruled out

A TOTAL of 53 staff left Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) last week, as part of the agency's down-sizing plan.

The voluntary severance scheme will cost HIE £3.9 million, but the agency hopes to save £2m annually in the long term.

Meanwhile, a further round of voluntary redundancies has not been ruled out for the coming financial year.

Chairman William Roe, said the money would be re-invested in support for businesses.

He said: 'This month we are reducing our

overall workforce but simultaneously looking to strengthen key areas by recruiting a number of posts to boost this support.

'We have a budget of over £83m to spend on this task over the forthcoming year and by creating savings in our internal operations and reducing our wage bill, we can devote a bigger share of that figure to supporting businesses and communities and investing in the infrastructure needed to help them succeed.'

The departures leave HIE with 270 staff across its 13 offices.

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**Rescuer injured on Cruachan**

A MEMBER of Oban Mountain Rescue Team going to the aid of a woman he saw fall down part of Ben Cruachan has paid for his bravery with broken ribs.

Campbeltown man George McSparran and other team members, who were on a training exercise, rushed to the aid of the woman after she fell on Sunday afternoon. But in doing so, George lost his footing and slid down the mountain, breaking ribs and suffering severe bruising. He was airlifted off the mountain and, as The Oban Times went to press, was in the Southern General Hospital in Glasgow.

The woman landed on soft snow and suffered no serious injury.

Ross Lilley of Oban Mountain Rescue Team said: 'When they saw the woman fall some of the members switched from training mode to rescue mode and set off to find her but unfortunately George was injured.'

'He is an experienced climber but there is always a risk when we are on rescues and that is why we do so much training.'

**Stolen laptop recovered**

A LAPTOP which was recovered by police officers had a student's entire course work on it.

The computer was one of two laptops and a power tool recovered from an Oban address and, as a result, two people have been arrested for break-ins.

Oban Chief Inspector Glen Bland said: 'This was a particularly good result for us and the victims were delighted to get their computers back. Officers managed to trace the whereabouts of the laptop by acting on information received while dealing with another incident.'

**Marina restaurant plans approved**

THE owners of Oban Marina have been given planning permission for a more permanent bar and restaurant premises on the Isle of Kerrera.

The canopy roofing at the Waypoint Bar and Grill will stay, timber-clad walls will be added and the floor area will also be increased to double the current size.

**New operator for island flights**

Different airline, same pilot, for plane based at Oban

FLIGHTS from Oban Airport resumed this week, under new operator Hebridean Air Services Ltd but flown by the same popular pilot.

The Cumbernauld-based firm took over the services between Oban, Coll, Tiree and Colonsay on Tuesday, after a gap of almost two weeks following the collapse of Highland Airways.

**Based at Oban**  
Former Highland Airways pilot Julie Angell will be flying Hebridean's nine-seater Britten Norman Highlander aircraft, which will be based at Oban full-time.

George Cormack, managing director of Hebridean Air Services Ltd, said: 'These are the first scheduled services we have undertaken. We are really pleased to get them because we have been trying to do the Hebridean routes for some time.'

The company lost out on the original tender, but has operated charter and private air ambulance

services on Scotland's west coast since it was established in 1994. 'The timetable is the same as the old winter timetable, because that's what islanders wanted,' he added. Flights will go to Coll and Tiree on Mondays and Wednesdays with services to Colonsay on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The company will also re-start scholar flights after the Easter holidays.

**Previous bookings**  
Mr Cormack said Hebridean would try to accommodate passengers with tickets for travel from the former operator: 'Although Hebridean Airways has no obligation to honour these bookings, we are going to do our very best to carry all these passengers on a

*"The timetable is the same as the old winter timetable, because that's what the islanders wanted."*

**managing director, Hebridean Air Services Ltd**

standby basis. 'But we have been given no records from the administrators, so people need to phone us.'

A website booking system is expected to be up and running next week. Hebridean can be contacted on 0845 805 7465 until then.

Argyll and Bute Council, which oversees the public service obligation services subsidised by the Scottish government, reached agreement with the new operator after talks with Highland Airways' administrators were exhausted.

A new tendering process for an operator from September is expected to start shortly. Hebridean Air Services Ltd intends to bid to continue flying the routes.

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**Innes and Susan Ferguson tied the knot at Oban Distillery - the first wedding to be held there.**

**'With this dram, I thee wed'**

Oban Distillery hosts first wedding

OBAN Distillery has hosted its first full wedding ceremony after an Edinburgh couple tied the knot there.

Innes and Susan Ferguson brought 38 guests to the intimate ceremony on March 20 in the distillery's visitor centre.

Innes, aged 37, said: 'Oban is one of my favourite places to visit and we wanted to take people out of Edinburgh and give them a weekend away.'

'We wanted a simple ceremony in atmospheric surroundings and when we saw the room in the visitor centre we thought it was perfect.'

'They said that we could decorate it or put up a banner but we asked them to keep it exactly as it was and every aspect of the day turned out to be fantastic.'

Registrar Gemma Cummins, who conducted the ceremony, said it was unusual to be marrying a couple in the distillery - not least because her husband, Paul, has worked there for 20 years.

Carol Bennett of Oban Distillery said: 'We usually can't do weddings because the distillery is open seven days a week in the summer season.'

'But because it was a March wedding, we were able to fit them in and we are glad they got the wedding

**Soroba plans clear another hurdle**

A MAJOR planning application for 23 houses in Soroba, Oban, has been formally approved.

Councillors granted outline permission for the site between McCaig Road and Lonan Drive at a planning hearing in October 2009, subject to a number of conditions.

Now planners and the developer, Drimvargie Properties, have completed a legal agreement, and those who commented on the plans have been notified.

**Fishing boat aground**

A FISHING boat was blown onto rocks at the north end of Kerrera last week after suffering engine failure.

The MV Laurel was coming into Oban Bay around 11.30pm on Wednesday when her engine failed and the five crew launched a life raft as northerly winds blew it towards the shore.

Oban lifeboat was launched and reached the crew, on Rubh a'Chruidh, within minutes. The lifeboat's smaller craft made three trips to transfer the fishermen to the lifeboat, which took them back to the lifeboat station where they were given tea, coffee and food.

There was no possibility of refloating the Laurel at that point but two of the vessel's crew returned with the lifeboat when she relaunched at 3.53 am to repair the engine and attach a tow line.

The Laurel was refloated at 5am and went into Oban under her own power.

The hotel was put on the market for an asking price of £400,000 by owner Tony Riley-Smith and, everything going well, the handover to the new owners will go ahead on April 30.

Steve and Fiona Walton became popular figures on the island. They will continue to live on Jura once they leave the hotel.

**'Green' Easdale meeting**

ELIEAN Eisdeal is holding its third community consultation on the Scottish Gas Green Streets renewable programme for the island of Easdale.

The meeting is to be held in the community hall, Easdale Island on Sunday, April 11.

Two meetings have been held to outline proposals for wind and solar energy, making homes more energy efficient and a heat pump using sea water. Industry experts will be on hand on Sunday to give guidance on the various design proposals which are to be discussed in greater detail.

**Campbeltown woman admits £20,000 credit card theft**

A CAMPBELTOWN woman has admitted stealing more than £20,000 when working as a housekeeper.

**Stolen card was used 121 times**  
Isla Jean Ronald, aged 30, whose address was given in court as 16F Hillside Road, Campbeltown, appeared before the town's sheriff court last Thursday and admitted stealing a credit card and pin number and using these on a number of occasions at cash machines in Campbeltown between October 2006 and

August 2007. Ronald made 121 trips to the cash machine taking out multiples of £100 and £200.

Procurator fiscal depute Rebecca Hoskins told the court that Ronald had unrestricted access to a cottage where she worked as housekeeper.

**'Relatively wealthy'**  
Her employer was described as 'a relatively wealthy man'.

He had a Mastercard, which he did not use, with an arrangement that its balance was cleared by direct debit each month from one of

his accounts. The card's PIN number was kept in his home.

**'Candid'**  
'In August 2007 he had been looking for the Mastercard and couldn't find it. He contacted the bank and discovered the extent of the activity,' Miss Hoskins added.

Counsel for Ronald said that she had been 'very candid' when interviewed.

Sheriff Anderson QC called for social inquiry reports and will hear Ronald's defence when the case is called again on April 28.

**Jura Hotel changes hands**

THE HUSBAND and wife management team at the Jura Hotel are preparing to leave the business after 28 years, as the sale of the hotel looks likely to be completed imminently.

Steve and Fiona Walton became popular figures on the island. They will continue to live on Jura once they leave the hotel.

The hotel was put on the market for an asking price of £400,000 by owner Tony Riley-Smith and, everything going well, the handover to the new owners will go ahead on April 30.

Mr Carmichael emphasised that the meeting would be discussing only rail issues.

**Scottish transport minister called to address Oban train meeting**

AGROUP which lobbies for improvements to the West Highland rail lines has asked the Scottish transport minister to a public meeting in Oban as a guest speaker.

**Improvements needed**

Friends of the West Highland Lines (FWHL) has been campaigning since 1984 to gain improvements to the Glasgow-Oban-Fort-Mallaig lines, from more trains to

newer trains to bringing freight back.

The latest efforts involve trying to get trees removed along the line so that the remarkable journey, voted as the world's greatest journey two years in a row by readers of Wanderlust magazine, can be seen by passengers.

This month the group is holding a public meeting at which Transport Minister Stewart

Stevenson has agreed to speak and Argyll and Bute MSP Jim Mather.

**Developed**  
Doug Carmichael, chairman of FWHL, said the meeting would give people the opportunity to hear the minister's views on the West Highland lines and how he sees it being developed.

FWHL is keen to see more freight brought on to the lines but Network Rail, which maintains the lines and infrastructure,

would have to carry out some major bridge-strengthening work on some of the bridges on the line before this could happen, at huge cost.

'We are also pushing for new trains and more trains - five-a-day instead of three,' said Mr Carmichael, 'and we are hoping that the minister is going to announce that this will happen.'

'Oban is the largest town in Scotland to be served by rail but has the

least number of trains going to and from the town.'

**Golden triangle**  
He pointed out that the trains currently operating on the line were near the end of their 'life expectancy'.

FWHL is concerned that much of the investment being carried out by Transport Scotland, the government's transport agency, is centered on the golden triangle of Aberdeen, Glasgow and

Edinburgh.

'The society is active in making representations to HITRANS and Transport Scotland to improve awareness of the West Highland lines and has had a measure of success,' said Mr Carmichael.

'Network Rail is quite good at listening once they realise there is a valid point to be made,' he said.

But to continue its lobbying, the

organisation feels it needs more support from the tourism operators which would benefit from more frequent and better trains.

Around 30 hotel operators have been asked to attend the meeting on April 23 in the Regent Hotel, Oban, at 2.30pm.

Mr Carmichael emphasised that the meeting would be discussing only rail issues.

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But to continue its lobbying, the

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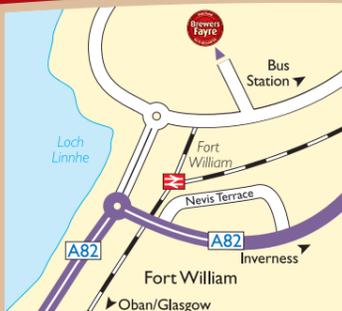
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OT

**Mull Lines**

DERVAIG Primary School held a Bring and Buy Sale on Tuesday March 30 to raise money for school funds. Cakes, teas and coffees were on sale and everyone helped to raise the money. Books, household goods, videos, DVDs, bric-a-brac and toys were also on sale. Anything that was left over went to the Mull's Environmentally Sensitive Solutions charity shop at Craignure. The event raised an outstanding £270. Visitors said it was a fantastic day.

GENEROUS pupils from Tobermory High School raised £130 at an end of term service held in the parish church.

At the service, where there was standing room only children and young people raised cash for Mary's Meals, the school's dedicated charity.

Last term pupils raised £380 for the charity.

IF TEENAGERS on Mull have had an extra spring in their step this week, a series of workshops in school may well be the reason.

Tobermory High School has been using a company of motivational speakers to help give pupils a confidence boost.

Fourth-year pupils have been on a course called Mind-set and Match, designed to challenge students' mindsets and attitudes. The course equipped students with tools and techniques to encourage a growth mindset, creativity and the ability to recognise and seize opportunities.

The third-years' workshop was Laugh in the Face of Exams, which helps pupils to cope better with the pressures of sitting exams.

Gavin Oattes, facilitator and stand-up comedian, explained: 'We want to challenge pupils' way of thinking about themselves and their future, and we try to be as entertaining as possible in doing so.'

MULL Eagle Diary: Frisa and Skye survived the gales and rain and have spent the last week drying out.

They are well into their routine now and are providing excellent views for both the volunteer nest watchers on duty round the clock and visitors to the island over the Easter holidays.

Forestry Commission Scotland and Strathclyde Police have installed various security measures to ensure the nest is not disturbed in any way. This week a group of nine students on their gold Duke of Edinburgh Award-scheme were safely escorted through the forestry track and the eagles watched them go by without alarm.

If you want to see Frisa and Skye over Easter, please call 01680 812 556 and please take note of the wildlife law notices if walking along the Loch Frisa track.

More news from the nest next week.



THE hide from which you can watch Mull's sea eagles is on its way to a new destination after sea eagles chose a new location for their nest this year.

However, it proved a relatively easy task to move the building as it had been specially designed to be transportable.

**Isle of Mull holiday cottage cleaner stole from visitors**

A MULL woman has been fined £500 after stealing £150 from holidaymakers who were visiting the island.

Mary MacDonald, aged 54, of Tobar Bideagh, Dervaig, pled guilty to theft from a holiday cottage on

the island on April 3, 2009. Procurator fiscal depute Lynne Jamieson told Oban Sheriff Court that MacDonald was a cleaner at the cottages. On the morning of the offence she went to the cottage and told holidaymakers that she

was there to collect some equipment.

The holidaymakers left her downstairs while they returned to bed. It was later noticed that a handbag had been moved and that £120 was missing from one purse and £30 from another.

Police were called.

Duncan Durbin, defence agent, said: 'MacDonald understands that she was in a position of trust and she broke that trust.'

'She has been in denial of this offence for some time. She suffers from anxiety.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This was a particularly mean offence. These people were on holiday and you stole from them.'

MacDonald was also ordered to pay compensation totalling £150 to the victims.

**Oban teenager assaulted 'good friend'**

AN OBAN teenager who assaulted his 'good friend' has had his sentence deferred for behaviour reports.

Michael Duncan aged 16, of 17A Glencruitten Drive pled guilty to an assault at Croft Road, Oban on September 26, 2009 and disorderly conduct on January 15 at Shuna Terrace, Oban.

Procurator fiscal depute Lynne Jamieson told Oban Sheriff Court: 'Duncan's friends broke up a fight at Croft Road and police were called.'

Police were called to a second incident on January 15 after Duncan, under the influence of alcohol, was shouting and swearing on a bus.

Edward Thornton, defence agent, said: 'During the first incident the young men were sorting out a difference in opinion. The victim and Duncan remain good friends.'

'Duncan has no recollection of the second incident.'

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence saying said: 'I am not letting you off with this crime. I want a letter from your alcohol councillor when you appear before me in September.'

**Morning-after driver loses licence**

A MORNING-after car journey has cost an Argyll man his driving licence.

Alan White, aged 30, of 50 Marmion Avenue, Helensburgh pled guilty to driving under the influence of alcohol, after failing a roadside breath test, Oban Sheriff Court heard.

Police stopped the accused at 1pm after he was witnessed driving erratically at Loch Awe. A breathalyser test showed that he was over the limit.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said White was on a day trip to Oban with his partner when he was stopped.

Mr Thornton pled for leniency as the driver, a tree surgeon, would have difficulty in keeping his job without a driving licence.

Sheriff Douglas Small disqualified White from driving for 15 months and fined him £300.

**Mull faces baby boom**

Maternity services ready, able and willing

A BABY boom on the Isle of Mull has raised concerns over maternity services.

But NHS Highland is assuring islanders that mothers-to-be have nothing to fear.

A phenomenal 28 babies are due between February and September on the island, a substantial increase on the norm.

Mothers-to-be have raised concerns with The Oban Times about the number of 'pregevac's (emergency evacuations by helicopter or lifeboat). One mother, who did not want to be named, said: 'Labour can be very frightening. And the thought of having to get into a helicopter or a lifeboat really concerns me.'

Jaqi Lambert, lead midwife at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban, said: 'We work closely with mums living on Mull throughout their pregnancy and if they want a homebirth then we have qualified midwives that can provide that service on the island.'

'They can also have the baby in the community maternity unit in Lorn and Islands Hospital and we have a wide range of skilled staff, including midwives, in the unit.'

**"Going to Oban was the next best thing to staying at home."**

**new Mull mother**

'Mums-to-be can be transferred to Oban at the early stages of their labour to give birth in the unit.'

'However, sometimes labour can start very suddenly and at any time of the day or night. If this happens when the ferry is finished for the day then we have to call out the lifeboat for the safety of the baby and the mum.'

Rae Tiernan, a mum who was evacuated from Mull last week, said: 'I never felt worried at any time.'

'At 10.30pm I went to Dunaras Hospital and they decided to take me to Oban. The lifeboat was called, everything felt very controlled and managed.'

'The midwives were fantastic and Lola was born at 6.08am, the following morning.'

'Going to Oban was the next best thing to staying at home. It was a wonderful, relaxed environment to have my baby.'



Oban girl Gail MacLachlan is taking up her first post at Faslane. Picture courtesy Dave Sheriff

**Royal Navy posting for Gail**

A FORMER Oban High School pupil has taken up her first Royal Navy posting, after completing her specialist training in logistics.

Twenty-one-year-old Gail MacLachlan joined up six months ago, and will now be based at Faslane naval base, where she will have a range of duties at sea and ashore, including maintaining records, accounting and dealing with pay.

Gail has enjoyed her training and is looking forward to building her new career.

'It's been great getting to know so many new people,' she said. 'I've also enjoyed the PT sessions and our adventurous training weekend.'

'I'm really proud that I have completed both my basic and specialist training and my ambition now is to get on the first rung of the promotion ladder.'

**Oban man is fined after admitting assault**

AN OBAN man has been fined £450 for assault.

David Barr, aged 28, of 3 Castle Road, pled guilty to repeatedly punching and kicking his victim.

Barr was witnessed running towards the man and kicking and punching him. He ran off before police got to the scene.

Oban Sheriff Court heard he was later picked up and taken to Oban Police Station for questioning.

Stephen Macleod, defence agent, said: 'There was a long history of animosity between the two men. Earlier in the day there had been a heated exchange and Barr decided to speak to the

victim. It was not an attack on a random individual there was a long history between these men.'

Sheriff Douglas Small warned Barr: 'You are accumulating quite a record, next time you will inevitably be given a custodial sentence. Take yourself in hand.'



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Beauty therapists Tricia Steele, left, and Nic Siddall give Bob Stratford a chest wax for charity. 07\_114wax01

**Bob goes through the pain barrier to raise funds for charity**

THE PHRASE, 'no pain, no gain' is usually applied to sporting endeavours but one Oban man is an exception to the rule as he suffered for charity.

Bob Stratford 'gained' £300 for The Cherish Fund by going through the 'pain' of having his substantial chest hair waxed at Rutherford's in Oban.

Bob's partner, Kate Louis, works at the Original Factory Shop in Oban and the company has taken on The Cherish Fund as its charity of the year.

Each member of staff in the Oban branch must come up with a fundraising venture and Kate nominated Bob to have his chest waxed by Rutherford's

beauty therapists Tricia Steele and Nic Siddall.

'It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be but I feel better now it's over,' said Bob, after the last strip of hair had been removed.

The Cherish Fund was set up for children and families in crisis in the UK and abroad to provide relief from suffering and hardship.

It is a cause that is dear to Bob and Kate, as both have lost a parent to cancer over the last two years.

In the calendar year Original Factory Shop staff have so far raised £1,370 for The Cherish Fund.

**Free tea and greyhounds on the menu**

GREYHOUNDS will be on the menu at a tearoom near to Ardmaddy Castle, on the Seil Sound. The impromptu free cafe has been set up to share information about the plight of many former racing greyhounds in the UK.

Carol Campbell will be hosting the event at her roadside home from Easter and throughout the summer. Carol said: 'Greyhounds make wonderful pets and are very gentle dogs but are treated very badly if they do not make the grade in the racing world. I am inviting people to a free cup of tea and to look at information about these dogs. The cafe will be open between 10am and 4pm every day.'

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Lorn Lines



Mary Diamond takes her turn rowing, watched by her colleagues and fellow organiser with the donations bucket, Ann Barr. 15\_t15row01

Co-op staff row miles for RNLI

EIGHTEEN staff at Oban's Co-op Superstore rowed a mile each on Good Friday to raise funds for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

Ann Barr and Mary Diamond have been instrumental in spending the last three months organising events involving staff where they work and customers in raising funds for the lifeboat charity.

This culminated in a sponsored row the equivalent distance from Oban to Craignure on Mull and back, a route that Oban lifeboat regularly follows to carry out emergency medical evacuations from the island.

The distance worked out at 18 miles which meant each of the 18 volunteers pulling on the Atlantis Leisure-loaned rowing machine for 1,609 metres.

Ann explained that the RNLI was not the Co-op's UK charity of the year but they had been allowed to raise funds for a charity of their choice for three months.

By Friday the pair had managed to raise more than £1,000 and were hoping to have a good deal more by yesterday (Wednesday), when all the money for the row was due to be in.



A MEETING of Oban and District Needlework Group was held in March to hear a talk by Valerie Reilly of Paisley Museum on the history of the Paisley Shawl.

Valerie brought along slides to illustrate her talk, which was extremely interesting and covered all aspects of the shawl over the years, from the origins of the design, the story of it being produced in the mills of Edinburgh and Paisley and the export/import trade.

Members and visitors had been asked to bring along any heirloom shawls and several fine examples were produced, enabling Valerie to advise the owners on exact dates and origins.

The next meeting takes place on Tuesday April 13 when the AGM will be held prior to Jennifer Shaw giving a short talk to introduce the rag-rug art of the late Mrs Turner. This promises to be a splendid display and members and visitors are invited along to the Guide Hall, Soroba Road, Oban at 7.30pm.



Charlotte Lawson, Callum Cain, Daniel MacVicar and Dominik Sapinski who were winners of the Argyll PUPILS from St Columba's Primary School, Oban, are proving they are well versed when it comes to all things European.

Taking part in the annual Euro Quiz play off, Charlotte Lawson, Callum Cain, Daniel MacVicar and Dominik Sapinski from St Columba's won the Argyll and Bute Regional Euroquiz 2010. The event was organised by the Scottish European Education Trust and the pupils will now go on to the national final at the Scottish parliament in May.



Oban Pipe Band entertained locals and visitors on Easter Saturday. 07\_t15pip01

MEMBERS of Oban Pipe Band took to the streets of Oban last weekend to entertain passers-by and to launch a year of special fund-raising.

The pipers, who took up a pitch outside Chalmers, were a hit with Easter visitors to the town. Alistair Dewar, the band's fund-raising convenor, said the 90-year-old band had recently attracted new members and needed to supply more uniforms and equipment. He said: 'Generations of the community have family connections with the band and hopefully they will rally round and support the various events planned to raise much-needed funds.'

The first fund-raiser is a summer raffle, launched on Saturday and running until the band's family ceilidh to be held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday June 11.

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# Mobile food van licence not renewed by council

A POPULAR mobile food van sited at Ganavan Sands, Oban last year has not had its licence renewed by Argyll and Bute Council.

Midgie Bites, run by Sara MacPherson and her family, offered 100 per cent Aberdeen Angus burgers, scallops, soups, coffee, ice cream and homebaking and was welcomed not just by visitors to the beach but by locals using the area.

But they were surprised and disappointed when their application to renew the licence was turned down by the council.

'We cleaned the beach every day, even when we weren't open,' said Sara. 'It was part of the licence, as was cleaning the toilets.'

She said that a council employee had been

cleaning the toilets when they started and that had continued after they were set up.

'We thought the council would tell us when we were to take over but they never did. We thought the council must have decided to keep these people on,' she said, adding that if there had been any issues or problems the council had never raised any with them.

The council had provided the water and electricity supply but the only feedback she said the council given was that it had not been viable.

She said she and her family had made an investment in the 'up-market' mobile van and it was not clear if the venture would work so she and her husband had kept their jobs and had opened

the van at least four or five days a week.

'It was well supported by locals and tourist in the summer and local residents were lovely,' she added.

Midgie Bites will still, however, be available at Oban Caravan and Camping Park at Gallanach this summer.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said that the beach and toilet cleaning had not worked out as envisaged, however, the licence would be advertised again this year - although it had not been advertised yet - as another trial and the proprietors of Midgie Bites would be free to apply again too.



Some of the S6 helpers at the Atlantis Lock In.

## H2O Lock In fun at Atlantis Leisure

OBAN High School pupils attempted to climb Mount Everest and jog, row and cycle from Land's End to John O'Groats in one night.

The challenges were part of the H2O Lock In at Atlantis Leisure, when S1 pupils, S6 prefects and adult helpers stayed up through the night at the leisure centre to take part in various activities.

In order to climb Everest, the youngsters had to reach the top of the climbing wall 1,770 times through the night.

And using the gym equipment travelled 603

miles from Land's End to John O'Groats. Other activities on offer included the swimming pool hamster balls, a widescreen cinema in the squash court, a Nintendo Wii, arts and crafts and a DJ's mixing table.

Organiser Ewen Munro of H2O said: 'The object of the night is to have fun but is part fundraiser for H2O as well.'

'It is a great opportunity for us to get to know the new S1 pupils.'

More than 150 S1 pupils attended, along with representatives of Oban Youth Cafe and community police officers.

## Argyll search on for Commonwealth trio

THREE lucky people from Argyll and Bute will be jetting off on an all-expenses paid trip to represent Scotland in India later this year.

And anyone in the area over the age of 18 with a basic level of fitness can apply to be one of the lucky three.

The chosen trio will represent Argyll and Bute and Scotland at the handover ceremony when the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games come to a close on October 14 and the mantle is passed

to the Glasgow 2014 Games. The performance will involve a mass choreographed dance routine, with a cast of approximately 400 amateur volunteers from all across Scotland. Argyll and Bute Council councillor Neil Mackay, spokesperson for arts, culture, leisure and sport, said: 'This is a fantastic opportunity for three local people to take part in what promises to be one of the biggest shows on earth.'

The organising committee for the Games in Scotland hopes that people who regularly make a voluntary contribution to their local community will apply, particularly those involved in the 17 sports within the Glasgow programme.

Applicants will have to commit to a rehearsal schedule, be available in October, have a valid passport and agree to certain other checks. For more information or application form, contact delhi2010@argyll-bute.gov.uk.

## Science comes to life at Oban High School



John Gillies from Taynuilt takes a turn on the SCI-FUN Roadshow's Spinning Chair, which demonstrates angular momentum. 15\_t14sci01

A SCIENCE roadshow brought its eye-catching gadgets and experiments to Oban High School to ignite pupils' interest in the subject.

The school's S1 pupils spent the day with SCI-FUN, which has come to the school on an annual basis for the past three years.

After watching a presentation the pupils were able to try out some of the many different experiments and tests at various work stations.

John Porter, principal teacher of chemistry, said: 'The children thoroughly enjoy the SCI-FUN roadshow; they always have, hence the reason we bring them back year after year.'

'You see the delight in their faces as they go round the different work stations. 'We have enlisted the help of S3 chemistry pupils, who have done these experiments before, to act as guides for the younger pupils.'

Stuart Dunbar and his SCI-FUN team from the University of Edinburgh said they always got a good response from the Oban pupils, adding that having the S3 prefects on hand was helpful for his team.

## Pupils' long wait for spring daffodils to bloom

AS THE whole country knows, this has been one of the coldest winters on record and the spring flowers have taken their time to appear.

Connel's Achaleven Primary School Garden Club planted daffodils in the autumn and waited for them to grow.

The Eco Group planned a Daffodil Tea to raise funds for Marie Curie Cancer Care and planned to sell the daffodils the garden club had planted.

Unfortunately, the daffodils did not appear in time for the Daffodil Tea but it went ahead anyway.

Thanks to the donations of home baking from parents and to all the people who came along to have tea and pancakes the Eco Group was delighted to raise £92.

Hopefully the daffodils will soon be in bloom in the homes of the people who bought them.



Achaleven Primary School pupils with some of the reluctant daffodils.



