

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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X Oban Times election special - meet the candidates

Common good fund payouts cause concern

Questions need to be answered, claim unsuccessful applicants

CLAIMS that the Oban Common Good Fund is not 'open and transparent' have surfaced after elected members allocated a street party £3,000 in March, three months after the event was cancelled.

Lack of understanding of the fund, how to apply and what criteria are used in granting funds are among concerns voiced by community groups unsuccessful in getting funding.

Decisions, made by fund trustees, to grant £75,000 to Oban Airport, over three years and a grant to Oban Hogmanay have increased the anger of unsuccessful applicants.

Iain MacDonald, chairman of Ardochattan Community Council said: 'All funding should be open and transparent.'

'The Oban Common Good Fund is a prime example of how we have to stop secrecy and hidden agendas of the past. There has been some misinformation around about the Common Good Fund for some time. Councillors need to put on record why some initiatives get funding while others don't.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council told The Oban Times that almost £40,000 had been allocated in 2009/2010.

Elaine Lauder, treasurer of Oban Bay Marine said: 'We

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

have made applications to the fund, firstly in June 2008 for £28,000 and again a note of interest in the summer of 2009. Both times we have been turned down.

'If we were able to understand the criteria of the application process then perhaps we would understand how to apply for it. As a group we have no understanding of how the decisions are made.'

'We are a community company run by volunteers and the potential for Oban Bay Marine would be of substantial benefit to the people of Oban and Lorn. It is difficult to imagine that there is anything that would be of as much common good.'

Shophmobility, a service lending mobility aids to local people, was asked for a business plan before they could go ahead with their application for core funding. Subsequently the only paid member of staff was made redundant.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council claimed that the fund was open and transparent and decisions were made on the individual merit of each application. She said: 'Oban Community

Council is sent a copy of the minutes of each meeting of the fund, which are also available for public scrutiny in Lorn House, Argyll and Bute Common Good Funds have never been required to provide information back to the whole council.

'Oban Bay Marine has not been turned down for a Common Good Fund award. Determination of this has been continued then perhaps we would understand the criteria of the application process by AECOM as part of the CHORD programme.'

'In regard to Shophmobility, its application was for a specific element of operation. The trustees wish to satisfy themselves as to the long-term sustainability of the organisation before committing any funding.'

'We received an application for funding from Oban Hogmanay on December 29 with information about projected income and expenditure.'

'There have been several instances of applications being submitted prior to the event but where the next meeting (of which there are only four per year) has not taken place until after the event. It is not the first time a grant has been given after an event.'

'The decision to fund Oban Hogmanay was not unanimous.'



Island children celebrate the official handing over of Tiree's community wind turbine 'Tilley'

Tiree turbine 'Tilley' turns £17,000

A COMMUNITY-owned island wind turbine has generated £17,000 for the local economy in just over a month.

'Tilley'

The Tiree wind turbine, named 'Tilley', was formally handed over to its owner, the Tiree community, last Saturday, along with £17,000 in revenue raised from just over one month's electricity production.

The wind turbine was built thanks to four years hard work and determination from islanders, a grant from the Big Lottery Fund and a loan from Scottish Co-op.

A short informal ceremony at the turbine site was followed by a family ceilidh at the island's hall to celebrate completion of the

project. A spokeswoman for the community project said: 'Funds were raised and the turbine was ordered in 2008.'

'It was built in Germany in 2009 and arrived in seven large pieces in November, passing through Oban's Argyll Square one morning on its way to Tiree via the MV Clansman. Two weeks later it was up and running and since then the turbine has been undergoing grid-connection and operational trials.'

£2.5 million

'Since connection in March she has earned approximately £17,000. Over the next 25 years she should earn over £2.5 million for the community to invest in local good

causes.'

Bruce Kemp, chairman of Tiree Renewable Energy Limited, the community company that built the turbine, said: 'There are many ways to look at this turbine project. You can see it as a community effort to reduce our carbon footprint, and it will certainly do that, generating enough power for 620 homes and so saving 1,600 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year.'

'In money-making terms it will provide significant revenue to the Tiree Community Development Trust (TCDT) totalling several million pounds over its lifetime. Now that the turbine is exporting power it is harnessing a resource that Tiree has plenty of,

and every turn of the blades generates not just electrical power but also the ability to turn dreams into reality. Power to the people.'

Tish MacKinnon, chairwoman of TCDT, thanked funders for their support. But she reserved special thanks for the team of volunteers that have over the years made the project happen.

'Local people have put thousands of hours into this project, and it's down to them that we have a turbine at all. On many occasions we thought the project would fail - problems with planning, the collapse of the pound in 2008 and legal issues but each time the volunteers got back up again and sorted it out.'

Change of dates for A82 road closures

PLANNED nighttime closures on the A82 between Tarbet and Crainlarich will begin a week later than scheduled, on May 10.

The road will be shut with diversions in place between 10pm and 6am from on week nights until May 27.

Cash boost for training hotel

A NEW training hotel in Oban has received a top cash award.

Thanks to £5,000, local entrepreneurs Helen and Ian Crawford will take forward plans to start up a new training facility at Soroba House Hotel. The funding comes from the Social Entrepreneurs Fund.

Once up and running the hotel will offer training and accreditation in all aspects of hotel operations as well as accommodation and conference facilities.

Helen hopes to tackle local unemployment by attracting young people into the hospitality industry and providing them with the right training.

Oban care home may face closure

THE FUTURE of Oban's only council-run residential home may again be in the balance, The Oban Times has learned, as Argyll and Bute Council are unlikely to be able to meet upgrading costs.

Councillor Donald 'Skye' McIntosh, spokesperson for social work, said: 'There are no decisions on the future of Eader Glinn until our committee has met in June.'

For more see Page 3



The Ardanaisig dining room and acclaimed Chef de Cuisine Gary Goldie have recently been placed top in a survey of the best five Hotel Restaurants in Scotland and have been highly Commended by The Scottish National Hotel Chef of the Year 2008 awards.

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Tender begins for £15m ACHA works

THOUSANDS of housing association tenants will get new heating and wiring as an Argyll housing association prepares for the next phase of improvements.

Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA) has begun the tender process for a contract to replace 2,500 home heating systems and rewire 1,800 houses.

The contract is expected to last four years and be worth £13-£15 million. Companies interested in tendering have been asked to complete a questionnaire by May 26. A spokesman for ACHA said: 'We would hope to be in a position to award the contract by the autumn of this year.'

Stranded teachers' wages could be docked

ARGYLL teachers and council staff could lose wages if they were stuck abroad in the recent travel chaos.

While other councils have backed down from docking salaries at the urging of unions, Argyll and Bute Council has said in general terms those who could not attend work will not be paid while they were absent.

A spokeswoman said: 'We will look at each case on its own merits. In general, staff who were unable to attend work because of the recent air travel restrictions will not be paid for their absence. The individuals

affected may request annual leave, flexi leave, TOIL or unpaid leave as appropriate.'

But the policy could affect teachers more than most. Contracts mean teaching staff are not entitled to apply for annual leave, flexi leave or TOIL outside the school term, which started on April 19.

Around 60 teachers and 25 support staff were absent last week because of travel disruption, and supply staff were needed in some places to cover for absences.

One Argyll teacher, who did not want to be named, said: 'I had heard that the council is docking our wages, which is

very unfair. I'm out of pocket because of my longer stay, which wasn't my fault.'

Some other employers have taken a different approach. BT, which employs 105 staff in Argyll and Bute, has given any staff caught up in volcano-related travel delays special paid leave. A spokeswoman said they were also treating sympathetically any cases where a partner or carer is stranded abroad. She added: 'Our main concern has been to make sure any employees caught up in the disruption are safe and well, and we hope they can return home as quickly as possible.'

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Oban taxi man could lose car and licence after drinking on the job

AN OBAN taxi driver caught drinking and driving with a paying passenger in his cab could lose not only his driving licence - but also his vehicle.

A breath test showed

Lachlan MacIntyre, aged 68, of 1 Law Cottages, Oban, was double the legal alcohol limit when stopped by police on Combie Street, Oban on Saturday, April 24.

Around 1.45am, Oban police on routine patrol noticed the headlights on MacIntyre's taxi were not on, though the illuminated taxi sign was. The officers stopped the

car, discovering he had a fare-paying passenger on board, and spoke to the driver.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris told the court: 'The accused's breath smelled of

alcohol and he was slurring some words.'

Mr Harris said MacIntyre, who pleaded guilty to drink driving, deserved to lose his taxi as part of his punishment.

He added: 'He wasn't putting simply himself in danger and other road users, as all drink drivers do, but the person in his car, who expected to get into a licensed car and be safely

transported home, was placed in extreme danger.' Sheriff Douglas Small deferred sentence, including the motion to forfeit the car, until May 5, disqualifying MacIntyre in the meantime.

Planning rules drive businessman up the pole

THE DECISION making process of Argyll and Bute Council's planning department came under close scrutiny this week as a business owner was told he had been given planning permission to put up flag poles.

However, he would have to apply for subsequent permission to put any flags on them.

Under Argyll and Bute Council planning rules it will take the business owner, who did not want to be named, two rounds of applications to run any flags up his flagpoles.

He said: 'It is absolutely laughable.'

'What is the council thinking I would fly on the end of flag poles?'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'Planning permission is required for a flagpole and advertisement consent is required for all advertisements, so if a flag is advertising something then it will certainly require advertisement consent.'

Highland postal voting on the rise

AS THE General Election date of May 6 moves closer, the number of people requesting postal votes in the Highlands has increased for the third general election in a row.

Across the Highland area, there have been 21,908 postal vote applications, almost 10,000 more than the last election in May 2005.

In the Ross, Skye and Lochaber constituency, 6,094 postal votes have been requested, which is more than 10 per cent of the registered voters in the region.

Voters started to receive their postal ballot papers earlier this week and final deliveries should have arrived by Friday at the latest.



A shark, turtle and colourful jellyfish from Park Primary prepare for the opening ceremony of next month's Festival of the Sea 15_x18prim01

Pupils get ready for Oban's first Festival of the Sea

A class full of jellyfish, turtles and other sea creatures

THERE is something fishy going on in classrooms across the area.

Children are getting creative in preparation for Oban's first Festival of the Sea next month.

Alison Kennedy, Park Primary School P5 teacher, had a class full of jellyfish, turtles and other sea creatures last week.

The children will wear costumes they made in the festival's opening ceremony.

'We have been doing a topic on the sea, focusing on the local area, which started during science week and will carry on until the festival,' she said.

Anuschka Miller, from festival organiser Scottish Association of Marine Science (SAMS), said: 'When children learn something they find interesting, they share it with family and friends. We hope they will encourage their communities to attend

festival events.'

Jack Degan, Rockfield Primary School headteacher, said: 'The support we have had from SAMS and others has been tremendous. I was in one class this morning and I noticed they had a dry suit, snorkel and fins as part of their display.'

Some of the children's work will be on display during the festival at the Sea Life Sanctuary at Barcaldine and in the Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal.

Fears voiced that Oban residential home will close

A REVIEW of older people's services may mean the closure of Oban's only council-run social service residential home.

An inside source has voiced concerns to The Oban Times that residential home Eadar Glinn, Drummore Road, may be ear-marked for closure, as it needs a substantial amount of cash

spent on the building.

The source, who did not want to be named, said: 'Officials in Argyll and Bute Council are saying that the home will need to be closed and a new all-purpose centre built. They are also suggesting that all care will transfer to the private sector.'

A spokeswoman for the

council said: 'Argyll and Bute Council is progressing a review of all older people's services for residential, day and home care services.'

'There have been no decisions about any service to date. It is planned that the project board responsible for managing the review will consider initial proposals at meetings in June and July.'

Missed connections and cancelled trips

Passengers furious after ScotRail leaves them stranded

Oban train is cancelled - an hour after it was due to leave

FRIDAY'S 8.11am ScotRail train service from Oban to Glasgow was cancelled nearly an hour after it was due to depart leaving passengers stranded for four hours until the next train was due to leave.

No replacement bus service was provided and around 20 passengers were left standing at the station.

One local passenger, who did not wish to be named, was furious: 'I am very angry about it because we didn't find out that there would be no train until 9am.'

The train was meant to leave at 8.10am so there was a four-hour wait until the next train.

'I was lucky because I could just go home and wait

for the next train but I heard ScotRail was trying to put some people up in a hotel as a holding room.'

'I know of two people who missed connections, either rail or plane, and some other people just cancelled their trip altogether because they were going to miss appointments in Glasgow.'

'There was no travel alternatives, like buses, laid on.'

'The taxi drivers came to offer their services but ScotRail would not pay them.'

The cancellation happened on the same day Scottish transport minister Stewart Stevenson was in town to speak at a public meeting of the Friends of the West Highland Line, which

has been campaigning for many years for the number of trains on the line to be increased from three to five a day.

A ScotRail spokesman said: 'Due to illness, the 8.11am train unfortunately had to be cancelled. It was not possible to secure a replacement bus within a reasonable time and so arrangements were made for the passengers to have refreshments while awaiting the next service.'

'All involved are entitled to compensation or refunds and are advised to claim via our customer relations department.'

'We apologise for any inconvenience caused due to the staff shortage arising from illness.'

Susan runs to London lifetime best ahead of European championships bid

FORMER Oban High School pupil Susan Partridge was the second quickest British woman in Sunday's London Marathon.

Susan, who finished 17th overall in the woman's race, ran a new lifetime best of 2:35:57.

She finished ahead of some famous names such as 2008 Olympic champion

Constantina Dita and 2004 Olympic bronze medallist Deena Kastor.

This was Susan's sixth marathon, but it seems unlikely she will be running in the marathon at this year's Commonwealth Games as she instead intends to compete in the European Championships in Barcelona.

Cars vandalised

A NUMBER of cars have been vandalised in the yard of High Grade Valeting behind Hazelbank Motors in Mill Lane, Oban.

The cars, which had paintwork damaged and tyres slashed, were vandalised sometime between the evening of Wednesday, April 21 and the morning of Friday, April 23.

Oban police are asking anyone who saw or heard anything suspicious to contact them on 01631 510500.

Five arrests

OBAN police reported that five people had been arrested in Oban town centre over the last weekend.

All were arrested in separate incidents for a variety of public disorder offences.

Two assaults

AN 18-YEAR-OLD male has been reported to the procurator fiscal following two alleged assaults which took place on the evening of Friday, April 23, in the Fradda Road area of Oban.

Dunbeg breach of the peace

A DUNBEG man appeared at Oban Sheriff Court on Monday, charged with a breach of the peace in the village. Thomas John Barr, of 12 Camus Road, denied shouting, swearing and threatening two men on Friday, April 23. The 49-year-old was released on bail, until a trial in August.

Oban Lifeboat takes part in the scattering of ashes

A MOVING ceremony took place last Saturday morning, just off Duart Castle, Mull, as the ashes of the late Jim Rankine were scattered from the Oban RNLI lifeboat.

Mr Rankine, a former Royal Navy officer, looked upon Duart and Mull as his ancestral home and his family told of a very strong pull from the island on his affections.

Relatives and friends came to watch the scattering of the ashes while the 13-year-old twin sons of deputy coxswain Mark Scott played the pipes. The Rev Bill Gray conducted a brief service and a eulogy in which he quoted Burns' poem 'A Man's a Man for a' That.

Relatives spread flowers on the water before the ceremony was closed with the pipe tune 'The Mist Covered Mountains.'

Man could face jail sentence following racial abuse

A MAN who shouted racial abuse could face a prison sentence, an Oban sheriff has warned.

In the early hours of February 1, Irving Pritchard, aged 52 of 845 Edinburgh Road, Glasgow, shouted racist remarks at a woman in Stevenson Street, Oban.

