

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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75 pence

Argyll claims tallest trees in UK



My Island Tree

Loch Awe deaths FAI to go ahead

A FATAL Accident Inquiry into the deaths of four fishermen on Loch Awe last March is set to open at Oban Sheriff Court on June 1.

A court diet of 17 days over the month of June has been set aside to look into circumstances surrounding the deaths of William Carty, aged 47, Craig Currie, aged 30, Steven Carty, 42, brother of William, and 36-year-old Thomas Douglas, all from Glasgow. The men had been fishing on Loch Awe on the night and early morning of March 21.

A preliminary court day has been scheduled for April 26 to ensure all parties are ready to proceed to the inquiry stage. Sheriff Douglas Small will preside.

Dancers await results in China

DEGREE students at Taynuilt's Ballet West are hoping to hear if they have been successful in their studies while on a 14-date tour in China.

Classical Ballet students fly to the Asian continent on April 18 just as they are due to get final results.

Tire bones prove more likely horse than Norse

BONES found on the island of Tiree are believed to be animal, rather than, as first believed, human.

Police were called to a farm near Crossapol on Tuesday, after the remains were found.

It was initially believed the bones may have been that of Vikings but inspections by medical experts suggest they were those of a domestic animal.



Port Ellen harbour will be altered to accommodate a new ferry. Picture - Mark Unsworth

Major redevelopment to solve Port Ellen pier problem

Full redevelopment at Port Ellen and Kennacraig could be 'many years away'

THE PROVISION of a truncheon-shaped extension at Port Ellen pier will ensure Islay's new ferry has access to Port Ellen harbour.

At present, Caledonian MacBrayne's (CalMac) new ferry, Finlaggan, which will arrive in spring next year, will not be able to berth at Port Ellen but at a meeting in the village's Ramsay Hall, representatives from CalMac and Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) unveiled an envisaged major redevelopment to solve the problem.

The meeting on April 7 was well attended, although many felt it was poorly advertised.

Islanders heard how

the new extension would comprise the first stage of redevelopment at the island port. Funding currently available comprises £2m from the Scottish Government, with CalMac reserves providing £1.6m. Contingency availability can take the final figure to approximately £4.5m.

It was strongly pointed out however that should returned tenders total a higher figure the proposal would be under threat.

The officials were confident however that the project could be delivered within budget.

Plans are afoot for the work to begin in the autumn of 2010 and the Port Ellen pier

will be closed to all ferry traffic for approximately nine months from the start date.

Grain supplies and fishing operations will remain unaffected during the closure period and the new pier will be of sufficient length to allow both the grain boat and new ferry to berth simultaneously.

Negotiations are also underway with Argyll and Bute Council to provide Port Ellen/Port Askaig bus services during the pier extension operations.

CalMac said it remains committed to the long-term development at Port Ellen, which will include the reclamation of the land

north of the existing terminal building, new car parking and freight marshalling facilities as well as the provision of a new terminal building.

Breakwater proposals to provide inner harbour protection, fully backed by the local harbour association members, will also be an integral part of the long-term redevelopment.

While the officials present welcomed and encouraged the short-term proposals they pointed out that in light of the current financial climate the full redevelopment at Port Ellen and at the mainland terminal at Kennacraig could be 'many years away'.

Parents shocked as Argyll and Bute Council cuts school transport

School children walk to save £46,000

SHOCKED parents learned that children might have to walk as far as three miles to school to make a saving of £46,000 from school transport budgets.

Scottish government legislation means Argyll and Bute Council can legitimately increase the distance youngsters are expected to walk to school. But parents claim they have not been consulted on the changes.

In a decision affecting every school in Argyll and Bute, parent Mary Gregg, from Oban, said: 'Instead of a leisurely walk to school it will triple the road congestion in many towns and villages.'

'It is not safe to walk between Nant Drive and Park School through the town.'

'And we have not been properly consulted. Surely it is cheaper to allow children to fill the buses already running than employing numerous 'lollipop' people.'

Mhari Ritchie, Isle of Luing, was involved 12 years ago when the council tried to introduce similar changes, and she is now a parent councillor.

'I cannot see anything has changed in the intervening years that makes it safe for children to walk on island roads,' she said.

'On Seil and Luing we have narrow roads with

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

'While there may be increased congestion in Oban during peak times this will be monitored and acted upon if necessary.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Legislative provision assumes that all children up to the age of eight should have to walk up to two miles to school before they become eligible for free transport, with those over eight being expected to walk three miles.'

'The council is in the process of amending its school transportation policy to introduce a qualifying threshold of two miles for all primary aged children and three miles for all secondary children.'

'The only deviations from this will be in the event of a child having a special need for transport or where a walking route is deemed to be unsafe on grounds of road safety.'

'Staff have been carrying out assessments of principal walking routes following guidance issued by West of Scotland Road Safety Forum.'

'Savings projected from this change in 2010/11 are in the region of £46,000 and it is hoped that the increased physical activity that will arise from this change will have a positive impact children's health.'

"The roads haven't changed and there are still no safe routes in many places."
Isle of Luing mother

Motorcycle accidents raise Argyll road death toll

Sixth deaths on Argyll roads this year - eight during the whole of 2009

A MOTORCYCLIST has died and another has been seriously injured in crashes on Argyll roads last weekend, raising fears over the areas' fatal road accident record.

A 41-year-old from the Edinburgh area was killed on Friday after his motorbike collided with a Land Rover on the A886 in Cowal, near Colintraive.

Emergency services attended but the man was pronounced dead at the scene.

The two adults and two children in the Land Rover

were uninjured. Police have appealed for witnesses to the crash, which happened at about 5.25pm, to come forward.

Sixth road death

The incident was the sixth death on Argyll roads already this year, compared with eight fatalities during the whole of 2009.

On Sunday, a man was seriously injured after his motorbike collided with a Honda CRV on the A85, west of Tyndrum.

The man, who suffered

injuries to his right leg and hand, was taken to Glasgow's Southern General by the Sea King helicopter, Rescue 177.

As The Oban Times went to press his condition was described as serious.

Inspector Hugh O'Neill, head of Argyll's road policing, said his officers, the fire brigade and Argyll and Bute Council were helping to keep motorcyclists safe through the 'Around the corner' campaign.

He said: 'We are working with motorcyclists coming into the area and driving home the

campaign message.

'We have had police advanced motorcyclists out on the roads and they have come up with a biker's guide to the area, which includes the best places to stop, biker-friendly areas and warnings of difficult road surfaces and strange road cambers.'

'We are here to police the roads but also to provide assistance. We want to help motorcyclists to come to the area and enjoy the scenery but also to respect the communities here.'

Kranenburg Fine Art

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by Ronnie Ford

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Preview Friday 16th April from 6pm

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Open Monday to Saturday 9.30am - 5.30pm. Other hours by appointment

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For more information see page 5.

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL



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Oban woman sent to jail after admitting heroin charge

A WOMAN who pled guilty last week at Oban Sheriff Court to possessing heroin and breaching bail has been jailed for 54 days.

Heroin found on floor The court heard that Sophie MacColl, aged 25, had been in a cell at Oban

Police station on March 2 this year on an unrelated matter when she was taken for finger-printing and photograph.

Following the process a plastic wrap containing powder later identified as heroin was found on the

floor of the finger-printing room.

Admitted

She had originally denied it belonged to her but admitted in court the 1.3-gramme wrap with a value of £60-70 was hers.

Defence agent Duncan

Durbin said MacColl, 2E Corran Brae, Oban, had been battling a drug addiction for a number of years but generally had been managing well with support from family and friends.

'But from time to time she slips and slips badly into her

old habits and this is one such occasion,' he said.

Sheriff Douglas Small jailed MacColl for 54 days, back-dated to March 2 when she was remanded in custody for breaching a previous bail order by committing this offence.



The 850kW wood boiler at Lakeland Smolts shows the advantages of biomass.

Green energy from Argyll's forests

THE WOOD in Argyll's forests could be the largest green energy source in the area and there has never been a better time to invest.

That message came across loud and clear at an information day on biomass energy, organised by the Argyll, Lomond and the Islands Energy Agency (ALInergy) in Cairndow.

More than 30 delegates from all over Argyll came to hear how biomass energy could help communities develop clean, green, locally-sourced fuel and new financial incentives for investing in equipment.

There was also a chance to visit community-owned woodchip plant Our Power

and Argyll's largest biomass boiler, which provides warm water for hatching fish at Lakeland Smolts.

The UK uses less wood fuel than almost every other European country, despite the abundant supplies in areas like Argyll.

However, the climate creates challenges in drying and processing wood to ensure it burns efficiently.

"It is a unique system."

David Rogers, biomass development officer for the Forestry Commission

Scotland, said a new scheme, the renewable heat incentive, was due to start next year. Draft proposals include a tariff for every kilowatt of energy produced by woodfuel boilers, solar water heating panels and heat pumps, which means individuals, groups and companies would be paid for producing heat and power using biomass.

'It is a unique system,' he said. 'This is probably the single most exciting thing that could happen to renewables.'

The event also gave ALInergy's biomass expert, Bob McIlwraith, a send-off as he prepares to retire.

New radiologists for Oban hospital

OBAN patients will get the results of X-rays and scans faster thanks to the expansion of the local radiology department.

One part time post at Lorn and Islands Hospital, which has been filled by locum radiologists for some time, will be replaced by two full-time consultant positions. They will be able to analyse the results of scans locally, rather than sending images to the Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley, which has been the practise until now.

A spokesman from NHS Highland said: 'Later this month, two new consultant radiologists will arrive in Oban to be based at Lorn and Islands Hospital. While they will formally form part of the radiologist establishment of Raigmore Hospital in Inverness they will be permanently based in Oban and will report all x-rays and scans performed locally.'

'This development will enable the hospital here to be much more self-sufficient in radiology reporting and

hence will strengthen the diagnostic capability of the hospital to the benefit of both patients and clinicians. 'These are full-time, experienced staff, so it's good news for Oban.'

Radiology services at the hospital were the subject of a critical incident review in 2009 after concerns about the accuracy of x-ray and scan results reported by an external radiologist. This prompted a review into how radiology services are delivered across NHS Highland.

The appointment of the two consultant radiologists has been welcomed by Lasta King, convener of Oban, Lorn and the Isles Locality Public Partnership Forum. She said: 'Advertising for two new radiologists was specifically for them to do the analysis in Oban.'

'We should be really, really pleased that they will be working in Oban, because they will be here all the time.'

'I understand they are very experienced and one is a specialist in MRI.'



Tha am blàr air a ghairm ma tha, agus a-rèir luchd sgrùdaidh bheachdan an t-sluaigh tha farpais nan taghaidhean Pàrlamaid gu bhith gu math teann eadar na Làbaraich is na Tòraidhean air 6 Cèitean! Ach cò aige a tha fios, dh' fhaodadh am mòr-shluagh an car a thoirt asta uile fhathast!

Mar a tha mi air a radh roimhe, nach biodh e sònraichte math nan tigeadh a mhòr-chuid a-mach gus am beachdan a nochdadh anns an taghadh. Nan tachradh sin dh' fhaodadh cuisean crìochnachadh ann an dòigh eadar-dhealaichte bho na thathas a' fàidheadaireachd aig an ire seo. 'S i a' bhuanachd eile gum biodh barrachd dòchais air Pàrlamaid a stèidheachadh le ùghdarras mòrachd bhall.

Ach thar nan ceithir sheachdainean romhainn 's i a' cheist dha na tagraichean, agus dhuinne cuideachd, dè na cuisean as cudromaiche dha luchd bhòtaidh agus cò am Partaidh, neo an tagraiche, as fheàrr aig am bheil freagairt gus taic an t-sluaigh a ghluacadh. 'S iad na h-aon chuspairean as bitheanta a chluinnear bho luchd poilitigs: foghlam; slàinte; an eaconamaid agus cosnaidhean. Nochdaidh rudan eile bho àm gu àm cuideachd, ach ann am beachd a' mhòr chuid den t-sluagh, a-rèir coltais, chan eil cus aire ga thoirt dha na beachdan is na rùintean acasan. Feumaidh gur ann mar sin a tha neo bhiodh am barrachd dhaoine a' gabhail cothrom air bhòtadh. Ach tha dà chrann air am bois: ma tha am mòr-shluagh ag iarraidh aire luchd poilitigs, deànadh iad feum den chumhachd a th' aca!

Agus aig ceann cuise, agus nuair a bhios buill ùra a' gabhail an slighe gu Westminster, bidh na h-aon thrioblaidean againn fhathast. Bidh an ùpraid seachad agus bidh na feadhainn a bhuanachd an impis tòiseachadh, 's dòcha, ri tuigsinn gum bheil beàrn mhòr eadar riaghladh agus dùbhlhan. Bidh bochdainn ann fhathast; bidh uireasbhadhean ann an seirbheisean slàinte, agus foghlaim; agus bidh gainne cosnaidh thall 's a bhos. Agus bidh cuideachd an dùthaich seo fhathast ann am fiachan mar nach fhacas riamh roimhe.

Feumar dèiligeadh ri sin ge b' e cò a bhuanachas. Theagamh, mar a thuir Ceann-suidhe ainmeil Ameireaganach, gum feum math na dùthcha tighinn air toiseach air math nan daoine. Bhiodh barrachd dòchais aig tagraichean air taic an t-sluaigh nan aidicheadh iad sin, agus gun innseadh iad na tha nam beachd airson a leasachadh!

Throughout the frenetic canvassing of the coming four weeks voters will be assured that their opinions are important, and if they were persuaded they would surely turn out to vote in substantially greater numbers. The fact that election turn-outs are so low suggests that our voters are best described as the "ignorers", rather than David Cameron's "great ignored".

Many appear to feel patronised by politicians and perhaps more candour would win new support. When it's all over on May 7, Britain will still have its worst ever economic challenge and whoever wins will require to tackle that urgently. Maybe they should tell us now how specifically, they propose to address that!

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

New book celebrates the history of Mid Argyll

A BOOK celebrating the history of Mid Argyll has been launched.

Dalriada, A twentieth Century Kingdom, written by Argyll-based journalist Marian Pallister, is part of the work being done by the Dalriada Community History Project.

Social history Marian has used interviews carried out by volunteers of the Dalriada project to weave together

an account of 20th century life in Mid Argyll.

Memories in the book range from life in Kilmartin and Kilmichael Glens, work on the Crinan Canal, and rural hardships in North Knapdale to life in the bustling communities of Lochgilhead and Ardrishaig.

Marian said she was surprised how quickly life had changed in the area. In less than a lifetime the

main industry has changed entirely from farming to tourism.

'Over the last 30 to 40 years the land use has changed dramatically.

'The main industry used to be farming. We don't grow any crops anymore,' she said.

The book contains a wealth of photographs and illustrations that bring to life the existence of farmers and generations gone by.

Directors of the Dalriada project hope that the book will act as a legacy for future generations.

The Dalriada Community History Project was formed in 2006 to conserve and enhance the cultural and natural heritage of the ancient kingdom of Dalriada.

Marian Pallister will be in Waterstone's Book shop in Oban on April 22 for a book signing.



Author Marian Pallister

Last chance to get your vote

THE deadline for making sure you are registered to vote in time for the General Election is fast approaching.

Anyone who wishes to vote must be on the electoral register - but those who moved house or did not return a registration form last autumn may not be on.

Argyll and Bute's electoral office will take forms until April 20. That is also the last day to apply for a postal or proxy vote if you are not able to vote in person on May 6.

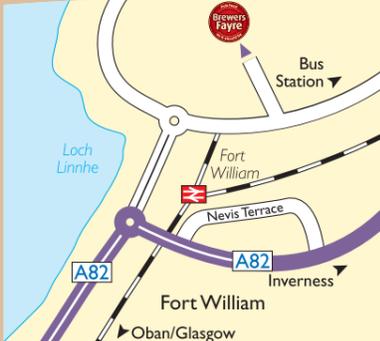
To check if you are registered or request forms, contact the office on 0800 980 0471. Forms can also be downloaded from their website at www.dab-vjb.gov.uk/electoral-registration.

Next Tuesday, April 20, is also the last chance for prospective candidates to lodged their nomination papers.



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Entertainer Kenneth McKellar

Iconic Scots singer dies in America

SCOTTISH singer and entertainer Kenneth McKellar has died at his daughter's house in Lake Tahoe, America.

Mr McKellar, aged 82, who for many years had a home at Ardencaple, Balvicar, had been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer only last week. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family.

The tenor was renowned for driving his BMW motorbike between Oban and his home on the Isle of Seil after sell-out shows.

Fellow entertainer Colin Campbell said: 'He was possibly the biggest name in Scotland between the 1950s and 80s. He was very well known and an international name so it was a great coup when he came to Oban.'

David Webster, entertainment promoter, said: 'Kenneth McKellar came to Oban as part of our This is Scotland Tour at the Corran Halls.'

'He played many summer seasons in the town and he, and Jimmy Shand, were the greatest draws we ever had.'

'Kenneth was a great performer and he knew how to capture the audience, which is a rare skill in performers today.'

'I got along with him very well and I counted him as one of my personal friends. I am saddened to hear the news of his passing.'

Kenneth McKellar's Swiss-born wife, Hedy, whom he married in 1953, died in 1990. He is survived by a son and a daughter.

Mòd rule changes announced

ORGANISERS of the Royal National Mòd have announced rule changes as Caithness prepares to host the event for the first time.

It is anticipated that Scotland's premier Gaelic festival will attract up to 8,000 people to the area during the nine-day event in October, providing a welcome boost to the region, economically and culturally.

Changes
But with the new venue comes new rule changes, including the submission of all own choice music pieces by June 30. Failure to do so will result in the Mòd office deducting three marks from the competitor's total mark in each relevant competition.

This year also sees a proportionate increase in the number of fluency card holders required for certain choral competitions in line with the long-term aim of improving the fluency levels of choir members.

Mòd Administrator, Rena MacAskill said, 'It's important that all competitors are fully aware of the rule changes before entering competitions.'

'A full list of the updated rules is available from An Comunn Gàidhealach's website.'

Mòd 2010 in Caithness will also see An Comunn Gàidhealach make a concerted effort to recruit as many adjudicators as possible who have skills in both Gaelic and music.

Proposal for Connel police station closure leads to local meeting

CONNEL Police Station is to be closed down under proposals by Strathclyde Police.

If the plans are agreed the one-man station and police house would be sold off, with the capital and revenue funds recouped going back into community policing.

A consultation period has now begun to give villagers a chance to have their say on the proposed changes.

The community will meet with Chief Inspector Glen Bland at a special meeting on May 4 to discuss the changes.

Connel Community Council secretary Les Stewart, who plans to leaflet-drop every home in the village, informing them of the meeting, said: 'We will need to wait until that meeting to find out what the community thinks of these

proposed changes.

'If they feel strongly about retaining it, then we will fight to prevent the station being sold but if people are apathetic about it, then we'll have to let it go.'

'I understand the business logic behind the decision but once you take away two or three services from a place like this, all of a sudden you don't have a village.'

Part of the police

proposal would see Connel community policeman Danny McBeth hold monthly surgeries in the village, as well as continuing to patrol the area.

Chief Inspector Glen Bland said: 'With the adoption of these new proposals I fully expect the community of Connel to be able to take advantage of more regular and meaningful access to their local Community

Policing Team.

'The officer based at Connel Police Station normally engages in foot and mobile patrol and as a result is very often not in the office when visitors call in. This can be a disappointment and frustrating. With the advent of the newly proposed Police Surgery local people will be able to have access to the officer at the same time and location every month.'

Chief Inspector Bland said that he would regularly attend local community meetings to engage with residents.

He added: 'I want to hear from local people about their concerns and issues, take those away from the meetings and address them.'

The special meeting will be held in Connel Village Hall on May 4 at 7.30pm.

Ganavan flat plan gets go-ahead

Councillors vote six to three to allow the flats to be built

A CONTROVERSIAL plan for two new blocks of flats at Ganavan Sands has been given the go-ahead after a public hearing in Oban last week.

Objectors, who packed the meeting at the Corran Halls, could not sway councillors with their concerns about the scale and design of the development, its impact on the beauty spot and road safety.

Richard Kerr, of Argyll and Bute's planning department, said there had previously been an application for 19 detached houses on the site. He said planners were satisfied replacing two of these larger houses with two blocks of five apartments would not over-develop the site.

However, more than 40 objectors disagreed. Their spokesman, Allan Macaskill, said: 'In the past the planning department have curtailed the height of buildings. Here they are allowing an increase, one of the most important sites close to Oban with a beautiful beach.'

Mr Macaskill also questioned why the requirement to provide some affordable homes was not being met on site, but in another development in Oban's Stevenson Street. He said these flats would be affordable in any case, therefore not adding any additional provision and asked councillors to insist the Ganavan developers contributed to local amenities like a playpark and footpath.

There was also concern that without the footpath being completed, children may be forced to walk the road to Oban to go to school.

Mr Macaskill said: 'In some areas where there is no footpath pedestrians are dangerously near passing vehicles.'

Developed John MacGregor said afterwards he was happy with the decision and the development would 'ensure employment for some 40-50 tradesmen for the next 18 months.'

A separate planning application for 40 housing association units on the former NHS site in Ganavan was also considered at the meeting. Councillors approved detailed designs for the development, which will include terraced homes for the elderly and a mix of houses and flats.

Councillor Rory Colville also raised concerns about the lack of a safe footpath from the new development into Oban.

'We have designated this site for housing and we did that in the knowledge that there was no pavement. It seems the council has been less than clever here,' he said.

But architect Frank Beaton defended the project: 'There is a large area of amenity and garden grounds so I can't agree at all that its over-development.'

Councillors on the planning, protective services and licensing committee voted six to three to allow the flats to be built, without any requirement for building a footpath.

Developer John MacGregor said afterwards he was happy with the decision and the development would 'ensure employment for some 40-50 tradesmen for the next 18 months.'

A separate planning application for 40 housing association units on the former NHS site in Ganavan was also considered at the meeting. Councillors approved detailed designs for the development, which will include terraced homes for the elderly and a mix of houses and flats.

"Development will ensure employment for 40 - 50 tradesmen for the next 18 months."

Housing developer John MacGregor



Half-marathon fundraisers and their supporters held a successful Victorian Tea at the weekend. 07.116boss01

Charity runners boosted by 'flour' power

THREE women who are running the Edinburgh Half Marathon in aid of Oban Hospice are using 'flour' power to help raise £1,500.

Jeanie Campbell, Sylvia Bossard and Karen Nelson

from Bossard's Bakery in Oban held the first of three Victorian Tea fundraisers on Sunday, taking in more than £400.

Sylvia said: 'In January we decided to do the half

marathon but Karen and I have never done one before, so we have been training hard. Jeanie has broken her wrist but she is determined to be fit for the race on May 23.'

The fundraisers have organised two more Victorian Teas for April 25 and May 2. Places are still available for these dates. To book a place contact Bossard's Bakery.

European transport group questions current ferry tendering process

TRANSPORT groups across Europe have expressed concerns with the current methods of ferry route tendering, according to Highlands and Islands transport group HITRANS.

Caledonian MacBrayne retained the right to operate Hebridean and Clyde ferry routes following a costly tender process, which

was required by European legislation.

Competition
At a HITRANS board meeting last Friday, employee Dave Duthie reported on a recent trip to a workshop on ferries and ferry routes in Bornholm, Denmark, hosted by the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions

(CPMR), a pressure group representing areas with maritime interests.

Mr Duthie said: 'What became clear from the event is the experiences of tendering has not been successful.'

'Has the process produced greater competition?'

'It is doubtful. Members have been

round the table to discuss how we can achieve best value because we are all under financial constraints.'

'If there is only one tender at the end of the process, where is the value of that?'

Board member John Laing said: 'It is quite telling that there is no shining example of tendering not showing best value.'



Intrepid tree climbers Alasdair Cameron, Jai Gardner and Chris Betts. 06_a16ree01

Argyll lays claim to the tallest trees in Britain

ARGYLL can claim to be home to the tallest trees in Britain.

Last Thursday, a team of four tree surgeons climbed The Grand Fir, Abies grandis, at Ardinglas Estate in Cairndow.

