

# The Oban Times

## & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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## Fire sweeps west coast

## My village: Ballachulish



### Diver dies near Tobermory

A DIVER was pronounced dead at the scene after getting into difficulties near to Calve Island, Tobermory, Mull.

Maurice Bell, described as an 'experienced diver' by friends, was from Rothwell, Northhamptonshire and had been diving with a group in the Sound of Mull when he got into difficulty.

Fellow divers said that the 67-year-old became unwell under water during a 43-metre dive. Although he was conscious when he surfaced, he almost immediately lost consciousness and could not be revived.

Mr Bell was taken ashore by the Tobermory lifeboat but was pronounced dead on arrival. Tobermory RNLI Lifeboat mechanic Jock Anderson said: 'We tried our very best to revive the diver but there were no signs of life. I'd like to thank a member of Scarborough Sub Aqua Club, who is a nurse, and assisted with emergency first aid, and extend our sympathies to the man's family and friends.'

A police spokesman said: 'There would appear to be no suspicious circumstances and a report will be submitted to the procurator fiscal.'

### A82 road closures

DRIVERS are facing three weeks of night time closures on the A82 between Tarbet and Crianlarich.

The road will be shut Sundays to Fridays between May 2 and May 21 from 10pm to 6am from the A83 junction at Tarbet and the junction with the A85 at Crianlarich. Diversions and local access arrangements will be in place. The closures will allow work to resurface, improve drainage, landscape and carry out regular maintenance.



New bride Catriona Broadhurst from Bunessan, Isle of Mull, 'trashes' her dress at Uisken beach. Picture - www.hannahmorrisphotography.co.uk

## Mull bride follows fashion by going for a swim

A MULL bride who went for a swim in her wedding dress on an island beach is following an American fashion trend - and loves the professional pictures of the event.

Bride Catriona Broadhurst frolicked in the sea at Uisken beach on the Ross of Mull after marrying Gary Broadhurst in Iona Abbey.

'It was a great day,' said the bride, daughter of Hugh and Fiona Mailey, Bunessan. Photographer Hannah Morris, Aros, near Salen, has been snapping brides in unusual places in the most expensive dresses they will probably ever buy. But Hannah's novel way of getting down and dirty seems to be taking off as

brides are coming forward to have their pictures taken and are happy to pay for the privilege. A member of the British Institute of Professional Photography, Hannah got the idea from America, where the Trash the Dress (TTD) trend is all the rage. Catriona admitted: 'I have my TTD pictures on my walls, rather

than my official wedding snaps. I didn't actually trash my dress. It had sand all over it so I threw it over a rock, hosed it down and it was as good as new.'

Hannah explained: 'By trashing your dress it proves you don't need your wedding dress any more as you won't be getting married again.'

### Bomb found at Inveraray

AN UNEXPLODED bomb 'the size of a thermas flask' was found in woodland near Inveraray last Friday.

The mortar shell was identified by a local man who was walking in woodland near to the Inveraray-Dalmally road.

Officers from the bomb disposal unit in Glasgow carried out a controlled explosion of the bomb at 9.45am on Saturday morning. Sergeant Iain MacNicol from Lochgilphead police said: 'The bomb was exploded under controlled circumstances and removed by our bomb disposal unit. There was no threat to public safety.'

### Council alters sports pitch hire charges

FOLLOWING strong public opposition to Argyll and Bute Council's price hike for sports pitches, the local authority has put together a new scale of charges.

The council's budget for 2010/11 had stated the cost of pitch hire would double as of April 1 to £60.

But spokesman for sport Councillor Neil Mackay said that following discussions at senior level the charges would be as follows:

The use of the pitch, pitch lining and changing facilities will cost £60; pitch hire and pitch lining, £30; and the use of the pitch alone, £15.

Councillor Mackay said: 'Sports facilities require to be maintained and sustained and that requires funding, e.g. the all-weather pitch on the Isle of Tiree needs a considerable sum of money spent on it. We wouldn't want to be in that position with our other facilities.'

Holiday plans wrecked by volcanic fall out

## Can't get home

FLIGHTS in and out of UK airports may be off the ground but many west Highland holidaymakers are already homeward bound by rail and road.

Argyll ballet company Ballet West has had to cancel the first four dates of a maiden tour of China after its flight was grounded because of the airborne cloud of ash produced by the Eyjafjallajökull volcano in Iceland last week.

The company had planned to fly a cast of 52 to China on Sunday ahead of a 21-date tour of the country. Tickets for the company's Nutcracker tour have been so popular that most venues, which hold up to 1,400 people, are sold out.

Ballet West principal Gillian Barton said: 'We can hardly believe it. Everyone has worked so hard to organise this tour. We have a great group of dancers here though and they are staying very upbeat through the whole thing.'

While Ballet West is keen to get out of the country, many west Highland people are among the 150,000 British still trying to get home after the Easter holidays.

An Argyll and Bute Council spokeswoman said there were 60 school staff out of 1,150 who were stranded abroad. The council was

### EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by

EUAN PATERSON

epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

aware that 120 pupils and 25 members of support staff were also unable to get back, however, she added this hadn't had a big impact on everyday life at schools.

Diane Black, a teacher at Park Primary School in Oban, had been on holiday in Albufeira, Portugal, with friends Eilidh Johnston, who also works at the school, and Alison MacKay. Diane described the situation as a 'nightmare'.

The friends were due to fly home last Thursday, when planes were first grounded, and planned to get home aboard one of the Royal Navy ships tasked with bringing travellers home.

Diane, who is keen to come home to see her niece, who was born last week, explained: 'The airport was chaos last Thursday with people wondering what was going on and children crying.'

'The queue for the information desk, alone, was outside the terminal doors.'

'We have managed to book a 30-hour bus trip to Paris.'

Continued on Page 19

## Sound of Jura monster skate sparks call for bigger boat



Gordon Goldie, left, admits he needs a bigger boat after helping shark project officer James Thorburn to hook the giant skate in the Sound of Jura.

A GIANT skate was hooked twice in one day in the Sound of Jura.

The female common skate was caught last Friday afternoon in 450 feet of water, a mile off Crinan, by Oban-based shark project officer James Thorburn.

Mr Thorburn is conducting a study of sharks off the west coast on behalf of Scottish Sea Anglers' Conservation Network.

He was a guest on board Ticketty Boo II, a boat owned by Renfrew angler Gordon Goldie.

The skate measured 89 inches long and 67 inches from wingtip

to wingtip and weighed 210lbs. Incredibly, the same skate had already been caught by Tony Voss of Ayr Sea Angling Club (SAC) that morning. Mr Goldie said: 'Tony had caught the same skate earlier that morning, which the tag number (0808) confirmed.'

'It does show that being caught and returned does not put the fish off feeding at all as it returned for an afternoon snack.'

Mr Goldie said that he had hooked a 225lb skate off Oban a month ago that was so heavy he couldn't get it aboard.

'I should get a bigger boat!' he added.

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Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Crannog Lane, Oban, PA34 4HB  
Tel: 01631 568000  
www.obantimes.co.uk

**Editorial**

**Editorial Director**  
Stewart MacKenzie  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Northern Editor**  
Stephen Norris  
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

**Chief Reporter**  
Marian Miller  
mmiller@obantimes.co.uk

**Senior Reporter**  
Euan Paterson  
epaterson@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Louise Lee  
llee@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Christine McCartney  
cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

**Reporter**  
Edel Kenealy  
ekenealy@obantimes.co.uk

**Newsdesk**  
01631 568060  
editor@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising**

**Advertising Sales Manager**  
Fiona MacInnes  
fmacinnes@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Supervisor**  
Isla MacFarlane  
imacfarlane@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Audrey Campbell  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Rhona McKillop  
adverts@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Fiona Bennett  
fbennett@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Vanda Macdonald  
vmacdonald@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Iona Bethune  
ibethune@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Kirsti Neilson  
kneilson@obantimes.co.uk

**Advertising Sales Person**  
Margaret Freytag  
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**Branch Offices**

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# £500 fine and one-year ban from Oban pub after Isle of Mull fisherman's night out

A NIGHT OUT in Oban landed a Mull scallop fisherman in court and a one-year ban from a town centre pub.

Neil MacLean, of 2 Jubilee Terrace, Tobermory, was unable to return to the island on November 23, 2009, when the ferry was

cancelled by poor weather, Oban Sheriff Court heard last week.

Instead he went to a bar in the town.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said later door stewards asked MacLean to leave after reports he was pestering other customers.

He refused to do so and struggled with staff, who eventually managed to get him into the street.

'Outside, the accused was shouting and swearing,' Mr Harris continued. 'He lashed out at [the bar manager] and punched him in the face.'

He began punching the

window of a nearby parked car.

The police were called and MacLean also struggled with them.

The 33-year-old pleaded guilty to refusing to leave the premises, struggling with employees, punching a man on the head and

breaching the peace.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said his client was not able to control his consumption of alcohol.

He added: 'He doesn't have a history of this.'

MacLean was fined £510 and banned from the pub for 12 months.



Daniel Audet and Margaret Bennett put whelks on the menu of Uist food at their evening in Sollas, North Uist

## Folklorist brings a little of the Hebridean Quebec settlers back home

FOLKLORIST, writer and singer Margaret Bennett started her latest Western Isles tour in North Uist last week with a celebration dinner at Taigh Sgìre in Sollas.

Ms Bennett has been joined on her tour by restaurateur, Daniel Audet, and fiddler Daniel Frichette, both from Quebec.

### Hebridean Quebec

The group visited schools and organisations from Benbecula to Stornoway to celebrate the links between the islands and Quebec, with presentations which cover crofting and crafting skills, songs, pictures, stories and music of the Hebridean Quebec settlers.

In Sollas, cockles, whelks, prawns, venison, salmon, carrageen and oatcakes were on the menu to represent Uist food, with buckwheat pancakes, baked beans and maple syrup representing the kind of Quebec fare

which greeted islanders when they settled there in the 1850s.

The company also enjoyed piping from Uist piper Norman Johnson, songs from Ms Bennett and Monsieur Audet, and a selection of Quebec jigs, hornpipes and reels from Monsieur Frichette.

Ms Bennett's links with Quebec hark back to her student days in the 1970s. She spoke of the challenges presented to island settlers, of whom there were some 4,000, when the reached the 'promised land' in the 1850s after drastic crop failures at home.

### Resilience

She said: 'The islanders were greatly valued for their resilience and hard work. They had to adapt coastal living and seafaring to living inland with nothing familiar around them. They had to make their houses from wood, which

presented quite a challenge when some of them had barely even seen a tree.'

Chef Daniel Audet runs The Gold Rush Inn in Gould, Quebec, the only restaurant there specialising in Scottish food. He even wears a kilt in the kitchen.

Monsieur Audet has also made it his mission to uncover and record the history of islanders in Quebec, offering guided tours round Gould, where many settled.

He said: 'I have closed my restaurant for two weeks to be able to come to the islands and see where the families I have learned so much about came from.'

The group also visited Paible school and the crofting class in Lionacleit school before continuing their tour in Seallam, Harris and on to Leurbost, Lochs, An Lannair, Sgoil Lional, Ness, Tolsta and Stornoway.

## Tiree and Tarbert high schools caught up in financial review

# New act boosts Tiree school case

TIREE parents' case to keep the island's high school open has been strengthened by new legislation which came into force last week.

The Schools Consultation Scotland Act 2010 makes special provision for the maintenance of rural schools.

The new legislation will, in effect, create a legislative presumption against the closure of a rural school by making such a decision one of the last resort.

The act requires that education authorities, before proposing to close any rural school, must take into account any viable alternative to closure, the likely effect on the local community if the school were to close; and the likely effect of different travelling arrangements occasioned by the closure.

Commenting on the introduction of the legislation Steve Thompson, chairman of Tiree Parent Council, said: 'We welcome this move.'

'Parents on Tiree have told me that they will reconsider living on the island if they have to send their children away to school. People do not want to go back to the old days.'

*"People do not want to go back to the old days."*

**chairman Tiree Parent Council**

'Tiree is a thriving community and if the school was to close it would be a massive blow to the community and local economy.'

While Argyll and Bute Council tried to quash rumours of a proposed closure of Tiree High School and Tarbert Academy last month, the council is currently conducting a review of its educational estate.

A council spokeswoman said: 'The extent to which the council will require to have regard to the Schools Scotland Act will depend on the direction the review takes and any decisions made by members.'

The council have confirmed that it aims to cut the education budget by £4.6 million. The education review will be completed within this financial year.

## Park partnership relaunched

THE NATIONAL Park Community Partnership was re-launched when 50 people from community groups across the national park area gathered at the Three Villages Community Hall in Arrochar.

During the event, 11 community directors were elected by their community organisations. The directors will represent four areas: Cowal and Argyll, Loch Lomond, Trossachs and Breadalbane and Killin.

The partnership provides a hub of support for community groups particularly in areas such as training, networking and information gathering.

Membership continues to grow and the National Park estimates it could reach 100 groups by November. The partnership also runs a number of park-wide projects including the National Park Apprentice Scheme and Community Futures Goes Green.



Members of The National Park Community Trust celebrate the re-launch at Arrochar

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**Beachd Ailein**  
Ailean Caimbeul

Tha mi creidsinn gur e an t-earrach a bhith a' nochdadh as ùr as coireach, ach aig an àm seo den bhliadhna agus san fhoghar bidh mi daonnann a' cuimhneachadh air mar a bhiodh muinntir baile croitearachd m' òige ag obair còmhla gus na bha ri dhèanamh a chur às an dèidh. Bha e na chleachdadh fad na bliadhna ged tà, mar dhòigh-beatha coimhearsnachd. Cur is buain; obair iasgaich is càraidh; cha robh airgead aig daoine is mar sin bha iomlaid latha obrach mar chleachdadh cunbhalach. Bha an obair trom agus cruaidh, agus glè thrìc cha robh an aimsir coibhneil, ach mas math mo chuimhne bha mòran eirmseachd agus dibhearsain a' cumail spiorad dhaoine suas. Nach tric a chualas am facal 'lionmhorachd nan làmh a ni an obair aotrom'!

Agus càit an do dh' fhàg mi latha an fhàigh? Sin far am biodh an spòrs agus glè thrìc an t-ùraid a bu mhotha le coin a bhaile, agus na croitearan, a' dol troimhe chèile! Dhùinne mar chlànn theagamh nach robh latha idir a b' fhèarr! Cha do smaointich sinn riamh air nar n-òige ach 's e saoghal da-rìribh sòisealach as an robh sinn, a dh' aindeoin 's gun robh sealbh againn air ar cuid fearainn fhèin. Agus a' fàs as an t-saoghal sin dh' ionnsaich sinn cuideachd cobhair a dhèanamh air nàbaidh uair sam bith a bha feum air a leithid, gun suil an dèidh na h-ùine a dh' iarradh sin, oir cha bhiodh call aig duine againn air na dhèanaidh dha co-chreutair as an t-seadh sin. Agus dh' fheumainn a ràdh, gu ruige seo, gur ann mar sin a fhuair mise!

Carson ma tha a chanadh caraid rium bho chionn ghoirid gun robh mo bheachdan a thaobh fèin-chuideachadh anns a choimhearsnachd a' nochdadh baigh dha poilittigs na taoibhe deis? Cha robh riamh a leithid agam! Am bheil sinn air fàs cho gàbhail, agus cho fada an eisimeil shochairan poblach is gum bheilear a' call seallaidh air spiorad co-obrachaidh coimhearsnachd? Gun teagamh tha drip an t-saoghail as am bheil sinn beò a' bacadh nàbaidh mar a bh' ann, ach cha ghabh sin leasachadh mura dèan daoine an oidhirp. Leis an t-suidheachadh eaconomaiageach a th' againn an dràsta, agus a bhios a' leantain fad grunn bhliadhnaichean romhainn, tha cumart mòr gum bi shochairan poblach a' lughdachadh ge b' e dè chanas luchd poilittigs. Cha robh e riamh na bu riataanaiche dòigh beatha co-obrachaidh bhaltean ar n-òige ath-bheothachadh!

*Most of us who grew up in crofting communities share nostalgic memories of the community co-operation which meant that "many hands made light" the daily chores of rural life. The pace of modern life, and public service development, has diminished this spirit of co-working, and all these social provisions must be defended.*

*But with such services likely to be under pressure for years ahead there was surely never a better time to rekindle the cooperative way of life which sustained crofting and urban communities across so many generations.*

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

**VisitScotland shows off Argyll**

MORE than 180 travel writers, tour operators and agents were treated to some of Argyll's tourist highlights last week.

VisitScotland organised the trip to raise the profile of Argyll to the international group, which includes buyers from Europe, the USA, Brazil, Japan and India.

They stayed at Loch Fyne Hotel and Spa and enjoyed a round of golf in Lochgilphead, a trip round Inverary Castle and a boat trip on Loch Lomond.

The tour was planned to tie in with the VisitScotland expo, the agency's key event for the travel trade, at which seven Argyll tourism businesses are exhibiting.

Speaking before the visit, Ashwin Narayanan from Travel Tours, Bangalore, said: 'I'm looking forward to bringing our clients to Argyll and excited to be sampling some of the region's products for ourselves.'

**Look after your eyes plea**

PEOPLE in Argyll and Bute are being urged to get regular eye checks after the results of a survey.

The One Poll research found one in four Argyll residents are putting up with headaches caused by poor vision rather than seek help from an optician.

**Root out garden crime**

POLICE are warning gardeners to be careful with their most treasured possessions.

As people get out and about in flowerbeds, they are being urged not to leave any valuables lying around for criminals to pick up.

A spokeswoman for Strathclyde Police said: 'The local garden centre is not the only place where people shop for new outdoor furniture and equipment; opportunist thieves often turn to neighbourhood yards to access these items for free.'

'We advise that home security should extend to the garden and include sheds, garages and outbuildings where valuable items are often stored.'

'Lawnmowers, bikes, golf clubs and garden tools are among the most common objects stolen due to inadequate security.'

'Many people don't realise just how valuable the contents of their garden are. It is important to be aware of the steps you can take to reduce the chances of falling victim to this type of theft and to protect your property.'

Anyone wishing further information can contact the community safety officer at the local police office.

**Voluntary groups help promote digital**

ARGYLL Voluntary Action is mobilising an army of charities and volunteers to help residents make the switch to digital TV.

From May until the switchover in October 2010, a small grants scheme will help charities and voluntary groups hold extra events while training and materials are available to help get the message out.

Eleanor MacKinnon of Argyll Voluntary Action said: 'We look forward to working with our fellow charities to provide that support in STV Central area and help prepare the local community for switchover. We will also encourage those who are eligible to apply for the Switchover Help Scheme.'

For more information on the help available to community groups, contact Argyll Voluntary Action on 01631 569545.

### One-way street driver loses licence

A WOMAN who drove the wrong way up a one-way street in Oban and then failed to provide a specimen of breath has been banned from driving for a year and fined £375.

Ella Campbell, aged 42, was seen by police officers driving the wrong way up High Street from Argyll Square on October 4 last year at around 12.20pm.

When stopped she smelled of alcohol and was taken to Oban police station where she failed to blow properly into the breath test machine.

Oban Sheriff Court heard on Monday that Campbell, Craigchat, Glencruitten Road, Oban, had received news that she might be made redundant from her job in a bank – and since had been – and had been drinking ‘somewhat heavily’ during that time.

She had ‘tried her best’ to give a specimen of breath but admitted both the driving offence and failing to give a specimen.

### Oban lifeboat called out, out and out again

OBAN Lifeboat went to the assistance of a 16-foot cabin cruiser, The Great White, which was drifting on to the rocky shore under Dunollie Castle at the entrance to Oban Bay.

The engines on the boat, which had two adults and one child aboard, had failed last Friday afternoon.

The fishing boat Natalie Rose held the cruiser off the rocks until the arrival of the lifeboat, which took The Great White in tow and secured her alongside pontoons at Oban Marina, Ardentrive Bay, Isle of Kerrera.

The lifeboat then evacuated a man from the Isle of Mull to Oban on Thursday evening where he was transferred to hospital by ambulance.

During the journey to the mainland he was taken care of by an ambulance man who accompanied the lifeboat crew.

The lifeboat was launched for a third time in 50 hours on Monday evening at 8.40 pm to evacuate a pregnant woman from the Isle of Mull to Oban where she was transferred to Lorn and Islands Hospital by ambulance.

### Assault charges found not proven

A SEVENTEEN-year-old former Oban youth had an assault against him found not proven at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday.

Stewart Lindsay, 3/1 117 Petershill Road, Springburn, Glasgow, had denied spitting in the face of a 15-year-old girl, throwing her against a fence and causing her to fall to the ground on October 11 last year.

The court heard that Lindsay had been walking up Soroba Road, Oban, sometime after midnight, with another male teenager when two teenage girls had caught up with them.

A verbal argument had started between Lindsay and the 15-year-old and she and her friend claimed that Lindsay had spat in the girl’s face which provoked her into attacking him.

All four, all of who had been drinking during the evening leading up to the events, said that the 15-year-old had flown at Lindsay attacking him and he had pushed her away, causing her to fall to the ground.

Both Lindsay and his male acquaintance denied that Lindsay had spat in the girl’s face, saying that he had spat on the ground near her.

Sheriff Paul Crozier found the case against Lindsay not proven.

**NEWSDESK**  
**01631 568060**

## Woman ‘rattled’ former partner on head with baseball bat

A WOMAN who hit her now former partner on the head with a baseball bat has been told she came within centimetres of killing him.

But Isabel MacArthur, aged 35, was told at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday that she would not be sent to jail despite her victim being left with scars and double vision.

**Self-defence**  
MacArthur had denied assaulting the 60-year-old with a baseball bat to his injury at a house in Dunbeg, claiming it was self-defence.

Bruce MacDonald, Dunbeg, told the court that

he had not seen the solid plastic baseball bat that struck him as he had been hit from behind on July 21 last year.

**Drinking**  
He said they had both been drinking and had been having a verbal argument but he denied slapping her, adding that he had grabbed her by the shoulders to get her attention.

‘I put her out the back door twice because it was better with her on one side of the door and me on the other,’ he said.

He admitted fighting with a friend he had invited to the house that evening and

a previous conviction where he had been found guilty of assaulting MacArthur.

He denied that MacArthur was trying to defend herself.

MacArthur’s interview with police in the early hours of July 22 was played to the court in which she described Mr MacDonald and his friend fighting in the garden and the house, drink being consumed by all of them and Mr MacDonald calling her names.

**‘Rattled him’**  
‘I just thought he was going to hurt me again and I managed to get out the kitchen, up the stairs got

the baseball bat and back down the stairs and rattled him with it several times,’ MacArthur said on the tape.

**Scared**  
MacArthur, 3 Dunmore Lodge, Shore Street, Oban, admitted she could have walked out the house when MacDonald had supposedly slapped her.

‘I told the police I was scared what would happen when [his friend] left. I was scared for myself.’

Finding her guilty, Sheriff Paul Crozier told MacArthur that he accepted that Mr MacDonald had assaulted her that night but she had struck him with the bat

when he was showing no aggression towards her, had his back to her and she had struck him several times and as such it did not constitute self-defence.

‘The sad fact is that you were centimetres away from a charge of murder; if you had hit him on the temple he would have been dead,’ added the sheriff.

‘I am going to call for a social inquiry report but I am not considering custody for you. I want to consider if there is any way we can help you.’

Sentence was deferred until May 4 for a social enquiry report.



The night sky around the Dalmally area was lit up as heath fires swept the hillsides.

## Fires sweep through west coast hillsides as burning season closes

AS THE muir burning season drew to a close fire fighters were called to an incredible number of hillside fires through Argyll and Bute and Highland.

In the Highland and islands area, officers have attended 120 heath fires in the past fortnight, while in Argyll and Bute officers have attended 49 heath fires in the same period.

**Dalmally, Mull and Duror**  
A fire in Dalmally last Saturday evening took six hours to extinguish, while volunteer fire fighters on

the Isle of Mull took six hours to bring a grass fire under control near to Loch Don.

Another fire at Cuil Bay, Duror, last Thursday, saw six fire engines attend a hillside blaze that took more than four hours to bring under control and caused great concerns over an ancient woodland.

Eye witness John Connolly from South Cuil said: ‘The blaze, which covered literally hundreds of acres, took some four and a half hours to bring under control.

The task was complicated by a change of wind direction that caused the flames to cross the march wall on the top of South Cuil hill and threaten Duror itself and by the absence of water on the hill.’

Jane and Graham Lobb of Duror said: ‘The fire brigade worked efficiently and effectively leaving barely a trace after the fire was extinguished.

‘We consider them to be a credit to the service.’

It is understood that two homes on the Duror

hillsides were evacuated as a precaution.

Aspokesman for Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue Service said: ‘The recent dry spell has seen a large number of land owners initiate controlled burning on muir and heaths.

‘While the vast majority have been adequately supervised and carried out in a controlled manner, we had to attend in excess of 120 heath fire incidents over the past two weeks to extinguish uncontrolled fire spread.’

A spokeswoman for Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) said: ‘The muir burn season ended on April 15 therefore any burning activity is now illegal without special licence.’

‘Land managers and landowners are reminded the practise is permitted only between the October 1 and April 15.

‘The muir burn code also defines the standard of management expected of crofters, farmers and all moorland managers.’

## Screening of Time Team’s ancient chapel discovery

RAMBLERS who stumbled upon ‘the most exciting archaeological remains in years’ will see their efforts uncovered during TV programme Time Team on Sunday, April 25, at 5.30 pm.

Tobermory women Hylda Marsh and Bev Langhorn stumbled across the remains of a chapel while exploring a rural settlement

at Balliscate, near Tobermory.

By their invitation, Time Team descend upon the island to investigate what the women believe is one of the earliest chapels in Scotland.

Time Team quickly suspect they may be investigating the remains of a chapel set up by Saint Columba. And if they are

right they may have found a previously unknown outpost of the Irish priest, a once in a lifetime discovery.

Tony Robinson, presenter of Time Team, said: ‘I think these may be the most interesting remains we have ever found, certainly in this series. They are the most exciting archaeological remains in years.’

## Urgent meeting called for on pitch committee

School, community council and sports groups asked to find a way forward

AN URGENT meeting is to be held on the future of Oban’s community-owned sports pitch at Oban High School.

Councillors on Oban, Lorn and Isles Area Committee said they were disappointed that well-respected members of the sporting fraternity felt they had to stand down from the management committee last week.

Matters came to a head over the purchase of shinty goals, said Councillor Roddie McCuish, who resigned as chairman along with the rest of the group. After raising funds to buy the goal posts, the committee was told the equipment, picked out by Oban Celtic Shinty Club’s David Hamilton, was not up to standard for ‘educational use’.

Councillor McCuish said: ‘Perhaps Oban High School was being, I’m not going to say unhelpful, but it seemed to bring more problems than solutions to the table. The whole committee felt it was a constant challenge. The school has now informed me it will buy its own set of shinty goals – which we have been

asking it to do for a long time.’  
Other councillors echoed his views. Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: ‘I find it concerning that after trying to raise extra money and this committee gave them a grant, the school can now provide them anyway.’

‘In Oban, we run an under 12s shinty tournament; they use the goals the council have had for the last decade.’

‘I find it farcical that we have 350 kids playing with goals that have been used for 10 years and we have no accidents or issues.’  
‘It is a community sportsfield, but it has been an issue going back to the early days that the school felt it was its field.’

Councillors agreed instead of appointing another chairman for the committee, they would press for an urgent meeting with the school, community council and sports groups to find a way forward.

A spokesperson for Argyll and Bute Council said it would continue to work with community users to ensure the pitch reached its full potential.

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## Lorn Lines

LORN Archaeological and Historical Society’s April meeting was something of a departure from the usual format of a lecture evening.

Members brought along their own artefacts including some short visual presentations. From Stone Age axes to the history of the Royal Highland Yacht Club, through to tracing the spread of the Vikings and more, it was a varied programme from the members. The evening ended with an unusual and mysterious carved stone found on a beach locally over 25 years ago.

Summer outings are being finalised and will be advertised shortly.

The next meeting is a historical walk around Kilniver on Sunday May 16 at 1.30 pm. Further details available from Martin Petrie on 01852 316294.

STRATHCLYDE Police has selected PC Alison Simpson to be the new community officer at Taynuilt Police Station.

PC Simpson hopes to begin her new role in June, succeeding David Paterson, who retired last month after 18 years in the post.

She has five years’ service and comes to Argyll after working as a community officer in Kilpatrick.

BUS SERVICES between Oban, Fort William, Perth and Edinburgh will increase on May 24.

Scottish Citylink’s summer timetable, which begins that day, includes daily services from Edinburgh to Oban as well as buses seven days a week between Edinburgh and Fort William.

The 973 service linking Oban to Perth and Dundee will also be back for this summer and there will be three services each way between Oban and Fort William.

A BURST water mains left around 50 Connel households with disrupted water supplies on Tuesday morning.

Householders reported loss of supplies, low pressure and discoloured water. Scottish Water said the problem was caused by a broken mains pipe near to St Oran’s Church and was fixed within four hours.

THE STAFF of Pets At Home, Oban, are aiming to raise £1,000 for charity by rowing 106 miles, using a rowing machine donated by Energie Fitness.

Six members of staff will row the equivalent of the length of the River Clyde. They started last Friday and will finish tomorrow (Friday). Donations, which can be made in store, will go towards charities dedicated to rehoming animals.

GEORGE Berry is continuing with his rehabilitation programme following an operation a few weeks ago.

This week George has added to his cardio vascular workout as part of his recovery.

He has begun walking outdoors in the evening and continues to attend the gym three times a week.

Andrew Johnston of Energie Fitness said: ‘The focus for George at the minute is on rebuilding his strength. Once that has been achieved he can resume a weight loss programme.’

‘George has done really well to maintain his weight during this time. We are currently looking at his diet programme and foresee him resuming this and more intensive exercise at the end of the month.’

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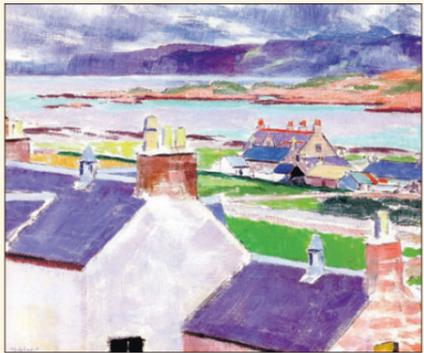
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## Mull Lines

POLICE enquiries are continuing into two alleged racially aggravated assaults in Tobermory. Both alleged assaults occurred on April 11.



FRANCIS Cadell's iconic painting 'Iona' is for sale at Bonhams in Edinburgh today, Thursday April 22. The sale is expected to make between £40,000 - £60,000. The picture is a view from the hill opposite Maol farm looking over the island's village to Bishops House. Cadell, 1883-1937, one of the celebrated Scottish Colourists, visited Iona every summer from 1912, around the time he truly found his own style. Andrew Currie of Bonhams said: 'Cadell, in his kilt, was a well-kent figure by locals and tourists alike, setting up easel on the beach after arriving each summer from Edinburgh with his manservant. This picture is unusual in that it depicts the village itself. 'Cadell's works are always sought-after at auction, whether by Colourist devotees or collectors for whom the island has a particular resonance. However, this was not always the case. During his lifetime the artist struggled to sell pictures to any but his most loyal patrons and ended up in penury.'

AN EMERGENCY evacuation of a mum in labour brought a father a bit too close to comfort with his new bairn when he was called upon to take his partner to hospital.



Baby Fairbairns was almost born aboard the lifeboat.

James Fairbairns, the second coxswain of Tobermory RNLI lifeboat crew was called upon to rush a woman in labour to Oban to Lorn and Islands Hospital on Saturday, but as she was his partner he was probably the first to hear about the shout out.

Tobermory boat has carried out a baby transfer and we got there in the nick of time as our daughter was very nearly born on the lifeboat. 'My fellow crew members were brilliant. 'We would like to thank them very much.'