Pritchard's partner Carol Gray, aged 45 of Flat 1-2, 16 Cambusdoon, Glasgow, admitted she threatened the woman in a racially aggravated breach of the peace.

Procurator fiscal Craig Harris said members of the public notified nearby police officers. Pritchard was put in a cell

and continued swearing and shouting racist abuse. Pritchard admitted making racist remarks towards the woman and repeatedly shouting racist comments at the police station.

He denied a charge of threatening police officers, which was accepted by the crown. Defence agent for

Pritchard Gordon Seaton said: 'The background is far too much to drink.'

Sheriff Douglas Small said he would be considering a custodial sentence for Pritchard and deferred sentence on both accused until May 31 for reports and to hear from their defence agents.

Isle of Mull roads may benefit from additional funding

Island councillor has her eye firmly on £31 million investment programme

ADDITIONAL government money for infrastructure may see 'crucial' investment in Mull roads hopes an island councillor.

Because of the Barnett Consequential, the Scottish government was given an extra £39 million of money by Westminster this year. It is understood that the government has placed this aside to improve infrastructure.

Mull-based councillor Mary-Jean Devon has set her sights on £31 million.

'That is how much it would take to completely cure the road problems on Mull. At the moment we have done the best with what we have.'

'Argyll and Bute Council handed over a huge share of the roads budget for the island, but filling the potholes is closing the gate after the horse has bolted.'

'We need substantial investment to improve what many regard as the worst roads in Europe.'

'The campaigners from Keep Mull Moving are adamant that we need to keep the issue of the roads high on the local and national agenda and they are doing a good job of that.'

'What we need is action from Holyrood because the bad roads have a huge impact on everyday life and business on the island. The weight restrictions are having a detrimental effect on farmers and their businesses. It is crucial that investment is made on our infrastructure.'

A Scottish government spokesman said: 'We are due to receive consequentials following the announcement to increase transport spending in the UK budget. Consequentials accrue to the Scottish block as a whole and it is for the Scottish government to decide how this money will be spent. Decisions on allocation will be taken in due course.'

'We have already made available an extra £5 million for councils to help with the cost of repairing local roads following the winter cold snap and this comes on top of the almost £12 billion in funding for local authorities next year. The settlement also matches our commitment to ensure local government continues to receive an increasing share of the Scottish budget to enable councils to meet priorities such as maintaining roads.'

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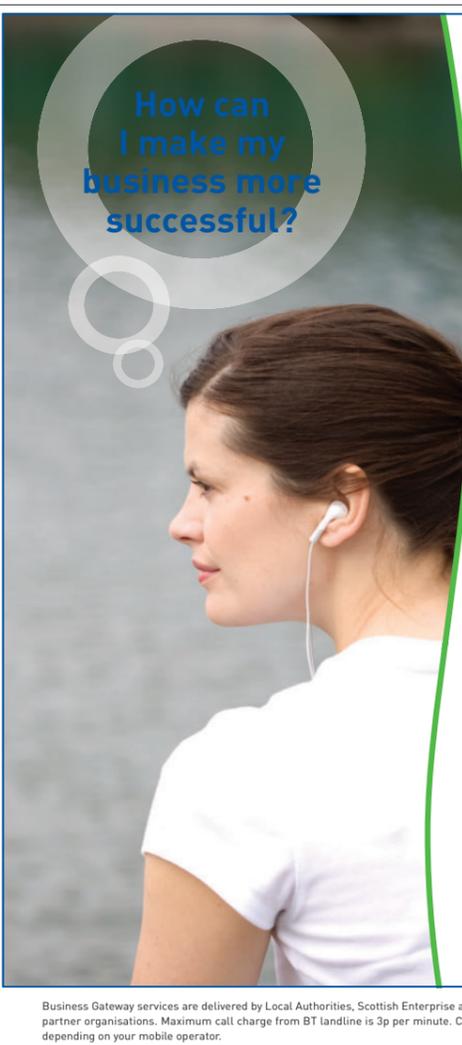
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Mull Lines

A MUSICAL evening at the Aros Hall raised the sum of £320 in aid of Tobermory community hall's much-needed Stair Lift Appeal.

The concert was organised by youngsters, with the support of John Weir who compered the event, and featured a selection of Mull talent.

The hall was transformed for the evening into something more akin to a chic nightclub. The audience was entertained by strong sets from young musicians, Hannah Noble and her band, Bethan Maidment and The Brief. The evening concluded with a typically rousing finale from veteran rockers, Vitamin T.

ISLANDERS have been promised a shoppers' forum after a letter in last week's Oban Times.

Complaints over the lack of basic provisions at the island's biggest supermarket were highlighted in last week's newspaper.

But rising to the challenge the Scottish Co-op in Tobermory said it was willing to start a regular forum to discuss local issues at a local level.

Councillor Gordon Chalmers said: 'We are introducing a shoppers' forum so that islanders' concerns can be dealt with at a local level, before they become a problem. We are in the process of putting together a representational committee and we will have our next meeting in the next few weeks. It is thanks to The Oban Times that this idea has come about.'

MULL and Iona Wildlife Week is hoping to add star gazing and sailing to its already action packed weeklong event from May 8.

The annual event will also include its regular favourites such as walks, boat trips, exhibitions and family activities.

Lara Van Der Peer, spokeswoman, said: 'Our goal, during the International Year of Biodiversity, is to promote the exceptional beauty of the islands and celebrate the huge diversity of wildlife to be seen and enjoyed.'

'We are planning a number of new events for the week, now in its eighth year, including a star gazing evening, sunset photography and an introduction into cetacean research with the Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust (HWDT).

'This year marks the 25 anniversary of the first sea eagles to be successfully hatched on Mull. And the event will be celebrating this fantastic achievement.'

CAFE theatre is coming to Tobermory this Friday, April 30, when local theatre company Forewomen reprise their production of A Familiar Face by Andrew Biss, in Posh-Nosh café on the main street, in a fund-raiser in aid of the Aros Hall.

The play, which was premiered at the Mull Drama Festival, and directed by Katharine Elwis, stars Juliet Antill and Gill Govan.

The play is a delightfully macabre comedy two-hander, set entirely in a café, hence the choice of Posh-Nosh as the venue. The action starts at 7.30 pm but space is limited, donations welcome. Contact: Posh-Nosh Tel.01688 302 499.



SMALL hotel Highland Cottage in Tobermory has struck gold for owners David and Jo Currie.

The restaurant with rooms is the most recent establishment in Argyll to have been awarded Gold Star status through national tourism organisation Visit Scotland's quality assurance scheme. Receiving four stars the small hotel is one of only among only seven in Argyll to be awarded the coveted Gold Stars in recognition of their exceptional hospitality and service.

Dave said: 'We are thrilled to receive this award. At the heart of everything we do are our customers needs and we feel extremely proud that this has been acknowledged with the awarding of the Gold Stars.'

Queen's Award for Mid Argyll businessman's enterprise

A PROMINENT Lochgilphead businessman has been named as a Queen's Award winner for his work in enterprise promotion.

Murdo MacLeod of MacLeod Construction Ltd is one of just two businessmen in Scotland to be awarded the The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.

Mr MacLeod, who formed his Lochgilphead-based company in 1975, initially became involved in enterprise promotion by mentoring former MacLeod apprentices who went on to form their own businesses.

In 1993, Mr MacLeod was invited to become chairman of the

Argyll and Bute Division of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT).



Murdo MacLeod

He has worked tirelessly for the trust for 16 years, encouraging young entrepreneurs throughout the area.

Amongst some of his achievements, Mr MacLeod has been instrumental in ensuring at least 30 start-ups per year, mainly from the 18-25-year age group.

Mr MacLeod said news of his award came as a 'complete surprise' but he was 'delighted and honoured' to receive it.

He added: 'I would like to think the award acknowledges the hard work done by all my colleagues in The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust and, of course, at

home in MacLeod Construction Limited where we encourage young people to acquire skills, experience and consider the possibility of setting up their own business.'

Mr MacLeod continued: 'It is a particular privilege for me to chair the Argyll and Bute branch of The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust.'

'Since taking up that position I have had the opportunity of meeting very many young people who have excellent ideas and have set up profitable businesses throughout this rural area. Their drive and enthusiasm is

encouraging to all of us who work with them. I take particular pride in the success of the assistance given by the PSYBT to Argyll's islands.'

Mr MacLeod can now look forward to a company visit by a Royal representative who will present him with a crystal bowl as well as an invitation to a special reception at Buckingham Palace in July.

Award winners are also entitled to use The Queen's Award Emblem in advertising, marketing and on packaging for a period of five years as a symbol of their quality and success.

Villagers mount campaign to stop bus cuts

RESIDENTS of an Argyll village say they are appalled at bus cutbacks, despite having one of the worst services in the county.

Last week, Argyll and Bute councillors agreed to reduce a three-mornings-a-week 'shoppers' service' linking Dalmally, Lochawe and Taynuilt with Oban to once a week. The move will save £10,352 from the rural public transport subsidies budget.

"With the price of petrol going up, more people have been leaving their cars and using the bus service."

Moira Summers Taynuilt

much worse service than Benderloch, which has hourly services all day. I have always thought it was a miserly service.'

It is not just residents of Taynuilt who are alarmed at the cutback, due to be implemented in May. Kirsty Horne uses the bus to get from her home in Dalmally to care for her disabled mother in Taynuilt twice a week. Without the extra morning service, she would need to get her toddler ready for 7.30am to catch the school bus.

She said: 'There's quite a few people in Dalmally that don't use the service, but the folk that do are going to be lost without it.' In the long term, she said she may have to think about leaving the village: 'We can't live 25 miles away from the town with no way of getting in.'

But Moira Summers from Taynuilt said there had been absolutely no consultation. 'The first any of us had heard about it was when we got on the bus last week,' she said. 'Everybody was ranting and raving and on their mobile phones calling councillors. By the time we reached Oban the word had already been made.'

'We were actually going to start badgering the council to make it every day of the week. With the price of petrol going up, more people have been leaving their cars and using the service recently.'

She is organising a petition against the cut.

Marie Kennedy, who may have to quit her voluntary work because of transport difficulties, said: 'Tell the councillors to come out here and try it. Dunbeg gets every bus that's going. Barcaldine and Easdale get a better service than us. We seem to be the forgotten area.'

Roger Bartle, also of Taynuilt, agreed: 'It has a

Argyll and Bute Council argued long distance coach services that stop in the villages would compensate for the lack of local buses. However, passengers have been left behind when the Glasgow coach is over-subscribed and told they cannot bring their shopping trolleys or bags of groceries on board. Citylink buses are also more expensive than the subsidised local services.'

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said the shoppers' service had been introduced in 2006 as an experiment, with no guarantee it would become permanent.

She added: 'Whilst there is obviously an impact on the local community, which we regret, there is less of an impact than there would have been had we cut services in other locations.'

'We would very much like to be able to fund a better public transport service for many of our communities, including Taynuilt, but at present are not in a position to do so.'



Moira Summers collects signatures from regular passengers opposed to the cut in the 403 bus timetable. 15_118bus02

First wind turbine of 23 is erected near Inveraray



The 80-metre Enercon turbine erected last week is the first of 23 turbines to be put up on the 19.3-mega watt site, five miles from Inveraray.

THE PROJECT manager of An Suidhe Wind Farm has thanked local residents for their patience as transport to the site, near Inveraray, increases.

Milestone
Mark Godding of RWE npower renewables also invited anyone with queries regarding the wind farm to contact him.

Mr Godding was speaking as the first turbine was erected on the site last week.

He said: 'The transportation of the turbines has gone well so far thanks to everyone involved in the project and the patience of locals.'

'The erection of the first turbine at An Suidhe is a key milestone in the project's development.'

'We were pleased to see it go up smoothly and ahead of schedule.'

He added: 'The coming

months will see significant activity at An Suidhe Wind Farm and inevitably there will be some disruption on the routes used by the delivery vehicles, for which I apologise in advance.'

'However, we are working closely with Strathclyde Police to minimise any inconvenience to local residents and businesses.'

Operational
It is expected that the majority of deliveries will be completed by late August and traffic to the site will noticeably decrease.

Once operating the 23 turbines will be capable of generating enough green electricity to meet the annual average electricity demands of 10,000 homes.

RWE npower renewables, the company building the wind farm, estimates it will be completed at the end of this year and become fully operational in spring 2011.

Charitable trust announces grants

MACQUEEN Bros Charitable Trust has issued a list of organisations receiving grants over the first four months of 2010.

Cheques for between £50 and £1,000 were granted to Faltie Garden Project, Hope Kitchen, New Start Oban, OHS Haiti Appeal, St Columba's Cathedral Renovation Project, Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival, Soroba Community Enterprise Limited, Atlantis Leisure, Luing Primary School, Shopmobility, North Argyll Carers Centre, SWRI, Senshi Do Kickboxing, Oban and Lorn Riding for the Disabled Group, Oban Otters, Soroba Young Family Group, Oban Pipe Band, OHS Trips Account, Highland Council Disabled Swim, Barcaldine School, Rotary Club AM/AM sponsorship.

Shop manager Grace Scott said: 'It has been a very busy year. We are granting money to groups thanks to the generosity of the people from Oban and beyond who continue to give us bric-a-brac and furniture to sell in our shop. We always welcome donations and the money we raise really does make a difference.'

22-years on school meals duty ends



ST COLUMBA'S Primary School pupils Becky Pearson and Daniel Brockarlin present retirement gifts to dinner lady Effie Menzies.

Effie retired from the School Meals Service last month after 22 years working with the team.

The majority of Effie's 22 years was served in St Columba's Primary School where she cooked her last school meal on March 12.

Boarding at The Erskine Stewart's Melville Schools is a very special experience. First it can offer your son or daughter the opportunity of a first class education. We welcome junior boarders from age 10 who join our co-educational Junior School where the emphasis is on ensuring children enjoy learning and have fun tackling a range of extra-curricular opportunities.

Our senior school boys and girls are educated in a single-sex environment tailored to meet different needs and to help adolescents achieve their true potential. Our co-educational Sixth Form provides a practical, challenging preparation for further education. Boarders can also join us for this final year as we offer a wide range of Higher and Advanced Higher choices.

Our two boarding houses are home to around 25 boys and 25 girls. The atmosphere in the houses are friendly and are run by caring and enthusiastic staff, they have excellent facilities but most of all, they are places where your son or daughter will feel safe, happy and valued.

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Easdale offers poop scoop service for dog owners

Visitors with dogs can avail themselves of a poop scoop before embarking on the island

EASDALE islanders have introduced a dog poop scoop service to encourage all dog owners to tidy up after their animals.

The unit was designed and built by islander Henry Tarbatt on behalf of the Easdale Island Residents and Property Owners Association.

The group decided to take action in response to ongoing complaints about the problem from islanders.

Mr Tarbatt explained: 'On Easdale we have pedestrian-only footpaths and grassy spaces. Therefore they present an even bigger difficulty, because our canine friends sometimes use the island as an open toilet.'

'Although many residents and visitors do the decent thing and remove the offending piles, others do not, despite being encouraged to do so.'

'The new dog poop scoop service is the latest attempt to encourage all dog owners to comply with the law.'

'The dispenser is mounted close to the island ferry shed



Easdale Island Residents and Property Owners Association committee members Henry Tarbatt, left, and Keith Oversby with the Easdale poop scoop dispenser.

so that arriving visitors with dogs can avail themselves of a poop scoop before embarking on their sightseeing trip of the island, and dog-owning residents can also have a ready supply,' he said.

Oban man admits drink drive charge

A NINETEEN-year-old man has been banned from driving for two years after admitting drinking and driving.