Lottery organisers Dougie MacIntyre and Alan Jamieson with the winning ticket and lucky numbers. 07\_t15glf01

## Golf club's first lottery hits the jackpot

GLENCRUITTEN Golf Club raised more than £700 in the first week of its new fundraising lottery.

At the first draw for the weekly lottery organiser Dougie MacIntyre said they delighted with the response in the first week: 'We were shocked actually. We were planning to sell about 300 tickets a week.'

'It will help fund everything from the club house to junior coaching to machinery.'

Tickets will be available from club members and in several Oban shops and bars.

And there was a jackpot winner from the very first draw - Iain Forbes will collect £100 for his lucky numbers: 6, 12 and 14.



Passengers involved in a car crash narrowly escaped injury after their car veered off the Oban to Lochgilphead road. The accident took place in the early hours of Saturday morning on the A816 road between Kilmelford and Kilmartin. The car came to rest in a ditch and was removed later on Saturday evening. 06\_a15crash01

## New therapist first step in Argyll and Bute mental health provision shake-up

OBAN is to get a new therapist for mental health this spring.

The appointment of a cognitive behavioural therapist in the Oban area is the first step in a shake-up of mental health provision in Argyll and Bute.

The news was announced last week as the Community Health Partnership (CHP) team was in Oban as part of their Mental Health - Everyone's Business tour.

Josephine Brown, head of service integration for Argyll and Bute CHP, said that funding has been secured for the post and the job will be

advertised in the near future.

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute CHP said: 'Cognitive behavioural therapy is a well recognised and successful treatment for people with specific conditions and is valued by those individuals who have had the treatment.'

'Argyll and Bute CHP will be developing a practitioner post within each of our community mental health teams and will be increasing the amount of psychology time available within the teams', he added.

The information event was

the last in a series held across the region in a bid to inform people about changes to the delivery of mental health services.

As part of the Mental Health 2012 plans the majority of mental health patients will be cared for in the community with one central purpose-built facility for acute patients replacing the Argyll and Bute hospital in Lochgilphead.

Helen Pearson, a mental health service-user who lives in Oban, said: 'I think it is a step forward to have more services in the community. 'However, what I am really

## Motorcycle safety campaign revs up

MOTORCYCLISTS are being encouraged to ride safely on key routes in west central Scotland.

And officers will be out and about launching a new initiative.

Central Scotland Safety Camera Partnership and Central Scotland Police are working together to engage with motorcyclists and encourage responsible behaviour while they enjoy some of the most popular routes in the country.

A spokesman for Central Scotland Police said: 'The aim is to increase biker safety and skills' awareness and to reduce the number of casualties on the roads. Eleven people were fatally injured on roads in the force area last year, six of those were motorcyclists.'

A new route map covers two of the most popular routes for motorcyclists.

The area has many scenic roads, which have been recognised for years as popular amongst bikers: The Gateway Run (54 miles, Stirling-Tyndrum; A84/A85/A82) and the Dukes Run (51 miles, loop starting and ending in Stirling using A84/A821/A81 and A873).

Maps can be accessed at www.centuralscotland.police.uk.

## Therapy centre AGM

THE MULTIPLE Sclerosis Therapy Centre held its AGM at the centre on Glencruitten Road, Oban, on March 23.

The following office bearers were duly elected.

Chairman, David Davidson; secretary, Carol MacDougall; Treasurer, Bethia MacCall.

Board Members: Janice Alcorn, Betty Davis, Margaret Inglis, Amanda King, David Logan, Linda Robb, Jacqueline Hoey and Elizabeth MacKenzie.

Ross Inglis retired from the board after many years of service as a director, and Margaret Inglis stood down from chairman of the board of directors after 11 years of service but agreed to stay on as a director, which the centre will benefit from.

## Pupils plan safe school journey

AROUND 50 pupils from primary schools in and around Oban were in the Corran Halls to learn how to plan a safe journey to school.

The pupils met with representatives from Sustrans, the national sustainable transport charity, to talk about their safety concerns about travelling to school and to plan a safe route for travelling to Oban High School after the summer holidays.

The project, named Travel Plan Action Day, involved games and competitions for the pupils.

The Sustrans staff also updated those present on the Oban to Fort William cycle path project, which the charity oversees.

The schools involved in the Travel Plan Action Day were: Achaleven, Barcaldine, Kilmilver, St Columba's and Park.



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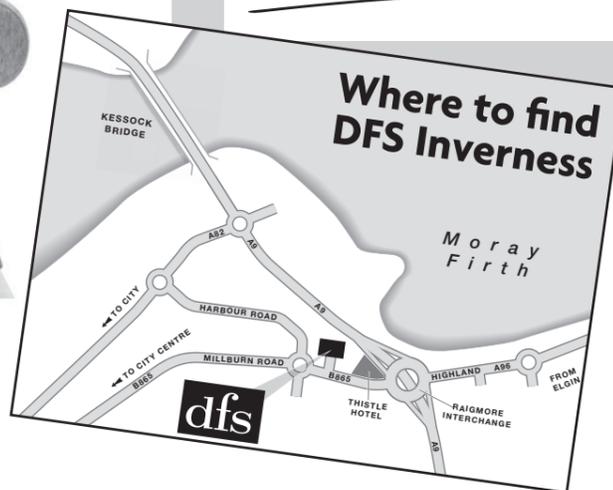
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LISMORE

**Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293**

**Coffee afternoon**

A SUCCESSFUL coffee afternoon in the wee Manse, run by Margaret Black, Barbara McDougall and Lilian Colthart, raised £254 for the Friends of Oban Hospice.

**Car Wash Café**

ON SATURDAY March 13, children, parents, staff and friends of Lismore Primary School ran a Car Wash Café at Lismore Hall.

People parked in the hall car park and while they had tea, coffee and cakes in the hall their cars were hosed down by the fire brigade, power washed by John MacCormick and 'attacked' from all sides by children and adults with buckets, sponges, cloths and brushes.

Some cars scrubbed up so well their owners didn't recognise them!

It was a brilliant idea as well as an enjoyable and successful fund-raiser. In all 31 cars, pick ups and vans were washed raising £350 which was divided equally between Mary's Meals Haiti Fund and towards buying a new playhouse for the school playground.

The school and parent council thank Lismore Fire Brigade, all the helpers on the day, everyone who came with their cars and to everyone who donated. It is greatly appreciated.

**Fire brigade in cliff rescue**

THE ISLAND fire brigade was called out recently to perform a daring cliff rescue



Adults and youngsters hard at work at the Car Wash Café at Lismore Hall.



Eileen Clarke with staff, past and present, from the maternity unit at Lorn and Islands Hospital. 08\_t12eileen01

**Retiring midwife Eileen given splendid send-off**

RETIRING midwife Eileen Clarke, Kilmore, was given a splendid and very civilized send-off on her last day at Lorn and Islands Hospital in Oban.

Members of staff, past and present, had rolled their sleeves up and got stuck into the baking to produce a spread worthy of any afternoon tea.

Eileen, who has been in Oban for 28 years, was delighted and surprised to be presented with a beautiful bunch of flowers too.

This went along with a painting by Bob McCulloch of Oban Bay, viewed from the old maternity hospital, Gleneuchar, which was presented to her on a night out at The Manor House Hotel.

Eileen said it was one of her favourite views of the town and despite being at the 'new' hospital for 15 years, she still missed the old hospital.

Eileen, who is married to Rab and has two grown-up daughters, has been a midwife for 36 years, the last eight-nine

years spent as a special needs midwife, supporting more vulnerable mothers-to-be. She delivered her last baby in the Oban hospital on Christmas Eve last year. 'We're moving on to the second generation of babies,' she confessed, 'which really makes me feel old!'

She said she didn't know what she was going to do in her retirement and while she wouldn't miss the anti-social hours, she said she would miss all her colleagues.

which involved one fire fighter abseiling down to rescue a sheep and her lamb.

Everything went well and the beasts were returned to the ground thanks to the skill of the rescuers.

**Broch repairs**

BECAUSE the footfall of many visitors plus the effects of rain and storms have taken their toll on the

structure of Tirfuir Broch, Historic Scotland has now consolidated the damaged parts.

The outer skin was mended in 2008 and in 2009 Colin Rowan returned to deal with the inner wall. The completed work included repair of drystone walling that was beginning to collapse on the north side, capping of other parts with turf and clay to protect the top of the wall from being eroded by many feet and repairs to the west side where a new hole had appeared between the outer and inner skins.

A gate has been installed to prevent sheep from entering the structure on the top of the west side.

Colin's expert work, supervised by Dr John Raven of Historic Scotland, was funded by grants from Awards to All and Historic Scotland to Comann Eachdraidh Lios Mòr.

The structure should now be sound for at least 10 years but, as it is one of the main attractions of the island, it will be carefully watched.

received and most of all by the range of high calibre work being done by many volunteers.

Lismore is very lucky in having well qualified and energetic people to work in what are often specialised fields. However to keep the complex running, more volunteers are always needed and Ina MacColl would love to hear from anyone who could join the people already giving their time.

**Community bus**

THE HARD working community bus committee has started a service - first scheduled in December - running people to church for communion.

Duncan and Freda Drysdale are the operatives, one driving and one helping anyone who needs it in and out of the bus. This is just one of the many things the bus makes possible.

However, the committee needs new drivers and would like to hear from anyone who could take part in a training session on April 24 in Port Appin.

ISLAY

**Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215**

**Islay's spring storms**

THERE were two very stormy days at the end of March, complete with gales and unusual blizzard conditions in Islay.

Electric power went off because of damaged cables in much of the Rhinns, but extra engineers were brought in and repairs were carried out as quickly as possible.

The workmen must have laboured like heroes in very blustery weather conditions, and it was about 1am before some homes were reconnected.

The next day, everyone in Islay enjoyed glorious sunshine and quiet weather,

so it was hard to believe it was the same island!

Hopefully that was the last blast of winter, and the weather will settle down so lambing is not too hard on ewes, newborn lambs or the shepherds who tend them.

**Walk Islay 2010**

THIS year's Islay walking festival starts on Saturday April 10 and runs until Saturday April 17.

The guided walks will be to a variety of Islay locations, some not often visited and a few old favourites. There will also, weather permitting, be day trips to Jura and Colonsay.

With ceilidhs and talks on natural history in the evenings, it's bound to be another WalkIslay week to remember.

All intending walkers are reminded to wear suitable outdoor waterproof clothing and footwear and to remember to bring packed lunches as appropriate.

For detailed information on each day's walks and activities, see www.walkislay.co.uk.

**CyberCafé improvements**

THE CYBERCAFÉ has recently had wall insulation installed in the big hall and it has made an enormous improvement.

It's much warmer and will reduce heating costs over the coming year.

A big thank you to Gary and Willie for their work, and especially for fitting the work in so that the café could keep to its regular opening hours.

With the walls being insulated, the mural had to be taken down but a smaller mural will be put back on the wall when there's time to work on it.

Spike has created a large book which stays attached to the wall for displaying arts and crafts work. Everyone is welcome to go along and have a look at the most

recent projects, and it will be a lot warmer in the building now. CyberCafé Computer Club is on each Wednesday from 1pm to 2.30pm for adults who want to learn to do more on computers.

Art club is on Wednesdays from 6pm till 7.30pm. It is fun for all ages so go along.

The café has funding from Argyll and Bute Council for fashion design classes, starting again on Sundays from 6pm to 7.30pm. If you have clothing that you would like to re-design or alter, or want to design and print your own t-shirt or learn to make costume jewellery, please go along, bring your clothes for remake and join in.

There is also bingo games on Tuesdays at 7.30pm, everyone welcome.

Opening hours are Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 4pm to 10pm; Tuesday, 4pm to 6.45pm; Saturday 1pm to 10pm and Sunday 1pm to 5pm.

KYLE OF LOCHALSH

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

**Archaeology open meeting**

ARCHAEOLOGY for Communities in the Highlands held an open meeting in Plockton Hall on March 23 at which people found out what the group can offer in this area.

**Young pupils on stage**

ON MARCH 22, Plockton Primary School performed its play 'Books and Crooks' to a full house in Plockton Hall.

**Lochan AGM**

ON MARCH 17 Lochan held its AGM in Plockton Hall when all the office-bearers were re-elected.

This was followed by a recital by two of the world's best classical guitarists, the Hungarian-born Katona twins.

More than 40 people enjoyed an excellent evening.

**Plockton Historical Society**

ON MARCH 18, Plockton Historical society presented a talk in Plockton Hall.

More than 60 people attended to hear a very interesting account of the history of the famous local fishing boat 'Johan' which was given by Ian Murchison, Kyle, who recently brought the boat back from the south of England.

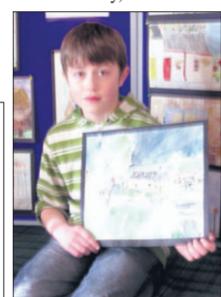
Robert Kennedy proposed the vote of thanks.

**Arts and crafts society**

PLOCKTON and District Horticultural and Arts and Crafts Society held its annual spring bulb and baking show in Plockton Hall on March 27.

The Kyle Bakery Trophy was shared between Ruby MacRae, Kyle, and Amanda Cameron and Mary Morrison, Plockton.

The Mini Chef's Trophy was won by Alistair Sharp, Plockton, and the Junior Chef's Trophy was won by Daniel Murray, Achmore.



Fergus Dobson.

**Art competition**

THE MARION Gillies Love Memorial Primary School Art competition for schools attracted 141 entries from seven local schools.

Judge was Sandie Gardner, well-known Scottish artist and former lecturer at Glasgow School of Art for

more than 20 years. The competition this year was for 'My Village in Spring' and winners were Plockton Primary School which receives a £150 for its art department.

New for 2010 was a prize for the best individual child and winner was Fergus Dobson from Dornie.

**Church services**

LOCHALSH Church of Scotland is to continue only having services in Kyle during April, May and June, with none in Kirkton and Plockton.

The only church services in Plockton will be in the Free Church.

**South West Ross Badminton Championships**

THE SOUTH West Ross Badminton Championships were held at Plockton High School games hall on Tuesday March 10.

Entries were down on previous years so all games were completed in one evening.

Star player, winning all three titles, was Joshua Holder, aged 15, from Lochcarron. Joshua is ranked fifth in his age group in Scotland and recently reached the semi finals in both the singles and the mens doubles at the Scottish Championships.

Results: Men's doubles - Joshua and his father Jonathan beat Douglas Strachan, Braekish, and Ian Ruari Finlayson, Kyle, 21-17, 21-16 in the final. Gents singles - Joshua beat Chris Hanley, Sleat, 21-19, 21-16 in the final. Ladies doubles - Shona Jones and Susan Hunter, Plockton, beat Laura MacKay and Carol MacMillan, Lochcarron, 21-17, 21-6 in the final. Ladies singles - Shona Jones, Plockton, beat Laura MacKay, Lochcarron, 23-21, 21-12 in the final. Mixed doubles - Joshua Holder and Laura MacKay, Lochcarron, beat Chris Hanley and Claire Hannah, Sleat, 21-13, 15-21, 21-19.

The championships were well organised by association secretary Hugh MacQuarrie.



Joshua Holder and his father.



Susan Hunter, Shona Jones, Carol MacMillan and Laura Mackay, ladies doubles finalists.



Joshua Holder, Laura MacKay, Claire Hannah and Chris Hanley, mixed doubles finalists.

**Indoor bowls**

IN THE Skye, Lochalsh and Lochcarron bowling league, the first leg of the play off between the north winners Portree and the south winners Kyleakin took place at Dunvegan on March 6 as Portree Hall is still unavailable owing to burst pipes several weeks ago.

Kyleakin won 28-17. The second leg was held in Kyleakin Hall on Thursday March 11. Kyleakin won 37-20 in a very exciting and sporting match for an overall win by 55-37.

Charlie M Macrae, chairman of Skye and Lochalsh Sports Council, presented the trophies and medals.

**Taynuilt whist drive success**

THE FINAL Taynuilt whist drive of the season was the busiest yet with 10 tables helping to raise £160.

The proceeds from the whist drive last Friday will go to North Lorn Senior Section Guides.

Gents' prize: 1 Joan Howarth; 2 Alice Campbell; 3 Andrew Hamilton; 4 Cathy Reid. Consolation - Jim Groul, Connel. Travelling prize - Wendy Forbes. Ladies' prize: 1 Breagh Cameron; 2 K A MacKinnon; 3 Lilly Wilson; 4 Sandra Steele. Consolation - Erin Colborn. Travelling prize - Mo Griffiths. Card master was Kenny Gardner.

**Band's 20-year dream comes true**

KILCHRENAN

**Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201**

JANE Dewar, a resident of Dalavich, has been a member of Lochgelly Brass Band for many years and travels to Fife twice a week for rehearsals.

The Lochgelly Band has won the prestigious Scottish First Section Championship after trying for the title for the past 20 years.

The band now faces a trip to Harrogate in September where winning bands from the regional finals will be competing against each other for the coveted title of National First Section Champions. No Scottish band has achieved this in recent history. Jane and the band are aware that it will require a lot of hard work to maintain the high standards of the competition and are ready to meet the challenges and hard work that lie ahead. We wish them well.



Jane Dewar.

AROUND THE RURALS

**Tiree**

VICE president Wilma MacFadyen welcomed 11 members of Tiree Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) to the meeting and expressed the president's apologies.

After business matters were discussed, Wilma suggested that the hostesses prepared the hospitality ready to have whilst watching an interesting video on Argyll and the islands which Fiona Maxwell kindly brought along at short notice as a result of the original speaker being unable to attend because of transport problems.

Everyone enjoyed a very informal evening. Wilma closed the meeting and thanked the hostesses for their hospitality.

Fiona Maxwell was first in the sewn drawstring bag and high fibre muffins competitions.

**Tobermory**

'SO WHAT do you do in the long winter nights?', members of Tobermory SWRI are often asked by visitors to Mull.

'Surely it must be very dull.' Well Tuesday March 2 saw Tobermory welcoming the Brownies for an evening of craft and fun. The branch is always delighted to welcome the Brownies, as it reminds members of their own younger days! It was a 'Corners' night and the Brownies set to work with gusto and dexterity, making plate gardens, cards, decorated eggs and chocolate crispies. Since all these items are on the schedule for the Federation Show, it's hoped that this year there will be a larger-than-usual number of entries to the children's section of the show. After juice and biscuits had been consumed, the Brownies and members joined hands to sing 'Brownie Bells', then the handiwork was collected up and the youngsters departed, leaving members to deal with business, of which there was a considerable amount, and to plan future events, of which there is a plethora. No, life in the Rural is never dull!

**Torosay**

ON MARCH 1, the Torosay ladies enjoyed a great treat when Sheelagh Still gave members an illustrated talk about her visit to St Kilda.

She had compiled a slide show of photographs she and her husband had taken and told everyone about the history of the island and the very hard lives of the people who used to live there.

**Kilmore**

PRESIDENT Isabel Smith welcomed members and, after business, welcomed George McNab, gardener from Ardchattan Priory who gave a very interesting talk on cacti.

George brought along his prize winning cacti, which were beautiful. He told members how his passion for cacti started as a small boy and has continued to the present day with his large collection at Ardchattan. He answered questions and gave hints on the care of cacti. It was an excellent evening.

Competitions: Petticoat tails - 1 R Thomas; 2 I Smith. Tablet - F Dickie.

## BT pull the plug on Fort William call centre

40 jobs go only days after new lease agreed

THE LOCHABER economy has been dealt another massive blow after it emerged that the BT call centre in Fort William is to close.

Around 40 advisers are to lose their jobs under an ongoing review by BT Global Services to consolidate its UK activities into a smaller number of centres.

As part of that review, it was agreed operations at Fort William would cease. Call centres at Alness and Thurso remain part of BT's strategic plans and only last week the telecommunications giant reached agreement with Highlands and Islands Enterprise to sign new 10-year leases for both sites.

Yesterday, a BT spokesperson confirmed to The Oban Times, that they had plans 'to exit' the site in Fort William. He said: 'This information was shared with the unions involved and we informed the people at Fort William last week.'

'We will agree a closure date within the next few weeks and will communicate to the team in early May.'

The 40 Fort William employees all work for BT's external contractor Manpower. More than 300 people are employed via Manpower within BT Global Services alone at Fort William, Alness and Thurso.

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568000



The Kilchoan walkers celebrate completing the West Highland Way at the Nevis Bridge finishing post

## Kilchoan walkers raise more than £10,000 in tragic accident victim's name

ELEVEN footsore walkers from Kilchoan completed the West Highland Way on Monday afternoon in memory of a local child who died following a tragic accident last September - and raised more than £10,000.

Four year-old Caleb Cameron died in hospital after being struck by an out-of-control jetski on the village slipway near his home.

The tight-knit community of 147 people vowed to remember Caleb and support his parents Bert and Gael by stepping up fundraising efforts for a playpark in the village, which is to contain

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

a special area dedicated to Caleb.

Four local dads, Mr Cameron himself, David Curtis, Martin Ellis and John Crosbie, local 11 year-old lad Jordan MacLachlan and Mr Cameron's friends and workmates walked the 96-mile way from Milngavie to Fort William in five days from April 1.

Supplied along the entire route by 'kit man' Hughie MacLachlan, day one saw the party camp overnight at Balmaha - and it was so cold

their cooking gas froze.

Day two took them to a campsite at Inveraman and the walkers made the bunkhouse at Bridge of Orchy Station by day three. After an overnight stop in Kinlochleven on day four the group walked through the mountains to Fort William, where family and friends from Kilchoan accompanied them for the final mile.

West Ardnachurchan community council chairperson Rosie Curtis, from Car na Fearsa, was among those greeting the walkers at the finish.

She told The Oban Times the walk had raised well over £10,000 for the playpark and

and this, together with the £7,000 already banked and proceeds from a dance at Kilchoan Community Centre planned for May 29, could see the community council applying for match funding for the £80,000 playpark project almost immediately.

She said: 'It's just fantastic. A lot of them had done a lot of training but even with that to do it in five days is a big achievement. Every one is so proud of them. It was a very emotional time for everybody involved. This will go a long way to getting us our playpark.'

Anyone wishing to donate can email Rosie on rosiepierrd@hotmail.com.

# Fresh doubt emerges over waterfront

Highland Council finds itself in middle of lease confusion

FRESH doubt has been cast over the £80million Fort William waterfront development - by Highland Council's own landlords.

The Remenham Partnership says it has heard nothing from Fort William Waterfront Development Ltd (FWWL) about FWWL taking over the council's lease of Remenham's Tweeddale Buildings on High Street which runs until 2074.

Under a deal agreed with the council, FWWL as preferred developer was to take over the expensive lease and rehouse council services on its new waterfront site within strict timescales.

But The Oban Times can reveal Remenham has no intention of re-assigning such a valuable lease to FWWL - potentially scuppering Highland Council's entire scheme.

Spokesperson Steve Gray said: 'I can confirm that I have never been approached about the re-assignment of

the council's lease and it is certainly not in our interest to re-assign a lease with 60 years remaining to a company that would appear to be a significantly inferior covenant.'

'One of the reasons we bought the building was precisely because of the long term secure income that the Highland Council lease gives us.'

**"Here we are after all this time and the owners of the building have not even been approached."**

**Fort William councillor Donald Cameron**

'The misinformation [our tenants] are being fed is unsettling for them and directly affects our

business, neither of which is acceptable. I will be writing to Highland Council about this in due course.'

He added: 'Whatever happens, it needs to happen with a bit more urgency than previously. The politicking and continual waste of public money has got to stop if the regeneration of Fort William is to move forward in any meaningful way.'

Fort William councillor Donald Cameron said the revelations raised the question of whether FWWL could develop the project.

He said: 'Here we are all this time further on and the owners of the building have not even been approached. FWWL have not even lifted the phone.'

'Meanwhile, the High Street continues to stagnate - I think it's time for FWWL to put up or shut up and let Fort William and Lochaber move on.'

Charlie Barbour of FWWL was unavailable for comment.

## Canoe woman found dead after being swept away in raging River Coe

THE BODY of a young woman has been recovered from the River Coe, Glencoe after a white water canoe trip down the rain-swollen water ended in tragedy on Tuesday morning.

The victim, in her early 20s and from the north of England, was among a party of five canoeists when her

**"Her mates made a great attempt to save her."**

**John Grieve Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team**

vessel capsized near the footbridge over the river near the Clachaig Inn shortly after the party took to the water around 9am.

Local police, coastguards, a RAF rescue helicopter from Kinloss and Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team combed the river several times by air, land and water

until the body was recovered on Tuesday evening.

Lochaber MRT leader John Grieve said at the scene that conditions were 'very difficult' with search parties having to negotiate swollen tributary burns running into the Coe.

Rescue boats also searched Loch Leven off Invercoe.

The water rose two feet in three hours following the emergency call, he said.

Mr Grieve's 'pretty confident' assessment at the time that the woman had not been swept into the loch proved accurate. Her body was recovered from the Coe near Achnacon Farm.

Mr Grieve told The Oban

Times: 'She just got caught under a tree and her body had gone under the water. Her mates made a great attempt to save her.'

'But she was unresponsive and the current swept her away.'

'This is the first canoeing fatality we have had in my 45 years here.'

## Sleat forest buyout decision known soon

SLEAT Community Trust (SCT) will know next Monday, April 12, whether its plans to buy the 1000-acre Tormore Forest near Ardsasar has the backing of local people.

The Highland Council-run postal ballot closed on March 31.

## Cowal-based forest group gains second grant

A SMALL Argyll community, which bought its own forest only a week ago, has had a second boost with news of a substantial grant.

Kilfinan Community Forest Company is one of six groups in Argyll to receive money from the Climate Challenge Fund. It will use the £164,264 grant to employ a carbon reduction officer for a year, to help the community become more sustainable.

The community reached its fundraising target to take over 125 hectares of publicly owned forest last month. Michaela Hunter, company secretary, said with this second piece of good news, everyone had plenty to celebrate.

'We are chuffed to bits,' she said. 'This is great news and it's the icing on the cake for us. These vital funds mean we can install our initial developments in their forest straight away.' The project will include energy-saving advice for

home-owners, a car-sharing scheme, walking trails linking vital local facilities, community composting, allotments and polytunnels to help produce food closer to home.

The group has one year to deliver these initiatives to reduce the community's carbon footprint and become more self-sustaining in providing more local services and resources to the community.

Jura's Development Trust will get £126,735 to 'green' the village hall, with new insulation, new cladding and replacement windows and doors.

Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust will also take on a new worker with its grant, to promote its garden and horticulture projects.

Three other grants were allocated to the Isle of Gigha Heritage Trust, Lismore Community Council and the South Kintyre Development Trust.

## 30-year-old sex abuse case ends in jail sentence

A MAN broke down in the dock at Fort William Sheriff Court after being jailed for sexually abusing two young girls at an address in Fort William more than 30 years ago.

Arthur Murray, 50, of Lka, Hickman Street, Glasgow, was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment and placed on the sex offenders register for 10 years after he admitted using lewd, indecent and libidinous practises towards one girl between August 13, 1973 and March 27, 1976 and on another girl between March 1, 1976 and March 27, 1976.

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Both girls were aged nine when the abuse on them began, and Murray himself aged 13 when he started sexually abusing the first girl.

In a lengthy submission, Tony McGlennan, defending, urged Sheriff Douglas Small to take into account Murray's own age when the offences were committed, the absence

of any further offending since then and Murray's difficult and often violent upbringing. There was 'no likelihood' of any repetition, he said, arguing that community service was an appropriate punishment in 'an unusual and exceptional case.'

'No sentence can assuage the feelings of loss suffered by the complainers,' he said. 'However, Mr Murray should be dealt with on a non-custodial basis.'

But Sheriff Small ruled the offences were so grave and sustained that imprisonment was the only course of action.

Noting the 'profound effects' of the abuse on both girls, now in their forties, he told Murray: 'I take into account all that has been said on your behalf and that you yourself were between 13 and 15 and that the offence occurred between 34 and 37 years ago.'

'However, I am driven to the conclusion that because of the serious nature of these offences and the profound and lasting effects [on the victims] that a custodial sentence cannot be avoided.' A visibly shaken Murray was led from the dock in tears.

## Oban's long wait for tall ladder could be over

OBAN Fire Station will find out today whether it will receive delivery of a high-rise ladder appliance.

The recommendation for a high-rise appliance in Oban was first mooted in 1973 after 10 people died in the Esplanade Hotel fire that year.

Now, nearly 40 years on,

Strathclyde Fire Board, of which Oban-based Councillor Donald MacDonald is a member, will decide whether an appliance will be based in Oban.