Two and a half hours later the team hit the ground to announce the tree, believed to be planted in 1875, was 64.28metres, officially making it the largest tree in Britain.

The Grand Fir lost its 'tallest' status 11 years ago to a Douglas Fir just a few miles along the road at Stonardron in Glendaruel. It currently measures 63.79metres, making it the second largest tree in Britain.

Jean Maskell, estate manager at Ardinglas, said: 'We're absolutely delighted to regain the title which we previously had. It's very exciting for the estate.'

The climb, which was originally due to take place on April Fools day, was overseen by Lochgilphead-based tree surgeon

Dougie Cameron. Dougie watched from the ground as his son, Alasdair, along with Tarbert man, Iain Campbell Duncan, and Royal Navy men Chris Betts and Jai Gardner, scaled the magnificent tree.

Dougie explained: 'It's a very difficult tree to climb as the branches all arc down the way so the boys will be getting no help going up.'

Dougie explained the climbers were unable to use toe spikes as these would damage the tree. 'They'll just be using upper-body strength to get up there. It's not an easy job,' he added.

The daring climb also raised money for the Air Ambulance and Erskine Hospital. Dougie hopes to have raised in excess of £1,000, which will be split between the two charities.

Dougie added: 'I'd just like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has very generously donated.'

Meter thief jailed for four months

AN OBAN man who stole cash from four electric meters has been sentenced to four months and three weeks in custody.

Michael MacLellan, aged 25, c/o Barlinnie Prison, admitted aggravated theft while on bail and told police officers arresting him he was 'sorry for all the hassle.'

Oban Sheriff Court heard MacLellan had forced open four coin meters on April 17, 2009 at Ross House, Breadalbane Street. He stole £14 from within the electric meters, then took the coins to an Oban shop and swapped them for notes and bought sweets and soft drinks.

When asked by police why he had taken the money he said: 'I had no money and I thought there might be enough money to get some kit.'

Duncan Durbin defence agent said: 'MacLellan was hoping to start-a-fresh in Oban after 10 years of a heroin addiction, but that did not work out.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'There is really only one sentence I can impose on you as this was an aggravated crime committed when you were on bail.'

Oban man found guilty of evading drugs search

AN OBAN man has been found guilty at Oban Sheriff Court of evading a drugs search by swallowing a small packet believed to contain controlled drugs.

Andrew McMillan, aged 30, of 4 Glenshellach Terrace, claimed he did not know why police suspecting him of swallowing the package. McMillan said he was standing with friends in Breadalbane Street when he was approached by police and told he was going to be searched under the Misuse of Drugs Act. He said that he didn't place anything in his mouth or raised his hand to his mouth. He also claimed he was recovering from a chest infection and his severe coughing was due to a bronchial condition.

However, Sheriff Small said: 'Police officers were quite categorical they saw McMillan place something in his mouth and he did not spit it out when asked to do so. McMillan intentionally obstructed officers.'

Sentence was deferred for reports.

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Mull Lines

MULL couple Donald and Jean MacColl have celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

The couple has both lived on Mull their entire lives, and they met as youngsters whilst working on the island.

They married at Lagganulva, Mull on March 30, 1960. Donald and Jean worked on an estate together on Mull, and Jean says 'working together, with a little bit of give and take' is the secret of their long-lasting marriage.

Donald and Jean have five children, four of whom still live on Mull and one son who lives in Oban.

They have 13 grandchildren, and the whole family got together to celebrate the occasion by going out for a family meal on the island.

Councillor Mary-Jean Devon presented the couple with a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.



A GARAGE break-in on the island of Mull resulted in a thief making off with £260 in cash.

The incident happened at Rolley's Filling Station at Aros, near Salen, on April 11.



MULL Eagle Diary: Skye and Frisa continue to play the role of perfect parents to be. Both take turns in sitting on the nest incubating the eggs. This parent partnership will continue when the chicks arrive with both Skye and Frisa taking turns to feed. This week all the eagles have been enjoying some warm sunshine - a refreshing change from the snow, gales and blizzards of the week before. Skye and Frisa have been sharing the skies with golden eagles and peregrines, plus the usual array of buzzards, hen harrier and ravens. A whole host of small birds visit the eagle hide feeders including siskins, great spotted woodpeckers and chaffinches. This week marked the return of the sand martins and willow warblers.



ISLE of Mull Lions donated £1,500 to Tobermory doctor's surgery for the purchase of a blood pressure monitor. A formal presentation of the cheque took place on Friday April 9 and the picture shows from left to right, Doctor Vic Linneman, president Ian Smith and nurse Chris Swinbanks at the Surgery.

High-rise ladder to be based at Oban fire station

THE HIERARCHY of fire and rescue services in Argyll has welcomed the decision of the Strathclyde Fire Board to base a high-rise ladder appliance in Oban.

Platform

Oban Fire Station will shortly receive the high-reach Aerial Ladder

Platform (ALP) as an additional appliance for the area.

Argyll and Bute group commander John Rae said: 'We are absolutely delighted with the endorsement by the fire board for the ALP to be placed in Oban.'

'It adds further confirmation of the

commitment the board and the management team of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue have to ensuring service provision is improved upon.

Rescues

'This appliance has high-reach capability, not only for fire fighting, but also for rescues from height.'

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,

has voted in favour of the proposal.

Fire service campaigner and former retained fireman George Berry said: 'This is a major step forward for the safety of people in Oban and visitors to the town.'

'I have been going on about this for years and seemed to be getting

nowhere but out of the blue, people have recognised that we needed it. It is the most fantastic news; I'm just over the moon.'

Training in how to operate the new appliance has already begun at Oban Fire Station and will be continued throughout the next few months.

Drug centre accused of 'behind closed doors' move to town centre

A DRUG rehabilitation centre has been criticised for arranging a move to Oban town centre 'behind closed doors', having failed to adequately consult interested parties.

OASIS, which helps people combat drug addictions, is moving from High Street to 11 Stafford Street because it needs larger premises to carry on its work.

But the charity was forced to hold emergency talks with council planning officials yesterday (Wednesday) after failing to apply for a change of use for the premises.

Shopkeepers and Oban councillors were unaware

OASIS was moving to Stafford Street until last week, when the office refurbishment began.

The councillor that helped set up the organisation 10 years ago, Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, said: 'I fully support the service and the essential work they do - but they have been very naive in the approach to this.'

'They have signed this new lease and are finishing their previous one, so in two weeks' time they will be either homeless or in this new building.'

'I understand people's concerns about this location but I think a lot of these

concerns could have been alleviated with the proper consultation.

'It will look to them like this has been done behind closed doors and I am personally very disappointed I wasn't informed of this move.'

Councillor McIntosh was on the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Action Team (ADAT) that granted OASIS money to move premises but he claims the group did not know where the charity was moving to.

Alex Milligan of Webster's Cameras in Stafford Street said: 'I only found out in the last couple of days through a second-hand source that

this was happening.

'I am not happy about this because the council is talking about paving Stafford Street so that the sandwich and ice cream shops can put out tables for people and is part of the bigger picture when the marina is built - the last thing we need is a drop-in centre.'

'The councillors didn't even know about this and it just seems like the whole thing has been done underhand; I'm not happy about the whole situation.'

OASIS manager Nicola MacGillivray stressed OASIS was not a drop-in centre and said the charity

will install CCTV in the shared close to make sure no clients are loitering in the area.

She added: 'No-one has to worry about our clients hanging around outside the building as we work by appointment only, and people need to realise that the drug users accessing us are the ones that want help.'

'In High Street we were classed as a business premises so we didn't think that would be an issue when we moved. We put in a building warrant to have the offices refurbished, so the council did know that we were moving there.'

Man accused of struggling with police

AN OBAN man has been released on bail after he denied struggling with police officers and trying to kick him as they arrested him.

Norman Lindsay, aged 47 of 23E Shuna Terrace, will go on trial at Oban Sheriff Court in July in connection with the alleged incident on Sunday, April 11.

Kilmore theft

A HOUSE break-in at Kilmore resulted in an antique copper cauldron, three feet in diameter, being stolen from a lock-up garage.

The theft happened between 3 pm on April 4 and the same time on April 11.

Any information about the incident should be reported to Oban Police Station on 01631 510551.

Co-op staff boost RNLI funds

CO-OP STAFF have raised £2,365 for the RNLI.

Staff at the Oban store raised the funds by holding a sponsored row and car boot sale last week.

Ann Barr and Mary Diamond, who have been instrumental in raising funds for the RNLI over the last three months, said: 'We would like to thank everyone who made a contribution to the fund. A special thanks is also due to the RNLI former committee members who have continually supported us at our fundraising events.'

Meteor shower

REPORTS of a distress flare at Bridge of Orchy were quickly dispelled when police believed them to be a spectacular meteor shower.

Calls to the police station led to the mountain rescue team being placed on standby. But after consulting the Coastguard it was decided that the flares were in fact a night sky phenomenon.

Spring fair

LOCAL food producers will be holding a spring fair today, Thursday, April 15.

As well as fresh meat, cheese, eggs, vegetables and home-baking from the Local Origins Rural Network members, there will be a host of arts and crafts made locally.

The fair takes place at Kintaline Farm, Benderloch from 10.30am to 3pm.



Fundraisers in Ardfern made a real difference to two charities on the west coast. Raising more than £3000 from a race night, cheques were presented to North Argyll Carers Centre and Alzheimers Scotland for work with dementia patients.

Man frightened and alarmed 16-year-old girl at New Year party

A MAN left a 16-year-old girl scared and distressed after referring to his past crimes at a party, Oban Sheriff Court has heard.

Simon Oliver McCulloch, aged 34 of 25B Adelaide St, Helenburgh, was released on licence in October 2009 after serving two years of a prison sentence for having

sex with a girl under 16 and two other sexual offences.

On January 1, he was attending a New Year party at a Dunollie flat and began speaking to a 16-year-old girl. Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said she was friends with the victim of McCulloch's previous sexual crimes.

Mr Harris said the accused told her she was stunning and 'he was asking her whether she knew about him and what she thought about it, in relation to his previous convictions.'

The girl was frightened and uncomfortable and alerted her uncle who asked him to leave. With reluctance he

left the flat, but when the girl decided to go home shortly after, McCulloch was found sitting in the common close. The court heard he behaved aggressively towards the girl's uncle and refused to leave until he threatened to call the police.

McCulloch pleaded guilty to causing a breach of the

peace. He denied another charge of putting his arm around the girl and touching her on the hip and stomach, which was accepted by the crown. Sheriff Douglas Small instructed defence agent Stephen Macleod to give his plea in mitigation at a deferred sentence hearing on May 10.

Caravan site donates £2,560 to Oban Mountain Rescue Team

FUNDRAISING efforts in 2009 at North Ledaig Caravan Park have resulted in a £2,560 donation to Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

Peter and Katy Weir from the park have donated to other local and national charities but met up with the mountain rescue team to hand over the

cheque personally. Mrs Weir said: 'Oban Mountain Rescue is of particular importance to our customers as so many caravanners are walkers and climbers, and we recognise the reassurance of having volunteer local services always available in case of

emergency.' Team Leader, Damon Powell said: 'All our members are volunteers but we still require more than £30,000 a year to cover costs such as fuel, vehicle maintenance, specialist equipment and training. 'We are very grateful to Peter and Katy Weir and their staff

for such a generous donation which will greatly assist the smooth running of the team.' Since 1994 Peter and Katy Weir and their staff have raised a total of £30,000. Other local charities to benefit include: Oban Hospice, ARMS, H2O, Macmillan Nurses and Oban Lifeboat.



Friends of Oban Hospice celebrated another successful year with fundraising totalling almost £40,000. At their Annual General Meeting, The Blackface Sheep Breeders Association North Lorn Branch presented a cheque for £350 to the group.

Oban features in top lifestyle magazine

IN ITS May issue, now on sale, Scottish Field, Scotland's only quality lifestyle magazine, features Oban and the surrounding district. The magazine has devoted its front cover to a Spring shot of the town from McCaig's Tower taken by local photographer Dennis Hardley.

With a Caledonian MacBrayne ship heading for the isles and the paddle steamer Waverley at the North Pier, the cover photograph

shows the West Highland town in holiday mood.

Inside there is a six page editorial feature with support advertising which highlights the many attractions of visiting Oban and the surrounding area this summer. With its easy access to the islands and the land of Lorn it encourages its readers to put the town on their list of places to visit over the coming months. Using Oban as a base,

holidaymakers can enjoy day visits to Mull and Iona as well as to the islands of Lismore and Kerrera. Just south of the town the Isle of Seil and Easdale Island are also easily accessible for an enjoyable day's expedition. With boat trips, ancient castles and monuments to visit, gardens to enjoy, a wide variety of events and a host of hotels and restaurants serving the best of local produce Oban is the place to be this summer.

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ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell 01496 850215

Entries to Islay Mòd 2010

ISLAY'S local Mòd will be held on Saturday June 5 at Islay High School. This year's syllabus and entry forms can be obtained from neilwoodrow@btinternet.com or by telephoning Mòd secretary Neil Woodrow on 01496 810 291. The closing date for entries is Friday, April 23 and no late entries will be accepted.

Islay Show

ANYONE interested in running the bar at the annual show dance on August 12 2010 (applicant must use own licence) or wishing to place an advert in the show catalogue or to reserve a stance at the show, please contact Janey Torrance on 01496 810789 by April 30.



Donald Ferguson, crofter and artist who died in 2008 aged 46



Ferguson work was inspired by his surroundings

Ferguson show planned for North Uist gallery

His work was intimately connected with his surroundings

A NEW exhibition showcasing the work of a well-loved local son is set to open at an award winning North Uist gallery. Lochmaddy's Taigh Chearsabhagh Museum and Arts Centre will feature the work of the late Donald Ferguson from May 1 and also launch a publication about his life and work. Crofter and artist Donald was born on Barra in 1962 and grew up in Borve, revealing his artistic talents early on. In 1991, he returned to the Western Isles and settled on North Uist with his wife Mary Clare Mackinnon, becoming a crofter and an active community member. Sophie Morrish, tutor at Taigh Chearsabhagh where Donald studied art, said his work was intimately connected with

his surroundings. She said: 'From early on the subject of Donald's work was indivisible from the love of his native environment and culture of the Outer Hebrides, the progression of his creative output reflecting his close involvement with the land, natural history and the traditions of crofting.' High standards He had high standards for his own work, she added, and destroyed paintings he was not happy with, making it a challenge to curate a retrospective of his work. Donald tragically died in 2008 and Rory Macneil of Barra said this exhibition was an opportunity to remember him. He said: 'This exhibition is a small gesture of thanks to Donald for all he gave to his friends and the communities of which he was a part.

'We hope it opens the way for his work to be appreciated by others who did not have the privilege of knowing Donald, and for them to reflect on whether Donald does not deserve wider recognition among predecessors like McTaggart and Eardley.' Andy Mackinnon, Arts Officer at Taigh Chearsabhagh, added: 'The task of collecting and cataloguing Donald's work from the many admirers of his painting from all over Britain was only made possible with the assistance of Mary Clare Ferguson, Rory Macneil, Julie Brook, Sophie Morrish, Margaret MacLellan, Norman MacLeod and the overwhelming generosity of the leaders of the work.' The exhibition runs until June 26.

THE PIPING SCENE

Qualifier for Silver Medal

With the current year solo competitions already under way, it has recently been announced that there is to be a qualifying competition for some of the places in the silver medal contest at the Argyllshire Gathering and the Northern Meeting this year. This was decided at the eligibility meeting held at the end of February. This is a joint meeting where the main promoters, the CPA and judges representatives discuss the merits of likely contenders for participation in the respective silver medal contests. I have been suggesting such a scheme for these competitions for some time and I am pleased to see that it is finally taking place. The Northern Meeting have sensibly stuck to their agreed limit of twenty five for their contest. The Argyllshire Gathering has decided to stick with their number of around thirty players. It seems that old habits die hard at Oban. So the places that have not been allocated directly will be added to from the qualifier - ten for the Argyllshire Gathering and five for the Northern Meeting with five as reserves. The qualifier will be held in The College of Piping on the Sunday preceding the contest at Oban. The number playing in the qualifier is likely to be around eighteen. I am told that the judges at the qualifier will not be the same as those who will judge the silver medal competition.

featured an assessment of the performance of a piobaireachd by two of our younger players, John Mulhearn and Alasdair Henderson, by three senior judges with comments along the lines of what might appear on critique sheets.

Glenfiddich Championship

William Grant & Sons, sponsors of the Glenfiddich Championship held at the end of October each year in Blair Castle, have made some changes to the rules for qualification for the contest. The Silver Chanter recital has been dropped as a qualifier, as has one of the professional contests held in the USA. In their place comes the Masters competition held in the National Piping Centre in August during Piping Live, and the overall winner from the London Contest held in November. It seems fair enough to drop the Silver Chanter, as these days it is a shadow of its former self, featuring only four or five invited players with no qualification pre-requisite. The "Masters" contest has amended its entry requirements to strengthen the field. The decision to include the overall at London is a bit puzzling though as this competition already has a qualifying competition featured in the Glenfiddich list (The Bratach Gorm). The rules now adopted for qualification for the Glenfiddich are now:

1. Current Glenfiddich champion
2. Winner of The Northern Meeting Clasp
3. Winner of Northern Meeting Former Winners MSR
4. Winner of Senior Piobaireachd at Argyllshire Gathering
5. Winner of Former Winners MSR Argyllshire Gathering
6. Winner of Masters Competition Glasgow
7. Winner of Bratach Gorm London
8. Winner of overall London
9. Winner of Gold Medal Argyllshire Gathering
10. Winner of Gold Medal Northern Meeting

Critique sheets

This topic featured at the last seminar for judges on the Joint Committee list when a guest speaker, Mr Alastair Aitken of the training board of the Royal Scottish Pipe Band Association, spoke on how they approached the subject of compiling critique/points sheets. Whilst the similarities between producing a critique sheet for a pipe band and one for a solo ceol mor competition may not be immediately obvious, it was interesting to hear how the Association approached the task of producing these sheets and how they consequently arrived at a result from summary sheets compiled at the same time by each adjudicator. There was some discussion on how sheets may be prepared, what they may contain, and what detail may be relevant to performances. At the same time the adjudicator must attempt to tread the fine line between giving an opinion on a performance, and giving what some may describe as free lessons. No definite decisions were taken on how this should be moved forward, but it was obvious from the discussion that some judges are very much against writing such sheets at all, whilst others prefer a composite sheet from the bench rather than individual sheets from each judge. It will be interesting to see where this one goes from here, as at the moment the writing of critique sheets is only a requirement at silver medal level. The session

In the event of multiple winners, the Clasp, Senior and former winners' second prize winners will be taken into consideration.

Forthcoming Events

The next main junior competition is in Campbeltown on 24 April for the contest run by the Kintyre Piping Society. The following weekend is the Highlands and Islands Music Festival held in Oban where both senior and junior competitions take place.

Dunvegan Medal

It has just recently been decided that the Dunvegan Medal competition held in Portree in August has capped the entry numbers at 25. This brings it into line with other major contests and is to be welcomed. I believe entries will be allocated on a 'first come first served' basis.

Hugh MacCallum

SCALPAY

Your correspondent is Donald Morrison 01859 540217

Fishing

CREELERS remained berthed for some time around Easter time because of high winds.

It is probably too early to mention the subject of mackerel, as the season for catching them is not until August. Yes, mackerel can be hooked in the summer but it seems they are fatter later on in the year.

Minch traffic

ON SCALPAY we get a good view of the usual shipping traffic in the Minch. Cargo boats and cruiser yachts are often bound for Scandinavian ports.

A look back

A FEW of us can recall the past mail boat, the Loch Mor, which used to carry a miscellany of cargo to Scalpay. As well as letters the boat would carry up to a dozen week-old chickens in a cardboard box.

TIGHNABRUAICH

Lifeboat launched

TIGHNABRUAICH'S B' class rigid inflatable lifeboat was launched last Thursday after a yacht with six people on board got into trouble off Ardlamont Point in the Kyles of Bute. The lifeboat was called out at 3.40pm after the yacht's propeller shaft broke, causing a leak. Rod Roberts of the Tighnabruaich rescue team said: 'The crew plugged the leak and the yacht was able to sail on to Largs unassisted.' There were six people onboard the yacht - four adults and two children.



Sisters' collection of art and designs is donated to Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre

ACOLLECTION of artworks and designs, by two Gaelic speaking Skye descendants has been donated to the Skye and Lochalsh Archive Centre in Portree. The collected works of the MacDonald sisters are invaluable artwork and designs of Indian, African, Scottish drawings and social comment from sisters Catriona Mairi and Mairead. The sisters were fluent Gaelic speakers and writers, despite having never visited their homeland. And despite the early life of the women's lives, during the 1920s through 1940s, being relatively well documented what the women did to make their living remains something of a mystery.

first time in her life, despite being a fluent Gaelic scholar and daughter of the island, she returned home to Skye. 'Catriona asked for two things when she moved to The Haven in Uig: her piano and a tortoise named Demetriadi, that she had owned since she was 17. 'Before she died she enjoyed playing the piano for the other residents. Sadly her tortoise never made it to the island, but he still lives on Sark and is the grand old age of 73.

'My cousins and I always imagined that we would have plenty of time to talk to Catriona. But that wasn't to be, and Catriona sadly passed away in Portree Hospital on August 30, 2006.'

'In Catriona's estate there were many, many drawings and designs. They are a remarkable collection recording life in India, Africa and London. Some of them are even written in Gaelic, which is quite a thing.

'From family records and the sister's drawings and designs we can tell that shortly after Mairead's birth the family moved from Karachi to Cawnpore (Kampur). In 1929 they moved to London where they remained until 1948. They then moved to South Africa, Durban, Natal and were there till 1958 when they returned to London.

'After their mother's death in 1966 the sisters moved to Malta until 1987 when they moved to Sark.

'Mairead died in 1990 but Catriona continued to live a very active life in Sark. However by 2005 she was becoming frail and hospital bills in Guernsey were huge.

'Both Anglican and Methodist ministers were very kind to her but in early 2006, my brother, who she named as her next of kin, spoke to my cousin who is a surgeon in Penzance and he



Archive Centre with left to right Alison Beaton, Anne MacLeod, Susan Beckley and Murdoch MacKenzie each holding one piece of the artwork. Susan Beckley is the Highland Council Archivist. Anne MacLeod is the Archivist for Skye and Lochalsh based in the new Archive Centre on the Portree High School Campus. Alison Beaton is her colleague.

arranged for Catriona to be taken to Penzance and to be assessed medically.

'She agreed to go to The Haven care home in Uig in Skye and an ambulance took her from Penzance to there. I visited her there to obtain permission and a signed statement to enter her house and look through her possessions.

'Someone had to go to Sark to sort out her affairs and as I had carved out three days in my diary to prepare for a talk I was supposed to give I put that aside and flew to the Channel Islands.

'I arrived at 5 pm on a Monday and left at 11 am on the Wednesday. Without taking much sleep I went through as much as I could, found the artwork in a huge blue tin trunk. I brought as much as I could back in my own little bag.

'I also laid aside other things which were to be

sent on later including her Kemble Cameo piano, some furniture and other items relating to the family.

'These were shipped in a container and eventually arrived in Uig via Oxford.

'The piano is still in The Haven. Once in Skye she was able to speak to people, other than her parents and her sister, in Gaelic for the first time in her life.'

Much of the sisters' lives remain a mystery to the family. Rev MacKenzie continued: 'They seemed to have studied at Harrow College of Art where they were elected Fellows of the Royal Society of the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce in December 1943.

'Some of their drawings are social comments about Gaelic gatherings in London, of the state of the artistic world and indeed everyday life in Africa. The sisters

made extensive drawings of ceramics and pottery from museums. They also designed an incredible amount of designs for wallpaper and fabrics. But to what ends I am not sure. It will take some more investigative work to find out.'