Keith McMillan, 2 Polvinister Gardens, Oban, appeared at Oban Sheriff Court last week after being found with more than twice the legal limit of alcohol on his breath at 3am on April 5 this year in Glencruitten Drive.

McMillan, defending himself, said he had been on a night out and decided to drive home.

Sheriff Douglas Small, fining him £300 and banning him from driving, said the sentence reflected the high level of alcohol in his system at the time.

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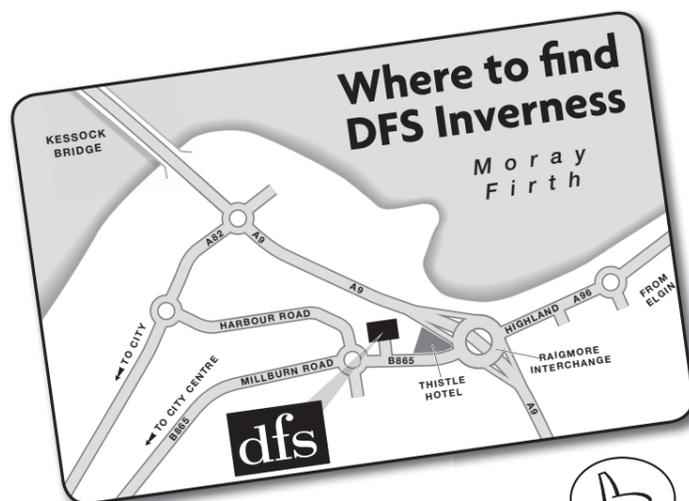
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General Election 2010 candidates in the West Highlands

FOR the first time in 13 years, the political doors are wide open for a change of government.

After 18 years of the Conservative and Unionists being in power, in 1997 a landslide victory for the Labour party was predicted and proved to be the outcome.

Now, 13 years after New Labour took over the reins, the outcome of the General Election has been thrown wide open and a hung Parliament is a distinct possibility.

This is where no single party has an overall majority and deals are likely between two or more parties in order to form a Government.

On voters' minds will be the recession brought on by

the collapse in the banking sector, which has had a major effect on the UK's economy, the huge public debt and what that means for public services, the MPs' expenses scandal, doubt over the UK's role in Afghanistan and the issue of £100 billion in capital and running costs for the renewal of Trident, the nuclear defence programme.

Beyond these major issues, the challenge is for candidates to prove that they and their parties are the ones that can be trusted to make the right decisions for the country given the general disillusionment of the voting public in politics.

Whatever the main political parties may argue, it is doubtful how much influence Scotland's 59 seats will make

on who is the next occupant of No.10.

And no matter how open the result may look it is unlikely that Argyll and Bute; Ross, Skye and Lochaber and Na h-Eileanan an Iar (Western Isles) will be the battlegrounds for the major parties.

Perhaps this is why the number of candidates from minority parties and independents is on the rise in these constituencies.

Argyll and Bute and Ross, Skye and Lochaber have seven candidates to choose from for the first time, including independents, Greens and the UK Independence Party. Na h-Eileanan an Iar has five, including one independent.

The odds according to Ladbrokes

Argyll and Bute:	SNP:	33/1
Lib Dem:	Labour:	100/1
Conservative:	Green:	100/1
SNP:	Ronnie Campbell:	100/1
Labour:	UKIP:	100/1
Green:	Na h-Eileanan an Iar:	
George Doyle:	SNP:	1/10
Jacobite:	Labour:	9/2
Ross, Skye and Lochaber:	Lib Dem:	50/1
Lib Dem:	Murdo Murray:	50/1
Conservative:	Conservative:	100/1

Taken as The Oban Times went to press.

Argyll and Bute

For the first time voters have seven candidates to choose from

FOR THE last 20-odd years, Argyll and Bute has elected a Liberal Democrat to represent it at the UK Parliament in Westminster.

However, it could prove to be a seat to watch in what is being forecast as a hung parliament result, where no one party has an overall majority, especially as the count in Lochgilphead will not start until 9am on Friday May 7.

Back in 1987 and at the previous election in 1983, just four candidates fought the seat for the main political parties; Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats and Scottish National Party.

However, in 1997, 2001 and 2005 this increased to five, with a candidate from the Referendum Party standing in 1997 and Scottish Socialist Party in 2001 and 2005.

This year, for the first time, voters have the opportunity to choose from seven candidates, perhaps reflecting a growing disillusionment with the main political parties if not in Argyll and Bute then certainly UK-wide.

In this 2010 election, Argyll and Bute has attracted for the first time in a UK Parliamentary election a Green candidate - Elaine Morrison; an independent - George Doyle; and a candidate from the Scottish Jacobite Party - John Black.

Liberal Democrat Alan Reid will be hoping to maintain his 5,636 majority from the 2005 election while Conservative and Unionist candidate Gary Mulvaney will be hoping to gain those five thousand votes to convert his party's 2005 second placement into a win.

Labour, whose candidate is David Graham from Dunoon, has not traditionally performed well in the rural seat but was in third place after the last election, with the SNP coming in almost 3,000 votes behind Labour.

This, of course, was not reflected in the following Scottish parliamentary elections when the SNP candidate Jim Mather became MSP for Argyll and Bute and Westminster candidate Mike MacKenzie will be hoping to capitalise on that result this year.

MIKE MACKENZIE Scottish National Party

There is little to choose between the UK parties.

They are competing to promise the deepest cuts. None of them has any proposals for rebuilding the economy.

We have a choice between making cuts to the £100 billion Trident programme and the £7 billion ID cards scheme or cutting services and cutting jobs. We should obviously cut Trident and cut ID cards.

In Scotland we can rebuild our economy. We have half of our oil left. Oil revenues will produce £5 billion in the next six years. We have 25 per cent of Europe's renewable energy potential.

In Argyll and Bute we have lacked proper political representation. Forty years ago our roads were the best in the country. Now they are officially the worst.



GDP per capita is only 75 per cent of the national average. Average incomes are significantly below the national average. There are over 4,000 families on the homeless list.

SNP has a vision to deliver prosperity in all parts of Scotland. We can do this by better managing our own resources and assets. We can do this by adding value to our local industries of farming, fishing, forestry and tourism and embracing renewable energy and broadband.

JOHN BLACK Scottish Jacobite Party

You have one choice on the Argyll and Bute ballot paper on May 6 John Black.

The Scottish Jacobite Party is prepared to address the problems of today and offer a vision for the future.

The candidates of the major parties are puppets who have to call central office daily to find out the thought for the day!

The British economy is in trouble because Gordon Brown does not understand economics or the economic cycle. He thought he had eliminated boom and bust. When the banks got into difficulty in October 2008, he poured £178 billion of public money into the bank vaults. The money is not supporting British industry or businesses. It is providing the bankers

with obscene bonuses and up to 270 per cent pay rises. Get the money out of the bank vaults, reduce the deficit and the money can be used to kick start the British economy. Argyll and Bute Council needs to use local resources such as Eileach an Naoimh to attract tourists to the Oban area and they need to stop wasting money running loss making airports. Details on the web site at www.gaunyersel.com



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GEORGE DOYLE standing as an Independent

Very little will change after the election.

We will still have a government which has been given a mandate by less than a third of the population. Party politics are divisive and are, I believe, outmoded.

I believe that all those elected to Parliament should leave their party banners at the door when they enter Westminster.

The selection of prime minister and cabinet could then be made by nomination and ballot with all MPs having a free vote without party influence. Those selected would only remain in office for the term of the Parliament and would face reselection for the next term.

The result, I believe, would be a government not of coalition but of



cohesion.

My own personal opinion is that the Lords should be abolished politically.

If the 600-odd elected members cannot stop bickering long enough to get the country back on its feet, then adding peers, hereditary or otherwise, to the mix is going to make no difference.

The idea of Parliament selecting its own prime minister and cabinet is 300 years old (a bit before my time) but it worked as well then as it could now.

DAVID GRAHAM Scottish Labour Party

The Scottish Labour Party's pledge to Oban is to deliver a future fair for all.

Labour will continue to rebuild our economy, protect and reform our frontline public services, and renew our politics.

Scottish Labour will contest elections on our commitment to things that matter to families and workers...the economy, jobs, crime, schools and hospitals.

Devolution means that many of these issues are decided in the Scottish Parliament.

Oban has benefited from having a Labour Government in Westminster, with new houses, pier developments, a new fire station and hospital.

Older people living in the Oban area continue to have free bus, prescriptions, TV licence and eye tests



plus Labour's Winter Fuel Allowance and Cold Winter Payments for households with a person over 60.

Projects for young people such as Oban Youth Café and Atlantis plus the numerous sporting opportunities make Oban a quality place to live, work and play!

Your Vote for Scottish Labour will secure the economic recovery, strengthen the Union and further develop Labour's fairness and opportunity agenda for all.

ELAINE MORRISON Scottish Green Party

Elaine lives near Inveraray having worked across Scotland supporting communities to find solutions to issues such as energy, housing and poverty for 15 years.

Elaine will give Argyll a strong and committed Green voice in Westminster - someone who makes a clear link between economic and social issues and our fragile environment - and acts upon it. The Scottish Green Party is contesting this election by pledging to introduce a Living Wage for all; protecting against cuts in public spending by imposing a Robin Hood Tax on banks and scrapping Trident; and supporting new green jobs where small businesses get their fair share of the work. She believes that there is no where better placed to take advantage of this green revolution



than Argyll and Bute.

The Scottish Green Party has shown the influence of small parties in the Scottish Parliament by holding the government to account and negotiating initiatives such as the Climate Challenge Fund and the Home Insulation Scheme that will benefit communities across Scotland including Argyll and Bute. A bold Green voice at Westminster can start to make the changes we need to ensure a more equal society and a better life for all.

GARY MULVANEY Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

There are only two outcomes at this election: five more years of Labour or change with the Conservatives.

We will cut the deficit - but not the NHS, our number one priority. We'll stop Labour's jobs tax that will kill the recovery. For pensioners,

we will increase the basic state pension in line with earnings, keep winter fuel allowances, free TV licences and bus passes. We oppose Lib Dem/SNP plans to end jail sentences of less than six months and will make those convicted of knife crime serve two years in jail. We oppose Lib Dem plans to grant an amnesty to one million illegal immigrants and will cut net migration back to levels in the 1990s.

We need to change Argyll and Bute too. We



need a strong local MP at the heart of government - someone with influence inside the corridors of power. For too long, under the Lib Dems, we've been on the political fringes. After 23 years, we're tired of the 'same old same old', and the Conservatives can win here.

Britain cannot afford another five years of Labour, and we can't afford the indecision and backdoor deals of a hung parliament.

It is up to you.

ALAN REID Scottish Liberal Democrats

I always stand up for Argyll and Bute's interests in Parliament.

I voted against the recent fuel duty increases which Labour forced through while the Tories abstained. I am campaigning for a reduced rate of fuel duty for remote and rural areas. I ran a successful campaign to stop the Scottish Government selling our forests. I persuaded the Government not to charge VAT on the new Mull Swimming Pool saving the community £300,000.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our economy. We must help them by getting the banks lending again at sensible interest rates and cutting bureaucracy for businesses. Key challenges are to reform Europe's Agriculture and Fishing policies to benefit



our farmers, crofters and fishermen and to bring superfast broadband to the whole of Argyll and Bute.

Liberal Democrat tax policies will make the first £10,000 you earn tax free - a £700 a year boost for most workers. We will clean up our political system following the MPs' expenses scandal. My own expenses were one of the lowest among Scottish MPs and were given a clean bill of health by the independent auditor.

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Na h-Eileanan an Iar

JEAN DAVIES
Scottish Liberal Democrats

We have a chance to bring about real change.

Successive governments have promised much but delivered little. Liberal Democrats are different. We are committed to tackling the economy head on. We won't treat you like children, hiding the tough choices that have to be made. We will be open, upfront and honest with you.

We will rebalance a tax system that has become grossly unfair. We will make the first £10,000 of your earnings tax free, cutting most tax bills by £700.

We will protect education funding, giving every child a fair start in life. We will break up the big banks and make sure that greedy bankers never again bring us to the brink of bankruptcy. And we will clean up a political



system that gave us moat cleaning and duck houses paid for by the taxpayer.

The Liberal Democrats are the party that can deliver a fairer Britain, and I am the person who can bring about this change for the Western Isles

Whether it is the disproportionate impact of high fuel prices, the need for locally delivered services or the threat of dwindling populations, the Western Isles needs an MP who understands the unique challenges faced.

ANGUS MACNEIL
Scottish National Party

We need SNP MPs helping the Scottish government to keep money for our Councils and Health Boards not Labour and Liberal Democrat MPs who snipe at Scotland's government and ultimately threaten cuts to services

One of the biggest benefits to the Islands was the introduction of RET. This policy has also benefited mainland ports and attracted more passengers to the western seaboard in general.

Continuation and expansion of this policy will only come with the SNP. The other parties opposed this in word and deed for years.

Labour's threatens to remove 125 jobs from Uist. This would follow a pattern of around 6,000 direct Defence jobs and a further 4,000 indirect jobs which Labour has removed from Scotland



since 1997.

The high price of fuel is probably the biggest issue at the moment; we pay more on fuel duty than any other country in Europe. Along with my SNP colleagues I will continue to fight for a Fuel Duty Regulator and a Fuel Duty Derogation for rural areas.

Only the SNP will fight for the rural areas of Scotland, and I would hope that we see the Western Isles being joined by other areas in ensuring a better future for Scotland.

Ross, Skye and Lochaber

PHILIP ANDERSON
United Kingdom Independence Party

I work, in partnership with my family, on our farms and in the various diversified businesses we have set up together.

I have stood as a candidate for the United Kingdom Independence Party since 2001.

I was inspired by UKIP in 1998 as being the only clear sighted party that was addressing the retrieval of British values and sovereignty in the onslaught of the 120,000 EU regulations which have left Britain in the shambles of government we are witnessing today.

Brussels now controls 100 per cent of agriculture and 75 per cent of British governance.

I witness everyday the cost of the alien imposition of EU bureaucratic dictatorship by the EU Regionalisation



of Britain on our thousand years of heritage.

I support UKIP's policy to withdraw from the expensive dead hand of EU bureaucracy but continue trading with the EU and the rest of the world on terms favourable to the UK.

DONALD CAMERON
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

I am from near Spean Bridge in Lochaber where my family has lived for many years. Aged 33 and married, I work across Scotland as an advocate, specialising in agricultural, crofting and employment law.

In this election, voters can bring about real change both in the Highlands and countrywide. Over the last few years, I have talked to many voters about their concerns. Here are just a few issues that people have raised:

- Our crumbling road infrastructure, especially the poor condition of the A9, A82 and A87, not to mention smaller routes.
- The madness of tighter EU regulation faced by our farmers, crofters and fishermen.
- Inadequate care provision for the elderly.
- The downgrading and marginalisation of rural



schools.
· Access to broadband internet – despite some improvements, many parts of the Highlands are without sufficient coverage.

If elected, I want to work with others to overcome these problems and bring about a positive effect on people's quality of life.

Only a change of government can take us in a new direction.

Only by voting Conservative can that change of government happen.

DONALD JOHN MACSWEEN
Scottish Labour Party

The Western Isles are in urgent need of effective political representation. We need an MP who will fight for every job and every community. As in the past, we need an MP whose highest priority is to ensure that the Islands' needs are known and understood in the corridors of power.

I have a proven record of working with others to secure results and I will continue that approach if elected on May 6. The Western Isles economy does not need empty Nationalist slogans. But it does need an MP totally committed to hard work and delivery of results.

Under Labour, spending on the NHS and education has doubled in real terms over 13 years. Maybe more than any other part of Scotland, we need Labour's commitment to



public services, as well as to the rights of pensioners and others on modest income.