### Mull eagle diary

THE WHOLE Mull Eagle Watch team is like expectant parents-to-be, pacing the corridors of the Loch Frisa maternity ward - only days away now from the hatch. To join a guided walk and visit at the Mull Eagle Hide call 01680 812 556 to book a trip. More news next week.

## Pensioner made sexual comments to girl

A 76-YEAR-old man who made sexual comments to a 14-year-old girl was identified by his bus pass, Oban Sheriff Court has heard. Eric Black, of 10 Ulva Road, Oban, has been placed on the sex offenders' register, pending the outcome of his case. **Boarded bus** On February 13, he boarded a bus at Station Square, Oban, sitting next to the girl. Black leaned over to see what she was doing with her mobile phone, before making remarks to her about girls wearing short skirts and having sex, said procurator fiscal Craig Harris. The girl told police later:

'I was really frightened and shaking at this point.' She had noted the accused's name as he put away his bus pass and told her mother what had happened as soon as she arrived home. Black admitted making the sexual comments and staring at the girl, as well as breaching the peace. Sentence was deferred until May 31 for reports, when Sheriff Small will also hear from Black's defence agent.

## Islanders raise concerns over Mull store stock

ALACK of bread and milk in Mull's only supermarket has brought residents to boiling point. But supermarket giant Scottish Co-op claims to 'trade where other supermarket operators are reluctant to trade, with the best of modern retailing'.

### Monopoly

Customers contacted The Oban Times to complain after the Tobermory shop regularly ran out of essential items such as bread and milk.

An island resident, who did not want to be named, said: 'We thought that a huge facelift, completed in November, would solve our problems with the lack of basic essentials in the store. But all it has done is reduce the storage space that the shop has. And there are simply not enough essential foodstuffs in the shop.'

'I can never get what I need and by the time I get in on the bus it seems that all the fresh produce has gone.' Another man, a Tobermory resident, wrote to The Oban Times claiming: 'It would appear that since the Co-op has gained a monopoly

in town the products mainly available are 'own brands', single items rather than multi-packs, and confectionery. 'I have always been committed to shopping in the village but after the last few weeks I am beginning to despair of being able to do that for much longer.'

Island councillor Gordon Chalmers said: 'The Co-op has undergone a major refit and the stocking of a number of lines appears to have ceased. **Trading patterns** 'There has been a change in trading patterns due to the Spar supermarket closure. I can understand people's concerns but I would encourage them to remain faithful to shopping in the town. 'The Co-op's continued presence in Tobermory is priceless. If anyone wants to raise concerns with me then I am sure the manager will be happy to address these and I would be delighted to help him.'

A spokeswoman for The Co-operative Group said: 'The consumer-owned Co-operative Group remains committed to providing remote communities, where other supermarket operators are reluctant to trade, with the best in modern retailing. This is reflected in our investment of more than £400,000 in the Tobermory store last November to provide the community with an enhanced service. 'As part of our revamp, we reduced the amount of grocery items in favour of more fresh foods, including the introduction of in-store baked breads, to meet customer demand. This has proved popular with customers and is reflected in increased sales at the store. 'Naturally, the number of products we can stock is limited by the size of the store. However, we do endeavour to meet the demands of our valued customers, hence the move to offer more fresh foods, therefore, any customer who has an issue should speak to the store manager and we will do our best to meet requests for specific products.'

## Red Cross to offer respite to carers

THE RED Cross has been selected to provide a new respite bureau for carers in Argyll and Bute.

The charity was awarded the contract by Argyll and Bute Council and Argyll and Bute Social Enterprise Network (ABSEN), joint partners in the new project. Under the project the Red Cross will have the ability to commission flexible and personalised respite provision for carers.

The organisation will be responsible for running and

staffing the bureau and will receive a devolved budget from the council. **Confidence** Councillor John Semple, Argyll and Bute Council spokesman for the third sector, said: 'We are delighted that such a highly respected organisation has confidence in our proposals and wishes to work with us in this project.'

Helen Bath, Red Cross Operations Director for Mid Scotland, said: 'We are delighted to be working in

partnership with Argyll and Bute Council in developing the Respite Bureau supporting individuals and carers within the local communities.'

The flagship project, backed by the Scottish Government, is one of 10 pilot initiatives across Scotland, which aims to find a new way of working between the public and third sector.

It is hoped the respite bureau will be launched in April 2011.



Road signs on both the A83 and A82 are being replaced with bilingual signs at a cost of £680,000.

## A83 and A82 road sign row surfaces

TRANSPORT Scotland has come under fire after spending thousands of pounds on new bi-lingual road signs on the A82 and A83 instead of spending the money on surface repairs.

Transport Scotland has defended its decision to invest £680,000 in the signs, saying bilingual signing is funded from a different budget than maintenance of the trunk roads.

A retired police officer, who asked not to be named, said: 'As a regular commuter on the A83 it seems incredible that money is being spent replacing what appears to be perfectly good road signs, when it should be prioritised towards sections of poor road surface and large potholes which have been evident for a number of years.'

The driver said particular sections of road at Aray Bridge and Drishraig, near Inveraray, were getting 'dangerous'. 'There's no regular

maintenance work to these areas,' he added.

**"There's no regular maintenance" retired policeman**

A spokeswoman for Transport Scotland said the signs formed part of the Scottish government's drive to increase the visibility of Gaelic in Scotland.

'We want to ensure that road signs within the Gaelic-English landscape reflect the importance of the Gaelic language,' she explained.

'The programme of bilingual signage has been carried out on a rolling basis since 2002, with funding confirmed up to the current financial year.'

She said that in the last financial year a total of £4.74 million had been spent improving the A83, with planned works for this financial year amounting to £4.4 million.

## Car problems lead to drink/drive charge

A DRIVER, who was stopped by police after they noted a defect with his car, ended up on a drink-driving charge.

The 25-year-old male driver was stopped on the Corran Esplanade, Oban, on Saturday because of obvious defects with his vehicle. But officers soon established that he had drunk an excessive amount of alcohol.

The man was released on an undertaking to appear at Oban Sheriff Court.

## Seil groups come together for RNLI

KILBRANDON Rainbows, Brownies, Beavers and Cubs on the Isle of Seil have found a great way of saying 'thank you' to the lifeboat station in Oban - by raising cash for the Royal national Lifeboat Institution (RNLI).

The combined groups are holding a bring and buy sale on Saturday May 1 in Seil Island Hall from 11 am till 4 pm and donating 10 per cent of the proceeds to the group.

## Campbeltown consultation

PEOPLE in Campbeltown are being asked to take part in a survey about the town and its future.

The survey, aimed at Campbeltown residents, businesses and visitors, will involve postal correspondence, in-street interviews and telephone calls.

It is designed to gather people's views on the quality of the town at present and what they would like to see improved in the future.

The initiative is part of Argyll and Bute Council's £30 million CHORD programme to regenerate the town's waterfront.

All responses to the survey are confidential and respondents' details will not be passed on.

## Cars vandalised

CARS were vandalised in Bayview Road, Dunollie, Oban when they were scratched along the side panels. The incident happened sometime between 10pm last Friday and 8.30am on Saturday. Anyone who has any information should contact Oban Police on 01631 510500.

## Argyll events to mark real nappy week

MUMS, dads and tots will be taking part in a number of events promoting real nappies this month.

The Argyll and Bute Real Nappy Network is promoting the use of real nappies to cut waste from disposables and help parents save money - up to £500 per child.

They will be offering discounted trial packs at Lochgilphead Library on Wednesday, April 28 from 2pm to 2.45pm, at Lochgilphead community centre on Thursday, April 29 from 1.30-3pm and at Oban Toy Cupboard, Glencruitten Church Centre on Friday, April 30 from 10am to 12noon.

## Argyll and Bute planning praised

ARGYLL and Bute Council's planning department has been identified as one of the best in Scotland.

A report produced by the Scottish Government shows the council's results are the second strongest within the nine comparable rural councils.

It also identified Argyll and Bute's result for dealing with householder applications within the statutory two-month period is 82 per cent, well above the national average of 77 per cent.

Councillor David Kelly, chairman of the Planning, Protective Services and Listening Committee, said: 'These results are encouraging and correspond to the positive feedback we have been receiving from agents and architects.'

However, Councillor Kelly also noted that the council had experienced a drop in householder applications by 16 per cent over the past three years. He added: 'This has been consistent with the national trend, mainly attributed to the global economic slowdown.'

The council's performance was noted in The Planning Performance Statistics Data 2007-2009, a new publication on planning issues.

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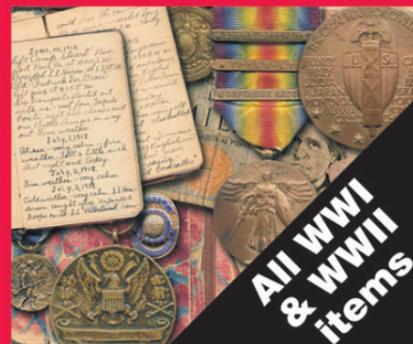
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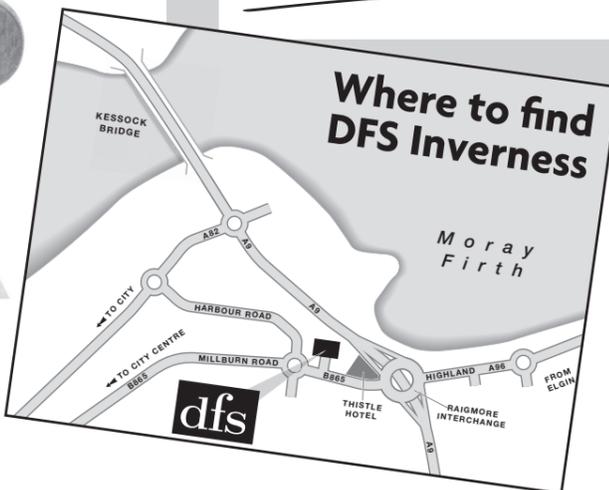


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LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling 01631 760293

Drama success

LISMORE Primary School enjoyed great success at the North Lorn Drama festival not only winning the cup in the primary schools' section but also the Jack Skea Cup for endeavour.

'What the Owl and the Pussycat Saw' was written and produced by the very talented Ali Cunningham, their classroom assistant, and based on the Edward Lear poem but with an environmental twist.

What the Owl and Pussycat actually saw when they went to sea in their pea green boat was much less of an idyll than the original trip as they found turtles being killed by plastic bags, baby whales by sonic booms and dying coral.

Anyone who missed that performance can catch it again during the Festival of the Sea.

Visitors

THE BEAUTIFUL weather has been a great help with the lambing and it has also brought record crowds to the island over the holiday and the cafe, in particular, has been extremely busy, at one stage having to close so that Beth Campbell could go for more provisions.

As well as the variety of food available between 11am and 7pm daily, there have been two very successful fish and chip evenings, and a roast Sunday lunch is now served between 12noon and 3pm.

The museum and the very well-stocked museum shop are now open between 12noon and 3pm until the end of April and from 1 May from 11am to 4pm.

Entry to the museum is only £3.50 with children and members admitted free.

PLOCKTON

Your correspondent is Charlie MacRae 01599 544359

Weather at Plockton

DURING March there were three inches of rain at Plockton compared with 6.75 inches in 2009. warmest day was 14C and coldest day was -3C.

Open air service

OVER 40 people attended the annual open air service at the open air church site in Plockton at 8am on April 4.

Feis

ONE hundred and forty-three pupils and 22 teachers took part in a week long feis at Plockton High School and performed at two concerts, one in the village hall and one in the high school.

Train trip

THE Great Britain 111 passenger train on a nine-day trip around the UK, which is hauled by a vintage steam engine, visited Kyle on April 12.

The engine, called Oliver Cromwell, was built in Cheshire in the 1950s.

Refreshments withdrawn

THE naval base at Kyle who annually provided refreshments at Balmacara House for all who took part in the Remembrance Parade have withdrawn the service.



Lismore Primary School pupils with the North Lorn Drama Festival's cup for primary schools and the Jack Skea Cup for endeavour

If you go down to the oakwoods today...

DALAVICH

A MAGICAL walk among the oakwoods at Dalavich was held recently, with adults and children alike hunting animal footprints, fairy dust and wood cookies.

The visit was organised by Jo Thomson of the Forestry Commission and Yvonne MacLean from Argyll Voluntary Action's Timebank project.

Timebank volunteers led the guided walk, ran activities and provided childcare for locals and visitors alike. Very welcome sandwiches and cake were provided by Hayati and Grace at the Dalavich Village Shop and Cafe. Yvonne MacLean said: 'We searched for animal footprints, made some wood cookies, found fairy dust to highlight interesting areas, learnt about the types of machinery used by the forestry in days gone by and made some 'Green Men'.

'If you take a walk along the oakwood trail you may still see those strange looking faces staring out at you!'

More walks will be planned in the near future in other local forests. For details, contact Yvonne Maclean, on 01631 569545.



More than 20 people took part in a walk and other activities at Dalavich's oakwoods.



Isle of Mull timber haul route begins



The first trees are felled on North West Mull Community Woodland Co. land.

THOUSANDS of previously land-locked timber will be able to reach the market thanks to the work of a charity.

North West Mull Community Woodland Company (NWMWCW) has started work on a major new timber haul route.

The 17 km route runs from Langamull through West Ardu Woodland along Glen Bellart and joins the C46 road after passing through a two kilometre stretch of Forest Enterprise woodlands near Crannich.

Colin Morrison, chairman of the NWMWCW a charity, said: 'The board are relieved to finally be making a start on our road.'

'It makes a huge difference to the potential for success of the overall project. Ian Hepburn, our development manager, has

MULL

been central to making this happen and without his enthusiasm, tenacity and perseverance we would have struggled.

'With the road under way the board can now give more attention to taking forward the rest of our plans. It is very exciting to be in this position and I hope we can now really start delivering tangible benefits to the community of North West Mull.'

'The road project is a joint initiative between NWMWCW, the Forestry Commission, the Scottish Strategic Timber Transport Scheme and Argyll and Bute Council. A number of local landowners have supported the project by allowing free passage of the route across their ground.'

Benbecula hosts young people's conference

UISTS

YOUNG people from the Uists and Barra gathered in Balivanich Hall, Benbecula, at a conference to share their thoughts on island life and learn more about the opportunities locally for them.

In the first of its kind, the Outer Hebrides Youth Engagement (OHYE) conference brought together 37 people aged 16 to 25 in a programme of activities designed to stimulate conversation about island life and what it can offer young people.

The event was run on behalf of the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership by Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

SDS senior careers advisor Seonag Campbell said: 'When youngsters leave school and disappear into the community it can be difficult to consult with them about their needs and aspirations. This is an opportunity for everyone to come together, have some fun and discuss their plans and aspirations with their peers and others from the community who can help them.'

The concept of 'speed-dating' was introduced to allow the delegates to have four minutes round a table asking people slightly older than themselves whether they

Thirty-seven young people from Uist and Barra attended the OHYE conference



The Outer Hebrides Youth Engagement conference gave island youngsters the opportunity to discuss their plans and aspirations

are fulfilling their dreams by living on the islands.

Twelve panellists took part in the speed-dating, from areas including NHS, Storas Uibhist, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, SDS, and education.

Western Isles councillor Archie Campbell chairs the sustainable communities sub-group for the Outer Hebrides Community Planning Partnership. He said: 'I'm reminded of the

talent and humour that exists among these young people, their energy and intelligence irrespective of what they're doing. They all have different aspirations and may end up doing different things but they will all end up working together.'

Catherine Peteranna, 19, who works at the Dark Island Hotel in Benbecula, said: 'This lets you see how many opportunities there are on the island, and how

many organisations, like the Prince's Trust, are there to help you move on.'

Jade Mannix, 17, from Eriskay, and who works in Daliburgh Co-op, said: 'It's opened up my eyes for a better future and helped me appreciate islands a lot more. I thought there was not much for us here.'

The Benbecula conference was a trial-run for a similar event to be held in Stornoway in the future.

Skye community backs 1,000 acre forest takeover

SLEAT

RESIDENTS of Sleat on the Isle of Skye have backed a plan to bring a 1,000-acre Forestry Commission Scotland woodland into community ownership.

Highland Council, who conducted the ballot on behalf of Sleat Community Trust, declared that 90 per cent of those who voted backed the move to buy Tormore forest south of Ardsvar for £330,000.

Over 70 per cent of 700 registered local voters returned postal ballots by the March 31 deadline.

The vote means the trust can develop a business plan which they hope will assist them in sourcing capital for the purchase and set out ways the land can be developed under community ownership.

Chair of Sleat Community Trust, Angus Venters said: 'This is a fantastic result for the community and the trust. Such a positive result will give us the confidence to develop proposals for Tormore forest under community ownership. This is yet another example of the strength of cohesion in the community and I would like to thank them for their support in this initiative.'

The National Trust for Scotland has approved a sponsorship deal with the 3D Youth Club at Dornie in Lochalsh.

The club will use the funds to purchase a set of strips for their young members to use when playing in a range of sports across the Highlands.

This is not the first time Sleat Community Trust has taken a lead on similar community developments.

In 2007 SCT secured a house for rent, the local garage, fuel and visitor services and has recently acquired the Post Office - all community assets that could have been lost. Sleat Renewables Ltd has also established a wood-chip supply for the Gaelic College and is investigating a community turbine and created the 'Clean Sleat' project to reduce carbon emissions.

It is hoped that a community purchase of Tormore can generate local employment and provide a sustained income stream to the community through the sale of timber products. Land could also be improved by introducing open spaces and biodiversity, and recreational facilities created for children and families.

Under the terms of the National Forest Land Scheme, Sleat Community Trust have until March 2011 to source the funds required to proceed with the purchase.



Magician Peter Barr takes on a young assistant at his Benderloch magic show. 07\_115magc01

It's magic at Benderloch

FAMILIES who packed into the Victory Hall in Benderloch on Sundays are were wowed and entertained by the tricks of magician Peter Barr.

Some of the younger audience members kept

insisting 'that's easy!' but somehow none were able to repeat his tricks.

Peter also demonstrates his skill at balloon modelling and the show is blended with plenty of good humour.

Balmacara Estate to survey of bees, wasps and ants

BALMACARA

A SURVEY of bees, wasps and ants is to be carried out this summer at the National Trust for Scotland-owned Balmacara Estate in Lochalsh.

The estate boasts rich meadows in some of its crofting townships and hopes to find a good range of wild bees and wasps, while the woodlands should also be host to wood ants.

Murdo MacDonald from the Highland Biological

Recorders Group (HBRG) will be undertaking the survey to log the range of species and the location and health of colonies.

Balmacara spokesperon Ian Turnbull said: 'The small invertebrates all play critical roles in our ecosystems so this survey should be very interesting in terms of defining the significance of the estate's biodiversity.'

Whisky festival for Glasgow

WHISKY lovers from all over Europe will be heading to Glasgow in November for the city's first dedicated whisky festival.

Glasgow's Whisky Festival is the brainchild of Mark Connelly, of whiskywhiskywhisky.com - one of Europe's largest online whisky forums, and whisky writer Bill Mackintosh, chairman of Glasgow's Whisky Club. It will be held at the Arches beneath Glasgow Central Station, on November 13, from 1pm to 5pm. Some of the biggest names in whisky will be present, along with some of the smallest, showcasing the diversity and quality of the whisky-making craft. Distilleries from across Scotland, as well as some from India, Ireland, Japan and the US, will be exhibiting.

ABERFELDY

Aberfeldy woman becomes 'mother' to baby squirrels

A WOMAN from Aberfeldy is hand-rearing young red squirrels found recently after galeforce winds destroyed their drey. Writer Polly Pullar said she was nurturing the little creatures as red squirrels are seriously endangered by disease, food shortages, habitat loss and domestic cats. She hopes to release them into a safe place with a good food supply.

The three tiny squirrels, aged about three weeks, are responding well.



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## £500,000 High Street revamp begins

A £500,000 revamp of Fort William High Street to regenerate the West End and upgrade the underpass below the A82 begins next week.

The 'Routes West' project should be complete by mid-July, just ahead of the town's busiest tourism period.

The streetscape contract will see two grassed tiers created at Gordon Square, with walls doubling as seating areas.

A formal 'finish' or 'start' line will mark the new end of the West Highland Way and an additional drop-off and pick-up point for taxis, cars and minibuses and disabled car parking will also feature.

A zebra crossing outside the job centre will replace the existing pedestrian crossing to aid traffic flow and a wider area of pavement with illuminated trees will be created.

**Walkers' welcome**  
Centrepiece of the West End 'look' will be a seated bronze man rubbing his sore feet to welcome weary walkers finishing the Way.

A 'delighted' Fort William Steering Group chairman, Councillor Brian Murphy said the works would make 'a significant impact' and provide a much more welcoming environment for visitors and locals alike.

Secretary of Fort William Community Council Tricia Jordan also welcomed the public sector investment.

Housing and Communities Minister Alex Neil said: 'Fort William received over £315,000 and I'm delighted that work in the town will start very soon.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631 568000



High marks: headteacher John McGilp with his Kinlochleven High School pupils

## Kinlochleven High School passes inspection

KINLOCHLEVEN High School has passed a recent inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIe) with flying colours.

**Above average**  
The report found that academically the school was performing above national averages in many areas.

The school, which has 143 pupils, moved into a brand-new building in 2008.

Head teacher John McGilp said that although the new building was a fantastic place to learn and work, it was not the sole reason for the improvement in standards.

He said: 'The core of the school is the kids, the teachers and the community, and that has moved with us from the old building to the new one.'

The inspectors found that Kinlochleven had a very strong school community, with both staff and pupils working hard to improve standards.

**Praised staff**  
The report also praised the work of all the staff, saying they knew the pupils well and were good at motivating them. It said one of the school's strengths was the

support it gave for young people with dyslexia.

This is the first HMIe report at Kinlochleven High School since 2000, and the improvement has been dramatic.

Mr McGilp added: 'At times I think we fall into a rut of accepting our school as the norm, but this report shows it is way above the norm.'

## Ministers back plans to buy former Glencoe hospital

SCOTTISH government ministers have given South Lochaber Community Company (SLCC) their backing to pursue plans to buy the former Glencoe Hospital.

This means SLCC can start raising the £450,000 needed to buy the building, former ambulance station and adjacent woodland for the community. It comes after the March 5 ballot of local residents backed the proposal by 689 votes to 492 on a 56 per cent turnout.

The government statement

said: 'Scottish ministers are satisfied that the proposed purchase of the land is in the public interest as SLCC's aspirations, if successfully developed, should benefit the local communities.'

Welcoming the decision, spokesperson for SLCC trustees Donald Stewart said the first move would be to seek a time extension through negotiations with NHS Highland and the government to enable potential funding sources to be explored.

He said: 'The South

Lochaber Community Company is very pleased that ministers have given us backing. However, we have a difficult challenge ahead in that theoretically we have to raise the purchase price in seven weeks.'

'Under the act we have six months from the point we exercised the right to buy, therefore it expires on June 7. It is unrealistic to expect funding to be put in place and conveying to be achieved in that time.'

Proposals for the site, to be named the Strathcona

Centre, include a community centre, visitor attraction, space for small business startups, arts and crafts workshops, a café, and services for the elderly such as massage, alternative therapies, physiotherapy, chiropody and podiatry.

Fixed exhibits of mountaineering and rescue equipment, Victorian costumes and artefacts and a shinty exhibition were also planned, Mr Stewart said.

The former ambulance station nearby is earmarked for a youth centre.

Developers pull out at Inverness summit with Highland Council

# Waterfront plan is sunk

GRANDIOSE plans for an £80 million redevelopment of Fort William Waterfront are dead - and that's official.

Would-be developer Fort William Waterfront Ltd (FWWL) informed Highland Council chiefs at a summit in Inverness on Monday it was pulling out. The crisis meeting followed last week's revelations in The Oban Times that the scheme was likely to be scrapped after it emerged FWWL had made no moves to buy out vital property leases.

The announcement is a major embarrassment for Highland Council, which had thrown its hat in with FWWL in the hope that council services on Fort William High Street would be relocated to new premises on the waterfront.

It also clears the way for possible major developments elsewhere in the town. Morbaine Ltd expect to lodge plans for a superstore on North Road within weeks, while Miller Developments will apply for permission to build for a much bigger scheme at the Blar Mhor at Camaghael - including a 70,000 sq ft supermarket - this summer.

Thanking the council for handing it the waterfront brief, an FWWL spokesperson said it had put in 'a great deal of time, work and expense', but the scheme was 'not capable of being funded in today's

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

Lochaber Independent councillors Eddie Hunter, Bill Clark, Donald Cameron and Lochaber Provost Allan Henderson, all longtime sceptics, told The Oban Times: 'We always believed for numerous reasons - not least on environmental and economic grounds and problems over reassignment of the leases of Tweeddale and Lochaber House - that this development could not be delivered.'

**"This project failed to capture the imagination"**

'This project failed to capture the imagination of the majority of residents who will now look for a smaller development of the waterfront which will bring more leisure use of our natural facilities.'

'With developers making plans for exciting projects in and around Fort William, there is every reason to be optimistic for the future. There is no question that this issue was divisive politically and within the general community but now is the time for everyone to move on and work together for the sake of Lochaber.'

Local businessman Stewart Maclean, another

critic, said the 'ill-conceived, uneconomic and unsustainable plan' had caused a three-year development blight on Fort William and the surrounding area with the consequential negative impact on jobs and retail facilities.

He said: 'If Councillor Michael Foxley [council leader] had listened to his four Independent colleagues, local business and the general public and voted down the proposal three years ago instead of persuading his fellow councillors to support the development, hundreds of thousands of pounds of council tax payers money would not have been wasted and development opportunities would not have been lost.'

A 'disappointed' Councillor Foxley vowed investigations into linking an improved waterfront, including a marina, to High Street would continue.

He said: 'Looking to the future, our ownership of the seabed means that when economic conditions change and if the right scheme comes along, we remain in a position to secure the best result for Fort William town itself.'

A report will be presented to the full council on May 13. Waterfront costs to the council include six hectares of foreshore at Fort William bought for £250,000 and £56,800 on marketing costs and legal fees.

## Mary's Meals celebrate feeding 400,000 poor children around the world

MARY'S Meals is now feeding more than 400,000 children in 15 of the world's poorest countries.

The Dalmally-based charity, which began when its founders took jeep-loads of aid to Bosnia in the 1990s, started its school feeding programme in Malawi just eight years ago and has expanded to provide school dinners for 413,900 children.

**Improving chances**  
'We believe that by providing a hungry child with a meal a day in school, we can help them to stay strong and healthy and encourage them to go to school, improving their chances for the future,' said Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow, founder and chief executive.

'Reaching 400,000 children is a significant achievement, and we are grateful to all the volunteers and supporters who have enabled us to help them, but there are one billion children living in poverty in the

world today. Our work is not done until every one of those children has enough to eat and a chance to go to school.'

Mary's Meals has been able to reach its new total as a result of expansion in Liberia, where it has started providing meals for 2,500 children who live on a rubber plantation, a hot-spot for fighting during the civil war, where until recently many people were isolated without access to food or education.

Next Thursday staff and volunteers will hold joint celebrations at the charity's warehouse on the Balmore Industrial Estate in north Glasgow, and at its Liberian project in Tubmanburg.

Guests will have the opportunity to taste the type of food that children receive at Mary's Meals projects in Liberia and, technology permitting, a Skype link-up will enable local primary school-children to see and exchange questions with a group of children in Liberia.



## Young Skye artists open their own exhibition in Edinburgh

TALENTED Bun-Sgoil Shlèite (Sleat Primary School) pupils have opened their own art exhibition in Edinburgh.

The children spent 18 months working with Tollcross Primary in the capital to produce works for the Air Iomaid (on Exchange) exhibition at the Fruitmarket Gallery.

**Big, positive impact**  
The children visited each other's area to explore their differing culture and language and made art together on location.

The pupils took part in an intensive programme of drawing and painting outside with professional artists from March to August 2009, learning about their local landscape, environment, natural history

and extending their Gaelic vocabulary.

Bun-Sgoil Shlèite head teacher Gwen Culbertson said the 'dynamic project' fitted the principles of the Curriculum for Excellence with pupils learning skills for life.

She said: 'Overall, this big project has given every pupil many opportunities to learn a wide range of skills which has had a big, positive impact on the school as a whole.'

The exhibition will travel to Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on Skye, in June. The Scottish Arts Council's Inspire Fund, Scottish Natural Heritage, Learning and Teaching Scotland and Bord na Gaidhlig all backed the project

## Dalmally and Creagan Bridge bus services cut

BUS SERVICES from Oban to Dalmally are to be cut back.

And an extended service to Creagan Bridge will stop except for one journey a week, after councillors discovered it would cost just £4.28 per week to keep a single trip.

Meanwhile, Argyll and Bute Council subsidies of £33 per passenger for the Sound of Mull ferry between Drimmin and Tobermory will continue.

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee was asked to find £25,000 of savings in public transport subsidies at their meeting last week.

The daytime 'shoppers' service' which ran three times

a week from Dalmally to Oban will be reduced to one day a week. The route was used by just eight passengers a day, amounting to a £12.60 subsidy per person, said Douglas Blades, public transport officer for Argyll and Bute Council.

He added the village would still be served by long-distance services between Glasgow and Oban.

The Tobermory to Drimmin ferry, run by the Sound of Mull Transport Group, will get £4,500 this year from funds for supporting rural experimental routes.

Mr Blades told councillors: 'There was a three year

commitment to give them funding to see them through. That maybe something that we have to warn them they are not likely to get next year.'

Subsidies were also secured until the end of the financial year, for bus routes to Lochgilphead, Fort William, Gallanachmore, Easdale, Perth, Sunday services around Oban and the 417 service between Longsdale, Pulpit Hill and Ganavan Sands.

The area committee agreed to cut the contribution to the Oban-Edinburgh Citylink bus service by half to £5,000, though this is not expected to affect services. The 405 Oban to Barcaldine

bus will no longer be extended to Creagan Bridge each hour, saving £11,000. The bus picked up only one passenger on every second trip on this extended part of the route, said Mr Blades.

However, Councillor Elaine Robertson argued residents should still be entitled to at least one journey a week for shopping and appointments in Oban, just like those living in Dalmally.

When councillors were told the cost of retaining one service a week would be £4.28, she said: 'I'm staggered. Had I know how little it was, believe me, I would have been looking for more.'

## Council grants squeeze could hit Oban area

GRANTS given out by local councillors could become fewer and smaller in the future.

Councillors on the Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee warned as budgets tighten across Argyll and Bute Council they are likely to see a squeeze on funds given out locally to support education, leisure, welfare and sporting activities.

The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival applied for £4,000 to help pay for stewarding, adjudicators and hall hire for this year's event in Oban and will receive £2,000.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre said: 'Certainly the organisers of the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival are a credit; it is appreciated not just in the town but throughout the area.'

## New visitor information point planned for Plockton

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland is to develop a new visitor information point at the garages at Plockton Car Park under its visitor management and access plan.

**Trial**  
There was significant interest from individuals and groups to lease the premises but the NTS has decided to use the garages as an information point for a trial period.

Plans for garages will be developed over the coming months and it is possible that some kind of partnership with a local group might be explored.

The NTS has a limited budget for some further improvements to the

'But we need to make them aware that this source of money may run dry.'

Another small grant of £290 was allocated to the Happy House Christian preschool to help set up a garden while Oban's Shopmobility will get a £3,000 social welfare grant to help keep the valuable service afloat.

Previously, local councillors had three funds to allocate. Now these will be pooled into one fund for grants to community groups and charities. The process for applying and deciding who gets cash is expected to be reviewed next year.

However, it is not all bad news, as the council budget also included a new fund of £60,000 to support events and festivals across Argyll, to be given out by local area committees.

buildings and production of new information/interpretation panels and hopes to have these in place by the peak season.