Cousins Christine and Dave Torlach were so intrigued by the works of art that they took them to the Antiques Roadshow when it was filming at the Castle of Mey. The expert Paul Atterbury, was so interested in the work that he has kept in touch with the family. Upon hearing the works had been moved to Skye, he said: 'This is a very satisfactory outcome, and a great reward for all your work. I am glad to have been able, via the Roadshow, to have played a small part in the process.'

It may take some time until the works are archived. Visitors should contact the centre ahead of any visit.

Kyleakin walkers raise cash



Kyleakin Primary pupils held a sponsored walk in aid of Sport Relief on Friday, March 26. They managed to raise a total of £342 - a great amount for only 23 pupils.

AROUND THE RURALS

Kilbrandon

Vice President Shona Neil welcomed everyone to the April meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI, held recently in Seil Island Hall.

The Lorn Rally, held in the Hall on March 20, had been a great success with everyone enjoying the excellent venue and the warmth of welcome extended by Kilbrandon members to all visitors. Kilbrandon's entries had been very successful, with a good number of red, silver and gold stars including the award to Sue Moss of the prize for the Special Competition (Child's Ball). Shona introduced the speaker for the evening: Adele de Solla who runs the

Centre of Healing in Oban, providing a holistic approach to improve health and well-being. Adele gave an outline of her work, and then offered members the chance to experience shoulder, head and hand massage to relax muscles and relieve stress. The vote of thanks was given by Julie Ferris.

Kilmore

KILMORE SWRI's March meeting welcomed George McNab, gardener at Ardhattan Priory for a talk on the care of cacti. George's passion for cacti started when he was a small boy and today he has a large collection at Ardhattan. Members enjoyed an excellent evening.

Competition: Petticoat tails. 1 Mrs R Thomas 2 Mrs I Smith. Tablet: 1 Mrs F Dickie.

Taynuilt

President Mrs Jessie Servant welcomed 12 members and one visitor to the March meeting in Taynuilt Village Hall.

Mrs Margaret Whitton from the Kilmore institute demonstrated the making of paper flowers. Margaret soon had everyone making crocuses and daffodils. Jessie called for a vote of thanks for Margaret and tea was served by hostesses Alice Campbell and Ann McCallum. Competitions: Orange curd: 1 Cathie Potter. Photo: 1 Alice Campbell.

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Lorn Lines

OBAN High School has raised a total of £1,277.31 for the Haiti appeal.

The money was raised at a concert held in the Corran Halls, which was a joint venture with the Oban Rotary Club.

The total amount raised was split between the school and the rotarians.

The school will donate their half of the total to Mary's Meals and the Rotary Club's half will go to Shelter boxes.

School captains Lisa MacKenzie and Angus Scott attended a recent meeting of the Rotary Club where they presented a cheque for their half to the Oban Rotary Club President David Mitchell.



School captains Lisa MacKenzie and Angus Scott present a cheque for £1,277.31 to Oban Rotary Club President David Mitchell.

□□□

MORE than 15 spring clean-up events are taking place around Argyll in the next couple of weeks as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's annual National Spring Clean Campaign.

The clean-up campaign is being funded by the Scottish government and anyone who registers is sent a free clean-up pack including tabards, posters, stickers and bin bags.

Eight clean-ups have been registered for Lorn on the Keep Scotland Beautiful website <http://springclean.keepsotlandtidy.org/map.asp> in the following areas: Port Appin, Lismore, Barcaldine, Dunbeg, Ardchattan, Connel, Bonawe, Kilchrenan, Lochgilphead, Ardrishaig, Ormsary, Tarbert, Clachan Tarbert, Campbeltown and Jura.

□□□

GEORGE Berry is sticking to his fitness regime as he recovers from a pre-planned hernia operation by taking part in light cardio vascular exercise.

And things seem to be working out as he is maintaining his weight loss and continues to enjoy exercise three times a week.

Robin Morton of Energie Fitness said: 'Anyone thinking of joining George on his walk up Ben Nevis in September should be getting out and about, making full use of the good weather.'

'We are already planning our first practice hill walk up Ben Lora and we will be doing a peak once a month until the big day.'

'Anyone taking part in the Man Versus Mountain Walk should contact Andrew at Energie Fitness on 565000. He will be happy to give some training and nutrition advice for the climb.'

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£23m invested in social home improvements

AN ARGYLL housing association is to spend over £23 million on improving its homes in the coming year.

The board of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA),

which owns more than 5,000 homes, approved the spending in its 2010-11 budget. Over 1,000 kitchens and bathrooms will be fitted while hundreds more houses will be rewired, re-roofed and get

new windows. More than £2.8m will also be spent on ACHA's new development at Croft Avenue, Oban, as well as building new homes in Dunoon, Ardrishaig, Campbeltown and Islay.

Alastair MacGregor, ACHA's chief executive, said: 'In these challenging and difficult economic times I am pleased that we have been able to approve a budget which will improve homes, build new ones and invest in retaining and

creating jobs in the Argyll and Bute economy.' More than a third of the association's income for next year will come from Scottish government grants for new homes and improvements.

Argyll bus info goes high-tech

HI-TECH tracking equipment is to be put on all West Coast Motors buses in Argyll and on some ferry routes.

Real Time Passenger Information, which is already in use on 24 buses in the area, gives accurate information to waiting passengers about when their bus will arrive.

First for Argyll
HITRANS partnership manager Ranald Robertson said: 'As well as having screens at bus stations we want to have tracking devices on the three main ferries operating out of Oban: MV The Isle of Mull, MV Lord of the Isles and MV Clansman.'

'That will be a ground-breaking move; I'm not aware of it happening anywhere else.'

HITRANS also plans to put the information on the internet, meaning passengers can check if their bus or ferry is on time before leaving home.

Mr Robertson said investing in this plan will put Argyll one step ahead of the rest of Scotland.

'By showing early interest in real time technology West Coast Motors is right at the cutting edge of this project and we want to hold it up as an exemplar to the rest of Scotland,' he said.

HITRANS, Argyll and Bute Council and West Coast Motors have helped to finance the project, with 60 per cent of funding coming from the European Union.

The technology won't just be used to get information to passengers. HITRANS say it will also tell drivers how to drive more efficiently and how to maintain their tyres. This would reduce costs of maintenance and possibly lower insurance.

HITRANS aim to have the scheme fully rolled out on the buses and ferries by January 2011.



Pictured at Oban Airport are, from left: airport assistant manager Tom Eddleston, pilot Julie Angell, Argyll and Bute Council operations manager Martin Gorrige, Hebridean Air Services chief pilot George Cormack and Councillor Duncan MacIntyre. 07_116air01

Hebridean praised for Oban flight takeover

THE SPEED with which Hebridean Air Services was able to take over the running of flights from Oban Airport has been described as 'remarkable' by an Argyll councillor.

Cumbernauld-based Hebridean Air Services and Argyll and Bute Council, which owns the airport, worked round the clock to get flights off the ground again after Highland Airways, which ran the public service order (PSO) flights to Tiree, Coll and Colonsay, went into administration.

The council's transport spokesman Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said he was impressed that a process, which usually takes months, was reduced to two weeks.

Chief pilot with the new operators, George Cormack, was officially welcomed to

the airport last Thursday by Councillor MacIntyre and Martin Gorrige, council operations manager for marine and airports.

"a tremendous achievement, which is much appreciated by the service users."

Argyll and Bute Council councillor Duncan MacIntyre

Mr Cormack and his staff were praised for working over Easter weekend to train staff and set up websites and phone lines in order to accommodate passengers

quickly. Councillor MacIntyre said: 'George and Martin and the various administrators had to jump through hoops to get the flights off the ground and to do that in two weeks is remarkable.'

'When you consider everything they had to go through with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and the various areas of red tape it was a tremendous achievement, which is appreciated by the service users.'

'Another thing that impressed me was the support from the communities involved, who were keen to ensure the service continued as quickly as possible.'

Pilot Julie Angell, who flew the same route with Highland Airways, will fly Hebridean's Britten

Norman Highlander aircraft on the routes and said she was delighted to have been recruited once more.

Mr Cormack explained: 'I knew I wanted Julie to fly this service as soon as I heard Highland Airways went into administration. You don't get too many experienced Islander pilots.'

'We were fortunate to have the same CAA Flight Operations Inspector as Highland Airways, who understood the importance of this route and that helped to speed up the process of taking it over.'

A new tendering process for the routes from September will begin shortly and Hebridean Air Services intends to bid for them.

It is the company's long term aim to develop more routes on Scotland's west coast.

Oban man admits carrying knife

AN OBAN man has pled guilty to having a knife in his possession in public.

David Ritz, Flat 10, Westbay Apartments, Oban, was overheard by two door stewards at Paparazzi bar/café in Oban on the evening Saturday March 6 when he claimed to have a knife.

The bar staff contacted police and when Ritz, aged 22, was stopped in Breadalbane Street the knife was found in his right-hand pocket.

Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that it was a black-handled knife with a three-inch blade.

Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Ritz until May 4 for background reports.

Woman caused disturbance at hospital

AN OBAN woman has pled guilty to a number of offences committed in Oban's Lorn and Islands Hospital.

Jenna Craik, aged 25, appeared last week at Oban Sheriff Court where she admitted breaching the peace on January 6 this year in the accident and emergency department and the high dependency unit as well as assaulting three police officers. Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence on Craik of Solas, Albany Street, Oban, until May 4 for background reports.

Portsonachan quiz raises £400 for Macmillan

A FUN quiz held in Portsonachan Village Hall in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care has raised £400.

Organiser Rena MacPherson, who was given 39 raffle prizes for the event, said the success of the day was down to the generosity of the communities around Loch Awe.

There was an entry of 56 people in the quiz last Friday, which Rena described as 'great fun'.

Woman denies assaulting man

AN OBAN woman has been charged with assaulting a man by hitting him on the head with a can on Saturday, April 10.

Kate McAllister, aged 43 of 1 Campbell Crescent, denied the alleged assault and was released on bail until a trial, scheduled for July 19 at Oban Sheriff Court.

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Bill Matthews, a member of Oban Mountain Rescue Team, took his Oban Times to the summit of Cotopaxi, which, at 5,897 metres (19,347 feet), is the highest 'active' volcano in Ecuador.

Oban Times travels the world

WHEN The Oban Times launched its Oban Times Travels feature, inviting people to send in photos of themselves and The Oban Times in exotic and unusual places, little did we realise how popular it would be.

Within a short space of time, there were literally hundreds of photos which are added to on a regular basis making it next to impossible to include them all in the paper.

So, instead The Oban Times has created a space on its website www.obantimes.co.uk especially for its Oban Times Travels photos.

Go to our home page and click on the 'interact' button at the top of the page, choose Oban Times Travels/View the travel map.

A map of the world will appear with lots of pins on it indicating where people have travelled with their Oban Times.

Just click on a pin to see who has been

to Siberia or the Philippines or Kenya or the Namibian desert or Tristan de Cunha and, of course, Oban - New Zealand with their Oban Times.

Our readers are a well-travelled bunch having taken their Oban Times to events or to the top of mountains or to families abroad or to world heritage sites or just to the beach.

Thanks to you, this West Highland institution is a very well-travelled oracle.

Because of the volume of photos that has been sent into us since we started this feature not all the photos have made it into the website world map yet, however, slowly but surely we are getting around to putting them all on.

Just keep checking to see if yours has made it yet and if you haven't done so and are going away somewhere this year - don't forget to take your Oban Times with you - and send in your photo to editor@obantimes.co.uk.

Rutherford's

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The Cutting Edge of Success

Rutherford's Hair & Beauty salon is proving to be a huge success and to help celebrate their great success we are offering one of our lucky readers a free cut and colour.

Closing date for entries: Friday 30th April

Complete the form below and send or hand in to Rutherford's.

Name.....
Address.....
Telephone.....

Police investigate thrown glass claim

POLICE are investigating CCTV images after allegations that a glass was thrown in a public bar in Oban. The incident occurred in the early hours of April 11 in the Woodside Bar, Oban. Police are appealing for witnesses to the incident. The victim received treatment for minor injuries.

Barcaldine 'help' call ends in arrest

A DISTRESS call from a suicidal man saw him alive and well and subsequently arrested in relation to other matters. Police were called to Sutherland Grove, Barcaldine on Saturday April 10 at 7.50 am, by a male who said he intended to commit suicide. Police attended and a man was found safe but was spoken to about another matter.

Public health grants to help communities

COMMUNITIES who want to develop health projects could get a helping hand from a small grant scheme. Oban, Lorn and the Isles Public Health Network is making small grants of up to £2,500 available to community groups that want to carry out health improvement activities. Past grants have paid for gardening equipment, swimming lessons for carers, targeted counselling sessions and even a Wii fit for use by a Three youth club and a pensioners' lunch club. Eleanor MacKinnon chair of the network said the funds were to support new ways of promoting health in the area, particularly by encouraging new partnerships.

An information day will be held next Thursday, April 22, for those who are interested in applying and who want help to develop their applications. Workshops will take place from 2-4pm and from 5-7pm in the Dunollie Halls, Oban. Places must be booked in advance by contacting 01631 569 545 or training.abvc@tiscali.co.uk.

NTS launch 'inspirational' art competition

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland has launched an art competition urging artists in Argyll and Bute to use the trust's assets for inspiration. The competition is open to students, emerging and established artists. Artists can submit two-dimensional art of all types. Entries should be submitted via www.nts.org.uk/artcompetition by August 16 2010.

Marketing groups in Cowal get £18,000 boost from Visit Scotland

VISITScotland has awarded two Argyll marketing groups more than £18,000 in a bid to put the Argyll peninsula firmly on the tourist map. Cowal Marketing group and Kyles Marketing group were awarded the cash from VisitScotland's growth fund. Cowal Marketing group, made up of 33 local businesses, was awarded £13,800 with the Kyles Group, made up of 10 local businesses, receiving £5,000. The Cowal Marketing group will use the money to develop a new image of the area as a visitor destination. David Marshall, vice chairman of the group, said: 'The majority of people are simply unaware of what Cowal has to offer. The growth fund award will help us build a fresh, new brand and website and launch a PR campaign this summer which will help to establish Cowal's reputation as an essential west coast visitor destination.'

The group aim to promote this area as 'Argyll's Secret Coast'. VisitScotland's regional director David Adams-McGilp said the two groups 'are a shining example of local businesses working together to promote their product and area, which is exactly what the growth fund is all about'. VisitScotland launched the growth fund in 2008 with the aim of helping reach new markets.



Litter left by fishermen is spoiling Loch Etive beauty spots, according to the community and visitors. 15.116r001

'Sickening' litter threatens beauty spots

POPULAR Loch Etive beauty spots are being spoiled and wildlife threatened by litter.

One regular visitor who found heaps of rubbish described the disrespect as 'sickening'. After visiting a spot on the shore near Archdattan Priory to enjoy the views, she said: 'We were very disappointed to see the mess that had been left by people fishing. There were bags full of rubbish, empty plastic bait boxes, bait bags, cans, broken bottles and cigarette packets strewn all over the shore and the surrounding area.'

'It is a lovely spot popular with campers and fishermen. Considering the wildlife around the loch and that the loch is such a rich source of seafood for our local industry we were saddened at the blatant disregard for the area. No serious fisherman would show such disrespect for our very precious country side.'

Iain MacDonald, chair of Archdattan Community

EXCLUSIVE REPORT by CHRISTINE McCARTNEY
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

"We were saddened at the blatant disregard for the area."
regular visitor to Loch Etive

responsibly. There are lots of sea-anglers who come up on a regular basis and they are as appalled as we are when they see this.'

Mr MacDonald added the community may need to consider new measures to tackle litter, including bins and signs: 'For years we have taken the view that people should be taking their litter home, but that doesn't always work.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said they did not carry out regular cleaning of the areas, but supported community clean up efforts.

She said: 'We have tried placing communal and trade bins at these sites, but unfortunately they had to be removed because of misuse. There are no plans at present to reinstate them.'

She added no complaints had been made about these sites, but council staff would be visiting them to make sure they were tidy as soon as possible.

Mull commerce group appoints development officer

MULL and Iona Chamber of Commerce has appointed a development officer to oversee the growth of the organisation.

And, with a new worker, the chairman of the organisation is hopeful that an affiliation with Glasgow Chamber of Commerce will see the group grow in numbers and in status.

Sandy Brunton, chairman, said: 'The Chamber of Commerce on Mull and Iona has been on the go for a long time. We have two very busy websites and we are always getting asked our opinion on roads, ferries and transport. 'We have to keep moving ahead have agreed to become affiliated with Glasgow

Chamber of Commerce and in turn with the Scottish and UK chambers. In doing so, a new raft of business may be interested in becoming members of the chamber, as we will be able to offer a substantial benefits package. 'We sincerely believe that many businesses on the island will appreciate the

benefits of the enhanced packaged and the lobbying power that the affiliation will give us.

'The new worker, employed through Mull and Iona Community Trust (MICT), is Sian Scott. She will actively and pro-actively develop the services for businesses on the island.'

Visitors flock to see Orkney Venus

CHILDREN from Lochgilphead and the surrounding area were some of the first people to see the Orkney Venus when it went on display locally.

Robyn Garrie, 12, brother Alexander Garrie, 10 and Niamh Brady, 8, went to see the 5,000-year-old figurine at Kilmartin House Museum last Friday morning when the exhibition doors were open.

The Venus, also known as the Westray Wife, is the only known Neolithic carving of a human form to have been found in Scotland.

The exhibition, which will remain at the museum until April 18, provides an overview of recent research on the Venus and tell the story of current excavations on Westray.

Uist organisation learns of the qualities of Lochmaddy Bay

MEMBERS of the Uists' Society of the Sea, Comunn Na Mara (CNM) took a trip round Lochmaddy Bay at the weekend to learn more about the unique qualities of the habitat.

The trip was the first of a series being planned to invite members of the public to explore Lochmaddy Bay over the summer.

The bay holds Marine Special Area of Conservation status, and is considered one of the finest sites in Europe for the diversity of ecosystems, flora and fauna within its waters.

Piloted by Niall Johnson of Uist Outdoor Centre, the group spent more than two hours visiting different areas of the loch.

Marine scientist Andrew Rodger of Berneray was aboard to guide the tour and answer members' questions. He also used an underwater camera to show CNM



members the richness of the wildlife beneath the surface.

Expertise was also added by naturalists Joanne Ferguson of SNH and Steve Duffield, of Western Isles Wildlife Tours.

CNM chairman Gus Macaulay said: 'This was a fact-finding trip to give CNM a greater understanding of the bay and evaluate what we can do in future to offer opportunities for the

public to learn more about Lochmaddy Bay.

'In collaboration with Niall Johnson and other parties we are looking at offering a series of educational trips to schools and the public over the summer.'

He added: 'CNM members have a great pool of knowledge among them about marine matters but were astounded by the riches of Lochmaddy Bay.'

Plan aims to generate more Gaelic speakers

A PLAN to create a new generation of Gaelic speakers has been welcomed by government ministers.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the main public body to promote and develop Gaelic, was asked by the government to create a plan to increase Gaelic usage.

The plan, Ginealach Ùr na Gàidhlig, will focus on young people and parental support, but also aims to improve adult learning and to make the Gaelic language more accessible in everyday life.

Arthur Cormack, Chair of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, said he is aware that the plan needs to focus on many different areas to be successful.

He said: 'There is no single answer to the challenges faced and no one solution

that can save a language in decline.

'A range of strategies will be adopted in a structured manner to secure the future of Gaelic.'

Minister for Gaelic Fiona Hyslop said: 'Gaelic is so much more than a language - it is a rich and vital element of Scottish culture, both past and present.

'We want a sustainable future for the language and to ensure its survival.'

"Gaelic is so much more than a language..."

Minister for Gaelic Fiona Hyslop

Skye stunt rider is looking for luck



Danny MacAskill

ISLE OF Skye stunt bike rider Danny MacAskill is hoping a new sponsorship deal with a helmet manufacturer will bring him better luck as he recovers from his second collarbone break in five months.

The Dunvegan daredevil became famous after 16 million people viewed his gravity-defying exploits riding his bike through Edinburgh's streets viewed his video clip on YouTube.

Danny, now based in the capital, has signed a deal with Swedish company POC helmets for a three years partnership and received his new helmets last week.

He said: 'I am so excited to be working with such an amazing company and I am really happy to have the products and the support to push my riding to where I want it to be.' CEO and POC founder Stefan Ytterborn said he was 'so proud' to have the Skye man on his team.

Saw Doctors ticket winners

TICKETS for the Saw Doctors Oban concert have been won by Irene MacDougall, Oban who named the band's new album as What the Saw Doctors Saw; Anne White, Fort William with Hear We Go Again; Roseann Morrison, Oban with Songs From Real Life; Hector MacDonald, Oban with Gon'eirit -adh leat (Good Luck to You) and John Muir, Ardrishaig with Slante.

Green power options are discussed at Easdale

MEMBERS of the Easdale Island community heard the case for wind, solar power and heat pump technology at a meeting to help decide which alternative energy source the island will take on.

Homes on the island are among the least energy efficient in Scotland and the community has received funding from the Scottish Gas Green Streets programme to help address the problem.

However the community also sees this as an opportunity to generate its own power on the island.

In opening the meeting, which was hosted by Eilean Eisdale, local builder Mike MacKenzie said: 'We have been bombarded with information on climate change but while I am aware of that, I maybe hadn't thought about the issue carefully.

'This project has made me think about it.'

The idea of tidal power was raised by Mr MacKenzie, who added that a wave power generator, unlike a wind turbine, would be unobtrusive and could generate enough energy to power the island.



Front, Mina MacLeod, Ewen MacLure, Lachie John MacDonald, David MacRae, Jamie Fraser, and back, Charlene Macleod, Paul Bassett, Scott Anderson, Cameron Reid and Carol Mackay at the awards ceremony.

Kyleakin centre celebrates attenders' achievements

KYLEAKIN Connections Day Centre has held a presentation day to celebrate achievements made by the attenders through the John Muir Award and Skye and Wester Ross College.

Friends and family enjoyed a buffet and a display of work, while Highland Council development officer Paul Bassett and the

college's Tracy Matheson gave a presentation of their work.

Lib Dem representative Alan MacRae presented John Muir awards and SVQs in IT skills certificates to the attenders, who are currently working towards a SVQ in food and drink service through working in The Nice Café, which they run in Kyleakin.

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£80 million Fort waterfront project could be scrapped

HIGHLAND Council leader Michael Foxley is warning Fort William's £80million waterfront project could be scrapped if the council's partner developers fronting the controversial scheme fail to meet their deadlines.

In an exclusive interview, Dr Foxley suggested Fort William Waterfront Ltd (FWWL) could lose out to a major supermarket elsewhere in the town if concrete evidence of progress does not emerge soon. Miller Developments are shortly expected to lodge a planning application for a huge development at the Blar Mhor, including a 70,000 sq ft superstore, while Morbaine Ltd also plan to file their bid for a supermarket at North Road within weeks.

Dr Foxley issued his ultimatum following revelations last week that FWWL has made no move on taking over leases from the council's landlords, the

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



Council leader Michael Foxley

Remenham Partnership, which rents Tweeddale Buildings on High Street to the council as office space.

As part of a deal which secured them 'preferred developer' status, FWWL agreed to buy out the council's expensive longterm

leases on Tweeddale and Lochaber House before rehousing council services in brand new offices at the waterfront. Remenham director Steve Gary said he had not even received a phone call from FWWL on re-assigning the leases.

FWWL also has to complete environmental, flood risk, A82 re-routing, traffic impact and retail impact assessments by next January under 'suspensive conditions' written into their contract with the council.

Speaking in Lochaber House on Tuesday, Dr Foxley said he was 'extremely unhappy' at the apparent lack of progress, and ruled out giving FWWL an extension of time to meet contract conditions. He also said FWWL's requirement to realign the A82 to link the town centre with the waterfront was 'inviolable'.

Challenged on public concerns over the lack of

action, Dr Foxley said: 'They [FWWL] have been told they must stick to the timetable and comply with it. They have to get on with it. If they don't, they either withdraw their bid or apply for an extension - and if they don't get that, the contract falls.'

'We now have a credible alternative proposal [Miller Developments scheme] which is currently going through the pre-planning consultation process, so it is essential that we know that the FWWL scheme is proceeding before any credible proposal has been formally submitted.'