Since 2007, funding for HIE has been slashed by the Nationalists with critical consequences for the Western Isles. I have proposed a Western Isles Development Agency to focus attention once again on our needs. All of my efforts as MP would be concentrated on securing jobs and prosperity for a constituency which cannot afford not to be heard.

MURDO MURRAY
standing as an Independent

Our national economy is in serious disarray and it is not all down to the banking crisis. We are currently among the worst in Europe in terms of our Public Borrowing as a percentage of our GDP and no matter who gets into power painful action will be required to get the deficit back to a sustainable level.

Our country is also becoming more and more authoritarian by the year to the extent that Christians now have to consider themselves as aliens in their own land.

All of this is as a result of our abandonment of the principles of God's Word and our nation is reaping what we have sown and only in acknowledging God's sovereign Lordship will our land be healed.

I would want to take a prudent approach for the Western Isles and make



preparation for a time of shortage. In a spirit of co-operation I would like to attract as much investment as possible to get these islands onto a self-sufficient and sustainable footing. The foundation of that footing is energy – self sufficiency in the first instance; which can be achieved at community and individual level – and then export; which will require a sub-sea link which will allow link-up with our Argyll and Irish neighbours into a European Energy Grid.

RONNIE CAMPBELL
standing as an Independent

I am standing as an independent candidate representing the crofters of Ross, Skye and Lochaber.

I am a hands-on crofter in Bohuntin, and have been a township clerk for 40 years. This has given me invaluable experience of the problems facing crofters today.

As an independent I will not have to answer to a party whip, I will be free to say and do what I believe.

I take a keen interest in the development of Fort William and I feel the development of a link between Corpach, Banavie, Caol, Inverloch and Fort William is vitally important for the future of the area.

I will campaign for an upgrade to the A82 and fight for special allowances for lower fuel



prices in the Highlands.

My ancestors were relocated from their land and scattered across the world. I travelled to Australia to stay with their descendants, and I feel deeply connected to my past.

That is why I feel that crofters need a voice in Westminster.

CHARLES KENNEDY
Scottish Liberal Democrats

In the last few weeks, I have been holding open meetings all over our area.

I am grateful for the warm welcome I've received, but people are angry about what has happened to our economy and our politics. They want some transparency – and real change.

The Liberal Democrats stand for fairness. We would scrap income tax on the first £10,000 you earn, giving back about £700 to most taxpayers. That can be paid for by a one per cent tax on £2 million mansions and removing big tax loopholes for the wealthy.

The focus on fairness goes beyond tax. We want to rebuild a fairer, more balanced economy. We would restore the link between pensions and earnings. And we would give rural communities



a fair, discounted rate of fuel duty.

Locally, I will work for the investment we need in our key infrastructure, especially faster broadband, the West Highland Line and the A82 – and to defend key services in difficult years ahead. We'll stand up, as we always have, for reform in politics, including a fair voting system and the right for the public to sack corrupt MPs. I will always put people here in Ross, Skye and Lochaber first.

SHEENA LOUISE NORQUAY
Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party

Sheena Louise Norquay was born in Aberdeen, her mother from Lewis and her father of Orkadian descent.

The Western Isles remain the home of her family. While at school in Stonehaven, Sheena was employed by the Church of Scotland Board of Responsibility, working with children and adults with special needs. She continued this work when she moved to St Andrews to pursue a degree in International Relations, as well as outreach work with the Free Church of Scotland. She has been employed by a global bank for three years, which has put her in opportune position to witness the effects of the global banking crisis on families in Scotland.

Sheena's experience, coupled with a deep respect for the way of life in the



islands, has motivated her to stand for dramatic and lasting change. The Western Isles have to deal with the issues caused by depopulation, which can only be addressed by supporting the traditional industries and, moreover, creating new jobs.

Sheena wants to see the old politics of spin replaced by a politics of honesty, integrity and common-sense.

The constituents of Na h-Eileanan an Iar have a role to play in electing this government.

JOHN MCKENDRICK
Scottish Labour Party

This election presents the gravest challenge for voters in Scotland for a generation.

Scots remember the economic and social marginalisation of our country under Margaret Thatcher. We remember the poll tax. We cannot return to that. Only by voting Labour can we return a government able to stop David Cameron being prime minister.

Labour wants to govern guided by fairness. With a guarantee to protect public spending in health, education and the police, you and your families can plan for prosperity as the economy recovers. Labour has made the recovery possible: unlike the recession of the 1990s there has been no mass unemployment or repossessions. This did not happen by chance. It happened because we



believe in a future fair for all. In Ross Skye and Lochaber only a Labour MP can effectively stand up to protect your vital public services in a time of future uncertainty. Only a Labour MP can bring you the much needed investment in transport infrastructure and the upgrading of the A82.

As an experienced advocate and barrister, I promise to be the hardworking representative, guided by integrity, needed to restore your faith in politics.

ELEANOR SCOTT
Scottish Green Party

I live in Easter Ross where for many years I was a doctor in community child health. I spent four years from 2003 – 2007 as Green MSP for Highlands and Islands, making me the other candidate with parliamentary experience.

While campaigning in this election I have sensed a real wish for a change from the old politics of the past. I believe Green politics is that change.

Greens in Westminster will create an economy built around people, with a living wage for all, not banker's bonuses; we will protect our public services from cuts, instead ending the billions wasted on replacing Trident; and we will support new Green jobs by creating an energy-generating democracy for the future.

We can be trusted on



the environment. We can be visionary and transformative on the economy. We can provide positive alternatives to the draconian cuts all other parties propose for our public services.

Elected Greens across the UK have made a difference as councillors, MSPs and MEPs and we are ready for the breakthrough in Westminster.

The only wasted vote is a vote you don't believe in. If you think green, vote Green.

ALASDAIR STEPHEN
Scottish National Party

This constituency needs a local and national champion. That is someone who will stand up for our communities and for Scotland. As an SNP MP I will always put my constituents' and country's needs first. As a nationalist politician I will not be in Westminster for a career but to return power back to Scotland and to work hard for each and every one of you.

It has never been more important that the SNP wins this seat. Petrol prices are rocketing and fuel costs are forcing many of our elderly to choose between food and warmth. This is an intolerable situation which is threatening the very sustainability of our rural communities. We are an oil rich nation yet the three London parties only offer more misery and the prospect of deeper cuts than Margaret Thatcher



back in the 80s. Only a strong SNP can protect jobs and services and only the SNP has the courage to allow Scotland to stand on her own two feet. That is why I am urging you to vote for me and my party on May 6.

The people of Ross, Skye and Lochaber need a representative who will devote all his time to politics and championing this constituency. To find out more about me please visit

<http://alasdairstephen.snpsinsight.com>

LISMORE

Your correspondent is Pauline Dowling: 01631 760293

Children's Easter celebrations

EASTER celebrations got off to an exciting start when the parent council raffled the large Easter egg which had been displayed in the café for many weeks alongside several nests of smaller eggs.

With Beth's encouragement, lots of tickets were sold and the parent council raised £87 towards the children's new playhouse.

The fun continued the next day with an Easter party in the hall. The parent council had arranged a huge display of easter eggs and, as the children arrived, they were given a voucher for a free easter egg to be collected at the end of the party.

Egg decoration produced some great results making the judging a daunting task for the Rev Dr Roderick Campbell.

Then there was face painting, music and party games including pass the easter parcel, the bunny hop and musical bunnies. After tea, juice and snacks the party ended with the scattering of a piñata filled with sweets and toys.

A total of 33 children came to the party and they all left happily around 5pm clutching their free egg.

The parent council thank everyone who attended, all the helpers, the Reverend Roderick and Sue Campbell.

Lismore energy project

LISMORE Community Council, working with Lismore Community Trust Interim Board, has been awarded a £48,600 grant from the Climate Challenge Fund which will finance an energy project on Lismore.

Studies have shown that more than half of households in Oban, Lorn and the inner isles, which includes Lismore, are in fuel poverty which means, on average, they spend more than 10 per cent of their income on fuel. In Lismore that may be higher.

During community consultation days in 2008 and 2009, organised by the Community Trust Steering Group with the assistance of Highlands and Islands Enterprise, many people expressed their desire to see the island involved in energy efficiency and renewable projects.

This project will address this and aims to ensure a sustainable future by reducing emissions of greenhouse gases and dependency on fossil fuels.

A project officer will be appointed for a year to, among other things, prepare household energy saving/carbon reduction plans; help fund and install insulation; raise energy awareness and provide opportunities to compost, recycle, re-use and make travelling more green.

A project steering group is being established and representatives from island groups with a potential interest in energy issues are being invited to sit on the



Rainbows and Brownies help clean up Connel

Connel's Brownies and Rainbows lent a helping hand to the annual village clean up. The girls picked up loads of litter from the lochshore.



Children and adults spring clean Plockton

The annual village clean up was held in Plockton on April 16. In the afternoon, Plockton Primary School picked up litter and in the evening adults filled three skips.

steering group. The Lismore community needs to reduce its carbon footprint by 42 per cent by 2020 and 50 per cent by 2050. This will be a challenge given its location and the distances islanders have to travel, the constant rain and the relatively poor housing stock. Further information on this project is available on the website www.isleoflismore.com.

KILCHRENAN

Your correspondent is Marilyn Henderson: 01866 833201

Windfarm community benefit

AT THE recent meeting of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council, concern was raised regarding the traffic management plan and community benefit in connection with the timber haul route and the installation of Carraig Gheal windfarm.

With regard to the community benefit, Graham Henderson, community council member, said that he had been in touch with Audrey Martin of Argyll

and Bute Council, who deals with trust funds for the communities who have windfarms in their area.

It should be stressed that the windfarm company, Green Power (Carraig Gheal Ltd) has not yet agreed with Argyll and Bute Council on funding for the community.

Despite a quote in a recent *Oban Times* from Mark Evans of Green Power that he has spoken to the community on various occasions and liaises with them, he has been unobtainable for some time now and does not respond to any communication.

Councillor Elaine Robertson said that she did discover that Bill Weston of the roads department has arranged a meeting with Green Power to which the community council may be invited.

The road traffic management plan, community funding and temporary conditions will be discussed. Following its lack of response in the past, it is hoped a Green Power representative will be able to attend.

Traffic management plan

COUNCILLOR Robertson intimated that under the plan, the traffic order for 40mph under the code of

practice has been agreed for the duration of the windfarm construction.

Dog warden

AS A RESULT of the amount of dog fouling in the area, P MacLuckie, Argyll and Bute Operational Services Dog Warden, was invited to the meeting to discuss his work.

He highlighted the following points:

□ The law requires all dog fouling to be immediately removed from public areas.

□ The law also requires dogs to be under control at all times. This usually means being on a lead.

□ Public areas are everywhere except private grounds adjacent to residences.

□ The law is enforceable only by the police or authorised council officers from the Operational Services Department. No authority has been given to anyone else.

□ Argyll and Bute Council environmental health officers can report cases, but only Operational Services can issue penalties.

□ Serious diseases can be transferred by contact with dog fouling.

□ Under the Dangerous Dogs (Scotland) Act, farmers have the right, at their sole discretion, to shoot a dog worrying sheep.

Defibrillators

ROBERT Connor, community council member, intimated that attendance at the last defibrillator training and life-saving course last month was poor.

Out of the 12 volunteers, only five attended. He said that the next course would be provided by the British Heart Foundation and would take place once funding was confirmed.

At present, four defibrillator batteries are required. The cost will be between £125 and £200 per battery.

Mr Connor asked if the community council would assist in funding for this. As the community council had received a grant of £500 from the Fairer Oban, Lorn and the Isles Fund, he asked if part of this money could be given towards this cost. The secretary said this was not possible as the money had been ring-fenced.

It was agreed that as the system belongs to the community council, they must make provision for

maintenance, including buying batteries. The community council will investigate grant funding and do all it can to raise money, although any other assistance from the community would be welcomed.

Mrs Henderson had raised money by having a book sale and Niall MacLeod had bought all of the remaining books, so £80 was given to the council to help towards the purchase of batteries.

Kilchrenan housing

THE PLANNING and Licensing Committee of Argyll and Bute Council was due to meet in Helensburgh on Wednesday April 21 to grant planning permission for the erection of 16 dwelling houses, to which Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council objected.

Litter

JAMIE Beamish of Kilchrenan raised the issue of roadside litter and it was agreed that the community council will organise volunteers for clean up days.

It was agreed with Argyll and Bute Council that a waste bin be placed in the Kilchrenan Parish Church grounds.

HGV drivers

SEVERAL members of the public complained about HGV driver behaviour including excessive speed, abuse, use of mobile phones while driving and forcing private cars off the road.

It was agreed that the community council write to the Forestry Commission regarding this.

Bus timetable

THE COMMUNITY council was asked if it could make a request to the appropriate authorities, requesting that the bus service from Dalavich to Oban could be maintained during school holidays and to ask why the bus runs without passengers on the return journey.

KILMORE

Kilmore 100 Club

100 Club winners - March: M MacMahon, £200; Lord Denhold, £100.

April winner, £100, M Ingles.

Bookings for functions at Kilmore Hall can be made with Mrs F Dickie 01631 770228.

ISLAY

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell 01496 850215

Argyll and Bute Volunteer Awards

IF YOU know someone or a group of people who deserve to be recognised for the volunteer work they do in Argyll and Bute, then Argyll Voluntary Action is asking you to nominate that person or group for an award.

Nominations should be sent in by May 14.

There are award categories for Individual, Sports, Youth, Youth Sports, Voluntary Organisation and Sports Event of the Year.



Jean Alexander wears the Clan MacInnes tartan. She welcomes people with a MacInnes connection to come forward and join the UK branch of the clan which has very few members from Argyll and the Isles. 16_t18alexander2

Luing woman's new role with Clan MacInnes Association

A WOMAN from the Isle of Luing has taken over as membership secretary of Clan MacInnes.

Jean Alexander took over the position in the UK branch of The International Association of Clan MacInnes.

Jean, originally from Liverpool, said: 'The association was first formed in the USA in 1970.'

'It wasn't until 1978 that the UK branch was formed.'

'There are now 154 families listed in Scotland,' Jean said, 'but very few are from Argyll and the Isles, where the largest population of MacInnes families still live.' Jean is encouraging any MacInnes descendants to join the association. Jean and her husband, John, who is of MacInnes descent, spent two weeks with members of the clan, who came over last July for the Homecoming.

Jean said: 'We had a great time meeting one another. More than 40 members came over from the USA, some from Australia as well as other UK members met in Edinburgh. It would have been great to have a few more MacInnes members particularly from Argyll and the Isles attending those events.'

'Sadly Donald MacInnes, our founder Scottish member, passed away in 2007. We will be dedicating a remembrance seat to him at St John's Church, Ballachulish, where many MacInnes descendants visit their ancestors graves.'

For those wishing to know more about membership, please contact Jean by email alexjl@live.co.uk or via the clan website www.macinnes.org or phone Jean on 01852 314242.

is doing a great job or is volunteering in difficult circumstances, let them know by nominating them for this award.

The award ceremony will take place on Friday June 11. Forms and assistance with nominations are available from Karen Siddall, Islay Volunteer Development Project, Mactaggart Leisure Centre, 07748 312796 or email karen.siddall@btconnect.com.

Islay Canoe Club

ISLAY Canoe Club is inviting its members past and present to return all equipment belonging to the club for its annual stock take.

The return of any kit is now needed so the club knows exactly what it has, its condition and what it needs to prepare for this summer's outings.

Any club gear can be handed in to Sandy Smith, Steven Harrison or Dave Portherough

- and no questions asked! Alternatively, bring your stuff to the first of this summer's paddling sessions mentioned below.