It is hoped a volunteer conservation officer/ranger will be taken on for the summer to provide a daily guided tour of the village for visitors.

The tour will be developed with input from locals and will focus on the historic development of the village, the crofting history and the strong links with sailing and the sea.

'This service will add a valuable attraction of the village to visitors,' an NTS spokesperson said.

## Marina invests in preparation for a summer of sailing events

OBAN Marina on the Isle of Kerrera has invested £110,000 on the latest phase of developments as it prepares to host five summer sailing events this year.

Varis Engineering from Inverness supplied 24 new 12-metre finger pontoons that have been installed by Tobermory-based company North West Marine, giving the Kerrera marina a capacity of 145 boats.

Over the past five years the marina has gradually upgraded and expanded, which has seen an increase in visitors year-on-year. It has proved a popular stopover for international, south coast and local boat owners and this season will see the greatest number of visiting rallies and events hosted at Oban Marina.

The marina will host several new events as well as welcome

back annual regattas including: The Three Peaks Yacht Race on May 21; The Festival of the Sea Open Day on May 31; The Great British RIB Rally on June 17; The Clyde Cruising Club's Centenary Dinner on July 30; and West Highland Yachting Week on August 1. General manager Susan Deacon said: 'This is a very exciting time for Oban Marina and

it's great that we are attracting such high profile events and regattas to the area.

'It's good for everyone.'

The company's provision of a larger ferry for the Oban Marina to Oban shuttle service, has allowed a greater number of visitors and marina/regatta guests to cross with ease to Oban throughout the season last year.



Lochalsh to use Morvern's bush clearance experience

LOCHALSH is adopting new tactics to help stop the spread of rhododendron bushes - thanks to expertise from Morvern.

The pink-flowered rhododendron ponticum has become a real problem on the National Trust for Scotland-owned Balmacara Estate where it has taken over whole tracts of land, suffocating ancient woodland, forestry, riverbanks and croft inbye.

Now Gordon French and Donald Kennedy of Morvern Community Woodlands are training up the Lochalsh workers to use their new 'lever and mulch' method to eradicate the invader.

The technique, which has already proved successful in Morvern and Knoydart, involves uprooting the plants and using the debris as a thick layer to shut out light and prevent regrowth.

To mark the new offensive, Ross Calderwood of Lochalsh Pipes, Keraig, fashioned a set of Scottish smallpipes out of rhododendron wood - so Skye and Lochalsh Environment Forum chairman Dr James Merryweather can play the invader's funeral music as work to eradicate it goes on.

Dr Merryweather said the lever and mulch method was 'exceptionally effective, eco-friendly, safe, easy, quick and cheap.'

Two year driving ban for Fort William drink driver

A FORT WILLIAM man has been fined £650 and banned from driving for two years after he pled guilty to drink driving and driving without due care and attention.

John Murphy, aged 20, of 13 Caithness Place, failed to give way at the junction of Fassfern Road and Dudley Road on February 13 and collided with another car.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard how police were called to the scene and took both drivers to Belford Hospital, where Murphy refused to take a breath test. Officers described Murphy as being unsteady on his feet and slurring his words.

Murphy claimed someone else had been driving his car although he later admitted he was behind the wheel. He also admitted he had been drinking heavily the night before.

Murphy lost his job and his car was written off following the incident.

Sheriff Douglas Small told him: 'You could have killed someone, you were both very lucky.'

Visitor fined after breaching the peace with a shovel

A 31-YEAR-OLD man was fined for brandishing a shovel outside the Fort William flat where he believed his girlfriend to be.

James Bone, of 1 Tubbs Close, Bicester, Oxfordshire, was on holiday in the town with his partner on the evening of February 11 when she went out drinking with friends.

She failed to return by the early hours and Bone went searching for her at her friend's flat, Fort William Sheriff Court heard. Witnesses inside the premises looked out through the window to see Bone brandishing a shovel.

Bone pled guilty to a breach of the peace and behaving in a disorderly manner.

Sheriff Douglas Small fined him £240.

# Accident investigator claims Mallaig death crash car was not travelling at speed

A MALLAIG man accused of causing the death of an elderly pedestrian by careless driving could have been travelling little faster than walking pace at impact, Fort William Sheriff Court has heard.

Martin Kenning was behind the wheel when his car collided with Murdoch (Gordon) MacLennan while the local pensioner was out walking on Mallaig pier around 9.30pm on November 22, 2008. Mr MacLennan, aged 82, died in hospital three days after the incident.

Accident investigator John Marshall showed the court a video simulation of the route Mr Kenning took

the night of the accident as he drove round Mallaig pier to park beside friends' cars at the harbour wall.

The video clip, filmed from inside the car involved in the incident, showed how the Peugeot 207 would have come on to the pier, veered left across the ferry lanes then turned right in an arc towards where his friends were parked. During the swing round Mr Kenning had collided with Mr MacLennan at a speed Mr Marshall estimated to be between 5.04 mph and 7.74 mph.

A second film clip showed Mr Kenning's car with its windscreen badly cracked by the impact with the victim.

REPORT by STEPHEN NORRIS snorris@obantimes.co.uk

**"Five mph is brisk walking pace - that's what we are talking about."**

**accident investigator John Marshall**

'Five mph is brisk walking pace - that's what we are talking about here,' Mr Marshall said. 'The damage to the car and the injuries Mr MacLennan

sustained indicate that when the vehicle struck him its speed was likely to be very low.'

The expert admitted it was 'difficult to understand' how the collision happened at the well-lit pier, although 'pockets of darkness' and Mr MacLennan's dark coat could have affected visibility.

Disputing three police investigators' findings that the impact had spun Mr MacLennan around and his arm had hit the windscreen, Mr Marshall, of Incinanalysis Ltd, claimed minor damage to the car and injuries sustained were consistent with the victim's head hitting the

windscreen straight on.

Pressed by defence counsel Graham Robertson, Mr Marshall said: 'There was no way the contact happened when he was standing upright. He had to be falling into the car.'

'The direct strike matches the injuries to the head and nose.'

Procurator Fiscal Alison Wylie challenged Mr Marshall on why his version should be preferred to that compiled by three 'experienced' police investigators.

'Surely you must have some idea where his [Mr MacLennan's] arms were going to be? You know he had injuries to both of his

hands?' she said.

'We have his hands hitting the windscreen according to police officers.'

'I stand by the explanation and the interpretation I have given,' Mr Marshall said.

'There was no contact information on the car to match the arms. All we had was the strike [on the windscreen].'

Mr Kenning, aged 21, of Ard na Mara, Fank Brae, denies causing the death of Mr MacLennan by driving without due care and attention or with reasonable consideration for others.

The trial, with Sheriff Douglas Small presiding, is expected to conclude on April 28.

Shared accomodation row ends in fines

A ROW over accommodation ended in fines totalling £565 for a Latvian father.

Arturs Puce, aged 25, of 51 Ross Place, Fort William lived in shared accommodation with his partner and daughter, plus two other families.

Fort William Sheriff Court heard tensions had reached fever pitch between the families in the grounds of Glasdrum Lodge on November 9. Puce admitted headbutting a man and making racially aggravated comments to another man.

Procurator Fiscal Karen Smith said: 'Puce and the victim began wrestling. Puce headbutted the other man and injured the bridge of his nose. Puce then made racially aggravated comments to another man who lived with the couple.'

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'There had been tensions in the house for at least a year. Mr Puce has since been re-housed.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I am going to fine you on this occasion as you have no previous record for assault.'

Puce was fined £340 for the assault and £225 for making racially aggravated remarks.

After-party drink driver fined and banned following Banavie crash

A MOTHER-OF-TWO who tried to drive home from a Christmas party while more than twice the legal drink drive limit has been banned from driving for 18 months and fined £300.

Christine Thomas, of Albyn, Banavie, crashed into a parked car at the B8004 at Banavie on December 14 before driving away.

Police attended and found Thomas further down the road, still inside her damaged car.

Thomas, aged 51, pled guilty at Fort William Sheriff Court to the charge of being unfit to drive through drink or drugs.

She requested to be placed into a drink drivers' rehabilitation programme, a request that was denied by Sheriff Douglas Small as she was a first time offender.

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Lochaber High School senior football team: just missed the league title

High school footballers pipped at post

LOCHABER High School senior boys football team have ended their Highland Schools league campaign undefeated - only to be pipped at the post by rivals Inverness Royal Academy.

The boys also made the quarterfinals of the North of Scotland Cup, when they went down to a narrow 1-0 home defeat to Ellon Academy.

Depute headteacher and coach Paul Reynolds looked back on another successful season, albeit with a few regrets about what might have been.

He told the Oban Times: 'The draw in the first game of the campaign and the draw against Inverness Royal Academy just proved too much of a hurdle for us. All the boys have been excellent on and off the pitch throughout the season.'

Lochaber High School players also excel elsewhere on the sporting field. Iain Foggo plays for Fort William FC's first team, Iain MacLellan was picked for the North of Scotland football team and Danny Delaney plays first team shinty for Lochaber Camanachd.

Cancer charity pays out again

A HIGHLANDS cancer charity founded by a Lochaber mother who later lost her battle with the disease has made another huge donation to a local good cause.

Cancer Care in the Highlands last week donated £5,000 to the children's charity Crocus, which works directly with children who have been bereaved. The money will be used to fund a weekend respite for children, many of whom have lost mothers, dads or carers to cancer.

Cancer Care in the Highlands was founded by Sharon Fraser, a mother to four boys from Invergarry, who tragically died from breast cancer in December 2008.

Sharon's vision was to establish and develop a charity that would offer support and enhance the care of individuals and families affected by cancer.

Four enthusiastic trustees - chair Helen MacLean, vice-chair Frances Smith, treasurer Frances MacIntyre and secretary Karen MacInnes - are committed to ensuring Sharon's legacy continues.



Alisdair Fraser hands over a cheque for £5,000 to Debbie Gallagher, left, from Crocus Group on behalf of Cancer Care in the Highlands.

So far the charity has distributed £38,000 to the Belford Hospital to fund the post of a cancer rural support work and £7,780 to the Oncology Ward at Raigmore Hospital to fund the refurbishment of the patients' sitting room, relatives' room and the purchase of a motomed movement therapy machine to aid rehabilitation in patients who have had cancer.

A further £31,480 has gone to Raigmore to refurbish Kyle Court - the patient hotel used regularly by patients who have cancer and are undergoing radiotherapy treatment.

Cancer care in the Highlands worked with No Fuss events to organise Gallop and Grind in 2008 and 2009 - a highly successful local duathlon which has raised to date and incredible £105,000.

Gallop and Grind 2010 is set for Saturday, September 25.

This year, the event will be organised independently by 'a small but dedicated and passionate committee,' said Karen.

She added: 'Our thanks go to them for their hard work to date.'

Healthy pet roadshow

THE PDSA (People's Dispensary for Sick Animals) caravan will be in Fort William on Friday, April 30 offering free health checks and advice about keeping pets healthy.

Highland Council staff will also attend to highlight the seriousness of dog fouling.

The van will be stationed at An Aird car park from 10am to 5pm.

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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](http://digitaluk.co.uk) or call 08456 50 50 50.

get set for digital 

**New single from Skerryvore**

SCOTTISH trad-rockers Skerryvore will release a new single, Path To Home, following a gig at Glasgow's Oran Mor on Monday May 2. The single will be available for download from midnight onwards after the gig.

To mark the release of the single, and to make sure they don't let down any of their fans, the band will be hiring a helicopter on May 1 to ensure they make two very special gigs in one day. Performing first in Grangemouth, the six-piece will then jump in the chopper to take to the stage at Inverness festival Rock 4 Life before legendary rockers Status Quo. Formed in 2004 on the Isle of Tiree, the band has developed over the past six years to create a unique fusion of traditional music with the urban sounds of rock and funk.

**Couple celebrate Crufts success**

A CAIRNDOW couple are celebrating after three of their show dogs took awards at Crufts.

John and Pamela Tibbs, of Croft Kennels and Cattery in Cairndow, took four dogs to the competition in Birmingham's NEC stadium. Pointer puppy Raigmore Skeewiff won first place in the Special Puppy - Dog competition. In the Yearling category, for dogs up to 24 months, Pointer dog Raigmore Dusk Till Dawn took second place and puppy Raigmore Bawbee was awarded fourth place in the Special Puppy - Bitch competition.

The couple's fourth dog Flax was shortlisted for one of the high-class competitions. Pamela said: 'With 22,000 dogs competing for a place at Crufts it was an honour just to qualify. 'The puppies qualified by winning first place at championship shows earlier in the year and the older dogs are qualified for life because of other championship wins.' Flax has been invited to compete as one of the top 25 dogs in Scotland at the Scottish Kennel Club Show Dog of the Year competition in Edinburgh in May.

**Taking to the runway for Mary's Meals**

A NEW venture by Mary's Meals on Sunday April 25 will be a chance for fashionistas to enjoy an afternoon of style with substance.

The event, at The Royal Hotel in Oban, will show highlights from Mary's Meals' Oban shop's collection of clothes and accessories.

Marie Rowan, manager of the shop on Stevenson Street, said: 'All the items have been donated by members of the public and the outfits, created and modelled by volunteers, will vary from up-to-the-

minute spring fashion, to classic suits and party wear.

'You can get a beautiful outfit from our shop for less than £9, which is enough to feed a child for a year.

'Our customers look great and help hungry children at the same time. Mary's Meals' Oban shop does not have a regular supplier and relies on the generosity of local people donating clothes, textiles, accessories, books and bric-a-brac.

'There will be six themes to the catwalk section of the show; office wear, girls' night out, day wear, country wear and wedding wear, as well as a flower demonstration and auction by Angela from Oban Flower House.'

All the items worn will be available after the show.

Tickets are available from the Mary's Meals Shop on Stevenson Street in Oban on 01631 566884.



Girl Guides from Rainbows to Rangers took part in the centenary celebrations at Oban's Corran Halls. 15\_t13guides01

**Oban event marks Girl Guiding centenary**

GIRL Guides from across all the units in Oban came together to take part in an afternoon's celebrations marking the centenary of Girl Guiding.

Rainbow Guides to the Ranger Guides were joined by parents, former Guides, supporters and the County Commissioner Eliane Kelly in the Corran Halls where they were welcomed for the afternoon by District Commissioner for Oban Mary Norris.

'The purpose of the afternoon is to celebrate our centenary with people that have supported us over the past years, whether it be with money, time, advice or in any other way,' she said.

'This is also an opportunity for parents to see more of the organisation their children are involved in and have a chance to talk to leaders.'

The programme included songs, with audience participation, and games and other

snippets of information which the different units presented to the audience.

There were also displays at the back of the Corran Halls of Guiding in days gone by put together by the units.

Girl Guiding began when girls turned up for a rally for boy scouts in 1909 and insisted on being allowed to join.

Baden Powell, who formed the Scout movement, formed the first Girl Guides in 1910.

**Younger girls**

In 1914 the Rosebuds, which later became the Brownies, was formed for younger girls and in 1987 Rainbows was created for girls five and six years old.

Mary thanked all the local leaders and girls for their work in preparation for the afternoon and the guest speakers, Catherine McCulloch, Nicola McInnes and Elaine Robertson for their time.

**Win tickets to the Singing Kettle**

SCOTLAND'S favourite children's entertainers The Singing Kettle are dressed to impress after being invited by the Laird of Calamity Castle to help get the castle ready for its Grand Annual Ceilidh.

The action for this year's show takes place in the Great Hall of Calamity Castle but things aren't what they should be. In fact, the place is a real mess!

While Cilla, Artie, Gary and Kevin get to work to put things right, there's all sorts of strange goings-on and our four tartan heroes are easily distracted along the way by a talking stag's head, a ticklish suit of armour and a blocked chimney!

While all this is going on, Jock and Jeremy, the Singing Kettle's own chefs, attempt to cook up a dish fit for a banquet that ends in chaos. Can all the work be finished in time for the Grand Ceilidh? Yes, but only with the assistance of young helpers in the audience who have a chance to join in with the action on stage!

There's lots of fantastic new songs including Come to the Ceilidh, Wild and Free and Did you ever see a Lassie, as well as all time favourite songs like Shove Yer Granny and Buy Me a Banana.

Remember to dress up in tartan for some crazy Highland fun and games at Calamity Castle. For girls and boys of all ages. The Oban Times has two sets of family tickets with DVDs and fun packs to give away. To win answer the following question and send it to The Oban Times before Monday May 17 at 12 noon.

Which castle have the Singing Kettle been invited to?

- a. Calamity Castle
- b. Edinburgh Castle
- c. Windsor Castle



Singing Kettle superstars Cilla, Artie, Gary and Kevin get to work to put things right at Calamity castle for their latest show.



One Tree Shop customer breathes in the scent of the flowers on display. 08\_t17tree01

**Tree Shop celebrates 20th anniversary**

GREEN fingered shoppers in Cairndow celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Tree Shop last weekend.

Customers picked up bargains after owners put on a range of special offers to mark the occasion.

The popular shop at the top of Loch Fyne opened in 1990 as a mere wooden building selling a few native plants.

Now a large garden centre complete with café and gift shop, it is an essential stop for many on the journey east or west.



**Drystone dyking workshop at Taynish Nature Reserve**

Husband and wife team John and Pat Dean repair an ancient stone wall in Taynish Nature Reserve. The couple, from Clachan, took part in a drystone dyking workshop at the reserve last weekend. Thirteen volunteers took part in the workshop to learn the ancient skill and repair old boundaries within the park. John, a bricklayer by trade, said: 'I am really interested in Scottish heritage and the workshop is an ideal way to meet other like-minded people and get involved.' The nature reserve is currently implementing a grazing project reinstating livestock to the area and rebuilding old boundaries. 08\_t17wall01



Five-year-old Liam Bateman from North Connel has his eye on one of Kintaline Farm's home-made cakes at the LORN Local Producers' Market. 07\_t17lorn01

**Well-attended spring fayre marks second anniversary of Local Origins Rural Network**

A GROUP set up to promote North Argyll produce has marked its two-year anniversary with a well-attended spring fayre.

Local Origins Rural Network (LORN) held its first event at a spring fayre at Kintaline Farm in 2008 and this has proved to be a permanent venue ever since, with local producers markets being held there on the first and third Thursdays of every month between

March and December. At the spring fayre last Thursday there was food, arts and crafts and therapies, all provided by Lorn businesses, as well as local charity stalls.

**Demand**

Jill Bowis of LORN said: 'We have proven there is a demand for these products.'

'Even in the grottiest weather, we are really busy. We have really committed

customers. The issue now is coping with the demand, especially for meat products.'

'Argyll and Bute Agricultural Forum is looking to work with us but we need a slaughterhouse on the mainland or we should be working more closely with Mull slaughterhouse.'

'There needs to be a lot more joined up thinking because our customers need it.'

**Carers better off with a biscuit**

CARERS may be better off with a biscuit after a market stall development worker decided to help them make and produce items for sale.

The initiative, the brainchild of Ruth Moody at North Argyll Carers Centre, will see carers produce baking, cooking, chutneys and jams to a high standard for sale at producers' markets and other outlets throughout Argyll.

Money from the project was sourced from a number of funders.

**25 Years Ago**

**Those Were The Days**

Thursday April 18 1985



**Midsummer explosion of toads expected on Luig**

THE PROSPECT of being laid to siege by as many as 15,000 toads in mid-summer is causing concern among residents in Cullipool on Luig.

Swarms of young toads migrating through the village are a perennial problem but this year the numbers of breeding mothers making their way to the spawning ground in the local disused slate quarry appear to be far in excess of last year's figures.

It is not the mothers who cause the problem, but the tiny baby toads that emerge from the quarry in July, usually during the Glasgow Fair.

In literally one night, thousands of toads the size of a little fingernail swarm out of the quarry and migrate across the island.

The toads creep under doors into people's houses and last summer they were found climbing up walls inside houses and were found in beds.

Luig Community Council met at the end of the week and discussed the problem.

**Ferry disruption fuels calls for bridge**

A BRIDGE to Skye from Kyle was a possibility raised at two public forums this week.

Irked by disruptions to the CalMac service last week and having committed themselves to a report on

a privately funded bridge, Skye and Lochalish District Council has come down in favour of a bridge as soon as funds are available.

Skye's bridge was due to be discussed today at a meeting of Highland Regional Council's roads and transport committee.

It was to hear that it would cost as much as £12m, depending on the route taken.

A western line by-passing Kyleakin would be cheaper than a central route. Consultants Jamieson MacKay and Partners, Glasgow, had produced an updated report on the bridge, and now believe that a bridge is a worthwhile proposition in certain circumstances.

**Debating oil and women on Luig**

SEVENTY five people

attended a debate on Easter Monday in Toberonochy Hall, chaired by Neil Galbraith.

Hall chairman Richard Shuff welcomed the large audience and Mr Galbraith put the motion before the house: 'A woman's place is in the home', which was supported by Margaret King and Julia Galbraith and opposed by Julia Shuff and Isobel MacFarlane.

After speaking for the allotted time the ladies competently fielded questions from the audience, which voted for the motion by 35 votes to 33.

The second motion put forward was 'The house moves that Luig should welcome the development of the oil industry'.

This was soundly defeated by 40 votes to 18.

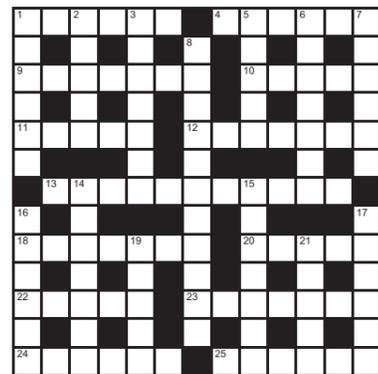
**GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD**

**Across**

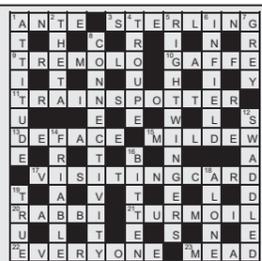
- 1 Foolish (6)
- 4 Skin disease (6)
- 9 Crisp fabric (7)
- 10 Addition symbol (5)
- 11 Strip of equipment (5)
- 12 A branch from the main (7)
- 13 Trial sports games? (4,7)
- 18 Without weapons (7)
- 20 Harness racer (5)
- 22 Tubes to play (5)
- 23 Ritual (7)
- 24 Knot and colour (3-3)
- 25 Heavy overcoat (6)

**Down**

- 1 Made-up (6)
- 2 Means of sealing a letter (5)
- 3 Dexterity (7)
- 5 Bring upon oneself (5)
- 6 Substance which regulates development (7)
- 7 Alert to (6)
- 8 To take someone as they are (5,3,3)
- 14 An instance (7)
- 15 Main place (7)
- 16 Silly person found on Sesame Street (6)
- 17 Wish given up (6)
- 19 Amble (5)
- 21 200 milligrams (5)



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# Taking the plunge

TO CELEBRATE the launch of thrill-seeking Stramash's summer brochure, the adventurers have teamed up with The Oban Times to give away adventure holidays and day courses.

Starting this week, answer one simple question to be in with a chance of winning a fantastic adventure filled week-long journey using canoeing and camping on and beside River Spey. Taking the classic journey from the heart of Speyside to the sea on the east coast, this popular trip is a favourite for 12-to-17-year-olds, those who might be an absolute beginner or have paddled a bit before and want to undertake a journey with not too many thrills and spills. Oban-based Stramash has been offering the best of adventure activities for

young people since 2004. And since becoming a Social Enterprise Company earlier this year it has expanded its already extensive programme, led by trained and experienced staff, to adults and families. Taking new horizons to new heights the programme is bursting with ideas for getting out and about and exploring the wild and wonderful areas of Argyll and beyond.

Niall Urquhart, chief executive of Stramash, said: 'We deliver top quality outdoor learning, outdoor activities, expeditions and outdoor sports development. "Adventure, exploration and challenge are all part of what Stramash can offer. And being a social enterprise means we invest our resources back into communities

and individuals, making a real difference to people's lives.'

The company hopes to benefit from inward tourism, from all those people who will stay in Scotland for holidays this year rather than go abroad. And what a feast of treats are on offer - canoeing, kayaking, dinghy sailing, surfing, gorge walking, coasteering (scrambling along rocky coastlines), climbing, biking, bush craft and wild art and bog trotting (getting dirty without getting shouted at).

To win a youth residential course on the River Spey, normally costing £199, answer the following simple question and fill in the coupon below.

What year was Stramash originally started?



Answer.....  
 Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Telephone.....  
 Email.....  
Please post your entries to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB. Entries to be in by 12 noon Monday 3rd May. Normal Oban Times rules apply. The Editor's decision is final. Photocopied entries will not be accepted. No cash alternative.  Please tick if you do not wish your details to be passed to Stramash.

## Notes and Quotes - with Campbell Cameron

### Saw Doctors and Finbar Furey

WHAT a fine week it's been in the company of the Irish!

First it was the marvellous Saw Doctors at the Corran halls and what a night we had. All the favourites and some from the unreleased, and as yet unnamed, new album.

The boys were on song and Lee was happy to chat after the gig.

Fresh back in advance of the volcano eruption from Australia - the boys had racked up 14 flights on the tour! It went very well and the Melbourne papers were full of praise for the boys. 'We were over years ago,' said Lee. 'But it's so long ago - we were starting again so that was great to hear they liked us!'

In Glasgow there was no doubting the admiration for Finbar Furey. The All Ireland Uilleann piping champion has a wide talent - not just the pipes but also guitar, banjo and flute and that's before we even discuss his marvellous voice. The gravel vocals gave us The Red Rose Cafe to begin - Furey's biggest hit, which was number one in Ireland as the Irish Footballers reached the quarterfinals of the World cup in 1994. He recounted a marvellous moment in a bar in New York when the Irish and Dutch fans sang the song together - but in different languages! Furey is a raconteur extraordinaire and we were treated to marvellous stories before each song which makes an evening in his company all the more special. There were special moments, like Liam

Clancy coming on stage to sing Wild Mountain Thyme with his band.

The Saw Doctors make their music at high volume and high voltage - from N17 to the Red and Green of Mayo the audience was seldom still in Oban and that is how they like it. It is in contrast to Finbar who is more of a traditional balladeer but the Irish brogue and musical talent crosses the sea from Ireland well from those veteran masters of song.

### Snippets

A wee bird tells me the Spinoffs are close to doing a deal for a new lead singer and it will mean a change of emphasis for the band. I can't wait.  
 Bill Bailey at the Corran halls is a must on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May. The

multi-talented entertainer's one man show was repeated on TV last week and I was in stitches - again.

The Highland part of the tour begins the night before in Ullapool and will feature A magical musical, mystery tour through a human history filled with doubt, to a place where certainty reigns and where religion, death, egg-custard, twigs, and Giant African Land Snails are here to stay" he tells us. You couldn't miss that!

Singing shepherd, Iain Thomson, has added Maeve McKinnon and Charlie McKerron to his band for the Fields of Dreams tour in June. The new CD is the production debut for ex-Capercailliean, Mark Duff.



Anthony Di Ciacca and Lauren Blainey of Norie's fish and chip shop. 07.1179001

## Frenzied fishing for golden holiday tickets

OBAN'S own Willy Wonka, Anthony Di Ciacca of Norie's fish and chip shop, is offering customers a chance to win a holiday with every fish supper. Norie's, which is celebrating 50 years in the town, is marking its

golden anniversary with a golden ticket promotion which will give one lucky winner a £500 voucher for Eric Smith World Travel.

Anthony explained: 'Everyone who buys a fish supper will receive a golden ticket and be automatically

entered into the prize draw. It is our way of thanking the people of Oban for their support over the past 50 years.' The winner will be announced in The Oban Times and at www.obantimes.co.uk at the end of June.

**Local Producers Markets**  
 Thursday 6th May  
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch  
 1 mile along the Tralee road  
 10am to 3pm  
 Lots to eat and do  
 Every first / third Thursday  
 Interested Producers contact  
 01631 720223  
 Local Origins Rural Network  
 www.lom.org.uk

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## COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD

Show Scotland weekend at Kilmartin House Museum  
**1st and 2nd May 2010**  
 Flintknapping Demonstrations, Writer's Workshop, Literary Dinner  
 e-mail admin@kilmartin.org or ring 01546 510278 for more information

Comunn Gàidhealach an Obain  
**Oban & District Provincial Mod Saturday, 5th June**  
 Entry forms from seccganobain@aol.com  
 Entries close on 30th April

**Lunch and Fashion Show** for Mary's Meals  
**Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 1pm**  
 Tickets £10 from Mary's Meals (includes lunch), Stevenson Street, Oban, Marie Rowan 01631 566884

The Show Scotland Weekend at Auchindrain Furnace, Inveraray  
**Saturday May 1st 10am to 5pm and Sunday May 2nd 10am to 5pm**  
 All day cooking and spinning demonstrations  
 The Walking Theatre Company  
 Gaelic Song Group  
 Auchindrain 01499 500235

**what's on**

**CINEMA LISTINGS >** Highland Theatre  
 THE BLIND SIDE CERT 12A  
 Fri 8.30 Sat-Wed 6.00, 8.30 Thur 6.00  
 KICK-ASS CERT 15  
 Daily 8.30  
 HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON CERT PG  
 Fri & Mon-Wed 6.00 Sat/Sun 1.15, 3.30, 6.00  
 THE PRINCESS & THE FROG CABARET CERT U  
 Fri 6.00, Sat/Sun 1.30, 3.45  
 DR ZHIVAGO CERT PG  
 Mon 26th 2.30  
 IRON MAN NIGHT CERT 12A  
 Thurs 29th Iron Man 6.30 Iron Man 2 9.00

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 Glencoe Mountain Ltd Guiding service for  
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**Thursday 6 May >** Producers Market  
 Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

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Friday 23rd April > The Zodiacs 9.30pm  
 Markie Dans

Friday 23rd April > Brass Monkeys  
 The Woody

Saturday 24th April > Crooked Reel 9.30pm  
 Markie Dans

Saturday 24th April > George Noble  
 The Woody

Saturday 24th April > Aidan O'Rourke and the  
 Glenurquhart Hall, Drumnadrochit Dave Milligan Trio

Saturday 24th April > Live Band  
 O'Donnell's 9pm - Late

Friday 30th April > DJ Donald  
 The Woody

Friday 30th April > Chart Sounds  
 Paparazzi Bar from D.J 'Georgie Boy'

Saturday 1st May > Chunks  
 Markie Dans

Saturday 1st May > Oxfam Unwrapped  
 Paparazzi Bar Charity Night

Saturday 1st May > Oxfam Unwrapped  
 O'Donnell's Jericho Hill Plays Johnny Cash 9pm

Saturday 1st May > Filthy Kinky 9.30pm  
 The Woody

Thursday 6th May > Finn  
 Markie Dans 9.30pm

Thursday 6th May > She'Koyokh  
 Iona Community Hall, Iona

Monday 17th May > She'Koyokh  
 Bunessan Village Hall, Mull

Friday 21st May > She'Koyokh  
 Community Hall, Eigg

Saturday 22nd May > She'Koyokh  
 Hootanannys, Inverness

**YOUR STARS**  
 WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

**ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th** 090 6612 4520  
 This is a good week to think about wills and legacies. This can be an area many of us can feel reluctant to talk about, but you need to be as businesslike and down to earth as possible. Make sure your affairs are up to date. Putting things off, can potentially cause heartache further down the line, so be proactive. Be as clear and even handed as possible. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

**TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st** 090 6612 4521  
 Your focus can be terrific. If you are a goal orientated type of Taurus, despite the fact that some plans may not be unfolding as quickly as you want your resolve can be high - or can it? There may be a temptation to let your gaze wander to life's finerities. Someone may complain that you are not giving them enough attention. Might this be true? Call your special prediction line for more news...

**GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st** 090 6612 4522  
 What do you believe? The gossip or secondhand tales that come your way, or do you listen to your own instincts? When it comes to your love life, it would be a mistake to get waylaid by what others think. Even if you're struggling to make your mind up, your own counsel will be the best counsel. In fact, you may give someone extremely short shrift. Call me now for your love scope in full...

**CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd** 090 6612 4523  
 Your values and those of someone you have got on well with might just start to show a few cracks this week. And you might find it harder to talk through the issues that in the past you would have easily cleared out of the way between you. One or both of you can seem less willing to lift the phone and compromise. In extreme cases, this could lead to a parting. Call for more news and advice...

**LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd** 090 6612 4524  
 Do you appreciate what a turbulent planet Mars has been these last seven months? It's been working its way, back and forth across your sign, adding to your star potential, but also bringing disruption and arguments in its wake. This week's Full Moon can bring more of these, but whatever the pressures try to keep the lines of communication open. Call your prediction line for more advice...

**VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd** 090 6612 4525  
 With Saturn in your sign once more, in open dispute with the erratic Uranus, your desire to keep your life exactly as you want it can be rocked. The Full Moon can also bring festering problems that you have been avoiding, bursting to the surface. Words can be exchanged but if you take the moral high ground, be sure that you are worthy of doing so. Call now for more news and astral advice...

**LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd** 090 6612 4526  
 The Sun and Mercury are side by side, and some of your long-term business ideas, can be inspired. However, do make sure that any plans you make, are based on hard and fast facts. Some incorrect information could cause mischief. Solo? You can feel more adventurous. Your personality powers are boosted, but an unusual person can tempt you most. Call me now for your love scope in full...

**SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd** 090 6612 4527  
 Work hard at reaching consensus with others. Your tendency to want to control relationships can be unhealthy. Fair's fair, should be your motto and everyone will be happier if you practice what you preach. Yet there is little doubt, that that mysterious, shimmering appeal of yours can reach a new high point. This can trigger a spicier and raunchier time. Call me now for your love scope in full...

**SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st** 090 6612 4528  
 Someone can be ultra critical at work so you need to be on your mettle to make sure that they can't catch you out. This may seem petty, but don't let them know if you feel rattled, instead bat away their negative attentions with some full-on charm. Ask them how their partner is, their kids, and about their holiday plans. Completely deflect them. Call your prediction line for more advice...

**CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th** 090 6612 4529  
 The Full Moon this week is particularly important to you, and something which has been paining you for some while may not be avoided any longer. Yet you may not be able to extricate yourself from this very easily. Someone may cling on, and this can test your fortitude, but you know at heart what needs to be done. It may be a case of cruel to be kind. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

**AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th** 090 6612 4530  
 A relationship may be having a profound impact on you, but the influence of this may also cause ripples at home and at work. It's possible, due to a seemingly intractable T Square between three fixed positions. The best way to deal with this is to avoid, at all costs, taking a dogged position to just about anything. Flexibility will be your best asset Aquarius. Call now for more advice...

**PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th** 090 6612 4531  
 You can feel determined to protect your interests this week and this may mean making a claim, chasing someone for money through the Small Claims Court or writing-up an important presentation. It is essential that you don't make assumptions that then turn out to be wrong. Someone may be just as determined to face you down - so, double check. Call for more news and advice...

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# The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

## Fort William proposals fall

THE long-awaited Fort William Waterfront Development Project is now officially a non-starter following a meeting this week between Highland Council and the developers.

Sceptics will claim that the proposals were too ambitious, too progressive and failed to have the support of the majority of the residents of the Fort William area. However, the majority will surely agree that the town's frontage is tired, if not dilapidated, and the plan would have breathed much needed life into an ageing and obvious scar. Positive thought and actions may yet overcome the disappointment.

### GLASGOW LETTER

#### Erskine charity ceilidh

EACH year its concert to raise funds for Erskine Hospital is a highlight on the agenda of Clydebank and District Highlander's Association with hospital residents always looking forward to the event.

As well as the main function of raising money, it is a concert to be enjoyed with a mix of Gaelic singing, Scots and English songs and instrumental music and this year there was plenty of each.

In charge of proceedings was Alasdair MacCuish who provided the audience with a detailed history of the hospital and introduced the artistes. On stage were Charlie MacColl and Jimmy Cameron from Lochaber, Mod medallist Catriona Fair and Seonaidh Roston who was accompanied by Sheila Galbraith while the instrumentalists were, as is customary at this concert, the much-loved brothers Iain and Billy MacPhee, playing the pipes and accordion respectively. Quite often at the Clydebank, the role of accompanist can be fairly much redundant but not on this occasion when the duty was carried out most efficiently by Kirsteen Grant.

As in the past at this concert, the longest item on the programme was the raffle which raised a substantial amount for hospital funds thanks to the many who contributed prizes and bought tickets. Hopefully, at a later date, I will be able to report the amount of money to be forwarded to Erskine.

Well done to the Bankies for another successful season. As the town hall is due to be renovated, the next Clydebank ceilidh in September will be in the Napier Hall, Old Kilpatrick. More details nearer the time.

#### The Wee Skye

FOR ITS closing concert, traditionally known as the 'Wee Skye', this coming Saturday, the Glasgow Skye Association has arranged an excellent programme with James Graham, Catherine Tinney and Norman MacKinnon all scheduled to sing while Anna Fraser will be the accordionist and Scott Smart the piper.

For regular ceilidh attenders, and for those who are not, this is an event not to be missed.

#### Ceol's Craic

THIS month's meeting on Saturday April 24 in the CCA, Sauchiehall Street, will feature Kenna Campbell together with two of the up-and-coming young female singers on the Gaelic scene, Sineag MacIntyre and Katie MacKenzie.

This part of the proceedings will start at

8pm but earlier in the day, at 3pm, there will be the chance to hear some artists discuss the impact of their Gaelic background on their work. This earlier event is free.

#### Islay Pipe Band

TO SUPPORT the improved performances of the band over the past few years, their friends in Glasgow have organised a ceilidh dance to be held at Hillhead Sport's Club, Hughenden Road, tomorrow evening (Friday) from 8pm to 1am, with music provided by the Sound of Islay Ceilidh Band and members of the pipe band.

All pipe bands face high costs if they are to compete but for those located on islands the problem is even greater and I would therefore recommend this worthwhile fund-raiser to all traditional dancing enthusiasts.

#### Stirling Gaelic Choir

THE ANNUAL concert of the choir will take place on Friday April 30 in the Victoria Hotel, Dunblane, at 7.30pm.

As well as the senior choir the concert, cost £6 with children free, will feature the junior choir and the folk group Stushie.

#### Diary dates

**Thursday April 22:** Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, concert with members of the Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choirs, New Kilpatrick Church Hall, Bearsden, 7.30pm.

**Friday April 23:** Islay Pipe Band Ceilidh Dance - see above.

**Saturday April 24:** Spring Concert (The Wee Skye) of Glasgow Skye Association - see above.

Edinburgh Argyll Association ceilidh, St. John's Episcopal Church Hall, Lothian Road, Edinburgh, 7.30pm

**Thursday April 29:** Live at Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Cara Luft.

**Friday April 30:** Uist and Barra Association Ceilidh Dance, Crawford Hall, Beith Street, Partick, 9pm to 1am. Helensburgh and District Highlander's Association Ceilidh Dance, Commodore Hotel, 7.30pm. Stirling Gaelic Choir, annual concert - see above. Tolbooth, Stirling, Patsy Reid, 8pm.

**Saturday May 1:** Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra, 122nd Annual Concert, City Halls, 7.30pm.

#### Pub scene

THE KEELIES will play in the Islay Inn on Friday with Parting Glass on Saturday while in the Park Bar it will be the Monach Isles on Friday, Pneumatic Drill on Saturday with Sunday still to be confirmed.

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

### PRESS POLICY

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your daytime telephone number where possible. This statement of policy will appear on this page every week along with any corrections or clarifications.

The Oban Times adheres to the Press Complaints' Commission's Code of Conduct.

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



## South Uist wedding celebrations - early 1960s

This week's flashback photograph comes from the files of The Oban Times and shows a piper leading the procession from the church ceremony to Daliburgh Hall, South Uist, where the wedding breakfast is waiting with the guests. The photograph is originally from the collection of Doctor Kenneth Robertson and dates from the early 1960s. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope.

## Letters to the editor

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

www.obantimes.co.uk

Telephone: 01631 568000  
Fax: 01631 568001

### Build and run a new Invernevis

Sir,  
Having read Councillor Brian Murphy's somewhat impudent letter in last week's local press, I feel a response is required.

Councillor Murphy is wrong on several points.

□ The Highland Council policy before December 17 2009 was 'to build and run five new care homes'. This is the number one priority statement in the Social Work section of the Programme for the Administration, and does NOT put on hold the procurement process to carry out a 'business case review'.

□ Councillor Murphy's group leader and Provost of Inverness, Councillor Jimmy Gray, reminded us all at a pre-meeting just before the full Highland Council of December 17 2009 of the principled stand of his group.

The building and running of the five new care homes by the council was a major plank in the manifesto prior to the council elections in 2007. Within the space of five minutes, this 'plank' had been reduced to a 'matchstick' with the Labour group abandoning 'their principled stand' and abstaining on the vote. A positive vote would have immediately progressed the building of a new Invernevis.

The people of Lochaber want the council to build and run a new Invernevis. **Councillor Eddie Hunter, 11 Glendessary Street, Caol.**

### Falls of Lora should be left alone

Sir,  
Iain MacDonald is right to look at opportunities for generation of power through renewables - Power of Falls of Lora could be harnessed. *The Oban Times*, April 8 2010.

We need to exploit all sensible means of avoiding the energy crisis which is bound to come.

But we need to be realistic about what nature can offer and pursue those ways and means that are economically justifiable.

Although Argyll can be proud of its tidal races and whirlpools, the area has only a micro-tidal range.

Even at spring tides, the difference between high and low water at Dunstaffnage is less than three metres compared, for example, with more than seven metres in the Humber and Severn estuaries.

If the tidal prism of Loch Etive can be approximated

from the tide predictions for Bonawe, the influx and efflux of water through the Falls each tide sums to just short of one million cubic metres at springs and just over half a million cubic metres at Neaps.

The flow through the Falls in their present configuration, averaged over a tidal cycle, never exceeds about 22 cubic metres a second and this falls to about 13 cubic metres a second at Neaps.

For around four hours of each 12-hour cycle, the water is slack and flow is minimal or non-existent. All this is going to provide only very modest potential power generating capacity for considerable capital outlay were a barrage to replace a bridge. And, against the cost of a barrage would also be set the probable ecological cost of altering tidal inflow and outflow to the loch.

More rewarding would be further investment in wind energy and installation of sea-bed tidal turbines in places such as the Sound of Islay and Straits of Corryvreckan.

Leave the Falls as the accessible, natural, local wonder of nature that they are.

**Ian Reid.**

### Treacherous potholes

Sir,  
I thought I would publicly congratulate Argyll and Bute Council on its latest innovative speed controls on our roads, in particular the road to Ford village from the A816.

However, whilst effective as they are, there is no warning that despite it previously being a 60mph limit, it has suddenly dropped to a maximum of 20mph if you're lucky.

Might I request of the council that as the new control has cost them nothing, they use some unused road hump signs, turn them upside down, thus depicting the new speed control method, add a few hazard signs and maximum speed manageable signs.

If this isn't possible, could they please remove the 'Temporary Road Surface' sign and actually repair the now treacherous potholes before anything more serious that the odd suspension or wheel displacement happens?

Perhaps the signs are there because there is precious little original 'road surface' left, which if the deterioration continues will disappear completely, thus making any current road surface temporary!

**Jean Haslam, Inverliever, Ford.**

### Use money for free travel

Sir,  
The Scottish Government has recently received £76 million, known as consequential funding, arising from Scotland's share of measures announced by Chancellor Alistair Darling in the Budget last month.

Five million of this total should be given to SPT so that ferry card holders in Argyll and Bute can once again receive free travel.

This money must be ring-fenced to ensure it is not spent by top officials of SPT on a fact-finding trip to study the Cape Town transport system in June 2010.

**Douglas W. Tott, Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay.**

### Tobermory Co-op

Sir,  
The Co-op in Tobermory has gone downhill since the Spar closed in March and things are getting worse.

The shop runs out of essentials, such as bread and milk, on a regular basis. For example you cannot guarantee you will be able to buy a loaf in the shop after 5pm.

It would appear that since it has had a monopoly in town, the only products available in the main are its own brands - which to my mind are tasteless and over priced - single items rather than multi packs and confectionery. There is more shelf space given to boxes of chocolates than essential foodstuffs.

Co-op stores in South Uist or Tiree are streets ahead of the Tobermory store.

No wonder so many people make weekly trips to Oban to shop at Tesco.

This practice by many island people has resulted in the closure of many local businesses. If there was a decent supermarket in the town maybe more local businesses would survive and even thrive. I have always been committed to shopping in the village but after the last few weeks I am beginning to despair of being able to do that for much longer.

**Name and address supplied.**

### Praise for fire fighters

Sir,  
I would like, through your pages, to pay tribute to and to thank most sincerely all those fire-fighters who were involved in containing and extinguishing the very large hill fire in Cuil Bay and Duror last Thursday, April 15.

The blaze, which covered

hundreds of acres took four and a half hours to bring under control.

The task was complicated by, firstly, a change of wind direction that caused the flames to cross the march wall on the top of South Cuil hill and threaten Duror itself and, secondly, by the absence of water on the hill which meant that much, if not most, of the blaze could only be contained by the exhausting use of fire beaters.

It is easy to take the efforts of the fire service for granted and I believe that the exemplary performance of everyone involved last Thursday more than deserves to be acknowledged.

I also believe that I speak for all Duror residents in thanking, from the bottom of our hearts, every one of those who worked so hard to prevent a serious hill fire from becoming a major tragedy.

**John Connolly, South Cuil, Duror.**

### Mull rally

Sir,  
With regards to your letters page of April 8, I wish to respond to Elizabeth MacRae's opinions with a few facts.

Firstly, I made no mention of any public meeting in my original letter to the editor.

However, since Ms MacRae has raised the subject, I will presume she is referring to the recent gathering of rally supporters in Craignure Village Hall. This meeting was widely advertised by way of a poster campaign, which clearly invited and urged all supporters of the rally to attend.

Ms MacRae is correct in her assumption that I did not attend the meeting. I stayed at home - as did 90 per cent of the adult population of Mull - that silent but vast majority Ms MacRae has asked me to identify.

If the rally was of such importance to residents - for whatever reasons - then they most certainly would have been aware of this meeting, and would have ensured that their support was registered by way of their personal attendance.

Perhaps the new self-elected committee which was born of that meeting is now in a unique position to possibly claim a first and actually ask the residents of Mull for their opinion on the matter? Sadly, it is inevitable that a democratic ballot of this type will never be undertaken as it is never prudent to ask a question to which you do not want to know the answer.

And lastly, I speak on behalf of no one else.  
**Ian English, Main Street, Tobermory.**

## A view from the tower

by McCaig

### A dead-boring election

THE BBC claim 10 million people watched its 'election debate' but fail to tell us how many stayed the 90-minute course.

Even I could not last more than an hour and switched to BBC One Scotland for some genuine humour - and I know a lot of folk who did likewise.

The whole format precluded any of the three party leaders questioning their colleagues about statements they had made which is the essence of debate and there was an audience which was similarly gagged.

It's not surprising that Liberal leader Nick Clegg came out on top. It's the first time he's been allowed to be involved with the other two party leaders and he was the best performer.

Tory Leader David Cameron put up a pathetic performance.

He seems to believe he can con the public to put him into Downing Street with his absurd 'big society' proposals: 'You don't like the school your kids go to. Well, set up another one and run it yourself! You don't like the Chief Constable of your local police force. Well, sack him and get one who is a 'hanger' and 'a flogger' who will do exactly that.'

Mr Cameron rushes to tell us that groups in the US have done just that by introducing 'charter schools' where parents play a large part in educating their children.

What he does not say is that these have the worst performance record of any US schools!

Heaven knows where he found a research department to endorse such ideas. They could cost him the election.

My most closely attuned political pals tell me that the Tories will have the biggest number of seats at the close of play on May 6 but will not be able to form a government. The dreaded 'Hung' Parliament will be a reality; a 'balanced parliament' sounds so much more substantial and acceptable.

An increased number of Liberal-Democrat MPs and a decreased number of Labour MPs should have a workable majority. David Cameron can retire to do charity work and see how long he lasts there.

### 'Dalriada - A Twentieth Century Kingdom'

TONIGHT, I'll be helping to launch another excellent book by Marian Pallister in Oban's biggest bookshop and I heartily recommend it.

When I started to read it I couldn't put it down as this is no dry historical tome. It is based on interviews and images gathered by volunteers in the Dalriada Community History Project. In other words, it is the natives of the ancient kingdom of Dalriada's recollections of their lifestyle and those of their families.

How they were schooled and what they did when they left education - absurdly young in many

cases, if they had to become a breadwinner!

Yet they possibly had a better basic education than many of their descendants. What they learned may have been just the 'three Rs' but they did so extremely thoroughly to be able to count, read and write in beautiful copper-plate hand.

They knew the history of their families and of their communities - who was related to whom and, in many cases, where they had gone in the world to 'better' themselves.

As the cover of Marian's book says, what she has written - so admirably - is a distillation of the research carried out by all those who took part in the Dalriada History Project.

Each of them is due great praise for their labours of love.

I'm sure they enjoyed themselves thoroughly and learned a lot about their communities.

This book takes in some of the most historic parts of a Scotland made important over many centuries by events of global significance, not the least of these being St Columba's stay amongst the people of Dalriada before he moved to Iona.

Some of the recollections may well be folk-memory but where they recur again and again, there must be a grain of truth somewhere there.

Each of us has a duty to write down our own recollections of our own family history. Marian Pallister's 'Dalriada' will serve as our guide and inspiration!

'Dalriada' by Marian Pallister is published by Argyll Publishing at £9.99.

### 'The Three Crows' - simply stunning

LAST week, fleeing from phoney politics, I accepted an invitation to a performance by the Three Crows Theatre Company in Oban's Argyllshire Gathering Halls where, when much younger I and many others performed drama and sang Gilbert and Sullivan in the newly reformed Oban Operatic Society.

This group claims that 'the bedrock of their live theatre and music is the local legends and stories mined from the ancient lands of Lorn'.

This is the best performance of any dramatic work, speech and song that I have seen for a long time.

The three ladies who sustained the evening for almost an hour and a half were word perfect, not a prompt to be heard, and had such stamina!

Kathleen Campbell, Vivienne Price and Carol Thomson were simply stunning.

Don't miss an opportunity to see them and the rest of the company in a short season in St Conan's Kirk, Lochawe, this summer.

McCaig

### YOUR LETTERS

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

# My Village

## Ballachulish

Priscilla MacLeod is at the heart of the Ballachulish tourism business and runs the four-star Lyn Leven Guest House in West Laroach. Priscilla, aged 63, and her husband John Alick, originally from Appin, raised three children in the village, which has changed much since the slate industry was its major employer. Here, Priscilla gives a snapshot of her life and work in and around Ballachulish and how she has watched the Loch Levenside village change over the years.



Ballachulish Village Hall is at the centre of village life. 10\_f17balla05

**WHAT is it you like best about Ballachulish?**

That's got to be the view of the hills across Loch Leven. When we go on holiday to Majorca or Tenerife we are always pleased to get home and see that view again. Workwise, all the guesthouses are very good at passing back trade to each other if they are full up. It's nice for people to work together like that.

We can take 26 guests between Lyn Leven and the house across the road so it's an arrangement that helps everyone.

**HOW HAS Ballachulish changed over the years?**

For a start, it is much bigger

now than it used to be. They have built a lot of houses up the back from us. That's brought in more people, which is a good thing.

A lot have people have come in from outside, especially England, and they become integrated into the local community. With the extra houses, they have spent a lot of money on the park at West Laroach and it's full of children playing there.

It's lovely to see so many kids using the park. They are also building a cycle way along the A82 past the village, which should help to bring more people in.

**WHAT makes life so**

**enjoyable in Ballachulish, Priscilla?**

It's a very close community with nice people and everyone seems to get on well.

It's also very central - it's easy to get to places like Ardnamurchan, Glenfinnan

and Glencoe from here. When I was at school you could not get a better place to grow up in.

Everyone knew everyone else at that time and looked after each other.

**TELL us a little of the history of Ballachulish, if you can.**

It used to be a real working village with the slate quarry at the other end of the village.

It was a really busy place. The main activity there now is the annual fireworks display the community holds every year on bonfire night.

The shinty is still quite an important thing and the village has teams in the league.

When we were young we would go to the dances in Bridge of Orchy or Oban. They were great nights then.

It made a big difference to Ballachulish when the bridge was built.

One day we left for a trip to the Isle of Harris with the two boys but we missed the ferry across to North Ballachulish and had to go all the way round through Kinlochleven, which added about 20 miles to the journey. You can still see the slipways on this side of the loch and across at the Loch Leven Hotel from where the ferry ran regularly.

To be honest, it was great to see the bridge. We went to Inverness quite a bit in those days and it really kept us back waiting on the ferry.

**COULD you tell us about your life here in the village?**

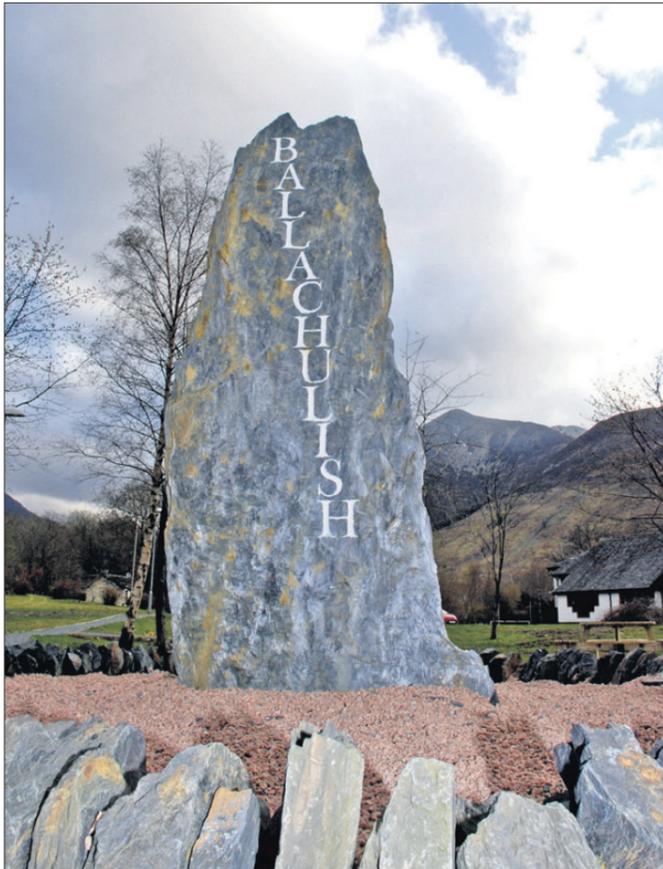
I was born and bred in



Priscilla MacLeod: at home in the beautiful setting of Ballachulish. 10\_f17balla01



Ballachulish Shinty Club has its base at Jubilee Park. 10\_f17balla04



Say it in slate: the welcome sign to Ballachulish village. 10\_f17balla02



Mountains surround the scenic village. 10\_f17balla03

Ballachulish and have stayed here all my life.

John Alick and I have two boys, John and Alistair - who are both shinty players - and a daughter Pamela, the youngest. I went to St John's School and then Kinlochleven High School.

My first job at 17 was a clerkess with *The Oban Times* and I was there for three years before I moved on to work at the British Aluminium works at Kinlochleven.

I was there for a couple of years before my mother Mary MacKinnon and I started up a drapery van.

We took that van across to Strontian, to Appin, to Glencoe and to Onich selling clothes and bedding. One time at Strontian we had

stopped and I jumped out - straight into a big hole at the roadside. My mother just laughed!

We were out five days a week in all weathers and we did that for 11 years. John Alick and I would go to Glasgow once a month to pick up stock from places all over the city.

Then I had my daughter Pamela in 1980 and that was the finish of it. It was my idea to stop the van and when I told my mother - she was always the driver and we were in Kinlochleven at the time - she stalled the van from shock!

It's a shame she's not here to read this - she would have a great laugh!

After we had Pamela, that was the start of our guesthouse business and I

have been doing that ever since.

Ballachulish is a very safe and pleasant place to live. My mother was born here and she lived all her life in Ballachulish too.

**WHO OUT of your schoolmates has made**

**a name for themselves?** Well, there's Ian MacPhee, who is two years older than me.

He was a great shinty player for Ballachulish and went on to own his own insurance business in Lochgilphead, Mid Argyll Insurance. He retired at 48!

*"Workwise, all the guesthouses are very good at passing back trade to each other if they are full up. It's nice for people to work together like that."*

Priscilla MacLeod.

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# 27th Highland Fling in Oban



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Wishing all the competitors at the 27th Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival every success!

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OBAN will be buzzing with talent during the first weekend of May, when the town once again plays host to the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival.

The annual festival runs from Thursday 29 April to Sunday 2 May. During that time over 1,300 people will participate in the competitions, some which are the most prestigious of their kind in Scotland.

The event developed from the idea of promoting and celebrating the traditional music and dance of the Highlands and Islands in the form of a short festival. The Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival was created in 1984 and featured just four competition categories in its first year. How it has grown!

Since it began, thousands of people of all ages have participated in competitions and special events at the Festival, and now the event offers over 125 competition classes in 12 disciplines including piping, accordion, fiddle, clarsach, piano, recorder, woodwind and brass, singing, Scottish country dancing, Highland dancing and choreography. Competitions are held at many venues throughout the town, including St John's Cathedral, Oban High School, the Argyllshire Gathering and the Corran Halls, beginning

on Thursday 29 April with Scottish country dancing and getting into full swing on Friday 30 April with Primary Schools Day.

The Festival aims to encourage young talent to participate in and develop the traditional and historical art of music and dance of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland. The event is also a focus through which the local population and visitors to the area can come into contact with and appreciate these traditional arts.

One of the festival highlights is the Accordion and Fiddle Masters competition, which takes place at St John's Cathedral on Friday 30 April. Prize-winning fiddle players and accordionists from the main competition championships throughout the country are invited to take part in this unique competition. Six accordionists perform a traditional March, Strathspey and Reel and Hornpipe and Jig while six fiddle players perform a Slow Air, March, Strathspey and Reel, followed by a Slow Strathspey, Hornpipe and Jig. The evening is now an annual fixture for both competitors and spectators providing a feast of traditional Scottish music of exceptional quality, and is regarded as one of the major competitions of its kind in the country.

The busy day of competitions at venues throughout Oban on Saturday 1 May culminates in the 'Concert of Champions' at the Corran Halls, which will showcase champions from the festival. Following the concert, there is the annual Festival Fling dance at the Corran Halls, which is a firm favourite with locals and visitors alike. Due to the popularity of the dance, tickets are already very limited, so booking in advance is advised to avoid disappointment.

For Highland dancing enthusiasts the Scottish Area Highland Dancing Finals, which take place at the Corran Halls on Friday 30 April, are not to be missed. The very best dancers from every area of Scotland come together in this spectacular team event to decide the most successful area of Highland Dancing in Scotland. Seventeen areas throughout Scotland will each be represented by a team of six dancers who have qualified by their performance at a selected championship or event held in 2009.

The Scottish Area Finals are not only a competition, they are truly an 'event'. As well as providing an opportunity to enjoy dancers from all corners of our country, this is the only Highland Dancing team competition to be held in the world. This is one of the very

top Scottish Highland dance competitions, and is open to all. On Saturday 1 May, Highland dancing competitions run all day at Atlantis Leisure, with hundreds of dancers from throughout Scotland taking part.

The Scottish Choreography Challenge, which now takes place over two days, is one of the true highlights of the Festival weekend. Celebrating its 18th year in 2010, the competition opens in the Corran Halls on Saturday afternoon with teams from throughout the country performing choreographed dance routines.

The competition then moves to the Corran Halls on Sunday May 2, for a whole day of sensational dancing arranged in three sessions for teams of dancers aged 12 years and under, 16 years and under and 17 years and over. This is a most spectacular team event with the highest standard of choreographed highland dancing, tremendous music and fantastic costumes being enjoyed by a capacity audience. Teams of dancers compete for the prestigious title using innovative dance routines, which incorporate traditional highland dancing steps. Participants make full use of sound, lighting, costume, scenery and special effects to create a spectacle worthy of

national recognition.

In addition to the competitions, there will be the ever-popular Festival Parade when Mid Argyll Pipe Band and Helensburgh Pipe Band will depart from the Corran Halls at 2.30pm and parade through the town to Station Square where they will give a performance.

The Festival gratefully acknowledges the support it receives each year from a range of organisations and companies, without which it would not be possible to present the event. The Festival is a non-profit-making organisation with charitable status, and is organised by a volunteer committee. The Festival is self-funding through fundraising, grants, charitable donations, sponsorship, entry fees and box office income.

Tickets for music competitions, Fiddle and Accordion Masters and highland dancing competitions at Atlantis Leisure are available at the door of the venues. Tickets for the Concert of Champions, Festival Fling dance, Scottish Area Finals and Scottish Choreography Challenge are available by phoning the Festival Office on 07510 841198. Please book early to avoid disappointment, as tickets for the Corran Halls dance events are in high demand.

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## FESTIVAL DIARY

<b>Thursday 29 April</b> Scottish Country Dancing - Dunbeg Primary School, 1.30pm	<b>Friday 30 April</b> Action Songs, Choirs, Ensembles, Recorder Groups, Singing - Corran Halls, 9.45am Scottish Area Finals -	<b>Corran Halls, 7pm</b> Accordion & Fiddle Masters - St John's Cathedral, 7pm	<b>Saturday 1 May</b> Accordion - St. Columba's Cathedral Hall & Scout Hall, 9.30am Clarsach - Congregational Church, 9am Fiddle - Regent Hotel, 9am	<b>Highland Dancing - Atlantis Leisure, 9.30am</b> Piano - St. John's Cathedral, 10.30am Piping & Drumming - Oban High School, 9am Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls, 2.30pm Singing - Glencruitten Church Centre &	<b>Glencruitten Road Church - 9.30am</b> Woodwind & Brass - Corran Esplanade Church, 9am Concert of Champions - Corran Halls, 7pm Festival Fling, Family Dance - Corran Halls, 10pm	<b>Sunday 2 May</b> Scottish Choreography Challenge - Corran Halls, 10am Saturday - Parade of Pipes & Drums from Corran Halls 2.30pm to Station Square <b>Programmes from Oban Music &amp; Corran Halls</b>
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Make sure you buy your copy of The Oban Times following the Festival for coverage of this spectacular event, which brings so much talent and enjoyment to the town.

27th Highlands & Islands Music & Dance Festival  
THE FESTIVAL SHOWCASE  
OBAN 29 April - 2nd May  
CONCERT OF CHAMPIONS  
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followed by  
**FESTIVAL FLING ~ FAMILY DANCE**  
with Sileas Sinclair Band  
Corran Halls Sat 1st May  
Tickets: Corran Halls 01631 567333 or Festival Office 07510 841198  
www.obanfestival.org

**Skye bullocks top Dingwall prime sale**

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 1015 store cattle and 34 OTM cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when a good show of quality stirks on offer continued to sell at recent high rates. Fleshy, shorter keeping types were easier on the week.

Bullocks averaged 192.4p and sold to 248.1p per kg two 270kg Charolais crosses from 4 and 5 Totescore, Portree, and £1,100 for a 660kg Limousin cross from Balliefurth, Grantown on Spey. Heifers averaged 182.4p and sold to 236.5p per kg for a 260kg Limousin cross from Achentoul, Kinbrace, (Henderson), and £930 for a 480kg Blonde d'Aquitaine from Penick Farm, Auldearn.