FWWL spokesperson Charlie Barbour told a public meeting in Fort in December there was 'no room' in Fort William for another supermarket other than the one they hoped to bring to the waterfront. Mr Barbour has not responded to emails from The Oban Times.

Uist croft row goes to court despite petition

COMMUNITY landowners Stòras Uibhist are taking one of its own members to court over a piece of land.

Petition

Snishival crofter Murdo Mackenzie, 60, won approval from the Crofters Commission for a small apportionment of Snishival Common Grazings in July 2008.

Stòras did not appeal the decision but then raised an action with the Scottish Land Court to have the

apportionment rescinded. The disputed land adjoins an apportionment belonging to Stòras Uibhist chairman Angus MacMillan.

At a recent meeting in Stonebridge Hall, SU directors were challenged on their costly legal battles.

Friends of Mr MacKenzie subsequently organised a petition urging Stòras to call off its action 'in the interests of decency and justice'.

Mr MacKenzie told The Oban Times: 'I do know

of the possible existence of a petition of some kind, but I can't have anything to do with this until the court case takes place.'

Court costs

He added: 'Not only do I have to pay for my defence but I am contributing through my taxes to Stòras Uibhist's prosecution of its own case.'

Archie MacKay, production editor of the island's community newspaper Am Paiper, said: 'The feeling is that it [the petition] has

gone to quite a few shops that have been quite happy to take it.'

Stòras Uibhist vice chairman, Fr Michael MacDonald told The Oban Times: 'The board of directors have a legal duty to protect the assets owned by the community and work in the interests of the community as a whole.'

'The petition and the issues it addresses will be considered by the board when it is submitted.'



James Aitchison proudly shows off his trophy to the Nevis Centre crowd

Nevis boxing show proves a sell-out hit

JAMES Aitchison of Lochaber Phoenix Amateur Boxing Club was among the home winners at the club's sell-out boxing show at the Nevis Centre in Fort William on Saturday night.

James, aged 12, prevailed in his bout against George Stewart from Granite City ABC, Aberdeen, in front of 500 enthusiastic fans. The young boxer, from

Upper Achintore in Fort William, also won the young boxer of the night trophy for his efforts over three two-minute rounds.

The evening featured 12 fights in total - not including those outside the Nevis Centre after the event.

Fighting broke out between a group of young men and quickly developed into a general melee.

Such was the inebriation of the combatants, however, scarcely a decent punch was landed.

Acting police inspector David Campbell told The Oban Times: 'There was a wee rummy. But it was a minor disturbance which had dispersed before the arrival of police officers.'

Full boxing coverage and pictures on sports pages.

Planners to visit proposed Morvern housing site

COUNCILLORS have deferred two major housing applications in Lochaber until they view the proposed sites for themselves on May 4.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning committee members will visit Achnaha two miles west of Lochaline, where Ardornish Estate wants to build 20 homes on an 18 hectare site on both sides of the B849. A visit to Old Town, North Ballachulish, where D and E MacGillivray are seeking permission for 10 homes, will follow.

Councillors decided on Tuesday in Portree to hold site hearings after both applications attracted numerous objections.

Morvern Community Council were among 13 respondents concerned at the scale and impact of the proposed development at Achnaha, while the North Ballachulish proposal attracted 20 written objections from local residents.

Councillor Bren Gormley said: 'The scale of the development is not huge in general terms, but in a community like Morvern it is huge.'

Bronze sculpture for 'Way' finish

A BRONZE sculpture of a seated weary hiker rubbing his feet will soon greet walkers at the new finish of the West Highland Way at Gordon Square, Fort William.

Planning councillors gave approval for the 1.3 metre figure in Portree on Tuesday as part of a £518,000 scheme to revamp the town centre, which will be undertaken by contractors Pat Munro of AIness.

NEWSDESK
01631 568060

Oban laptop thief is sent to jail for six months

AN OBAN man who stole two laptops to feed his drug habit has been sent to prison for six months.

Paul Nicol, of Ty an Mor, Glenmore Road, turned 29 years old on the day of his sentencing last Tuesday at Oban Sheriff Court, where he pled guilty to breaking into the house and stealing two laptops and a webcam on March 23, while on bail.

The laptops, which were recovered by police, contained all the coursework of a mature student who lived at the address.

District procurator fiscal Laura McPherson told the court that, on the date libelled, the student was alone in the house and was woken at 2am by his dog barking.

He became aware that

the downstairs lights were on and discovered a panel on the kitchen door had been smashed and both laptops, plus webcam, stolen.

Police enquires traced the laptops to an address where the occupant told police he was keeping the laptops for Nicol, who was arrested on March 30.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said his client's life had been blighted by heroin since the age of 18.

He added: 'He carried out this break-in to fund his drug habit. 'He doesn't seem able to help himself and clearly needs serious detoxification.'

In sentencing Nicol, Sheriff Douglas Small noted he had six previous convictions for similar offences.

Tea ladies raise £6,000 for Fort William A&E



Joint organisers Christine Dennis and Betty Campbell present the cheque to charge nurse Karen MacMillan

A GROUP of dedicated Lochaber 'tea ladies' have raised the amazing sum of £6,000 for the accident and emergency department at the Belford Hospital in Fort William.

The 80-strong volunteer army work a rota system Monday to Friday all year round serving teas, coffees and biscuits to patients and visitors in the Belford Hospital T Bar and took three years to raise the money. Organisers Betty Campbell and Christine Dennis and their team presented the £6,000 cheque to charge nurse Karen MacMillan at the hospital on Monday.

Betty said volunteers are carrying on the work of the late Marie Girvan who led moves to keep the service going after the WRVS pulled out six years ago. She said: 'The hospital staff are just over the moon about it. The money is going to be spent in the A&E department. We are so grateful to all the volunteers for giving up their time. Without them we would never have managed to cover all the shifts or been able to raise so much money.'

Sign language initiative is coming to Oban

A NEW initiative to encourage more employees to take up sign language is coming to Oban.

Signs4Life, a voluntary organisation, is setting up introductory inhouse employee courses designed to equip people with the skills needed to communicate with deaf and hard of hearing.

The courses are designed specifically for individual

companies with employees learning signs that are common to the environment in which they operate.

The certified courses also help organisations comply with the Disability Discrimination Act and meet corporate responsibility targets.

Sara Phillips, a tutor with Signs4Life, said: 'There are 95,000 deaf and hearing-

impaired people in Scotland.

'You never know when you will come into contact with a customer, a colleague or a member of the public who is deaf or hearing impaired.'

'I think the forthcoming Adult Learners' Week (May 15-21) would be a great opportunity to introduce some deaf awareness into the workplace', she added.

The aim of Signs4Life is

to raise public and political awareness of the hearing impaired.

The organisation is also behind campaigns to introduce sign language into the education system alongside other languages like French and Spanish.

For more information about Signs4Life in Oban log on to www.signs4life.org.uk.

Son smashed up house

THE FATHER of a teenager who smashed up his mother's house because he was 'impatient' and 'angry' has told Oban Sheriff Court that his son had 'not been right' since last winter.

Pled guilty

Nineteen-year-old Benjamin Goodman, whose bail address was given as Aoinneadh Dubh, Isle of Lismore, appeared on an undertaking and pled guilty last Tuesday to damaging property and smashing windows and doors at his mother's house in Appin on April 1.

He also admitted causing a breach of the peace and placing her in a state of fear and alarm during the incident.

District procurator fiscal Laura McPherson said: 'A neighbour observed the accused's mother running from the house in some distress. She was crying and screaming.

'The witness then heard

a disturbance from inside the house and phoned the police.'

Police officers noted that nine window panes, the front door and internal doors in the house had been smashed.

Asked by police to explain his actions, Goodman replied: 'Impatience. I don't like waiting around.

'I flipped and smashed the place up.'

In his own words, Goodman described the damage to the house as: 'Horrendous; pretty bad; severe.'

His father, who was in court, told Sheriff Douglas Small that his son's anger issues had worsened since the previous winter but he had never seen a doctor about the condition.

Sheriff Small deferred sentence until May 5 to obtain background reports, including a psychiatric assessment, and to determine the cost of the damage to the property.

Advertorial

Help is at hand for digital switchover as analogue switch off date draws closer

THE WAY we receive television is changing on October 13, but help is at hand to make sure west coast viewers are ready for digital.

Turning off analogue

On that date, the Torosay transmitter on Mull and small transmitters relaying the signal over the western Highlands and islands will start turning off analogue TV channels, with BBC2 the first to go. The process will be completed on October 27, when all other channels will switch to digital broadcasting.

It will be the first transmitter in the Central Scotland region to make the switch.

Viewers from Mallaig to parts of Mid Argyll, Spean Bridge to Dalmeally will be affected and may need to take

steps to ensure they can keep watching.

Those receiving television through an aerial will need to check they have the right equipment. Almost any television, even an old black and white one, can be converted to receive digital with a set-top box.

Anyone who already owns a Freeview, BT Vision or TopUp TV set-top box is ready to receive digital TV, but will need to re-tune their box to pick up the same service. If you receive a satellite or cable service, it will not be affected.

The switchover will free up the airwaves for extra channels, high definition broadcasting and wireless broadband. Turning off the

analogue signal will also enhance the freeview signal, improving the picture and increasing the number of households that can receive it. Analogue radio will not be affected at this stage.

"Many people will find it simple to switch and lots already have."

national network manager
Luke McCullough

If this all seems confusing and daunting, help is at hand. Digital UK is an independent

body that has been set up to provide advice and information. Their website, at www.digitaluk.co.uk has detailed guidance and they are also operating a helpline on 08456 50 50 50.

The Switchover Help Scheme has been set up by the UK government and the BBC to make sure no one is left behind by the transition to digital. For those who need a little extra help, the scheme explains the basics, makes sure your television can receive the new signal and helps get the right equipment and install it if necessary.

Luke McCullough, national network manager for Scotland, said: 'Many people will find it simple to switch and lots already have.

'But for those who need a little extra help, we want them to know that they will get the additional support they need from the Switchover Help Scheme and Digital UK.'

Those over 75 or who have lived a care home for six months or more, as well as registered blind or partially sighted or people eligible for certain disability benefits can get the extra help. They should be receiving an information pack shortly to explain what practical assistance is available. If they decide to take up the help scheme, most people will be asked to contribute £40, but those who qualify and receive income support, job seeker's allowance or pension credit will get the help for free.



The Torosay transmitter on the Isle of Mull and small transmitters relay the signal over the western Highlands and islands

Berneray bard buried on island

Community ceilidh follows private family ceremony

THE DYING wish of a Berneray bard to return to his native island has finally been fulfilled 76 years after his death - thanks to the determination of his grandniece.

John Archie MacAskill was laid to rest yesterday in a private ceremony at Berneray's new cemetery a month after his remains were exhumed from Karrakatta cemetery in Western Australia.

A ceilidh in Berneray community hall to celebrate his life and Gaelic works followed the emotional graveside affair, which saw members of the MacAskill family lay John Archie to rest next his mother and father.

Former Berneray minister Rev Roddy MacLeod conducted the service.

Among those present were John Archie's grandniece Alina MacAskill Simpson and his nephew Iain MacAskill, who travelled to Australia last month to bring the bard's remains back to Scotland. Alina and Iain visited the ruins of the shack where John Archie died in 1934 and met an elderly lady who recalled John Archie playing the pipes in the outback.

And Western Australian farmer Gary Struthers, owner of the land the bard once worked, is to change its name back to Borvedale in John Archie's memory after hearing of Alina and Iain's mission - which was big news on Australian TV. The poet named his land after Borve, a township on Berneray.

To finance the trip, Alina, from Partick, Glasgow, set up the John Archie MacAskill Memorial Fund and raised £6,200 through ceilidhs and

"I'm really happy he's finally home with his family."
grandniece Alina

donations in six months. The mother-of-one had vowed to bring John Archie home after learning of his tragic story in Australia.

Alina told The Oban Times bringing John Archie from Karrakatta and home to Berneray had all been worthwhile.

"We were treated like royalty out there," she said. "But when we came back to Scotland it was as if a big weight had been lifted off my shoulders. Words can't explain how I feel about it. I'm really happy he's finally home with his family. It's important to keep his memory going here too."

She added: "I would never have been able to do this without the support of my friends and family and the generosity of total strangers." John Archie was a soldier in the Great War, renowned piper, Glasgow policeman and Berneray crofter before he left home on New Year's Day, 1925 as a 27 year-old to farm in the outback east of Perth, but the bank foreclosed on him in October 1931 despite the crops growing well.

He began writing songs and poems in Gaelic the night before he left for Australia and continued to eulogise Berneray and his desire to return.

Illness, poverty and homesickness for Scotland brought John Archie to a pauper's grave aged only 36.



Alina and her uncle Iain prepare to leave Karrakatta cemetery to bring John Archie home to Scotland.

Friends of Nevis on recruitment drive

FRIENDS of Nevis are looking for members of the public to join their volunteering weekend on April 23-26.

Free accommodation for those from outside Lochaber can be offered at the Ben Nevis Inn Bunkhouse, Achintee.

Equipment, support and refreshments will be provided.

Tree and scrub clearance in Lower Glen Nevis (old curling ponds area) with Anna Trafford as part of Glen

Nevis Sense of Place project with take place on Friday 23 and/or Saturday 24.

Path maintenance/repairs on low level Glen Nevis and Ben Nevis tracks with Martin McCrorie is pencilled in for Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Sunday sees the annual Glen Nevis spring litter blitz with Liz Wilshaw, meeting at the Ben Nevis Highland Centre, Nevis Bridge from 10.45am.

For more information contact 01397 701088.

Muirburning deadline reminder

CROFTERS and landowners are being reminded of strict controls placed on muirburning today (Thursday), the final day for the activity to be carried out legally.

Those working in, and visiting, the outdoors are

also being asked to be extra careful in the face of heightened fire risks from the warm dry weather.

The advice from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Scottish Government follows reports of a number of incidents of uncontrolled muirburn in recent years.



Kenny Campbell is warning of Atlantic threat to South Uist homes.

Crofter's coastal erosion warning

A SOUTH Uist crofter is warning the Atlantic could wash away local homes if promised repairs to coastal defences are not carried out. Kenny Campbell says the sea has been carrying away huge chunks of machair at Smeircleit on Uist's southwesternmost tip since the big storm of January 2005.

Hurricane

The hurricane wrecked a 50-metre breakwater and a concrete drainage channel, which was part of a sluice

system controlling fresh and seawater flows.

Since then the unprotected machair has been at the mercy of the sea, which, according to Mr Campbell, engulfs the coastal road and land behind at high spring tides.

Mr Campbell spoke out after Oxfam Scotland took local MSP Alasdair Allan round the island to view the damage.

Mr Allan has written to all Uist residents asking for their views on coastal

erosion and planning for extreme weather events.

Western Isles Council is carrying out surveys into coastal flooding on Uist and community landowners Stòras Uibhist are also involved - but Mr Campbell, 72 - one of 15 crofting families at risk in Smeircleit township - believes actions, not words, are needed.

He told The Oban Times: "If nothing is done the tide is just going to come in and wash our houses away. The machair will be flooded

completely. Stòras said they were going to repair it but nothing seems to happen. It's their responsibility - what do they intend to do? They could approach the government for the money - there was money allocated for this."

Gone

"I would say there's 10 to 15 metres of land gone right along the shore at Smeircleit, at least half a mile. The erosion is happening all the time, but in five years nothing has been done."

Mr Allan said the Scottish Government had funded a council study into coastal flooding and sea inundation, and provided cash to upgrade escape routes and causeways, particularly in South Uist.

"It's not as if there's been nothing happening," he said. Stòras Uibhist made no response when invited to do so.

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

Experts wary of insect solution to knotweed dilemma

A WEST Highlands team battling a foreign weed has warned introducing an insect from Japan to control it will not be a 'silver bullet'.

Skye and Lochalsh Japanese Knotweed Project (SLJKP) is recording and treating knotweed infestation in the locality, which marks the climatic boundary of where the invasive plant can grow.

The strong-growing invader can break through tarmac and concrete and smother native vegetation.

Recent media reports suggested the tiny psyllid *aphalara itadori*, which sucks the sap from the weed, could provide an answer.

And last month UK Wildlife Minister Huw Irranca-Davies approved the insect's release at knotweed infestation sites.

But as spring gathers pace, SLJKP coordinator Janet Ullman is urging caution.

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT BY
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

"The psyllid will not be a silver bullet for Japanese Knotweed," she told The Oban Times.

"First of all there is a need to establish a successful breeding population of the psyllid and that may take a few attempts. Then the psyllid does not kill the knotweed outright, but reduces its vigour."

Impact

"It is fair to expect it will have an impact and may reduce knotweeds rate of spread."

"In time, however the spread of knotweed remains at a highly significant rate. We still need to couple use of the psyllid with the prevention of the spread of knotweed and the traditional control methods where it has become established."

"The question about the psyllid which government must now consider is: Has there been enough testing and are we sure the psyllid will not attack any native species?"

SLJKP has produced a database of knotweed sites for Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum, helped by volunteers and members of the public, the Broadford Environment Group, CamusCross Grazings Committee, Highland Council and Scotland Transerv.

The project has funded qualified sprayers and local contractors to begin controlling large stands of knotweed.

SLJKP is currently looking for added funding to survey all of Skye and to extend spraying activities to control the menace.

Victorian gardeners imported knotweed to the British Isles as an ornamental plant. It can grow nine feet in one season.

Spean Bridge Mill rises from the ashes 15 months after fire

Lochaber priest cuts ribbon on rebuilt centre

SPEAN Bridge has welcomed back a vital tourist outlet 15 months after it was destroyed by fire.

Devastating

Only the shell of Spean Bridge Mill remained following a devastating blaze in January 2009.

Owners Edinburgh Woollen Mill immediately pledged it would be rebuilt, and last Thursday Brae Lochaber priest Father Tom Wynne cut the

ribbon to officially open the popular centre.

Former manager of the mill, Roy Bridge man Thomas MacDonald, travelled up from EWM's Moffat centre to play the pipes at the ceremony.

New manager Stewart MacDonald paid tribute to all contractors involved in the restoration project before the large local crowd enjoyed a buffet inside.

The mill, which also boasts a

whisky centre, is already doing a roaring trade.

"There's tons of coaches there already," one local woman told The Oban Times.

Queueing

"There were that many visitors there, people were queueing outside. Every business in Spean will benefit from this."

She added: "Deputy manager Marianne Campbell has done a tremendous amount of organising."

POLICE FILES

A SMALL Seago inflatable rubber dingy was stolen from the Old Low Jetty at Lochmoidart, sometime between the afternoon of Wednesday, March 24 and 8am on Thursday, March 25.

THE GABLE end of a wall was vandalised at the Caol Shopping Centre between 7.30am and 10pm on Thursday, March 25.

A LARGE tarpaulin was stolen from the Roy Bridge area between 11am and midnight on Saturday, March 27.

DAMAGE was caused to solar lights within a garden on Glenkingie Street, Caol, about 2.30pm on Saturday, April 10.

A KITCHEN window was broken at an address in Wallace Place around 8.30pm on Saturday, April 10.

ANY PERSON with knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential telephone line on 01397 702000.

'Drying-out' unit closes

AN INVERNESS 'drying out' unit has closed with the loss of seven jobs amid fears inebriated people will end up in police cells instead.

The 'designated place' section of Beechwood House provided a refuge for drunk and incapable people otherwise likely to be arrested and ensured their safety and wellbeing.

The eight-bed unit, run by Church of Scotland charity CrossReach, averaged almost 1,000 referrals from police, the NHS and other agencies across the Highlands annually since 1991. It closed two weeks ago after Highland Council agreed in December to axe its £200,000 funding for 2010-11.

A 570-name online petition urging the Scottish Government to intervene ultimately failed.

Lochaber Council on Alcohol coordinator Thomas Reid described the closure as 'a great loss'. He said: "There's no other facility about locally for people with alcohol problems."

Calling all chill seekers

IT MIGHT be an uphill struggle for most charities during the current economic crisis but an initiative at Glencoe Ski Resort will see fundraisers take a quick descent for a cancer charity.

Participants are being asked to gain sponsorship and ski or board down the Main Basin, Blue run, of Glencoe Mountain Resort 20 times by the end of the day on Sunday April 25 between 8.30 am - 5pm. Event spokesman Daniel Loots said: "The total distance skied matches a full descent of Europe's highest mountain Mont Blanc."

Minimum sponsorship is £50 which includes a full-day lift pass, an event t-shirt and a fundraising pack to help you gain sponsorship.

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Logie Baird's most famous invention switches to digital in October 2010



If you receive your TV signal from the Torosay transmitter group, which serves the south west Highlands and Islands, then your switch to digital begins on 13 October.

This means that you need to make sure all of your TV equipment is ready for switchover, or you'll start to lose TV channels.

Switchover dates vary by area, so to check your exact date, enter your postcode at digitaluk.co.uk or call 08456 50 50 50.

get set for digital 



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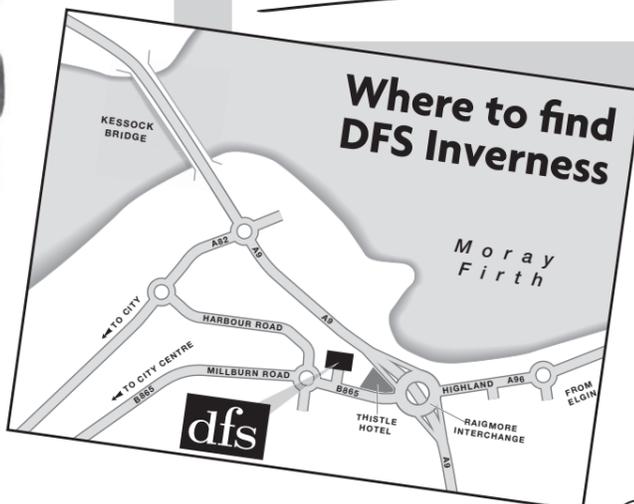
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'In the interests of justice'

AN ESTIMATED £1m of taxpayers' money is to be allocated to allow three MPs charged with expenses fraud to pay the country's leading barristers via Legal Aid. Surely, if found guilty, every penny of this funding will be recovered, otherwise our justice system loses all credibility.

GLASGOW LETTER

Gaelic Day in Glasgow

Gaels in the city will have no problem remembering the date on which the government announced the date of the forthcoming General Election as it was the day Glasgow City Council chose to launch their ambitious Gaelic Language Plan 2009 to 2012 in the City Chambers.

The launch followed on from an earlier board meeting of Bòrd na Gàidhlig, the first to be held in the city since the Gaelic Act in 2005 although a previous meeting was held in Jordanhill College. The importance of the Gaels to the city in the past was emphasised but this was a document for the future and as frequently stated 'it will only be as good as its implementation'. This is the challenge now facing the city as it strives by the year 2020 to have the place of Gaelic obvious to all, with people speaking it on the streets without feeling self-conscious. Main thrusts of the plan will be the opening of a second Gaelic school and the wider use of Gaelic signs in relevant council communications. Already there is a step in the right direction on the latter with the production of a Gaelic logo for the Commonwealth Games 2014 and indeed the Games were suggested as an ideal vehicle for the promotion of the language on an international scale. Sgoil Gàidhlig Glaschu has of course been a major success with numbers steadily increasing and with places in pre-five Gaelic units at a premium this looks to be the situation for the foreseeable future. Making sure that the launch was not simply about speeches youngsters from the Gaelic school provided excellent musical entertainment. Mairi MacIntyre opened the proceedings in traditional manner with piping selections and this was followed by beautiful singing from Skylar McCowan, Rosie Urquhart, Chloe Morrison, Rebekah Boyle and Charlotte Mook. Mind you as they started to sing the first line of 'Tillich Mi' it was hard to imagine that another year's summer was coming as one looked out on the very inclement weather being experienced in George Square! Aimee Clark then showed why she would spend the best part of her school holidays with the National Children's Orchestra of Scotland culminating with concerts in the Usher Hall and then the Royal Concert Hall as she enthralled those present with her clarsach playing. Indeed well done to all the pupils for giving up their holiday time to attend the launch. It was significant also that Glasgow University chose to appoint Professor Roibeard O Maolalraig to the first ever established Chair of Gaelic in Scotland. Yes, further recognition of the important role of Gaelic in the life of the city. This important day for Gaelic finished in the evening, the members of the Bòrd having visited the main focal points of Gaelic in the city in the afternoon, with an informal gathering of all interested in the language. This was an opportunity for all to chat and enjoy the excellent hospitality provided by the staff of the City Chambers. During these proceedings musical entertainment was provided

by Patricia Mullen (fiddle) and Grant MacFarlane (accordion), both students of the Traditional Course at the RSAMD. Well done to the City Council for the launch of a very professional document in a very professional way. The Plan can be viewed on the Council's website or on request to the Council.