Commander Paul Connelly, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue's Argyll area commander, has been pushing for a high-rise appliance for Oban and said

he was 'highly expectant' that the board would decide in his favour.

He added: 'The fire fighters in Oban have already been training with a high-rise appliance, so I would be disappointed if we didn't get it; I think we've put forward a good case.'

'If we get the thumbs up it would be a fantastic boon to Oban and Argyll and

would represent a £250,000 investment in the area. It would also improve the safety of my firefighters.'

The new appliance would be an additional one and be used in case of fire breaking out in the town's taller buildings, as the two current appliances have a ladder reach of only 13.5 metres.

## Catchment consultation to include Isle of Gigha

A CONSULTATION exercise has been launched into changing the catchment area of Tarbert Academy to include the island of Gigha.

Historically, secondary-aged pupils from the island had the options of going to either Campbeltown Grammar School, and staying in the town, or Oban High School where they would stay in the school's hostel.

The old ferry timetable from the island did not allow pupils to arrive in time to get to school if they travelled every day.

Since the change to the timetable several years ago, all Gigha high school pupils have travelled daily.

Councillor Isobel Strong, spokesperson for education and lifelong learning, said: 'Pupils from the Tayinloan area, where the Gigha ferry comes in, have traditionally had the option of travelling north to Tarbert or south to Campbeltown for their secondary education.'

'We are now seeking the views of all interested parties on the proposal to extend this choice to secondary aged pupils from Gigha, at the same time as removing the option to attend Oban High School.'

The consultation exercise will include a public meeting at a time and place yet to be agreed.

Among those being consulted are the parents of pupils at any of the affected schools or of any children expected to attend any of the affected schools within two years, the parent council of any affected school, staff at any affected school, trade unions, community councils and the police.

Written comments should be made by Carol Walker, Head of Education, Argyll House, Alexandra Parade, Dunoon PA23 8AJ by Wednesday, June 2.

If agreed, the new catchment area would start from the new school year in August.

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OT

# Fèis Lochabair a resounding success

## Children attend from throughout the Fort William area, Inverness, Mallaig, Morar, Arisaig, Newtonmore and Canna

FÈIS Lochabair in Lochside Primary School during the first week of the Easter holidays proved to be a resounding success - despite a switch of venue from Lochaber High School.

A total of 140 children attended the Fèis throughout the week and enjoyed classes in a wide range of instruments including accordion, fiddle, clarsach, drumming, keyboards, chanter, pipes, button box, guitar and tin whistle.

The youngsters also had classes in art, Gaelic song, Gaelic drama, Gaelic activities, step dance and

group work with art, clarsach and drumming the most popular.

The children were taught by a group of young enthusiastic tutors along with stalwarts Angus Grant on fiddle, Neil Sinclair on keyboards and Alec MacLean on button box.

The tutors showed off their talents at the family dance in Caol Community Centre on Wednesday evening with the children showing off their newly acquired dance steps.

A concert at the same venue brought an enjoyable week for the children to a close on Friday afternoon, when

parents were able to see what the children had been learning at the Fèis over the week.

Fèis chairman Alasdair Macdonald thanked the committee of volunteers who keep the Fèis going each year and parents and grandparents for transporting the children throughout and for attending the dance and the concert.

He said: 'The children were mainly from the Fort William area but we also had children from Inverness, Mallaig, Morar, Arisaig, Newtonmore and Canna. We actually had all four children from Canna Primary School.'



Katrin, from Tomonie, watches tutor Lauren Tait's expert hands on the clarsach. 10\_f15feis01



Fèis youngsters enjoy the ceilidh dancing in between classes. 10\_f15feis07



Alec MacLean, Angus Grant and Sileas Sinclair play at the afternoon ceilidh. 10\_f15feis05



Councillors Eddie Hunter and Bill Clark at Banavie Primary's Easter crafts display on Friday. 10\_f15ban01

### Banavie school's Easter crafts on display

BANAVIE Primary School staged a special assembly on Friday to display Easter-themed crafts created by the children.

Almost the entire school submitted a piece of work for the 'Eggs and Hats' day - with a little help from mums and dads - for the exhibition in the school hall.

Head teacher Maxine Dunham told the children:

'Everybody is a prizewinner today because of all the effort you have put into this.'

Local councillors Bill Clark and Eddie Hunter had the difficult task of picking the best entries. Councillor Hunter, a former head teacher of the school, told *The Oban Times*: 'It has been a positive pleasure to be involved in the judging of the children's excellent work.'

Councillor Clark referred to the recent decision that Banavie would not be part of any Greater Fort William schools amalgamation programme.

He said: 'I congratulate the head teacher, her staff, parents and the children themselves for the effort they have put in to making Banavie the school it is and retaining its independence.'

### Skye trail

HIGHLAND Council rangers are inviting members of the public to join them on a 75-mile guided journey through the Isle of Skye, following the route piloted by Cameron McNeish in the recent television programme, *The Skye Trail*.

The route will be undertaken in eight one-day sections between April and September, starting next Wednesday. Pre-booking is essential. Contact John on 01471 820526 or at john.phillips@highland.gov.uk.

### New grass Portree pitch falls victim to weather

PORTREE High School pupils will have to wait longer to play sports on a new grass pitch at their school.

Turf laid last year has suffered as a result of severe weather and last week contractors decided it was unlikely to fully recover, despite efforts by Morrison Construction to encourage growth.

Work to rectify the problem is now underway and includes a surface treatment and laying new turf.

Head teacher at Portree Catherine MacDonald said: 'We will continue to use the new synthetic pitch and the King George V playing fields until the new grass pitch is handed over. While we are disappointed, we know it will be worth waiting for.'

**Newsdesk 01397 703003**



Above: These youngsters enjoyed Hugh MacCallum's drumming class. 10\_f15feis02



Right: Shannon, from Corpach, Hannah from Lochside and Kevin from Inverlochey play at Rachel Walker's fiddle tutorial. 10\_f15feis04

Below: Tutor Carolyn McKee, from Inverlochey assists Alistair, from Lochside, on the chanter. 10\_f15feis03



### Tarbert Castle conservation gets financial boost

THE CONSERVATION of Tarbert Castle can finally get under way after the local community raised £100,000.

In January Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust announced that the money was needed on top of the Scottish Government's £750,000 grant to fund the stone consolidation project at the castle.

Robert McPhail, acting as contract administrator for the trust, confirmed last week that £100,000 is now in a special bank account allowing the project to proceed. He said that local residents, second home owners, businesses and organisations in the community had given loans.

He said: 'The trust are delighted with this support and thanks is due to all.'

The community trust has taken occupation of the site already and work is due to begin within weeks. Laing Traditional Masonry has been awarded the three-year contract to carry out the stone consolidation project. After considerable consultation with Historic Scotland and organisations that have a track record of working on historic buildings the trust envisage the project will run smoothly.

Work on the road to the castle is also currently underway, improving the ancient access as part of Tarbert Harbour's regeneration.

The renovation is also attracting media attention. Robert McPhail said: 'The BBC are showing interest in doing a television programme on the castle and international heritage magazine *Scotts* is featuring the castle in its summer issue.'

The overall conservation of Tarbert Castle is expected to take five years. Tarbert and Skipness Community Trust need to raise an additional £45,000 over the next three years to complete the final stage of the project.

### Oban man may face jail after party row with uninvited guest

AN OBAN man who attacked an uninvited guest in his home faces 'the very real possibility' of going to jail.

Paul Ritchie, aged 34, of 21A Corran Brae, Dunollie, pled not guilty to assaulting a man to his injury.

**Party**  
Oban Sheriff Court heard that Ritchie was drinking at home with a small group of friends when a party of people descended on his home. A witness saw Ritchie rise from his seat and attack the victim.

In evidence, the victim, said: 'I arrived at the party in a taxi and went inside. But I got a bad vibe and decided to leave. I went into the living room to say I was leaving when Ritchie attacked me.'

He said: 'I remember him coming towards me and head butting me.'

'He then took me by the throat and pushed me out the house. I fell back and injured the back of my head. I lost a tooth and I had blood in my mouth and on my head.'

Another witness said: 'He (Ritchie) just attacked him. I think the victim may have lost consciousness for a moment. He was very dazed.'

**Heads clashed**  
Under questioning Ritchie said that his recollection of the evening was quite vague.

He said: 'I told him he was leaving.'

Ritchie said that it was by accident that their heads clashed.

'I struggled to get him into the hall. I pushed

him out the door and closed the door behind him.'

Lynne Jamieson procurator fiscal depute said: 'The court should decide who to believe: two men who have no reason to come to court to tell lies, or the accused.'

Finding Ritchie guilty, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'This was a deliberate attack and a serious assault. I am seriously considering a custodial sentence.'

Sentence was deferred until April 27.



The annual concert organised by Norman Nicholson, in aid of Sergeant Cancer Charity, heard stunning performances from community performers and primary schools in the Corran Halls, Oban. 16\_11nicholl



Ann Martin with Minister for Children and Early Years Adam Ingram and Convenor of the British Association of Social Workers Scotland Graeme Rizza.

### Oban social work student is highly commended

AN OBAN woman has been highly commended for her work as a student social worker at a ceremony held in Edinburgh.

Ann Martin, a social work assistant with Argyll and Bute Council, was nominated for the British Association of Social Workers' student of the year award. Although she did not

win the overall award Ann received special recognition for her hard work.

Ann is now in her final year of an Open University BA Honours degree in social work.

She is currently on her final placement with West Dunbartonshire Council, after which she will become a fully qualified social worker.

### RNLI roadshow bound for Mid Argyll

THE RNLI Sea Safety Road Show will be stopping off in Mid Argyll this week.

Sea safety workshops will take place at Ardfern and Craobh Haven Marinas.

RNLI members will be providing sea safety advice and checking life jackets during their tour of the country. They will also provide instructions and advice on life jacket maintenance.

The road show will be at Ardfern Marina on April 10 and Craobh Haven Marina on April 11.

The sessions will run from 10am until 4pm.

### Tiree festival line-up not confirmed

FOLLOWING a story about the Tiree Music Festival, in last week's *Oban Times*, organisers wish to point out that the final line up has not yet been confirmed for artists.

As such, Phil Cunningham has not confirmed he will appear.

## Bollards erected across North Connel slipway to 'control misuse'

A SET of locking bollards across a slipway regularly used by the public to launch small craft at North Connel has been erected to 'control misuse'.

The slipway and road leading down to the shore from Lora View belongs to MacGregor Hotels, which owns the adjacent Lochnell Arms Hotel.

John MacGregor, of MacGregor Hotels, who

also owns and lives in a house neighbouring the slipway, said it was not a 'public' slipway.

'We are quite happy to let people launch their boats there but there are many

people who are misusing the slipway, particularly vehicles and trailers left on it so that other people can't use it,' he said.

'People park on the slipway and block it for anyone else

to use and if they don't park on the slipway, they park on the shore instead,' he said.

**Key**  
'A key will be available at the hotel and anyone can use it.'

He said there was no doubt about MacGregor Hotel's ownership of the road and slipway but the houses at the bottom of the road had a right of access to the road.

'We are not doing it to make money or charge people but we are asking people using the slip to make a small donation to the Royal National Lifeboat Institution,' he added.

## Islay hit hard by whisky tax increase

THE ISLE of Islay, 'the whisky island', may feel the hangover from last week's budget more than most, following a further tax hike on spirits.

An increase of 5.1 per cent on spirits duty in Chancellor Alistair Darling's latest budget means that over the past two years, the Scottish whisky industry has had to cope with a 21.6 per cent increase.

*"Making whisky on an island is not a cheap option"*

Jim McEwan

For single distilleries, the news is bad enough but for Islay's eight distilleries, which form the major industry on the island, it is potentially crippling.

Islay-based Councillor Robin Currie said: 'I am dead against any further increase in whisky duty.'

'Whisky, and spirits in general, are a soft target in any budget but I don't think the government realises what the impact is on Islay, which depends on distilling.'

'The distilleries may be doing well just now but it is easy to tip the balance if the duty goes up too much.'

'You have to look at the huge amount of money that goes out of Islay through tax and what do we get in return? Not very much, compared to

what goes out.'

Bruichladdich Distillery production director Jim McEwan said: 'Again the duty has been raised and 65 per cent of every bottle goes in duty paid to the chancellor.'

'Fortunately Islay malts continue to buck the trend with sales increasing slightly year on year, which is good, but with freight, fuel and duty costs continuing to rise, it is going to become more difficult to achieve the profit margins required.'

'Making whisky on an island is not a cheap option so we will all have to fight harder and ensure that the pulse of Islay remains strong.'

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid also criticised the Chancellor for putting the duty on Scotch whisky up by 38p a bottle in the recent budget.

He said: 'This increase is pointless. It will not bring in extra revenue for the government because the Treasury's own figures show that after the Chancellor's previous big increase in duty, the revenue to the Treasury from duty on spirits actually dropped because of falling sales.'

'The increase is also pointless in health and social terms because binge drinkers' favourite drink is not Scotch whisky, but other drinks which attract less duty.'



Carol Walker, Argyll and Bute Council's head of education, laid the first stone in a cairn to commemorate the day, with the school's youngest and eldest pupils.

07\_114grn02

## Inveraray become first in Argyll to final Green Flag

INVERARAY Primary School was buzzing with excitement last week as the school held a special Green Flag Extravaganza after being awarded its fourth and final Eco Schools Green Flag.

**First in Argyll**  
The school, which is the first in Argyll and Bute to reach this standard, received its final flag in November last year.

Past pupils and parents were invited to the school for the special party as well as everyone who helped the school on the road to success.

The school's journey began in August 2001 with its school grounds project, supported by Fergus Younger, project officer with Scottish Natural Heritage.

Over the years since then the grounds have been improved by the addition of a pond, willow den, orchard, bog area, polytunnels and raised beds, huge rocks and logs, various benches; a peace building/outdoor classroom, playground markings; story telling area; viewing platform; bird, bat and hedgehog boxes; feeders; hot-composting facility; rockeries; boat garden; a parent shelter and an ever-expanding hedgerow.

Grant support over the years has come from SNH, Royal Bank of Scotland, Forestry Commission, Sustrans, Argyll and Bute Trust and Awards for All.

The whole school community has been involved, with the catering, cleaning and janitorial staff playing a vital role. Tom Paterson, janitor, was recognised with an Education Award for Education Supporter of the Year.

Head teacher Lynn Kidd said: 'Sustainable Development Education is a core principle and provides a meaningful context for delivering the curriculum. The pupils now acquire and develop their skills by interacting with the environment, within the grounds and wider community, wherever possible and appropriate. Learning has become real and engaging, rather than driven by textbooks.'

Ms Kidd said the school had now embarked upon an exciting new, long-term partnership working with its neighbouring schools in Minard and Furnace, Auchindrain Outdoor Museum and The Soil Association on a Crofting Connections project.

## Council department keeps building on success

ARGYLL and Bute Council's building standards team has speeded up paperwork and improved customer satisfaction.

The latest figures show that 97 per cent of completion certificates were issued within three days and 93 per cent of requests for a building warrant were dealt with in fewer than 20 days.

The department has also launched a new customer service questionnaire to find out how customers think they are doing.

Councillor Daniel Kelly, chair of the planning, protective services and licensing committee, said: 'We are determined to ensure that the Argyll and Bute public receives Best Value service delivery, and this is an example of an area in which we seem to be excelling.'

## Birds affected by winter weather

SIGHTINGS of Fieldfare, Redwing, Yellowhammer and other rare garden visitors increased during this year's cold snap, the Royakl Society for the Protection of Birds Big Bird Watch has confirmed. More than 37,000 Scots took part in the survey in January, which showed the smallest garden birds, including the coal tit and long-tailed tit, were less common as they were hit hard by the cold weather.

## Beware of bogus callers warns Scottish Water

SCOTTISH Water is advising customers not to let their guard down against bogus callers as the lighter nights come in.

A spokesman for Scottish Water said: 'When householders receive a cold call from anyone claiming to be from Scottish Water, or another utility, they should not under any circumstances open the door without first checking the caller's identity card or letter.'

'The card or letter should be passed through the letterbox for verification.'

'This stops a bogus caller forcing their way in, even if the door is ajar, or on a chain.'

'If you are in any doubt about the caller's identity please call our customer helpline on 0845 601 8855.'



## Schools join forces to raise cash for earthquake victims

TWO PRIMARY schools have raised a combined £1,347 for the victims of January's Haiti earthquake.

The pupil council at Rockfield and St Columba's schools, which share Oban Primary Campus, made a map of Haiti and encouraged other pupils to each pay a pound to have a sticker on

the map, raising £168.

Individually, the schools also raised money for Haiti: Rockfield Primary generated £725 from a non-uniform day and a collection at St Columba's took in £454. Pupil council member Charlie Louis said: 'It is an amazing amount of money. I didn't realise we could raise that much.'

Members of the Oban Primary Campus pupil council, from left: Sarah Green, Daniel Croarkin, Robyn MacGregor, Stephanie Brown, Daniel Silkowski and Charlie Louis. 07\_115ah01

## Citizen's advice group is seeking volunteers

ARGYLL and Bute Citizen's Advice Bureau (ABCAB) is calling for volunteers to join its team based at Lochgilphead.

ABCAB Volunteer Development Officer Moya Cove said: 'We are looking for all sorts of volunteers - we need people to give advice, of course, but we also need administrative help too.'

'We are looking for anyone who has a desire to help the community, has a bit of spare time on their hands, and likes to work as part of a team.'

Sandra Gascoigne, who volunteers one day a week at ABCAB, said: 'The volunteer training was really enjoyable and I learned a lot about the work and met a great group of people.'

'I really look forward to every training session. Advising clients gives me a great sense of achievement.'

For further details on volunteering, or more information about the volunteer programme, contact Moya Cove on 01546 605551 or email MoyaCove@abcab.org.uk

## Argyll and Bute tourism on show at national expo

Organisers delighted to see commitment from businesses across Argyll

TOURISM businesses from Argyll and Bute are taking part in this year's VisitScotland expo.

Argyll and Highland Incoming, Duart Castle, Inveraray Castle, Kintyre Express, Holiday Iona and Mull and West Coast Motors will all be exhibiting at the trade fair.

The aim of the event is to drive business to exhibiting companies through targeting the tourism trade directly, ultimately raising the profile of

Argyll and Bute.

Gillian King, chairperson of Holiday Mull and Iona, said: 'VisitScotland expo provides us with a great opportunity to show influential buyers exactly what Mull and Iona have to offer.'

'We have been attending the trade show since the 1990s and look forward to continuing to showcase our islands to buyers from across the globe.'

Scott Armstrong, regional director for VisitScotland,

said: 'In this current climate it is crucial we work together to grow tourism and I am delighted to see this commitment from businesses across Argyll.'

More than 200 suppliers of tourism products from all over Scotland are exhibiting at expo this year and approximately 800 buyers from diverse markets across the world are expected to attend.

Expo 2010 takes place at the SECC in Glasgow on April 14-15.



It was all change for North Argyll Eventide Home's annual daffodil tea this year. A change of venue to the Glencruitten Church Centre attracted a bumper crowd, despite teeming rain, and youngsters from Soroba Young Families group also attended to enjoy some juice and cake. Fiona MacKillop, convenor of the ladies' committee, said the wonderful turnout raised £672 for the home's welfare fund, which will pay for little treats for residents. 'We are absolutely delighted,' she said. 'We are very grateful for all the support.' 15-114daf01

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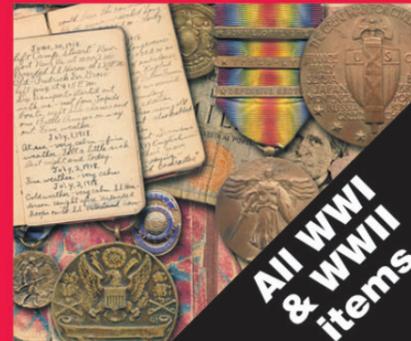
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**Young French actors perform at An Tobar**

LA COMPAGNIE d'un Soir, a troupe of young French actors, will be performing at An Tobar on April 11.

In addition to a short specially written piece, the company will also showcase the works of Moliere and Corneille.

The company is based in the village of Roullens near Carcassonne in the South of France, and was formed at their local arts centre by director Beatrice Fruchon.

Also appearing on stage will be members of Mull Youth Theatre. The visit by La Compagnie d'un Soir represents the first leg of a cultural exchange project between it and Mull Youth Theatre, which hopes to perform in the South of France later in the year. For further information call Colin Govan on 01688 302 558.



Sequence, the ladies choir from Benderloch, which won at the Mid Argyll Music Festival just six weeks after forming. 15\_t15choir01

**New North Argyll choir Sequence lifts festival trophy after six weeks**

**Notes and Quotes**  
with Campbell Cameron

**Country Legends**

REMEMBER when 'Dolly' played country here in Oban?

Well she came back to town last weekend and she brought all her friends!

The Solid Gold Country Legends completed a great tour of the UK here in Oban. Jeanne Jordan, who plays Dolly in the hit show, as well as many others, tells me that the troupe couldn't wait to get here after all she has told them about her previous visits to the 'Gateway to the Isles'.

She said: 'We have always been so well looked after in Argyll and the audiences have been so responsive.' She added: 'On the last trip we were greeted with pictures on sticks of the stars we paid tribute to, held up by the front row of the audience!'

Tributes were paid to Patsy Cline, Kenny Rogers, Shania Twain, Martina MacBride and Garth Brookes, to name just a few of the legends who featured on stage over two hours at the Corran Halls on Saturday night.

Many of the audience had dusted off the Stetsons and enjoyed a fine night singing along with the stars. 'Dolly' promised she will be back!

It has not put Kieran off, far from it, as his October UK tour will kick off here in Oban at our very own Ceilidh house.

I think he may bring his slide.

**The Spinoffs**

THEY have been together since high school but the Spinoffs are finding it hard to get together now that their studies have taken them to the academic cities of Scotland.

So lead singer Rurighd McMeddes has called it a day and played his final gig with the band last weekend. Oban hosted the final two events at O'Donnell's and at the Waterfront bar with the band bouncing and the crowds jumping to old favourites 'Sweet Home Alabama' and 'Chelsea Dagger' - as well as a special new version of Katy Perry's big hit 'Hot and Cold'.

The band now has a vacancy for a lead singer and applications are sought. Wonder if I should...no maybe not.

classics including 'Dance on Daddy's Feet' which are laced with the recognisable Dr Hook DNA. The recent Glasgow concert was recorded because the Scottish audiences are so responsive.

'I tell people all round the world about the Glasgow audience. Now I can show them all!'

**A town called Snowgates**

AND THEN there was wee Kieran Goss, the songwriter from Ireland who fought his way round Scotland in the recent snow to fulfil his concert dates.

Travelling up to Stornoway and over to Ullapool proved harder than he imagined. 'I kept looking for this town called Snowgates but every way I went it was closed!' he joked. On the serious side, his bass man took 16 hours to drive from Stranraer to Ullapool to get to the gig arriving 20 minutes before it started.

Goss himself was detoured round to the west and up through Fort William to get to the Highland port and into the famous Ceilidh Place.

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**The Spinoffs farewell to Rurighd**

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The band now has a vacancy for a lead singer and applications are sought. Wonder if I should...no maybe not.

A LADIES choir from North Argyll, formed just six weeks previously, won a trophy at the Mid Argyll Music Festival and a glowing adjudication.

Sequence has 25 members from around north Argyll and meets on Wednesday evenings in Benderloch's Victory Hall.

It was started in January by singing teacher and conductor Janet Fergusson, Benderloch.

Janet, who has been singing herself for many years, used to conduct Oban Gaelic Choir and has conducted Lochnell Primary School Choir for the last 10 years, felt the need to do something 'for the ladies in the area'.

'Their kids can come along with them or go to badminton next door,' she explained.

She was so impressed with her

choir of ladies' progress that she felt confident enough to enter into the Mid Argyll Musical Festival where Sequence won The Ward Cup for rural choirs with 88 points for their renditions of California Dreaming and Flying Free.

'I can't believe how quickly they have picked up the songs. I am so impressed,' said Janet. 'The adjudicator, who said we were a 'beautifully balanced choir' and thought we were an established choir of 20 years!'

The choir's next challenge will be the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival in Oban, where it will be splitting into two ensembles as there is no competition for choirs.

Janet said they were also hoping to hold a concert sometime before the summer holidays.



The Duchess of Argyll with children and their chocolate eggs at Inveraray Castle. t15rabbit01

**Easter fun at Inveraray Castle**

THE WHITE Rabbit paid a surprise visit to Inveraray Castle on Sunday.

Children at the castle's Easter bunny treasure hunt were led in their search for chocolate treasure by the White Rabbit himself.

Together they explored the

enchanted garden, visited the special wishing tree and looked for chocolate eggs among the Easter daffodils. And the lucky prizewinners were presented with their prizes by the Duchess of Argyll. A great afternoon was had by everyone in the Easter sunshine.



Concert-goers got into the spirit of Country and Western for a musical extravaganza at Oban's Corran Halls. Pictured are Kenny MacMillan, who travelled down from Fort William to see the Country Legends show, Catherine Critchley, Trine Donna and Brown McLuckie. 07\_t15hat01

**Mystery Hebridean isle is author's inspiration**

DREAMWORKS latest 3D animation, set to storm box offices over the Easter holidays, was inspired by the writer's childhood visits to the Inner Hebrides.

But Cressida Cowell, author of How to Train Your Dragon, has declined to name the isle, saying it would destroy some of the magic

and mystery of the location. On her website, she told readers: 'I spent a great deal of time as a child on a tiny, uninhabited island off the west coast of Scotland.'

'The name of the island is a secret, but it was such a small island it wasn't really big enough to have a name.'

**Argyll novelist wins top prize**

AN ARGYLL novelist has won one of Scotland's top literary prizes at the close of Glasgow's renowned Aye Write Book Festival.

John Jennett, from Duror, was awarded the prize together with a £1,500 cheque after his novel *Manadh* was shortlisted.

The announcement was made in the auspicious surroundings of the Robert Burns Room in Glasgow's Mitchell Library.

The judging panel included London editors of global publishing giant Hachette, owners of Sceptre and other household names like Chambers and Orion.

Bob McDevitt who represents Hachette in Scotland said: 'The judges felt that the ambition, confidence and storytelling power displayed by John Jennett made him the worthy recipient of the prize.'

According to the author, the winning novel, *Manadh*, tells the story of a reluctant wartime sea-captain who longs to return to his native Hebrides. Sixty years later his visions, or second-sight, link him to a modern-day midwife on the trail of a vanished twin brother.

Jennett's short stories, often set in the Hebrides, have been published at home and abroad; seen him placed in major competitions and garnered praise from fellow writers like AL Kennedy and Janice Galloway.

**Three Wee Crows perform in Oban**

LOCAL theatre company The Three Wee Crows is performing in Oban this month.

It will be putting on a special performance of stories and music from local legends. The company has recently performed in Taynuilt, Lochawe and at Inverawe House. The show will be at Argyllshire Gathering Halls on Friday April 16.

**what's on**

CINEMA LISTINGS > Highland Theatre  
NANNY MCPHEE & THE BIG BANG CERT U  
Daily 12.45, 3.15, 5.45  
CLASH OF THE TITANS CERT 12A  
DAILY 1.00, 3.30, 6.00, 8.30  
SHUTTER ISLAND CERT 15  
DAILY 8.15

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 15th April > Producers Market  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch Spring Fayre

Saturday 10th April > Jewellery Course  
Barcardine House, by Oban

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

**COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD**

Lochawe Village Hall  
A family evening with  
**The Swing Band**  
Saturday 10th April  
8.00 - 11.00  
Admission £4.00  
including tea  
Children under 16 free

St John's Cathedral  
100 Year Celebration  
Flower arrangers required  
To discuss Flower Festival.  
Meeting to be held in  
Cathedral Narthex on  
Friday 9th April at 7pm  
All welcome

Inveraray & District  
Accordion & Fiddle Club  
Argyll Hotel, Inveraray  
Wednesday 14th April  
at 8.00pm  
Guest Artists From Perth  
Wayne Robertson Duo  
Supporting players  
most welcome

**Victorian Afternoon Tea**  
In aid of  
Friends of Oban Hospice  
To be held in  
Bossard's Patisserie, Oban  
2pm - 5pm  
Sunday 11th April  
Sunday 25th April  
Sunday 2nd May  
£5.50 per person  
Tickets available from Bossard's & Hospice Shop.