Young bulls averaged 179.1p and sold to 201.9p per kg for a 270kg Charolais cross from 1/2 of 2 Kendram, Portree, and £670 for a 345kg Blonde d'Aquitaine from Upper Bogrow, Edderton.

OTM prime and feeding cows averaged 107.1p and sold to 119.2p per kg twice for a 650kg Saler cross from Borrobol, Kinbrace, (Sutherland), and a 650kg Simmental cross from Kinchyle Farm, Scapport, and £855 twice for a 815kg Aberdeen Angus from Dell of Killiehuntly, Kingussie, and a 815kg Blonde d'Aquitaine from Penick Farm.

**Argyll's prospective parliamentary candidates face the farmers**



The Argyll and Islands Regional Board of the National Farmers Union of Scotland hosted a hustings for the four main political parties contesting the Argyll and Bute seat in the General Election. Bert Leitch, Lagganulva Farm, Isle of Mull, chairman, welcomed the prospective parliamentary candidates to the Templar Hall, Tarbert, on Friday afternoon for a question and answer session with local farmers.

Left to right: David Graham, Labour; Alan Reid, Liberal Democrat; Bert Leitch NFUS; Mike Mackenzie, SNP; Gary Mulvaney, Conservative and Catherine Gallagher, of the Kintyre branch office NFUS. The Green Party and the Jacobite Party will also contest the seat. 0.17hus01

**Sunderland heifers sell to £985 at Islay Auction Mart**

UNITED Auctions held their Annual Spring Sale of all classes store cattle and suckled calves at Islay Auction Mart when 1,426 head were sold.

The 881 bullocks sold to average £663 per head or 189 pence per kilo (£692 or 196 pence per kilo last year) and the 545 heifers sold to average £602 or 184 pence per kilo (£604 or 186 pence per kilo last year).

The bullocks sold to £920 per head for a British Blue from Octofad and to 237 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from No11 Charlotte Street. Heifers sold to £985 for Limousin crosses from Sunderland Farm and to 222 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from Balaclava.

**Creagraineach Limousins sell to 265.5p per kilo at Stirling**

UNITED Auctions sold 1,749 store cattle, 87 cast cows, 125 breeding cattle and 542 store sheep at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 177.39p (-8.93p) and sold to 265.5p per kg for a 230kg Limousin cross from Creagraineach and £1,000 for a 660kg Limousin cross from Patrickstone. Heifers averaged 175.6p (-4.2p) and sold to 227.6p per kg for a 312kg British Blue cross from Kepulloch and £990 for a 684kg Simmental cross from Pitcairn.

Young bulls averaged 158.98p and sold to 171.2p from Graystale and £830 from Bamflatt. Cast cows averaged 109.56p and sold to 157p for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Hillview and £945 from Wester Bleaton. Forward cattle averaged 148.73p and sold to 152.3p per kg from Smeaton and £885 from Strathavon.

Texel cross ewe hoggs from Kilpatrick sold to £80. Barrahormaid, Tayvallich sold Suffolk crosses to £72.50, with Blackfaces from Dalbreck to £70. Texel cross ewes with twins at foot from East Mains sold to £148 and the same home sold Mule crosses with twins to £140 and Suffolk cross gimmers with singles to £120.

**Ardacheranmore Blackface hoggs sell to £94 at Millhall**

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd had forward 2,622 sheep including 2,291 prime hoggets, 329 cast ewes and tups at Stirling last Tuesday.

Prime hoggets averaged 191.6p per kilo (-12.2p per kilo) and sold to 251.3p per kilo for a pen of 36kg Beltex hoggets from A Frame, High Dyke, Strathavon.

Spring lambs sold to 240.1p per kilo at £110.50 for Suffolks from West Carse, with Texels from the same home selling to £108 and 240.2p.

Beltex hoggs from Wester Thomaston and Easter Ochtermuthill sold to £100 and 251.3p, High Dyke with Texels from Easter Ochtermuthill also fetching £100.

Blackface hoggs from Ardacheranmore sold to £94 and to 212.4p Meikle Seggie.

Ewes sold to £158 for Suffolks from R Neil, Broadleys Farm to average at £85.45 while tups sold to £138.50 for Cheviots from Laidlaw, Kennel.

**Stirling hosts Perth show and sale**

UNITED Auctions sold 1,269 store cattle at the Perth show and sale held at Stirling last Friday.

Bullocks averaged 185.1p and sold to 241.9p per kg for a 310kg Limousin cross from Glendamph and £1,050 for a 592kg Limousin cross from Demperstone. Heifers averaged 181.8p and sold to 277.8p per kg for a 468kg Limousin cross from Wester Bonhard and £1,300 for a 468kg Limousin cross from Wester Bonhard. The show champion was a 470kg Limousin cross bullock from Monzie which sold to £1,000 with the reserve champion a 470kg Limousin cross from the same home which sold to £960.

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**Market reports**

**ISLAY United Auctions**

**BULLOCKS**

Aberdeen Angus X: £830 Dunlossit Estate £755 (2) Uiskentuie £750 Rockside Farms £715(8) Craighens £675 (20) Octomore £665(6) Rockside Farms £665(9), £660(8), £650(10) and £630(18) Craighens £615 Mulindry and Rockside Farms (2) £610(2) Ballinaby £600(14) Rockside Farms.  
British Blue X: £920 Octofad £825 Brybruech £765 Octofad £735 Tallant £730(2) Octofad £715 Uiskentuie £685(2) Octofad  
Charolais X: £850 and £795 Craighfad £785 Eorrabus(10), Brybruech(9) and Craighfad £770 Uiskentuie £760(7) Ballinaby £755(2) Octofad £750(6) Ballimartin £720 Uiskentuie and Craighfad(11) £715 Ballimartin (2) and Brybruech (4) £695 (11) Craighfad £690 (3) 9 Mansefield Road £665 (6) Ballinaby £655 Dunlossit Estate £645 (2) Carrabus £635 Carrabus (1) and Uiskentuie (2) £605 Island (3) and Ballinaby (3) £600 Carrabus and Craighfad(2).

Limousin X: £915(2), £910 and £905(3) Kilchiaran £895 and £880 Lossit £865 Balaclava £855 Lossit £815 Carrabus £810 (5) Lossit £805 and £800(5) Kilchiaran £795 Starchmill, Uiskentuie(3) and Balaclava £790 Octofad(6) and Sunderland(4) £770 Uiskentuie (3), Kilchiaran(6) and Lossit (7) £765 Tallant (4) and Kilbride (5) £760 Brybruech, Balaclava (5) and Sunderland(4) £745 Ballivacar, Brybruech and Balaclava (3) £740 Sanaighmor, Gartacharra (7), Leorin(7) and Balaclava £735 Brybruech and Balaclava (16) £730 Octofad (16), Tallant(10), Ballimartin(6) and Kilbride(10) £725 Brybruech, Leorin, Lossit (6) and Balaclava (4) £720 Octofad (2), Gartacharra (2) and Leorin (8) £715 (7) Starchmill £705 Ballimartin (4), Leorin (2) and Craighfad (2) £700 (8) Eorrabus £695 Ballychattrigan and Ballivacar £690 Balaclava and Kilbride (4) £685 Octofad (7), Starchmill, Kilchiaran (5), Brybruech, Sunderland(3) and Octomore £680 Starchmill £675 Leorin (2) and Kilbride (9) £670 Starchmill and Leorin (8) £665 (8) Kilchiaran £660 Gartacharra (3) and Sunderland (3) £655 Ballychattrigan (4), Ballivacar,

Tallant (5), Leorin (9), Balaclava (3) and Duich (14) £650 Carrabus and Ballimartin (4) £645 Starchmill(4), Ballivacar, Uiskentuie (8) and Balaclava (2) £640 Ballychattrigan (3), Island (12) and Portantuan (5) £635 Octofad (4) and Mulindry (10) £625 (2) 14 Mansefield Terr £620 Tallant (2) and Kilchiaran (2) £605 Starchmill (2) and Smaladh.  
LuingX: £725(2) Duich Saler X: £670(15) Duich Shorthorn X: £695(2) Kilchiaran  
Simmental X: £855 Coillabus £800 (2) Uiskentuie £770(3) Coillabus £755 and £745 Cladville £735 (10) Corrary £705 108 Frederick Cresc and Corrary £695 108 Frederick Cresc £685 Corrary and Craighfad (2) £675 Island £665 Kilchiaran (11) and Craighfad (6) £650 Tormisdale Croft £645 Uiskentuie £640 Ballinaby (2) and Cladville (7) £635 Mulindry and Cladville (2) £630(2) Uiskentuie £615 Corrary.

**Heifers**  
Aberdeen Angus X: £660(3) Octomore £600 (2) Rockside Farms.  
British Blue X: £635 and £600 Octofad.  
Blonde D'Aquitaine X: £695 Uiskentuie  
Charolais X: £765 Craighfad £750 Corrary £725 Eorrabus £705 Mulindry £695 6 Bayview and Craighfad (6) £690 (7) Brybruech £685 Eorrabus (5) and Lossit (2) £665(5) and £635(6) Ballinaby £625 Carrabus £620 Ballinaby(4) and Craighfad.  
Limousin X: £985 (3) Sunderland £895 (2) Octofad £855 (2) Kilchiaran £825 Uiskentuie and 6 Bayview £805 Kilchiaran £800 Balaclava £790 Brybruech (2) and Sunderland (4) £780 (6) Lossit £775 (3) Kilchiaran £765 Brybruech (3) and Sunderland (2) £730 Ballychattrigan £715 Sanaighmor and Kilchiaran(2) £710 Ballychattrigan (2) and Balaclava (3) £690 Starchmill and Kilchiaran £685 (4) Balaclava £670 Tallant(4) and Balaclava (6) £665 Carrabus and Eorrabus £660 Uiskentuie (9), Ballimartin(2) and Balaclava (4) £655 (4) Eorrabus £650 (3) Ballimartin £645 Starchmill (2) and Gartacharra (5) £640(2) Ballimartin £635 Octofad (14) and Bally-

chattrigan (3) £625 Carrabus, Kilchiaran (5) and Leorin (7) £620 Carrabus £615 Ballimartin (5), Grulimbeg and Craighfad £610 (2) Carrabus £605 (5) Tallant £600 Octofad (15) and Starchmill (2).  
Simmental X: £795 Lossit £775(4) Corrary £755 Uiskentuie £705 Corrary £695(3) Uiskentuie £685(4) and £665(2) Coillabus £660 Uiskentuie £635 Corrary £605 (2) Kilchiaran £600 Island.  
**Prices per kilo**  
**BULLOCKS**  
Aberdeen Angus X: 198p(2) and 197p (2) Ballinaby 196p(2), 193p(14) Rockside Farms 191p(20) Octomore.  
British Blue X: 221p Tallant 197p(2) Octofad.  
Charolais X: 233p Carrabus and Ballinaby (3) 230p(3) 9 Mansefield Road 227p Ballinaby 224p (3) 9 Mansefield Road 214p (11) Craighfad 206p (7) Ballinaby 205p(5) and 202p Carrabus 201p Ballinaby (6) and Brybruech (9).  
Limousin X: 237p 11 Charlotte Street 231p 14 Mansefield (2) and Leorin (6) 230p Ballivacar 229p Lossit 228p Ballivacar 227p Carrabus and Ballimartin(4) 226p Ballivacar 224p (2) Starchmill 223p (2) Leorin 221p (5) Tallant 219p Grulimbeg and Gartacharra (3) 217p Island (4) and Duich (14) 216p Brybruech and Lossit 215p(3) Octofad 213p Starchmill, Carrabus and Smaladh (2) 212p Island (3) and Leorin (8) 211p (3) Ballychattrigan 210p (7) Gartacharra 209p(3) Smaladh 208p Starchmill (4), Grulimbeg and Portantuan (4) 207p Lossit 206p Ballivacar 205p(6) Carrabus 204p Sanaighmor, Kilbride (9) and Smaladh 203p Gartacharra (2) and Balaclava 202p (4) Ballychattrigan 201p 14 Mansefield and Leorin(9) 200p (7) Carrabus.  
Luing: 218p and 196p(5) Duich  
Saler X: 201p (15) Duich, Simmental X: 227p, 216p(2) Ballinaby 204p 108 Frederick Cresc. 201p(2) and 198p (10) Corrary.

**Heifers**  
Charolais X: 218p 9 Mansefield 215p, 213p, 205p(9), 201p, 199p and 197p Carrabus 197p(8) Ballinaby 196p Craighfad 195p (6) Ballinaby.  
Limousin X: 222p Balaclava

221p (17) Duich 218p (2) Ballivacar 215p (2) Carrabus 212p Starchmill 209p (6) Lossit 206p Carrabus (2) and Grulimbeg 205p Starchmill(2) and Sunderland (3) 204p (2) Tallant 202p Ballivacar, 14 Mansefield (2) and Smaladh 200p (3) Brybruech 199p - Carrabus (2) and Grulimbeg 196p Carrabus and Ballimartin(2) 195p Octofad(2) and Smaladh.  
Saler X: 221p and 195p(10) Duich  
Simmental X: 217p(4), 215p(3) and 198p Corrary 197p Ballinaby.  
**STIRLING United Auctions**  
**BULLOCKS:**  
Up to 250kg- Creagraineach £590, 256.5p;  
251-300kgs - Ashkirktown £665, Lephinchapel 237.5p;  
301-350kgs - Herdmanston £720, Westhouse 221.8p;  
351-400kgs - Foregirth £810, Hawthorne 209.8p;  
401-450kgs - Sherrifhall £830, Overton 194.6p;  
451-500kgs - Spouthead £875, Titwood 189p;  
501-550kgs - Challochmun £945, Dalswinton 181.6p;  
551-600kgs - Holehouse £995, 166.92p;  
601-650kgs - Thankerton Camp £1000, 164.5p;  
651-700kgs Patrickstone £1000, 151.5p.  
**Heifers:**  
Up to 250kg Lephinchapel £530, 211.2p;  
251-300kg- Craigievern £600, Langbank of Balhaldie 285p;  
301-350kgs - Kepulloch £710, 227.6p;  
351-400kgs - Elmscleugh £720, Dyke 196.7p;  
401-450kgs - Elmscleugh £810, Balgray 188.7p;  
451-500kgs - Elmscleugh £860, 184.5p;  
501-550kgs - East Pitkierie £875, 170.2p;  
551-600kgs - Bamflatt £865, 146.6p;  
651-700kgs - Pitcairn £990, 144.7p.  
Young Bulls:  
Up to 250kg Wester Bleaton £450, 186p; 251-300kgs Graystale £580, 217.2p; 301-350kgs - Wester Bleaton £710, 217.1p; 351-400kgs Wester Bleaton £770, 207p; 451-500kgs Bamflatt £800, 174.7p; 601-650kgs Bamflatt £830, 134.1p.

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**Visitors' centre plan for Kilchrenan estate**

BALLIMORE Estate near Kilchrenan has applied for planning permission to build visitors' centre, studio and two houses.

The application, for land north east of Dunmhairi, is for planning permission in principle. New access arrangements are proposed since the last time the idea was put forward to planners.

**Green grants for community groups**

VOLUNTEERS working to improve their local environment are being urged to apply for small grants.

To mark the International Year of Biodiversity, Scottish Natural Heritage and Morrisons supermarket are handing out grants of up to £250 for practical conservation and environmental projects.

CSV Scotland is also giving out Action Earth awards of up to £50, to pay for plants, tools and volunteer costs.

Past projects have included pond clearance, litter picks, planting or putting up bat boxes.

More information is available on [www.actionearth.org.uk](http://www.actionearth.org.uk) and groups are urged to register their interest as soon as possible.

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# Scottish Crofting Federation to challenge new proposals with petition

## 'There seems to be little understanding of what these proposals would mean in reality,' claims crofters working group leader

PROPOSALS from the Scottish Government that could dramatically change crofting are being opposed by the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF).

A petition is being put together which will be presented to the government to show the strength of opposition.

The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill includes plans to charge crofters to register their crofts and will give the Crofters Commission power to charge crofters for any applications they make, which in the past have always been free.

SCF claim that the new charges could end up costing each crofter thousands of pounds.

But the Minister for Environment Roseanna Cunningham said: 'I believe that these measures will help to make the Crofters Commission more independent, democratic and accountable.'

'Crofters are the best people to take decisions about



Marina Dennis, convener of the SCF crofting reform working group

crofting and the governance proposals will help achieve that.' Most crofters are already registered with the Crofters Commission and see no need for the new register. But the SCF and the Crofters

Commission agree that an effective register would be beneficial. They both say that it would make administration and regulation easier.

However, they disagree on how the register should be put together. The bill will create a compulsory map-based crofters register. According to the SCF, if they use the proposed 'trigger point' system, the register 'could take generations to complete.'

Instead of this, the SCF suggest community mapping. They claim this would save public spending and keep the register under community ownership.

The bill will also tighten the laws about crofters who neglect their croft, and will also make it compulsory for crofters to live on or within 16km of their croft.

The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting (CoLoC), which was set up to make recommendations to the committee, said that the crofter's fundamental rights should only apply to

crofters who use their land beneficially. The CoLoC said 'there was a need for better regulation of both neglect and absenteeism.'

Marina Dennis, convener of the SCF crofting reform working group said: 'The plans put forward by the government for the crofting register are poorly conceived and are just wrong.'

'There seems to be little understanding of what these proposals would mean in reality.'

*"The plans are poorly conceived and are just wrong."*

convener of the SCF crofting reform group

'As we have already stated, the proposal to use 'trigger points' to force croft

registration is unworkable and even appears designed to be 'adversarial' as the crofting lawyer Simon Fraser put it.

'It will cause crofters endless delay and expense.'

'Crofting lawyers are recognised experts in these matters and two of the most respected of them, Simon Fraser and Sir Crispin Agnew, have deplored the government's 'trigger-point' plans and supported the SCF's ideas for the register to be based on a community mapping process.'

'We have also questioned why croft tenants are being asked to map the land over which they hold an annual lease. What other tenants have to do that?'

'But the evidence presented to the Parliamentary Committee by the Scottish Government shows they have paid little heed and are still way out of touch.'

The SCF hope the petition will bring about the changes they want, and that crofting can continue to prosper.

**Bowmore improvements ready to start**

CONTRACTORS brought in to improve the village centre of Bowmore, on Islay, have said they will start work at the beginning of next month.

Following a meeting in Bowmore Hall on Monday, at the request of Councillor Robin Currie, Argyll and Bute Council updated the Islay Community Council and others on the progress of the development.

The meeting heard the replacement of the pontoons could be done by the end of July.

Dredging of the harbour will also be carried out to increase car parking and there will be environmental improvements to Morrison Court. An all-ability access will be constructed for the hall, where improvements to the public toilets have just been completed.

Councillor Currie said: 'Since the tenders have come back in it has been necessary to cut back on some things but I am quite confident that the end product will be a scheme that we will be all proud of and an excellent improvement to the centre of Bowmore.'

The project, which was initiated by local councillor, Robin Currie, is being funded by the Scottish Government town centre fund, the LEADER programme and Argyll and Bute Council.

**The Scottish Government**  
DIRECTORATE FOR PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL APPEALS  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 ACQUISITION OF LAND (AUTHORISATION PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947 THE COMPULSORY PURCHASE BY PUBLIC AUTHORITIES (INQUIRIES PROCEDURE) (SCOTLAND) RULES 1998 THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL, LAND AT SHUNA TERRACE, SOROBA, OBAN, COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER 2007**  
Scottish Ministers have appointed Mr L R Guilford DipTP MRTPI to hold a public local inquiry and to report with respect to objections to the above Order. The inquiry will be held in public and will commence at 10:00am on Tuesday 08 June 2010 within The McCaig Suite of the Regent Hotel, Esplanade Court, Corran Esplanade, Oban, PA34 5PW. If necessary the inquiry will continue on successive days until concluded but is expected to last 1 day. You may wish to note that this venue has disabled access. If you will require disabled access then please contact the hotel management on 01631 562 341 for further information. Four weeks prior to the start of the inquiry, copies of the majority of inquiry papers will be available for inspection by interested parties at Argyll and Bute Council's Area Office, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll PA34 4AR.  
**DAVID HENDERSON**  
Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals  
4 The Courtyard, Callendar Business Park  
Callendar Road, FALKIRK FK1 1XR  
Ref: CPO/ABC/001

**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
10/01664/FUL	Land North of 1 Burnbank Achraide	Removal of existing two residential caravans and timber shed and erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01663/MSC	Site 135m North East of Millard Fersit Tulloch Roy Bridge	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01505/PIP	Site 250m South East of Hillview Bonavie	Erection of house on Plot 2	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01493/PIP	Site 280m South East of Hillview Bonavie	Erection of house on Plot 3 (amended application see ref 09/00338/PIPLD)	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01684/PIP	Plot 3 Land 140m N of Stockmans Cottage Achnababane Spean Bridge	Extension to house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01685/PIP	Plot 1 Land 250m NW of Stockmans Cottage Achnababane Spean Bridge	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01687/PIP	Plot 2 Land 190m NW of Stockmans Cottage Achnababane Spean Bridge	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01608/FUL	Land to South of Kilmory Cottage Achateny	Erection of house	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01511/FUL	Land East of 2 Fassfern Cottages Kinlochell	Erection of 16 houses, incorporating 4 affordable units	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01426/MSC	Land 50M North East of Ben View Benview Crescent Torlandy Fort William	Matters Specified in Conditions of 08/00086/OUTLO for erection of 4 Houses	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Ross, Skye & Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Fort William, PH33 6XY  
Tel: (01397) 707015 Fax: (01397) 707022  
e-mail: [planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk](mailto:planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk)

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**PLANNING**  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997  
Take notice that the applications in the following schedule may be inspected during normal office hours at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR within 21 days of the appearance of this notice. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

**SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION PLANS**

- Ref No: 10/00246/PP  
Applicant: Ms Gwen Fleming  
Proposal: Erection of extension to guesthouse  
Site Address: Laganbeag 4 Victoria Place Dunollie Loch Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5PH  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00396/PP  
Applicant: Iain MacDougall  
Proposal: Demolition of barn and erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North West Of Maolbuidhe Airdhglas Kintira Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Fionnphort
- Ref No: 10/00448/PP  
Applicant: Mr Neil MacInnes  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse with integral garage  
Site Address: Land at Slighneach Croft Isle of Iona Argyll and Bute PA76 65P  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Isle of Iona

**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 Ardriahga PA30 8DX, at the location detailed below and by logging on to the Council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/ 69 Chalmers Street Ardriahga 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: 10/00442/PP  
Applicant: Mr Don Craven  
Proposal: Change of use of Masonic Lodge (class 10) to dwellinghouse (class 9), demolition of existing rear extension and erection of new two storey extension  
Site Address: 83 Redricke Crescent Port Ellen Isle Of Islay Argyll And Bute PA42 7BG  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen

**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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 13/05/2010

- Ref No: 10/00409/PP  
Applicant: Geoff Bisp  
Proposal: Alterations to existing garage to provide additional living accommodation and erection of detached double garage  
Site Address: Millpark House Soroba Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4JF  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00460/PP  
Applicant: Mr Gus Robertson  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North East of The Lodge Gilegrom Estate Gilegrom Road Gilegrom Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 60D  
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00489/PPP  
Applicant: Gavin Ellis  
Proposal: Site for the erection of 2no dwelling houses and formation of new access.  
Site Address: Land Southwest Of Ulva Cottage Salen Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office
- Ref No: 10/00491/PP  
Applicant: Mr Ian Rae  
Proposal: Erection of new dwelling  
Site Address: New House Past Gallanach Isle Of Coll Argyll And Bute PA78 6TE  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Isle of Coll
- Ref No: 10/00511/PP  
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Ross  
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and garage  
Site Address: Plot 10 Ottercreek Taynult Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynult
- Ref No: 10/00545/PPP  
Applicant: Nial MacLeod  
Proposal: Erection of visitor centre and studio, managers cottage and dwellinghouse  
Site Address: Land North East Of Dunmhairi Kilchrenan Argyll and Bute  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynult
- Ref No: 10/00567/PP  
Applicant: Sustrans Scotland  
Proposal: Construction of cycling and walking path  
Site Address: Land Between The Allt An Duine Mhor and Barcalidne Castle Road Adjacent To A85 Trunk Road North Of Benderloch  
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office, Ledaig

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT**  
Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX 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](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk) and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardriahga, PA30 8DX by the 13/05/2010

- Ref No: 10/00541/PP  
Applicant: Mr Richard Grant  
Proposal: Alterations to dwelling house  
Site Address: Na Ceann Bowmore Isle of Islay Argyll and Bute PA43 7JF  
Location of Plans: Bowmore Area Office Isle of Islay

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 can be viewed on the Councils website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk).  
A weekly list of applications can be viewed at Planning Services, Dalriada House, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8ST and Argyll and Bute Council Libraries.  
Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document.  
Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site.  
The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy.  
Anonymous representations will be 'shredded' and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered.  
Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess)

**SPORTS**  
**Facilities Plan 2010 - 2020**

- Schools
- Swimming Pools
- Sports Centres
- Playing Fields
- Pitches

How do you access our sport facilities  
What improvements can we make  
What new facilities should we develop  
We want your views to help shape our plans for the next ten years.

Come along to our consultation event on  
**WEDNESDAY 28th APRIL**  
Corran Halls, Oban  
7.00pm to 9.00pm

For further information contact: [info@pmrleisure.co.uk](mailto:info@pmrleisure.co.uk)

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**  
David Stuart Alsop trading as Alsop Transport Services of Rycroft, Cuan Road, Seil, Oban, Argyll PA34 4RJ is applying to change an existing licence as follows: to add an operating centre to keep 5 goods vehicles and 5 trailers at The Yard, Upper Soroba Farm, Upper Soroba Road, Oban PA34 4SD. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner, Scottish Traffic Area, Hillcrest House, 386, Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

To find out more about living and working in Argyll & Bute visit us @ [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk)

**Argyll & Bute COUNCIL**

**FOR LEASE**  
**SNACK BAR SITE**  
**GANAVAN SANDS CAR PARK, GANAVAN, OBAN**  
Offers are invited for the lease of a mobile snack bar site at Ganavan Sands Car Park, Ganavan, Oban, over the summer 2010 period. Offers over £100 per week are invited for the site. Closing date for offers is Tuesday 11th May 2010. For further details: Estates Office, Blairvadach, Heiersburgh G84 8ND Tel: 01436 658957

**GOODS VEHICLE OPERATOR'S LICENCE**  
Ian D Shaw Ltd trading as Ian D Shaw Ltd of Beinn Bhan, West Laroeh, Ballachulish, Argyll, PH49 4JQ is applying for licence to use Units 6A and 6B, North Ballachulish Industrial Estate, Old Ferry Road, North Ballachulish, PH33 6SA as an operating centre for 1 goods vehicle and to use Chisholms Garage, Unit 1, West Quarry, Ballachulish as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 2 trailers.  
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centres who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Scottish Traffic Area, J Floor, Argyle House, 3 Lady Lawson Street, Edinburgh, EH3 9SE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available at [www.dft.gov/vosa](http://www.dft.gov/vosa).

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
UGHARRAS NAN CROITEARAN

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:  
**Part Croft**  
3 Balemeanoch, Tiree  
Direction dated 13 April 2010 granted to Neil Munn and Mrs Mairi-Anne Munn. Area ext to 0.0024 ha.  
Conditions: 1. The land is used as a conversion of an attached outbuilding to extend a house. 2. Complete enclosure of the land with a stockproof fence within 4 months of completion of the proposed development. 3. Maintenance of the fence by each successive owner or occupier of the land.  
Case Number: 4.86.20286  
The granting of this Direction may be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of this advert. Information on how to appeal is available from the Crofters Commission.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION**  
UGHARRAS NAN CROITEARAN

Mrs Kathleen E MacDonald has applied to decroft part of the croft at 8 Inveroy, Kilmonivaig extending to 0.204 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.23284  
Mrs Jennifer M Hastings has applied to decroft part of the croft at 14,15,16 Inveroy, Kilmonivaig extending to 0.135 ha for the purpose of providing a site for a dwellinghouse. Ref: 4.86.23349  
If you are a crofter, shareholder or owner of a croft in the township you may submit comments on the proposals in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness IV3 8NW or [info@crofterscommission.org.uk](mailto:info@crofterscommission.org.uk), by 10 May 2010 quoting the above case number.  
A copy of any valid comments will be served on the applicant.

**A.G.M.**  
**Comunn Gàidhealach an Òbain**  
**Thursday, 29th April, 2010 at 7.30 p.m. in Free Church Hall**

## Can't get home

continued from Page 1/9

MEDICAL student Donald McNicol, from Appin, had been at a German language school in Berlin for the past fortnight and was due to fly to Glasgow today (Thursday) so he could sit his third year exams at Aberdeen University next Tuesday.

The 25-year-old is taking three trains across Belgium to Zeebrugge, where he will catch a ferry to Hull, before his father picks him up and takes him back to Scotland.

Sporting events across the region have also been affected by the absence of European and internal UK flights.

Numbers were down for Sunday's Lochaber Marathon but one competitor refused to be beaten when his flight was cancelled and set off by car last Thursday from Stuttgart, Germany, to Fort William.

Friends of Kintyre's Claire McLean and Amy McCallum have been following the pair on Facebook as they try to get home. Claire has posted: 'Situation not getting any better so undertook the longest taxi drive ever...Prague to Brussels - 10 hours!'

Amy, who is on holiday in Spain, said online: 'I'm fed up!'

'We were supposed to get home two weeks ago on Saturday and the flight has got cancelled for the fourth time.'

'We've booked another flight for Dublin for Saturday so I hope it goes - then get the ferry to Troon and drive home to Campbeltown!'

## More community care for Oban

THERE are empty beds in Oban's care homes because more and more people are getting supported to stay at home.

The Oban, Lorn and the Isles area now has the best record in Argyll for getting people out of institutional care and receiving care in the community, according to Argyll and Bute Council officials.

Joanna Hynd, council service manager for operations, said it was a good news story for local people. She said: 'We are now sitting with vacancies in our care homes with more people being cared for in our community, which is what people want.'

## Drinker stole glasses from pub

A MAN who stole two glasses from an Oban town centre bar after drinking in the street has been charged.

The incident was reported to police at 9.30pm last Saturday and the man has been charged with a breach of the peace.

# West coast planes keep flying, but emergency flights are restricted

Tourism businesses are hoping the disruption will encourage travellers to consider a holiday at home

DAVID West was a rare breed last week - one of the very few pilots in the country allowed to take off.

While some Highlands flights were disrupted by a plume of volcanic ash high in the atmosphere, scheduled departures by Loch Lomond Seaplanes and Hebridean Air Services took off as normal.

Mr West, who flew his seaplane from the Clyde to Oban Bay on Thursday and Friday, said it was a thrill to be in the air when most other planes were grounded. 'The conditions on the west coast have been so fantastic - there has been no cloud for two days.'

'Big jet aircraft are flying on instrument flight rules. Flying visually, we don't go into cloud and we would be able to see if there was ash.'

George Cormack, managing director of Hebridean Air Services, said their flights between Oban and the Inner Hebrides were operating normally. He said: 'It would affect jet plane engines more than our piston engines.'

'If the weather or wind changes to a north westerly direction, it will probably affect us but at the moment, high pressure is pulling the cloud away to the north and east of Oban.'

Restrictions were lifted briefly on flights from Glasgow to Barra, Benbecula, Stornoway and Islay on Friday and again

**EXCLUSIVE REPORT** by Christine McCartney cmccartney@obantimes.co.uk

on Tuesday, but changing conditions saw planes grounded for several days.

Emergency service aircraft have also been disrupted and were responding only to life-threatening situations.

A 34-year-old woman was evacuated by coastguard helicopter from Stornoway to Glasgow's Southern General Hospital on Sunday evening, following complications with her pregnancy.