Clydebank Charity Ceilidh

As promised last week here is the line-up of artistes for this year's concert tomorrow evening (Friday) in aid of Erskine Hospital.

Singers will be Catriona Fair, Charlie MacColl, Jimmy Cameron and Seonaidh Reston with ever popular Iain and Billy MacPhee as instrumentalists and Kirsteen Grant as accompanist. Alasdair MacCuish will chair the proceedings and the committee look forward to good support for this very worthwhile cause.

Oban High School FP's

The AGM of the association will take place in the Gaelic School at 7.30pm on Monday 26 April.

This year's Annual Dinner Dance was a most enjoyable occasion and the committee would like to recruit new members so that the future is assured.

If interested please go along to give your support.

Secret Pipe Major Ceilidh

Well, that must be a title to make you want to find out more!

Yes, there will be a feast of piping and ceilidh dancing in the Milngavie Town Hall this Saturday in an evening organised to raise funds for the Scottish International Piano Competition and in particular the Duncan MacKerrall Memorial Prize. There will be performances from Roddie MacLeod and the award winning quartet from the Scottish Power Pipe Band as well as many others so it sounds like an evening not to be missed. Tickets are available at the door.

Dates for the Diary

Thursday April 15 Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8.00pm (Rallion)
Friday April 16 Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Erskine Charity Ceilidh (see above)

Saturday April 17 Clann Gàidhlig Gaelic Day, University of West of Scotland, Paisley, Highlander's Club Dance, Partick Burgh Halls, 8.00pm (Fraser McGlynn's Band), Milngavie Town Hall Piping/Ceilidh Dancing (see above).

Sunday April 18 Old Fruitmarket, Finbar Furey, 8.00pm

Thursday April 22 Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8.00pm (Allan Taylor)

Friday April 23 dance to raise funds for the Islay Pipe Band, Hillhead Sport's Club.

Saturday April 24 Glasgow Skye Association Spring Concert (the Wee Skye), Partick Burgh Halls, 7.30pm

Pub Scene

Gunna Sound will be playing in the Park Bar on both Saturday and Sunday with the Monach Isles on Friday while in the Islay Inn it will be Deoch 'n Dorus on Friday and Pneumatic Drill on Saturday.

CORRECTION

WITH reference to The Oban Times April 8 2010, page four 'Oban man is fined after admitting assault', we would like to point out that the accused was not David Barr but Thomas Barr, aged 28, 3 Castle Road, Dunbeg. We would like to apologise for any upset or inconvenience this may have caused.



Heylpol Primary School 1963

This week's flashback photograph shows a school group from 1963 at Heylpol Primary School on the Isle of Tiree.

Back row (left to right) Gordon Bucher, William Weston and Duncan McArthur
Middle row: Betty Weston, Doligh Cameron, Ann Sinclair, Anne McArthur, Laura ?, June Weston, June McArthur and Effie McKinnon
Front row: Tina McKinnon, Iain McKinnon, Anne Bucher, Charles Bucher, Richard Maxwell and Tina Maxwell.
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

Letters to the editor

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Telephone: 01631 568000
Fax: 01631 568001

Pontoon proposal not agreed yet

Sir,
The 'A View from the Tower' column on page 14 of last week's edition contained a section headed 'Pontoons for Oban at last'.

Its first paragraph stated that the council has agreed the pontoon project should go ahead. This is not correct. The situation, as fully covered by The Oban Times the previous week, is that the authority has now received a revised proposal from Oban Bay Marine (OBM).

This was submitted in response to feedback on OBM's original proposal from internationally respected, independent consultancy AECOM. The council requested that the revised document fully address the findings, challenges and risks identified.

AECOM is now assessing OBM's revised project proposal, after which the Oban CHORD Project Board will meet to discuss it.

As I have said before, Argyll and Bute Council is fully supportive of a transit marina in Oban, as demonstrated by our identification of £900,000 for such a project and our willingness to allow OBM to revise its plans in the light of AECOM's findings.

However, at a time of very difficult financial decisions in the public sector, the council

must be fully confident that it is investing in a project, which is both viable and safe.

We look forward to receiving AECOM's feedback on the revised proposal in order that we can move this matter forward.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre
Chair, Oban CHORD Project Board

Help save Oban's firework display

Sir,
The official Oban fireworks display is under threat due to a lack of funds.

Argyll and Bute Council due to financial constraints cannot support it. The official, professional and safe fireworks display at Mossfield Park is a great family event and very much part of the social calendar in Oban.

To keep this family event going I respectfully request that businesses and individuals in Oban join members of the Community Council in making a donation to the Oban Fireworks Committee.

Lets give our kids a great and safe Guy Fawkes night on November 5 2010.

Donations by cheque please payable to 'Oban Fireworks Committee,' forward same to Chair of Fireworks Committee, Councillor Roddy McCuish, Argyll and Bute Council, Municipal

Feis ceilidh

The Feis Ile committee hosted an Easter ceilidh in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile on April 3.

Schoolboy piper Alasdair Currie opened the proceedings and went on to demonstrate his versatility by singing a variety of songs. Iain MacPherson and Bronwen Currie, both from Conisby, added further solos as did Port Ellen's Alison Gairns and Dorothy Dennis. Also adding to the enjoyment were popular local performer Andrew MacCowan from Ballygrant, the Ella Edgar Dancers and the ever lively folkgroup from Bowmore primary school.

The junior performers were under the direction of Helen Gillies who was another of the solo artistes. The feis committee's Gaelic activist Morag MacDougall was in charge of the proceedings, raffle prizes were eagerly received and the audience, which included a number of Easter

visitors to the island, did justice to the supper spread.

This year's Feis Ile, now incorporating a large input from the island's distilleries, runs from May 21 to 30.

Lifeboat fund-raising

Bridgend housewife Catherine Urquhart, ably assisted by Margaret Brown, took part in the RNLI's SOS fundraising day and raised close on £2,000 for the local lifeboat station at Port Askaig. The two fund-raisers were joined by the wives and girlfriend of the lifeboat crew and the WAGS collectively raised £667 at a pool and darts competition at the Bridgend Hotel. This was match-funded by the drinks giant Diageo and the final figure donated to the worthy cause was £1,337.

A lifeboat station spokesman praised the outstanding generosity of the Ilich and commended the fundraisers on the endeavours. Well done girls!

Buildings, Albany Street, Oban.

Fred Hall
Convener
Oban Community Council

Illusions of power

Sir,
It is not a new idea to extract power from the visually impressive tidal flows of Loch Etive.

Regrettably, even in today's energy economy it is still a non-starter. I will not bore your readers with excessive detail of the physics but - regardless of anyone's ingenuity or admirable enthusiasm - the energy we can get from the loch is limited by the amount of water that is available and the height through which it falls.

Our tides ensure that twice a day the loch receives and discharges something like fifty million tonnes of water. This water falls into or out of the loch through a fall of about a half a metre, mainly at the Falls of Lora. I imagine that Oban High School Higher Physics pupils are capable of calculating the resulting energy flows; if they do so they will discover that, even with the most optimistic view of the efficiency of energy extraction, the loch could generate about ten thousand kilowatts. To buy that amount of electricity from the National Grid at a few pence per unit would cost a few million pounds per year. This return is

unlikely to repay anything more than a miserably small fraction of the costs of such a scheme, which remains as uneconomic and useless an idea as it ever was.

I leave the (probably unacceptable) environmental effects to be discussed by your other correspondents.

Prof. Anton Edwards
CPhys FInstP
Caputh, Perthshire

McCaig's Tower or wind turbine

Sir,
I was pleased to read, on the front page of The Oban Times last week, that there is a suggestion that the Connel Bridge should be pulled down and a tidal generation plant installed.

The current administration seems hell-bent on wrecking our natural heritage so wrecking our architectural heritage would seem to be the next logical step.

Could I suggest that they pull down McCaig's Tower and erect a wind turbine in its place.

Iain Moody, Dunbeg

Sandmartins return

Sandmartins are again making their yearly visit to their nesting burrows in the sandbanks near Connel airfield.

I hope, as in other years, this bank will be left until the young have fledged.

Mrs M Lamont, Oban

ISLAY LETTER

talent' cannot be ruled out.

Seaplane memorial

The memorial to the 9 Coastal Command servicemen who lost their lives when their Sunderland flying boat crashed at Blackrock as it approached its base on Lochindaal in January 1943 is now completed.

The memorial, built by Nerabus contractor Douglas Smith, takes the form of a granite slab mounted in a stone cairn alongside a plaque recording the names of the dead. The memorial was commissioned by the Museum of Islay Life and will be dedicated at a special ceremony later in the year.

Coffee morning

The next in the monthly series of Round Church coffee mornings takes place in the Bowmore Buffet Hall on Saturday, April 24, at 10:30am. Bargains will be on offer and admission £2. Hugh Smith, 4 Flora Street, Bowmore, Islay Tel: 01496 810 658

A view from the tower

by McCaig

Get married for £3 a week extra!

WELL, it's under way at last - the General Election, I mean - even the Prime Minister had to comment that it was one of the worst-kept secrets ever. And, in recent weeks the Tories so-called manifesto pledge that married couples and those in civil partnerships whose joint income is below a certain figure would be given a £150 a year tax-free for just being in that 'blessed' state although I don't think the clergy will regard such a hand-out with much approval, especially to those who are in single-sex civil partnerships.

I'm at a loss as to why David Cameron thinks that this mercenary payout should be deemed to be so important at a time when money is tight and there are so many essential services that need financial assistance desperately. In case you didn't know, this squalid piece of bribery is set to cost one billion pounds and will come from a special tax on bankers' bonuses! Why should those who enter into the holy estate of matrimony in church or get the job done quickly by a registrar of births, deaths and marriages or 'by jumping over the tongs' get this special allowance?

All of us who remain single don't get a hand-out for saving the state in so many ways - and we pay more tax for so doing. In any case, how naive is the Tory Shadow Cabinet if they believe that the bankers won't find as many ways of not paying tax on their bonuses as they have been very successful in finding tax-dodging schemes for their clients for many years. I'm sure they have been most helpful to Mr Cameron and his Shadow Chancellor over the past decade when their inherited wealth has been at risk. Next week, I'll look at some other crazy schemes that the major parties are proposing to implement on a 'bad hair' day.

A tax on cranks and nutters!

IF the Tories had said that they were going to pay for something by taxing all those who stand for election to parliament without a hope of even saving their deposit I would be in favour of expedited legislation. While I respect the democratic principle there should be some sort of legislation to save the cranks and nutters from themselves. Maybe we could have a requirement that the deposit should be £5,000 - not £500 as at present - and that 2,000 signatures be required before someone who is not an adopted candidate of a registered political party could stand. In recent years, we have seen 20

plus candidates standing in parliamentary by-elections 17 of whom polled less than 500 votes. As I write, I hear we have Jacobite Party candidate who intends to stand in Argyll and Bute; no doubt, he will concentrate on the 'Divine Right of Kings' in his manifesto as it is said to be one of the principal tenets of the Jacobite cause.

Kenneth McKellar

IT is right that we should remember that great Scottish tenor, Kenneth McKellar who died last week at the age of 82. For almost a decade Kenneth and his late Swiss wife Hedy stayed near Oban while he starred in David Webster's long-running summer show: 'This Is Scotland' in the Corran Halls. In the winter, he also toured with 'This Is Scotland' in such prestigious venues at London's Royal Albert Hall and other major halls throughout England and Wales. Never was Oban, Lorn and the Isles better sold to eager audiences who booked up to come to the town and the isles for their summer holidays.

I still meet those who came to see Kenneth McKellar. They bought his records and tapes and still ask if there are any more to be released. That was the sort of impression he made. He was a delightful companion and a very modest man who didn't throw tantrums and create a fuss about a dressing room with a big star on the door!

As well as singing many Burns songs and a very wide range of other compositions, light opera and tunes from the musical theatre he also wrote his own. I was delighted to hear on a BBC tribute to him his 'Midges' song which tells the tale of what happens to kilt-wearers when attacked by cloud of hungry insects! Our sympathy goes to his son and daughter and four grand-daughters.

The Devil is in the detail

IT seems that I was a little precipitate in my rejoicing that Oban's short-stay marina should be up-and-running in a year's time. This is indeed what should happen but the Area Committee of the local authority not only want more than any commercial undertaking would expect to give but three sets of belts and two sets of braces as well!

I was reminded by a councillor that the plan put forward by Oban Berthing Marine, in its amended form, while approved in principle, will still need to be 'assessed' and could still be 'killed off' as the new plans could cost up to three times more than the cash currently available.

YOUR LETTERS

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

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My Island Tiree

Mabel MacArthur, former owner of The Glassary Restaurant on the Isle of Tiree and tour guide extraordinaire, gives Oban Times readers a glimpse of her tranquil and atmospheric island home.



Mabel MacArthur regards herself as a Tirisdeach

Why is Tiree special?

Tiree is special because it is totally unspoiled, truly peaceful and tranquil. I can recommend it for its atmosphere, wildlife, flowers and white sands, which are beautiful. I feel I belong to the island and that is why it is special to me. I have known the island my whole life – as my parents were from the island and I have so many memories from here. I came to school on the island during the war. I was an evacuee that brought her mother with her – and we stayed with my granny. As an adult I moved to the island permanently after my husband retired from local government, in Glasgow. Soon after we moved we established The Glassary Restaurant at Sandaig. It became a real family business as

we worked alongside our son who is a chef. We had the business for 23 years before selling it three years ago. Tiree is special because of the Gaelic language – it is very much a living language on the island. I am a fluent Gaelic speaker and I have been always very involved in Gaelic drama. We have a Gaelic drama group on the island and we perform plays for the public. I have recently written a Gaelic play which I hope to present to the island in the future. At one time I was a Gaelic singer competing at the local and national Mòds and sang under my maiden name of Mabel Kennedy. In 1969 I won the Nova Scotia Gold Medal, which was a competition for males and females to compete for the same award. To enter you had

to be a prize winner of a local Mòd. And of course, Tiree is special because we have the highest rate of sunshine in the UK. **What do you do?** I am now a tour guide on the island. The tour is operated by ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne and is called the Tiree Experience. Every Thursday between June and September we take visitors around the island. It has proved very popular with tourists and holiday makers and we have often had a capacity crowd in the bus. We visit many of the historical areas of the island including museums, the main church, the beaches and all the areas of local interest. I thoroughly enjoy my work, and it is great fun.

What is your favourite place or building?

I think my favourite building is Heylpol Church built by local people in 1903. It was built along the same lines as Iona Cathedral. It is a very attractive building not only as a place of worship but also as a landmark. And I do like Hynish, it is a historical and interesting place. The area was created for the building of the Skerryvore Lighthouse, engineer Alan Stevenson, uncle of author Robert Lewis Stevenson, was the engineer for the lighthouse project. A small museum at Hynish records the remarkable story of the design and construction of the Skerryvore

Lighthouse. The place is steeped in history and is built of Mull granite. The pier and area are as good today as they were at the end of the 19th Century. The area is owned by the Hebridean Trust who have converted the old houses to provide housing for local families.

What is your favourite time of year?

May and June are by far my favourite time of the year because the sandy machairs become a carpet of wild flowers and the whole island becomes a sheet of colour. Tiree looks wonderful.



Historical Hynish, built from Mull granite, with its strong piers as good today as as when it was built in the 19th century

Where were you born? I was born in Glasgow although my family came from Tiree. My father was Captain John Kennedy and he was born and brought up on the island. He married my mother, Mabel Young, who had moved to the island as a child. When I was a child, a sea captain could take his

What has changed since your childhood? There have not been many changes on Tiree. There is no change in the actual landscape but that could change in the future due to coastal erosion. Walking access is more limited now, compared to when I was little, because there is now a lot of fencing on the island. And of course, we have the huge golf ball at Ben Hynish. It is an important radar station for transatlantic planes. It beams far out into the Atlantic and it is the last radar station for aeroplanes before pilots pick up radar transmissions from North America.



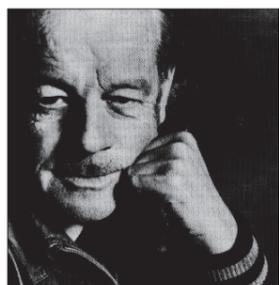
'My favourite building is Heylpol Church built by local people in 1903. It was built along the same lines as Iona Cathedral'



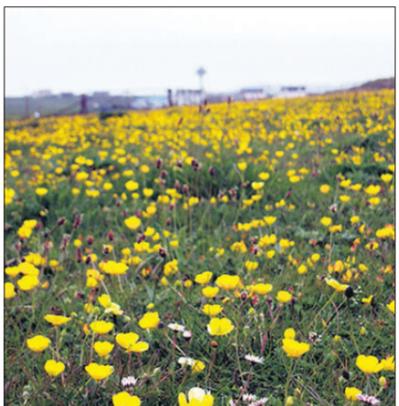
Political commentator Alistair Campbell, who became former Prime Minister Tony Blair's right-hand man has strong family ties with the island

Is there anyone famous from the Isle of Tiree?

The father of Alistair Campbell, Tony Blair's spin-doctor and political commentator, is from here. His father, who was a vet, was born and brought up on the island before he moved away to the mainland to practice. Mary Lamont of Barrapol, who was Mòd gold medallist, was the mother of Alistair MacLean, a Scottish novelist. His first book was *HMS Ulysess*, which was received to critical acclaim. He went on to be the writer of many successful thrillers and adventure stories such as *The Guns of Navarone*, and *Where Eagles Dare*, both being made into successful films.



Author Alistair MacLean's mother came from Tiree and was a well known Gaelic singer



'The machairs are a carpet of wild flowers and Tiree looks wonderful'

What challenges face Tiree? It would be a dreadful shame if the school ever closed. Families wouldn't be so keen to stay here without a high school. Road Equivalent Tariff (RET) has made a big difference to the cost of bringing a vehicle to the island. But so far there has been no reduction in the cost of living. One benefit of the reduced vehicle fares is that many more tourists come to the island.



The introduction of lower ferry fares through the RET scheme as brought an increase in tourism to the island

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Tedroom

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Tiree Rural Centre, Crossapoll, Tiree, PA77 6UP Tel: 07771 559 962

FOR SALE

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Friday 16th April > The Woodside	Ballochmyle
Saturday 17th April > Paparazzi Bar	DANCE SOUNDS FROM D.J. JONNY
Saturday 17th April > The Woodside	DJ Donald
Saturday 17th April > O'Donnells	LIVE BAND 9pm - 1am
Tuesday 20th April > An Tobar, Mull	The An Tobar Commissions with Aidan O'Rourke and the Dave Milligan Trio
Wednesday 21st April > An Tobar, Mull	The An Tobar Commissions with Aidan O'Rourke and the Dave Milligan Trio
Friday 23rd April > Markie Duns	The Zodiacs 9.30pm
Friday 23rd April > The Woodside	Brass Monkeys
Saturday 24th April > The Woodside	George Noble
Saturday 24th April > O'Donnells	LIVE BAND 9pm - Late
Saturday 24th April > Markie Duns	Crooked Reel 9.30pm
Saturday 24th April > Glenurquhart Hall, Drumadrochit	The An Tobar Commissions with Aidan O'Rourke and the Dave Milligan Trio
Saturday 1st May > Markie Duns	Chunks 9.30pm
Saturday 1st May > O'Donnells	Oxfam Unwrapped Jericho Hill plays Johnny Cash 9pm
Thursday 6th May > Markie Duns	Finn 9.30pm
Thursday 6th May > Iona Community Hall, Iona	She'Koyokh
Monday 17th May > Bunessan Village Hall, Mull	She'Koyokh



Jim MacKay on accordion, Iain Anderson on drums, Stephen MacKay on fiddle and and Graeme MacKay on accordion entertain.

Oban club close the season with the Iain Anderson Trio from Gartocharn

OBAN Accordion and Fiddle Club held their last club night for this session on Thursday April 1 in the Argyllshire Gathering Hall, Oban and the event was again well supported.

Local players

Chairman Michael Garvin welcomed everyone and to start the evening introduced local player Robert Robertson, Oban on accordion.

Michael then welcomed local group Box On under the leadership of Sileas Sinclair, Connel - on accordion, were Ruairidh Morrison and John MacKinnon, Kilmore, Cameron Bennett, North Connel and Murray Willis, Isle of Lismore; on keyboard Becky Hill, Connel and Anna Garvin, Oban accompanied by Sileas on accordion.

Next on was the trio of James MacPherson, Oban on accordion his sister Rebecca and Marie Beaton both playing fiddle.

The next young fiddler was Finlay Bennett, North Connel. Other accordionists on the

night were Janet Graham, Cumbernauld, Craig McFadyen, Oban, Willie Buchanan, North Connel and on drums Duncan Campbell and Archie Cameron both Oban. On keyboard Sileas and Ewan MacDonald, Oban.

The great variety of music was much enjoyed by the audience. Michael Garvin then introduced the guest artist the Iain Anderson Trio. Iain from Gartocharn, on accordion, Iain Cathcart, Lanark on keyboard and Alasdair MacIntyre, Balloch on drums.

After many sets with such a lovely selection of tunes the band soon had the audience singing along, everyone enjoying the very high standard of accordion playing by Iain.

The chairman then thanked the guest artist and all the local players for making the evening such a success, with the night coming to a close with a stramash.

The next club night will be on Thursday, October 7 2010 when the guest artists will be the Colin Dewar Trio.



The Robert Menzies Trio, guests at Inverary and District Accordion and Fiddle Club.

Capacity crowd at Inveraray accordion night

THERE was a near-capacity audience at Inveraray and District Accordion and Fiddle Club's March meeting, held in the Argyll Hotel.

Chairman, Niall Iain MacLean, introduced a fine mix of supporting players: Fyne Folk, with Janette Gibson, Sally Hall, Alex John MacLeod, Duncan Crawford, Jake MacKay, Agnes Liddell and Grant MacDougall; Charlie Saune (fiddle); Geoff and Margaret Burton (accordion and keyboard); Alex and Arlene MacKechnie (fiddle and accordion) - fresh from their success at the Inverclyde Music Festival; John Renton, Allan McIntosh and Jimmy Duncan (accordion); Angus Oliver (accordion) - on holiday from Selkirk; James MacArthur (melodeon); Gerry Boxall, Davy Cameron and Sandy MacDonald on drums.

They delighted the audience with a great selection of tunes and were all much enjoyed.

Guest artists were the Robert Menzies Trio, originally from Dumfries. With Robert on accordion, his sister Alison on drums and Scott Nichol on keyboard, this young trio played a very well rehearsed and varied programme on their first visit to Inveraray.

This week the Wayne Robertson Duo from Perth will be guest artists, bringing the Club to a close for another season.

MacKays Dance Band entertain at Portree

WITH the April meeting of the Skye Fiddle and Accordion Club in the Royal Hotel, Portree coinciding with the start of a holiday weekend there were fewer than usual local players in attendance, but those who were able to come along had no difficulty in providing a great evening of entertainment.

Variety

Club chairman and MC Jim Campbell opened the proceedings by inviting Club stalwarts Aly 'K' MacPherson on accordion, John Cameron on keyboards and Donald John Campbell on drums to warm up the audience and get their feet

tapping. Versatile as ever, several musicians changed instruments throughout the evening and, for example John Cameron moved from keyboards to strap on his piano accordion and to be joined by Aly 'K' who moved to drums and John MacGilvray, who joined them on accordion.