**ABCD**  
Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease  
**10K RUN**  
(with Fun run for children)  
Sunday 2nd May 2010, 1pm  
Starting from Lorn and Islands hospital  
**A fun run for all ages!**  
Apply now 8-week training guide supplied to all on receipt of application  
Run, jog or walk. You can do it!  
Application forms available from the Hospital and various locations in Oban and at www.abcd.btik.com

**CEILIDH**  
Masonic Hall, Albany Street, Oban  
Friday 16th April, 7.30pm  
Chair: Rev Brian Wilkinson  
Mod Medial Vocalist Hugh MacQueen, Duncan MacDonald,  
Audrey Paterson and Nicola Pearson. Piper Euan Dewar,  
Accordion Alisdair MacDonald, Clarsach Rebecca Hill.  
Fiddle & Accordion Duo, Paddy & Libby Shaw.  
Refreshments, home baking, raffle Adm. £5 at door

**gig argyll**  
your essential guide to live music in argyll

**Friday 9th April > LIVE BAND**  
O'Donnell's from 8pm

**Friday 9th April > George Noble**  
The Woody

**Friday 9th April > Chart Sounds**  
Paparazzi DJ Jonny 9pm

**Saturday 10th April > Shananiagans**  
The Woody

**Saturday 10th April > Declan Hegarty**  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

**Saturday 10th April > Dance Sounds**  
Paparazzi DJ Drew 9pm

**Saturday 10th April > Andy Tucker & the**  
O'Donnell's Scattered Family - 8pm

**Wednesday 14th April > Crooked Reel**  
Markie Dans 8-9pm then 11pm-12am

**Friday 16th April > Ballochmyle**  
The Woody

**Saturday 17th April > DJ Donald**  
The Woody

**Friday 23rd April > The Zodiacs**  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

**Saturday 24th April > Crooked Reel**  
Markie Dans 9.30pm

**Saturday 1st May > Jericho Hill**  
O'Donnell's plays Johnny Cash 9pm

**YOUR STARS**  
WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520**  
Saturn has been slowly twisting backwards and now it repeats a planetary opposition that first occurred last year, facing up to the unpredictable Uranus. If this saw you getting in better fettle, this repetition, urges you to reapply yourself - especially if your resolve has slipped. The New Moon also sees you take a lead in a group or gloss up your image. Call now for more advice...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521**  
You can exude considerable sex appeal this week Taurus, but this can set up an intriguing dilemma when it comes to possible liaisons! If you feel one too really has run its course, and especially if you feel a partner is too controlling, any new interest in you, could be hard to resist. At work, the caring professions or holistic therapies can see you flourish. Call for your love scope in full...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522**  
A string of coincidences could put you face to face with an old flame or see a friend bump into one. This can stir some gentle, but also nostalgic memories, but Saturn's new toe hold in your sector of home and emotions cautions you about throwing over a perfectly stable tie in the search for excitement. Solo? A fab group holiday can be discussed with pals. Call me now for more...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523**  
A contentious subject will need careful handling. This may be in managing a person very different at work, or dealing with the strains of a growing youth, at home. Levitate proceedings with a slice of wit and you can take the sting out of any potential tensions. Dare to be different professionally, some of your more arty ideas, can strike a chord. Call your special prediction line for more news...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524**  
A partner or your personal banker may not be receptive to your spending plans. Do they have a point? Yet you can win them around if you do your research. Romantically, a little bit of magic is in the air, but it requires you to challenge your tendency to want to be in control. This doesn't mean you can't play the leader, and portents for that are really good. Call for your love scope...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525**  
Saturn retreats back into your sign, and over the next four months, balancing your desire to be a free spirit with being committed in a close tie, can be the burning question. Yet this can be a marvelous week, to get off the beaten track. A change of scene can really revive your spirits. You may also book an exotic holiday or enjoy a connection overseas. Call now for more astral advice...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526**  
A sultry link can be sparked by Venus schmoozing with Mercury, and whilst the attraction level can be high, it is the stunning New Moon in your relationship sector, which can really power this forward, especially if there is genuine sense of romance between you, which Neptune will do its best to trigger. However, do try to avoid missing an appointment. Call me for your love scope...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527**  
There is a tremendous opportunity to keep the lines of communication open, but being prepared to hear other people's viewpoints, and not feeling challenged by them, is the nub. Yet if one friend does seem to be totally caught up with their own needs and out of sync with your own, you may find yourself wanting to spend time with someone else. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528**  
This can be an excellent week to get in the garden and enjoy shaping your plans for the summer ahead. You might find yourself thinking of a new water feature or a raised patio or a new decking area. In fact, creating a better space to be with other people can be a big driver for you. If green fingers are not your thing, film, music and galleries can be. Call for more news and advice...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529**  
Your ruler, is the so called bad guy of the zodiac, the stern faced Saturn. This is the planet that gives us self-discipline, application and the will to succeed, so it's very important. A frivolous link between Mercury and Venus can be great for socializing this week, but Saturn, in its opposition to Uranus, asks you to steer clear of controversial subjects. Call your prediction line for more...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530**  
A family party can be a real success. Also don't lose faith if someone doesn't quite get what you are trying to get across to them. If you are really self-disciplined and patient, between now and the summer can be a time of great change and significant breakthrough. Your words can also have a telling affect on someone you are attracted to. Call me now for more news and astral advice...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531**  
You can enjoy a flirtatious exchange, but if you're seeking something deeper and more profound, no amount of giggling is likely to persuade you to take the next step. Just be careful that you're not distancing yourself from others because you are fearful of the give and take that is required. Yes, you can stay safe, but can miss out on many benefits too. Call now for your love scope in full...

SP: Pronto Ltd, PO Box 52785 EC1P 1TY  
Calls cost 60p per minute from standard landline  
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WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

**Local Producers Market**  
Spring Fayre  
Thursday 15th April  
Kintaline Farm, Benderloch  
1 mile along the Tralee road  
10am to 3pm  
Lots to eat and do  
Every first / third Thursday  
Local Origins Rural Network  
www.lorn.org.uk

**Oban and Lorn Tourism Association**  
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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## The race is on, but is anyone watching?

IS EVERYBODY ready, does anybody really care? Following Gordon Brown's announcement on Tuesday that a General Election will be held on May 6, 2010, the race is on as each political party tussles to get its 'vital' message across to would-be voters.

Parliament will not be formally dissolved until Monday, with MPs spending the next few days rushing legislation through the Commons during what is known as the 'wash up'. The Commons will not meet again until May 18, far later than usual, raising speculation that parties will have plenty time for negotiation in the event that none gain enough seats to form an outright majority. However, if a disillusioned public fail to turnout on polling day, can any political group claim to be truly representative?

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Skye youth concert

IT SEEMS many years since Mairi MacLeod of the Glasgow Skye Association instigated a concert to give the growing numbers of young people in and around the city a stage on which to exhibit their skills.

That this association should do so was, of course, entirely appropriate as it was at the forefront of the movement which encouraged the setting up of Gaelic medium units which ultimately resulted in the opening of the Gaelic School.

The concert is now a permanent feature on the association syllabus, with the ladies committee responsible for its organisation. This year's event showed there is no reduction in the amount of young talent learning our traditional culture.

It is not often you attend a concert which has 20 different items on the programme! Okay, some of them were quite short as one would expect from the very youngest participants, but it still meant chairperson for the evening Margaret MacLeod of Na h'Oganaich fame and now involved in the teaching of the language, faced an onerous task as she introduced them all.

For Margaret, however, this did not seem to be a problem as she encouraged and congratulated the youngsters throughout the evening, interspersing the items with stories of her own youth when she was competing at Mods.

Having attended many of these concerts over the years, it is extremely pleasing to listen to the amazing improvement in performances.

Among the older contributors on stage were Meg Buchanan, Heather Kindness, Kristina MacDonald and Eilidh Munro who have appeared at many ceilidhs in or around the city. Between them they performed at various stages of the evening on bagpipes, fiddle, cello, clarsach and vocals.

With most of the Gaelic medium units represented, as well as the Gaelic School, there was plenty of variety for the audience. In addition to those already mentioned, there was Highland dancing from Shannon Gallagher, Luke Gallanti and Rose Leckie, with Kristina MacDonald accompanying on the bagpipes, an accordion solo from Calum Munro, vocal solos from Caitlin Crammond, Brogan McDade, Kate Whitefield and Kristina MacDonald, piano playing from Alexander Findlay and Sarah MacKay, fiddle selections from Meg Buchanan and Anna Jean MacKenzie and chanter playing from Marcus Gallanti and Stuart MacKinnon. Add in two folk groups, a choir and a drama presentation and you will appreciate Margaret had a busy night, as did president Donald Fletcher

#### Accused was not drink driving

WITH reference to *The Oban Times* edition of April 1 2010, page 3, 'Oban woman admits drink driving', we would like to point out that the accused was not charged with drink driving, nor was she convicted of drink driving and nor did she admit to drink driving.

We would like to apologise for any offence or upset this may have caused.

who delivered the vote of thanks.

#### Erskine charity ceilidh

IT IS that time of the year when the good people of Clydebank and their friends get together to raise funds for Erskine Hospital.

On Friday April 16, the Town Hall will be the place to be when the association looks to raise its usual considerable sum of money. This ceilidh is a fun evening and is very much looked forward to by the veterans who attend and I would ask that as many readers as possible go along. Full programme details next week.

#### Tune composition

HOW MANY Highland Games, other than Braemar, have been visited by a senior member of the royal family?

None it is thought, but this is about to change when Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex, visits Greenville Games, South Carolina, on May 28 and 29.

To commemorate this occasion the organisers, in association with the National Piping Centre and R G Hardie, have set up a competition and are asking for aspirant pipe tune composers to enter a four part 6/8 march named the Greenville's Salute to the Earl of Wessex. Entries should be in by April 23 and should be sent to the National Piping Centre, Greenville's Salute Tune Contest, 30-34 McPhater Street, Glasgow, G4 OHW. Entrants' details should be enclosed on a separate sheet of paper and multiple entries will be accepted.

#### Diary dates

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

**Friday April 9:** Fiddler's Bid, Perth Concert Hall, 7.30pm.

**Thursday April 15:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Rallion.

**Friday April 16:** Clydebank and District Highlander's Association, Erskine Hospital Charity Ceilidh - see above.

**Saturday April 17:** Clann Gaidhlig, Gaelic Learning Day, University of West of Scotland, Paisley, 10am. Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Hall, 8pm, Fraser McGlynn.

**Sunday April 18:** Finbar Furey, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

#### Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Deoch 'n Dorus with Martin Pottinger on Friday, the Andrew MacDonald Band on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/ Simon Moran on Sunday.

In the Islay Inn it will be Gunna Sound on Friday and the Keelies on Saturday. **Neil Murray. Telephone: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



## Allt-na-Lairige Dam - a unique structure in Britain

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of *The Oban Times*. It shows Allt-na-Lairige Dam which was designed by J A Banks of Babbie, Shaw and Morton of Glasgow, and was completed in 1957. It is unique in Britain but other large pre-stressed concrete dams can be found in Europe and elsewhere, having been pioneered by French engineer Andre Coyne. Allt-na-Lairige's reservoir serves the Glen Shira Hydro-electric scheme. The power station is two miles downstream, on the River Fyne's east bank. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

#### Taxi rank parking shambles

Sir, I write regarding your recent article on Oban taxi rank parking.

A number of years ago each taxi operator paid £80 for a survey to see if there were too many taxis operating in Oban. Having waited over a year for the result, Argyll and Bute Council deemed there was no need to cap the number of taxis in Oban.

However, here we are with 13 spaces in the rank and more than 40 taxis vying for these spaces.

It doesn't help when private cars and works vans use these spaces. Wardens do their best to discourage them, however, the amount of abuse the taxi drivers have to put up with when pointing out the no-parking signs on the taxi rank is unbelievable.

What would happen if the same people were to park on taxi ranks in the city?

Another three spaces are available on the grid outside McCaig's Warehouse but when asked who owns that property the answers range from the council, the railway and McCaig's Warehouse. Again private vehicles take up these spaces and 'go to work', 'shop', 'check railway timetables'. We realise there should be no parking on the grid, but where do we go whilst waiting for a space in the rank?

The council spokesperson who suggested we find alternative parking on the street wants to 'get real'.

I suggest the council sends out letters to each taxi company to set up a meeting with a view to sorting out this shambles.

**A disgruntled taxi driver. Name and address supplied.**

#### Mull rally

Sir, In reply to Mr English, he is right in saying there was a public meeting on the rally.

This was well advertised and well attended by a broad representation of islanders.

If Mr English was present, he certainly asked no questions, voiced an opinion or voted against the rally. Surely this was his opportunity to speak up and not through your paper.

It is widely acknowledged the rally brings in a substantial amount of income to the island. It may not contribute to businesses, jobs or livelihoods being won or lost but it certainly helps and extends an otherwise short season for many.

On the other hand there are a lot of people who don't benefit financially, for example competitors, visiting spectators, marshals and especially the island children, who look forward to this event each year. What is gained is much more important - the whole atmosphere on the island at rally time is one of camaraderie, excitement, a real community spirit.

I'm not denying at certain times it gets noisy, but this is controlled as much as possible. Roads are closed for a short time. We are all made well aware of this in advance and to date no-one has ever struggled for an emergency vehicle as all emergency services have contingency plans in place.

The rally was not run over the years by a small family and a handful of car enthusiasts, but an army of people, lead by a small family, giving up their time, money and energy to run a very successful event over the 40 years.

Mr English states he has never met anyone who 'has any negative comments regarding rally goers' so who is this silent majority he is speaking for? Maybe it's not the rally that has outgrown its venue, but some of the island's inhabitants.

**Elizabeth MacRae, Tobermory, Isle of Mull.**

#### Sort out weather payments

Sir, Following the article in a previous *Oban Times*, I am writing regarding cold weather payments. The issue

caught my attention as my mother, who suffers from diabetes, was personally affected.

I was shocked to hear that the weather data required to trigger payments for the PA34 area was sourced from as far away as Machrihanish. Ninety miles does make a difference to temperature readings, explaining the delay in people receiving payments to which they were entitled.

My mother did, eventually, receive the four extra payments she was due, but only long after the bad weather that triggered them had passed.

It should be a priority that people on low incomes receive payments when they are needed.

To ensure this doesn't occur again, I hope Alan Reid and other MPs and MSPs do their utmost to make sure the issue is properly addressed when next reviewed.

**M I Crabtree, Scalpay Terrace, Oban.**

#### Fight on to reduce fuel duty

Sir, In the Budget, the Government decided to put up fuel duty by three 1p increases over the coming year.

I voted against these fuel duty increases because they will be very damaging to a rural area like Argyll and Bute.

The Labour party voted for the increases, the Liberal Democrats and SNP against and the Tories abstained.

I have been waging a long campaign to try to persuade the Government to levy a lower rate of fuel duty in remote and rural areas. France, Portugal and Greece operate such a scheme.

Following a recent Commons debate, in which I spoke, the Government announced it will examine how the scheme operates in these countries.

I hope it finds that the scheme operates successfully in these countries and that it will introduce a similar scheme here.

This would help hard pressed rural motorists and hauliers. **Alan Reid MP.**

#### BBC Alba on Freeview

Sir, As is the case with all Gaelic users and supporters worldwide, the Gaelic Society of Inverness (GSI) is extremely disappointed the BBC Trust

has postponed a decision on whether BBC Alba should be made available on Freeview.

In December 2007, responding to the BBC Trust's further consultation on a Gaelic Digital Service, GSI asked the trust to recognise its concerns and optimism for the future of the Gaelic language and culture in Scotland and to approve the establishment of a Gaelic Digital Service.

On January 13 2010, responding to the BBC Trust Review of BBC Alba, GSI praised the trust for its decision to enable the establishment of BBC Alba and urged the trust to recognise the enormous impact which this service has already had for Gaelic.

GSI regards BBC Alba as an excellent example of the delivery of the BBC public purpose as defined in its Royal Charter, and it again urges the BBC Trust to recognise and reward the success of the service. Allowing BBC Alba to be available on Freeview would enable a substantial increase in its viewing figures and its impact.

The BBC Trust has cited the issue of 'universality of the BBC as a whole' to justify delaying a decision on the future availability of BBC Alba, but CGI is firmly of the view that the BBC's public service responsibility implies a duty to minority audience groups such as the Scottish Gaelic language communities of the UK.

There is a very strong sense of injustice among Gaelic users at being required to pay more in order to access publicly funded programmes in their own language. **Allan Campbell, chairman, Gaelic Society of Inverness.**

#### Callander not the first planned town

Sir, Callander does have 'a lot of history' but being the 'first planned town' is not among it.

Its earliest feu charters date from 1740 and the National Archives holds a pre-foundation layout plan drawn anonymously the year before. But even within its present Stirling-run administrative area there were planned predecessors at Buchany, 1728; Gartmore, 1725, which had a central square a decade and a half before Callander; Gargunnock, 1721; Thornhill, 1696 and Buchlyvie, 1670s. **G A Dixon, Stirling.**

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

#### Too many elections?

IN THE unlikely scenario that the Prime Minister does not ask HM the Queen to dissolve Parliament this week and a General Election ensues, he is only postponing such for a number of weeks as he is required by statute to hold it by the end of June.

It may not be the most appropriate time to raise this subject, in case I scare off some voters, but in Scotland we are in for another two elections in the same number of years thereafter. Surely, this is too many and will frustrate the democratic process.

Let me explain: next year, the Scottish Parliament election has to take place on the first Thursday in May as required by statute. A year to the day, the local government elections are due to be held and I forecast a very poor turnout for them for two reasons: election fatigue and a growing dislike of paid councillors and 'fat-cat' senior officials drawing six figure salaries.

Even worse, there will be a year's respite before we have the European Parliament elections and thereafter, the same British and Scottish series as we are about to enter.

Forgetting how the universal franchise was dearly bought, the 21st century voter places little store at having that right.

Over the past decade and more, we have seen the percentage poll at all types of elections drop, in many cases, below 50 per cent - a terrible commentary on how little many regard the democratic process. Yet, the educational system does try to instill into pupils the concept of playing their part in the government of the country at all levels but with, in many cases, a singular lack of success.

Of course, the expenses scandal at Westminster in recent years hasn't helped those of us who urge everyone to vote as the stock reply is: 'I wouldn't be part of a process that 'fiddles' expenses and second mortgages as well as absurd claims for 'cleaning moats' and buying 'duck houses.'

But that is no answer as when good men and women stand by and do nothing evil, greed and chicanery will triumph until we suddenly find that we live in a one-party state and in fear of being dragged off from our beds into oblivion.

You may say that this is grossly overstating the case and that not casting a vote could never have such an effect. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance; let us never forget it.

The current electoral system is certainly not perfect and does need fine tuning rather than give way to those who feel they are 'natural dictators'.

#### Pontoons for Oban at last

THE DECISION last week by the local authority that the pontoon project

between the North and Railway Piers in Oban should go ahead hasn't come a moment too soon.

Some years ago, townspeople and the business community seemed to be at one in recognising that the proposal for a short-stay marina off George Street was excellent and that those, such as John MacGregor, who had driven it forward were to be encouraged.

That enthusiasm has been somewhat blunted with the passage of time and no apparent action.

Anyone who knows the town's history will admit that there have been many proposals to develop the area 'between the piers', none of which has come to pass.

However, Oban Bay Marine has kept faith, despite the sceptics and those 'who don't want the town given over to 'yachties', ignoring the fact that these are the people who spend freely when they are in town.

At last, and the local authority hasn't covered itself in glory, there is movement and, hopefully, by this time next year the marina will be almost complete and ready to welcome boats and their crews, not just to shop but to use the many excellent facilities that are available to them.

#### An irresponsible tragedy

WE HAVE had a lot of atrocious weather over the past six months, the like of which has not been seen for a generation.

And last week we had a preventable tragedy which may have been caused by the fact we haven't really understood just how dangerous a combination of gale-force winds, sub-zero temperatures, snow and black ice can be.

I am, of course, referring to the bus tragedy in Lanarkshire involving school pupils going off on a 'jaunt' to what could hardly be called an 'educational establishment'.

As the facts have slowly filtered out, and we still don't know who ultimately authorised the day-out to go ahead despite the advice of the bus driver to call it off, there are questions that have to be answered.

Because of earlier educational ventures that have ended in tragedy, I had believed, up till now, that there was a set of rules that were such that erring on the side of caution was always paramount.

Now I wonder, and I'm sure every sensible parent or guardian must also wonder, whether when they sign a consent form for their child to go, common sense and the rules prevent some hot-head giving the go-ahead wantonly.

McCaig

### PRESS POLICY

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.

It is the policy of *The Oban Times* Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, *The Oban Times*, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

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# My Island Islay

JIM MCEWAN, like the island of his birth, is known all over the world for his role in the whisky industry. Many know him as a whisky ambassador and skilled master blender but he is, first and foremost, an Ileach. His passion for the island has motivated his involvement in a number of sporting and community organisations on the island.

### What makes the island special for you?

When you are born and brought up on an island you have a different perspective on life and the sense of community gives you an identity that remains with you forever.

Like other islands it's not cheap to travel to and from the mainland, so the island attracts people that really want to come here, or have a strong affinity with the place.

For the islander returning there is a tremendous sense of coming 'home' when you return because of the people and the strength of the community. It's a DNA thing.

I lived in Glasgow for many years and got to know

very few of my neighbours, yet here I know most of the 3,500 people who live on Islay. It was during that period that I became aware of an amazing network of Ileachs in Glasgow. If someone from Islay is hospitalised in Glasgow, the network kicks in and the Glasgow/Islay Association or the Islay and Jura Sick Children's organisation will make sure someone visits the hospital.

And when that person comes back to Islay there are lots of people chapping on their door to make sure they are okay. It is the same bonds that have made Islay what it is today. Looking back in my time the one absolute positive people had was each other, and I

believe that feeling remains. On some islands the balance has changed because they are geographically closer to the mainland and more accessible, thus more people move there. Getting to Islay is expensive by sea or air and while we complain, and rightly so, it stops the coach parties and the nonsense that follows their wake. For those who do relocate to Islay there is a period of adjustment and many try in their enthusiasm to become part of the community, rush to join committees and change the world. Given time they will revert to the island way; Islay isn't changed by the people that come here, the island changes them.

Also, this is one of the safest places in the world to live so it is an ideal place to bring up a family. The quality of life is good and the quality of people even better.

There is always lots going on within the community with music, sport, history and nature and lots of classes on all sorts of subjects. For an island with only 3,500 people, you could be out doing something every night if you wanted.

### How important is whisky to the region?

Without doubt, Islay is best known for its single malt whiskies and the distilleries that produce them or it could be our Gaelic choir or our pipe band.

The whisky industry here pays between £360m - £400m every year in tax duty, so it is extremely important to the nation as well as the region. Apart from whisky and tourism Scotland is now almost a non-productive country. The Proclaimers sang 'Linwood no more, Lochaber no more', but now the list is endless and again the duty has been raised. Sixty-five per cent of every bottle goes in duty paid to the Chancellor.

At Bruichladdich we source local barley which has been a huge success both for us and the farmers involved. We also bottle all our whisky at the distillery and by doing so many new skills have been introduced as we ship our brand around the globe with the logistics controlled by the staff at the distillery.

The Islay malts continue to buck the trend with sales increasing slightly year on year, which is good, but with freight, fuel and duty costs continuing to rise, it is going to become more difficult to achieve the profit margins



Islay is doing its bit for the revival of Gaelic with the Gaelic college Ionad Chalum Chille Ile. 07\_t13islay02

required. Making whisky on an island is not a cheap option so we will all have to fight harder and ensure that the pulse of Islay remains strong.

### Were you born on the island? How long have you lived there?

I was born and raised in Bowmore and started working in the distillery there on August 1 1963 at the age of 15 as an apprentice cooper. I remained with Bowmore for 38 years and then joined Bruichladdich in January 2001.

I have lived on Islay for most of my life apart for two periods in Glasgow, first as a whisky blender, and the other as Global Brand Ambassador for Bowmore Distillery, where I was General Manager for 12 years. It's been a great privilege to be part of this amazing industry. Why God gave Ileachs whisky, I have no idea, but I, and all Ileachs, am really glad he did.

### What are the challenges facing the island?

The infrastructure on the island needs to improve. We give the treasury millions of

pounds yet we have some of the worst roads in Scotland.

The cost of flying is still high because there is no competition. A flight to Glasgow costs £160 and for this sort of money Ryan Air would take you round the world first class.

We probably have the most expensive fuel in the world, yet the oil tanker comes in to Islay 750 metres from my office. All islanders tend to be disadvantaged when it comes to the cost of travel, with your location used as an excuse to increase prices, thus the depopulation of the islands continues.

Because of the strength of the whisky industry, we on Islay are in a better position for jobs than most islands, however I believe whisky is the last beacon we have both as an island and a nation.

### Do you have a favourite place on the island?

My favourite places are on the west coast of the Islay: Sanaigmore and Loch Gruinart. The island is stunning and you can get the most amazing light as the sea reflects the sun or a skyline unpolluted by neon light.

The crags and the gulleys are spectacular, as are our beaches. I like to watch the waves rolling in from America and Canada, monsters coming in from the Atlantic towards me and breaking on the rocks. You just sit there in awe and think: 'We really are just a speck of dust in the larger plan of life.'

I also enjoy playing golf at the Machrie Hotel, which is one of the great links courses of the world. It is a stunning golf course and my handicap is not my score but the number of balls I lose.

### Do you have a favourite time of the year on the island?

Summer when the purple heather is in full bloom and the aromatics of an island

can be best experienced, its 'olfactory heaven'.

You can see from Ireland to Iona; not many people have a view like that. The island is busy with returning visitors and it's a time to renew old friendships and welcome new visitors.

At the distilleries we receive thousands each year. We know and appreciate how much it costs them to make the trip from all parts of the world, and local businesses are earning much needed cash to sustain them throughout the winter. This is when the pulse of the island is strongest and it's a really social time for locals to meet at the cattle show or at Machrie for the Kildalton Cross or participate in the local Gaelic Mòd.

It's our best season but the winter is a time for enjoying an open fire, a frosty clear sky and a dram of the blood of Scotland, no man could ask for more.

### What do visitors like about the island?

There is general warmth about the west coast people and more so on the islands.

We have a curiosity about people and that is how friendships are made. Most visitors are whisky fans or bird watchers plus those who simply wish to get a reality check, where you have no need to impress, simply be yourself.

Like all west coasters, it's natural to welcome visitors and this makes me very proud. It's an increasingly rare gift and we treasure it.



Jim McEwan - proud to be an Ileach.



The historical site of Finlaggan, home to the Lordship of the Isles, is an attraction for visitors to Islay. 07\_t13islay01

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## 15 Years Ago

### Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday April 6 1995

#### Council spends £1/2 million in one day

ARGYLL and Bute District Council was given £1/2 million to spend in one day on capital projects.

Last Thursday the Scottish Office informed the finance department there was an additional £500,000 for its general services capital expenditure in 1994 - 95. Because the last day of the financial year was Friday March 31, the department had exactly one day to spend the money.

Director of Finance Dawson Lamont said: 'Fortunately we were in a position to allocate money to projects in the programme. We channelled it towards projects which were already in the programme and would have gone ahead anyway. By spending money last year (1994-1995) it frees up spending power for this year.'

#### Duo scale Ben Nevis

TWO MOUNTAINEERS scaled Britain's three highest peaks on Saturday to raise cash for London's Great Ormond Street Hospital.

William Longe and Adam Anderson, both 22, arrived in Fort William on Friday evening faced with the challenge of climbing Ben Nevis, Snowdon and Scafell Pike within 24 hours.

William and Adam set off at 4.40am up Ben Nevis in what Adam has described as 'dreadful conditions'.

Thankfully the pair completed the mammoth task at 10.30pm, in a time of 18 hours two minutes.

The duo hope to raise £5,000 for the children's hospital.

'It is vital the hospital gets the money and publicity it needs to maintain its position at the forefront of paediatric care,' said William.

Both the Nevis Bank Hotel and Ben Nevis Distillery sponsored the pair.

#### Film festival boost

MORE than £400,000 was injected into the Lochaber economy this week with the arrival of the Celtic Film and Television Festival.

With up to 300 delegates attending from across Europe, it is hoped the festival will reinforce the Highland's growing reputation as a premier

filmmaking location, according to festival chairman Frazer Morrison.

Mr Morrison, along with Lochaber District Council chairman Neil Clark and Gaelic TV presenter Cathy MacDonald, officially opened the four-day festival on Monday.

Mr Morrison said: 'Businesses stand to benefit from this enormous influx of visitors and their spending but there will be longer term gains too, with an opportunity to promote this area's many attractions. Over the past 18 months we have seen film crews arrive in the area for world-class productions such as *Rob Roy* and *Braveheart*. We estimate that film and television productions have injected £15 million into the Highlands economy in the last year.'