Carol Collins, Stornoway Coastguard watch manager said: 'Despite the problems with volcanic ash, coastguard helicopters are still operating for incidents where life is seriously at risk.'

John Morton, spokesman

*"Given the complete chaos, it's bound to encourage people to think of staying closer to home for their summer holidays."*

chair of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association

for the Scottish Air Ambulance Service, said: 'The situation currently is that our helicopters in Glasgow and Inverness are responding to life-threatening emergencies. We have a fixed wing craft based at Aberdeen and one in Glasgow and they are grounded at the moment like everything else.'

He added advice from the Civil Aviation Authority and National Air Traffic Service would dictate when they could return to the air.

The Scottish Environment Protection Agency said it had tested ash particles and found little risk to health or water supplies.

Meanwhile, west coast tourism businesses are hoping the disruption will encourage travellers to consider a holiday at home. Linda Battison, chair of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association, said: 'We are certainly hoping the ash cloud has a silver lining.'

'We were fully booked this weekend anyway, but we were still contacted by a few people stuck in Glasgow looking to change their plans at the last minute. 'Given the complete chaos, it's bound to encourage people to think of staying closer to home for their summer holidays.'

As The Oban Times went to press, the situation was still unfolding.



1,400 store cattle were sold at the newly refurbished Islay Auction Market last Saturday when United Auctions held their annual Spring sale

# United Auctions complete improvements to Islay market

UNITED Auctions (UA) completed a comprehensive upgrade of facilities at Islay auction mart ahead of its annual sale of 1,400 store cattle last Saturday.

Local farmers and crofters can now benefit from a range of improvements to the mart, including the replacement of the entire pen area with steel pens, a new livestock auction ring, the resurfacing of the mart floor with concrete and the installation of a digital weighbridge. New adjustable steel pens, which can be opened to create holding areas, can accommodate 400 extra cattle.

Island customers bringing their own stock to the market at Bridgend can now take advantage of a quicker loading process with the creation of two more loading banks for smaller trailers.

An extra paddock and lorry parking space has also been added.

The upgrade, which was completed in five phases, improves health and safety, bio-security and animal

health and welfare. It also offers an enhanced service to customers.

*"We see the Islay mart as belonging to the people who use it - it's their market."*

Donald Morrison United Auctions

UA, Scotland's leading livestock auctioneers, are taking advice on the best system to install for EID (electronic identification) of sheep to allow the mart to act as a critical control point for farmers.

The UA-owned facility is the only mart located on Islay. It serves the farming and crofting community on both Islay and the neighbouring Isle of Jura. Sales are held monthly in the spring and summer and

every three weeks in the autumn.

UA's area managing director for Argyll and the Islands, Donald Morrison, said: 'We see the Islay mart as belonging to the people who use it - it's their market.'

'We're proud to be part of the community we serve and we take that role seriously by providing an excellent service and supporting local people and industries with employment.'

'We're delighted the works have been completed with the help of local people.' David Leggat, UA's executive chairman, said: 'We recognise the important role Islay market plays in farming and crofting in the local community and in the west of Scotland.'

'The improvements, which follow the purchase and upgrade of Dalmailly mart and the recent purchase of our sites at Lairg, Huntly and Oban, are part of our investment strategy to provide a sustainable service for all our customers.'

## More meetings over Islay and Kennacraig harbours

FOLLOWING criticism that recent meetings about Port Ellen and Kennacraig harbours were not sufficiently advertised, further meetings have been scheduled.

Caledonian Maritime Assets Ltd (CMAL) will hold meetings at the Templar Hall, Tarbert, on Tuesday, and in the Ramsay Hall, Port Ellen, next Thursday.

The meetings will outline the progress of the projects for those who missed the talks held earlier in the month.

At the previous meeting in Port Ellen, those present heard there was a possibility the pier could be modified to fit the new ferry, Finlaggan; an option that had seemed unlikely.

## Reckless driving charge

A MAN has appeared in court after allegedly driving his car into a parked vehicle in Oban's High Street.

The 27-year-old appeared from custody at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday in connection with a charge of reckless driving. The incident happened last Saturday at 11.25am.

## MacBrayne board on Mull

THE BOARD of David MacBrayne Ltd (DML), the parent company of Caledonian MacBrayne and NorthLink Ferries, was on Mull this week for its second formal board meeting of the year.

Following a meeting on Wednesday afternoon, the company met with a number of community representatives. Chief Executive Lawrie Sinclair said: 'Two of the four DML board meetings which take place each year are held outwith Gourock and we always look forward to them.'

'The Mull services are among our busiest, so play an important role in our network.'

## Taynuilt shinty gains new strip



Taynuilt Shinty Club received a new set of strips from local contractor Ruairaidh Neish. The strips, in Taynuilt's traditional tangerine, were recently presented to Taynuilt player Gary Cameron.

## New guesthouse opens

A NEW Oban guesthouse, Alt na Craig House, will hold an official opening today (Thursday).

New owners Sandy and Ina MacArthur have spent the last seven months renovating the Victorian mansion, which was built in 1865. They hope that the guesthouse will be a good addition to Oban tourism.

Sandy was born in Oban and raised on Easdale but moved to Edinburgh at a young age.

Ina MacArthur said: 'Since moving to Oban, both myself and Sandy have had a warm welcome from the local community. We look forward to working with other local tourism businesses this coming season and settling into our new home.'

**NEWSDESK**  
01631  
568060

## Argyll Mausoleum gains lottery support

THE HERITAGE Lottery Fund has shown its support for the restoration of the Argyll Mausoleum at Kilmun.

The charity has awarded a first round pass to Argyll Mausoleum Ltd, an organisation set up to secure funding for the restoration project. The award means that Argyll Mausoleum Ltd can now submit fully developed proposals to apply for the £240,000 it is seeking from the lottery fund.

The Argyll Mausoleum is the burial place of the Earls and Dukes of Argyll from 1455 until 1949. It was last renovated in 1890 by the then Marquis of Lorne but has since deteriorated.

There is now a substantial risk to both the building and the unique artefacts it contains unless major renovations are carried out.

A total of £750,000 is needed to complete the restoration of the mausoleum and build a new visitor centre at the site in Kilmun.

Councillor Bruce Marshall, a long-standing campaigner for the mausoleum's restoration, said: 'I am absolutely delighted. Everyone associated with the project will now be working very hard to draw up the more detailed proposals.'

Dinah McDonald, chair of Argyll Mausoleum, added: 'Later this year we should be able to announce a date when the mausoleum will be open to the public for the first time since it was constructed more than 200 years ago.'

Colin McLean, head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said: 'We are pleased to be able to give our initial support to a project that will see the mausoleum preserved and opened up for people to enjoy.'



David West with his seaplane. 07\_17pin02

## Witness in Fort William court case threatened with contempt of court charge

A WOMAN who gave evidence at her partner's drink driving trial was threatened with a contempt of court charge after claiming her memory of events was 'fuzzy'.

Rachel Monk was warned against prevarication by Sheriff Douglas Small at Fort William Sheriff Court.

**Guilty**

Miss Monk's partner Alastair Ainslie, aged 61, of 1 Richard Court, Oban, was found guilty of driving a car on the A861 between Strontian and Salen on September 10 last year with 82 microgrammes of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath. The legal limit is 35 microgrammes.

Ainslie, a leader with the Argyll and Bute Council employability team, and his partner had gone from to Fort William and Strontian for a long weekend.

The pair travelled over to Strontian Hotel, where Ainslie admitted having two pints before driving to a lay-by on the A861, where they fell asleep in the car.

Miss Monk, who cannot

drive, told the court she was on heavy medication and that, combined with a large alcohol intake on the day in question, contributed to her memory loss.

The 43-year-old claimed she remembered going to Fort William but her next memory was waking up in a hotel in the town the next day.

Strontian police officer, PC Andrew Irvine, who found the pair asleep in their car and had charged Ainslie, said Miss Monk was coherent and did not seem to be drunk.

Sheriff Small told Miss Monk: 'I take the view you are deliberately prevaricating answering questions when you know the answer. Prevarication is a contempt of court and a very serious offence.'

'The sentence the court can give is a lot more serious than the one facing your partner.'

Sentence was deferred until May 12 for Ainslie to produce his driving licence in court. He was disqualified in the interim period.

## Meeting backs community buyout plan on Lewis

MOVES to buy Pairc Estate on Lewis for the community won strong backing at a public meeting last Friday.

The gathering in Pairc School, Gravr, heard the Pairc Trust intimate their belief that the Scottish Government had the political will to back the bid.

**First 'hostile' sale**

If successful, the buyout would be the first 'hostile' sale completed without the consent of the landowner since the Land Reform Act became law in 2003.

Ministers could be asked to take a decision on the Trust's two applications under Part 3 of the act as early as the second half of May, said organisers.

The trust 'remains open' to further discussions with the landlord about a voluntary transfer, but insist any talks must encompass real powers over the estate.

It was revealed a confidential valuation recently commissioned by HIE indicates a value for the land and lease which

is considerably lower than what the landlord has been seeking.

The trust have set up a fundraising committee to explore funding options including grants from HIE and Western Isles Council, and loans secured by future income and community benefit from the planned commercial windfarm.

The Trust outlined substantial improvements they had negotiated with Scottish and Southern Energy on a package of community benefit from the commercial wind-farm. Further improvements are being sought.

The trust will also set up a subsidiary company to take forward renewable energy projects on the estate, for which there is considerable scope.

Pairc Trust chairman Angus McDowall, said: 'Now is the time for the community to keep its resolve and show unity as we approach the final crucial stages in this long saga.'

## More gold recycled than mined

AS SCOTLAND'S first commercial goldmine prepares to open at Tyndrum, shortages of precious metal are continuing to push up prices.

This week it emerged that more gold is being recycled than extracted afresh, as prices rocket to \$1,153 an ounce or just over £753 an ounce on Tuesday's British market.

## New health partnership for Skye and Lochalsh

A NEW group is being established to help shape the future of local health services in Skye and Lochalsh.

Mid Highland Community Health Partnership (MHCHP) - the part of NHS Highland covering Skye, Lochalsh, Ross, Cromarty, West Ness and Lochaber - is setting up the local reference group to develop an action plan designed to improve access to and the quality of local health services.

Highland and community councillors, statutory and voluntary partners, clinical staff, professional advisors and NHS Highland managers will take part.

MHCHP general manager, Gill McVicar, said members would bring 'particular knowledge or expertise' to the group's work. Skye and Lochalsh Services Reference Group will hold its first meeting at the MacKinnon Country House Hotel, Kyleakin on May 10.

## Skye and Lochalsh artists to produce Clan Donald Centre exhibit

ARTISTS resident and working in Skye and Lochalsh are being invited to submit proposals for a three-dimensional work to be exhibited in the Castle Gardens at the Clan Donald Skye (CDS) visitor centre at Armadale over the summer.

The initiative, drawn up with Arts Team Lochalsh and Skye (ATLAS), will see a 'sculpture trial' of selected pieces in the gardens created.

Workshops and talks for the local community and visitors will also feature.

CDS chairman Sir Ian Macdonald said the sculpture trail would showcase the artists' work to local, national and international audiences.

Artists wishing more information can contact the project manager on 01470 532436 or e-mail atlas@hi-arts.co.uk.

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Sleeping man cleared of drink driving

A MAN who was found asleep behind the wheel of his parked car has been cleared of drink driving at Fort William Sheriff Court. Michael Potter, aged 37, of 14 Brooklands, 314 Aigburgh Road, Liverpool, was on a New Year holiday in Roy Bridge with his partner but had gone to sit in his car in the hotel car park after they had a row. Police, who had been called to the hotel because of the disturbance between Mr Potter and his partner, found Mr Potter asleep in his car with the lights and radio on. There was no evidence of tyre marks in the snow and Mr Potter's car was facing a wall. Tests later showed him to be more than twice the drink drive limit. Sheriff Douglas Small said he was satisfied Potter had not driven the vehicle and found him not guilty.

Highland books Royal National Mòd every third year

HIGHLAND Council has struck a deal with An Comunn Gàidhealach on staging Royal National Mòds. The draft agreement, covering the period until December 31 2020, is designed to ensure smooth delivery of services on a communn provides during the Mòds within the Highland Council area. The arrangement will be formally reviewed after each Mòd, starting with Caithness this year. The Highlands will host the Mòd again in 2014, 2017 and 2020. Locations will be agreed by the council and an communn. Gaelic Committee chairman Councillor Hamish Fraser said the deal confirmed both organisations' commitment 'to the celebration and development of the Gaelic language'. An Comunn Gàidhealach president John Macleod said the arrangement would provide 'stability and certainty in a difficult economic climate'.

NEWSDESK 01397 703003

Police chief praises Lochaber boxing event arrangements

LOCHABER'S police chief has praised security arrangements at the Nevis Centre for the latest sell-out boxing show. And host club Lochaber Phoenix ABC has gone on the record to thank all involved in helping the club make a big impression in the Scottish boxing scene. Chief Inspector John Chisholm said: 'We work very well with the management of the Nevis Centre and there is a good exchange of information. Our experience is that whenever there is a large event on it is always well stewarded. 'The management are

signed up members of Lochaber Pubwatch and that in its own right is one of the finest deterrents to trouble. 'Whether it's a boxing event or a large musical event I have no difficulty with providing supervision to the Nevis Centre or any licenced premises. We are here to assist licencees, their staff and stewards to ensure events pass off safely.' Lochaber Phoenix coach Niall Clark added: 'On behalf of Lochaber Phoenix boxing club I would like to thank all the people who came to support our club at the Nevis Centre on April 10th.

'Without their support the club wouldn't have made the strides forward that it has. I would also like to thank all the local businesses which have helped our club move forward, the Nevis Centre for doing a fantastic job hosting our show, The Oban Times, Nevis Radio and all the local papers for the publicity they have provided. 'Thanks, too, must go to the parents of the young boxers who take the boys to training night after night - and of course the boxers themselves who have shown a great commitment to the sport and are a credit to the club.'



Robert Robertson: picked to sing with the National Youth Choir of Scotland 10\_f17robert01

Lochaber selected for national youth choir

A LOCHABER High School student has won a place on the National Youth Choir of Scotland (NYCoS) after a successful audition. Robert Robertson is already well known as a talented musician and singer locally and is a Royal National Mòd silver medal winner. Robert sang with the National Boys' Choir for four years and became

ineligible when he turned 16 but was keen to remain part of the Scottish national choir set-up. He auditioned for the National Youth Training Choir and, to his delight, was instead offered a place with its big brother, NYCoS. The choir is the only Scottish national choir for 16-25 year olds, is also the title of a five-choir set-up which encourages young Scots to sing. Singing with both the National Boys' Choir's treble and changed voice sections, Robert has performed throughout Scotland and the North of England. Now, as a result of his acceptance, his contribution to the scheme can continue. 'Big NYCoS', as the youth choir is known within the organisation, is the pinnacle of the whole project. Every three years the soprano, alto, tenor and bass choir (SATB) does a foreign tour, often to America or Europe, and between times tours Scotland frequently each year. Many of its members are at music college and its demands are immense. 'As a sixteen year-old, I feel honoured by the prospect of performing with NYCoS,' said Robert.



Six talented 56 pupils from Lochaber High School are tackling Open University modules as they prepare to begin their university careers. Left to right, Gillian Ness, Katie MacLeod, Christy MacIntyre and Alex Holden, and Carol Salmon and Isobel Urwin (not pictured) are taking part in the initiative, which is being organised by the school. Depute headteacher Paul Reynolds said: 'These courses will help to prepare them for future study at university. The courses studied this year included human genetics, health issues, photography and understanding cardiovascular diseases.' 10\_f170001

Highland Council officer dies after illness



Hector Robertson

HECTOR Robertson, Highland Council's education, culture and sport manager for Inverness, Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey has died at the age of 59 following a long battle with illness. Mr Robertson was a Lochaber man who latterly lived at Corran Gardens near the Corran Ferry and leaves his wife Mary and a grown up son and daughter. He was assistant head teacher of Kirkwall Grammar School, Orkney and held a post of education officer with Orkney Islands Council before moving back to his native Lochaber, where he served for seven years as education manager before taking up his final job in 2003.

Highland Council leader Michael Foxley said: 'Hector was a personal friend, with a love of hill walking, as well as being one of our very best officers. When he was the Lochaber education manager we worked closely together to massively expand nursery and pre-school facilities throughout Lochaber as well as ensuring that Ardnamurchan High School was built to fulfil all of the communities' expectations. 'To ensure that the very best education was available, Hector worked extremely hard with teachers, parents, school boards and councillors, helped by a lovely West Highland sense of humour. He was a joy to work with. It's extremely sad.'

Hugh Fraser, director of education, culture and sport said: 'Hector had been battling serious ill health very privately and very bravely for a number of years. During his long period of illness he worked tirelessly and cheerfully for the good of the young people and communities of the Highlands. Hector was an exceptionally loyal colleague who always went the extra mile for others.'

Convener Sandy Park also paid tribute to Mr Robertson. He said: 'Hector was an exceptional official, who was most efficient in the way he went about his business and a great help to elected members. He was also excellent in dealing with the public, at often heated public meetings. He will be sorely missed and our thoughts at this time go out to his family and close friends.'

Investigation finds delay in helicopter rescue

Four-man scallop dredger lost off Ardnamurchan

A MARINE Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) investigation into the deaths of three Cumbrian fishermen off Ardnamurchan Point on July 20 last year has found a rescue helicopter was delayed because of communication errors. Skipper and owner Tony Hayton, 45, Peter Hilton and Thomas Sanderson, both aged 52, died and one man was saved after scallop dredger Aquila overturned when its gear snagged on the seabed in a heavy swell. Clyde Marine Rescue and Control Centre (MRCC) scrambled a helicopter from Prestwick, but then stood it down when officers realised the incident was in Stornoway MRCC's area. A rescue helicopter was dispatched from Stornoway but investigators found the switch in control led to a 'regrettable' delay of 23 minutes in the helicopter reaching the rescue site. However, it was considered 'unlikely' the delay affected 'the tragic outcome'.

A holidaymaker witnessed the boat being swamped by a large wave and cycled to nearby Kilmory to raise the alarm. The crew of a yacht, which had picked up the relayed mayday call from Stornoway, pulled one man from the water. The man escaped from the flooding overturned boat when he saw a patch of daylight under the intruding water. 'He called out to his crewmates that he was going to attempt to escape. He then dived down and out through the doorway, pushed himself clear of the vessel and surfaced a short distance away from the capsized hull,' the report said. 'The survivor also showed great fortitude in his assistance to his crew mates in the water and subsequently, as he had been in the water for about 1 hour 20 minutes when he was rescued.'

On the surface he helped two of his mates when he turned to help his skipper he had gone. The Aquila had overturned so quickly the liferaft and distress radio beacon snagged in the superstructure and were unavailable during the emergency. A Royal Navy rescue helicopter from Prestwick, and Mallaig and Tobermory lifeboats all joined the search for casualties. The three bodies were recovered within two hours. Following a review, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) has handed the rescue co-ordination centre at RAF Kinloss sole responsibility for dispatching rescue helicopters. Seafish, the industry authority, has also agreed to improve its vessel stability awareness course after the MAIB found extra gear and ballast added to the Aquila had compromised her stability. The course will now stress the importance of ensuring that a vessel's stability is assessed by a competent person when modifications or additions are made.

Popular Plockton walk to be improved

A POPULAR walk at Plockton is to be upgraded to make it more user friendly. The Coral Beach path at Balmacara Estate leads down to one of the estate's most popular beauty spots but is sometimes impassable due to mud and running water. The National Trust for Scotland considered closing the path, but given its popularity decided to fully upgrade it from the gate at the top of the track to the shore. The work will be carried out by contractor and it is hoped to complete the repairs by this summer. The main focus for footpath work on the estate in 2011 will be the Drumbuie to Duirinish to Port an Eorna route. The estate is to consult with crofters over coming weeks on replacing stiles with kissing gates and making the route easier for less mobile walkers. Particular emphasis will be placed on improving two difficult burn crossings on the route and improving signage at Duirinish Station to direct walkers in the right direction.

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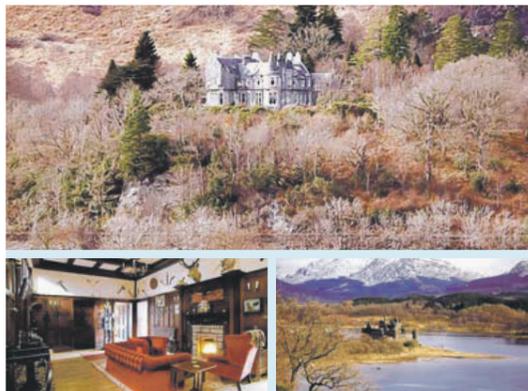
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59 Renault Clio Exp. Dci Sport Tourer, silver, 2000 miles.....	£12,500
09 Renault Kangoo Auth 1.2 silver, 8,300 miles.....	£8,150
08 Renault Megane Sport Tourer Dyn Dci 130 auto, black, 21,000 miles....	£9,500
08 Renault Modus Exp. 1.2 TCE, beige, 20000 miles.....	£7,750
07 Renault Megane Dyn dci 106 H/B 3dr, red.....	£8,750
07 Renault Megane Expression 1.9DCi Saloon, 22k miles, gold.....	£7,950
07 Renault Scenic Dyn Dci 106 Silver, 22,000 miles.....	£7,850
07 Renault Megane Dyn hatchback, 1.4, black, 9200 miles.....	£4,995
07 Renault Clio Exp. 1.4, 3dr, red, 38,000 miles.....	£6,250
56 Renault Clio Dyn. 1.4 5dr silver 25,000 miles.....	£6,595
06 Renault Megane Sport Tourewr Dyn 1.9 Dci Beige, 7800 miles.....	£6,950
06 Renault Megane 1.6 5dr, cherry red, 36,500 miles.....	£6,495
06 Renault Kango Expression Dci 86 Silver, 59,000 miles.....	£5,850
03 Renault Megane Dyn 1.6, 5dr, hatchback, blue, 41500 miles.....	£2,950
52 Renault Megane Fidji 1.6, 5dr, green, 71,500 miles.....	£2,695
01 Renault Megane Fidji 1.6 5dr silver, 42,000 miles.....	£2,150
06 Vauxhall Corsa Life 1.0, 5 door, red, 34,000 miles.....	£4,650
04 Renault Kangoo Auth. 1.2 silver, 61,000 miles.....	£3,950
53 Honda Civic SE 1.6 5door, silver 82500 miles.....	£3,650
Y Reg Suzuki Grand Vitara, 1.6 red 49,000 miles.....	£2,750

**COMMERCIALS**  
 03 Renault Master SL28 DCI fully insulated with chiller unit ....£4500 +VAT  
 X Nissan Cabstar D/Side Pick-Up.....£3650 +vat  
 Renault Kangoo Vans choice of four

SELECTION OF LOW PRICE CARS UNDER £2000 TO CLEAR CAR AND VAN HIRE FROM BOTH BRANCHES

**INFLATABLE DINGHY FOR SALE**  
 Approx 8ft Oars, pump etc Very good condition.  
 Telephone: 07733 343504 (Inveraray)  
**£250 o.n.o.**

**AVON DINGHY**  
 R2.5 inflatable, with 3.3 Mariner 2 Stroke outboard.  
 Telephone: 01631 562003  
**£420**

**RED BAY 7.5M**  
  
 Totally refurbished, Yamaha diesel engine, new stern leg wrap around wheelhouse.  
 Further details telephone 01586 554480 01586 552698 (evenings) 077889 23890 (mobile)  
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**16FT. SHETLAND MICROPLUS 501**  
  
 9.9 Mariner Outboard (serviced 09) Key/St 5 Auto/Lifejackets + Small Anchor + Ropes All in very good condition, on strong two wheeled trailer.  
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**£1,800 o.v.n.o.**

**SCRAP CAR DISPOSAL**  
 Oban Skip Hire Ltd are offering a new service to accept or collect end of life vehicles (ELV's) throughout Argyll. DVLA notification. Safely de-polluted and recycled at our Oban Waste Transfer Station Licence no WML/N/220307  
**Tel 01631 566370 Oban**

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 21ft Magnum Daysailer 2006, Road Trailer and 10 HP Tohatsu Outboard. Very Good condition.  
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**£7000**

**FOUR WINNS 245 SUNDOWNER**  
  
 Sports Cruiser/weekender. Launched 2006 Only 20 engine hrs from new. 5.7lr Gxi Volvo Penta Duo Prop Loads of extras, incl four wheel, Sbs trailer, telephone for full Spec sheet & photos.  
 Tel: 07553371430 or 01631 730250  
**£32,450 or near offer**

**KMF CAR SALES AND MECHANICAL SERVICES**

CARS		
08 57 Volkswagen Fox 55 1.2cc	£5995	3 Door, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, Black, CD Player, 1 Owner
07 56 Volkswagen Polo 1.4cc	£6495	5 Door, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, Blue, Alloys, 30,000 miles, 1 Owner, 1yrs MOT
06 06 Renault Clio Dynamique DCi 1.5cc	£6395	3 Door, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, Red, Central Locking, CD Player, 1 Owner, 22,000 miles, 1yrs MOT
05 55 Audi A6 Avant TDI 2.0cc	£9595	Blue, Central Locking, Alloy Wheels, CD Player, 1yrs MOT
05 55 Ford Ka Collection 1.3cc	£3995	3 Door, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, Silver, 14,000 miles, CD Player, 1yrs MOT
04 54 Volkswagen Polo Twist SDi 1.9cc	£3695	3 Door, Manual, Hatchback, Diesel, Blue, Central Locking, Electric Windows, 73,000 miles, 1yrs MOT

VANS		
08 08 Ford Transit Connect	£6495 + vat	1.8cc Diesel, Red, Roof Rack, 30,000 miles
05 55 VW Transporter T30 TDi	£7995 + vat	4 Motion, Blue, Side Loading Door, Central Locking, 1yrs MOT
04 04 Vauxhall Combo Van DTI 1.7cc	£2695 no vat	White, Diesel, Manual, Roof Rack, 1 years MOT
03 53 Iveco Daily TD 2.3cc	£4495 + vat	White, Tipper, 25,000 miles, 1yrs MOT

Unit 1 Caol Industrial Estate, Fort William  
 Tel/Fax: 01397 704624  
 Mobile: 07866552902  
**www.kmfcars.com**

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 Approved Renault Dealer  
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**new car index**

 <b>TOYOTA</b> Helensburgh 5 John Street, Helensburgh Tel. 01436 672779 www.helensburgh.toyota.co.uk	 <b>RENAULT</b> W.D. Semple Inveraray & Lochgilphead Tel. 01499 302150
 <b>ISUZU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080 / 880440	 <b>SUBARU</b> S & S Services Old Bridge Road, Heathfield, Ayr Tel. 01292 880080/880440
 <b>VOLKSWAGEN</b> Hawco Caol, Fort William Tel. 01397 700900 www.hawco.volkswagen.co.uk	<b>TO PROMOTE YOUR NEW CAR DEALERSHIP PLEASE CALL: 01631 568000</b>

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 Contact Donald or Neil  
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# West Coast Jobs [www.westcoastjobs.co.uk](http://www.westcoastjobs.co.uk)



**COMUNN NA GÀIDHLIG**  
**Oifigear Iomairt Gàidhlig**  
 (Tuarastal eadar £22K agus £25K, pro rata, a-rèir eòlais)

Tha Comunn na Gàidhlig a' sreadh Oifigear Iomairt Gàidhlig airson Iomairt Gàidhlig Loch Abair (0.5 FTE). Bidh an oifigear stèidhte agus ag obair ann an Loch Abar. Thathas a' lorg neach-obrach a tha fileanta sa Ghàidhlig, eòlach air a bhith ag obair aig ìre coimhearsnachd, comasach air a bhith ag obair le glè bheag de stiùireadh bho latha gu latha, math air obair co-òrdanaiche agus a bhith a' bruidhinn ri buidhnean 's luchd-obrach aig iomadh ìre. Bidh làn chhead draibhidh aige/aice cuideachd. Sa chiad dol a-mach, 's e cùmhlannt bliadhna a bhios an seo agus gheibhear Tuairisgeul Obrach neo/agus tuilleadh fiosrachaidh, bho Dòmhnall MacNeill, Ceannard Chomunn na Gàidhlig, aig 5 Caolshràid Mhicheil, Inbhir Nis, fòn 01463 234138, post-d. domhnallmacneill@cnag.org.uk. Feumaidh iarrtasan a bhith againn air 5 Cèitean 2010.

'S e companaidh le cothroman cosnaidh co-ionnan a tha ann an Comunn na Gàidhlig.

Tha a' phròiseact seo air a mhaoinachadh le Bòrd na Gàidhlig agus Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd's nan Eilean.

**A' CRUTHACHADH CHOTHROMAN DHAN GHÀIDHLIG**

**Harbro**  
**STOREPERSON**

Harbro operates 11 Country Stores, retailing livestock and pet feeds, animal health products, equine products and clothing. An opportunity has arisen for a fit, enthusiastic and motivated person to work in our Lochgilphead branch.

Physical fitness is required as there will be manual handling. A forklift certificate would be an advantage but is not essential as training would be given. Applicants should be computer literate with good communication skills and a pleasant manner which are important for serving customers.

If you are interested in this post, please apply in writing to Mrs Catriona Crawford, Harbro Limited, Site 14, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RR by Friday, 7th May 2010.

**ARDSHIEL HOTEL, CAMPBELTOWN**

**FULL & PART-TIME WAITRESSES REQUIRED**  
 Experience not essential.

Apply to Flora Grant on 01586 552133

**Lynn of Lorne Care Home**

RGN/RMN required - full or part time

At the Lynn of Lorne we believe that people should be looked after with the utmost dignity and respect and are proud of the high standards we achieve through a continuing philosophy of developing standards and delivering service.

Please contact Brenda on 01631 720278 or email [lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk](mailto:lynnoflorne@arguscare.co.uk)

**barr limited**  
**SITE SECRETARY**

Barr Construction, a division of Barr Limited, has a vacancy for an enthusiastic Site Secretary to work on our site in Oban. The vacancy will be for the duration of the contract, approximately until September 2010.

The successful applicant should have excellent computer skills, display a good telephone manner and be capable of setting up site office procedures and working on their own initiative.

Experience within the Construction Industry is preferred but not essential.

Application forms can be obtained from the:- Director of Personnel, Barr Limited, 100 Inchinnan Road, Paisley, PA3 2RE

Tel: 0141 848 8000  
 Email: [jobs@barr.co.uk](mailto:jobs@barr.co.uk)  
 Web: [www.barr.co.uk](http://www.barr.co.uk)

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**YEOMAN GLENSANDA**

**Coxswain Oban**

Glensanda is the largest granite-producing quarry in Europe. It runs 24 hours a day year-round, has a staff of nearly 200 people, and is unique in both its physical characteristics and its potential as a world centre of excellence.

As Coxswain you will be required to operate our passenger boats transporting personnel to and from Glensanda, crew the Rose of Lorne supply barge and operate or crew line boats during ship berthing. In addition you will assist with maintenance, depot duties and must have a positive, safety conscious approach to your work. The role requires a Boat Masters License with passenger endorsement, or equivalent. A Telehandler license would also be desirable.

As part of Aggregate Industries UK Limited, we offer an attractive salary and benefits package and the career prospects of a global group. Please call 01530 512234 for an application form, or send your CV and covering letter to the HR Department, Aggregate Industries UK Ltd, Old Hall Farm, Copt Oak Road, Markfield, Leicestershire LE67 9PJ or email [hr.deptuk@aggregate.com](mailto:hr.deptuk@aggregate.com), quoting reference 003823.

Closing date: 6 May 2010.