The club would also gratefully receive any donation of unwanted wetsuits, spray decks, buoyancy aids, kayaks or canoes in useful condition which members of the public might have stored away unused.

Equipment suitable for younger members would be especially useful.

Islay Canoe Club would like to welcome new and existing members to the start of this season's outdoor paddling sessions, starting on Friday April 30 at Bowmore harbour.

Sessions run from 6pm to 8pm every second Friday throughout the summer, weather allowing.

These sessions are a great opportunity for beginners to develop their kayak paddling and safety skills so all ages and abilities are invited to the Friday evening sessions.

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Ewen MacGillivray, Barcaldine

Coastguard medals presented on Isle of Coll

Kevin Oliphant, left, and Frank Anderson, right, both from the Isle of Coll, receive HM Coastguard Long Service Medals from Brett Cunningham, Safety Manager West Scotland and Northern Ireland. Kevin received his award for 20 years plus service while Frank Anderson received a second clasp to his Long Service Medal for 40 years service and certificates to mark his retirement from the service. It was the last occasion Mr Cunningham will be visiting the area in his Coastguard capacity as he is also retiring in early May.

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Laggan Locks

accident closes A82

THE A82 was closed between Spean Bridge and Invergarry for two hours on Wednesday morning following a two-car accident on a bend at Laggan locks junction.

The drivers from each car had to be removed with help from Highlands and Islands Fire and Rescue before being taken to Belford Hospital, Fort William.

Northern Constabulary Acting Inspector David Campbell, Fort William, said that neither driver had life-threatening injuries but the road was closed while they were extracted from their vehicles.

The road re-opened at 9.30am.

Harris Tweed qualification

THE FIRST national qualification in Harris Tweed has been approved by the Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA).

Taught in four units, the National Progression Award is aimed at school pupils and college students.

Sir E Scott School on Harris helped to put together the award, which provides introductions to weaving and production techniques.

Strongest Man goes global

FOR THE first time a global audience can watch the Scotland's Strongest Man competition live at the Nevis Centre, Fort William.

The event is being streamed live online via the lochaber.com website by Sports Media Online Services on both Saturday and Sunday. Sports Media Online Services director Robert Coull said: 'Strongman websites from as far as America and Australia will be watching.'

NEWSDESK
01631 568000



Polly Phillpot, Senior Education Officer with the Royal Zoological Society of Scotland, found some enthusiastic pupils - and others not so keen - when it came to handling the Wild Bus snakes.

Pupils get up close and personal with snakes

PUPILS at Fort William Primary School got up close and personal with some unusual creatures when the Royal Zoological Society Scotland's Wild Bus came to town.

Wild Bus has been visiting schools and community groups throughout Scotland since April last year as part

of the society's centenary celebrations. The restored, re-branded 1975 Leyland double-decker rolled into Fort William on Monday and pupils got to handle snakes and learn about hissing cockroaches, African land snails and other animals.

Fort William Primary School head

teacher Sue Commander said: 'The bus was here all day and the children had a fantastic time.'

'They thought it was really brilliant and were very grateful.'

'They are all experts about the animals now; you just press the button and the information comes out.'

Plans for new Fort 'store on stilts' submitted to council

PLANS for a new 'store on stilts' supermarket in Fort William have been submitted to Highland Council following a 'positive' public response to the developers.

Development firm Morbaine plans to build a 55,000 square-foot store on North Road, which would be the first of its kind in the Highlands, featuring a ground-level car park linked to the shopping floor above by moving ramps or 'travelators'.

Subject to planning permission, building work could start as soon as spring 2011 and finish by Christmas that year. It is envisaged that it would

create 200 full and part-time jobs. The developers decided to go ahead with the planning application following three-and-a-half months of consultation on the proposals, which culminated in a well-attended public exhibition in the Nevis Centre on March 31. The company said feedback from the day showed that 93 per cent thought Morbaine's proposal would help meet the need for greater choice for food shoppers in the town.

Councillor Michael Foxley said: 'In the photographs shown at the consultation events, it showed a single-lane roundabout and you need a double-lane roundabout to keep the

traffic flowing. That is the key issue for me.'

Morbaine Director Alex Brodie said the company had addressed public concerns about safety on the North Road by proposing a double lane roundabout, which will give access to both the new store and the Alcan site.

Mr Brodie added: 'This roundabout will keep traffic moving and hopefully tackle what many regard as an accident hotspot.'

Morbaine also plans to put in new bus shelters and a pedestrian crossing to ensure people can access the store by public transport and on foot.

Fury mounts over plans to cut school music tuition

HIGHLAND Council is facing an unprecedented public backlash over potential savage cuts to music tuition in schools.

Almost 4,000 people have signed an online petition to protest at the proposal which, if implemented, could reduce the number of children learning music by over half.

Signatories to the Hands Off Highland Young Musicians campaign include successful musicians who say they owe their careers to the excellent music teaching they received as children.

The £1.8million music tuition service has been lined up for £559,000 'savings' - to the fury of opponents who say provision in the Highlands is among the finest in Scotland and gives children life-enhancing opportunities to participate in concerts, bands and orchestras.

Currently 3,070 children receive tuition - a figure the council's own online consultation says would fall to 1,500 if the cuts were implemented. Full time equivalent staff numbers would also drop, from 35 to around 20.

Another option, says the council, is doubling tuition fees to £360 per annum - equivalent to £12 per half hour session - to provide the £554,000 'savings' needed to retain the service at existing levels.

EXCLUSIVE

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
snorris@obantimes.co.uk

Frances Sedgewick, from Banavie, Fort William, believes one third of brass, woodwind, strings and piping music tutors' posts could go - and urged people to lobby their local councillors and council officials.

She said: 'How are they going to make these cuts? If the kids have been learning for a year and they do away with the tutors they will not be able to do music any more.'

'If this were to happen it would be much more difficult to put together the various youth musical groups in the Highlands.'

'This will affect music making in all our rural communities, who depend on a core group of dedicated professional tutors coming round.'

'The tutors don't just teach instruments, they run groups in lunch hours and after school, give up their weekends to accompany children to Inverness for the regional groups and take part in all sorts of events in the local community.'

'If we lose them the ability of the schools to put on productions will be affected and local music groups could fade away entirely.'

The Lochaber Schools Wind Band committee

member added: 'The standard of playing is so high at the moment - it is wonderful. Children playing in groups together gives them the confidence they need to go on and do other things.'

Petition signatory Elizabeth Murray Brown said: 'Lochaber High School has so much musical talent amongst its staff and students. Why fix what ain't broke?'

And Helen Thurlow said: 'Learning to play the trombone in the Lochaber School Wind Band has given my son skills and a source of enjoyment which will last his whole life, as well as reducing his tendency towards asthma. Have the council reviewed all the duplication of work and frivolous spending which they indulge in?'

Upcoming ward forums will discuss the issue before consultations close in June. A final decision is expected this autumn.

The council says £36million of additional savings must be found in 2011-12 and 2012-13 to balance its £600million budget.

Budget leader Councillor David Alston estimated the council will have 12 per cent less to spend in real terms in three years time and departmental chiefs would have to work together to deliver services with fewer resources.

Campaign poster prompts intimidating call

AN OBAN man who put up an election campaign poster has an received intimidating, anonymous call warning him to remove it.

Kenneth MacColl, an SNP activist, said the party had put up a large poster on the shores of Oban Bay with the landowner's permission.

But within 36 hours, Mr MacColl was contacted by the owner to say he had removed the poster after he received a suspicious phone call.

Mr MacColl said: 'He had received a threatening and predictably anonymous

phone call suggesting that he might encounter 'problems' in his pursuit of planning consents if the sign were to remain in situ.

'We understand the resident's concern and we wholly respect his decision but we find this to be a very disturbing incident.'

Mr MacColl said the party regularly had posters torn down and defaced, but this incident gave cause for concern.

None of the other candidates that the Oban Times was able to reach had seen or heard of any similar reports.

Tweed designers take their talents to New York

HIGHLANDS and Islands fashion designers Judy Clark and Alison Macleod took their talents to New York for the recent Scotland Week 2010 to show the versatility of Harris Tweed.

Alison, from Ness on Lewis, and Fort William-born Judy attended the Dressed to Kilt event, where they showcased the Gaelic frock coat made by Judy using Alison's embroidered Harris Tweed panels. The catwalk show featured two other pieces from their collection, produced in collaboration with Harris Tweed Hebrides.

Carloway-based manufacturer Harris Tweed Textiles and the Harris Tweed Authority also attended the high profile fashion event. Harris Tweed's famous Orb trademark celebrates its 100th anniversary this year.

Clan Donald aims to unite

MEMBERS of Parish Church Hall, Scotland's largest clan are hoping to set up a Clan Donald society in the Highlands.

A meeting of people interested in forming the Clan Donald Society of the Highlands and Islands will be held this Saturday at Killearnan

Stornoway bids for civic space WORK to transform a civic space in the heart of Stornoway got underway this week.

Under the revamp, the upper part of Perceval Square will once again become a traffic-free hub for the town centre. Civic leaders hope the square will become an open-air entertainment and civic events venue.

Primary education proposals revealed

PROPOSALS to overhaul primary education in Lochaber were revealed in public consultation meetings held in Lochaber House, Fort William, on Monday and Tuesday nights.

The proposals discussed included plans to permanently close some rural schools in the Fort William area, merging Lochside and Fort William RC primary schools and building a new primary school at Caol.

Two further meetings will take place on May 3, one of which will take place at Treslaig with the other taking place at Acharacle. The changing of catchment areas and the possibility of more mergers and closures will be discussed.



Students celebrate their success with a cake.

Lochaber students first in world to complete unique sub-sea course

EIGHT Lochaber students have become the first in the world to collect Certificates of Achievement in Remotely Operated Vehicle Sub-sea Skills.

The unique course was developed by Lochaber College and Fort William Underwater Centre with financial support from the European Social Fund.

The two-month course gave students a range of highly specialised skills, from electronics and mechanics of underwater robots to 'flying' ROVs in Loch Linnhe.

Desirable jobs

Acting Principal of Lochaber College Douglas MacDiarmid said: 'The young men who picked up their certificates today are setting out uniquely qualified to approach major players in the growing sub-sea industry in seeking work and I am delighted that we at Lochaber College have been able to help put them on that first rung to highly desirable jobs.'



A documentary on the life of Norman Maclean has won a special award

Special award for Gaelic film

Documentary on Norman MacLean wins Celtic festival prize in Northern Ireland

A PROFILE of a Highland musician, author, comedian and actor has won a special award for Celtic media.

The TV documentary 'Tormod' about life of Norman Maclean was produced by Robbie Fraser of Pure Magic Films and Karen Smyth of La Belle Allée Productions and broadcast on BBC Alba.

It was picked for the Jury Award at this year's Celtic Media Festival, held in Northern Ireland. The film was singled out

by an international jury at the three-day showcase of broadcasting and film talent from Ireland, Wales, Scotland, Cornwall and Brittany.

The jury described Tormod as: 'A film of particular excellence. Outstanding in its quality and truly Celtic in character. Tackling personal weakness and turbulence with strength and honesty.'

Radio nan Gàidheal also won the radio station of the year award. Alan Esslemont, BBC

ALBA's head of content, added: 'We congratulate the Radio nan Gàidheal team and are delighted that Tormod: A life has won BBC Alba's first major documentary award.'

'Norman's remarkable story, which aired on the first anniversary of the channel, made a powerful impact on audiences in Scotland. We are proud that this work has been recognised by the festival and congratulate Pure Magic Films on their achievement.'

Oban goalpost problem is resolved

THE VEXED question of shinty goals for Oban's community-owned sports pitch has been resolved.

The issue of whether posts bought by the community management committee were acceptable prompted several members to resign.

However, after a discussion between the various parties, it has agreed that the posts can be returned to the site.

Former chair of the committee, Roddy McCuish said there had been a 'very positive meeting' which agreed

a way forward for the shinty goals and the community pitch as a whole.

Councillor Neil Mackay, spokesperson for Arts, Culture, Leisure and Sport, said: 'I am very pleased that everyone was able to get round the table and resolve this issue for the benefit of the town's shinty fraternity.'

'I can assure everyone that the goals are now perfectly safe, and I am delighted that shinty players of all ages and abilities will now be able to enjoy the full use of the pitch.'

Western Isles flyers suffer further disruption

AIR services within and to the Western Isles have gradually returned to normal following days of repeated disruption caused by volcanic ash from Iceland.

A new system opening air space where the concentration of ash was very low allowed flights to take off last Thursday, April 22. But a new 'no fly zone' over northwest Scotland grounded a number of morning Loganair flights on Friday, April 23.

Services gradually returned to normal from Friday afternoon as the dust cloud cleared the area.

Kilchrenan housing development gains planning permission

Community council maintains its opposition to home building project

A PLANNING application for a housing development in Kilchrenan has got the go-ahead despite local opposition.

Argyll and Bute councillors voted 11 to two in favour of Barbreck Farm Partnership's application to build 16 houses in the village.

The two councillors who opposed the application had requested that the decision be deferred and another hearing arranged, following the delay in the publication of a council report.

A total of 14 Kilchrenan residents made written representations to the council opposing the application, together with a letter of opposition from Kilchrenan Community Council.

Collectively these letters raised a number of concerns about building on the 1.6 hectares of land adjacent to Barbreck Cottages.

The community council is, in particular, concerned about the impact of this development considering that planning permission has been granted to develop 10 houses around the Memorial Field and a further 44 dwellings have been

granted outline planning permission since 2006.

David Price of Avich and Kilchrenan Community Council said: 'The community council realises the added value of a modest rise in the housing stock of the village. However this must be achieved in line with current planning guidelines, which suggest that a development of 16 houses is disproportionate in a minor settlement such as Kilchrenan.'

'The council need to look at the cumulative effect of all these developments on the village.' He added: 'The community council plan to oppose the development again at the detailed planning application stage.'

The community council also complained that the delay in the publication of Argyll and Bute Council's committee planning application report meant they did not have time to discuss its findings before the hearing.

A spokeswoman for the council said that the report had been published within the statutory timeframe of three days.

Mull eagle diary

LAST week, staff at the Mull eagle hide were anxiously waiting for the hatch of eggs at Loch Frisa. It came and went. They now fear the first chick did not survive 24 hours of relentless cold, wet and rain. All hopes are now pinned on the second egg. Trips to the eagle hide continue, contact 01680 812 556.

Glencoe and Glen Nevis to become set for £2.3 million movie

GLENCOE and Glen Nevis will be setting for a £2.3million movie with an international cast, fronted by television and film star Melissa George.

Ms George, who began her career on the sunny set

of Home and Away, will be scaling wild landscapes such as Buachaille Etive Mòr and is currently preparing for her role with a crash-course in hillclimbing in the US ahead of filming next month.

"I've always wanted to shoot in the Highlands because it is such wild country"

The 33-year-old, who has also starred in the drama Grey's Anatomy and the film 30 Days of Night, plays one of a party of mountaineers training in Scotland before tackling The Eiger.

The film, which has a

working title The Grave at Angel's Peak, was inspired by director Julian Gilbey's own passion for climbing in the Scottish Highlands.

Mr Gilbey said: 'I have climbed and hiked in the Highlands for years and

I've always wanted to shoot in the Highlands because it is such a wild country.'

The movie centres on hillwalkers who investigate a noise they hear while climbing the mountain. They discover a tube jutting

out of the ground and dig it up to find a small chamber. Inside they find an eight-year-old girl alive, who turns out to be the daughter of a Serbian war criminal and, as the director explains: 'All hell breaks loose.'

Windows smashed around Fort William

FORT WILLIAM Police are appealing for information after two windows and the windscreen of a forklift were smashed in the Fort William area.