Along with Scottish Screen Locations (SSL), Highlands and Islands Enterprise hosted a seminar in Inverness last month to highlight the opportunities open to the Highlands and Islands to attract filmmakers.

The agency is also working with SSL to update a key photographic promotional portfolio of north of Scotland locations.

## GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

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**Across**

- 7 Boldly demand (6)
- 8 Flustered state (6)
- 9 Government cheque (4)
- 10 Throughout (3,5)
- 11 Stress but not under duress! (7)
- 13 Rummage & find weapon (5)
- 15 Be theatrical (5)
- 17 Holed dairy produce (7)
- 20 Animal or plant which has an effect on a community (8)
- 21 Unhappy sounds (4)
- 22 Colour of fruit (6)
- 23 Cease work (6)

**Down**

- 1 Something to read and remember (6)
- 2 Birdbrain (4)
- 3 Undetectable aircraft (7)
- 4 Simple poem (5)
- 5 Prove to be of unsound mind (8)
- 6 Springlike (6)
- 12 Marvellous chatter (8)
- 14 Hydrogen isotope (7)
- 16 Usable waste (6)
- 18 Chastise (6)
- 19 Celebrate (5)
- 21 Edible seed of Glycine Max (4)

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# MONEY MATTERS

'Money makes the world go round' – never a truer word was spoken in jest. But at the same time 'money is the root of evil' has a certain ring to it too. Whatever your opinion, money is an inescapable matter in every

day life and it can cause a lot of worry whether you have very little of it, a small amount of savings or a large sum of money to invest. How do you get the most out of your money? How do you avoid getting stung by

the tax system? How do you make your money work for you? Should you have a savings account, an ISA or stocks and shares, a pension, opt out the state pension or an insurance policy? How do you manage any debt

you might have – mortgages, credit cards, loans or other? Changes in personal circumstances can require a rethink of financial matters. Having a baby, for instance, can be the happiest time of one's life, but can

require a rethink of a family's finances. A redundancy can upset not just family life but throw money matters sky-high while a marriage break-up or starting a new home can seem overwhelming. The questions can be endless

and with talk of national debt and governments and councils make cuts right, left and centre, there was never a more appropriate time to get professional help with money matters. From accountants to independent

financial advisers there are professionals, governed by Financial Services Authority, that can give advice on every aspect of money matters, taking the sting out of situations and smoothing the way to calmer living.



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Small Businesses are the backbone of our economy but they can struggle more than big business in an adverse economic climate. Small businesses have fewer staff to deal with the ever increasing legislation so the impact is much greater. R A Clement Associates understand this because we are a small business. Lord Digby Jones, former head of the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) thinks that small businesses alone will rescue the struggling UK economy. At the opening of BT's "Small Business Week" he stated, "They are the only ones which create the wealth that can pay the taxes which can repay the public debt." Despite this, bank lending is "set to remain pretty weak for several years as banks build up their capital ratios" according to Vicky Redwood, UK economist at Capital Economics.

All of this sounds very daunting for the small business owner but we can help you with pro-active business advice. If you are considering becoming our client call us on 01631 562643 for a free, no obligation consultation. If you like what we have to offer then you can benefit from the experience we have gained through the many, different economic conditions since we started trading in 1949.

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Jean Ainsley & Co specialises in giving a professional but personal service to its clients. We have clients from all over the west coast of Scotland including the all the islands.

Accountancy is much more than annual accounts and tax calculations. Although these are important, it is vital for businesses to have accurate information to enable them to interpret how they are getting on and make decisions for the future. We are closely involved with businesses throughout the year advising where required on management issues including employment, asset purchase, investment, tax planning and expansion.

We deal with many new businesses and can offer advice at what is an anxious but exciting time. We can help with business plans and cash flow projections and liaise with banks to help with initial finance. Many of our existing clients have been with us since day one and we have helped them through the initial start up problems, growth and consolidating a long term successful business.

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If you feel we can assist you please make an appointment to have a meeting. Our first consultation will be free of charge.



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## Tax Planning

All too often we wait until the end of the tax year to carry out our financial planning. Why? To maximise our interest the best time to use our tax allowances is the start of the tax year.

Why not consider the balances of your deposit accounts now and transfer £5,100 into a Cash ISA. Which ISA is the most appropriate depends on your circumstances. If you can afford to tie your money up a fixed rate may offer good value, however for those of us that dip into our Cash ISA every now and again, an ISA often offers a higher rate of interest than a deposit account. Cash ISA's can offer easy access and whilst interest rates are low we need to maximise every bit of interest.

Do you have deposits in your name when your husband/wife pays tax at a lower rate than you? If so then why? Would you rather your spouse received the interest or the tax man!

Pensions are a valuable part of the retirement planning process. They may not be the most important form of savings for everyone, however, pay £80 to a pension and this is increased by tax relief to £100. If you are a higher rate taxpayer you can claim a further £20 tax relief!

If you earn £100,000 then a pension is an essential tax planning tool as the Chancellor seeks to attack high earners by removing personal allowances above this level.

For all, proper, sound, Independent Financial Advice should help us achieve our goals, maximise the tax efficiency of our monies and restrict what we have to give back in tax. That is legitimate, sensible, tax planning as we move into a period of what undoubtedly will be a higher tax regime.

# Practical help, advice and support for new and growing businesses



To find out how Business Gateway can help your business, contact the local office on 01546 605 459 or visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com)



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## Moidart Trust looks to the future

A LOCH Fyne business-woman has been sharing her secrets for success with budding entrepreneurs in Argyll and Bute.

Virginia Sumsion, marketing manager of Loch Fyne Oysters, offered practical tips for developing a successful business at the Moidart Trust Seminar.

The seminar, at Lochneil Castle, focused on growing sustainable business across the Highlands to help ensure its future as a viable and prosperous place for generations to come.

Stuart Hood, a partner in Rockhopper Sea Kayaking near Fort William, said: 'The seminar pushed us to think further about our business beyond the next year or two. How can we grow and develop our business and what steps we need to consider to get there.'

The Moidart Trust was set up by Angus MacDonald OBE to support community development and social enterprise projects in the west and north west of Scotland.

## Hotel hopes to achieve AA Rosette status

THE CRANLARICH Hotel is hoping to achieve AA Rosette status after refurbishing its dining room.

The hotel re-opened its kitchen and dining room recently after investing £100,000 in improving the hotel.

The upgraded dining room opened a year after the re-launch of the hotel.

The hotel has already been awarded three stars by the AA and VisitScotland and scores 97 per cent on TripAdvisor.

Business has been booming this year with the hotel enjoying 70 per cent occupancy in the usually quiet February and March.

The Cranlarich Hotel opened to the general public for the first time last year under new ownership. It had previously catered for bus tours only.



Board members of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association. 16\_t14olta1

## Businesses back Oban tourism association

BUSINESSES turned out in force to discuss the promotion of Oban and Lorn to the wider world.

An afternoon with Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA) at Oban Caledonian Hotel provided an opportunity for those involved in tourism to network with colleagues in the

industry and learn more about the work of OLTA.

Calum Ross, a board member of OLTA, said: 'We are delighted with the success of our awareness event. Whilst we were able to present the achievements and our current projects, we also received some valuable feedback from

businesses who attended. We are confident that the event has encouraged those who are not yet members to get involved.

Calum added: 'The committee would like to thank all those who took time out of their busy schedules to come along to the event.'

## Timeshare owners benefit from council coffers

A LOOPHOLE in a rebate scheme is seeing some multi-million pound businesses reclaim upwards of £56,000 in rates, as they are classified as small operators.

The Small Business Bonus Scheme (SBBS) was set up to support businesses with a rateable value of less than £15,000.

But as a result of a loophole in the law, it seems that some businesses, such as timeshares, are able to separate out what their total business is worth and claim a cash rebate despite a leaflet from the Scottish government stating: 'If your business has a number of small properties, whether occupied or not, then their rateable value will be combined in order to determine the percentage relief available to you under the SBBS. If their combined rateable value exceeds £15,000, then you won't qualify for the SBBS, as the scheme has

been designed to target relief at the smallest businesses.'

The loophole allows timeshare organisations to assess each property as an individual business. Something that some other businesses feel is wrong.

A spokesman for Melfort Pier said: 'It is ludicrous to think that timeshare operations can be called a small businesses when they make huge amounts of money for owners. Timeshares can advertise themselves as self-catering businesses under a trade name, offering holiday units year round to the general public on a rental basis, earning a substantial trading income. These companies manage or control a substantial number of weeks directly in the company's name. It is unfair they are treated as small business and make the scheme unfair to others who may wish to claim. Surely the government and the council have better ways to use their

money than by refunding rich timeshare owners, from other areas, £50 or £60 per pop. It is unfair on the taxpayer.'

A spokesman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'We operate the Small Business Bonus Scheme entirely in accordance with the legislation and guidance issued by the Scottish Government. Whilst we understand the frustrations being expressed, this is not a matter over which Argyll and Bute Council sets the rules. The relevant guidance indicates that, in general, timeshare properties do qualify for relief provided that the rateable value of each unit is below the scheme's limits.'

A Scottish Government spokesman said: 'The SBBS has removed business rates for a quarter of all business properties. It is for local authorities to determine whether an individual business is eligible for the scheme.'

## Getting ready for new staff?

WITH spring just around the corner and the tourism season getting underway, many businesses are preparing to take on staff.

Some businesses are familiar with the regulations surrounding taking on and paying employees but for others it can be daunting, especially those recruiting for the first time.

Argyll and Bute Council's Business Gateway team offers advice and support to help employers. 'If you are taking on temporary or casual workers then in most cases you should follow the same payroll procedures as for your permanent employees, although there are a few exceptions. The Business Gateway team are on hand to help ensure that you meet your obligations,' said Councillor Robert Macintyre, Argyll and Bute Council's spokesperson for Economy, Environment and Rural Affairs.

As an employer you must meet the National Minimum Wage regulations and take recruitment decisions in a fair and non discriminatory way. But did you know that you must provide employees with itemised pay statements and that it's also your responsibility to check the eligibility of new staff to live and work in the UK?

Last year *People Management* magazine reported the case of Baroness Scotland, the attorney general, who was fined £5,000 by the UK Border Agency for employing a Tongan housekeeper who was not allowed to work in the UK. While she had taken the correct steps to check Loloahi Tapui's right to work, the legal chief had not kept a copy of the documents as required by the law. The incident was particularly embarrassing for Baroness Scotland because, as a Home Office minister in 2006, she was responsible for pushing through the law under which she was prosecuted. It's not just employment issues that Business Gateway can help with. Whether you

have an existing business looking to grow or are thinking of setting up a new venture, Business Gateway is here to offer support. To find out how we can help visit [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com) or call 01546 605459 to make an appointment with one of our local advisers.

## Web-building workshops boost local businesses

BUSINESS Gateway has recently delivered a series of free online trading and website building workshops aimed at helping local businesses exploit e-commerce opportunities.

Feedback from those attending the workshops has been excellent. 'I was delighted in the first instance that such a course was being held locally,' said Isobel Lindsay of Millcroft Lavender. 'I went on it with the expectation that if I at least understood some of the dynamics and jargon to do with our website then I would be in a better position. I was amazed that I can now construct my own site completely with confidence and make all the updates - let alone I opened a Paypal shop with relative ease! The workshop also gave me the chance to network with other small business people and it was a lovely positive start to the year for my business.'

The workshops run again in May and are also due to be repeated later in the year. To register for a place call 01546 605459 or email [business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:business.gateway@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

## What does the budget mean for business?

THE CHANCELLOR delivered his Budget statement on Wednesday March 24 2010.

One of the points of interest for small business announced by the Government is agreement with Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland to lend £41 billion to small businesses over the next 12 months. Other key points have been highlighted on the Business Gateway website [www.bgateway.com](http://www.bgateway.com).

## Help at hand with rates increase

THE 2010/2011 rating list came into effect from April 1 this year with new valuations for all businesses and non domestic property in Scotland as assessed by the Assessor.

As always this has resulted in winners and losers and in general commercial properties have increased in all areas. The increase in rates can result in a significant burden to a business/property and in some instances can have serious consequences for the sustainability of a business. Bell Ingram provides a wide range of valuations and advisory services and would be pleased to discuss the rating re-valuation with businesses and individuals who believe their 2010/2011 rate liability is too high and likely to cause the business hardship. Contact Euan MacCrimmon at Bell Ingram/DM MacKinnon Estates on 01631 566122.

## New boss and investment for Aquapharm

A LEADING Argyll biotech firm has appointed a new chief executive and announced a £4.2 million investment package.

Aquapharm Biodiscovery's new chief will be Simon Best, former head of Roslin BioMed which developed the technology to clone Dolly the Sheep. Best was also chairman of Ardana Plc, the UK BioIndustry Association and is a visiting professor at the University of Edinburgh.

Current Aquapharm chief and founder Andrew Mearns Spragg will move to the role of chief technical officer.

Best said: 'I am excited to step into a Scottish business that I see having immense commercial potential and would like to acknowledge Andrew's achievements since he founded Aquapharm.'

The firm, which extracts chemicals for drugs from marine micro-organisms, has been based at Dunstaffnage near Oban since 2004. Aquapharm will use its new funding and from existing investors Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Aescap Venture, Tate & Lyle Ventures and NESTA, to develop a library of marine compounds which it hopes will speed up drug discovery and development.



Eilidh MacInnes has had one of the best trading years since she opened her shop 15 years ago. 16\_t11shop1

## Oban shop looks to bright future

AFTER 'the best winter' George Street shop *Something Special* has seen in years, owner Eilidh MacInnes is gearing up for a great summer.

The shop will remain open, despite a number of rumours otherwise, and Eilidh hopes she will have the shop packed full of new stock for the season. She said: 'I have had one of the best clear out sales ever. And

I have had the best sales for winter trading in January and February that I have ever had. Oban seems to be busier year round and that makes a difference for shopkeepers.

'At one point I was inundated with people asking if I was closing but I am staying open because I have such lovely customers from Oban and beyond.'

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**Business Mentoring** is a partnership between Highlands and Islands Enterprise, Scottish Chambers of Commerce and Highlands and Islands Partnership Programme.



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**Prime heifers sell to 199.5p per kilo at Caledonian**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 120 prime cattle including young bulls, 81 cast cows and bulls at Stirling last Thursday.

Bullocks averaged 160p per kg and sold to 193.5 p per kg for a 580kg Belgian Blue from Learielaw Farm, Broxburn and to £1,244 from Airdrie Farm, Anstruther.

Heifers averaged 175p per kg and sold to 199.5p per kg, for a 485kg Limousin cross from Knockhouse Farm, Dunfermline and £1,130 per head for a 590kgs from Mains of Cullmalundie Farm, Perth.

Butchers cattle averaged 182.5 p per kg and sold to 193.5 p per kg for a Charolais cross from Whitehouse Farm, Stirling.

**Belgian Blue heifers sell to 412.6p per kilo at Dingwall**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 793 store cattle and 25 Over 30 Month (OTM) cattle at their annual show and sale at Dingwall last Wednesday when the severe weather disruption reduced the entry and the number of purchasers.

The sale still resulted in an extremely satisfactory trade with quality stock keenly sought after and hi-health and breeding potential heifers meeting premium prices.

Bullocks averaged 189.2p and sold to 260.7p per kg for a pen of three 280kg Limousin crosses from Westburn, Murkle, and £1,100 for a 640kg Belgian Blue cross from Easter Clune, Lethen.

Heifers averaged 209.2p and sold to 412.6p per kg for a pair of 412kg Belgian Blue crosses from Bunchrew Farm, Inverness, and £1,750 for a pair of 475kg Belgian Blue crosses also from Bunchrew Farm.

Young bulls sold to 187.5p per kg for a 320kg Limousin cross from Flowerburn Mains, Fortrose, and £710 for a pen of 409kg Simmental crosses from Easter Urray, Muir of Ord. OTM prime and feeding cows averaged 106.7p and sold to 121.4p per kg for a 935kg Belgian Blue cross from Glenaldie, Tain, and £1,015 for a 920kg Charolais cross from Tore Mains, Tore.

OTM clean bullocks and heifers averaged 116.6p and sold to 142.7p per kg and £685 for a 480kg Simmental cross from Bogroy Farm, Tore.

OTM bulls averaged 106.8p and sold to 107.3p per kg and £1,175 for a 1,095kg Limousin from Kinnahaird Farm, Contin.

The Ness Motors, Robertsons of Tain, H.I.S Inverness and NFU Dingwall sponsored show and sale of store cattle was judged by John Henderson, Udale, Poyntzfield, who awarded his overall champion's ticket to a 550kg Limousin cross heifer from Messrs MacIver Partners, Easter Strath of Auchterflow, which later realised £1,300 to the judge.

Reserve champion was a 525kg Limousin cross heifer also from Easter Strath of Auchterflow, realising £1,160



**Just when we thought winter had finished, the north and west got a sharp reminder that snow can fall in April too**

**Prime sheep trade rises at Stirling sale**

UNITED Auctions sold 4395 prime sheep including 3904 hogs averaging 191p (+4p), 10 spring lambs and 481 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Beltex hogs from Guardswell sold to £106 and 243p per kilo with Texels from the same home to £102.

Hollycroft sold Suffolks to £91.50 with Cheviots from Boghall to £90. Hollycroft also sold Blackfaces to £85 and Mules to £83.80.

Texel ewes from Alton of Bandeach sold to £117 with Penston selling Suffolks to £116.

Cheviots from Kindrum Park sold to £89.50 with Blackfaces from the same home to £69.

**Store heifers sell to 290.6p per kilo at Stirling**

UNITED Auctions sold 1247 store cattle, 70 cast cows and 418 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday

Bullocks averaged 173.66p (-6.88p) and sold to 234.7p per kg for a 213kg British Blue cross from Low Knockglass and £1075 for a 697kg Charolais cross from Kilmux.

Heifers averaged 175.72p (+0.03p) and sold to 290.6p per kg and £360 for a 468kg British Blue cross from Newton Of Logierait.

Cast cows averaged 105.44p and sold to 156.1p and £1,255 for a Limousin cross from Binn.

Forward cattle averaged 144.44p and sold to 153.4p per kg for a British Blue cross from Netherton and £1025 for a British Blue cross from Binn.

Cross hogs from Letter sold to £66.50 who also sold Blackfaces to £60.50.

Blackfaces from ben Lomond sold to £53.50 and to £51 from Ardhonnel.

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**STIRLING United Auctions**

Bullocks:  
Up to 250kg - Townhead £570, Low Knockglass 234.7p;  
251-300kgs - Ellary £650, Hill of Armore 231.5p;  
301-350kgs - Townhead £740, Blairmore 221.5p;  
351-400kgs - Pitsundry £810, Newton Of Logierait 208.1p;  
401-450kgs - Newton Of Logierait £845, Pitsundry 200.2p;  
451-500kgs - Monzie £1000, 216.5p;  
501-550kgs - Letter £1030, 195.8p;  
551-600kgs - Fleminghill £1000, Hattrick 170.3p;  
601-650kgs - Kilmux £965, Craigmend 156.9p;

651-700kgs Kilmux £1075, 154.9p.  
Heifers:  
Up to 250kg - Ellary £495, Dunruhan 205p;  
251-300kg - Blairmore £595, Culdees 201.1p;  
301-350kgs - Millhaugh £685, Eastmill 198.1p;  
351-400kgs - Newton of Logierait £870, 232.6p;  
401-450kgs - Eastmill £840, Millhaugh 206.9p;  
451-500kgs - Newton of Logierait £1360, 290.6p;  
501-550kgs - Bridgehouse £980, 190.7p;  
551-600kgs - Kilmux £980, 164.4p;  
601-650kgs - Langalbuinloch £940, 148.7p.  
OTM Cows:  
Binn (Lim) £1255, 156.1p and (BB) £1045, 139p; Kilgownie (AA) £945, 107.1p; Kilmux (Sim) £885, 130.5p.

**DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts**

Bullocks up to 200kg - Tigh Airigh, Fort William, £390, 214.3p;  
201-250kg - 30 Big Sand, Gairloch, £520, 210.5p;  
251-300kg - Westburn, £730, 249.1p;  
301-350kg - Kennachy, Forss, £750, 30 Big Sand, 229.2p;  
351-400kg - Achnahannet, Dulnain Bridge, £850, The Cloy, Fortrose, 224.3p;  
401-450kg - Tighnahinch, Conon Bridge, £900, The Cloy, 214.6p;  
451-500kg - Torgorm, Conon Bridge, £970, 204.3p;  
501-550kg - Dowally Farm, Ballinluig, £1005, Redfield, North Kessock, 187.1p;  
551-600kg - Torgorm, £980, 176.6p;  
601-650kg - Ardjaichie, Tain, £1000, Easter Clune, 171.9p; over 651kg - The Cloy, £1030.  
Heifers  
201-250kg - Westburn, £525, 231.3p;  
251-300kg - Meikle Geddes, Nairn, £720, Westburn, 249.1p;  
301-350kg - Bunchrew Farm, £1050, 304.4p;

351-400kg - Moy Mains, Tomatin, £1500, 400p;  
401-450kg - Bunchrew Farm, £1700, Moy Mains, 298.9p;  
451-500kg - Moy Mains, and Bunchrew Farm, £1450, Bunchrew Farm, 368.4p;  
501-550kg - Meikle Geddes, £1500, 290.1p;  
551-600kg - Bunchrew Farm, £1500, 269.3p;  
over 601kg - Meikle Geddes, £1200, 186.1p.  
Young bulls  
301-350kg - Flowerburn Mains, £600;  
401-450kg - Innis-a-chro, Mulbaie, £540, Easter Urray, 173.6p.  
Prices per kilo  
OTM prime and feeding cows: Mid Fearn, Ardgay, (SimX), 114.4p; Strone Farm, Fort William, (Lim), 114.4p; Tore Mains, (CharX), 110.3p; Invercharron, Ardgay, (AAX), 108.3p.  
OTM clean bullocks and heifers: Bogroy Farm, (LimX hfr), 138.2p.  
OTM bulls: Easter Clune, (Lim), 106.3p.  
Other leading prices per head  
OTM prime and feeding cows: Glenaldie, (BBX), £935; Tore Mains, (SimX), £895, Tomdhu, Boat of Garten, (AAX), £785; Strone Farm, (Lim), £715.  
OTM clean bullocks and heifers: Bogroy Farm, (LimX hfr), £615.  
OTM bulls: Easter Clune, (Lim), £1100.

**Lucky escape for canoeists**

THREE men escaped with their lives last Wednesday after being pitched into freezing Loch Lochy when their Canadian canoe capsized in stormy conditions.

The holidaymakers, two Canadians and a Peruvian, were spotted waving and shouting off the southern shore near Spean Bridge by Great Glen Way walkers, who raised the alarm.

Charles Bennett, Pablo Prella and Bradford Castro were in the 4°C water for half an hour before they scrambled ashore.

The trio were airlifted to the Belford Hospital, where they were treated for hypothermia before being released.

**Former Fort man assaulted wife**

A DOMESTIC dispute with his wife landed a former Fort William man with a hefty fine.

George Anderson, aged 47, now of 147 Blacon Avenue, Blacon, Chester, admitted assaulting his wife by seizing her by the neck and pushing her to the ground at 73 Kennedy Road on January 3.

Defending, Hamish Melrose told Fort William Sheriff Court a row over the TV remote control sparked the incident, in which drink played a major role.

Anderson subsequently left town and is residing in a caravan in the front garden of his sister's home in Chester. 'The chance of this happening again is very unlikely,' Mr Melrose said. Sheriff Douglas Small fined Anderson £450.

**Haulage firm clocks up 20 years' support for Kilmallie club**

KILMALLIE Shinty Club chairman Hugh MacIntyre has paid tribute to sponsors E M Bowman after the haulage firm clocked up 20 years of financial support for the club.

Ewan Bowman, who is Kilmallie club president, handed over a cheque to club secretary Linda Campbell ahead of the recent game against Lochcarron, which Kilmallie won 6-0.

Mr MacIntyre said: 'Ewan's been very good - he's been a real godsend all these 20 years.'



Graham and Doris, at front, second and third from right, with friends and colleagues past and present at the reception. f15graham01

**Lochaber wind band moves up a gear**

LOCHABER Community Wind Band has followed its gold award performance in the Inverness area in November with a silver plus award at the Scottish Concert Band Festival in the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow.

The band's programme, *Ovation* by Martin Ellerby and *Ardrass Castle* and *Dundonnell*

from *Suite 'Hymn of the Highlands'* earned high praise from the adjudicators.

The band, comprising more than 30 players from across Lochaber, will perform at the Mallaig and Morar Community Hall on Sunday April 18 at 7pm in a joint concert with the highly acclaimed Stella Maris choir.



Carol, complete with new hairstyle, presents Hector MacLean with the cheque.

**Carol's new hairstyle raises £2,600 for MS charity**

AN INVERGARRY woman diagnosed with multiple sclerosis 15 years ago has raised £2,600 for the MS charity - by changing her hairstyle.

Carol Mackenzie, aged 45, of North Laggan was so determined to contribute to the cause that she had her waist-length hair dyed red - and then cut off! Mum of two Carol opted to part with her cherished locks in Dunoon, the home town of her friend and hairdresser Lorraine Campbell. Carol's parents, Isobel and Ken Adams, stay in nearby Innellan.

Carol couldn't get out of the house very much to canvass sponsorship support so she had forms prominently displayed in local shops and post offices in Invergarry and Fort Augustus.

Money came flooding in, including £250 from Carol's cousins who live near Dublin, and eventually totalled £2,600. Carol's local MS branch in Lochaber, of which she is a member, received £1,000, the Dunoon MS branch £600, while a further £1,000 went to the Hyperbaric MS therapy centre in Inverness, which Carol attends.

**Charity**

Carol also donated her former flowing ponytail to 'Little Princesses', the cancer charity which makes wigs for people who have lost their hair during treatment.

Carol was diagnosed with MS in 1995, after the birth of her daughter, Kirsty, who is now in her fourth year at Lochaber High School.

She and her husband, Ranald, 53, a landscape gardener, also have a 19-year old son, Ruaridh, who is studying art at Greenock College.

Carol, who runs a business from her house selling Fair Trade products at cost, has helped Invergarry Primary School and Kilchuimen primary and secondary in Fort Augustus where Fair Trade products are used.

MS Lochaber branch chairman Hector MacLean said: 'Carol is one of our members and it is nice to know that the £1,000 she presented to our branch will all go to help MS sufferers in our own local area.'

**Fort William warned of overnight road closures**

THE WEST Highlands' major road artery will be closed overnight from Sunday to Thursday over three weeks to allow major road improvements to be carried out at Fort William.

A total of 1.2 miles of carriageway on the A82 at Drummarbin and Achintore will undergo reconstruction and resurfacing in the £464,000 work.

The scheme starts approximately 700 metres south of the 40mph speed limits sign at the southern entrance to Fort William and extends to 500 metres south of the West End roundabout.

For the safety of the public and workers the road will be closed between 9pm and 6am, Sunday to Thursday.

During operations, Transport Scotland will provide a shuttle bus for residents and visitors to and from the town centre between 9pm and midnight, initially every half

hour. The service will be amended to meet demand.

A contact number will be issued for this service and a temporary bus shelter will be located in the Westend Car Park in the event of inclement weather. Existing bus stops located halfway between both schemes will also be utilised.

A Transport Scotland spokesperson said: 'While every effort has been made to minimise any disruption these works may cause Transport Scotland welcomes contact from anyone affected by telephoning our Customer Care Line on 0800 028 1414.'

Motorists should allow extra time for their journeys and pay attention to any advisory signs which will be in place throughout the work.

Daily 'work in progress' reports available will be available online at www.scotlandtranserv.co.uk.

Got a story for **The Oban Times**? Call 01397 703003

**Sexual assault man spared jail**

A FORT William man who lost his wife, his job and his financial security after sexually assaulting a teenage girl has been spared a jail sentence.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard 48 year-old Stephen Barr, of 2 Hillside Estate, Argyll Road, fled to Skye immediately after committing the offence on November 3 but was persuaded to return home by his pastor and handed himself into police the same evening. Barr admitted to placing his

hand under the girl's clothing and touching her sexually as she lay in bed.

Following the incident, his wife started divorce proceedings and Barr's possessions are currently being sequestered.

Defending, Hamish Melrose told the court Barr was at 'a complete loss' to explain his actions and made an immediate admission when he voluntarily attended Fort William police station at 6pm the same day of the offence.