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**TARBERT AND SKIPNESS COMMUNITY TRUST**

**Tarbert Community Garden Coordinator**

Self employed  
 35 hour per week  
 £105/day  
 Fixed term contract until 31st March 2011

We are looking to recruit a Community Garden Coordinator who will work with local groups and individuals who are interested in learning how to grow their own food.

*You will have sound knowledge of growing food, be able to motivate and inspire people about the joys of growing your own, have excellent communication skills and experience of instructing groups of all ages and abilities.*

Application packs can be obtained from Neil Donaldson on 01880 821 504 or email: [biggreentarbert@btinternet.com](mailto:biggreentarbert@btinternet.com)

Closing date: **Friday 7th May 2010**  
 Funded through the Scottish Governments Climate Challenge Fund

**Couple Required For Estate on Loch Fyne**

One responsible for grounds, garden, and forestry.

Clean driving licence and chain saw certificate required

Partner to be housekeeper and cook.

Modernised three bedroom cottage provided.

Write with career details to Box number 57

**stewart consulting**  
 buildings & infrastructure  
**PART TIME SECRETARY**

An experienced Secretary is required by a busy professional practice based in Lochgilphead. The ideal candidate should be highly literate and numerate and have audio-typing, book-keeping, reception and PAYE experience. An attractive salary and good conditions will be offered to the successful candidate. About 20 hours per week subject to negotiation. Applicants should apply in writing with a brief resume of previous experience and current position to:

Martin Stewart  
 Stewart Consulting  
 1 Victoria Buildings, 34 Union Street  
 Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8JS

**Catering Assistant**  
 £6.92 per hour  
**Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: OSF20582/R**  
**Oban Primary Campus, Term time, 12.5hrs per week**

**Cleaning Supervisor**  
 £6.92 per hour  
**Bowmore Primary School, Term time, 12.5hrs per week**  
 01546 604745  
 Closing date: 7 May 2010.  
 To apply visit our website [www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/jobs)

**Mid Argyll Swimming Pool Business Development Manager**

The Mid Argyll Community Swimming Pool has a vacancy for a Business Development Manager, this new post will enhance existing and develop new business opportunities and secure contract and grant funding.

The successful applicant will be an individual who has experience of the sector and a passion for charitable fundraising.

This is a fixed term post for 12 months, but if successful generating recurring income to fund the post, then a permanent position will be considered. Starting salary is £20,000 rising to £24,000 pa (subject to performance).

Job description can be obtained from Mrs J Wilson Director  
 e-mail [thesquarepeg@btconnect.com](mailto:thesquarepeg@btconnect.com)  
 Telephone 01546 602445

The closing date for applications is: **6th May 2010**

Interviews will be held on **Friday 14th May 2010**

**Customer Sales Advisor** [webuyanycar.com](http://webuyanycar.com)

**£15,000 Basic plus Commission**

Due to continued growth and success we have just opened a new site in Oban and looking for a highly motivated and driven individual with excellent communication and customer service skills. You will deal with customers on a face to face business offering an excellent service and customer experience. Previous experience within the motor industry is NOT essential but a strong background in customer service or customer facing sales role is.

You will be given every opportunity within the group to carve a highly successful career, great induction training ensuring you can maintain our exceptional standards for helping our customers sell their cars, and receive ongoing training and development throughout your career with [webuyanycar.com](http://webuyanycar.com)

To apply email CV and details to [recruitment@webuyanycar.com](mailto:recruitment@webuyanycar.com) or contact the recruitment team on 01706 752585

**D & J CAMPBELL HAULAGE**

Part-time book-keeper required, hours to suit, knowledge of sage and wages preferred.

Telephone 01631 710882

**The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES**  
**OFFICE CLEANER REQUIRED**

For modern open-plan office in Oban. Flexible hours to be discussed at interview. Approx. 9 hours spread over five nights Monday - Friday Rate £7.50 per hour. References essential.

For further details and to discuss hours please telephone: Ali Arden, The Oban Times  
 Tel: 01631 568000

**Argyll & Bute Community Health Partnership**

**NHS Highland**  
 Ref: 10ab/060

**Kintyre Locality Clerical Officer/Audio Typist - Band 2**  
 £13,653 - £16,763 pro rata  
 23.5 hours per week, Permanent  
**Medical Records Department, Campbeltown Hospital**

This is an exciting and challenging role for you to provide an efficient audio typing and medical records service to visiting consultants, patients, GPs, medical and nursing staff. Ensuring that your work load is prioritised on a daily basis in order to meet critical timescales, you will ensure that letters are typed accurately and case records for inpatients are administered and processed accurately. You will also ensure that patient's medical records remain confidential, are securely stored and are available as and when necessary.

Experienced in audio typing, you will have a good knowledge of medical terminology, be keen, motivated, have an interest in training, be assertive and confident, and be flexible in your approach.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Moira Menzies, Medical Records Officer, on 01586 555814.

Application packs are available from the HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB, call 01546 606788 (24 hour answering service) or email: [recruitment.ab@nhs.net](mailto:recruitment.ab@nhs.net)  
 Closing date for receipt of applications: 14 May 2010.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be. [www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk](http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk)

**inspire child services**  
**Staff Vacancies**

Inspire Children's Services are currently recruiting for various posts. SVQ and HNC qualifications are preferable. Child care experience and driving licence are essential. Competitive package available. Closing Date for applications Tuesday 4th May 2010

To request an application form or for more information call: 01397 722317

**WEST COAST TOOL AND PLANT HIRE**

Requires **Plant Fitter / Mechanic for on and off site vehicle and machinery repairs**

Must have relevant experience  
 Telephone 07887 610080

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**AUTOSLEEPER CAMPERVAN**

4 berth, 2.5 diesel, taxed till October, MOT March 2011, 1990 first registered, must be seen.  
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**£6500 o.n.o.**

**RENAULT KANGOO TREKKA EXPRESSION 4X4 1.9 DCI**

2004 (04) One owner since new. FSH. Tax to 09/10. MoT to 08 10. 82K miles. Air/Con, R/Rails, T/box, Elect/windows, Rad/CD. 5 Door - Sliding rear doors, Tail Gate, Front spots. Large capacity load interior, Split Rear Seats. Alloy Wheels. Good/new Tyres  
 Tel: 07774 775121 or 01880 820922 Evenings

**£3950**

**STATIC CARAVAN**

Atlas Fanfare  
 31ft  
 2 bedroom  
 Good condition

Telephone: 01880 770224

**£200 o.n.o.**

**AUDI A3 1.8SE**

2001, Blue, 57,500 miles, MOT November 2010  
 FSH, Good condition.  
 Tel: 07833 125081

**£3,800**

**SMART ROADSTER COUPE**

2003, 22K Miles  
 3 Door, 1 Owner  
 MOT & Taxed Oct.  
 Excellent Sports Car.  
 Telephone: 01770 (Arran) 303787

**£4,000 Fixed Price**

**WANTED**

Small caravan in reasonable condition

Telephone: 01546 606771

**FLEETWOOD COUNTRYSIDE 2000 450 EB 17FT TOURER**

Single axle, 2 berth, End shower room with toilet and basin, Warm air / central heating, Hob, fridge, cooker, Flyscreens/blinds to all windows, Excellent condition, Awnings included.  
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**£4,500**

**POLARIS PREDATOR 500CC**

Tel: 07768 975019

**£2,000**

**VAUXHALL ZAFIRA (7 SEATS)**

1.8 petrol, 53 reg, Blue  
 92,000 miles, Full MOT, 6 months tax  
 Tel: 01546 810260

**£2500**

**RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 RXE AUTOMATIC**

N reg, 12 months MOT, 2 months Tax, 42,500 miles excellent runner.  
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**54%**  
 of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car

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AFRICAN FIGURE HEAD from Central Africa, excellent condition, £35 Telephone 07766 966220P.

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BRAND NEW ITEM/MOVING ABROAD Lindam bounce about plus door bouncer, cost £25, £10 Telephone 01546 602161.

BRAND NEW ITEM/MOVING ABROAD Mothercare Congo stroller, red with raincover, very lightweight, £10.00 Telephone 01546 602161.

BRAND NEW ITEMS/MOVING ABROAD Mothercare steam steriliser and white baby bath. Bottles are not included with this product, £15 Telephone 01546 602161.

CHICCO 'LONDON' BUGGY grey in colour, from birth upwards, has detachable cosy toes, raincover, basket, shopping net, 2 buggy toys, £15 Telephone 01631 710523.

CHILD CARRIER bike trailer by Lil Trooper, seats 2 children, £45 Telephone 01546 510366.

CHILD SEAT for bike by Rhode Gear, £10 Telephone 01546 510366.

COTMOBILE Lovely, unusual cot mobile, padded spiral, mostly purple with other colours, wind up to play lullaby and rotate, vgc, £15 Telephone 01631 569953.

MAMAS AND PAPAS BASKET Beautiful moses basket and stand, Mamas and Papas zeddy and thubar range, cream and lemon, boys or girls like new bargain, £45 Telephone 01631 569953.

USED HANDFUL OF TIMES ONLY Chicco baby walker in square shape with tray. Cost £45. Cond as new, £10 Telephone 01546 602161.

BICYCLES

BIKE 24" front suspension bike, black, 18 shimano gears, suit boy or girl 8-11. Telephone 01546 603103, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602656.

BIKE 24" full suspension bike, 18 shimano gears, suit boy or girl 8-11. Telephone 01546 603103, £49.99 Telephone 01546 602656.

CAR RACK FOR 3 CYCLES rack for 3 bicycles fits onto the boot of most cars - you need a boot! Good condition used once, £49 Telephone 01546 850326.

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NEW CEMENT BOARDS 8'x4'x10mm. Suitable for internal & external cladding for garages, ext etc. Can be sawn cost £20, bargain £4 each. Telephone 01866 83264.

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BOYS CLOTHES IWWE jacket, age 9, 1 green jacket age 9.2 pair of Tesco trackies age 8/9, pair of Adidas trackies 7 pair of army trousers 8yr, £20 Telephone 07787 125579.

GENTS DINNER SUIT navy, jacket 38R, trousers 32R, only used once. Material teflon good condition, £49.99 Telephone 01631 564398.

JACKET weatherproof, offshore jacket, large, brand new, £25 Telephone 07766 966220P.

JACKET Nike, red jacket, fully lined, large, brand new, £25 Telephone 07766 966220P.

LADIES LEATHER JACKET pink, as new, size 16, £15 Telephone 01688 302154.

LADIES SUED COAT brown, as new, size 16, £15 Telephone 01688 302154.

LEATHER COAT gents three quarter, Milan black leather, never worn, size 44", £49.99 Telephone 07766 966220P.

MAN'S LEATHER JACKET black, as new, large, £20 Telephone 01688 302154.

ONE PIECE SUIT weather proof, quilted, large, almost new, £25 Telephone 07766 966220P.

THERAPIST UNIFORM black size 14, polyester, been used, £7.50 Telephone 07787 125579.

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COMPUTER KEYBOARD & MOUSE Microsoft Wireless Optical keyboard and mouse, £5 Telephone 01586 810379.

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CARPET SWEEPER Ewbank, £8.00 Telephone 01397 703928.

CORBY 4400 TROUSER PRESS trouser press barely used, £25.00 Telephone 07810 565968.

P O R T A B L E DEHUMIDIFIER For problems with dampness & condensation. White 20x13x13 inches. Very light, on castors. Perfect condition, as new, in box, £45 Telephone 01855 811714.

PRESSURE COOKER Tefal Clipso - Nearly New. Suitable for all hobs including halogen, £8 Telephone 01586 810379.

SLOW COOKER Morphy Richards (unused), £25 Telephone 07958 005852P.

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SPANIEL PUPS Spaniel Puppies from excellent well behaved working dogs. Black and white. Dogs and bitches available, ready now. Telephone 07789 891089/01496 820207.

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you could offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01465 255696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

JACK RUSSELL Puppies small type, lovely markings, wormed and well fed, happy pups. Both parents owned. Loving homes required. £10 each - cash. Telephone 01546 603770

EQUESTRIAN

GELDING COB 14.2hh gelding, 11yrs old, passport & chipped good to shoe, box & on road, lives out great potential - experienced rider, reluctant sale due to lack of time. Telephone 01866 822656.

PONY 13hh Welsh X Gelding, 10 years old, lives out, good potential with right owner, passport and micro chipped, sadly outgrown. Telephone 01499 500248.

FIREARMS

TIKKA T3 LITE RIFLE Stainless/Synthetic, 2.2-2.50, with T8 moderator and Tikka mounts, FAC Holders only, £600.00 Telephone 07900 958853.

FURNITURE

VANITY UNIT. New, good quality (Roper Rhodes), solid wood, antique pine with white Edwardian style basin cost £400 plus will accept £175 ono. Telephone 07720 542981.

BEDROOM UNITS three pieces, also dressing table, cream/brown, perfect condition. For quick sale, £49 Telephone 01586 550053.

COUCH, TWO SEATER red, hardly used. For quick sale, £40 Telephone 01586 550053.

DISPLAY UNIT beautiful oak living room unit, perfect condition. For quick sale, £40 Telephone 01586 550053.

ELECTRIC ADJUSTABLE SINGLE BED with memory foam mattress, in good condition, £150 Telephone 07818 438084P.

FIRE SURROUND elm / mantelpiece, excellent order, £40 Telephone 01546 810203.

FOLDING TABLE large, £15 Telephone 0=01631 563935.

IRONING BOARD, £8 Telephone 01631 563935.

NEW ARMCHAIR light coloured, never used. For quick sale, £30 Telephone 01586 550053.

SINGLE BED HEADBOARD pine single bed headboard, £20.00 Telephone 07810 565968.

SINGLE DIVAN With pull out guest bed, vgc, £85 Telephone 01631 562003P.

SINGLE PINE BED Pine single bed frame - solid construction, good condition. Please collect - Fort William, £45 Telephone 07731 707375.

TABLE DESK ideal for study work, £10 Telephone 01546 602684.

TV UNIT mahogany corner with glass front, excellent condition, total width 45", height 24", depth 20", £25 Telephone 01546 602684.

LIVESTOCK

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Calum and Jean MacLean would like to thank all the family for the lovely evening at The Manor House, Oban on the occasion of their Golden Wedding and also for the super present. We would also like to thank the neighbours for the party, and everyone who gave us cards and presents, with a special thanks to the manager and staff at The Manor House and Bossards for the lovely cake.

David Paterson wishes to thank all his friends in the Taynuilt area and the local Police, for the beautiful gifts he received on his recent retirement and for contributing towards such an enjoyable farewell Ceilidh.

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**BIRTHS**

**SMITH** - Jamie and Claire nee Black, are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Isla Lynn, born April 13, 2010. Many thanks for the excellent care from the maternity staff at The Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban and R.A.H.Paisley.

**DEATHS**

**ANDERSON** - Peacefully in Abbeyfield, Ballachulish on Sunday April 11, 2010, aged 87 years, Mairi Anderson nee MacKenzie (Kinlochleven). Beloved mother, sister, aunt, grandmother and friend. Sadly Missed. Gus am bris an latha agus an teich na sgàilean.

**EASTON** - Peacefully on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at Ochil Care Home, Perth, Isobel (nee Stewart), formerly of Connel and Glasgow. Loving wife of the late Dr Gordon Easton, dear mother of Catriona, Margaret, John, Peter and Seonag. Funeral at St Oran's, Connel on Friday, March 23 at 1pm, thereafter to Oban Cemetery. Family flowers only please, donations if desired to An Comunn Gàidhealach.

**McELHINNEY** - Frances. Peacefully, at The Lorn and Islands Hospital on Sunday, April 18, 2010, after a long illness bravely borne, Frances (nee Robb) in her 77th year of Ards House Connel, formerly of Glasgow and Lochawe. Beloved wife of the late Robert, devoted mother of Margaret and the late John, mother-in-law to Denis and cherished nana of Christopher and Lucy. Funeral service at St. Oran's Church, Connel on Monday, April 26, at 12 noon, followed by the interment at Glen Shira Cemetery Inveraray to which all friends are respectfully invited. Until we meet again may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

**MACKENZIE** - Sadly but peacefully, on April 20, 2010 at the Lorn and Islands Hospital, Oban, Moira, 36 Lochneil Road, Dunbeg, beloved wife of Hector and loving mother of George and May. Funeral will take place from Ardchatten Parish Church, North Connel on Thursday (today), April 22, 2010 at 1.30pm thereafter to Achnaba Cemetery.

**ROBERTSON** - Hector Duncan passed away peacefully at home on April 14, 2010, beloved husband of Mary, loving father of Mary-Ann and Duncan. He will be sadly missed. Funeral was held on Tuesday April 20 at 12 noon in the Duncansburgh MacIntosh Church and interment took place in Ardour Cemetery.

**SMITH - FLORA** - Peacefully in her 86th year, on April 19, 2010, at Glassary Ward Mid Argyll Hospital, Flora Jane Smith, nee MacDonald, of Lorn, Kilmichael Glassary. Beloved wife of the late Hugh D. Smith, Balliemore Farm. Dear mother of William, James and Lorna, and Gran to Dianne, Rosslyn, Murray and Craig, great gran to Zoe. Mother-in-law to Catherine and Russell. Funeral service will be held in Kilmichael Glassary Parish Church, today, Thursday April 22, 2010, at 1.30pm, thereafter to Achnabreac Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Donations, if desired, to Glassary Ward, M.A Hospital.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**ANDERSON** - The family of the late Mairi Anderson nee MacKenzie (Kinlochleven) would like to thank everyone for the kind expressions of sympathy, flowers and cards at this sad time. Our thanks to the Staff at Abbeyfield Ballachulish, all at the Surgery Kinlochleven, the District Nurses, Helen and Dougie MacIntyre for their sensitive and dignified funeral arrangements, Morag Muirhead and the officers of the Church of Scotland Kinlochleven for the service and spiritual support, James Kennedy, Graham Lawrie, Jeannete and Lesley and special thanks to the MacNicol family Spean Bridge for their deep friendship and support to us all. Gus am bris an latha agus an teich na sgàilean.

**ELLIOT** - Janette and family would like to thank most sincerely all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their support and kindness, letters, cards and flowers received during their sad loss. Special thanks to Rev L. Gibson for her kind visits and most comforting services, also to Killin Mountain Rescue Team, the local Fire Services also the Police

Service. Thanks to all who paid their last respects at Crianlarich Hall and at Cardross Crematorium. Special thanks to all who generously donated the sum of £1,800 to Marie Curie and also Falls of Dochart Retirement Home.

**LAWSON** - The family of the late Eileen Lawson wish to convey their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness and support, their expressions of sympathy, flowers, cards and letters received in their sad bereavement, thanks to Drs Headden and Ellis for their unfailing attention over the years and to all the nurses and staff of the surgery in Kinlochleven, to the carers who provided such support, to Mrs Pat Walker for her comforting services, to the organist and church elders and to the funeral director for the funeral arrangements, thank you to all who were present at the church and the graveside. - 17 Rob Roy Road, Kinlochleven.

**MACDONALD** - Margaret, wife of the late Andrew and their respective families wish to thank relations, friends and neighbours for their expressions of sympathy, cards, letters, flowers, phone calls etc received on the very sad loss of Andrew. Sincere thanks to the Rev Dr Roddy MacLeod for his support and most comforting service, the Rev Catherine Knott for readings, thanks to the organist, the Rev Cameron and The Rev Gray for visits, prayers to Andrew and Margaret at the hospital. Special thanks to Fergus, this was a musical tribute of violin, composed by Fergus especially for Uncle Andrew. Special thanks to Captain Eric Smith and crew of the lighthouse ship for their dignified and respectful manner carrying Andrew's coffin shoulder high out of the church. Thanks to Ian MacInnes for his efficient, sympathetic funeral arrangements. Thank you to all who came to pay their respects at the church and graveside. God Bless You All.

**MACAFFER** - The family of the late Jean MacAffer SRN, SCM would like to thank the great Island community spirit shown to them which carried them through last week, especially visits, phone calls, cards, floral tributes, refreshments, beautiful baking and soup handed in, also a heart felt thanks to our new and old friends, Dr Rob Barlow and Dr Frank Gibson for their uplifting service. Her niece Jean for the lovely organ music, piper James for her favourite tunes, staff at Islay Hospital for her care in the last few weeks and Dr Mertz for his support and visits, also our grateful thanks to Lynn, Yvonne, Catriona, Sheena and Kathleen for all their kitchen duties. All who travelled from near and far to attend the service. To Neilan and team for the usage beatha at Kilnoughton. Her own stalwarts RB, Donnie and all her friends who helped on the day. Granny would have been so proud of the dignified way her grandchildren arranged and carried out her funeral. The support by you all was very much appreciated.

**MACINTYRE** - The family of the late Duncan Macintyre would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their kind expressions of sympathy extended to them with cards, letters and flowers in their recent sudden loss. Sincere thanks to the Rev Willis Jones for his wonderful words of comfort at the service and to William T Fraser and Son for the excellent and compassionate handling of the funeral. Grateful thanks to Highland Home Carers for their professionalism and their exemplary caring of Dad in the last three years. Many thanks also to Dad's ex-colleagues from Inverness-shire Constabulary who acted as Pall Bearers and to the many others who paid their last respects. Thanks also to the Beaufort Hotel for providing an excellent buffet. The sum of £525.66 was generously donated for the Police Benevolent Fund.

**TURNER** - Maureen, John and family would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy in their recent sad loss of Annie. Sincere thanks to Roderick, Fiona, Steven at Donald MacDonald, Funeral Directors, Mishnish Hotel, Tobermory for fine purvey, and Rev. Nelson for a comforting service. Eternal gratitude to all the staff at Lynn of Lorne Care Home for their devoted care and compassion shown to mum through her final years, lastly thanks to

all who donated over £180 to the Tobermory Church Sunday School.

**WILSON** - The family of the late Effie Wilson, 13 Lorn Avenue, Dunollie would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy, cards, phone calls and flowers on the sad loss of their mum. Thanks to ambulance crews, all staff at Ward C of the Oban Hospital, Dr Nikki Campbell and Mr Fattah, also to Level 7, West Wing of the Western Infirmary in Glasgow, Dr Michael Boyle and Dr Alison Murray and to many medical staff who treated her over the last few years. Thanks also to Mary-Catherine and Neil Home who took part in the Funeral Service, grateful thanks to Catriona Hoey and family for their sympathetic funeral arrangements, and finally to the Royal Hotel for their catering. A retail collection at the Cathedral made £356.53 in aid of Ward C and the Oban Hospice Fund.

**MEMORIAM**

**CAMPBELL** - In loving memory of our mum/granny Linda. Always in our thoughts Missing you everyday. - Mairi, Elaine, Jennifer, Aran and Lachie.

**GADSON** - Catherine (nee Rena MacLean) In loving memory of our dear mother and grandmother who passed away April 24, 2009. Though her smile is gone forever

And her hand we cannot touch Still we have so many memories Of the one we loved so much. Her memory is our keepsake With which we will never part; God has her in his keeping We have her in our hearts; Missed with grief beyond tears. Deeply missed by Alistair, Sylvia, Bernard, Hayley, Bernard Jr., Rena, John, Ina, Nylah and Knox.

**GILLIES** - Treasured memories of my dear mum, Morag, died April 24, 2002, also remembering with love my dad, Duncan, died November 14, 1987 and uncle Angus, died August 1, 2005 and all deceased relatives and friends. Always in my thoughts and prayers. - Maureen.

**GILLIES** - Treasured memories of my beloved husband, Ronnie, who died April 26, 2003. Always in my thoughts Forever in my heart. - From wife May.

**GILLIES** - In loving memory of Ronnie, a dear dad, papa and great grandfather. Always in our thoughts. - Love Theresa, Iain, Catherine, Laura, Richard and Seamus.

**HAMILTON** - In loving memory of Brian, our dear dad and grandpa who passed away on April 22, 2003. We miss you in so many ways We miss the things you used to say And when old times we do recall It's then we miss you most of all. - Jim, Pamela, James and Christopher.

**JOHNSTONE** - Treasured memories of a devoted husband, dad and ganga, Neil who died April 26, 2008. You are not gone You are with me in every footstep Every heartbeat, every dawn, every sunset. - All my love Ena. Forever in our hearts Always in our thoughts. - Neil and Daniel. Missing you and loving you always. - Raema, Graham, Jamie and Paul.

**JOHNSTONE** - Precious memories of our ganga (Neil), who passed away April 26, 2008. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts x. - Catriona, Trevor, James and Natalie.

**JOHNSTONE** - In loving memory of our dear Ganga (Neil) Memories in our hearts today Mean more than words can ever say. Gemma, Simon, Cara and Ryan x

**MACEWAN** - Treasured memories of our dear father and grandfather Ian C. MacEwan, who left us on April 23, 1977. Forever in our thoughts From all the family.

**MACGILLIVRAY** - In loving memory of my dear husband, John, who died April 23, 2000. Ever fondly remembered. - Margaret. **MACGILLIVRAY** - Fond

memories of a dear father, John (Jockan), who died April 23, 2000. Ten years have passed since that sad day But memories of you will forever stay. - Jane and Brian.

**MACGREGOR** - Treasured memories of Robert, who passed away on April 25, 1999. A dear son and brother. Always in our thoughts - Mum, Anne and Duncan.

**MACGREGOR** - Treasured memories of Robert, taken from us on April 25, 1999. A loving brother to Ally, brother-in-law to Kathleen and uncle to Ewan, Jamie and Rachel. Until we meet again.

**MACINTYRE** - In loving memory of my beloved husband, Archie, who died April 22, 2001. Devoted father of Keith and the late Sharon who died December 19, 2008, Loving grandpa and father-in-law. Gone from our lives But never from our hearts. - Frances and families in Lochawe and South Laggan.

**MACLEOD** - In loving memory of our dear mum and granny, Sheila, who died April 17, 1996. Gone from our homes But not from our hearts. Remembering also all loved ones gone before and after. - Love from all the family in Kinlochleven and away x.

**PURDEN** - Precious memories of our son Angus who left us April 22, 1998 aged 25. Angus if only we could meet you For just a little while To tell you how much we miss you Or just to see you smile It broke our hearts to lose you But you did not go alone For part of us went with you The day God called you home Forever in our hearts son. - Mum and Dad xx. No longer here our love to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Frances and Andrew.

**ROBERTSON** - Remembering my cousin John, (Lochaline), who died so suddenly on April 28, 2008 aged 48. Always in my thoughts Catherine, Stonehaven.

**STEWART** - In loving memory of a dear father and grandfather, Jimmy, who died April 25, 1989. Gone are the days we used to share But in our hearts you are always there. - Catherine, Kenneth, Margaret and families.

**SUTHERLAND** - In loving memory of Sandy, a dear dad and grandpa, passed away April 26, 2002. Loved and remembered always. - All the family.

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Staff from Mary's Meals look at some of the items to be modelled at the fashion show on Sunday.

**Taking to the runway for Mary's Meals**

THE MARY'S Meals Fashion Show on Sunday April 25 will be a chance for fashionistas to enjoy an afternoon of style and substance. The event, at The Royal Hotel in Oban, will show highlights from Mary's Meals' Oban shop's collection of clothes and accessories. All the items have been donated by members of the public, and the outfits, created and modelled by volunteers, will vary from up-to-the-minute spring fashion, to

classic suits and party wear. 'You can get a beautiful outfit from our shop for less than £9, which is enough to feed a child for a year,' said Marie Rowan, manager of the shop on Stevenson Street. 'Our customers look great and help hungry children at the same time.' Mary's Meals Oban shop does not have a regular supplier and relies on the generosity of local people donating clothes, textiles,

accessories, books and bric-a-brac.' There will be six themes to the catwalk section of the show; office wear, girls' night out, day wear, country wear and wedding wear, as well as a flower demonstration and auction, by Angela from Oban Flower House. All the items worn will be available after the show. Tickets cost £10, including lunch. They are available from the Mary's Meals Shop on Stevenson Street in Oban, 01631 566884.



Donald and Jean MacColl being given a bouquet by Councillor Mary Jean Devon.



Malcolm and Jean MacLean receiving a bouquet of flowers on behalf of Argyll and Bute Council.

**Mull couples celebrate 50 years of marriage**

TWO MULL couples have celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversaries, just two days apart. Donald and Jean MacColl and Malcolm and Jean MacLean have all lived on Mull their entire lives and both couples got married on the island. Donald and Jean married at Lagganulva on March 30, 1960. **Worked together** They 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. The couple 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 meal on the island. Malcolm and Jean married on April 1, 1960 in the High Church, Tobermory. They have three children, Carol, Susan and Calum. Malcolm was a painter/decorator, and since he has retired Calum

has taken over the business. After the children had left home, Jean worked as a cook in Dunaros Hospital. **Celebrate** To celebrate the special day, the family went to Manor House Hotel in Oban for a meal. The couple received many presents from friends and family, but perhaps the most special was from their children, who got together to buy their parents a cruise to the fjords of Norway in September.

**Obituary**

**Jimmy Weir (February 3 1927 - March 6 2010)**

JAMES Weir was a leading livestock auctioneer and Managing Director of United Auctions, one of Scotland's leading auction firms. He was an ambassador for the Agricultural sector showing unstinting dedication and commitment in a career spanning almost 50 years. Born 1927 in Fife and educated at Bell Baxter High in Cupar, he chose to train as a livestock auctioneer with Speedie Brothers, also based in Cupar. In 1945 he was called up for National Service joining the Artillery garrisoned at Fort George, near Inverness. Just as the war was ending he was posted to the Far East

- Java and Singapore. He turned down the chance of officer training preferring to leave the army to restart his life as an auctioneer. In 1953 he received the first of many promotions and was transferred to Speedie Bros in Stirling. It was at this time he met his future wife, Betty Loudon, at a farmers dance at the McClintock Memorial Hall in Balfour. They were married a year later in Killearn Church. Jimmy was a dynamic and colourful character who had connections throughout the UK livestock industry. He specialised in the sale of store and prime sheep where he built up sales to record levels of over 10,000 head per week

at Speedie Bros mart at Wallace Street in Stirling. In 1966 Jimmy continued his successful career when moving to the new United Auctions mart at Kildean where he remained instrumental in further developing the business. Jimmy was also widely recognised as a leading arbiter and was involved in many sheep stock valuations throughout the country. On his retirement in 1992 he was Managing Director of United Auctions and a main board member of the UA Group. He had a very special affection for the west coast, especially the Dalmally area, where he received much acclaim for the development of the quality of stock in the area. On his retirement in 1992 the farming community at Dalmally organised a retirement ceilidh and presentation in recognition of his achievements and all that he had done for the local mart and the surrounding area. Outside of work he enjoyed travelling, gardening and horse racing, and was a popular guest auctioneer at major charity events. He is survived by his wife Betty, his two sons and a daughter.



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# Gary wants to win the Scottish Six Days Trial

'Anything can happen and luck will play its part'



Gary MacDonald will be hoping to follow his success in the ACU British Trials Experts Championship in Kent last September with victory in the SSdT.

**KINLOCHLEVEN** rider Gary MacDonald is ready for the Scottish Six Days Trial (SSdT) on May 3-8 - and is determined to become only the second-ever Scottish winner.

It is the lifetime ambition of the semi-professional JST Gas Gas rider to win the prestigious trial - and join 1935 victor Bob MacGregor, the only Scotsman to have topped the podium - in the record books.

Gary got his first trials bike for Christmas when he was just nine, and the 26-year hopes to bring all his local knowledge to bear when the action starts.

'My dad used to ride, and so did all my uncles,' Gary said. 'I've been going to the SSdT since I was a kid. Many of the sections are literally a stone's throw from

## SIX DAYS TRIAL

my house. My dad rode as a clubman in 1978 and 1983, and it is a part of my life. It has been for as long as I can remember. To compete each year is really special, and to win it would be a dream come true.'

Gary's best finish to date was a third place in 2003, in what was only his second attempt at the gruelling six-day marathon.