Their version of the beautiful Bays of Harris was particularly appreciated as was the fiddle solo of The Skye Boat Song performed by nine year-old Ellie MacPherson, one of the Club's youngest players. Maintaining variety in the programme, two fine young musicians from Sleat

performed a superb duet on the Highland bagpipe, which wowed the audience.

They were Seumas O'Baoghill and Crisdean MacDonald who demonstrated their great talent later in the evening with Seumas picking up the fiddle, Crisdean changing to the Lowland pipes and joined by Iain Macleod on guitar for great lively sets.

More toe-tapping music from Edward MacLeod's accordion and two fine Gaelic songs from Rebecca MacDonald completed the local entertainers' list for the evening. The guest band was the excellent Inverness-based MacKays

Dance Band with Jim and Graeme MacKay on button-key accordions, Stephen MacKay on fiddle and Iain Anderson on drums.

With a great traditional sound their varied programme was hugely appreciated by the audience who enjoyed the fine sound of the Shand Morinos, with one of the highlights being Graeme's solo version of The Bonnie Lass o' Bon Accord.

The next Club night will be held in the Royal Hotel, Portree on Thursday, May 6 when the guest artists will be The Nicky McMichan Scottish Dance Band. **John Grundy**



Margaret Fletcher plays her piano at home in front of her family photos. 07_t16piano01

Margaret marks 60 years at Fiddlers' Rally

BY TAKING up her familiar place at the piano for this month's Fiddlers' Rally concert Margaret Fletcher will mark 60 years since she first played at the Oban event.

Young pianist

The then 16-year-old Margaret Kidd from Benderloch was first asked to play accompaniment at the sixth Fiddler's Rally in 1950 by Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society.

With no instrument tuition at Oban High School, Margaret was fortunate to have had private lessons on piano and was friends with the son of the conductor, Charlie Hunter.

She made the position of pianist her own until she

married her late husband, Alex, in 1961.

'I had a break to have a family because the concert is a big commitment,' she said.

'But in 1987, after my husband had died, the conductor of the Fiddler's Rally at the time, Donald Chisholm, contacted me to say they had no pianist.

'I thought, 'Why not?' and I have been there ever since. I really enjoy it; you get a great feeling performing in front of a lot of people at the Corran Halls and it's great to catch up with people you haven't seen since the previous year's concert.

'We have an annual trip to one of the islands every year too and I remember fondly a concert on Islay

in the late 1980s. We went round to a house afterwards for a ceilidh and the police turned up to see 40 fiddlers playing away. There was no trouble, though, they stayed for a cup of tea!'

Margaret, who now lives in Oban, has always played the piano, even when not involved with the fiddle concerts and until last Christmas was the organist for Christ's Church, Dunollie, in Oban.

When Margaret started playing she devised an innovative way of learning how to accompany musicians by altering the speed of Jimmy Shand records on her Gramophone until they matched the key she was practising in.

She has also encouraged

her young granddaughter, Sophie Campbell, to play the fiddle - and, of course, provides the accompaniment to her playing.

Oban and Lorn Strathspey and Reel Society president Peter MacLeod, who attended primary school alongside Margaret, praised her commitment to the society, describing her as a 'mainstay' of the event.

This year's Fiddler's Rally concert will be in the Corran Halls on April 24 when Mòd gold medalist Arthur Cormack will be guest artist.

Also performing will be fiddler Maurice Duncan and the Lorne Junior Fiddlers will play Donald Shaw's composition, Calum's Road.

what's on

CINEMA LISTINGS > Highland Theatre
NANNY MCPHEE & THE BIG BANG CERT U
Fri 1.45, 3.45, Sat/Sun 1.45, 4.00
KICK-ASS CERT 15
FRIDAY 5.45, SAT-THURS 6.00, 8.30
HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON CERT PG
FRIDAY 1.30, 3.30, SAT/SUN 1.30, 3.45, MON-THURS 6.15
BOUNTY HUNTER CERT 12A
FRIDAY 6.00, SAT/SUN 6.15, 8.45, MON-THURS 8.45
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 24th April > Fiddlers' Rally
Corran Halls, Oban 7pm

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

Four out of five adults use their local paper to find out what's on

★★★★ "Your local paper - a must-see"

Regional Press

Recipe of the Month

Wild garlic Risotto

- 250g of Arborio risotto rice
- Approx 1ltr hot stock (chicken or vegetable)
- 1 small white onion
- Olive oil for frying
- A good knob of butter
- 50ml double cream
- 40g parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Two good handfuls of wild garlic leaves

serves 4

When you walk through a wood or along a river at this time of year, keep a keen nose out for wild garlic. The soft verdant leaves are pushing their way out of the leaf mulch and filling the air with the scent of garlic. Soon the ground will be covered in a carpet of delicate white flowers and whilst the flowers are edible, it is the leaf itself that excites in the kitchen. Actually a member of the Allium family, wild garlic is closer in flavour to the chive than its namesake.

Because wild garlic is one of the first easily foraged foods of summer, I feel it is important not to mess around with it too much and this recipe for wild garlic risotto certainly lets the main ingredient shine.

Chef Tom Addy

Finely chop the onion and gently sweat with olive oil in a heavy based saucepan, when the onions are translucent add the rice and stir for 2 minutes before adding the hot stock 1 ladle at a time. Keep stirring the risotto and adding the stock until the rice is 'Al Dente' (offering slight resistance to the bite). Now shred or tear the garlic leaves and add to the rice along with the butter and cream, give it all a final stir and season to taste. Serve with a sprinkle of grated parmesan on top either on its own or as an accompaniment to grilled fish or roast chicken. Summer is here!



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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

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Unsigned Argyll band's key to success

MID ARGYLL band The Anyways are through to the semi-finals of one of the UK's largest music competitions.

Lady Gaga
After a performing a crowd-pleasing mash-up of Lady Gaga's *Bad Romance*, the band have made it through to the live British semi-finals of Live and Unsigned, where they hope to win a top recording contract.

The band took to the stage at Glasgow's Royal Concert Hall last month where they battled it out against 19 other bands from across Scotland. Only eight groups made

it through to the UK semi-finals, which take place on Sunday April 25 in Newcastle.

Band member Jonathan Matthews, said: 'It's brilliant to get through to the semi-finals. We're all really chuffed. The regional finals were a bit of a challenge because there were a lot of good bands there.'

The Anyways are made up of Jonathan Matthews from Kilmartin, Callum Arnot from Tarbert, Angus MacMillan from Inverneill, Ally Stuart from Tarbert and Jason Brown from Ardrishaig. The boys have been

playing together since November 2008 although The Anyways have been on the go for almost six years.

Jonathan added: 'We're all really excited to be through to the UK semi-finals. This is an important stage for the band.'

Facebook

The Anyways have their own Facebook page for anyone interested in following their progress through the stages of the competition.

To cast your vote for the band in the Live and Unsigned competition text north 2130 to 64343.



The Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary in Barcaldine fears a ban on whaling could be lifted.

Barcaldine sanctuary makes a stand on whaling

THE BARCALDINE-based Scottish Sea Life Sanctuary is at the forefront of a global campaign to prevent the return of commercial whaling after a 24-year ban.

Along with its sister attractions across Europe and in the US, the centre has collected over 100,000 postcards filled out by people who want whaling to end for good.

The Sea Life network plans to deliver the postcards to the EU on the eve of a crucial meeting of the International Whaling Commission in June, to try and thwart moves by pro-whaling nations to get the ban lifted. But it

wants to try and get the total boosted to 150,000-plus postcards before the June deadline.

People can sign postcards at the Sea Life sanctuary. The Sea Life network is campaigning in conjunction with the

Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society (WDCS).

'Countries like Japan have continued to kill whales by using a loophole that allows for some hunting for 'scientific' purposes, even though

everyone knows the real motives have always been commercial,' said WDCS chief executive, Chris Butler-Stroud.

'Unfortunately these countries can make life awkward for other nations.'

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

CHARITY CAR BOOT SALE
Co-op Car Park
10am - 2pm
Sunday April 25th
£5 per table

Mousetale Puppet Theatre PRESENTS Oscar's Amazing Space Adventure
Craighish Village Hall, Ardfern
Thursday 22nd April, 6pm
Tickets £4/£3
Reserve on 01852 500746

APPIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY A WALK ALONG CUIL BAY
(1.5 hours, easy going) and
THE BACK SETTLEMENT
(1.5 hours, only a little more difficult)
Saturday 17 April 11.30am
Meet at Cuil Bay Turning Point
Bring your own lunch
Waterproof clothing essential
www.appinhistoricalsociety.co.uk
Reg. Scottish Charity No. SC029411

The Launch of the Dalriada Project Community History Book
DALRIADA - A TWENTIETH CENTURY KINGDOM
By Marian Pallister
Waterstones, George Street, Oban
Thursday 22nd April, Starts 7pm
Refreshments
www.dalriadaproject.org

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

Highland Islands Music & Dance Festival
Tickets for...
Scottish Choreography Challenge 1st & 2nd May
Scottish Area Finals 30 April
Accordion & Fiddle Masters 30th April
St. John's Cathedral, 7pm
Telephone 07510841198

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £14.50 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

Arts group gets crafty

OBAN Art Society held their first arts and crafts exhibition, showcasing a wide variety of crafts by local artists.

Monika Smyth, a jeweller and past chairwoman, said: 'We have got sculpture, card-making, felting and handmade jewellery. Many more people are doing crafts now and the art society felt that to allow the crafters to have a space of their own, we could have an extra exhibition.'

'If anyone has a craft, we would love them to get in touch with us.'

The society's traditional art exhibition will take place in the autumn.



Felter Mairi Stones, left, with Monika Smyth, who makes handmade jewellery. 07_115art01

BRAEVALLICH NURSERY
Major Clearance Sale
After 35 years Braevallich Nursery is closing down
Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Pieris etc
Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th April
The Mart, Soroba Road, Oban
10am - 5pm

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Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society
66TH ANNUAL FIDDLERS' RALLY
With MAURICE DUNCAN Fiddle
Saturday 24th April 2010
Corran Halls, Oban, 7pm
Guest Artists - Mod Gold medallist
ARTHUR CORMACK
Peter MacLeod Chairman
Tickets: £8 Concessions £6
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30 Years Ago
Those Were The Days
The Oban Times
Thursday April 17 1980

Brewers back West Highland Week
WEST Highland Yachting Week, which in 1979 received disappointing support, this year looks set to attract a very much increased entry.
The secretary of the Royal Highland Yacht Club, Lt. CDR. Rodger Heap, said recently that he had already noticed a marked increase in enquiries about the week and he was pleased to say that the Irish visitors of 1978 indicated that they would be competing again.
Interest is also being shown by a number of boats from the north east of Scotland who intend to come down through the Caledonian Canal for the event.
The week is this year to be sponsored by Tennent Caledonian Breweries who are playing a full part in publicising it with posters and car stickers which will be in evidence from the end of next month.
The week will follow a more traditional pattern than those of the past two years.

They will also be laying on a considerable amount of entertainment at Crinan, Oban and Tobermory during the week, which runs from Sunday, August 3 until Friday, August 8.

Firemen run off their feet
FORT WILLIAM firemen were praised this week after a day of intense activity.
But at the same time the carelessness of the people carrying out controlled burning was slammed.
The activity took place over the weekend, when Fort William fire brigade were at one stage fighting three heath fires and two house fires at once.
A unit from Kinlochleven had to be called in to help.
A spokesman for the fire brigade in Inverness said that many of the heath fires which occurred throughout the Highlands were due to carelessness on the part of people responsible for controlled burning.
He urged them to make sure that there were sufficient men on hand to cope with the job and not to proceed in windy conditions.

One of the fires took place at the home of Lochaber District Council's chief executive, Dr John McGhee, at Sutherland Avenue, Upper Achintore.
Mrs McGhee was in the house at the time with her children when she discovered the roof was on fire.
Neighbours rushed to her aid until the arrival of the firemen.
A hole was burned in the roof and rafters were burned.
Most of the damage has now been put right, but Mr McGhee praised the prompt action of the firemen.
He said: 'I am only thankful that it was not a lot worse.'

Drama festival underway
DRAMA enthusiasts from all over Argyll converged on Ardrishaig this week for the Argyll Drama Festival which began on Tuesday night in Ardrishaig Public Hall.
A packed audience listened to the adjudicator Mr D.F. Crouch give the top place of the night to the Clachan Players with their production of the comedy 'Himself When Young.'

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Across
1 Chips perhaps (4)
3 Excellent currency (8)
9 Vibrating effect (7)
10 Mistake (5)
11 One obsessed with a hobby (12)
13 Disfigure (6)
15 Unwelcome black spots (6)
17 Left by caller (8,4)
20 Religious official (5)
21 Agitation (7)
22 All (8)
23 Drink made from honey (4)

Down
1 Disposition (8)
2 Eighth letter (5)
4 Moving company (6)
5 Those with a conservative position (5-7)
6 Those in a diamond (7)
7 When things are not black and white, or maybe they are, mixed? (4)
8 The ability to keep two parties joined (12)
12 Wrapped (8)
14 Crumbly (7)
16 Twice will make you shy (6)
18 Not with company (5)
19 Steadfast (4)

Last Week's Solution

S	D	P	S	T	S	V					
A	C	C	O	S	T	D	I	T	H	E	R
R	D	E	L	Y	U	R					
G	I	R	O	A	L	L	A	L	O	N	G
P											
I	T	E	R	A	T	E	R	I	F	L	E
A	H	T									
E	M	O	T	E	G	R	U	Y	E	R	E
A	T	R	J								
I	N	F	L	U	E	N	T	S	O	B	S
U	I	V	T	O							
O	R	A	N	G	E	U	N	Y	O	K	E
E	G	L	M	A	E						

Largiemore bullock is April Show champion at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2,114 store cattle, 95 cast cows and 580 store sheep at their April Show and Sale at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 186.32p (+12.66p) and sold to 256.7p per kg for a 374kg Aberdeen Angus cross from Meikle Carleith and £1,080 for a 446kg Aberdeen Angus cross from the same home.

Heifers averaged 179.8p (+4.08p) and sold to 243.2p per kg and £1080 for a 444kg Limousin cross from Robertson Mains.

Cast cows averaged 110.25p and sold to 146.1p Limousin cross from Craigend and £1,095 for a Limousin cross from Upper Spittalton.

Forward cattle averaged 130.18p and sold to 135.1p per kg and £1005 from Hardiston.

Show results

Single bullock: 1 Mr Gilmour, Largiemore, Campbelltown £930, 450kgs. 2 Mr Pirie, Chapelark, Kingussie £900, 480kgs.

Single heifer: 1 Mr Baxter, Midfield, Dunfermline £800, 400kgs. 2 Mr Pirie, Chapelark, Kingussie £875, 490kgs.

Pen of 4: 1 Mr Brewster, Wester Boreland, Thornhill £850, 424kgs. 2 Mr Brewster, Wester Boreland, Thornhill £820, 390kgs.

Pen of 8: Mr Wilson, Killernie, Dunfermline £745, 424kgs.

Suffolk hogs from Glenshellach sold to £77 with High Milndovan selling Beltex and Kirkland selling Mules to £69.

Blackfaces sold to £66 and £62.50 from Ben Lawers, £64.60 Lettre and £64 Braes of Ardeonaig.

Dingwall sheep sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts sold 1,285 store, breeding and feeding sheep at Dingwall last Thursday when all classes of store lambs and ewes met an excellent demand.

Lambs averaged £60.12 and sold to £90 for Cheviots from Heathmount, Tain.

Ewes averaged £62.12 and sold to £154 for Texels from Wester Raddery, Fortrose.

In lamb ewes sold to £57 for Cheviots from 40 Lower Breakish, Broadford, Isle of Skye while rams averaged £61.76 and sold to £130 for a Lley from Corrimony, Glen Urquhart.

Feeding sheep averaged £68.30 and sold to £83 gross for Lleys also from Corrimony.

Politicians to face Argyll farmers at Tarbert

FARMERS in Argyll are being asked to air their political view ahead of the general elections.

Hustings

The Argyll Region of the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) is to host a hustings meeting for the four main local candidates, when farmers can ask the politicians what the future is

for farming in Argyll.

The meeting will also give members of NFUS the chance to quiz the candidates and hear what they would propose to do to assist the development of agriculture and the rural economy in the next few years.

The meeting will be held on Friday April 16 at 2pm in the Templars Hall, Tarbert

and is open to all members of NFUS.

Bert Leitch, chairman of Argyll and Islands Regional Board said: 'Although we have devolution in Scotland and our own parliament, Westminster still controls many of the issues and budgets that affect farming and the rural economy. 'It is vital that we have

an MP for Argyll with a strong interest in promoting agriculture and the rural economy.

'This hustings meeting will give the main candidates the opportunity to set out their stall and justify why they are the best candidate for our area.

'The meeting will also give our members the opportunity

to test the awareness amongst the candidates of the main issues affecting our industry.'

The candidates attending the meeting will be: Alan Reid, Scottish Liberal Democrats; Mike McKenzie, Scottish National Party; Gary Mulvaney, Scottish Conservatives and David Graham, Scottish New Labour.

Continental bullocks sell to 326.4p per kilo at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 284 continental store cattle in a special show and sale at Dingwall last Wednesday when a more mixed show continued to sell at recent high rates.

Bullocks averaged 184.7p and sold to 326.4p and £1,420 for a 435kg Limousin cross from Clury Farm, Dulnain Bridge.

Heifers averaged 180.8p and sold to 209.1p and £920 for a pair of Limousin crosses from Invertonnie, Kingussie.

Champion continental cross was awarded to a 410kg Charolais cross bullock from Abersky, Tonnass.

Trade up at Stirling

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 2386 sheep at Stirling last Tuesday.

Prime hoggets averaged 203.8p per kilo (+17.4p on the week) selling to 246.1p per kilo for a pen of 40kg Beltex hoggets from D L Young, Fimount.

Hoggets averaged 208.9p per kilo (+20.1p on the week).

Prime lambs sold to 253.4p for a pen of 44kg Suffolk lambs from J Christie, West Carse.

Ewes sold to £146 for Texels from M McCall Smith, Connachan Farm to average at £70.72 while rams sold to £94.50 for Cheviots from Brechin, Upper Lergie, Kilmartin to average £86.50.

Lamb trade up again at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 55 prime cattle and 1,489 prime sheep at Dingwall last Tuesday.

Prime bullocks averaged 164.5p (+1.9p) and sold to 183p per kg for a 565kg Belgian Blue cross from Redfield, North Kessoock and £1,183.20 for a 680kg Limousin cross from Udale, Poyntzfield.

Prime heifers averaged 167.4p (+2.0p) and sold to 178p per kg for a 525kg Limousin cross from Dunvoornie, Duncanston, to John M Munro Ltd., and £1,037.50 for a 625kg Limousin cross from the same vendor.

Old season lambs averaged 213.7p (+19.8p) and sold to 238.5p per kg for 39.5kg Cheviots from Tore Mains, Tore, and £100 for 43.5kg Beltex crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Blackface lambs from Blackford Farm, Croy, sold to £91, and to 222.4p from Fornightly Farm, Nairn.

Over 30 month sale at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd., sold 20 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday.

Cows averaged 110.5p and sold to 126.8p per kg for a 745kg Limousin cross from Alvie Estate, Kincaig, and £1,105 for a 885kg British Blue cross from Little Kildrummie Nairn. Clean heifers and bullocks averaged 137.2p and sold to 140.4p per kg

Farmers to receive beef calf scheme payments this week

£23.4 million of EU funding aimed at suckler cow sector

MORE than 7,500 Scottish farmers should start to receive their share of £23.4 million of European funding this week under the Scottish Beef Calf Scheme.

'Vital support'

The payments will be made in respect of the 2009 Scottish Beef Calf Scheme (SBCS) for more than 406,000 animals claimed for last year.

Welcoming the prompt payments, Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lochhead

said: 'These payments will provide vital support and deliver great benefit for our livestock sector, following a turbulent winter and the impact of severe weather on many farmers.

'I am sure they will be welcomed by Scotland's quality beef producers, following on from the Single Farm Payments at the end of last year and the Less Favoured Area Support payments at the start of this year. Together,

these payments form part of an important support framework that is always essential, and never more so than in the current economic climate.'

Payments were due to start arriving in bank accounts from yesterday (Wednesday) with the majority to be received by tomorrow (Friday) - subject to necessary validation checks.

This year's payment rate is set at £114.38 for each of the first 10 cows, and £57.19 for

the remainder.

The Scottish Beef Calf Scheme is a direct support scheme aimed at specialist beef producers breeding beef calves from suckler cows. Farmers are by paid a premium on all calves which are 75 per cent beef bred and are kept on the producers' Scottish land continuously for 30 days from birth. Animals born on or after December 2, 2004 are eligible. Payments are entirely EU funded.



President of Institute of Auctioneers and Appraisers in Scotland John Gregor, centre, awards John Kyle, left, and Alastair Logan, right, certificates after being admitted as fellow members to the Institute. Both John and Alastair conduct sales in Stirling, Oban and the Western Isles and have been employed with the Caledonian Marts, Millhall, Stirling since 1977 and 1978 respectively.

Market reports

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Lambs: TexelX: Shepherds Cottage, Meddat, Nigg, £89; Cheviot: Heathmount, £89; Mule: Dalmigavie Farms, £87;

SuffolksX: Balmacaan, Drumnadrochit, £81; Cross: Heathmount, £79; Blackface: Shewglie, Glen Urquhart, £78.50;

CharollaisX: Simpsons Croft, Scotsburn, £78; Chamonais: Simpsons Croft, £78;

Rouge: Simpsons Croft, £75. Ewes: Texel: Beallach Na Gore, Jamestown, £146;

Cheviot: 25 Fairmuir Road, Muir of Ord, £118;

Mule: Brae Croft, Brae of Cantray, £100;

Lley: Shewglie, £96; Cross: 25 Fairmuir Road, £86;

SuffolkX: 25 Fairmuir Road, £86;

Bluefaced Leicester: Simpson Croft, £82;

Blackface: Corrimony, £78; TexelX: Brae Croft, £76.

Rams: Cheviot: Heathmount, £126; Bluefaced Leicester: Dalmigavie Farms, £116;

Blackface: Dunain Mains,

Inverness, £60; Suffolk: Torgorm, Conon Ness, £80;

Wedders: Cheviot: 189 Balchladich, Lairg, £77;

Cross: Shewglie, £75.

STIRLING United Auctions

Bullocks: Up to 250kg - Shaw of Touch £520, 234.2p;

251-300kgs - Auchgoyle £6640, Craighead 225.9p;

301-350kgs - Muircleugh £800, 231.2p;

351-400kgs - Meikle Carleith £960, 256.7p;

401-450kgs - Meikle Carleith £1080, 242.2p;

451-500kgs - Midfield £920, 200p;

501-550kgs - Knocknaha £1030, 195.8p;

551-600kgs - Bankswood £1050, 179.2p;

601-650kgs - Craighead £1040, 169.4p;

651-700kgs - Putechan £1070, 160.2p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg Clydeside £390, 232.1p;

251-300kg - Upper Bogrow, £660, 231.6p;

301-350kg - Upper Bogrow, £720, 214.9p;

351-400kg - Ardgayhill, Ardgay, £785, Cranford, Gollanfield, 209.8p;

401-450kg - Alvie Estate, Kincaig, £880, Abersky, Torness, 202.4p;

451-500kg - Lower Milton Farm, Drumnadrochit, £880, 190.9p;

501-550kg - Clury Farm, £1000, Lower Milton Farm, 195.3p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Ardross Castle, Ardross, £490, Upper Bogrow, 204.4p;

251-300kg - Attadale, Balmacara, £520, Belladrum Mill, Kiltarlity, 193.9p;

301-350kg - Abersky, £670, Cranford, 196.7p;

351-400kg - Attadale, £730, 202.8p;

401-450kg - Alvie Estate, £810, Pitmain Farm, Kingussie, 196.6p;

451-500kg - Corrimony, Glenurquhart, £850, 182.8p;

501-550kg - Lower Milton Farm, £865, 168p;

551-600kg - Glenurquhart Farm, Cromarty, £825, 140.8p.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 250kg - Glen Gloy Farms, Letterfinlay, £510, 242.9p;

251-300kg - Upper Bogrow, Edderton, £660, 231.6p;

301-350kg - Upper Bogrow, £720, 214.9p;

351-400kg - Ardgayhill, Ardgay, £785, Cranford, Gollanfield, 209.8p;

401-450kg - Alvie Estate, £810, Pitmain Farm, Kingussie, 196.6p;

451-500kg - Corrimony, Glenurquhart, £850, 182.8p;

501-550kg - Lower Milton Farm, £865, 168p;

551-600kg - Glenurquhart Farm, Cromarty, £825, 140.8p.