'He is a broken man at the moment,' he said. 'He has lost his wife... and his employment locally. It was a one-off incident for which he is deeply, deeply ashamed.'

**'Extremely serious'**

Condemning the 'extremely serious' offence, Sheriff Douglas Small said the girl had suffered a great deal of emotional turmoil and a high level of embarrassment with her peers. He told Barr: 'The

consequences of your behaviour have had a profound effect on yourself as well. I am told you are overwhelmed with shame and remorse. I am of the opinion that you would be best dealt with by putting you on probation and ordering you to perform a number of hours of community service.'

Barr was placed on the sex offenders' register for two years, ordered to perform 200 hours of unpaid community work and given two years' probation.

**Leisure centre marks couple's years of work and dedication**

THE COUPLE who dedicated their lives to making swimming one of Lochaber's most popular sports have made an emotional farewell to colleagues.

Graham Brooks and Doris MacSeveney were showered with gifts and good luck messages at their retirement celebration in Lochaber House, Fort William, last Wednesday night.

The couple met when Fort William Swimming Pool, now Lochaber Leisure Centre, opened in 1973 and over 37 years trained thousands of local youngsters to swim, many to a high standard.

The couple formed Lochaber Amateur Swimming Club in 1975 and their efforts were rewarded with spectacular success in 1978 when Lochaber produced 11 finalists for the Scottish championships.

Graham and Doris were honoured by the Royal Lifesaving Society in 1983

By **STEPHEN NORRIS**

and were invited to London to receive awards from Princess Alexandria.

But, as Graham says, the couple were 'not interested in such pomp' and the medals were instead sent to Fort William where the Chief Constable of Inverness-shire made the presentation.

Swimming galas and aqua shows at the pool became a tremendous success, with one gala so overcrowded that police had to be called to evacuate half the spectators.

In 2001 Fort William Community Council nominated the couple for Highland Quality Awards.

'Of all the certificates and awards we have been given, this is the one we most appreciated,' Graham said.

'Both Doris and I feel we have been very privileged and honoured to have served the local community for nearly half a lifetime.

'We would like to thank the many staff and dedicated

volunteers for making Lochaber Leisure Centre the success it is today.'

True to form, Graham kept a couple of pithy anecdotes for a parting shot.

He told *The Oban Times*: 'I was a bit of a scallywag in my younger days. I remember one incident when the pool manager was entertaining some influential hobnobs from the Leisure Management Society.

'I was instructed to make them all a cup of tea, but unknown to them I dipped the kettle in the pool and boiled it up. They reckoned it was the best cuppa ever!'

'On another occasion the manager at the time decided to take up fishing.

'He asked me if I could show him how to work the reel. I took him up to the deep end to practise his casting. Unknown to him, Doris took his photo, which was duly sent to a national newspaper with the caption 'Pool manager caught fishing in his own pool!'

**Man fined for drunken assault on partner**

A LOCHALINE man has been fined for a drunken assault on his partner in a caravan at the Morvern village.

John Cameron, aged 40, of Middar View, admitted seizing his partner by the throat and pushing her against the caravan window on March 13.

Prosecutor Iain Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court Cameron was 'extremely drunk' during the midnight assault. His partner then broke free and phoned police. Cameron told officers 'he had been an idiot and been stupid'.

Defending, Hamish Melrose told the court machine operator Cameron had understood that his partner had been unfaithful and had consumed a lot of alcohol at the time.

The relationship was now at an end and the fate of a plot of ground at the location owned by the former couple was now in the hands of solicitors.

Mr Melrose said: 'At the age of 40 he recognises it is time to move on from this. He fully acknowledges he was in the wrong here and that he lost his temper.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'He lost his temper because he was drunk,' and fined Cameron £450.

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OT

Groups benefit from grants

THE LATEST round of grants awarded from Lochaber councillors' discretionary budgets have been announced.

- They are:
- South Lochaber Community Company - costs of postage for community right to buy ballot - £1,178.
- Ballachulish Community Council - purchase of storage container, subject to site acquisition and planning approval - £1,200.
- Lochaber Agricultural Society - contribution to food marquee - £700
- Glengarry Centre - funding for activities including purchase of recording device for oral history project; camping supplies; arts and crafts materials - £500.
- Nevis Highland Dancing Association - contribution to tuition and other fees - £1,500.
- Mallaig Harbour Authority - support for pre-development works for Mallaig marina - £7,500.
- Lochaber Youth Forum - agreed to reallocation of £400, ring-fenced youth monies, for associated youth forum activities.

Ladies wedding ring found in Mallaig

POLICE in Mallaig would like help to trace the owner of a ladies wedding ring found in a Mallaig restaurant on March 31.

From the engraving inside the ring it appears this was lost on the owner's 48th wedding anniversary and will be of significant sentimental value. Anyone who thinks they can help trace the owner is asked to contact Mallaig Police Station on 01687 462177.



Looking forward to putting her feet up: Ann receives flowers on her final day from surgery staff Rachel MacIntyre, John Roy and Aileen Green.

Glencoe dental nurse retires after 34 years

DENTAL patients at Glencoe will be missing a well-kent face at John Roy's surgery in Lorn Drive after dental nurse Ann Thomson retired last Friday.

Ann, who was also the practice receptionist, had been with Mr Roy for 25 years and a dental nurse for 34 years.

Her final day at work proved to be one of mixed emotions as patients and staff presented Ann with gifts, flowers and wished her all the best in retirement.

Ann, formerly of Glasgow and Bishopton in Renfrewshire, started work in Glencoe in 1975, when the village's dental services operated out of a caravan on a croft further up the village.

The surgery later became part of Mrs Anne Dimmer's house before it moved to its present location at the schoolhouse on Lorn Road.

The caravan may have provided a home for NHS dental services at Glencoe - but it was a primitive base at best.

'We often had big freeze ups in winter and we had to boil a kettle and pour boiling water over pipes so we could have water,' said Ann. 'We had one locum who came up from Glasgow who took one look at the place and said 'I can't work here like this - and went home.'

'Then we had another dentist from Glasgow, Patrick Tolland, who was a bit



The 'Humpty Dumpty' cast.

Drama students entertain with two plays

AN ENTHUSIASTIC audience enjoyed two plays performed by S4 and S5 drama students at Lochaber High School before the Easter break.

The first play dealt with the issue of bullying with Jerez Campbell, Natalie Lindsay, Laura MacDonald

and Megan Scobie in the principal roles, while the second tackled the role that faith plays in miracle cures. The evening was a final dress rehearsal for pupils being externally assessed by the SQA for drama qualifications.

devised drama created by the cast of Shannon Feggans, Isla MacKinnon, Marie Oliver and Onnagh Redmond, were both well received.

Supermarket race heats up in Fort William

THE RACE to create a second major supermarket in Fort William heated up further last Wednesday when developers hoping to bring a 55,000 sq ft superstore to North Road put their plans before the public.

Morbaine Ltd say its public consultation event in the Nevis Centre showed 'overwhelming' public support for the store on the A82, just south of the entrance to the Alcan site.

A spokesperson told The Oban Times around 150 people attended, with 90 contributing written responses to the proposal.

According to Morbaine, 93 per cent said that they would like to see a supermarket on Morbaine's site and 95 per cent said Fort William needs a greater choice for food shoppers.

Almost nine in ten felt that the proposed development was 'realistic and achievable', while 81 per cent felt the scheme was 'more achievable' than the proposed Waterfront development.

Morbaine says the store will increase choice for shoppers, provide approximately 200 full and part time jobs and regenerate a neglected brownfield site.

The store would be one of the second of its kind in Scotland, on two levels with a ground floor car park and the sales floor on the upper level.

Welcoming the 'overwhelming' level of support, Morbaine director Alex Brodie said: 'A broad cross-section of public opinion was received, all

extremely positive, and it is clear that such a store meets the needs of local people and increases competition.

The key difference with our proposal is that it is realistic and achievable, a fact recognised by the community.

That means if we receive planning permission, the people of Fort William could see the benefits in terms of extra choice and new jobs as soon as Christmas 2011.

It is expected that the planning application for the development will be lodged with Highland Council in May.

Miller Developments launched public consultations on its plans for a huge 105-acre development at Blar Mhor, including a 75,000 sq ft superstore, four days before Morbaine's event.

of a character. A lady once came in for treatment and took off her coat, then her glasses, then her hat - and finally her wig. The dentist turned round and asked her 'Anything else, like a false leg?'

'We also had an English dentist once who asked a wee boy 'And who are you?' And the wee boy said 'No' bad, hoo's yerself?'

Ann will miss her work - but on the other hand is looking forward to having more free time.

She said: 'It's just been like being part of a family and seeing everyone grow up.'

'I'll be sad in some ways to go because it has been a wonderful job to have and it's nice to see it carrying on with the new girls on the staff.'

'It's been a big part of my life, but now I'll be able to do more hill walking with my friends and spend more time with the grandchildren.'

Mr Roy said: 'We all wish her happiness in her new found freedom!'

Community project aims to preserve Gaelic stories in song and music

A COMMUNITY project to preserve local Gaelic stories in song and music is being launched for Ardnamurchan, Morvern, Moidart, Sunart and Ardgour.

The Ceilear (Birdsong) project aims to involve all ages, across all communities, in an informal singing group and was set up following a successful bid to Awards for All. Ceilear chairwoman Trish Kennedy said knowledge of Gaelic is not essential, just an interest

in singing and the culture of the area. She said: 'We are delighted to be able to thank our local sponsors who enabled us to meet and further the focus for the project before the grant was awarded. We look forward to welcoming new members of all ages.'

The first 'taster session' will be held in the music room at Ardnamurchan High School on Monday April 12 at 7.30pm. Trish can be contacted on 01855 841334.

Voluntary Action Lochaber to help residents make TV switch

DIGITAL UK has appointed Voluntary Action Lochaber (VAL) to help residents make the switch to digital TV.

To inform the Lochaber public about the changeover, VAL will mobilise local charities and volunteers to run information events, presentations and to give advice on how to switch over to digital TV.

Lochaber's analogue signal will be discontinued and replaced by digital on October

6 for Rosemarkie transmitter and October 13 for Torosay transmitter. Charity staff and volunteers will be invited to free training sessions to understand the process and learn about the Switchover Help Scheme, run by the BBC.

VAL manager Flora McKee said: 'Switching to digital TV will be straightforward for many people, but some others will need help, practical advice or reassurance.'

Local charities can apply for free training places and for funding through a small grants scheme set up to encourage extra events locally. Materials developed to help run events and explain switchover will also be provided.

Digital UK will soon be holding roadshows across Lochaber to provide further face-to-face advice.

Russell Keane, assistant national manager, STV

Central, Digital UK, has already addressed Arisaig Community Council (ACC) on the changeover.

He told members the cheapest way to convert is through an easy to install set-top box.

The Freeview system this supports will have the same coverage at present, but stronger, and will provide around 15 channels.

ACC secretary Maureen MacColl said: 'If anyone feels

an installer is needed, they should watch out for rogue dealers. There is no need for a new aerial and there is no such thing as a digital aerial.'

'There is a help scheme available for people over 75, in a care home, receiving disability allowance, attendance allowance and registered blind or partially blind. Information about this help scheme is available from the Post Office.'

Advertisement for Scottish Field magazine featuring 'THIS MONTH IN SCOTTISH FIELD...', 'READ... LAND OF ANCIENT TREASURES', and 'WIN... THE OPPORTUNITY TO DINE WITH FRIENDS IN EARLSHALL CASTLE'.

Advertisement for RNLI fundraising event: 'Lifeboat crew hit the road to raise money for RNLI'. Includes details about the Kippford lifeboat crew and a photo of children with Mr Boom.

Subscription form for The Oban Times & West Highland Times. Includes pricing for 3, 6, 12, and 24 months, and a contact form for subscriptions.

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- Viewing Recommended

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**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, the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**

● Ref No: 10/00388/PP  
Applicant: Miss Mairi Porter  
Proposal: Change of use from council offices (class 4) to craft shop and restaurant (class 1).  
Site Address: 22 Shore Street Bownmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7LB  
Location of Plans: Bownmore Area Office Isle of Islay

**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](http://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 29/04/2010

● Ref No: 10/00170/PPP  
Applicant: Margaret Anne Leitch  
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North West of Lower Fernoch Kilchrenan Tainuill Argyll A-and Bute PA35 1HG  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Tainuill

● Ref No: 10/00287/PP  
Applicant: Miss Lorna MacLeod  
Proposal: Erection of two storey extension, conservatory and timber decking  
Site Address: 39 Morvern Hill Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4NS  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00504/PP  
Applicant: A MacPhail  
Proposal: Erection of agricultural shed for general use  
Site Address: Croft 8 Crossapoll Isle of Tiree Argyll and Bute PA77 6TX  
Location of Plans: Tiree Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00529/PP  
Applicant: Mr S Howitt and Mrs J Jack  
Proposal: Erection of a dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land West Of Crannich Farmhouse Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA72 6JP  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Aros Isle of Mull

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 Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://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 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](http://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 29/04/2010

● Ref No: 10/00446/PP  
Applicant: Mr C Nisbet  
Proposal: Erection of 2 dwellinghouses and installation of associated septic tanks  
Site Address: Land South East Of Highfield Croft Upper Kilchattan Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YR  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

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 Council's website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.

Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.

Anonymous representations will be "blinded" 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**TREE PRESERVATION ORDER**

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT BONAWE HOUSE, TAYNUILL, ARGYLL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 14/09

The above Authority under Section 163 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has made a Provisional Tree Preservation Order which takes effect on 31st March 2010 and hereby gives notice that:-

- The Provisional Tree Preservation Order was made to ensure the protection of trees within the site at Bonawe House, Tainuill, Argyll and considered by the Local Planning Authority to be of considerable merit and contribute to the overall setting of the property and the local area;
- A certified copy of the Provisional Tree Preservation Order and map has been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during all normal working hours;
- Objections and representation with respect to the Provisional Tree Preservation Order may be made to the undersigned in accordance with Regulations 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order and Trees in Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Regulations 1975, which Regulations state that:-
  - every objection or representation to the Planning Authority with respect to an Order shall be made in writing, shall state the grounds thereof, and specify the particular trees, groups of trees, or woodlands in respect of which it is made.
  - An objection or representation shall be duly made if it complies with paragraph (1) of this Regulation and is received by the Planning Authority within 28 days from the date of the publication of the Notice by advertisement.
- The Tree Preservation Order shall take effect provisionally on 31st March 2010 and shall continue in force until
  - the expiration of a period of 6 months beginning with the date on which the Tree Preservation Order was made or
  - the date on which the Tree Preservation Order is confirmed, whichever first occurs.

Susan Mair, Head of Legal and Protective Services

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
PLANNING (LISTED BUILDING AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997**

The applications listed below, along with plans and other documents submitted with them, may be examined between the hours of 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) at the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM, PH33 6XY and, where given, the alternative location(s).

Written comments should be made to the Area Planning and Building Standards Manager at this office within the time period indicated from the date of this notice.

Anyone making a representation about this proposal should note that their letter or email will be disclosed to any individual or body who requests sight of representations in respect of this proposal.

| Reference Number | Development Address                                      | Proposal Description  | Alternative locations where application may be inspected and time period for comments |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| 10/01408/FUL     | Land to North East of Oak Cottage Alma Road Fort William | Amendment to 07/00021/FULLO to allow for amended parking area and removal of Section 75 Agreement | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)                          |
| 10/01398/FUL     | Land 125M North of Tigh Na Croobhan Drimmin              | Erection of house   | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)                          |
| 10/01162/FUL     | Land 170m South of Druidhu Arisaig                       | vehicular access to croft land  | Mallaig Service Point (14 days)   |
| 10/01563/FUL     | Glen Albyn Cottage 6 South Loggan Spean Bridge           | Extension to existing house   | Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)                          |
| 10/01202/FUL     | Arda House Lettermore Ballachulish                       | Change to use of four (4) bedrooms for the purpose of bed and breakfast accommodation             | 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](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)



Please note that, due to necessary works being carried out by Argyll & Bute Council on Albany Street Oban, there will be commercial vehicle activity on the Bonawe road on the following nights -

12th April 2010 - completed by 2.00 am  
13th April 2010 - completed by 2.00am  
14th April 2010 - completed by 2.00am 15th.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - ATLANTIS LEISURE**

The Annual General Meeting of Oban & Lorn Community Enterprise Limited trading as Atlantis Leisure will be held at Atlantis Leisure Function Room on Monday 26th April 2010 at 7.30pm. All welcome - please attend and support your community leisure facility.

**Education Scotland**

**CHARLES AND BARBARA TYRE TRUST SCHEME 1979**

In implementation 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:-

- to obtain qualification additional to a degree associateship, diploma or certificate of a University or other institution of higher education already obtained.
- to train in a trade or profession other than in which they are at present trained.
- to satisfy a course provided by the Open University for which they have registered or are about to register.
- to undertake training in leadership and initiative
- to benefit from recreational holidays in cases of physical or mental disability, whether permanent or temporary.

In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the Government Body shall:-

- 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.
- 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](http://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

The following decrofting Directions have been granted:

**Part Croft**  
16 Anahell, Ardnarmurchan & Sunart  
Direction dated 1 April 2010 granted to Robert Robinson and Ms Elizabeth McLure. Area ext to 0.014 ha. Conditions: 1. The land is used for amenity ground 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of the date of this Direction. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land. Case Number: 4.81.22900  
The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

**Miss Christine Catherine MacKay deceased.**

Would any person holding a Will in respect of the late Christine Catherine MacKay, who resided latterly at Ardcuan, Achnacreebeag, North Connell, Argyll, and who died on 12th August, 2009, please contact Mr. Neil M. Headrick, Andersons Solicitors LLP., 125 West Regent Street, Glasgow. G2 2SA as a matter of urgency.

**crofters commission**  
ughdarras nan croitearan

Mrs Kathleen E MacDonald has applied to decroft part of the croft at 8 Inverly, Kilmornaig extending to 0.011 ha for the purpose of amenity ground for a neighbouring croft. Ref: 4.86.23148

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 26 April 2010 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES**

**Proposed Family Transfer Of A Croft**

Murdo Allan MacKenzie, Crofter, is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the croft at 1, Coullindoune, Glenelg to Calum Angus MacKenzie of 'Durr' Glenelg, Kyle.

If you have any objection to the proposal you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW by 6th May 2010 specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

**The Scottish Government**

**TRANSPORT SCOTLAND**

**THE A828 TRUNK ROAD (KENTALLEN) (40MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMITS) ORDER 2010**

THE SCOTTISH MINISTERS hereby give notice that they have made the above Order under section 84(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The effect of the Order is as described in Section 1501/1517 in the Edinburgh Gazette number 26604 on 17th March 2009 and in The Oban Times and The Lochaber News on 19th March 2009. The Order comes into force on 12th April 2010.

A copy of the Order as made, together with the relevant plan may be inspected free of charge until 11th May 2010 during normal business hours at the offices of Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF; Scotland Transerv, Fort William Depot, Annat Point, Corpach, Fort William PH33 7NN and Durr Store, Durr PA38 4BW.

**G EDMOND**  
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers  
Transport Scotland  
Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF

01397 702433  
[bidwells.co.uk](http://bidwells.co.uk)

**BIDWELLS**

**3 Treig Road, Inverloch, Fort William**  
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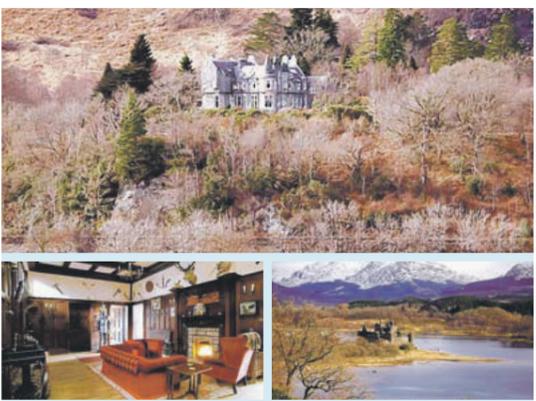
Large reception room, kitchen, two bedrooms, bath room and gardens to front and rear.

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Rural Detached Bungalow set in large garden grounds with separate workshop making an ideal family home.

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Attractive semi-detached dwellinghouse in excellent order throughout with partial views of Loch Etive and Ben Cruachan.

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A traditional 3-bedroom spotty house within walking distance of local shops.

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**Ground Floor Flat, Balmoral Villa, Ardconnel Terrace, Oban**  
An impressive stone built semi-detached property which has been converted into apartments. Boasts superb southerly outlooks.

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**Full time Supervisor**  
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Incl. engine overhauls, welding, burning and hydraulics. Candidates should have a broad range of knowledge and experience in marine or HGV/Plant maintenance. The successful applicant will have a clean driving licence and be time served, with a flexible approach to hours and days worked. Excellent salary package with overtime available. Applications in writing to the Human Resources Department, Crannog Concept Limited, Carmichael Way, Fort William, PH33 6FF Tel: 01397 707120 / mobile 07795 418 611 email Helen@crannog.net

**SALAR**

**VACANCY**  
**PRODUCTION MANAGER**

We are looking for an enthusiastic, energetic person with excellent communication and organisational skills to join our busy team at Salar Smokehouse where we produce award-winning Flaky Smoked Salmon. Duties will include managing quality control, the HACCP system and the production department, covering office duties and working in despatch as required. Experience of management in the food industry, and qualified in intermediate food hygiene would be an advantage, but full training will be given to the chosen candidate. A full driving licence is essential. Pay negotiable. **Please apply by email, with current CV, to: alan.anderson37@virgin.net** Or write to Alan Anderson at the address below **Salar Smokehouse, Lochcarman, South Uist, HS8 5PD** Tel: 01870 610324

**Driver / Brewery Assistant - Permanent**

We are looking for a hard working, self motivated team player to join our rapidly expanding brewery based near Inveraray. The role is split between driving and working within the brewery, where you will have the opportunity to learn new skills and where full training will be provided. You must possess a full / clean driving licence and be over 25 years of age. Hours and wages will be discussed at interview. Email a CV and covering letter to charlie@fyneales.com or send to the address below: **Fyne Ales Ltd, Achadunan, Cairndow, Argyll PA26 8BJ** Closing date: 21/4/10

**RECEPTIONIST/BERTHING & OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR**  
**CRAOBH MARINA**

A vacancy has arisen for a dynamic and dedicated person to work in our administration office. If you are a confident and personable individual then you may be who we are looking for! The successful applicant would be required to work in reception and our busy chandlery. If you have a good telephone manner and a flexible attitude, apply in writing to: Jim Berry, Marina Manager, Craobh Marina, Craobh Haven, By Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8UD

**Argyll Voluntary Action**  
**WANTED**  
**Office Assistant (Finance)**

This new post will support our finance functions, based at our Oban office, as well as a range of administrative tasks. Although a junior post, AVA is committed to enabling the development of its staff and is therefore an opportunity for someone wishing to learn a range of key office functions in a friendly and supportive, if busy, environment. The post is part funded by LEADER until April 2011 and is 16 hours over 4 days a week. Pay rate is £6.25 per hour and the work may involve occasional out of hours working. Closing date for applications is 19th April, 2010. For details and an application form contact our main office on 01631 569545 or email adminoban.abvc@tiscali.co.uk quoting reference OBN/01

**Argyll Voluntary Action**  
**WANTED**  
**Volunteering Worker (Time for Change)**

An energetic and enthusiastic person is required to work from our Campbeltown office, linking volunteers into our Time for Change initiative and supporting volunteering and volunteer involving organisations across Kintyre. There will be a role supporting and linking voluntary and community groups within a new Partnership approach. The post is funded by The Big Lottery until January 2012 and is initially 18 hours per week. This is a development post and will require drive and commitment to meet successful outcomes. Pay rate is £11.00 per hour and the work will involve travel and occasional out of hours working. Closing date for applications is 15th April, 2010 For details and an application form contact our main office on 01631 569545 or email adminoban.abvc@tiscali.co.uk quoting reference Camp/01

**Lochaber Women's Aid** are seeking **Full Time Outreach/Support Worker** (35 hours per week) Salary Scale AP4 (£22,560 per annum)

Lochaber Women's Aid are seeking a full time Outreach/Development worker to assist in further developing and extending our service to women, children and young people in Lochaber who are experiencing Domestic Abuse. Applicants require an awareness of the issues surrounding Domestic Abuse, a clean, current driving licence and use of a car. If you would like an application pack please contact: Lochaber Women's Aid, C/O Voluntary Action Lochaber, An Drochaid, Fort William, PH33 6PH Phone 01397 706 044 E mail: admin@valochaber.org Closing Date for this post is 19th April 2010 Interviews will be held from the 26th April 2010 An enhanced disclosure check will be carried out on the successful applicants. Women's Aid is an Equal Opportunities Employer and positively welcomes applications from women from all sections of the community. Applications from women only, (exempt under sections 7(2)d and 7(2)e of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975)

**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

require the following  
**FULL TIME/ PART TIME/BANK CARE ASSISTANTS**  
 Day and night duty  
*Car transport from Oban can be provided*  
**Telephone 01631 720278**  
 Ronnie or Brenda for details

**Lorn Weld**

**Person required to assist in fabrication workshop. General labouring duties.**  
 Must have forklift certificate and driving licence up to 7.5 tonne vehicles  
**Telephone Lorn Weld Ltd 01631565533**

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Please apply in writing stating previous experience  
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 To develop the Council's Website and Corporate intranet site  
 ☎ 01546 604034/604039 for the above 2 posts only

**Clerical Assistant (2 Posts)**  
 £14,216 - £15,074 Lochgilphead Ref: CPD21031/2  
**Committee Services, Community Services, Planning and Performance** Campbeltown Ref: CSC22127/3  
 ☎ 01546 604713 for the above post only

**Leisure Assistant**  
 £288.23 per week Campbeltown Ref: OSF40006  
**Aqualibrium Leisure Centre, Temporary**

**Catering Assistant (2 Posts)**  
 £6.92 per hour  
**Port Ellen Primary School, Term Time, 20 hours per week** Islay Ref: OSF20690  
**Bank/Relief for the Campbeltown Area** Campbeltown Ref: OSF21079

**Janitor/Cleaner**  
 £6.92 per hour Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: OSF20446/R1  
**Tayvallich Primary School, 7.5hrs per week**

**Cleaner (3 Posts)**  
 £6.32 per hour Islay High School, Term Time, 20hrs per week Islay Ref: OSF20189  
**Tarbert Library, 1.5hrs per week** Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: OSF20444  
**Tarbert Area Office, 3.75hrs per week** Mid-Argyll, Kintyre & Islay Ref: OSF20445  
 ☎ 01546 604745 for the above 7 posts only

Closing date: 23 April 2010.  
 To apply visit our website **www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs**

**MAINSTREAM Freshwater Hatchery**  
**Assistant Vacancy – 40 hours per week**  
 Competitive salary, with overtime when necessary and stand by duties

An exciting opportunity has arisen within our company for a 'Freshwater Hatchery Assistant' who as part of a small team will assist their colleagues in building strong key relationships and ensuring a safe working environment for all. The position will be based at Ardtaraig, near Dunoon, West Scotland. The ideal candidate will be committed to achieving the best results in a challenging environment and delivering the highest standard of operations possible. Candidates should be active, self motivated, mature minded people with excellent team working and communication skills, along with a commitment for delivering results. Computer literacy and a technical aptitude is advantageous, as is possession of a current, clean driving license. **If you feel you have the experience required to contribute to a progressive, results orientated company then please send your application to: Debi Longmore, Human Resources Assistant, Mainstream Scotland, Crowness Point, Hatston Industrial Estate, Kirkwall, Orkney, KW15 1RG. Electronic applications welcomed – debi.longmore@mainstreamscotland.com Closing date for this vacancy is 26 April 2010. Interviews to be held week beginning 03 May 2010.**

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As a Support Worker you will be required to work flexibly as part of a multidisciplinary team of people. You will support Service Users to live independently and have fulfilling experiences at home and in community settings.

**Closing date:** Monday 19th April 2010.  
**Contact:** Robertson House, Shore Street, Inverness IV1 1NF  
**SMS:** 07781 480597 Text: Ref, name, address or email  
**Hotline:** 01463 725955 **Fax:** 01463 718229  
**Email:** recruitment@sensescotland.org.uk  
**Website:** www.sensescotland.org.uk

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BELLING DOUBLE OVEN/GRILL green, 4 ring ceramic glass hob. Still have original owners manual, in excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 560969.

BELLING SOVEREIGN ELECTRIC cooker white, 4 plates, grill, oven, good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720452.