Sometime over the weekend of April 17 and 18 and also on Monday, April 19 windows were broken at the old fire station in Claggan Road.

And between 4.20pm on Wednesday, April 14 and 10.40am the following day the forklift, in Ardgour Road, Caol, was vandalised.

Police are still seeking information about an incident between 6.30pm on Saturday, March 27 and midday on Sunday, March 28, when the window of a shed in Kennedy Road was smashed.

Anyone with any knowledge of these incidents should contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or, alternatively, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111, where anonymity can be maintained.

Searching for young filmmakers

ASPIRING filmmakers in the Highlands are being invited by Highland Council to come up with an original story about waste and recycling.

Youngsters from 11 to 16 years old are being asked to enter their ideas in the competition organised by the council's Waste Recycling team. The winner will get to work with a professional production company to bring their story to life. The film will then be shown throughout the Highlands at schools, community events and possibly local cinemas.

The deadline for entries is 7 May.

Community care consultation

MEMBERS of the public are being encouraged to make their views known to Highland Council on planned changes to community care.

The council is holding a consultation on the plans and the deadline for comments from the public is June 15. Chair of NHS Highland Garry Coutts said: 'I urge members of the public to get their ideas across to us. We are very keen to hear if they agree we are on the right lines or not.'

Celtic Media Festival returns to Western Isles

THE CELTIC Media Festival will make its return to the Western Isles next year after organisers backed the Comhairle's bid to host the event.

The Isles were announced as 2011 hosts on Friday, the closing day of this year's festival in Newry, Northern Ireland.

The event, which promotes the cultures and languages of the Celtic countries in film, on television, radio and new media, was established by Minister for Education Michael Russell in 1980, when Uist played host.

Since then it has grown enormously in size, influence and importance and is now a high profile, multi-media international event.

The 2011 festival will take place from April 13-15 and returns to its roots for the first time in 30 years.

Comhairle leader Angus Campbell said 2011 is already gearing up to be a 'culturally rich year' for the Western Isles with the return of the Chessmen in April and the Royal National Mòd in October.

He said: 'The festival will raise the profile of Gaelic in the Western Isles and showcase the facilities, venues and broadcasting infrastructure available in the Islands.'

Festival producer Jude MacLavery was 'delighted' to be taking the 32nd festival 'home' to the Western Isles.

She said: 'We were very impressed by all the new and growing facilities the Western Isles has to offer alongside the beautiful scenery, history and culture. I have no doubt our delegates will love their trip to Stornoway in the spring of 2011.'

Lochaber rallies round little Harris

One-year-old boy fights for his life

LOCHABER continues to rally round a local family whose infant son is fighting for his life in an Edinburgh hospital.

Brain tumour
Little Harris Ross, who is battling a brain tumour, finished the last of six gruelling chemotherapy sessions at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children last weekend.

Harris went into an isolation ward on Monday to shield him from infection and will be there for six weeks.

A dedicated nurse will monitor his condition and parents Allan and Tanya will be in constant attendance.

Allan and Tanya, from Corpach, have spent almost all their time in Clic Sargent accommodation next to the hospital since Harris was diagnosed five months ago.

Since then the family has been inundated with messages of support and donations from local people and organisations.

Such was the demand for the upcoming Harris Ross Texas Scramble at Fort William Golf Club on May 9, the original tee off time of 10am was pulled back to 8am then 7am to accommodate everybody.

Allan's ROK workmates will play in the competition, with some travelling from Aberdeen, Elgin, Glasgow and Inverness.

Club steward Jim Duncan said demand had been unprecedented and 56 three person teams would take part. 'It's the biggest crowd that Fort William has ever had,' Jim said.

Father Roddy Johnston led an emotional special mass at St John's in Caol on April 14 to mark Harris's first birthday, while Lochaber athletes raised further funds in Sunday's London Marathon wearing 'I'm running for Harris' t-shirts.

Lochaber High School pupils raised £3,500 in a sponsored walk and Fort William Shinty Club presented Harris's grandparents Jimmy and Bridie Ross with £800 of donations after their recent 6-0 win against Kingussie.

Jimmy, from Caol, told The Oban Times: 'The support from the entire community has been absolutely amazing.'

'They have been so dedicated, his mum and dad - they have never left his side.'

'But it's been hard on the whole lot of them.'



80 dancers were followed by 600 spectators as the international carnival came to Banavie

Eastern promise comes to Neptune's Staircase

A CHINESE dragon and musical float brought a colourful eastern carnival atmosphere to a dance spectacular at Neptune's Staircase on the Caledonian Canal at Banavie on Sunday.

600 follow procession
Spectators watched more than 80 dancers perform two separate two-hour carnival performances

celebrating water-themed mythologies from around the globe including Celtic, Roman, Indian, Brazilian and Chinese.

The 'Neptune's Revelry' event was the local finale of the Highland-wide Body Currents dance development programme, which was developed by Eden Court, plan B and Highland Council.

The audience of over 600 people followed the procession from the top Scotland's longest staircase lock, while watching a host of costume clad dancers go through their spectacular repertoire, often joining in with the show.

More than 1,600 local people have taken part in the Body Currents initiative since September.

Colin Marr, director of Eden Court said: 'We are delighted to see yet another successful event from the Body Currents team.'

'Despite the rain showers, the fantastic range of dance and music brought sunshine to Neptune's Staircase yesterday and we are already looking forward to the next dance spectacular taking place in June.'

Western Isles schools' project moves forward

THE BODY running the Western Isles School project have started the process of ensuring new schools for Lewis, Harris, Benbecula, and possibly South Uist.

Sgoiltean Ùra says it hopes the building of two new primary schools on Lewis and one on Benbecula will be finished by late 2011, after the preferred contractor was announced this week.

It also plans to have the new Nicolson Institute in Stornoway and the Sir E. Scott primary and secondary in Tarbert completed by August 2012.

"We are committed to providing first class educational facilities."

Morag Munro chair of education and children's services

Sgoiltean Ùra, the body running the £110m Western Isles Schools Project on behalf of Comhairle nan

Eilean Siar, has chosen FMP as the preferred bidder to design and construct the new schools and FES FM will maintain the new buildings as part of a 30-year contract.

It is also hoped that enough money can be found in the budget to build a sixth new school, at Daliburgh, and to put in synthetic pitches at each of the schools.

Councillor Norman A MacDonald, chairman of Sgoiltean Ùra, said: 'Although there remains a significant amount of work to be done before we can

make a full start on each of the five sites, we remain confident that we will be in a position to do so during the coming months.'

Chair of Education and Children's Services Morag Munro said: 'Thanks are due to Sgoiltean Ùra for their work in reaching this very significant stage in the Western Isles Schools Project.'

'We are committed to providing first class educational facilities for our children and young people and this is an important step towards that achievement.'

Advertorial

Duisdale House Hotel

Duisdale House Hotel is a small, wildly romantic hotel, located on The Isle of Skye. Sometimes likened to a sleek city boutique hotel transported to the wilds of Skye, it has been totally transformed over recent years. A favourite for Romantic Breaks, Honeymoons and Weddings, aside from the stunning setting, it has many magical qualities which make it perfect for such occasions.

There are a range of sleek, contemporary rooms with sea or garden views and stylish four-poster rooms. Mostly the chic design is in a palette of black, mushroom and cream but some are in reds or aubergines, all complete with flat screen TVs and all the luxury amenities you would expect in a hotel of this quality.

Duisdale's restaurant offers two stylish zones: a handsome room with a real fire linked to a conservatory area with grand garden views. The bold design theme continues throughout with tall-backed white leather chairs, tables set with white linen and many attractive flourishes. Dining here does feel distinctly special and gentle Celtic background music adds a sense of place. The A la Carte menu offers modern Scottish cuisine full of exciting ideas using carefully-selected suppliers including many local Skye partners.

Newly appointed award winning chef, Nick Fisher used to work for renowned hotelier Alex Polizzi of the Hotel Inspector TV series. Famed for his skilled use of local produce in his creative menus he is delighted with the range and quality of local produce. His menus regularly feature Hand-Dived Scallops, Langoustine & Venison as well as much, much more from the local area. "I am just delighted with the ingredients I have to work with here on Skye" enthused Nick, "it's amazing to be cooking with produce so fresh that it would have been swimming in the seas or running around on the hillside nearby just a day or two before!"

The hotel itself has a luxurious new Hydro pool in the garden and there are many new woodland walks to enjoy. Skye offers so much to see and do; Dunvegan Castle, Talisker Distillery, The Clan Donald Centre, the Cuillin Mountains to name but a few.

Owners Anne Gracie and Kenneth Gunn also

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Kyles of Lochalsh former post office building comes under the auctioneers hammer in Edinburgh

TWO properties in Kyle of Lochalsh went under the hammer in Edinburgh yesterday.

The former post office building and the site of a former water treatment works were both up

for grabs at the SVA Property Auctions at the Marriott Hotel.

The semi-detached post office building is located on the Main Street, and was expected to reach bids of £180,000.

It consists of the former post

office, the sorting office, a shop, and a four-bedroom flat.

The building is divided into three properties, each with their own entrance door.

The Sallachy water treatment works by Dornie was sold

as land with potential for development.

It is situated on a hillside with views over Loch Long, and the 0.08 acre site was expected to receive bids of £5,000 to £10,000.



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Group manager Pat MacElhinney and firefighter Mark MacGregor with the successful trainees 10_f18fre01

Kinlochleven fire crew trainees

YOUNG people from Kinlochleven High School have been finding out just what it's like to be a member of the fire service.

At a presentation ceremony at the local fire station, parents, carers and teaching staff heard how the youngsters completed a 10 week Hi-Fires course, which saw them trained in hose drills, ladder drills, breathing apparatus and carrying out home fire safety checks. The pupils also received non-fire related training on incident management at road traffic collisions and first aid skills, and travelled to Inverness Airport to take part in a practical demonstration of aircraft fire fighting tactics and techniques. Crew members praised the young people's efforts on the Big Lottery-funded course. Firefighter Mark MacGregor said: 'We have been delighted to participate with the young people, as we have seen them grow in confidence over the months. This has given our staff new-found skills in working with young people and has extended our own personal development at the same time. We will miss them all, but hope to keep this going within the community.'

No extra trains for West Highland lines, minister confirms

TRAIN services to Oban, Fort William and Mallaig will not increase in the near future, Scotland's transport minister has confirmed.

Stewart Stevenson MSP was quizzed by Friends of the West Highland Lines at a public meeting in Oban last week.

Doug Carmichael, chairman of the railway pressure group, said: 'Oban is the largest town in Scotland with a rail link with this service.'

'We were hoping you would come here today and make an announcement that we were getting four or five

trains a day.'

Travelled by car

Mr Stevenson, who travelled to the Oban meeting by ministerial car after finding public transport connections unsatisfactory, replied: 'I'm not yet in a position to make that announcement.'

'We are very conscious of how difficult it is to get here.'

'I will look down the back of the sofa for a little more money, but I'm afraid I have looked down there so often that it is getting a bit worn.'

The minister met with Duncan MacIntyre,

spokesman for transport on Argyll and Bute Council, to discuss various local transport issues.

Afterwards, Councillor MacIntyre said: 'The economic case has been made for the five trains a day into and out of Oban. All that is a difficulty at

the present time the money isn't there.' He said studies showed the cost of extra crew and rolling stock would be around £400,000 a year.

'It's not just this area here that would benefit, it's the whole of the West Highland Line,' he added.

Roadworks upset Oban shopkeepers

ROADWORKS have proved a real killer for businesses in Oban's Albany Street, local shopkeepers have claimed.

Last week the Oban street was amid a long-overdue resurfacing project, undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council. But complaints of lack of consultation and loss of trade are overshadowing the 'magnificent' new road.

Joanne and Michael Wright of Albany Stores said: 'Our business was cut by 30-50 per cent for most of last week. For us it is the equivalent of working all week without pay.'

'We received a letter from the council to say there would be road works on the street but it also said that there would be a limited number of parking days.'

'But when I came into work on Monday morning, not only were there no allocated parking spaces but there was no break in the pedestrian barrier that customers could get through. We would have been as well not to open up at all.'

'There was no consolation, because if they had asked us we would have explained that this is a very busy street, with a huge number of heavy goods vehicles making their way to the ferry terminal. Part of the road was done at night, but to my mind the whole road should have been done at night when there was no traffic.'

Helen Clark, volunteer at Blythwood Care Charity Shop said: 'The road works caused us dreadful disruption.'

'Last week was awful, on Tuesday there was not one sale and we did not receive any donations.'

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

Fiona Fraser of Boliwood said: 'The road needed to be done but until they put a sign outside my shop I was not aware that there was to be no parking in the street. I should have shut up the shop because trade was almost non-existent. And to top it all any customers I did have trailed the wet tar onto my floors.'

'First we had the recession, then volcanic dust and now the Albany Street road works. I hope we will soon get a break.'

Fiona is among many of the shopkeepers who are calling for a token gesture to recompense the businesses. She said: 'We were a non-functioning street.'

Graham Fraser of art shop Alba took a more pragmatic view. 'Yes, we took a slight dip in sales but it will not have a long-term effect on us.'

'It was the most efficient road works I have ever known. Everything was controlled and workmen were busy. They have done a magnificent job.'

Roddy McCuish, deputy spokesperson for roads, said: 'If the majority of people in Oban don't want to spend the roads budget here in the town then we will need to consider spending it elsewhere. There are hundreds of people on many other roads that would love to have a full resurfacing project allocated to them.'

'We fought hard to get the road done and it is perfect. I can not praise the council staff enough. The end result is a credit to them.'



Euan Dewar, centre left and Ruth Moody, centre right, accept cheques from Oban Horticultural Society.

Gardeners grow funds for local charities

PANSY and dahlias are playing a big part in helping two local charities.

As Oban Horticultural Society handed over donations of £200 each to Oban Pipe Band and North Argyll Carers' Centre, secretary Jim Kirkpatrick said it was down to good gardening they were able to hand over the cheques.

Ruth Moody of North Argyll Carers' Centre (NACC) accepted the donation saying the generosity of local groups was overwhelming, and every donation counts in keeping the centre as vibrant as it is.

NACC will soon be appointing two new workers to develop the work of the

centre. And a new initiative will put the culinary skills of carers in both North Argyll and beyond on the map, as they appoint a Market Development worker. 'So,' said Ruth, 'look out for the home made goodies at the many farmers' markets throughout the area, in the near future.'

Meanwhile Euan Dewar

of Oban Pipe Band said that the donation would help with travel and equipment for the busy pipe band.

He said: 'Donations are very important to the pipe band as we are often asked to attend charity events to help them raise money.'

'Every penny we are fortunate enough to get is very gratefully received.'

School closures are not on Argyll and Bute Council meeting agenda

Education executive committee meeting will not discuss school 'secret list'

THERE are no plans to discuss school closures at the next Argyll and Bute Council executive committee.

Despite rumours and claims of secret lists of school closures, the subject will not be up for discussion at the next education executive meeting.

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'An education executive meeting has been set for May 17, at which several items will be discussed. Although the agenda has not yet been finalised, it will not include an item on 'school closures'.'

'We will issue a release in advance of the meeting, once the agenda has been agreed.'

Members of the public still claim to have had no response from Freedom of Information requests on meetings held where they believe school closures were discussed.

Man fined for poking girlfriend in the eye

AN OBAN teenager has been fined £365 for poking his 16-year-old girlfriend in the eye.

Christopher McPhee, of 2G Colonsay Terrace, pleaded guilty to breach of the peace and assault in an incident on February 16.

Oban Sheriff Court heard McPhee, aged 19, had been staying with his girlfriend and her parents when an argument broke out between the pair around 2am. The accused became aggressive, shouting, swearing and pushing the girl, before 'pushing his finger into her eye,' said procurator fiscal Craig Harris.