DINGWALL Dingwall and Highland Marts

Bullocks up to 250kg - 5 Strathnaver, Kinbrace, £440, 206.6p;

251-300kg - Cambusmore Estate, Dornoch, £560, 199.3p;

301-350kg - Whitebog, £725, 222.4p;

351-400kg - Nottingham Mains, Latheron, £820, 205.5p;

401-450kg - Ardross Castle, Ardross, £825, Springfield Croft, Balblair, 195.1p;

451-500kg - Gaskbeg, £940, 195.8p;

501-550kg - Springfield Croft, £950, Wester Rarichie, Nigg, 180.5p;

551-600kg - Wester Fearn, £990, 176.5p;

601-650kg - Wester Fearn, £1010, 166.9p;

over 651kg - Lynegar, Watten, £1070, 163.4p.

Heifers up to 250kg - Kinloch, Wick, £395, 5 Strathnaver, 178.2p;

251-300kg - Cambusmore Estate, £500, 181.2p;

301-350kg - Nottingham Mains, £615, 188.1p;

351-400kg - Nottingham Mains, £700, Laggan of Clach- aig, Nethybridge, 178.5p;

401-450kg - Cambusmore Estate, £780, Ardross Castle, 184.3p;

451-500kg - Easter Duthil, Carrbridge, £825, 173.7p;

501-550kg - Ordmuir, Muir of Ord, £820, Wester Fearn, 157.2p;

551-600kg - Glenurquhart Farm, Cromarty, £855, 149.1p.

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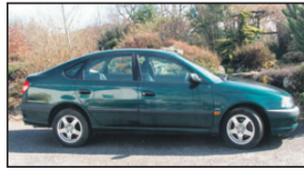


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Scottish Six Days Trial to have 'in town' finish

Final day action at Aonach Mor and Mamore Forest

NEXT MONTH'S motorcycle spectacular the Scottish Six Days Trial is to have a new finish point in Fort William.

In previous years riders drove over the finishing podium at the parade, but the 2010 event will see them take their machines 300 yards further up High Street to the new finish in Cameron Square.

The town will act as base throughout the May 3-8 competition and will host the final section on Monday, day one, when the 175 competitors tackle a beefed-up Town Hall Brae section above Cameron Square.

Tuesday will see the riders head north from Fort William towards Spean Bridge, skirting Loch Lochy en route to Fort Augustus for sections at Meall Damh and south through forest and moor towards Clunes, near Gairloch.

Wednesday sees the course follow an anti-clockwise route from Fort William to Spean Bridge on to the A86 before snaking back in a wide loop for tough moorland sections around Loch Treig and Ben Nevis.

Day four welcomes the introduction of a new six-section finish at Leanachan, a modification to the traditional Thursday route that should prove popular with spectators. Before that, competitors have to face a gruelling 2500-foot ascent across the mountains into Glen Lyon.

As ever, the customary road tour of the peninsula will take place on Friday. Leaving Fort William, the party will head west on the A830 and take on four sections in Doire Dhamh prior to a further five at Pipers Burn. From there riders will travel down to the southernmost tip of Loch Shiel before zigzagging east in the direction of Loch Linnhe and heading back to base camp in Fort William.

On Saturday, the final day, the field will again take on sections at Aonach Mor and Mamore Forest.

Acharacle croft house can be sold following appeal decision

AN ACHARACLE man has won his appeal to do what he wants with a house he recently built on the family croft.

Scottish Government Reporter Graham Hickman has ruled that Highland Council's Ross, Skye and Lochaber planning

committee were wrong to refuse Graham Cameron, of Ariveigaig, Acharacle permission to sell or lease the house, Somerled.

Mr Cameron was granted permission to build the house in 2004 on condition that only a person 'mainly or substantially' employed

working the croft, Glenifer, could occupy it. Mr Cameron, a self-employed electrician, had been assigned the tenancy of the croft, 195 Ariveigaig, and said he needed the new house because his parents continued to stay in the original croft house,

Glenifer. West Ariveigaig township shareholders lodged strong objections at the time and said they would claim compensation if the house and land were as sold as a private site. Mr Cameron's parents subsequently passed away

and last June Mr Cameron asked the committee to lift the agricultural occupancy condition, arguing that maintaining two houses on the croft was 'an undue burden' on his ability to manage it. The committee refused after Highland Council

leader and local councillor Michael Foxley pointed to the strength of local feeling on the issue. But Mr Hickman upheld Mr Cameron's appeal on the grounds it was 'not necessary' to have two houses tied to the working of the croft.

Rotarians go 'swishing'

THE ROTARY Club of Lochaber is hosting a 'swishing party' at Ben Nevis Distillery tomorrow (Friday) at 7pm for ladies to exchange items of clothing no longer wanted for new ones and to help reduce unnecessary textile waste.

The club has also planned a casino evening with a James Bond theme at the Ben Nevis Hotel on Saturday, April 24 at 7.30pm.

All monies from the event will go to Crossroads Lochaber and Calum's Cabin in Rothesay, which helps families who have a child suffering from cancer or a cancer related disease.

The Rotary Club thanks Marine Harvest for sponsoring the night and all businesses and individuals for their donations.

Kinlochleven opens new community outlet

A NEW community furniture and electrical goods recycling outlet opened its doors in Kinlochleven on Monday.

The New Start Highland centre collects free of charge good quality furniture and goods, which would otherwise be dumped, for redistribution to people in need.

The charity's enterprise officer Isobel Prall told The Oban Times clients referred by outside agencies such as Highland Council and housing association would have priority, with surplus items being made available to the general public.

The community outlet, linked to a warehouse in Fort William, will provide local jobs, employment training placements and volunteering opportunities.

NSH team leader Sandi Rosewall said: 'Through delivering a localised service we hope to offer Kinlochleven and the surrounding areas an effective tailored service.'

John Muir Trust grants

THE JOHN Muir Trust, the UK's leading wild land charity, has awarded more than £7,000 to five conservation projects in Skye, Lewis and Harris through its conservation fund.

Recipients include the Galson Estate Trust and North Harris Trust, an initiative on Harris to repair an eroded stalkers' path and a project on Skye to develop a moorland management plan for Sconser and Elgol common grazings.

Elgol and Torrin Historical Society also receives financial assistance to develop an archive of old photographs and documents from the Strath area of Skye.

Rum invests in future after SNH

INTERVIEWS for a new development officer for the Isle of Rum are being held today (Thursday) as islanders plot a new future, independent of Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH).

Among the candidates will be Ian Leaver, who is reapplying for the post he has held for the past two years.

Highlands and Islands Enterprise is funding the post, initially for 20 months with a possible extension to three years, under its 'Growth at the Edge' programme with cash backing from LEADER.

The appointment follows phase two of the transfer of assets from Rum owners SNH to the Isle of Eigg Community Trust (IECT) last week, which saw islanders take over 11 houses in Kinloch village and 161 acres of adjacent land. The trust became owners of 88 acres, the community hall and two buildings in the first transfer. The trust has also become owners of remote Harris Lodge on the west of the island and plans to offer the property as a holiday or long term let, possibly to a writer or painter inspired by the scenic surroundings.

Three crofts on bare land at Kinloch will also be advertised in September, Mr Leaver said. 'They were fields previously but there's a lot of fencing and improvement required and there's no house with them,' he said. 'But the tenancy would give people some security in the first place to access other grants to get a house.'

Longer term, islanders will have to address its electricity supply, currently provided through a dated 30 kilowatt hydro scheme at Corrie Dubh, which frequently needs back up from diesel generators.

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

Future plans include building a 200-kilowatt hydro scheme to cater for an anticipated uplift in demand as the island's permanent population of around 30 grows and new businesses spring up.

Meanwhile, SNH is currently installing a battery inverter system similar to that on neighbouring Eigg, which allows renewable power to be stored then fed into the grid when the sun doesn't shine or the weather is calm.

Mr Leaver highlighted attracting new families to the island as vital.

'New people will make the social mix better, which is important because there will be room for manoeuvre between different groups,' he said. 'What's really required is more bodies. New drive and new ideas will kick in to the local economy. If you have a small community and you require six directors the more people you have the less the burden will be on individuals.'

There is no specific population target for Rum, although Mr Leaver felt 100 'would be nice'. 'Things will go at their own pace as people take the time to move here,' he said.

IECT chairman Charlie King told The Oban Times the transfer of land and home to the trust would open up Rum for future development.

'A young couple from Wales have bought the Tattie House and they are going to do it up for a B&B,' he said. A tea room and shop at the old pier is also planned.



Pupils Naomi Logan and Antony Hook get ready to join their schoolmates at the vegetable plot next to the school. 10_f16ecc01

Inverlochly move towards eco-flag with day of action

INVERLOCHY Primary School took another step towards winning its eco-flag when the whole school staged an eco day of action before the Easter holidays.

All pupils were split into eco groups comprising all ages from nursery to P7, with P7 teacher and Inverlochly eco-schools coordinator Elaine Campbell in charge.

Activities included planting vegetables, making fruit smoothies, making notebooks from recycled paper, going on a litter pick and learning about road

safety. Elaine said: 'It's all about raising awareness of our action plan towards getting our eco flag - and to hit the required points on that action plan.'

Lochaber youngsters will promote local businesses

FOUR Lochaber High School senior pupils have been hired to promote local businesses to thousands of spectators and competitors at the SPEA FIM Trial World Championship at Nevis Range in June.

New company Event organisers L+M Events handed Stephen MacPhee, Jamie Riley, Connor Gillies and Leah Burns the task of creating a local business directory for inclusion in the official programme.

The go-ahead quartet set up their company LochADder under the Young Enterprise Scotland (YES) programme, electing a board of directors, raising share capital and marketing and financing their advertising sales campaign.

At the end of the year they will liquidate the company



and present a full report and accounts. L + M Events' Jake Miller hired the young team through Frazier Coupland of No Fuss to ensure community involvement in the championships.

Mr Miller said: 'It has been a great way to engage with the local community and

to give the kids a taste of what they can expect when they move into the working world.'

LochADder's Connor Gillies said: 'The experience proved to be a lot more work that we first thought but the team overcame these problems. Morale and motivation were key elements to our success

and these traits, I'm sure, will carry forward to any further projects we do in the future. LochADder wishes every success to all riders in the 2010 event.'

Lochaber High School head teacher Jim Sutherland said getting involved with YES had been 'an interesting and stimulating experience' for LochADder.

'It has given them an opportunity to work with business people on a real project which is proving to be commercially successful,' he said.

The UK leg of the 2010 SPEA FIM Trial World Championship, the foremost international motorcycle trial competition, will be staged at Nevis range on June 25-27. It is the first time since 1992 that Scotland has hosted a stage of the series.

Polling cards go out

POLLING cards to 51,934 voters in the Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency were posted out yesterday for the May 6 General Election.

The last date for receipt of applications to be included on the register of electors for this election is Tuesday April 20. Anyone who is uncertain as to whether or not they are registered can check via freephone 0800 393 783. Deadline for applications to vote by post is 5pm on Tuesday 20 April. Polling will take place from 7am to 10pm at 115 polling stations across the Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency and the count will take place overnight at Dingwall Leisure Centre.

Hannah wins memorial trophy

THE WILLIE MacKillop Memorial Trophy was presented at Fort William Fiddle and Accordion Club's last monthly musical evening of the winter at the Railway Club in Fort William last Tuesday night.

Keith MacKillop and his daughter Demi presented the cup to Hannah MacRae from Lochyside for her outstanding musicianship.

The trophy was donated by Lochaber Pub Watch in memory of Keith's dad, who was Railway Club steward for many years and gave great encouragement to the young musicians playing at Fort William Fiddle and Accordion Club (FWFAC) social evenings.

Committee members award the trophy to the most improved musician aged under 15 who has played at the club over last year.

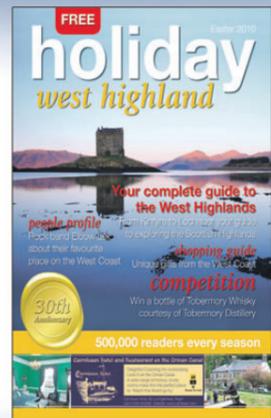
FWFAC treasurer Marion MacDonald told The Oban Times the final social evening before the summer break had been 'a very enjoyable night'.

Guests at the social were Colin Dewar's band from Stirling and local musicians young and old also entertained an appreciative audience of around 90, Marion said. The club gets together again in October.



Keith and Demi MacKillop present Hannah with the trophy.

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PLANNING

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 06/05/2010

- Ref No: 10/00325/PPP
 Applicant: Mr E P Bowden-Smith
 Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Land South East Of Braevallich Farmhouse East Lochaweside Dalnally Argyll and Bute PA33 18U
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalnally
- Ref No: 10/00363/PP
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs W J Wemyss
 Proposal: Alterations, extension, demolitions and change of use of bed and breakfast (class 7) to dwellinghouse (class 9)
 Site Address: Eredine House East Lochaweside Dalnally Argyll and Bute PA33 18P
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalnally
- Ref No: 10/00365/PP
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs P Walton
 Proposal: Erection of extension to dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Kakadu Barcalaine Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 15G
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/00375/AMSC
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs William Wemyss
 Proposal: Approval of conditions 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 relative to outline planning permission reference 06/00127/OUT
 Site address: Eredine House East Lochaweside Dalnally Argyll and Bute PA33 18P
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Dalnally
- Ref No: 10/00386/AMSC
 Applicant: Mr Craig McGougan
 Proposal: Approval of Condition 1 relative to Outline Planning Permission reference: 07/00749/OUT.
 Site Address: Land Adjacent To Achraha North Cornel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RF
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig
- Ref No: 10/00391/PP
 Applicant: Ardside Developments Ltd
 Proposal: Variation to conditions 2 (tree felling/shrub clearance), 6 (external finishing materials), 8 (ways and footpaths) and 13 (external lighting) relative to planning permission reference 06/01640/DET.
 Site Address: Dalavich Chalet Park Dalavich Argyll and Bute
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
- Ref No: 10/00395/PP
 Applicant: Mr and Mrs T Corbett
 Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house and associated works
 Site Address: Dobhann Cottage Lochbuie Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA62 6AA
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
- Ref No: 10/00397/PP
 Applicant: Bonnans Coaches (Mull) Ltd
 Proposal: Erection of a detached one and a half storey dwellinghouse to provide staff accommodation.
 Site Address: Scallaste Craignure Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute PA65 6BA
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure
- Ref No: 10/00438/PPP
 Applicant: Mr G Forster
 Proposal: Site for the erection of dwellinghouse
 Site Address: Land South of The Paddock Kentallan Farm Aros Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
 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

A weekly list of applications which can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

MARY MACQUEEN
 OTHERWISE MARY McQUEEN, SPINSTER, LATE OF PECKHAM, LONDON SE15, DIED THERE ON 22 JUNE 2009

The kin of the above named are requested to apply to:
 The Treasury Solicitor (BV), One Kemble Street, London WC2B 4TS or visit the website below.

Falling which the Treasury Solicitor may take steps to administer the estate.
 www.bonavacantia.gov.uk

TSol

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

A Public Hearing will be held by the Crofters Commission into the application by Niall MacLeod to create a new croft at Ballimore Farm Estate.

The Hearing will take place in the Kilchrenan Village Hall on 28 April 2010 at 2.00 pm and anyone interested may attend. A statement of the facts and relevant issues may be obtained by writing to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 23 April 2010 quoting the reference number 5.01.18356.

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, FT 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
10/01198/FUL	Boyd Brothers (Haulage) Ltd Annat Pier Corpach Fort William PH33 7NB	Additional Sunday stevedoring 6 Sundays per annum for loading/unloading vessels. Emergency use hours of 1000 and 1800	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01277/PIP	Land to North East of Bridge House Latterlinlay Spean Bridge	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01381/PIP	Land 700m SW of Glenspean Lodge Hotel Roy Bridge	Erection of house and livestock/ implement shed	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01506/FUL	Ferguson Transport Integrated Freight Facility Annat, Corpach Fort William	Erection of storage building, removal of existing Nissan hut and portakabin	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01517/FUL	Heston, Corpach Fort William PH33 7LT	Extension to house (retrospective)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01561/FUL	1 Nevis Road Inverlochty, Fort William PH33 6LY	Extension to existing house and installation of oil tank.	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01562/FUL	My Sandpiper West Highland Sailing Laggan Locks North Laggan	Siting of caravan	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01597/PIP	Land 70m SE of Braeside Cottage, Achdaluie Fort William PH33 7NN	Erection of house - Plot 1	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01598/PIP	Land South of Braeside Cottage, Achdaluie Fort William	Erection of house - Plot 2	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01673/PIP	Land 70m North of Camus Cairin Glenacross Road Morar, Mallaig	Erection of house (Plot A)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
10/01674/PIP	Land 120m North of Camus Cairin Glenacross Road Morar, Mallaig	Erection of house (Plot B)	Mallaig Service Point (14 days)
10/01676/MSC	Land 150M North of Clansman Garage Camoghaol Fort William	Erection of House (renewal of 05/00274/REMO)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber:
 Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY
 Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022
 e-mail: planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

crofters commission
 ughdarras nan croitearan

Neil MacPhail has applied to decroft part of the croft at 35 Balephetrish, Tisee extending to 0.105ha for the purpose of providing a site for a new house. Ref: 4.86.23216

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 7 May 2010 quoting the above case number.

A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949
SINGLE MOORING: GLACERISKA BAY, LOCH CRERAN

Notice is hereby given that Donald MacKenzie has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of a proposed new mooring at the following position in Glacriska Bay:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 32.545N	05 23.825W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ledaig Sub Post Office, Benderloch, PA37 1QN.

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made in writing to:
 Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference: 2SPC/2/5/410
 Donald MacKenzie, Hazelmout, Clachan Seil, By Oban, Argyll

Port Ellen & Kennacraig Ferry Terminals Public Meetings

CMAL
 Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd
 Sòras Mara Chaidheòria Ear

Further Opportunity to Attend Meeting

Templar Hall Tarbert, Loch Fyne Tuesday 27th April 2010 19:00	Ramsay Hall Port Ellen, Isle of Islay Thursday 29th April 2010 19:00
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Following meetings on 7th and 8th of April in Port Ellen and Tarbert, CMAL are holding a second round of public meetings to discuss the planned works at Port Ellen & Kennacraig Ferry Terminals. The meetings will highlight the works that will commence in 2010, which include infrastructure improvements at Port Ellen and works to accommodate the new ferry at Kennacraig, as well as providing an update of the current status of the long term redevelopment plans.

For further information please contact Lorna Spencer – Director of Harbours & Piers on 01475 749934 or lorna.spencer@cmassets.co.uk or visit our website www.cmassets.co.uk

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997

Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at 67/69 Chalmers Street Ardrishaig PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 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: 10/00432/LIB
 Applicant: Caledonian Maritime Assets Limited
 Proposal: General repairs and improvement works to existing harbour
 Site Address: Caledonian Macbrayne Ltd Scalasaig Isle of Colonsay Argyll and Bute PA61 7YW
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Colonsay

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.

The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.

Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER
THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, WEST OF TERVINE HOUSE, TERVINE, KILCHRENAN, ARGYLL TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 01/09

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 8th April 2010 and hereby gives notice that:-

- The Provisional Tree Preservation Order was made to ensure the protection of a mature deciduous tree situated to the West of Tervine House, Tervine, Kilchrenan, 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 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 of advertisement;
- The Tree Preservation Order shall take effect provisionally on 8th April 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.

Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law



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PERSONALS

HAPPY 21st



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John and Edna Payne

Would like to thank everyone involved in assisting John after his accident, especially all medical staff at The Lorn and Islands Hospital, The Royal Alexandra Hospital, Ambulance Crews and The Integrated Care Team. We would like to say thank you to all family, friends and well-wishers for the wonderful support we have had since the accident.

THANKS

Kenny and Jessie Smith would like to thank all friends and neighbours for the beautiful gifts and cards, which they received for their Golden Wedding. We would also like to thank our family for the wonderful holiday we spent together.

"Christ...without blemish and without spot."

To the afflicted He is the God of comfort; to the depressed He is the God of hope; to the lonely He is a friend.

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FIRE SECURITY

MACLEOD BLDs LOCHAVULLIN RD OB

Successful boxing show in the Fort

500 people watched 12 entertaining bouts

LOCHABER Phoenix Boxing Club staged a successful show at the Nevis Centre last Saturday where a sell out crowd of almost 500 people watched 12 highly entertaining bouts involving eight boxers from Fort William.

First local on show was 13-year-old Chris Bradley who showed just why he has started to earn rave reviews from coaches around Scotland as he dominated his opponent, Dean Stanton from Renfrewshire ABC, from start to finish

BOXING

winning a wide unanimous decision. Bradley's victory capped a fine night for him as he also won the Lochaber club's young boxer of the season trophy. Next local was Artyom Jevstijeik who celebrated his 16th birthday with a hard fought, but thoroughly merited, points victory over Jordan McTaggart of Garnock Valley ABC.

Next Lochaber boxer up was Denver Small who faced Gary McGuire of Bellahouston ABC, but towards the end of the opening round Small sustained an elbow injury which prevented him from proceeding in the contest and handed McGuire the victory. An even worse injury was to follow in the next bout when super heavyweight Chris Donnelly sustained a broken

jaw in the opening round and despite the pleas of the incredibly tough 19-year-old the bout was stopped on the doctors orders.

Chris was taken to Glasgow for treatment and underwent an operation on Monday.

Twelve-year-old James Aitchison then took on George Stewart of Granite City in a cracker of a contest and it was Aitchison who triumphed after three pulsating rounds with a unanimous decision and also the young boxer of the night trophy.

Gruelling

Ryan Watson faced Mike Atkinson of Renfrewshire ABC in a gruelling middleweight contest, which was not short of skill either. Judges had to choose between Watson's forward march or Atkinson's counterpunching



Ryan Watson, left, and Renfrewshire's Mike Atkinson go at it hammer and tongs. 10_f16box05



Danny MacIntosh gets a pep talk from coach Martin Glenesk. 10_f16box03

Shinty leagues

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	5	4	1	0	15	2	9
Fort William	5	4	0	1	16	5	8
Inveraray	5	3	0	2	13	13	6
Kyles Athletic	5	2	1	2	9	9	5
Glenurquhart	5	2	1	2	8	11	5
Kingussie	4	2	0	2	13	10	4
Bute	5	2	0	3	10	9	4
Lovat	4	2	0	2	9	9	4
Oban Camanachd	5	1	1	3	6	14	3
GMA	5	0	0	5	4	21	0

Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Caberfeidh	4	2	1	1	10	6	5
Beaully	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	7	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
Beaully	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
Caberfeidh	3	2	1	0	6	2	5
Lochaber	2	2	0	0	15	0	4
Lochcarron	2	2	0	0	8	3	4
Boleskine	4	2	0	2	8	13	4
Inverness	4	1	1	2	6	18	3
Ardnamuchan	4	1	0	3	10	10	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
Glenorchy	4	4	0	0	14	2	8
Kilmory	3	2	1	0	9	5	5s
Oban Celtic	4	1	2	1	6	7	4
Lochside Rovers	4	1	1	2	6	8	3
Ballachulish	3	0	2	1	3	8	2
Taynuilt	4	0	2	2	6	11	2
Inveraray	2	0	0	2	1	4	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



Aiden Donnelly, right, finds a way through Ismet Beganovich's guard. 10_f16box02

while backpedalling and unfortunately for Watson gave the verdict to Atkinson.