FRIDGE Cello-ice, standard size, excellent condition, £25 Telephone 07766 966220.

GAS COOKER Parkinson Cowan, Lyric 50 gas cooker, eye level grill, brown, excellent condition, Oban, £30 Telephone 07920 116297.

GAS RAEBURN Royale, Hunter (green), lovely condition. Offers when seen, Telephone 07766 613833.

SLOW COOKER Morphy Richards (unused), £25 Telephone 07958 005852.

TUMBLE DRYER Creda, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 07958 005852.

TUMBLE DRYER 3 KG Hotpoint tabletop tumble dryer, hardly used, £49.99 Telephone 07795 054344.

DOMESTIC PETS

PUPS FOR SALE 5 x Border Collie/Kelpie dogs from good working parents. Make good working dogs or pets, well handled, fully wormed ready now, £150 Telephone 01852 314185 or 07925 253879.

LABRADOR PUPS for Sale, Yellow, Fox Red and Black, very well bred, excellent hip scores and clear eyes, excellent work or pet. Telephone 01290 338747

EQUESTRIAN

PONIES ON LOAN April to September two Highland ponies. 1 gelding 13 years 14h, 1 mare 7 years 14.3h. Competent riders required. To go home only. Can go separately but need company, Telephone 01631 710310.

WELSH X GELDING 13hh, 10 years old, lives out, good potential with the right owner, passport and micro chipped, sadly outgrown. Telephone 01499 500248.

FREE AND SWAP

COMBINED RADIO, CD PLAYER and record Cassette player with 2 speakers and selection of easy listening records. 12" Colour TV. Relaxing chair with built in massaging facility. Telephone 01856 551330.

INTERIOR DOOR FREE TO TAKE

AWAY stained mahogany coloured 6 panelled door with handle ex condition unwanted, Telephone 01631 720369.

FURNITURE

3FT ELECTRIC BED purchased from Mathsons of Oban. Nearly new, excellent condition due to very little use, purchased for £1000 will sell for £700.00. Telephone 01546 603516.

CANE CONSERVATORY SUITE 2 seater sofa, 2 armchairs, 2009 model, high backed luxury deep filled chenille cushions, new, totally unused, intended for show home, can deliver, cost £1,500, £495 Telephone 07766 773131.

DESIGNER TV STAND Bolt On up to 42in designer stand, suitable for LCD/Plasma up to 42in Constructed of steel and glass. Argos No 534/6721, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710779.

DOUBLE BED Queen Size Double Divan Bed With Drawers, Pine Headboard and Kozee Sleep Mattress (As New), would possibly suit B&B, £49.99 Telephone 01631 570219.

HIGH SLEEPER double metal bed frame, silver £40.00, Telephone 01546 810266.

KITCHEN/DINING CHAIRS Slat Back Chairs (light oak finish) with suede effect upholstered seat. Flat Pack. (Argos Product no 602/7977) 2 x Pk of 2, £40 Telephone 01631 570219.

LEATHER COUCHES 2 seater leather couches cream in colour good condition 2 for sale individually, £95 Telephone 07813 676748.

LOVELY LOUNGE COFFEE TABLE Square, low, antique pine table with rounded legs. Lovely centre piece for lounge. Cost £250 from DFS, £40 Telephone 01631 564886.

SINGLE BED single divan bed with mattress (new mattress never used free with bunk beds) and black recovered headboard, £40 Telephone 07877 016991.

GARDEN

FLYMO LAWNMOWER FLYMO Power Compact 330 lawnmower. Excellent condition-little used. North Connell, £49.99 Telephone 07764 933840.

MIDGEATER MAX Large midge eater. Full working order with gas bottle, £450 Telephone 01546 510296.

STRIMMER Black & Decker Cordless trimmer. Excellent condition. Lightweight and easy to use. North Connell, £34.99 Telephone 07764 933840.

SHELVING UNIT open unit mahogany colour .5 removable shelves 70"high x3ft wide Buyer removes good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 720369.

SHELVING UNIT open unit mahogany colour .5 removable shelves 70"high x3ft wide Buyer removes good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 720369.

SINGLE BEDS Two Blindecraft single beds includes mattresses. Size 2ft 6", £40 Telephone 01631 710787.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01465 255696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HEALTH AND FITNESS REEBOK MULTI-POSITION TRAINING deep-padded seat and backrest with foam footpads. Integrated dumbbell storage rack. Dumbbells included, £35 Telephone 01631 710787.

ULTRA TONER exercise, excellent condition, £25.00 Telephone 07818 559314.

HOBBIES AND CRAFTS

NOTTINGHAM LACE Beautiful Ivory lace, 7cms wide with scallop, suit craft worker. Sale by the metre, £0.49 Telephone 01631 710889.

SILK FABRIC Pure silk fabric - Ivory colour. 150cms wide. Sale by the metre. Suit dressmaker or craft worker Sewing room clearance, £9.90 Telephone 01631 710889.

HOME ENTERTAINMENT

26 INCH COLOUR TV 26 inch colour telly good condition with remote control 2 years old, £49.99 Telephone 07813 676748.

3 TVS 3 14" TVs, two with integral VHS and one with DVD, in perfect working order, £15 Telephone 01631 710167.

TV WITH INTEGRAL VCR Daewoo Televideo, perfect working order, excellent condition, remote and instruction manual. Buyer collects from Duror, £20 Telephone 01631 740334.

HOME FURNISHINGS

CARPET Forget-me-knot blue with slight sparkle approx 11 3/4ftx11 3/4ft needs a clean buyer removes, £30 Telephone 01631 720369.

CARPET Dark Blue carpet approx 11 3/4ftx11 3/4ft. Buyer removes, £49.99 Telephone 01631 720369.

CEILING LIGHTS Selection (5) of ceiling lights - as new, £49.99 Telephone 01631 710889.

DOUBLE BED LINEN 2 Double Duvets, 2 Sets of Double Linen (Cream), mattress protector, would suit Double Bed also advertised, £30 Telephone 01631 570219.

LARGE RUG brown, beige and red 159cm x 230cm, brand new. Half price, £20 Telephone 01546 606085.

LIGHT FITTING three halogen spotlights, on circular chrome and matt metal plate, lights adjustable, as new in box includes bulbs, £10 Telephone 01631 710487.

OIL PAINTING flowers in vase, framed, (T Mathews), £35 Telephone 01631 562318.

PERSIAN RUG new rug, 2380mm x 3000mm, mainly red, £600.00 Telephone 01631 730360.

PRINT IN FRAME flowers in a vase (Albert Williams), £15 Telephone 01631 562318.

SHELVING UNIT open unit mahogany colour .5 removable shelves 70"high x3ft wide Buyer removes good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 720369.

SHELVING UNIT open unit mahogany colour .5 removable shelves 70"high x3ft wide Buyer removes good condition, £10 Telephone 01631 720369.

SINGLE BEDS Two Blindecraft single beds includes mattresses. Size 2ft 6", £40 Telephone 01631 710787.

HOME OFFICE

DELL MONITOR Dell 17in LCD flat screen monitor, model number 1707/fpf. Power and connection cables included. Surplus due to upgrade, £42 Telephone 01631 710649.

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

BATHROOM SINK ceramic with pedestal and taps, £15.00 Telephone 01631 710487.

G A I N S B O R O U G H ELECTRIC SHOWER 8 1/2 KW, £25 Telephone 01631 562750.

SHOWER RAIL telescopic curved, fits to tap end and long bath side, £10 Telephone 01631 562750.

WASHHAND BASIN white, with pedestal and taps, £10 Telephone 01631 562541.

LEISURE AND LIFESTYLE

COMPLETE SATELLITE SYSTEM Broadband internet, wireless or ethernet cable connection, offers. Telephone 01631 730323.

SINGLE BLOW UP BED with pump used once, £15 Telephone 01631 562318.

LIVESTOCK

PULLETS brown black or pure, ducks, geese, feeders, drinkers, hen, duck and dog sheds. Can be delivered. Telephone 01470 572213.

LOST AND FOUND

Remote controlled scientific instrument LOST AT SEA At about midnight 24 / 25th March 2010 in the Lynn of Morvern off Glemsanda Harbour

If you see this instrument on a beach or floating low in the water, please contact Prof. Toby Sherwin or Estelle Dumont, SAMS, Dunstaffnage, Oban, 01631 559000 (working hours) or 07787 156295 or 07748 593641 (at other times).

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MISCELLANEOUS

DIGITAL AERIAL for outside, £3 Telephone 01631 570955.

HEAVY DUTY RATCHET STRAPS Used once 3 x 10 ton ratchets with 25 metre straps and stamped shackles, as new, £49.99 Telephone 07813 676748.

MOBILE AND HOME TELEPHONES

DIGITAL CORDLESS TELEPHONE Binatone Triple with caller display, name and number phonebook and answering machine, £20 Telephone 01866 822597.

OUTDOOR SPORTS EQUIPMENT

ATOMIC BETA CARVER SKIS 180 with bindings, excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 07788 833110.

FISHING REELS Penn Delamer beach caster reel, Winfield shore caster reel also Abu Garcia Delta 4 spinning reel, all in excellent condition, £30.00 Telephone 01631 565241.

FLY REELS 3 of Scientific Anglers 1213 fly reels inc line excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565241.

FLY ROD Norich 9' Fly Rod (probably built from blanks) ex condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565241.

LANDING NETS Whitlock landing net 24' (approx) excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565241.

LANDING NETS Whitlock landing net 15' approx ex condition, £35.00 Telephone 01631 565241.

SPINNING REEL Abu Garcia Delta 4 spinning reel great condition, £30.00 Telephone 01631 565241.

SPINNING ROD Diawa Graphite Sensor spinning rod 10 feet, 2 sections excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565241.

SPINNING ROD Norich 9' Spinning Rod probably built from blanks excellent condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 565241.

TELESCOPIC ROD Markor Marella dapper rod length 4metres, 5 sections good condition, £20.00 Telephone 01631 565241.

CANON EOS 300 FILM CAMERA + 28 Excellent Condition, silver body. Attached Lens comes with Polarizer Lens 58mm. Manual included, £49.99 Telephone 01583 431788.

LOWEPRO CAMERA BAG Rezo 160AW Size 8"x4"x 5.5" Fits SLR+Lens, plus spare lens and booklets. Never used. Front pouch has net pockets and rain cover, £25.00 Telephone 01583 431788.

THE NEW 35 MM PHOTOGRAPHER'S by Julian Calder. Good cond. Also Leningrad4 Light meter, £5.00 Telephone 01583 431788.

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**BIRTHS**

**MACMILLAN** - Colin and Kim, Fort William, are overjoyed to announce the safe arrival of their son Harvey Andrew, born in Raigmore Hospital on February 26, 2010, weighing 8lbs 7½ozs at 11.50am. Another little brother for big sister Chloe and little brother for Corey. A huge thank you to the wonderful midwives at Raigmore and Belford Hospitals. You truly are such special people. Also kind thanks for all the lovely cards and gifts received for our little Harvey.

**WEDDINGS**

**BANNERMAN HENDERSON** - At Monachyle Mhor Hotel, Balquhider, on Wednesday, March 24, 2010, Gilbert, younger son of Chrissie and the late Dr John Bannerman, Old Manse Farm, Balmaha, to Sheila, eldest daughter of James and Jean Henderson, Feorlinn, Carradale.

**DEATHS**

**ELLIOT** - Suddenly whilst at work on Ben More on Saturday, March 27, 2010, Jimmy, beloved husband of Janette. Much loved dad to Jamie and Kirsty, loving father-in-law to Theresa and grandpa to James. Funeral service will be held on Monday, April 12, 2010, at 12.30pm in Crianlarich Village Hall and thereafter to Cardross Crematorium at 3pm to which all friends and neighbours are respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Marie Curie Nurses and Falls of Dochart Retirement Home, Killin.

**ELWIS** - John Michael Carroll of Erray Farm, Tobermory died Tuesday March 30. Dearly loved husband, father and grandfather. The funeral was held in Tobermory on Tuesday April 6. He will be sadly missed.

**MACKINNON** - Peacefully at home in Hough, Tiree on March 29, 2010 in her 80th year, Isabella MacLean, nee McEachern, dearly beloved wife of Donald and dear sister, aunt and great aunt to all the family.

**MCLARDY** - Sylvie, peacefully at home in Stockavullin with family on April 1, 2010, after a brave fight with cancer, in her 68th year. Dearly beloved wife of Peter, very much loved mother of Namaste, Joey and Ben, sister of Monique and Eliane, and daughter of the late Robert and Ida Ninio. A dear cousin and aunt to all the family and greatly loved friend of many. Funeral service for all family and friends will be held in Craignish Parish Church, Ardfern on Monday April 12, 2010 at 1.30pm, thereafter at Kilvear Cemetery. Afterwards all are invited to the Living Stones Centre, Kilmartin and then the Kilmartin Hotel for a dram and jam session in celebration of her life. Please wear something colourful (if in doubt, wear red!).

**SHUTTLEWORTH** - Sadly, on Sunday April 4, 2010 George lost his battle for life, after a long fight with illness. Adored husband of Andrea, much loved dad of Kate and Philip and Harriet the dog. Sadly missed. Funeral will take place at Cardross Crematorium on Monday April 12, at 12.45 pm.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**GAULD** - Jeannie and family, wife of the late Ronald Gauld (Ronnie) would like to thank everybody for their kind expressions of sympathy cards, flowers and phone calls at this sad time. Thanking the emergency services, Police and the doctor for their professionalism and empathy at the time of Ronnie's sudden death. Grateful thanks to Hamish Hoey and son for their efficient and sympathetic funeral arrangements at the Clydebank Crematorium, also thanks to the Rev Margaret Yule for the comforting services.

**MEMORIAMS**

**ANDERSON** - In loving memory of a dear mum, gran and great-gran, Mary Hay, died April 6 1999. Fondly remembered always - Seonaid, Kenny and family.

**CAMERON** - In memory of Alistair, who passed away April 10, 2005, loving husband, dad and grandpa. Sadly missed. - Ann, Sandy, Bernard, Sean and Natasha.

**CLARK** - In loving memory of George Clark, darling son, brother, uncle and father who passed away on April 7, 2006. You fought a fight that we could not. You endured pain and suffering that we could not. But now we have to believe

That you are at peace And until we are at peace with you You will always be in our thoughts. - Love Mum, Dad and all the family home and away. R.I.P.

**LAURIE** - In loving memory of Bobby, who died April 6, 2004. Always in our thoughts. - Isobel and all the family, Loyaline.

**LIVINGSTONE** - Loving memories of mum, Bessie, died April 5, 2005 and dad, Alec, died September 27, 1985. Forever in our hearts. - Gillian and Mike xxxx.

**MACDONALD** - In loving memory of Alistair, passed away April 1, 1982 and Martha, April 13, 2003. Time may pass and fade away But love and memories forever stay. - Alistair and Angus, Cath and family.

**MACARTHUR** - In loving memory of our mum Morag who died on April 16, 1991. - Lorna, Neil and Donald

**MACEWAN** - Remembering today and every day my beloved husband and our dear father Callum who died suddenly on April 12, 2007. In God's hands But forever with us in our hearts. - Joan and family.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of Archie, died April 11, 1998. Always in our thoughts. - Donald, Ina, Anne and Peter, May and family, Canada.

**MACKAY** - In loving memory of our father Ian who passed away April 8, 2008. A memory can make us cry A memory can make us laugh It's the memories you left us with That keep you always in our hearts. - Paul, Mairi-Claire and Louise.

**MACKINNON** - Treasured memories of my dearly loved husband, Alasdair, who passed away on April 9, 2007. In life I loved you dearly In death I love you still Within my heart you hold a place No other one can fill. Forever in my heart. - Margaret.

**MACLENNAN** - In loving memory of our dear parents, John, who passed away on April 3, 1984 and Cathie, who passed away on April 11, 1989. Always in our thoughts. - Ewen, Rosemary, Ewen and Ross, Spean Bridge.

**MACLENNAN** - Cherished memories of my beloved brother and our dear uncle, Norman, died tragically on April 9, 2003. There is a gift you cannot buy That's very rare and true It's the gift of a wonderful brother Like the one I had in you. - Joan and family.

**MCPHEE** - Fond memories of Willie devoted husband, dad, father, father-in-law and grandpa, who passed away on April 8, 2005. No longer here Our love to share But in our hearts You are always there. - Your loving wife, Margaret and family. R.I.P.

**MORRISON** - Cherished memories of my loving partner and our wonderful mum, Christine. Sadly missed and always in our thoughts. - With love from John, John and Conor.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of a dear son and brother Alec (Nab) who died April 7, 2006. A flower may die The sun may set A son like you I will never forget Your name is precious It will never grow old It's engraved in our hearts In letters of gold. - Love Mam, Willie, Janet, Marion, Huntley.

**PATERSON** - In loving memory of Alec (Nab), a dear brother, brother-in-law, uncle who died April 7, 2006. We tidy around and chat to you Although we are alone Then just before we turn to go We reach and touch your stone You know what we are thinking We know you understand We're wishing that the stone we touch Could only be your hand. Love always. - Curly, Rhonda Out of my life you may have gone But in my heart you still live on Simply the Best Uncle Nab - Love Jacqueline.

**PROSSER - MAXWELL** - Treasured memories of my darling daughter, Yvonne, aged 3 years, called to Jesus, April 6, 1989. A rosebud, petals tightly furled

Was lifted from her mortal clay And firmly planted in a world Where full blooms grow in rich array. - Love always, Mummy, Tommy, Michael and Leanne x

**PROSSER - MAXWELL** - In loving memory of my darling daughter Yvonne, fell asleep April 6, 1989. Deep in my heart You will always be Cherished and loved always. - Daddy.

**SKINNER** - In loving memory of my dear parents, Alick, who died April 7, 1977 and Chrissie, who died April 4, 2004. Also my uncles, Donnie, Dick and Colin and their wives Peggy, Ina and May and also my aunt Agnes. - Richard, Westgrove, Ochilview Gardens, Crieff.

**SHEEKY** - Precious memories of a much loved seaman and father-in-law, Hugh, died April 8, 2009. Always in our thoughts. - Denise, Kenneth, Marie-Claire and families xx Remembered everyday. - Chris

**THOMSON** - In loving memory of Douglas, who died April 5, 1994. Forever in our thoughts. - Grace and family.

**TURNER** - Treasured memories of Bobby, my beloved husband, dad, dad in-law, and grandpa who sadly passed away on March 31, 2009. A smile we will always remember A memory we will treasure forever Always in our thoughts. - Inserted by Jean and Family.

**CHURCH NOTICES**

**LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP**

Sunday 11th April 2010  
North Connel Hall  
10:30am  
All Welcome  
Telephone  
07836 342 622  
www.lorncf.org.uk

**SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION**

Sunday 11 April 2010  
Easter 1  
St John's Cathedral, Oban  
Holy Communion .....08.00  
Sung Eucharist.....10.15

Sunday School and Crèche  
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Holy Eucharist.....08.00  
Evensong.....20.00

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Campbell Street Church  
Sunday 11th April 2010  
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.  
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**Thought for the week**  
**I love you**

So, with Easter behind us it's now time to look forward to the summer, to a new season, to plan holidays and start work in the garden, to hope and pray for the sun to shine and the breezes to be light. But before going forward - let's take a moment to look back over Easter. Easter week always seems to be a tremendous rollercoaster of emotions. I really enjoyed singing and hearing the loud hosanna hymns on Palm Sunday - imagining the crowds who were so pleased to see Jesus, who whipped off their cloaks and laid them on the dusty road for the Messiah to ride over, who honoured the Messiah with words and actions.

Then as the week goes on things get increasingly dark and painful as we remember the last supper, the betrayal, the sham of a trial, Jesus' slow painful journey to the place of execution, dragging the cross on his back, with the same crowds from Palm Sunday now shouting "crucify Him."

The blackest and darkest part of the week comes with Good Friday, where we have the image of Jesus hanging on the cross between two common criminals, as if He was one of life's vermin.

After the deepest low comes the highest of highs as we sing praises to God. Praising Him for the rebirth, for the resurrection of Jesus, for the promises of everlasting life that come only from God.

Jesus had to die in a horrible, painful spectacle so that we would take notice of the event, so that we would learn - because humankind is notorious for ignoring those things which they don't like. We remember the good and quickly put aside the bad. Jesus died on the cross so that humankind could learn of the love that God has for each and every one of us and that God's love is forever.

So as we watch the new life bursting forth from the trees and the ground, as we wait for the first lambs and calves, the first smell of newly cut grass of the year, the first cuckoo. As we wait for the new spring that follows each winter, let's not forget the oldest promise of all - That God promises to love and care for us all, forever. The oldest message from God - I Love you  
*Mike Goodison, Reader, Taynuilt*

**Holy Week at St Columba's Cathedral**

Bishop Joseph Toal, assisted by Canon Donald MacKay, parish priest, led the Holy Week services at St Columba's Cathedral, Oban. Beginning on Palm Sunday, the Bishop likened the week to a kind of 'marching season' when we would accompany Christ on his journey. Children carrying palms led the entry procession. Thursday evening brought the commemoration of the Last Supper, after which all decorative material was removed and the cathedral took on a stark appearance in preparation for the Passion and Crucifixion ceremonies of Good Friday.

On Holy Saturday the Vigil of Easter began at night in a darkened church. A fire was lit from which one flame was transferred to the Paschal candle and small ones held by all present. Gradually, with this change from darkness to light, signifying the Resurrection, the mood became one of joy. It has not been an easy time for Catholics recently with media headlines for all the wrong reasons. However, as the crowds poured in on Easter Sunday to make a packed Cathedral, the headlines of the liturgy proclaimed that Christ had risen. Music throughout Holy Week was organised by Maureen Arthur.

**Palestinian group hear of 'concentration camp' in West Bank**

OBAN Concern for Palestine Group heard two speakers, Wael Shawish and Barrie Levine, at their 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.

**Exile**  
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. Furthermore, there is a distinct irony and injustice that as a Jew born in Scotland I could take up citizenship of Israel tomorrow whilst Wael Shawish, despite having been born there, is unable to do so.'

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 who were 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.'

He described the situation in Gaza after the Israeli attack in 2008 and with today's blockade on it as 'just like a concentration camp'. After the talks, most of those present put various questions to the two knowledgeable speakers. Considerable anger was expressed about the injustices committed against the Palestinians both historically, and at the present time.

The Oban Concern for Palestine Group continues to grow and anyone wishing to join the Group or wanting further information should contact Graeme Pagan, Neaveaton, Oban, PA34 5TY or neaveaton@tiscali.co.uk

**Obituary**

**Rev George Campbell 1946 - 2010**



Jura Parish Church

Someone once said you can tell the size of the boat by the size of the wake it leaves behind and if that is so then last Tuesday on Jura the wake left by the death of Rev George Campbell was clearly visible by the number of family, friends, former colleagues, parishioners and the local community who came to pay their last respects.

George grew up in Clackmannan and along with family attended the Baptist Church at Alloa from early in life.

In due time he was converted and decided to attend the Scottish Baptist College with a view to going into full time ministry.

After completing his studies at Scottish Baptist College George was called to his first charge at Lochce Baptist Church in Dundee in the June 1972.

George served in a number of churches during his time in the ministry including Shotts, Lochgilphead, Carlisle, Ellon, Lochgelly and, more recently, Jura.

He was well known to the people of Islay as well as Jura since he often helped out in ministry and preaching there over the years.

George went over to Jura in 2003 and began with his wife, Margaret, to become part of the local community. It was evident to me that George and Margaret were both welcomed and valued as two people who were loved by the community and genuinely pleased to see you.

George's love of music meant he was involved in the music festival on the island and he was deeply interested in the local community and in fostering community spirit.

George's greatest passion however was for Jesus Christ the Lord of his life who had revealed Himself to him through the Word of God and who had guided and lead him and his family over the years.

Anyone who met George soon found out that he had a wonderful sense of humour and fun and Margaret and the family can recall a number of humorous things that happened on the island that will stay with them - for example the time George, who was always rushing

wherever he went, left the house in such a hurry that he didn't notice that the cat was still on the car roof and so they both went for a drive along the island with him wondering why so many people were staring at him today.

He was well known for his poems, his calls and chats, his willingness to help where he could and his love of life on the island.

George was undoubtedly a devoted family man and just loved to see his children and grandchildren doing well.

He was incredibly proud of his family and rightly so, he cared about them later on in life as much as he cared for them during the early years of their lives and was always interested to hear how they were and what they were doing in studies or work situation.

He was sadly missed by his family: Margaret, sons Kevin and Ruth, Stephen and Valerie and daughters Ruth and Dave, Claire and Stuart, and grandchildren Jade, Nathan, Rebecca, Ben, Ewan, Daniel and Holly.

George was always a very caring person - someone who was able to weep with those who weep and laugh with those who laugh

Someone who was able to get alongside people, someone who would do anything for anyone, someone who made you feel welcome and part of the family, who was generous and genuinely pleased to see you.

Someone who always made you feel he had time for you in happy and difficult times, someone who genuinely believed that God cares about us, if we take the time to connect with Him - through His word, music, creation, community and family.

George will be missed by many people, but especially by his own family, into whom he has sown the values and treasures he found in Christ - he knew the only thing that really matters is relationships, and so we have heard from his own family of how important they were to him - maybe George's last remark would be quoting his Master and Lord: 'Go and do likewise'. AD



Rev Robert Brookes performed his very first christening on Easter Sunday when he baptised baby Kate Stewart Cringean at Kilchrenan Parish Church.

**New group to support those with sight loss**

A NEW support group for people in and around Oban affected by sight loss has been established by the west of Scotland charity, Visibility.

The next meeting of the peer support group is next Wednesday from 1pm to 3pm at Kilmore and Oban Church Centre and is being run in conjunction with Argyll and Bute Council's Sensory Impairment Service.

The first meeting of the group in February of this year was attended by 14 members and it was unanimously decided that a regular group meeting would be beneficial.

**Coffee morning raises £330 for Oban Mod**

A TOTAL of £330 was raised by members and supporters of Oban An Comunn Gaidhealach last weekend. The funds will support Oban's Provincial Mod, which this year will be held on June 5.

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**GRADUATIONS**



Malcolm McFadyen, a former pupil of Campbelltown Grammar School, graduated from Oxford Aviation Academy in February having completed his Commercial Pilot Licence with Instrument Rating, Multi-Crew Cooperation and Jet Orientation Course.

Malcolm went through his training as an abinitio cadet selected by corporate jet operator, NetJets Europe, and is currently working for Loch Lomond Seaplanes while on long-term leave from NetJets.



A Daffodil Tea in St Columba's Cathedral Hall has raised £613.76 for St Columba's Primary School. The school choir, pictured, performed for guests, who also enjoyed plenty of home baking. There were also Easter egg and Easter bonnet competitions. 07\_134c0101



Left: Oban and District Inner Wheel soup and roll lunch raised £400 for the Haiti disaster fund. Enjoying the event, held at North Connel Village Hall are Inner Wheel president Christine Allen and Ivy Smart sitting. t13inner01

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# Despair for Fort as they lose to last minute goal

'We seemed to be playing 'til they scored' - Calum MacLean

JOY AND despair were present in equal measure at Claggan park on Saturday as Fort William had a brilliant draw against title contenders Fraserburgh snatched away with the last kick of the ball.

Fort had matched the visitors throughout and grabbed a glorious equaliser with only eight minutes left through Sean Ellis.

But the flame-haired winger went off with an ankle injury and Fort, who had used up all their subs, had to fight a rearguard action as Fraserburgh went looking for the goal to salvage their title hopes.

A combination of last gasp defending, Campbell's heroics between the posts and Fraserburgh's overeagerness looked to be enough to give

Fort a priceless point, but with Fort fans baying for the final whistle ref Graham Fraser kept the clock ticking and had added almost six minutes when the Broch men mounted one last assault. With the ball bobbling about in the box, first Campbell made a brilliant point blank save then Wemyss crashed a header off the underside of the bar on to the line and out - only for Neil Main to react first and blast the ball home from three yards.

Dramatic scenes ensued as Main raced to the far touchline to be buried under

## Highland League Fort William 2 Fraserburgh 3

Stephen Norris reporting from Claggan Park

heap of jubilant Fraserburgh players, while Fort's gallant heroes collapsed distraught on the turf. Invective poured from the touchline in the general direction of Mr Fraser as Fort fans vented their fury at the apparently limitless minutes allowed to Fraserburgh to fashion a winner.

Meanwhile, Fort's players trooped disconsolately up to the centre circle and kicked off just in time for ref Fraser to blow the final whistle, setting off another round of catcalls from home supporters.