Defending, Duncan Durbin said McPhee immediately regretted his actions, but the relationship had been 'deteriorating in a rather claustrophobic atmosphere'.



Duror and Kentallen bowlers celebrate the end of another season

DUROR and Kentallen Carpet Bowls Club celebrated their 'end of season' with a special tournament and supper on Saturday, April 17 at the village hall.

Food was made at home by various folk and everyone brought either food or refreshments along. The night was rounded off with an informal singsong.

Club chairwoman, Jane Lobb said: 'We had a late start to the season this year waiting for a new top quality floor to be laid, but in the end, it was

well worth the wait.

'Through grants and fundraising we have now a floor second to none. 'Players realise now that an 'iffy' bowl cannot be blamed on the sloping floor!'

The club has been going for seven years and has nearly 30 members of all ages.

Jane added: 'Without clubs and events like these, it would be easy to not see some friends as often as we would like. All in all it was a smashing night.'

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Singers hit all the right notes at festival

HIGHLANDS and Islands singers representing Alba (Scotland) at the recent Pan Celtic International Festival in An Daingean (Dingle), County Kerry, triumphed in the event's major competitions.

Performing against high calibre acts from the other Celtic nations, Alba was placed first in the international song contest, with the winning song written by 2009 traditional gold medallist and group member Lyndsey Mitchell from Lewis.

In the traditional song contest the Scottish group, under the musical direction of Raymond Bremner, also took first prize while in the solo traditional song event Skye was to the fore with Mod gold medallist Darren MacLean runner-up.

Mairi Caimbeul, a member of the gifted Gaelic musical family from Sleat, took first place in the harp competitions and Coralea MacKay and Lisa Moyes, Gaelic students at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, shared the runner-up spot in the fiddle competitions.

Success
Heather Clyne, who is also studying Gaelic at Sabhal Mor Ostaig, took third place in her fiddle competition. Lochaber and Mull singers and musicians, including Robert Nairn and his band also played a pivotal role in ensuring the week's success.

The event, in its 39th year, is hailed as one of the great gatherings of Celtic peoples and represents a rare opportunity for the Gaelic language to be promoted and its music performed in an international setting.

The Alba Night brought the week's programme to a close with sparkling and varied entertainment from all the Gaelic participants and invited guests from other nations. An Daingean, the most westerly town in Europe, will again host the festival in 2011.



Katherine Halewood models some 'every day' wear at the Mary's Meals fashion show. 15_t18fashion04

Charity shop fashion bargains on catwalk

Customers queue up to buy outfits

MARY'S Meals' Oban charity shop proved beyond doubt on Sunday that beautiful clothes and complete outfits for everything from every day wear to a special occasion can be found in charity shops.

More than 100 people packed into the Royal Hotel to enjoy a lunch of soup, sandwiches, dessert, teas and coffee before a talk by Mary's Meals about their

programme feeding 400,000 children one meal a day at their local school in poverty-stricken parts of the world.

But it was with great anticipation that the main event – a fashion show – got underway.

Models Katherine Halewood, Mary MacKenzie, Liz Clark, Megan Gallacher, Mandi Whitworth and Tess Campbell, were greeted with gasps of amazement and enthusiastic applause as they waltzed their way up and down the catwalk.

Compered by Neil Rowan, whose wife Marie manages the Stevenson Street shop, outfits for day wear, special occasions, a night out, vintage and country wear were unveiled.

During two intermissions to allow the models to change, the Eilidh MacInnes School of Dance, led by Eilidh herself, entertained the audience as did Angela Guy from The Flower House.

In the background were the shop's dedicated team of volunteers and, organising the running order, was Margaret Cooper, who originally suggested the idea of a fashion show after she found her daughter a spectacular dress to wear to a party in the charity shop for £2.50.

Other helpers included Elaine Smith from Argyll College and her hair and make-up students, SVQ (3) graduate Heather Craig (The Ark), SVQ (3) students Samantha Kilmurray and Denise Addison (Ferguson's Hair and Beauty).

On Monday morning shop volunteers thought a bus party had landed on their doorstep as people queued up outside to snap up outfits.

Marie said: 'The place has been going like a fair.



Mandi Whitworth, whose beautiful blue vintage dress was snapped up at the end of the show, strolls along the catwalk with Mary's Meals trustee Graeme Pagan, who is dressed in a suit donated to the charity. 15_t18fashion25



During the vintage dress section of the show, Mary's Meals trustee Graeme Pagan, Oban, lent an arm to the ladies, including Mary MacKenzie, strolling down the catwalk wearing a suit also donated to the charity shop. 15_t18fashion22

The feedback has been tremendous; it was such great fun to do and I would do it all again tomorrow. The team of volunteers [who work in the shop] have been a tremendous support.'

She also thanked Sharon Pirrie from Expressions for allowing the outfits to be stored and altered at her premises and Louis Barrow and Fergie MacIver, from the

Corran Halls, for providing the music. Initial takings on the day were around £1,400, before expenses, with more donations expected in.



Mandi Whitworth wore a beautiful combination fit for a summer wedding, which was donated to the Mary's Meals shop on Stevenson Street. 15_t18fashion16



Liz Clark models a trouser suit. 15_t18fashion06



St John's Cathedral ceilidh

Ceilidh royalty were on hand to help St John's Cathedral raise much needed cash for a flower festival to celebrate the centenary of the current building. A full programme included piper Euan Dewar, Hugh MacQueen, Alisdair MacDonald, Nicola Pearson, Rebecca Hill, Duncan MacDonald and Audrey Paterson. 16_t17ceilidh1

Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival

OBAN'S Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival swings into action today (Thursday) with four days of competitions and special events.

For the first time, the festival is introducing a drumming section to its competitions, which have been organised in conjunction with Netherlorn Piping Society, a driving force behind the development of piping and drumming in the area.

Six new competitions, with new donated trophies, will be taking place along side competitions in fiddle, accordion, piping, clarsach, recorder, piano, woodwind, brass and singing as well as many Highland dancing competitions.

Sold out
Some of the major events are already sold out, like the Scottish Area Highland Dance Finals on Friday evening, which features 17 teams from throughout Scotland competing for top honours.

Some tickets still remained as *The Oban Times* went to press for the Scottish Choreography Challenge at the Corran Halls, featuring 54 teams over two days. The festival parade starts

at the Corran Halls at 2.30pm on Saturday, led by Helensburgh Pipe Band and Mid Argyll Pipe Band and finishes in Station Square.

The concert of champions takes place in the Corran Halls on Saturday evening and will also see the first ever winner announced of the Oban Rotary Musician of the Year, organised by the Rotary Club of Oban.

Festival Fling
The Festival Fling dance follows the concert in the Corran Halls at 10.30pm, with music from the Sileas Sinclair Band.

'We're really looking forward to another action-packed weekend of top class dancing and music in the town,' said Joannie Garvin, festival committee member, 'and hope everyone enjoys the competitions, parade, concert and dance.'

'We're extremely grateful to the many local businesses and organisations which have supported the festival this year, allowing us to continue to support the development of young talent and bring the festival buzz to the town.' Tickets are available on the door to competition venues and for the major events by phoning 07510 841198.

Argyll Larder

CHICKEN and haggis parcels and pork and pineapple steaks are now in the display counter at Kent's Butchers, Dunoon, thanks to the shop's new prizewinning manager. Borders butcher Craig Douglas, whose shop in the little village of St Boswells is outmuscling nearby supermarkets, is now bringing his unique talent and imaginative recipes to Argyll.

Craig, the current holder of the Scottish Pork Sausage Champion title, says diversification is the best way to stay ahead of the competition and wants Argyll folk to come and see what rare treats are on offer.

The 38-year-old, who took over the running of his second shop two months ago, said: 'In the first week of trading we



doubled the takings and the pork sausages have been flying off the shelves.

'But people are interested in all the other things we are doing, like chicken and haggis parcels, pork and apple burgers and pork and pineapple steaks.

We also sell kebabs; it's about giving the customer plenty of choice and variety.'

While many butchers are feeling the pressure from supermarket competitors, Craig says this diversity and choice for the customer has proved to be a winner on that front.

'In St Boswells I have two 24-hour supermarkets within six miles of me but I have a half day on Saturdays and I can have as many as 200 people through the door.'

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National Trust for Scotland welcomes in the spring

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland (NTS) recently held its first Spring Festival at the Loch Melfort Hotel, an event which it hopes will become a regular feature in the calendar at Arduaine Garden.

Guests were treated to a series of illustrated lectures, meals and garden walks, all designed to celebrate the coming of spring in different ways. Speakers included Beechgrove Garden's Jim McColl who rounded off an excellent seafood buffet with an amusing after-dinner speech, The Scots Gardener and the Spring. The day was completed with Jim playing the accordion in the hotel bar. The following morning, David Mitchell, of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, discussed Eden on the Edge - Gardens of the Western Seaboard, followed by Sharon Webb, curator of the Kilmartin Museum, speaking on Spring in the Landscape; Argyll - Ancient Land of Light and Life. After lunch, Arduaine's head gardener Maurice Wilkins led an extended tour of the garden. Sunday morning began with the final lecture from the NTS' nature conservation adviser Lindsay Mackinley who talked to the group on 'All of the Wild: Argyll's Rich Wildlife Heritage' accompanied by recordings of bird song. The event concluded with a question and answer session with the speakers.

Park plans in spotlight

LORN Environmental Action Forum (LEAF) held an interesting meeting to discuss the formation of a Western Isles and Argyll Coast national park. Mull environmentalist David Woodhouse put forward the proposals and suggested a park covering the Western Isles and Argyll coast. He suggested the national park might be the kick-start needed to increase environmental awareness, attractiveness to eco-tourists, economic stimuli and educational opportunities. Forthcoming LEAF (committee) meetings in 2010 have been scheduled for Wednesday evenings, in the Lecture Room of Oban Community Fire Station, starting at 6.30pm. All meetings are public and are on May 12, June 9, July 14, August 11, September 15, October 13, November 10 and December 15.



Lorne Junior Fiddlers join the main orchestra on stage for their set. 15_t18fiddlers03

Crowds flock to 66th annual fiddlers' rally

A CAPACITY audience packed into the Corran Halls, Oban, on Saturday night (April 24) for the 66th annual concert by Oban and Lorne Strathspey and Reel Society.

The stage lighting reflected off 75 fiddles and accordions and tartan was to the fore as conductor Helen Jordan led the orchestra through a lilting programme of Scottish music.

Founded in 1944, the society launched the 2010 programme with its signature tune *The Hills of Lorne* composed by founding conductor Charlie Hunter.

Local composers were featured, with hornpipes by Pipe Major Angus Lawrie of Oban, jigs by Kinlochleven's Willie Lawrie and Donald Shaw's Tribute to Calum's Road.

Compositions by Jimmy Shand, Andrew Rankine and Ian Powrie blended well with classic traditional marches and Strathspeys and reels from the

society's extensive repertoire. The audience enjoyed the appearance of the Lorne Junior Fiddlers, joining the main orchestra to play a slow air and march.

The junior section was established in 1992 with guidance and tuition from senior musicians to extend the youngsters' skills. Their current mentor, Donald Harrison, is keen to expand the juniors' experience of group playing and welcomes new members.

Popular

Popular fiddler Maurice Duncan set feet tapping with fiddle selections rounded off by his individual interpretations of *The Bluebells of Scotland*.

Mod Gold medallist Arthur Cormack of Portree was accompanied by the talented Ingrid Henderson from Glenfinnan, who switched between piano and clarsach.

Having performed on five islands in recent years, the society's

president Peter MacLeod told the audience that the orchestra was to travel to the Isle of Skye in June to play a concert for the Portree lifeboat and anticipated giving the fiddlers an airing at other venues on Skye.

Later in the year a further concert, supporting the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, is planned in Lochgilphead while sections of the orchestra will continue their appearances at retirement homes in the Oban area.

The function of a fiddlers' rally is to encourage musicians from other societies to join orchestras such as Oban's for a concert and foster the camaraderie among players of traditional Scottish music.

Kindred societies were well represented at the Oban rally and the performers rounded off the evening with a sociable supper organised by Ishbel Banks before adjourning to ceilidh 'till late'.



Iona Keys, David MacPherson, Argyll and Bute Gaelic development officer Donald MacLeod, and Neil MacKechnie at the Lorn Gaelic Partnership drop-in session. 15_t18partner02

Gaelic partnership hosts drop-in day

MEMBERS of the public were invited to find out more about Gaelic activities and organisations in the area during a drop-in session of Lorn Gaelic Partnership in Oban.

Donald MacLeod, Gaelic development officer for Argyll and Bute, organised the event to raise the profile of the partnership and allow Gaelic organisations to promote what they do.

Held in Skipinnish Ceilidh House, George Street, Oban, the event included Gaelic in the Home, Croileagan - the group for 0-3-year-olds, youth organisation Sradagan and Feis Latharna as well as national groups Comunn na Gàidhlig, Cli, Bòrd na Gàidhlig and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig.

There were tasters session for learning Gaelic through Ulpan, Feis Latharna held its Saturday classes at the event and puppet Cabag made an appearance with his friends, helped by Linda Bugar, Gaelic resource worker.

Cabag is a Gaelic pre-school and playgroup resource to support parents who have no previous knowledge of Gaelic. The idea is to encourage conversation between parents and their children in Gaelic, with a CD of songs and games and stories in both English and Gaelic.

Oxfam night at Paparazzi

IT WILL be 'neigh' problem for Country and Western merrymakers in Oban this Saturday to raise money for cows in Africa, charity night organisers at night-spot Paparazzi claim.

The Country and Western themed night with top-notch band Jericho Hill, a Johnny Cash Tribute band from Glasgow, are set to play a 'moo-ving' role to ease world poverty.

Organisers hope to grab the attention of party-goers by raising money for Oxfam Unwrapped, an ethical-gift company that provides much needed cash for projects throughout the world - including providing cows for third-world farmers.

Tickets for the dress up cow-boy and cow-girl event cost £2.50 and can be purchased from Oxfam on George Street or at the door from 9pm on Saturday.

Awards seek top arts and crafts entrepreneurs

ARTIST John Lowrie Morrison is calling on entrepreneurs who work in the arts, crafts and creative industries to enter the 2010 Jolomo Arts and Crafts PSYBT Awards.

Jolomo joined forces with The Prince's Scottish Youth Business Trust (PSYBT) in 2008 to establish the awards. This is the first year the organisation will recognise achievements of entrepreneurs.

The initiative will honour three young businesses that excel in personal development, commercial awareness and innovation.

The overall winner will receive a cash prize of £750 and be offered special promotional opportunities on Jolomo's website.

Commenting at the launch of the awards, which took place in Glasgow on Wednesday, Jolomo said: 'These awards will not only help us showcase the talent and creativity of Scotland's young people but will also help to boost local communities throughout the country.'

PSYBT Chief Executive Mark Strudwick said: 'Young people pursuing self employment careers in the arts and the creative industries often find it more challenging to commercialise their idea compared with other young entrepreneurs in other sectors.'

'Our aim, which is now possible thanks to John Lowrie Morrison's generosity and foresight, is to provide the assistance necessary to help these talented young entrepreneurs succeed in business.'

Winners will be announced in October.