### Silly mistakes

He said: 'I was eligible to ride in 2001, but the event was cancelled due to Foot and Mouth. I was gutted because I had to wait another twelve months. In 2002 I came joint seventh, which was a good result considering it was my first crack. Then the following year I came third. I could have won it that year, I was leading all week, right up until the Saturday, but a couple of silly mistakes towards the end cost me dear.'

Gary is maturing as a rider and will be up there with the big names from the World Championship. He

came second in the British Trials Championship Expert A class last year and is a multi-Scottish champion. However, he is under no illusions as to the difficulty of the task ahead.

'I always go to the SSdT thinking I can win,' he said. 'There are a lot of really good riders this year. The guys like Dougie Lampkin, Alexz Wigg, James Dabill and Albert Cabestany are all professional riders, whereas I'm a joiner by day and trials rider at the weekend. In that company I would be happy with a top ten, and delighted with a top five, but I always go there to win.'

'Anything can happen and luck will play its part. If I can keep a steady head and stay consistent I have a chance. You cannot worry about what the others are doing. They are professional riders that train every day so they will perhaps not get as tired, but I know the area well and I know what to expect. So having local knowledge is a real advantage.'



The 356-strong field sprint off from the start at An Aird.

# Ding-dong battle at Lochaber Marathon

**KIRKINTILLOCH** man Stewart Kerr won the Lochaber Marathon on Sunday after a ding-dong battle with Kerry Liam Wilson from Cambuslang over the last 10 miles.

Kerr broke the tape at An Aird in a fast time of 2.31.43, only 17 seconds ahead of Wilson with Robert Gilroy in third. Gilroy had been right up with the pace up to 17 miles but gradually dropped back as Kerr and Wilson fought for supremacy at the head of the field and he finished in 2.34.26.

### Personal best

First Lochaber man home was John Binnie, who knocked an incredible 19 minutes off his personal best to come home in 3.05.55 and 35<sup>th</sup> place overall.

Amanda Blackhall was first Lochaber woman home in 3.19.06, taking another five minutes off her personal best time.

## MARATHON

Race convener Claire Rungay told The Oban Times the race result was in doubt almost to the tape.

She told The Oban Times: 'The pair of them had a real battle between them and they fair enjoyed it.'

Claire said quite a few runners called off because the Icelandic volcanic eruption had grounded all flights, but one USA competitor, Enrique Arroyo, was not so easily put off and drove all the way to Lochaber - from Stuttgart in Germany.

'We gave him a bottle of whisky and the 26-mile marker to take home as souvenirs,' said Claire.

The event also welcomed around 70 senior athletes from the British Masters Athletics Federation clubs, who competed on the day.

## Shinty leagues

### Scottish Hydro Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Newtonmore	6	4	2	0	16	3	10
Fort William	6	5	0	1	18	6	10
Inveraray	6	4	0	2	19	14	8
Kyles Athletic	6	2	2	2	10	10	6
Kingussie	5	2	1	2	15	12	5
Bute	6	2	1	3	12	11	4
Glenurquhart	6	2	1	3	9	14	4
Oban Camanachd	6	2	1	3	9	15	4
Lovat	5	2	0	3	10	11	3
GMA	6	0	0	6	5	27	0

### Marine Harvest North Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lochaber	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
Caberfeidh	5	2	1	1	12	8	6
Skye	3	2	0	0	9	5	5
Beaully	4	2	1	1	8	7	5
Kilmallie	3	2	1	1	12	4	4
Lochcarron	4	1	2	2	5	12	3
Strathglass	4	1	3	3	6	8	2
Kinlochshiel	4	1	3	3	5	9	2
Inverness	4	0	3	3	3	21	1

### Marine Harvest North Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenurquhart	5	4	0	1	16	6	8
Lovat	5	3	1	1	13	11	7
Newtonmore	4	3	0	1	17	8	6
Fort William	4	3	0	1	11	5	6
Glengarry	4	3	0	1	7	5	6
Kinlochshiel	5	2	1	2	7	12	5
Kingussie	4	1	0	3	9	10	2
Beaully	4	1	0	3	5	10	2
Kilmallie	4	0	1	3	2	7	1
Skye	5	0	1	4	5	20	1

### Marine Harvest North Division Three

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Aberdeen Uni	4	4	0	0	19	2	8
Lochaber	3	3	0	0	18	0	6
Caberfeidh	3	3	1	0	6	2	5
Lochcarron	3	3	0	1	8	6	4
Boleskine	5	5	0	3	9	17	4
Inverness	5	5	1	3	7	14	3
Ardnamuchan	5	5	0	4	10	12	2
Lochbroom	3	3	0	2	2	5	2
Strathglass	5	5	0	4	5	19	2

### Marine Harvest South Division One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy	5	5	0	0	16	2	10
Kilmory	4	3	1	0	11	5	7
Lochside Rovers	5	2	1	2	8	9	5
Oban Celtic	5	1	2	2	6	9	4
Ballachulish	3	0	2	1	3	8	2
Taynuilt	5	0	2	3	7	13	2
Inveraray	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

### Marine Harvest South Division Two

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kyles Athletic	4	3	1	0	15	1	7
GMA	5	2	1	2	11	8	5
Aberdour	3	2	1	0	7	5	5
Col Glen	5	2	1	2	9	18	5
Strachur	5	1	2	2	5	8	4
Tayforth	4	1	0	3	9	10	2
Bute	2	0	0	2	2	8	0



## Shinty girls are toast of the Highlands

Lochaber High School girls proved themselves to be up with the best in Highland schools shinty when they won a recent seven-team round robin tournament at Ballachulish. In the competition, hosted by Kinlochleven High School, the girls came top overall and came through undefeated, winning four games and drawing two. Coach and deputy headteacher Alan Morgon said: 'The girls played consistently well throughout. They are really coming on and showed a good level of skill and fitness.'

## Lochaber outclassed by airmen

**LOCHABER** Rugby Club had four teams in action last weekend with the first team playing host to RAF Kinloss at Banavie, the P6/P7s away overnight to Caithness, the S1/S2s up against Highland in Inverness and the under 16s at home to Highland at Banavie on Sunday.

Lochaber first team were outclassed by a strong RAF Kinloss team, with the airmen's centres and back row cutting the home defensive line to shreds.

Lochaber found themselves three tries down with only 10 minutes on the clock and struggled to keep up in the first half. On the plus side Lochaber's young props performed much better this week and held up well in the scrum against experienced opponents.

In the second-half Lochaber rallied and gave the home crowd something to shout about. The forwards changed their lineout tactics and started to drive at the

heart of the RAF Kinloss defence.

Captain Ali Revit crashed over for a try from 10 yards out then scrum-half Ross Wallace dived round the side of a ruck for a second try, which full-back Ali Donaldson converted.

However, RAF Kinloss played some of the best rugby seen at Banavie in several years and the final score was an eye-watering 92-12.

Lochaber's age-grade teams fared better. Although the P6/P7s lost their three ties in the Caithness tournament, they showed a lot of spirit and put up a good fight in their final tie against Orkney. The S1/S2s' match at Highland was much more even than the 32-0 score-line suggested and the coaches were pleased with the boys' improvement. The under 16s were the

## RUGBY

only winning team of the weekend beating Highland 19-17 in a close fought battle at Banavie on Sunday.

The next big event at the rugby club is the annual seven-a-side tournament on the May Bank Holiday weekend.

The tournament kicks off at 12pm on Saturday. Hot and cold refreshments are available in the clubhouse throughout the day followed by a ceilidh in the evening. It's a fun day out for all the family so why not come along?

Many would-be participants contacted LRFC asking for an invitation - which just shows what a big draw the tournament has become over recent years and is a great compliment to the Banavie club.

Many Central Belt teams and one from the Borders will join an outfit travelling from London for the event.

# Huntly fall to a rejuvenated Fort

## By Stephen Norris

### REJUVENATED

Fort William line up against Formartine United at Claggan Park on Saturday full of confidence after their stunning 3-1 away victory over Huntly last weekend.

Calum MacLean's men had been threatening to shoot down several Highland League high flyers in recent weeks with some fine football as first Fraserburgh, then Buckie escaped from Claggan Park with the points only after varying shades of daylight robbery had been employed.

Eventually somebody had to get on the wrong end of a telling Fort performance - and on Saturday it just so happened Huntly were the fall guys.

The Black and Golds might feel shamefaced at being humbled by the bottom club - but make no mistake, as any Fort William fan will tell you the team's form of late has made this kind of result inevitable.

All Calum MacLean's men needed on Saturday was Lady Luck to arrive - but

## Golf Festival at the Dragon's Tooth

### GOLF

A CHILDREN'S golf festival at Dragon's Tooth Golf Course at Ballachulish gave over 50 local P6 and P7 children tips on the game last Thursday.

The event involved Ballachulish, Kinlochleven, Duror, Glencoe and St Bride's pupils and was the first of several the club has arranged to teach its golf programme through local schools. Dragon's Tooth owner, Laurence Young said: 'We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful spot as this in Lochaber - a beautiful area of natural parkland in a stunning location.'

## FOOTBALL

Michael Ellis got their first to fire Fort ahead after only 27 seconds after a Huntly defensive mix-up.

Soane levelled before the break, but that reverse only fired Fort up and they began to play with true confidence and verve.

Huntly tried to keep it tight, but they had no answer to Sam Urquhart's 70<sup>th</sup> minute rocket from 22 yards to restore the lead.

Previously Fort might have tried to hang on, but these days it appears attack is the best form of defence and within two minutes Sean Ellis had waltzed past Bremner to score a brilliant third.

Two incredible saves from Campbell followed to ensure the points were going nowhere but back to Fort William with the victorious Lochaber men.

Speaking on Monday, Fort boss Maclean reckons improved fitness levels and two-touch training games to improve passing

and movement are finally beginning to reap dividends. 'The boys moaned at the start, but I think we can see the benefits now,' he told The Oban Times. 'They do work very hard, and most teams are saying to us that we are very fit and we never stop, which is great.'

Fort were due to play Brora away last night.

### Seven teams enter Welfare League

SEVEN teams have registered for this year's Lochaber Welfare League. They are Ballachulish, Mallaig, Celtic, Lundavra, Caol Utd, Fort William U-17s and Rangers.

The first game takes place at the Canal Park on Wednesday May 5 at 7pm.

The league is actively searching for a sponsor to assist with the running costs.

A player of the year trophy has been introduced this year with referees picking a man of the match at every game.

## Cricket season starts

### CRICKET

FORT WILLIAM Cricket Club began their season with two 20/20 games against Highland and Ross County at Strathpeffer last Saturday.

Results: Highland 160-7 off 20 overs (R.Nixon 67, G.Farrell 2-15, K.O'Meara 2-23)

Fort William 115-9 off 20 overs (G.Farrell 37, P.Farrell 20, A.Graham 3-15) Highland won by 45 runs.

Fort William 118-9 off 20 overs (D.M.Duncan 40, R.Belli 4-18, L.Mardon 2-9)

Ross County 119-2 off 15 overs (D.Smart 42no, C.Blake 35no, D.Fairley 22, R. Shepherd 2-28). Ross County won by 8 wickets

The club is holding a race night fundraiser tomorrow (Friday) night at the BA Club at 7pm.

Secretary Derek Spencer said all proceeds raised on the night would help the club towards ground maintenance, kit, travel and other expenses for the forthcoming season.

Next match: Fort William v Elgin, NoSCA Senior League, Sat 24th April, 2 pm at BA Club.

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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday April 24 2010

**Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round**  
Lochcarron v Lochaber  
Donald MacRae  
Kilmallie v Taynuilt  
Deek Cameron  
Caberfeidh v Kinlochshiel  
Ron Kennedy  
Inverness v Strathglass  
Graham Irving  
Glenorchy v Oban Celtic  
Colin MacDonald  
Skye v Ballachulish  
Innes Wood

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William v Bute  
Graham Cameron  
GMA v Newtonmore  
Ted McDonald  
Inveraray v Oban Caman  
Duncan Kerr  
Kingussie v Glenurquhart  
John MacPhee  
Kyles Athletic v Lovat  
Billy Wotherspoon

**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Beaully v Fort William  
Evan MacRae  
Glenurquhart v Glengarry  
John MacLeod  
Kilmallie v Newtonmore  
Robert Baxter Jnr 12 noon  
Kingussie v Skye  
Ronnie Campbell 12 noon  
Lovat v Kinlochshiel  
John Sloggie

**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour v Col Glen  
Billy Nimmo  
Bute v Strachur  
Dougie Cameron  
Tayforth v Kyles Athletic  
Jim Innes

**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Aberdeen U v Ard/urchar  
David Mitchell  
Inverness v Lochcarron  
Russell Ross 12 noon  
Lochaber v Caberfeidh  
Daniel MacRae  
Strathglass v Lochbroom  
John Angus Gillies

SHINTY

Four sent off at Ganavan

**Marine Harvest South Division One**  
Oban Celtic 0 Glenorchy 2

TWO goals from Glenorchy's James Livingstone maintain the Glen's position at the top of South Division One after Saturday's league tie against Oban Celtic.

Seven minutes into the second half, referee Robert Baxter sent off Celtic's John Hill, and he was followed 10 minutes later by John Sartain and Grant MacPherson of Glenorchy, plus Celtic's Angus John MacNeil.

# Lovat four minutes off a premier point at Fort William

**NEWLY-PROMOTED** Lovat came within four minutes of grabbing a hard-fought draw against title-chasing Fort at An Aird in a hard fought game.

Fort had a stiff wind at their backs from the throw-up and soon had the Lovat rearguard under pressure as Gary Innes whistled a shot just past from 30 yards.

Innes was on target with his next effort on 15 minutes but Lovat keeper Stuart MacDonald pulled off the first of many fine saves in the half.

Played flowed relentlessly toward the Lovat goal and MacDonald pulled off another fine stop after Niall MacPhee cleverly let the ball run through for Gary Innes to have a crack.

Bryan Simpson then ballooned a shot high into Camanachd Crescent when it looked easier to score but Lovat immediately almost caught Fort on the break but Fraser Gallacher's effort was blocked.

Back came Fort and Innes made no mistake from 12 yards on 26 minutes to open the scoring.

Jimmy Clark then set up Simpson with a beautiful pass but again MacDonald brilliantly parried before Gallacher went close for Lovat just before the break.

That proved a harbinger for things to come as the Kiltarlity men started the half the stronger and James MacPherson almost ghosted through.

Lovat sensed a goal and their pressure told on 62 minutes when the impressive

Gallacher levelled it up at 1-1 with a crisp drive from 25 yards.

Gallacher whacked a great shot just past as Lovat more than held their own before Clark almost fired Fort ahead with an angled 25-yard drive as play swung back and forth.

Lovat were looking pretty comfortable with Martin Bell, James Grieve, Calum Cruden and Drew Howie defending like lions as the clocked ticked down, but the visitors were undone on 86 minutes when Fort maestro Gordy MacKinnon somehow squeezed his shot past MacDonald from an acute angle after an almighty scramble in front of goal.

SHINTY

**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Fort William 2 Lovat 1  
Newtonmore 1 Kyles 1  
Bute 2 Kingussie 2  
Inveraray 6 GMA 1  
Oban Camanachd 3  
Glenurquhart 1

At Newtonmore, the home side were held to a 1-1 draw by a young Kyles Athletic team which could go South with both league points.

The home side made a lively start and had already missed several opportunities before Owen Fraser opened the scoring after 29 minutes.

Both teams squandered numerous chances before Kyles got back on level terms two minutes off the interval whistle when Thomas Whyte's bouncing shot was blocked away by the legs of keeper Michael Ritchie only for Colin MacColl to slot the rebound into the net.

An end-to-end second-half could have gone either way with Grant Irvine driving Kyles on, while Glen Mackintosh kept 'More solid from midfield.

On the final whistle, a point-a-piece was a fair reflection of the play from a

tie that could have finished five-all.

In Bute, Kingussie were two goals ahead through Paul Gow's 20th minute opener and a Lee Bain strike 15 minutes later.

The lead was to last until deep into the second-half when Bute's determination was rewarded with two goals in five minutes. Robert Walker netting the first, Hector Whitelaw snatching the equaliser in the 75th minute.

Inveraray were two goals up in under two minutes against Glasgow Mid Argyll, with Gary MacPherson the early hero. Andy Mathie drew a goal back for the visitors but four second-half goals from Scott Robertson, Grant Griffin, Neil Campbell and MacPherson saw the home side coast to victory.

There was also early goals at Mossfield as Ian MacMillan scored twice for Oban Camanachd in the opening two minutes against Glenurquhart. Calum Miller pulled one back in the 10th minute but MacMillan netted his hat-trick to ensure the points.

Oban Camanachd also had midfielder Daniel MacIntyre sent off.



Oban Camanachd's Andrew MacCuish in action at Mossfield on Saturday

Picture - John MacTavish



Inveraray's Grant Griffen is blocked from reaching the ball at the Winterton on Saturday. He went on to score as Inveraray defeated GMA 6-1

Picture - Kevin McGlynn

# Lochaber go top after four goals against Lochcarron

LOCHABER moved to the top of the Marine Harvest North Division One on goal difference following their 4-2 victory over Lochcarron at Spean Bridge.

Two goals from Shaun Nicolson, plus goals from Ben Delaney and Lachlan Campbell carried the Spean outfit into the top league slot after three league starts this season.

Lochcarron's veteran striker Alan MacKenzie scored twice for the visitors.

And the sides will meet again this Saturday, this time at Battery Park, Lochcarron in the first round of this season's Scottish Hydro sponsored Camanachd Cup. Joint league top Caberfeidh were held to a surprising 2-2

SHINTY

**Marine Harvest North Division One**  
Lochaber 4 Lochcarron 2  
Caberfeidh 2 Inverness 2  
Kinlochshiel 3 Kilmallie 1  
Skye 3 Strathglass 1

their form at Kirktion on Saturday against the more fancied Kilmallie.

'Shiel have had a difficult start to this season but Findlay MacRae gave the home side a 12th minute lead which they were to hold until two minutes into the second period when Martin Stewart equalised for Kilmallie from the penalty spot.

Keith MacRae then restored 'Shiel's lead on the hour mark before making the league points safe with a second goal 15 minutes from the final whistle.

At Portree, two goals from Ian Nicolson and a Sorley MacDonald strike earned the home side full points against Strathglass, who drew a goal back through Josh Fraser.

draw by bottom of the table Inverness at Strathpeffer. Kevin Bartlett was on target twice for the home side but Gordie Gray and Ewen MacKinnon scored for Inverness to take a share of the league points.

This Saturday, Caberfeidh will meet Kinlochshiel at Strathpeffer in the Scottish cup. Kinlochshiel finally found

SHINTY

Scottish cup ties this Saturday

THE first round proper of the Camanachd Cup gets underway this weekend with two replays of last Saturday's league fixtures when Glenorchy meet Oban Celtic and Lochaber play Lochcarron. Elsewhere, Taynuilt travel to play Kilmallie, while Ballachulish go to Skye and Inverness host Strathglass. In what could be the tie of the round, Caberfeidh and Kinlochshiel meet at Strathpeffer.



Newtonmore's Stephen MacDonald and Kyles' Roddy MacDonald battle for the ball at the Eilan on Saturday as the teams share a 1-1 draw

Picture - Dave Fallows

SHINTY

Lochside hold out at Taynuilt

**Marine Harvest South Division One**  
Taynuilt 1 Lochside Rvrs 2

LOCHSIDE Rovers held out to take both points in an evenly contested South Division One tie at Taynuilt on Saturday.

Lochside had the better of the first 20 minutes and were awarded a disputed penalty after 25 minutes. But David Devine's weakly struck effort has saved by Taynuilt keeper Andrew Servant.

This spurred on the home team and they pressurised on the visitors' defence until Duncan Gillies netted the opening goal for Taynuilt on the half hour.

This lead lasted less than a minute as Devine turned his marker and shot passed Servant to level the half-time score.

The second half was again even until Lochside scored what proved to be the winning goal after they were awarded a free hit and the Taynuilt defence went to sleep to allow Louis Cameron to pick his spot behind the keeper.

Taynuilt picked up the pace and from then until the final whistle laid siege to the Lochside goal but despite numerous chances could not find an equaliser.

Taynuilt must find a regular goal scorer or their place in the first division will be short-lived.

SHINTY

RESULTS

**Saturday, April 17 2010**  
**Scottish Hydro Premier Division**  
Bute 2 Kingussie 2  
Fort William 2 Lovat  
Inveraray 6 GMA 1  
Newtonmore 1 Kyles 1  
Oban Cam 3 Glenurquhart 1  
**Marine Harvest North Division 1**  
Caberfeidh 2 Inverness 2  
Kinlochshiel 3 Kilmallie 1  
Lochaber 4 Lochcarron 2  
Skye 3 Strathglass 1  
**Marine Harvest South Division 1**  
Kilmory 2 Inveraray  
Oban Celtic 0 Glenorchy 2  
Taynuilt 1 Lochside Rvrs 2  
**Marine Harvest North Division 2**  
Newtonmore 4 Beaully 1  
Glengarry 0 Fort William 1  
Glenurquhart 7 Skye 0  
Kilmallie 1 Kinlochshiel 2  
Kingussie 3 Lovat 5  
**Marine Harvest South Division 2**  
Aberdour 2 Strachur 1  
GMA 2 Tayforth 1  
Kyles Athletic 4 Bute 0  
**Marine Harvest North Division 3**  
Ardna/chan 0 Lochbroom 2  
Boleskine 1 Aberdeen Uni 4  
Lochcarron 0 Lochaber 3  
Strathglass 3 Inverness 1

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.

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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:  
W Thom, Glen View Dalmally and C Innes, Carnoch, Glencoe

## Convincing win for Mull Rugby Club

### RUGBY

West Division Three  
**Hyndland 0  
Mull 56**

MULL recorded another convincing win in West Division Three against as they confirmed their position as favourites for the title.

The islanders are now eight points behind league leaders Birkmyre but have four games in hand.

The first try in Saturday's Hyndland drubbing came 10 minutes in, as Mull's winger, Neil Gibson, galloped into the corner. A successful kick from Mull's stand-off, Finlay Carmichael, brought it to 7-0 and Finlay successfully kicked another two penalties.

Mull were also flawless in defence as Hyndland spent so much time in Mull's five-yard line they had to pay income tax.

Mull's best try has to go to Stuart O'Donnell, aided with a great team effort.

Mull were recycling the ball over and over, inching closer to the try line. Around the third phase, Stuart pinched the ball from the ruck, dummy passed and sprinted under the posts for a spectacular finish to a great passage of play.

### Beautiful

A week earlier against Bishopton it was a beautiful day for rugby but not a beautiful game to watch.

Both sides were very sloppy and often several silly penalties were given away but Mull's kicking was the difference on the day, leading to a 25-14 win.

Mull have still to play Mid Argyll twice, Lanark and Bishopton at Fortress Garmony.



## Easter shinty camp proves a big success

**EIGHTEEN** youngsters attended a two-day shinty camp over the Easter holidays, organised by the Camanachd Association. The event was supported by the Macaulay Association, who gave each of the children a new shinty ball as a prize. They are promoting youth shinty in the Oban area and it is hoped another camp will be held this summer.

## Argyll boys make final trials

### RUGBY

THREE boys from Argyll have been selected to the final series of trials at under-14 and under-15 age categories for the Glasgow Development Squads.

Brothers Magnus (15) and Fergus (13) Bradbury of Oban Lorne and Mid Argyll's Ruaridh Aitken (15) have been attending trials since October in a bid to gain a place on the development squads.

Fergus was the only boy from Argyll to be selected to

the final pool of 25 at under-14 age level. The prop, who also plays for Oban High School, travelled to Hamilton earlier this month to compete in a gruelling two-day selection process.

Magnus and Ruaridh went through a similarly tough selection process and Magnus has already been allocated an Individual Player Development Plan, which is a process to closely monitor and enhance his performance towards

National Academy Level. Performance Manager Nic Humphries travels to Oban once per fortnight to take training sessions and sprint work with Magnus.

Magnus will also attend the two-week Glasgow Thistles Rugby Camp in Perpignan this summer, along with Oban Lorne's Ryan Jackson and Fergus Matheson.

The three boys also attended last year and said the top level coaching at excellent facilities was

very beneficial. The trip is partially funded by a charitable foundation and the players will commence their own fund raising ventures shortly.

Meanwhile, Oban Lorne is holding its 36th annual sevens competition at Glencruitten, Oban, May 8.

The club expects to have around 16 men's teams and four women's teams competing, however, the

club is still waiting for local clubs Mull, Mid Argyll and Lochaber to confirm, as each of these teams have league fixture backlogs.

The Oban Lorne Sevens team shirts will be sponsored by Cuan Mor for the circuit this season, Oban Lorne U-19s will be sponsored by Jackson's Master Butchers and Oban Exiles will be sponsored by David Sturrock Yachting.

## Golf's budding stars

### GOLF

TWO YOUNG golfers from Argyll are set to take on some of the world's best junior players at a major tournament in Scotland this summer.

Bobby William from Carradale and Robert Macintyre, Oban, will join more than 500 players from 30 countries at the 2010 U.S. Kids Golf European Championships in June - Europe's premier showcase for the next generation of golfing superstars.

Bobby is competing in the boys 10 section, in which he finished 22nd last year.

Robert is making his European Championship debut and will compete in the boys 13 category.

The tournament will take place over June 1 - 3 on four historic courses in East Lothian.

## Youth football

### FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints youth teams get back to action this Saturday after the Easter holiday break with the Under13s, who have already won the Dumbarton Development League, taking on Westerton United and the Under 15s play host to Renton Youth.

Both games will take place on the 3g community pitch.

## Oban Pool League

### POOL

	P	Pts
Markie Dans 'A'	21	36
Lancaster	21	32
Lochnell	21	30
Claredon 'A'	21	28
Cellar Bar	21	24
Kelvin Dale	21	24
Markie Dans 'B'	21	20
Gluepot	21	16
Claredon 'B'	21	10

## Oban Sailing Club

### SAILING

RECENT results from Oban Sailing Club.

Icicle Series - Race 7 - 1 Funky Gibbon, Steven Forteith; 2, Krabby Patty, Tim Bleazard; 3 Zzzzip. Race 8 - 1 Glen Engineering; 2, Un-sponsored 1; 3, Un-sponsored 2; 4 Owen Sails.

Race 152 - 1 Krabby Patty; 2 Zzzzip; 3 Funky Gibbon. Race 153 - 1 Glen Engineering; 2 Un-sponsored 1; 3 Owen Sails; 4 7.

## Appin net five

### FOOTBALL

APPIN Football Club played a challenge match against Ormand Saints from Perth at Glencruitten last Sunday with the home side winning 5-0.

## Oban Lorne Ladies

### RUGBY

OBAN Lorne Ladies Rugby Team have just finished their competitive league fixtures for this season, having been promoted from the National Development League into National Two League and finishing a very creditable third.

Their next fixtures will be the Majorca Beach Rugby Tournament on May 1 and 2, if flights from the UK resume.

Sadly, the team had to bid farewell to player Mo McGillivray this week, who has decided to return to her home country of Thailand.

Oban Lorne Ladies are always on the lookout for new players, regardless of experience.

Training sessions are on Thursdays at the rugby club from 6pm.

## Tides

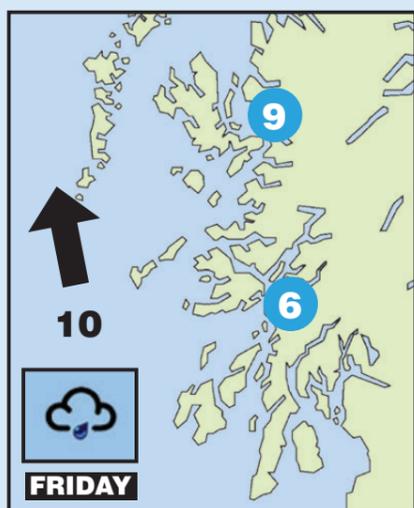
Tide tables for Oban during the week from  
**Thursday, April 22, 2010**  
are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath.  
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur	05.56 1.6 12.25 2.8 *** ** 18.05 1.4	
Fri	00.31 3.1 07.29 1.5 14.07 2.9 19.23 1.3	
Sat	02.09 3.3 08.45 1.3 15.04 3.2 20.33 1.1	
Sun	03.08 3.5 09.40 1.0 15.49 3.4 21.32 0.8	
Mon	03.54 3.7 10.25 0.8 16.27 3.6 22.24 0.6	
Tues	04.36 3.9 11.06 0.7 17.01 3.8 23.55 0.5	
Wed	05.14 4.0 12.21 0.6 17.37 3.9 23.55 0.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrahaig	-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

Scattered showers. Winds moderate Westerly.  
Temperatures 3°C to 10°C

### Friday

Light rain. Winds light South Easterly.  
Temperatures 6°C to 9°C.

### Weekend Outlook

Light rain. Winds light Easterly.  
Temperatures 6°C to 10°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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## David and Susie team up for German touring car championships

### MOTOR RACING

EX-FORMULA One star David Coulthard will be a teammate of Oban's Susie Stoddart in the German touring car championship (DTM Series), which gets into gear this weekend.

Mr Coulthard, who is



Susie Stoddart.

also a BBC Formula One commentator, will be the third Scot in the Mercedes team, joining Susie and Paul Di Resta, and has already run a few test drives ahead of the new season.

He said: 'I'm very much looking forward to return to racing in the DTM after a one-year break.'

'To sit behind the wheel of an AMG Mercedes C-Class at Hockenheim and not at the pit wall suits me better somehow.'

Susie, who will be in her fourth season in the DTM, said: 'I have only one goal: I finally want to score points. In 2010, that will not be easier than in the previous years, but I know I can do it.'

Susie has also driven alongside former Formula One drivers Mika Hakkinen and Ralf Schumacher during her time in DTM.

## Saints march in to Marshall quarter finals

### FOOTBALL

Jimmy Marshall Trophy  
**OBAN SAINTS 2  
ARKLESTON 1**

ARKLESTON from the SAFL premier division one were the visitors to Glencruitten for this Jimmy Marshall Trophy match and although they acquitted themselves well enough it was the home side who marched into the quarter finals with a 2-1 win.

The game started rather slowly, and to be honest it never really got out of first gear with the majority of the action being in the middle of the park.

The teams went in at half time with the score standing at 0-0. The spectators must have been wondering when the match was going to take off as the first half was pretty dull.

Saints manager Iain Jackson decided he needed more firepower, so he brought on Donald Campbell and Allan MacKay

The introduction of Campbell and MacKay certainly made a difference as the Oban side looked much more of a threat going forward.

### Red Card

Arkleston were reduced to 10 men when their full back brought down Craig MacEwan when he was clean through on goals, leaving referee John Scott no option but to show the red card as he was the last defender and prevented a goalscoring opportunity.

Willie Gemmell took the resultant free kick, but Arkleston keeper Willie Kerr made a great save

touching the ball round the post. Saints looked a lot more determined now and they took the game to the 10 men of Arkleston.

It looked only a matter of time before the premier league leaders scored and this they did in the 77th minute when Willie Gemmell and Allan MacKay combined before Willie sent over a great low cross into the box for Craig MacEwan who had the easiest of tap ins from close range.

Four minutes later the home side took a 2-0 lead when a mistake by Arkleston skipper Chris Barbour allowed Willie Gemmell a run through on goals and the Saints midfielder made no

thumped a remendous drive from fully 30 yards which flew past the helpless Saints net minder Graham Douglas and into the net to make the final score 2-1.

### Tempo

Manager Iain Jackson was happy to get through to the quarter finals, but not all that impressed with his team's performance. He said: 'We looked a bit flat today and didn't play the game at our normal tempo. However, in saying that we did enough to get into the next round and in cup games that's what it's all about.'

Saints will play their Marshall Trophy quarter final tie on Saturday against Thorn Athletic. The match will take place at Glencruitten with a 2pm kick-off. Referee in charge is Robert Doolan.



Willie Gemmell.