Looking every bit as drained as his players, Fort manager Calum MacLean told The Oban Times: 'The boys worked so hard, they put so much into the game and I could not have asked anything more of them.'

'You can't fault their effort - they kept going right to the end. I'm absolutely gutted for the boys and the club.' Asked about the added time, MacLean said: 'We seemed to be playing until they scored.'

Fort were also on the wrong end of a controversial decision on 17 minutes when

Shields rose high to head home, only for the goal to be disallowed for a push.

Fraserburgh took advantage and went 1-0 up after Haggerty brought down Garden and Hale slotted the penalty.

Fort roared back instantly and Hewitt buried a great Sean Ellis cross to make it 1-1.

Hale restored Fraserburgh's advantage a minute after the break when he beat Campbell from 10 yards then Johnston headed against Campbell's post.

Fort made it 2-2 with 10 minutes left when a great Hewitt run saw the ball break to Urquhart who cleverly squared for Sean Ellis to sweep home a sensational equaliser - but all in vain.



Richard Finnis outfoxes Russell McBride as Fort mount another attack 10\_f15fortw01

## 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      | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9  | 9  | 2   |
| Lovat          | 3 | 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   | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 6  | 5   |
| Beaulie      | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8  | 7  | 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   |
| 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 |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Glenarry     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 2  | 6   |
| Glenurquhart | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 9  | 6  | 6   |
| Lovat        | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8  | 8  | 5   |
| Newtonmore   | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 13 | 4  | 4   |
| Fort William | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 5  | 4   |
| Kinlochshiel | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5  | 11 | 3   |
| Kingussie    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 6  | 5  | 2   |
| Beaulie      | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 4  | 6  | 2   |
| Kilmallie    | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1  | 5  | 1   |
| Skye         | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 5  | 13 | 1   |

### 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   |
| Lochcarron   | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 8  | 3  | 4   |
| Caberfeidh   | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5  | 1  | 4   |
| Boleskine    | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 8  | 13 | 4   |
| Ardnamurchan | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 10 | 10 | 2   |
| Inverness    | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 5  | 17 | 2   |
| Lochbroom    | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0  | 5  | 0   |
| Strathglass  | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 2  | 18 | 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       | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 9  | 18 | 5   |
| Strachur       | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4  | 6  | 4   |
| GMA            | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9  | 7  | 3   |
| Aberdour       | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5  | 4  | 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   |

## Last home show of the season for Lochaber Phoenix

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club hold their last home show of the season this weekend on Saturday at the Nevis Centre when up to nine boxers from the local club hope to pit their wits against opponents from Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow, Inverness and even Kinlochleven.

Top of the bill sees light welterweight hope Stephen Cameron face Aaron Medder of Granite City ABC from Aberdeen. This is a revenge mission for Stephen as Medder took his undefeated record last year on a close decision, which has left Cameron itching for revenge - and this bout gives him a chance to make amends.

Middleweight Ryan Watson's last two opponents both reached the final of the Scottish Championships this year and he is involved in another tough match with David Wilson of Renfrewshire ABC who was also in this year's championships - so this should prove a top quality match. Cameron and Watson have boxed at the highest level in Scotland and these two contests both promise a high skill

### BOXING

level. The always-exciting featherweight Eddie Lopez make his first appearance of the year against Amir Nezhad of Granite City ABC. Despite many hours of training to prevent Eddie overcommitting his attacks and tightening his defence the Lochaber man confesses a love for toe to toe warfare - so this one could provide fireworks.

Undefeated light-welterweight Aiden Donnelly takes a step up in class against experienced German Ismet Beganovic who boxes out of Inverness ABC. Both these boxers have an all action style so this could be a real battle of wills.

Super-heavyweight Chris Donnelly takes his first bow in front of his local crowd in a derby against Donald Pearce of Nether Lochaber ABC from Kinlochleven. When boys of this size collide explosive action is guaranteed.

In the youths Denver Small will once again display his silky skills in a real 50-50 clash against Aman Chahal of

Renfrewshire ABC. Artyom Jevstijejeik's 16th birthday falls on the day of the show and he plans a double celebration with his first win against debutant Kenny Melville of Dundee ABC, whilst Chris Bradley hopes to showcase his vast repertoire of punches in a potentially tough match with Dean Stanton of Renfrewshire ABC.

Last local boxer but certainly not least is 12 year-old James Aitchison who has really come on this season with accurate straight punches behind a high guard. James will look to keep George Stewart of Granite City ABC at bay behind his jab.

Nether Lochaber ABC have another boxer on show as middleweight Sandy Hazelton looks to keep his unbeaten record intact against Mark MacIntyre of Lochee ABC.

With hopefully another two contests scheduled, plus raffles, auctions and end of season prizegiving it promises to be a busy night. Tickets are still available from the Nevis Centre or Niall Clark on 07887711457.

## Bowling season comes to an end

LOCHABER'S ten pin bowlers have wrapped up their season with the final series of games and a trophy presentation at the Nevis Centre.

Tony Whitelocke won the Nevis Radio scratch league trophy with 310 out of a possible 328 points gaining the maximum 41 points in four of the eight weeks in which the league was run. Pam Weller was not far behind in second place with

305 points with Colin Pinkett in third on 282 points. In the handicap division Pam Weller was the overall winner and winner of the British Legion ladies trophy with 262 points, well ahead of second place lady Laura Brown who gained 239 points. Ann Gow was third with 224 points. Tony Whitelocke was the

top man and won the Robert Cairns men's handicap shield with 244 points, followed by Brian Stewart in second on 230 points and Colin Pinkett in third with 221 points. A special mention went to young Gavin MacDonald for being the most improved bowler.

League organisers wish to thank all the sponsors and the Nevis Centre for their support during the season.



## Lochaber skiers take to the slopes

THE Lochaber section of the Scottish Ski Club ran the annual club race recently at Nevis Range. With nearly 60 competitors competing in the nine categories, it was the largest number of entries for several years.

The youngest competitor, Daniel Parfitt, proudly wearing race number '1' was the first racer on the giant slalom course on Yoki's Run.

There was an amazing 69-year age gap between Daniel

### SKI-ING

Oskar Wineberg; Children 2 - 1st Ruaraidh Mackenzie (fastest overall), 2nd Lewis Smith, 3rd Joseph Tangney; Junior - 1st Cameron Mackenzie; Master - 1st James Goodman, 2nd Norman Clark, 3rd Rick Hanson; Veteran - 1st Sandy Austin, 2nd Paul Biggin, 3rd Dennis Muir; Family Trophy - Isobel Mackenzie, Ruaraidh Mackenzie.

Ladies, Weans - 1st Caira Muir; Bairns - 1st Corran Wineberg, 2nd Rosie Clark, 3rd Tammy Cooper; Children 1 - 1st Becky Robson, 2nd Erinn Clark, 3rd Aioife Tangney; Children 2 - 1st Kirsty Harrower, 2nd Eliza Sandford, 3rd Isla Mackay. Master - 1st Isobel Mackenzie.

Men, Weans - 1st Johnny Forster, 2nd Matthew Goodman, 3rd Fraser Clark; Bairns - 1st Ruaraidh Cant, 2nd Thomas Goodman, 3rd Shaun Macleod; Children 1 - 1st Fraser Cameron, 2nd Stuart Lennon, 3rd



are ladies captain Rosemary MacIntyre and senior captain Bill Henderson. The club has also taken a full time greenkeeper, David Ball, for the first time for a number of years.

## Lochaber lose to Moray

### Lochaber RFC 10 Moray 17

LOCHABER will be scratching their heads how they lost this game against third-placed Moray.

Lochaber were camped in Moray's 22 for much of the first half but only had an unconverted try to show for their efforts at half time.

Finlay Taylor's catch and drive try on 25 minutes was poor reward for Lochaber's dominance in the first 40.

### RUGBY

Moray came more into things in the second half and scored a converted try early on.

Moray then pilfered the ball during a fracas and raced down the pitch to score again before kicking a penalty to make it 17-5 to the visitors.

Lochaber had the final say when Kevin MacDonald crashed over, but it was too little too late.



Pictured above are the award winners at Lochaber Athletic Club's Winter League presentation, held recently in the Lochaber Leisure Centre.

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**Fixtures**  
**Saturday April 10**

**SHINTY**

**Balliemore Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round**  
Ballachulish v Lochcarron  
John MacPhee  
Beaulie v Oban Celtic  
John MacLeod  
Kilmallie v Caberfeidh  
Charles Young  
Kilmory v Skye  
Dougie Cameron  
Kinlochshiel v Strathglass  
Graham Irving  
Lochaber v Inverness  
Donald MacRae

**Aberdeen Considine Sutherland Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round**  
Aberdour v Lochbroom  
Euan Pearson  
Caberfeidh v Lochside  
Rovers  
Graham Cameron  
Col Glen v Taynuilt  
Duncan Kerr  
Fort William v Glengarry  
Duncan Kelly  
Glasgow Mid Argyll v Bute  
Jim Innes  
Inverness v Aberdeen University  
Ronnie Campbell  
Kingussie v Boleskine  
Ron Kennedy  
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie  
John Sloggie  
Lochcarron v Glenurquhart  
John Angus Gillies  
Lovat v Newtonmore  
Evan MacRae 12.00 noon  
Skye v Tayforth  
Russell Ross  
Strathglass v Lochaber  
Robert Morrison

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**

Bute v Newtonmore  
Deek Cameron  
Inveraray v Glenurquhart  
Colin MacDonald  
Kyles Athletic v Fort William  
David Mitchell  
Lovat v Glasgow Mid Argyll  
Innes Wood  
Oban Camanachd v Kingussie  
Billy Wotherspoon

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**

Glenorchy v Taynuilt  
Robert Baxter Jnr

**Taynuilt out of Celtic Cup**

**SHINTY**

TAYNUILT dropped out of this season's Glasgow Celtic Cup despite a spirited performance away to Premier Division side Glasgow Mid Argyll.

Mid Argyll's Fulton Ross scored a hat-trick, including two from the penalty spot as the home side went on to win 3-1. Taynuilt's goal also came from the penalty spot thanks to Stuart Scott.

# Kingussie and Newtonmore come from behind to win

NEWTONMORE and Kingussie will meet in the next round of this season's MacTavish Cup after both came from a goal behind to win on Saturday.

Cup holders Newtonmore found themselves a goal down after 14 minutes at the Eilan after Greg Matheson was allowed too much room at the back post and fired passed Michael Ritchie from the right. The young Lovat outfit played some neat and tidy shinty during the first half-hour as the home defence took time to settle into the game.

Danny MacRae equalised after 22 minutes but the cup tie remained very even until a bizarre incident three minutes off the interval whistle when a Lovat defender rose to head the ball clear - MacRae converting the penalty with a less than convincing low shot.

David Cheyne added a

third for Newtonmore to give them a flattering half-time lead and the majority of the second-half was played in the Lovat half without reward until Drew MacDonald ran through the visitor's defence and coolly slotted the ball home - Danny MacRae securing his hat-trick five minutes from full-time to set-up a Badenoch derby on May 1.

**Equalised**  
Billy Urquhart put Glenurquhart ahead against Kingussie at Drumnadrochit with only six minutes on the watch and the slender lead was maintained until 10 minutes into the second-half when Ronald Ross equalised.

Former Strathglass player Lee Bain then scored his first goal for Kingussie with 20 minutes to go but the lead lasted less than a minute as Neal Reid brought the home side level again.



David Cheyne scored Newtonmore's third goal against Lovat on Saturday to give his side a somewhat flattering interval lead. Picture - David Fallows

**SHINTY**

**MacTavish Cup**  
**Newtonmore 5**  
**Lovat 1**

**Glenurquhart 2**  
**Kingussie 3**

**Fort William 3**  
**Kinlochshiel 0**

**Lochcarron 0**  
**Skye 1**

**Strathglass 1**  
**Kilmallie 5**

**Inverness 0**  
**Lochaber 2**

With the cup tie looking to be heading for extra-time, Ross popped up to score the winning for Kingussie in the closing minutes.

A first-half goal from Bryan Simpson, plus two second-half strikes from James Clark and Gordie MacKinnon proved enough for Fort William to see-off the challenge of an understrength Kinlochshiel at An Aird.

Allan MacKinnon ended Lochcarron's hopes of progression in this season's cup campaign when he found the net for Skye seven minutes into the second-half at Battery Park. Lochcarron brought on veteran forward Dave MacKenzie in a bid to salvage a draw from this Wester Ross derby - but to no avail.

**Hat-trick**  
Peter MacIntyre netted a hat-trick and John Stewart a double for Kilmallie at Camnich as the visitors defeated Strathglass 1-5, Garry Reid scoring for the home side.

Lochaber switched the cup tie against Inverness to the Highland capital but were unable to repeat last weekend's high scoring league win. Ben Delaney finally broke the deadlock after 45 minutes but it took until five minutes from the final whistle for Lachlan Campbell to find the net again for Lochaber in a 0-2 win.



Ballachulish defeated Kilmory 2-1 at Lochgilphead in the first round of the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup. Andrew Young and Scott Henderson scored for Ballachulish with Hal Jones netting for the home side. Picture - Kevin McGlynn

**SHINTY**

**MacTavish Cup**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Round**  
Fort William 3  
Kinlochshiel 0;  
Glenurquhart 2  
Kingussie 3;  
Inverness 0 Lochaber 2;  
Lochcarron 0, Skye 1;  
Newtonmore 5 Lovat 1;  
Strathglass 1 Kilmallie 5.

**Glasgow Celtic Society Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Round**  
Glasgow Mid Argyll 3  
Taynuilt 1;  
Kilmory 1 Ballachulish 2;

**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh 2 Beaulie 3.

**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Glenorchy 2 Inveraray 1.

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Beaulie A Glengarry A;  
Fort William 3  
Glenurquhart 0;  
Kinlochshiel 1 Skye 1;  
Lovat 0 Kilmallie 0;  
Kingussie P Newtonmore P.

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Bute P  
Glasgow Mid Argyll P  
Col Glen 1 Strachur 1;  
Kyles Athletic P Aberdour P

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Boleskine 3  
Ardnamurchan 2.  
**Inverness 1 Caberfeidh 1**  
Lochaber P Lochbroom P;  
Lochcarron 4 Strathglass 2.

## Fort struggle but eventually get through

**SHINTY**

FORT WILLIAM are through to the MacTavish Cup second round - but only after struggling to subdue a spirited Kinlochshiel side.

'Shiel travelled to An Aird missing Crisdean MacRae and first choice keeper Graham Kennedy, both injured, and internationalist Finlay MacRae, who was suspended.

After their demolition of Kingussie last week, Fort looked decidedly sparkless while 'Shiel had their chances to level when only a solitary goal behind.

For all their lethargy, Fort had by far the better of the opening period, but 'Shiel keeper Cameron was in fine form to deny Jim Clark then John MacDonald.

He proved equal to Bryan Simpson's effort too as the Fort man ran in on the angle then Shiel defender Mark MacDonald brilliantly blocked another Simpson effort.

On 23 minutes, however, Simpson put Fort 1-0 up with a low drive from 18-yard drive which Cameron

reached but could not keep out.

Fort were often over elaborate in front of goal and 'Shiel began to carve out opportunities of their own.

First Fraser MacVicar was barged over just as he was about to pull the trigger at the edge of the 'D', then Neil Fraser twice went close just before the break.

Fort eventually went two up when Jim Clark scored from 12 yards on 68 minutes then with three minutes left Gordie MacKinnon took advantage of hesitation in the Shiel defence to nip in and make it three.

Fort coach Peter MacIntyre was just glad to get through the cup-tie.

'It wasn't very pretty,' he said. 'We looked a bit jaded and maybe our heads were in the clouds a bit after last week's performance. It's job done, but we weren't very clever.'

**MacTavish Cup**

**Fort William 3** **Kinlochshiel 0**

Kinlochshiel Coach Keith Loades paid tribute to his young team for running Fort close, singling out 17 year-olds Zander Grant and David Falconer, and defenders Mark MacDonald and J D MacKenzie for special mention.

He told The Oban Times: 'The boys competed very well under the circumstances. We are missing our internationalist Finlay MacRae, who is a huge miss to us. Fort William are a very, very strong team but I felt we played them very well.'

Shiel's J D MacKenzie had to go off with what looked like a bad injury to his hand but tests at the Belford Hospital showed there was no break.



'Shiel's John Don Mackenzie tries to prevent Bryan Simpson firing in a shot as he battles with Victor Smith. 10\_15shinty01

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.

WIN £1450

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

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:  
A Michie, Balnakyle Road, Inverness and H Black, Kerrera Terrace, Oban

## New event on Mid Argyll athletics calendar

A NEW annual entrant to the Mid Argyll athletics calendar is the Crinan Puffer 8.5. Starting in Ardrishaig and ending in Crinan.

This point to point race along the beautiful and picturesque Crinan Canal is sure to produce a fast time for athletes.

It can be argued that it is one of the flattest courses road/trail courses in Scotland, as over the full nine mile navigable length the canal only rises approximately 75 feet.

**Sponsored**  
Therace, which is sponsored by British Waterways Scotland, is set to become an iconic race in Scotland. It is a Scottish Athletics sanctioned event promoted by Mid Argyll Athletics Club and supported by Mid Argyll Tri and Cycle Club.

### ATHLETICS

Dave Clarkson, Assistant Waterway Manager (Lowlands), British Waterways Scotland, says: 'The Crinan Canal is a tremendous community asset as well as an international visitor attraction so we are delighted to sponsor this local initiative which I am sure will fast become a calendar event in the national sporting and local community calendars. "With its stunning scenery and flat terrain, the Crinan Canal is the perfect open green space for runners, walkers and cyclists of all ages and abilities. We wish Mid Argyll Athletics all the very best with the inaugural Crinan Puffer 8.5.'

The event is centred on the Mid Argyll Community

Swimming Pool in Lochgilhead acting as a hub for a variety of sporting events with all proceeds going to the pool, which is a registered charity.

Tim Jackson, race secretary said: 'The demand for a running race in Mid Argyll has always been there, with its history of successful half marathon races and 10ks in Lochgilhead.

Using the Mid Argyll community pool as a hub for athletic events will ensure we bring back this tradition and the Crinan Puffer 8.5 will act as the flag ship for future events.'

**Popular**  
The Crinan Puffer 8.5 is expected to be very popular with a maximum entry limit of 100.



Members of Argyll Shukokai Karate Club pictured in Oban Martial Arts Centre after their spring grading. At the front are instructors (L to R) Andy Buchanan, Flo McBurnie and Andrew Lawson. Classes are every Monday night 6-7pm for five to 10 years and 7-8.30pm for 10 years to adults. New members are always welcome. t15karate1no

## Oban Saints back in league action

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints get back to action this Saturday after the Easter weekend break with a tough away fixture in the Scottish Amateur League premier division against last year's champions St Josephs.

However, the Oban side are in good form, sitting on top of the league and a win against St Josephs on Saturday would go a long way to securing the Premier Division league title for the Oban side.

The match will take place in Clydebank with a 2pm kick-off with referee Gordon Hay in charge.

Oban Saints Ladies have a home game against Kemnay in the Scottish Cup. The match will take place on Sunday at Oban High School, kick-off 2pm.

The Oban Saints youth teams have no fixtures this Saturday due to the Easter holidays, but the Under 15s return to action on April 17 with an away game against Renton Youth.

The Under 13s, who are already Dumfries Development League champions play their final game at the 3g pitch at Oban High School on April 24 against Westerton.

### Oban Pool League

#### POOL

|                 | P  | Pts |
|-----------------|----|-----|
| Markie Dans 'A' | 18 | 30  |
| Lochnell        | 18 | 28  |
| Lancaster       | 18 | 26  |
| Claredon 'A'    | 18 | 22  |
| Cellar Bar      | 18 | 20  |
| Kelvin Dale     | 18 | 20  |
| Markie Dans 'B' | 18 | 16  |
| Gluepot         | 18 | 12  |
| Claredon 'B'    | 17 | 6   |

### Islay Golf

#### GOLF

ISLAY Golf Club - Winter League week 10:

1st Alec Chasemore 38pts  
2nd Keith MacDonald 33pts  
3rd Alec MacLean 32pts  
Css 74

Congratulations to Lachlan Gairns overall Winter league Winner 2009/2010

2nd place Kenny Gillies  
3rd John Campbell.  
Scott Currie took first place in the April Medal at Islay Golf Club.

Full results: 1 Scott Currie 81 less 13 net 68, 2 Iain MacCuaig 76 less 8 net 68, 3 John Campbell 80 less 9 net 71. CSS was 71 for the day.

### Tobermory Golf

#### GOLF

TOBERMORY Golf Club's April Medal was played on Easter Sunday in brilliant sunshine.

The winner Graham Davidson saw his handicap reduced to five.

Men: 1 Graham Davidson 69-06=63, 2 Ewan MacCrone 72-08=64, 3 Donald Brown snr. 75-09=66.

Ladies: Margaret Ingram 102-25=77; Olive Brown 118-34=84.

### Mini Rugby

#### RUGBY

OBAN Lorne Rugby Club recently hosted the Argyll and Bute mini rugby tournament at Glencruitten last Sunday.

The tournament, which included teams from all over Argyll and a visiting Hamilton primary seven team, 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.

## Ello, ello, ello! Good result for Lorne

### Oban stretch their unbeaten run to five games

#### RUGBY

SHE West Division One  
**Strathclyde Police 5**  
**Oban Lorne 40**

OBAN Lorne stretched their recent winning run to five games last Saturday as the side eased past bottom placed Strathclyde Police at Lochinich.

Coach Corrie Louw made a few changes to the side that beat Carrick the previous weekend with Jamie MacMillan coming into the second row, Ryan Jackson starting in the back row and a return for Bert Wright in the backline.

**Advantage**  
Oban started the game well with the backline taking advantage of the open space, running the ball well.

Oban's first try of the game was scored by Andy MacDougall who burst

through a gap in midfield, beating a majority of the Police backs before touching down under the posts. Oban continued with sustained pressure, while the Police were let down by the lack of a clinical edge.

Oban had no such problems and scored their second try through captain Gary McEwan, his first of the season.

At this stage it looked like Oban would run away with the scoreline but the Police upped their game and scored a try from close range after several phases of play in the Oban twenty-two.

Oban, however hit back with an individual try from Bert Wright who changed his

angle of attack in midfield and scored under the posts. This was converted giving Oban a 19-5 lead at half time.

Oban made a couple of changes at half time with Angus Munro replacing Allan Wright on the right wing and Craig McGougan also making way.

**Positive**  
The men in green made a positive start to the half and secured a bonus point with their fourth try of the afternoon, which was scored by Andy MacDougall, his second of the afternoon. Wilson was on hand to convert giving Oban a 26-5 lead.

The remaining 30 minutes

saw Strathclyde Police adopt a more direct approach to the game and at points were piling the pressure on the Oban defence.

**Rewarded**  
However, the good passing and support play from Oban was rewarded with a further two tries from Mark MacQueen and Euan Wilson to put the game out of sight of the Police.

There was also a first Oban Lorne appearance for second row Jonathan Sayer who came on with 10 minutes to play.

The result lifts Oban to fifth place in West Division One and with two home games to play this season against Wigtownshire and Loch Lomond, there is every chance of stretching their winning run even further.

## Mairi runs for MS

#### MARATHON

AN OBAN woman is running the Edinburgh Marathon on May 23 to raise money for the Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre in Oban.

Mairi Crawford competed in the World Amateur Triathlon in Vancouver in 2008 but this will be her first marathon.

The centre provides Hyperbaric Oxygen therapy for people with MS and other diseases including cerebral palsy and arthritis, and has to rely entirely on fundraising and donations.

Mairi's mother Liz, who is a midwife at Lorn and Islands Hospital, regularly attends the centre.

Mairi said: 'I have seen first hand the benefits that the centre has brought to many people in Oban and its surrounding area.

'The treatment is obviously a financial burden on patients and their families and any donation however small is greatly appreciated.'

Mairi, who works full time and has to fit her training around her work, is hoping



**Mairi Crawford** to raise £1000. If you would like to contribute go to the website [www.charitygiving.co.uk/mairicrawford](http://www.charitygiving.co.uk/mairicrawford)

## Active Schools and Oban Cricket Club coach the youngsters

#### CRICKET

OBAN Cricket Club and the Active Schools team got together once again this year to introduce cricket to primary seven pupils from Oban schools.

Rockfield, St. Columba's and Park primaries were all given a chance to take part in a separate taster session for each class over the last few months.

The sessions included skills-based activities, including catching, throwing, and batting.

This was followed by a fun Kwik Cricket competition and a rapid-fire cricket finale so that the children were able to put to the test their newly-acquired skills.

**Sessions**  
The sessions were led by Ronnie Kelly, who is a newly-qualified level two coach, ably assisted by other members of his club, Active Schools co-ordinator Dale

Kupris and sports coach Ben Pollock from Atlantis Leisure.

Over the five sessions, more than 120 children were able to take part in the sport.

Oban Cricket Club is currently running weekend sessions at Atlantis Leisure to give the new aspiring players a further chance to develop their skills.

## Eurosport star John makes speedy start

#### MOTORCYCLING

CONNEL motorcyclist John McPhee has made a promising start to the new British Superbikes Championship with a fourth-place finish.

The 15-year-old also finished second in the under-16 trophy. Although this is John's second season in the competition, it is his debut year with KRP Racing, widely regarded as the top team in the country.

The British Superbikes Championship is televised live on Eurosport and John's skillful overtaking manoeuvres were replayed during the race.

Mother Margaret McPhee said: 'Half of Oban were watching the race on televisions in pubs.'

Highlights will be shown on Eurosport at 8pm today (Thursday).

## Tides

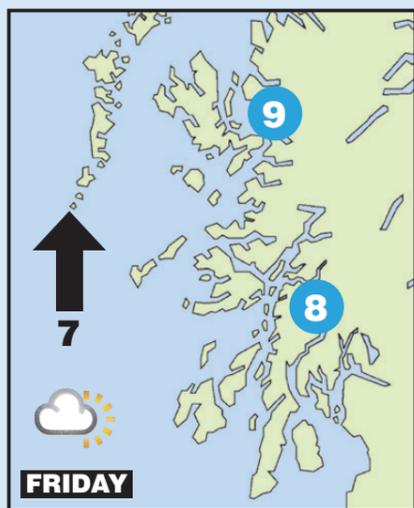
Tide tables for Oban during the week from **Thursday, April 8, 2010** are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

| Date | am                                      | pm |
|------|---|----|
| Thur | 01.30 2.8 07.41 1.9 14.53 2.6 20.13 1.8 |    |
| Fri  | 02.41 3.0 09.10 1.8 15.25 2.8 21.19 1.6 |    |
| Sat  | 03.23 3.2 09.52 3.1 15.47 3.1 22.01 1.3 |    |
| Sun  | 03.58 3.4 10.24 1.3 16.15 3.3 22.36 1.2 |    |
| Mon  | 04.32 3.6 10.53 1.1 16.46 3.5 23.06 1.0 |    |
| Tues | 05.05 3.8 11.22 0.9 17.16 3.7 23.35 0.9 |    |
| Wed  | 05.38 3.9 11.51 0.8 17.45 3.8 **** **   |    |

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

|                  |       |              |       |
|------------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| Ardrishaig       | -5.35 | Lochboisdale | +0.30 |
| Campbeltown      | -5.30 | Mallaig      | +0.25 |
| Crinan           | -0.47 | Portree      | +0.55 |
| Islay Port Ellen | 2.00  | Tobermory    | +0.16 |
|                  |       | Dover        | +5.30 |

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## the weather

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler

**Thursday**  
Light rain showers to be expected. Winds moderate westerly. Temperatures 4°C to 7°C

**Friday**  
Sunny intervals. Winds light southerly. Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

**Weekend Outlook**  
Sunny. Winds light to moderate southerly. Temperatures 6°C to 11°C.

#### Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate  
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above  
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

Sponsored by **NANCY BLACK** Ships' Chandler 01631-562550

**Back Row: David MacCuish, Kevin Tidser, Donald MacLellan, Alan MacLellan, Tony Kersley**  
**Front row: Iain Croakin, Alec MacVicar, Malcolm Croakin.**

## Trialists are champs

Trialists secured the Oban Over-35 league title with a 2-1 victory in a top of the table clash with Spartak last Monday night.

Malcolm Croakin gave Trialists the lead before Steven Plunkett pulled one back for Spartak. Trialists sealed victory in dramatic fashion when Iain Croakin scored in the final seconds. Trialists have now won the league in seven of the last eight years.