Local man Aiden Donnelly and Ismet Beganovic of Inverness ABC then featured in arguably the fight of the night as both boxers met in ring centre from the opening bell and traded bombs. Donnelly found himself on the seat of his pants courtesy

of a Beganovic left hook early on but called upon his great reserves of stamina to drag himself back into the action.

By round three Aiden was living up to his nickname of 'Relentless' and inflicted a standing eight count on his German opponent. Donnelly got the verdict along with senior boxer of the night and most improved boxer of the

season. Light welterweight Stephen Cameron was top of the bill against Arron Medder of Granite City ABC and was out for revenge after losing his undefeated record to the Aberdeen man.

Stylists

Both are classy stylists but the contest became a physical messy clash of styles with Cameron edging the decision.

Stepi also took the boxer of the season trophy. Nether Lochaber ABC had two boxers on the bill. Danny MacIntosh narrowly lost out to Darren Ravenhill from Inverness, but Sandy Hazelton prevailed against Locher ABC's Mark MacIntyre to give coach Martin Glenesk and the new club a well-deserved success.



Lochaber Phoenix's Chris Donnelly is disconsolate after being forced to retire with a broken jaw. Referee Stevie Docherty and coach Niall Clark break the bad news. 10_f16box07



Stepi Cameron catches Aaron Medder with a right hook. 10_f16box01

Chairman urges stay-away fans to return and see the progress

Highland League Fort William 3, Buckie 5

FOOTBALL

Exclusive By Stephen Norris

FORT WILLIAM FC vice chairman Derek MacGillivray is urging stay away fans to return to Claggan Park - and see for themselves how much the team has progressed since last season.

Fort may be propping up the Highland League, but the days of eight and nine goal drubbing at the hands of title contenders are a distant memory.

Not only is the football highly entertaining, the goals are starting to flow too. Calum's MacLean's men knocked in three on Saturday against the title

favourites and MacGillivray reckons absent supporters don't know what they are missing.

'There's been a marked improvement in the side and it would be great if more local people came along to support the team,' he told The Oban Times after the match.

'We should have at least 100 Fort William fans here. It would make a big difference if we had a bigger crowd because they could be our 12th man.

In a cracker of a game, Sam Urquhart fired Fort ahead in the 13th minutes before Craig MacMillan knocked in a rebound off keeper Campbell to level.

It was déjà vu for Fort

when they lost a goal deep into injury time through a Davie MacRae spot kick after ref Alan Frew spotted a handball in the box.

In a previous life losing a goal right on the break would have heralded a Fort collapse - but the Lochaber men are made of sterner stuff these days.

Back they came, and Jonathan Hewitt tied up the game at 2-2 when he turned his defender and burst through to crack a great 14-yard shot past Main.

Buckie were denied a stonewall penalty as Graeme Bamber hacked down Murray but Sutherland shot home on 72 minutes to put Buckie back in front.

It was now end to end stuff and Buckie struck again courtesy of Murray's classy finish but Sean Ellis gave Fort hope once more when he fought a wonderful free kick into the top right hand corner from 22 yards to make it 3-4.

With the last kick of the match Buckie's Charlie Brown secured the points with a clinical finish.

Welfare AGM

LOCHABER Welfare League organisers hope to start the 2010 league on May 3 - depending on the number of teams registering and the fixture list.

All interested parties are invited to attend a meeting in the upstairs lounge at the BA social club, Fort William on Sunday April 18 at 7.00pm.



Lochaber Reign: looking to dispose of Millburn Academy in Saturday's final. 10_f16basket01

High school in basketball final

BASKETBALL is not something people automatically associate with Fort William, - but come April 17 it just might be.

Against all odds, Lochaber High School's senior boys' basketball team take on Millburn Academy for the Highland Schools title on Saturday.

The talented youngsters had never played any competitive basketball until this year, but under coach Jamie Currie came through the competitive match-ups unbeaten.

Their single loss in a pre-season warm-up match was against Millburn - but the boys notched up some pretty impressive scoreslines on the road to the final.

An opening fixture away to Oban High saw a 75-25 victory and solid victories against Alness Academy (60-6) and Portree High School (60-7) followed. The remaining league fixtures

BASKETBALL

were won in similar fashion, though the Lochaber team were stretched in the return match against Alness.

Lochaber booked their place in the final with a stunning shot in their last game. Aidan Thurmond received the ball near his own basket and with only two seconds left on the clock launched a speculative full court shot known as a 'buzzer beater'. The ball arced fully

25 metres through the air to drop perfectly through the basket - to rapturous applause from teammates and onlookers.

For a school basketball team the Lochaber boys cut impressive figures, and with three starting players in the 6'4" to 6'5" range, they certainly won't be intimidated out of a victory by their more experienced opponents next Saturday.

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday, April 17 2010

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Bute v Kingussie
Colin MacDonald
Fort William v Lovat
Ron Kennedy
Inveraray v GMA
Graham Irving
Newtonmore v Kyles
Ronnie Campbell
Oban Cam v Glenurquhart
Ted McDonald

Marine Harvest

North Division 1
Caberfeidh v Inverness
John Angus Gillies
Kinlochshiel v Kilmallie
Deek Cameron
Lochaber v Lochcarron
Graham Cameron
Skye v Strathglass
John MacPhee

Marine Harvest

South Division 1
Kilmory v Inveraray
Duncan Kerr
Oban Celtic v Glenorchy
Robert Baxter Jnr
Taynuilt v Lochside Rovers
Charles Young

Marine Harvest

North Division 2
Beaully v Newtonmore
Donald MacRae
Glengarry v Fort William
Evan MacRae
Glenurquhart v Skye
Innes Wood
Kilmallie v Kinlochshiel
Robert Morrison
Kingussie v Lovat
John MacLeod

Marine Harvest

South Division 2
Aberdour v Strachur
David Mitchell
GMA v Tayforth
Billy Wotherspoon
Kyles Athletic v Bute
Billy Nimmo

Marine Harvest

North Division 3
Ardnamurchan v Lochbroom
Dougie Cameron
Boleskine v Aberdeen Uni
Euan Pearson
Lochcarron v Lochaber
Daniel MacRae
Strathglass v Inverness
John Sloggie

Kilmory find Skye a hot handful

SHINTY

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
Kilmory 2 Skye 6

DESPITE two goals from Hal Jone, Kilmory found Skye too hot to handle at Lochgilphead as the visitors hit the Kilmory net six times with Dougie Rankin and Kenny Campbell scoring twice, and the MacDonald brothers Sorley and Gillesburg one each.



Oban Camanachd goalkeeper Gavin Stobbart rushes out to close down Kingussie's Lee Bain at Mossfield on Saturday. Picture - John MacTavish

Kingussie take their chances at Mossfield

KINGUSSIE'S ability to take their chances in front of goal proved the difference between the sides as Oban Camanachd gave away an early lead at Mossfield Stadium.

Played in glorious conditions and in cup-tie fashion, Oban Camanachd were ahead after three minutes when Ian MacMillan's shot rebounded to Scott MacMillan who slammed the ball passed Kingussie keeper Andrew Borthwick.

However, the lead was to last only five minutes as the home defence failed to clear

their lines and new signing Lee Bain capitalised. Oban then enjoyed a lot of the ball but failed to find a way passed the inspirational Borthwick, with the keeper producing a series of excellent stops to deny the home side.

With Ronald Ross playing at the heart of the Kingussie defence, his side then snatched the lead 10 minutes off the interval whistle when Fraser Munro took advantage

of a mix-up in the Oban defence to nip in and score against the run of play. The second-half proved fairly even but the home side became increasingly frustrated with referee Cameron's inconsistency and as the temperature of the tie rose, Oban's Aiden MacIntyre found himself facing a red card.

With six minutes remaining, Munro netted his second of the game - Lee Bain sealing

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Oban Camanachd 1 Kingussie 4

the destination of the league points with a fourth goal, two minutes from time.

Oban Camanachd president Nigel Evans said: 'This Saturday, Camanachd need to learn a harsh lesson to correct the problems of sloppy defending and missed opportunities ahead of another difficult league tie - this time it is Glenurquhart that come to Mossfield.'

Kingussie head south again as they make the long journey over the water to play a Bute team that will be bolstered by the return from suspension of defender Graham Fisher.

Bute gain no reward

Fort William score three at Tighnabruaich

Inveraray come back from two goals down to win by four

NEWTONMORE maintained their lead at the top of the Scottish Hydro Premier league table with hard fought 3-0 won away at Rothesay.

Despite Glen Mackintosh giving the visitors the lead 10 minutes into the first-half, Bute dominated long periods of the tie without troubling Michael Ritchie in the Newtonmore goal.

On a difficult surface, neither team produced more than a hard, scrappy performance, with Bute perhaps feeling disappointed not to have taken some reward for all their effort, particularly during a 20 minute spell in the second period.

The introduction after the interval of David Cheyne to the Newtonmore forwardline proved the difference between the teams, with the clinical finisher adding to the visitor's lead after 72 minutes and forcing a great save from Bute keeper 'Paddy' Queen, before making the tie safe with a great shot in the final five minutes.

At Tighnabruaich, second placed Fort William were ahead after 20 minutes as Gary Innes maintained his recent scoring form. James Clark then ensured the visitors would have a two-goal interval cushion when he struck six minutes from the break. And the league points were put out of Kyles' reach with 15 minutes left to play when Victor Smith put the ball passed keeper Kenny MacDonald

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division
Lovat 3 GMA 1
Bute 0 Newtonmore 3
Kyles 0 Ft William 3
Inveraray 6 Glen/quhart 2

Glenurquhart produced a dream start at Inveraray when goals from Eddie Tembo and Lewis MacLennan put them in the driving seat but, with the play flowing quick from end to end, Gary MacPherson converted a penalty before Euan McMurdo equalised. Inveraray's Russell MacKnlly helped himself to a hat-trick as Inveraray repeatedly over-ran their opponents, with Grant Griffen adding another to bring the final score to 6-2.

Glasgow Mid Argyll travelled to Kiltarity in search of their first league points but found themselves a goal down to Lovat after 16 minutes. James MacPherson finding the net for the home side. However, the remainder of the first 45 minutes proved a stuffy affair and it took until the hour mark for the home side to find the target again, young MacPherson again proving too quick for the GMA defence.

Ben Simmister pulled a goal back for Mid Argyll within another two minutes but any thought of a late comeback were quashed when Greg Matheson netted Lovat's third goal with 15 minutes left to play.

SHINTY

Results

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
Ballachulish 0 Lochcarron 1
Beaully 6 Oban Celtic 1
Kilmallie 4 Caberfeidh 1
Kilmory 2 Skye 6
Kinlochshiel 5 Strathglass 3
Lochaber 4 Inverness 0

Aberdeen Considine

Sutherland Cup 1st Round
Aberdour 4 Lochbroom 1
Caberfeidh 1 Lochside 3
Col Glen 5 Taynuilt 2
Fort William 1 Glengarry 0
GMA 3 Bute 0
Inverness 0 Aberdeen Uni 2
Kingussie 8 Boleskine 3
Kinlochshiel 2 Kilmallie 1
Lochcarron 0 Glen/hart 12
Lovat 6 Newtonmore 2
Skye v Tayforth
Strathglass 1 Lochaber 13

Scottish Hydro

Premier Division
Bute 0 Newtonmore 3
Inveraray 6 Glenurquhart 2
Kyles 0 Fort William 3
Lovat 3 GMA 1
Oban Caman 1 Kingussie 4

Marine Harvest

South Division 1
Glenorchy 3 Taynuilt 1

Celtic go out of Balliemore Cup

SHINTY

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
Beaully 6 Oban Celtic 1

OBAN Celtic exited the Balliemore Cup after their first round defeat at the hands of Beaully.

The long journey north seemed to have been worthwhile after Kenny Wotherspoon fired the visitors ahead after 11 minutes.

Oban Celtic went on to take the game to Beaully but squandered two good scoring chances. Inevitably, the retribution came on 22 minutes when David Neilson got the home side back on level terms and used this as a catalyst to begin to dominate the game.

Sean Stewart added Beaully's second on the half-hour with Jamie MacLennan scoring their third, three minutes later. Two minutes from half-time, Neilson netted Beaully's fourth.

Oban's cause was not helped when the influential Gallagher had to retire in the second period with a nasty head wound but by then, Celtic were three adrift.

Oban Celtic stayed in the game and continued to battle on but further goals from Neilson and Mark MacLachlan allowed Beaully to progress as comfortable winners.

This Saturday, Celtic are back in league action, at home to Glenorchy.

Campbell double helps Lochaber into next round of the Balliemore Cup



Lochaber captain Sean Nicolson sweeps the ball past Inverness defender Danny Polumbo. f16shinty02

LOCHABER prevailed against a combative Inverness outfit at Spean Bridge on Saturday to claim a place in the next round of this season's Balliemore Cup.

Inverness looked lively early on and Lochaber keeper Jake Keenan had to look sharp to deny Fraser MacDonald on 11 minutes but gradually Lochaber got to grips and Ben Delaney then Sean Nicolson tested MacMaster in the Inverness goal.

Zander Ferguson was unlucky to see a 25-yard shot whistle just past but Lachlan Campbell made no mistake on 27 minutes when he struck to give Lochaber the lead.

SHINTY

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
Lochaber 4
Inverness 0

Keith Neville missed a great chance when clean through then set up Ferguson with a fine pass but Inverness managed to clear.

Campbell almost made it two before the break when he smacked a shot just past before Ferguson and Neville both went close to doubling Lochaber's lead.

After the break the homesters

eventually found their scoring touch when Ben Delaney fired a fine drive past MacMaster for 2-0.

Campbell then converted a penalty on 75 minutes to make the game safe before Sean Nicolson put away number four with five minutes left after great link up play between Campbell and Stuart Callison.

This Saturday both sides are back in North Division One league action with Lochaber welcoming Lochcarron to Spean Bridge while Inverness are on the road again, this time making the short trip to Strathpeffer and a tie against Caberfeidh.

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 £1500

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Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
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First jack at Oban Bowling Club

BOWLING

THE DUTY of throwing the first jack of the season at Oban Bowling Club was carried out by 10-year-old Donna Blainey, granddaughter of club president Anne Campbell. On the club's opening day of the season last Saturday players enjoyed a good competition and even better weather. The triples competition was won by Gerry Flannigan, Andrew Forbes and Ian Weir. The green looked in good condition considering it looked almost unplayable just a week before, damaged by the hard frost this winter.



Oban Bowling Club members watch on as Donna Blainey throws the first jack of the season. 07_t16jack01



The children and coaches pictured during the Oban Easter Football Festival. 07_t16foot02

Football festival a big success

Argyll and Bute Council's Easter Football Festival kicked off in Oban this week with 65 children enjoying fun football related activities in a safe and enjoyable environment. Elsewhere 20 children in Campbeltown and 30 in Helensburgh also enjoyed the football based activities

during the Easter holidays. Festivals are also being held in Mull, Lochgilphead and Rothesay.

Positive

Argyll and Bute Football Development Officer Martin Rae said: 'The feedback from the parents has been very positive so far and that's encouraging for the first

festival I have been involved with within the region. 'It was great to see 65 children participating in the Oban event and there were some talented footballers among the group and I hope this support will continue onto the summer festival where there is going to be additional courses taking

place to suit the needs and demands of the children. 'There is going to be mini kickers for 3-4 year-olds, a goalkeeping centre, a development programme for 9-14 year-olds and our normal 5-9 year-old group included in some areas over the summer. 'There are other future

programmes in the pipeline and these will be announced soon.'

For further information on the summer or anything football related please contact Martin Rae, Football Development Officer for Argyll and Bute Council at martin.rae@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Ladies go through in Scottish Cup

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Ladies progressed to the next round of the Scottish Cup after they were awarded the tie when their opponents Kemnay couldn't raise a team for the game due to be played in Oban last weekend.

This Sunday the Ladies are at home to Paisley Saints in a league match. The game will take place on the 3g pitch at Oban High School, kicking off at 2pm.

Oban Pool League

POOL

	P	Pts
Markie Dans 'A'	20	34
Lancaster	20	30
Lochnell	20	30
Claredon 'A'	20	28
Cellar Bar	20	22
Kelvin Dale	20	22
Markie Dans 'B'	20	18
Gluepot	20	16
Claredon 'B'	20	8

Kits for Kids

FOOTBALL

OBAN High School is currently collecting The Daily Record's 'Kits for Kids' tokens and is appealing for members of the public to hand them into the school or any newsagent.

Islay Golf Club

GOLF

Laphroaig Trophy
1 Neil Carmichael 40pts;
2 Andrew Bauld 39pts; 3 Norman MacDonald 37pts.
Cssh 71.

Saints youths

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Under 15s return to action this Saturday after the Easter holiday break with an away game against Renton Youth.

A&B Golf Union

GOLF

ARGYLL and Bute Golf Union kicks off its 2010 season this weekend with its customary opener, the 2010 matchplay championship.

Held over Machrihanish it will feature the top 16 from last year's strokeplay event which was held at Cowal. Rothesay's George Reynolds will be looking to retain his title after his victory last year over Glencruitten's Allan McKie.

Tides

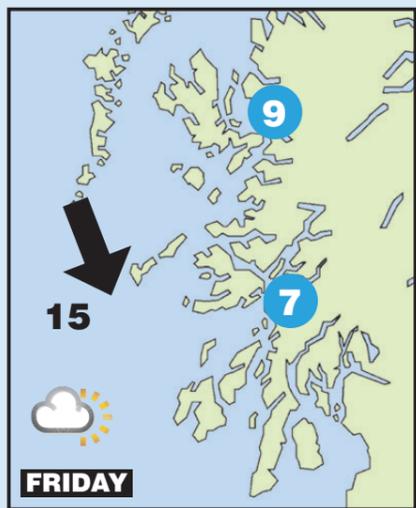
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, April 15, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	00.04 0.8 06.08 3.9 12.21 0.8 18.11 3.8	
Fri	00.33 0.8 06.36 3.9 12.51 0.8 18.39 3.8	
Sat	01.04 0.9 07.06 3.7 13.23 0.8 19.11 3.7	
Sun	01.38 1.0 07.40 3.6 13.59 0.9 19.48 3.6	
Mon	02.18 1.1 08.25 3.4 14.43 1.1 20.31 3.5	
Tues	03.10 1.3 09.11 3.1 15.37 1.3 21.25 3.3	
Wed	04.23 1.5 10.19 2.9 16.46 1.4 22.39 3.1	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

Mainly sunny. Winds light North Easterly. Temperatures 6°C to 12°C

Friday

Sunny intervals. Winds light North Westerly. Temperatures 6°C to 10°C.

Weekend Outlook

Scattered showers. Winds light to moderate North Westerly. 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

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The squash players pictured on the final day of the season 07_t15squash01

Super 'Spares win squash league

SQUASH

B&H AUTOSPARES have won the first ever Rio Tinto squash league between Lochaber and Oban teams.

The team, consisting Archie McGillivray, Iain Black, Murdo Murray, Bryan Wilson and Davie Mackay, only dropped two games on their final match over Simmers & Co. Niall Campbell gave Bryan Wilson of B&H an early scare drawing level at one-a-piece before Bryan took control to win 3-1.

Blackie and Murdo both won 3-0 before Archie finalised the league winning 3-1.

Bryan Wilson of B&H also won the league's top points scorer and shared player of the year with Allan Moore from Oban

Filling Station. In the other match The Building Restoration Co had to win all their games hoping B&H would slip up but alas it was not to be after Neil Worsdall and Gary Davidson both won 3-0.

It was left to Rah Douglas to keep the pressure up but failed to bring his top game and got overrun by Colin Macneven.

This was Rah's only defeat all season, leaving Warren with nothing to fight for but, as he has done all year, he went on and beat Alan Moore 3-0 in his best display.

Saints edge closer to league title

FOOTBALL

Scottish Amateur League Premier Division
ST JOSEPH'S FP 1
OBAN SAINTS 1

SAINTS travelled to Mounblow, Clydebank, to take on last season's premier league champions St Josephs, but it was the Saints from Oban who would be the happier team, returning back up the road with a share of the points in a hard fought game that could have gone either way.

St Joseph's took the lead in the 12th minute and it all stemmed from a poorly taken Saints free kick. The ball fell to Mark Seagrave just outside his own penalty area and the wee man took

off and ran unchallenged for most of the length of the park before he slipped the ball to Chris Scoullar, who turned his marker in the box before despatching the ball past the helpless Saints keeper Graham Douglas.

This lead lasted only four minutes however, as the Saints from Oban pulled level with a well taken goal. Ross Maitland was sent clear on the right and he fired over a perfect ball into the St Joe's box for the unmarked Myles McAuley who wasted no time in slotting it past Hugh Timney to make the score 1-1.

Saints created two or three excellent chances as the half wore but these were all missed.

Saints started the second half well and should have increased their lead when Willie Gemmell sent over a great cross to the back post for Craig MacEwan, but he failed to hit the target with his shot flying past the post.

With three minutes

remaining Allan MacKay had another good chance to win it for Saints when the ball was cut back into his path, but the Saints striker failed to hit the target and a tremendous opportunity was missed.



Myles McAuley

With one minute remaining on the clock the visitors were awarded a free kick just outside the St Joe's penalty area after Mattie Rippon had been upended.

Willie Gemmell stepped up and curled a great free kick round the St Joe's wall, but he was unlucky to see the

ball come back off the post with the keeper stranded.

A few seconds later referee Gordon Hay, who had a good game, blew for full time with the teams having to settle for a point apiece.

Saints manager Iain Jackson was happy enough with the point, but though his team could have had all three. He said: 'We got off to a slow start, but once we got going we created a few good goalscoring opportunities, but unfortunately they weren't taken.'

'I thought we had won it right at the death, and couldn't believe it when Willie's free kick hit the post - I was sure it was going in. 'However, in the end it could turn out to be a valuable away point in the race for the league title.'

This Saturday Saints have a break from league duty when they take on high flying Arkleston in the second round of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy. The game will be played at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee is John Scott.

Entries double for Kintyre Way Relay

RELAY

MORE than 100 entrants have now signed up for the fourth annual Kintyre Way Relay which takes place on May 1, starting from Tarbert at 6am.

Entries in all categories are more than double last year's numbers, with 24 walkers doing 31 miles along the path from Tarbert to Skipness, Clachan and Tayinloan; 28 walkers along the 18 miles from Torrisdale via Carradale to Tayinloan; 44 runners in relay teams sharing out the 66-mile race route from Tarbert to Campbeltown; and five ultra-distance runners who will each run the entire 66 miles in one day.

This year's walkers include a large group from the Royal Bank of Scotland head office in Glasgow, who are using the occasion to raise funds for cancer research at the Beatson Oncology Centre.

The Kintyre Way Relay is becoming well known for its hospitality element, with refreshments provided by the locals at five different community halls along the way, and the 'Runners Revels' feast and ceilidh-dance in the evening.

Entries can be submitted online. Full details at www.kintyrewayrelay.co.uk

New support for MOKRUN

HALF MARATHON

THE ANNUAL Mull of Kintyre half marathon and 10K have a new supporter in Robert Wiseman Dairies.

This year's races will be held in Campbeltown on May 30, with a wide range of other activities on offer to runners and visitors over the race weekend around Campbeltown Loch.

Joanne Rae, Marketing Manager at Robert Wiseman Dairies said: 'MOKRUN is a really good event with a great reputation and we're delighted to be able to add our support and be involved in this community event.'



Carpet Fitters have it covered

Winners of the Atlantis Leisure five-a-side Works Football League for the third year in succession were the Carpet Fitters. Four of the team were at the prizegiving in the leisure centre on Sunday and Donald Campbell, second from right, picked up Player of the Season. Runners-up were Atlantis Leisure and The Oban Times won Most Improved Team. The Hydro Board won the 'B' League ahead of Oban High School. 07_t16indoor01

Switchover is coming - we can help.

If you're eligible, we'll be writing to you. Look out for your letter.