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Saturday 1 May >	Chris Suckle
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Saturday 1 May >	Oxfam Unwrapped
Paparazzi Bar	Charity Night
Saturday 1 May >	Oxfam Unwrapped
O'Donnell's	Jericho Hill Plays Johnny Cash 9pm
Saturday 1 May >	Filthy Kinky
The Woody	
Sunday 2 May >	Danny Carroll
The Woody	
Thursday 6 May >	Finn
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Thursday 6 May >	She' Koyokh
Iona Community Hall, Iona	
Friday 7 May >	George Noble
The Woody	
Friday 7 May >	Scott MacDonald
Markie Dans	9.30pm
Monday 17 May >	She' Koyokh
Bunnessan Village Hall, Mull	
Friday 21 May >	She' Koyokh
Community Hall, Eigg	
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what's on

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Kintaline Farm, Benderloch

9 - 15 May > Spring Festival
Loch Shiel 01397 722334

Thursday 9 June > Singing Kettle
Corran Halls, Oban, 5pm

WHAT'S ON
in association with the Highland Cinema,
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YOUR STARS WITH PATRICK ARUNDEL

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th 090 6612 4520
Cash-flow can still be tight. Some people may be slow to pay or you may find yourself getting hit with bank charges - even if you only drift a tiny bit over your limit. You may have to cut back on the treats, at least for now, so enjoy the things you have already. Next week looks a lot more positive for you Aries, as the cycles above, move in your direction. Call now for your financial forecast in full...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st 090 6612 4521
We'd like to think that our families will back us up when we need them, but politics dictate that things aren't always this straightforward. If you're lucky enough to have close relationships within your clan, treasure them. If not, keep looking beyond immediate squabbles. The big picture is shaping up well for you. Take any strains in your stride Taurus. Call me for your in-depth forecast...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st 090 6612 4522
Sexy Venus is travelling deeper into your sign, arousing your natural love of being with people, and chatty interaction - especially with Mars' help. How ironic, because with your ruler Mercury still in rewind and the Sun clashing with Mars, there may be times when you'd rather put some distance between you and folk. This will improve, as May goes on. Call me now for more astral advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd 090 6612 4523
Someone may give you some cause for concern. You may have told them something in confidence but unfortunately they may not keep it to themselves. Contentment comes from a sense of certainty in our lives but quite a lot can be in a state of flux for you. You may be in the process of discovering who your real friends are. Yet an old pal can cheer you up. Call now for more news and advice...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd 090 6612 4524
Drive and determination can see you do well, but they can also be the characteristics that others become wary of. Perhaps someone feels that you have been too self-confident, which has created a vat of hidden frustration towards you. Charm planet Venus urges you to try to be as constructive as possible. Reach out to others. Don't appear standoffish. Call your prediction line for more news...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd 090 6612 4525
Are some of your attitudes a bit out of date? That doesn't mean that you aren't trendy or abreast of the latest films or sounds, but if there are personal attitudes that are confusing your thinking, it can see you fail to make the most of your human interactions. To find out, this may require you to be very self-honest, but if you are, you can gain immeasurably. Call now for more astral advice...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd 090 6612 4526
Mars has been mischievous at both the start and end of April and will be so as May begins. Indeed, you may still be feeling the impact of a potent Full Moon. Yet this new week can pour some light into your situation, and despite some business or financial tangles, the chances of an improvement in your social situation are good. It's time to lighten up! Call now for your financial forecast in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 22nd 090 6612 4527
This week, bear in mind the old adage of it's not what we say, but how we say it. With Mercury continuing to rewind, even if you're careful, someone could take something completely the wrong way. Mars can, if you are not too careful, make you feel that you're above the patience needed to make things work well in relationships. This'd be a mistake. Call now for your in-depth forecast...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st 090 6612 4528
Your broad brush to life can intensely dislike the minutia of situations - that is unless you have a good slice of Virgo influences in your birth chart. But the devil continues to be in the detail. Yet, Mars does receive a warming and flirty distraction from the vibes of Venus. Travel plans flourish and getting the 's' crossed and the 'i' dotted here, can be a good thing. Call me now for more...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th 090 6612 4529
Socially, things may not run as smoothly as you'd like. People's unreliability can be a problem, but then your own decisions can be subject to switchbacks. There may be a problem of choice overload, and in this instance it may be there can be too much of a good thing. In love, co-dependence will get you down, especially if a partner is also clingy Capricorn. Call me now for your love scope in full...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th 090 6612 4530
You may feel that other people should give you more support. After all, being a kind hearted Aquarian you rarely let others down yourself. You may be right but you can't demand that they help you, if you do, it will make you unpopular. Just go with it for one more week, and things are going to revive superbly for you. You may turn out to be fun and flirty! Call now for your love scope...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th 090 6612 4531
If you are one of those people, who prides yourself as being conscientiously on top of everything you may need to change your approach this week and be more laidback. Chasing perfection is only likely to wear you out. If however, you tend to be a bit dreamy, this week can be good, helping to get you on your toes more, and get things done. Call your special prediction line for more astral advice...

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The Burns Club of Oban made quite a splash with Oban RNLI when they presented a £1,000 cheque to crew members. Roy Wood and Douglas MacDonald presented the cheque to staff and volunteers. The Burns Club also presented a cheque for £800 to Oban Riding for the Disabled. 16_t18rnlii

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& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

THIS time next week, we'll all be galloping to the polling stations to cast our votes - or will we?

The turnout at the General Elections has been steadily going down for the last 50 years in Scotland. Although the West Highlands has consistently had a turn out of between 60 - 64 per cent in the last two General Elections, the will to vote even in this part of the world might be under some strain.

Indeed, the rise in the number of independent candidates and minority parties in the West Highlands could be a reflection of the country-wide apathy with traditional political parties. But, although it is getting further from the minds of voters as new generations head for the polls, it should not be forgotten what previous generations have done to ensure people in the UK have that freedom of choice. And that vote should be used no matter what.

GLASGOW LETTER

Successful Glasgow Fèis

NOW WELL established during the schools' Easter break, the Glasgow Fèis has been held in various locations.

This year it moved to the south-side of the city where Hutcheson's Grammar Junior School proved to be an ideal venue for the 87 participants and their tutors.

All the usual activities were on offer and the tutors were Megan Henderson, fiddle; Karen Marshallsay, clarsach; Maeve MacKinnon, singing; Fraser Shaw, piping; Caroline McKee, percussion; Stewart Miller, shinty; Katie MacLennan, sports, games; Joy Dunlop, step dancing; Coimneach Combe, Tai-Kwon Do; Fiona MacNab, drama, and from Russia a world champion accordionist Gdorge Gajic.

Quite a line-up and one guaranteed to prepare the participants for an excellent fèis ceilidh which was further enhanced by the presence of Mary Ann Kennedy and Bruce Molsky.

Mary Ann and Bruce have been performing together for a few years bringing together music from both sides of Atlantic most successfully and I am sure they would be a great inspiration for the children.

Thanks are due to everyone who worked so hard to ensure the success of the fèis.

The 'Wee Skye'

IT MAY have been the 'Wee Skye' and the attendance may not have compared to many years ago, but the quality of entertainment from the artistes was worthy of gracing the stage of the annual concert.

Three Gold Medallists, Norman MacKinnon, James Graham and Seumas Campbell, shared the singing duties with young Catherine Tinney from Portree and everyone was in excellent form, supported by accompanist Norma MacDougall when necessary.

From the outset, the songs encouraged audience participation and this contributed to the relaxed ceilidh atmosphere.

Vice president Scott Smart was the piper for the evening and with Anna Fraser, from Lewis, playing the accordion it was well and truly a foot-tapping evening with top quality musicianship.

Skye functions are renowned for the quality of the fayre at the interval and on this occasion it was up to the usual high standard.

I had the pleasure of keeping the artistes in order.

Earlier this year I sent best wishes to Ewan Nicholson and Calum Lamont and it was good to see that both of them were well enough to be present.

Erskine concert

THANKS are due to everyone who contributed to the recent Clydebank concert for Erskine Hospital.

The magnificent sum of £1,000 will be forwarded to their funds.

Charity concert

ON TUESDAY May 4 in the City Chambers at 7.30pm there will be a choral concert in aid of the Douglas McKerrall Memorial Trophy awarded at the Scottish Piano Competition.

Taking part will be the National Youth Choir for Scotland, East Renfrewshire; Douglas Academy Chamber Choir; Helensburgh Oratorio Choir; Tartan Melody and Glasgow Islay Gaelic Choir. Tickets are available at the door.

Gaelic quiz

FOR SEVERAL years the pub quiz has been an important part of the week's entertainment and there is now a chance to take part in a Gaelic quiz with music.

This will take place in Sutherland's, the Argyll Hotel, which is located just beside the Snaffle Bit on Sauchiehall Street at 7.30pm on Wednesday May 19. For further details telephone 0141 339 2022.

Diary dates

Thursday April 29: Live at the 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, Victoria Hall, Dunblane, 7.30pm. Tolbooth Stirling, Patsy Reid, 8pm.

Saturday May 1: Caledonian Fiddle Orchestra, 122nd Annual Concert, City Halls, with McGinty Pink and Inverclyde Schools' Choir.
Tuesday May 4: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association AGM, Town Hall, 7.30pm. Patsy Reid, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Wednesday May 5: Perth Concert Hall, Patsy Reid.
Thursday May 6: Live at the Star, St Andrew's in the Square, 8pm, Vin Garbut.
Saturday May 8: Perth Gaelic Society AGM, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Street, Perth.

Pub scene

MUSIC in the Park Bar this weekend will be provided by Eriskay Lilt on Friday, Burns Brothers on Saturday and Stewart Cameron/Simon Morell on Sunday while in the Islay Inn it will be Deoch 'n Dorus on Friday and Parting Glass on Saturday.

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



Staff of MacDougall's Garage, Oban, 1914

Elsbeth Norris of Creag Bhan Village, Glengallan Road, Oban, sent us this week's flashback photograph which shows staff of MacDougall's Garage, Oban, about 1914. Elsbeth's grand-father Jimmy Livingstone is on the extreme right of the photograph. He went on to open his own business, Livingstone's Garage, on Stevenson Street, in 1919. Do any readers recognise anyone else in the photo? 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
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Ganavan development a huge mistake

Sir,
My wife and I have visited Oban regularly over the last 45 years and always go to Ganavan Sands to enjoy the unique atmosphere.

We even remember the long-gone pitch and putt course, deck chairs and changing rooms.

Making an overdue trip last week after a three-year absence, we were surprised, to say the least, to find the caravan site, chalets, shops and café replaced by a partially completed development of executive houses and apartments which at present is an eyesore and when completed will change Ganavan Sands forever - and not for the better.

Surely this beautiful corner of Oban should have been developed for the benefit of residents and visitors, present and future, and not for the profit of a property company. To my mind a huge misjudgement has been made.

John W Milne, Blairgowrie, Perthshire.

Keep free school transport

Sir,
Along with parents of other school children we are disappointed at the hasty and shortsighted decision by Argyll and Bute Council to remove free school transport from primary school children.

The importance of this service and the many benefits it provides to everyone in the community cannot be overstated. This is a service which essentially costs very little on the back of existing bus routes and greater emphasis should be placed on the consequences of

removing such a vital service and the benefits it provides, for example, by enabling parents to gain maximum benefit from full time and part time employment.

A working parent may lose at least an hour a day conveying and collecting a child from school which could make their job becoming no longer financially viable for the employer or the employee and result in the parent potentially returning to seeking state support.

A school bus helps the environment, promotes child safety and road safety and supports the economy. Clearly the council finds itself in an unenviable position of choosing between providing fuel for the school bus or books.

It is hoped that with the assistance of politicians, Argyll and Bute Council, community councils, parents, schools and teachers that other means can be explored to sustain the continuation of this service, for example, lower duty for fuel for bus companies providing this service or sponsorship/local employers being encouraged to provide subsidies to the provision of such a service. Name and address supplied.

Bi-lingual road signs a safety hazard

Sir,
Your April 22 report that Transport Scotland is continuing with the hare-brained SNP scheme of making road signs bi-lingual displays a complete disregard for road safety.

Doubling the words makes signs less readily readable, thereby creating a safety hazard.

I had experience of this danger about two years ago when approaching a roundabout near Oban,

where the confusing clutter of names forced me to slow down to find the correct lane, resulting in a car nearly crashing into my rear bumper.

If this can happen to a Scot, the confusion for foreign tourists must be even worse. The Gaelic place names might as well be Greek or double-Dutch to most motorists. Your report mentions that Transport Scotland defends its decision to spend £680,000 on such signs; only that it tries to obfuscate its decision by using the weasel word, 'investment'. Investment in what? Teaching motorists Gaelic through bi-lingual road signs? Schools are the place for teaching languages. Anyway, this is hardly a priority at a time when cuts in all other public services are to be made. Only a tiny percentage of people can speak or read Gaelic. Beyond that, what real benefit is there in trying to resurrect a language that was virtually killed off 265 years ago?

George A Clarke, Torloisk, Isle of Mull.

Ludicrous signs a waste of money

Sir,
Your article on Gaelic road signs in last week's paper left me almost speechless.

The pass the buck budget talk eventually ends up with us paying. What proportion of the Scottish public think bilingual signs are a good idea? The UK has no money left. Where does some department find £680,000 for these ludicrous signs?

This money could have been spent on much more deserving causes.

G W Stewart, Seil Island.

Power of nature

Sir,
You hear people say there is no God but events say the opposite to me. When

God unleashes the power of nature, which he created anyway, to show he is in control of all things, I cannot think of one thing a human can do to prevent or stop it.

Take the Iceland volcanic eruption for instance. It brought Britain and most of Europe to a standstill. Events like these have become more frequent over recent years. It is all predicted in the Bible for anyone who cares to read it. When any country turns its back on God, like ours has done, we will suffer the consequences. You only have to look at politics and banking to see integrity, respect, honesty and discipline disappearing. Greed and all the things that go with it take over and this sort of thing happens. It does not take a genius or scholar, which I am not, to work this out. Think about it.

John Maclean, Craignure, Isle of Mull.

Profit before people

Sir,
I believe in this country a major food retailer has opened a store where there are no personnel at its checkouts.

The checkouts are all equipped with automated, self payment machines.

Is this the way forward? More and more machines being used instead of people? You don't have to pay a machine a wage or pension. It's profit before people.

With jobs hard to come by in a recession, people in employment are unable to express their concerns and worry over their own employment. But ordinary people can effect these giant companies by making a simple choice. They can have a say by voting with their feet.

Stephen Jones, Millpark, Oban.

ISLAY LETTER

Jim MacMillan

I WAS sorry to learn of the death in Glasgow on April 18 of Jim MacMillan, a Gaelic activist and enthusiast who was well known to many in Gaelic circles here on Islay and beyond.

Jim, whose paternal forebears hailed from the Lagavulin area of the island, was 75 years of age and had been unwell for several months. He lost his wife Heather in September of last year and, following her death, his own health began to deteriorate.

A skilled linguist and musician, he first came to these shores to take part in the Gaelic summer schools then organised by the inter-island Gaelic partnership. He continued his Gaelic studies on the mainland and at Sabhal Mor Ostaig and achieved a high degree of fluency.

A friendly and most loquacious personality, he spent his working career in the textile industry and enjoyed sailing around the Western Isles.

Jim's funeral took place in Glasgow on Monday where a collection in his memory was taken for Ionad Chalium Chille Ile. Jim leaves a family of seven from a previous marriage and sincere sympathy is extended to them and to all his friends in Gaeldom. Beannachd leibh a Sheumais.

Spring fair

THE Bowmore-based charity IDEA's spring fair was held at the group's resource centre on April 17.

A variety of stalls enticed the shoppers, the eats were appetising and the sales points were manned by members and volunteers. The organisers thanked everyone who attended but expressed disappointment at the less than anticipated support.

Hospice aid

A FIGURE in excess of £4,200 has been donated to the Accord Hospice in Paisley thanks to the stamina and endeavours of the 30 plus participants in the recent Jura hillwalking trip which the organisers described

as being 'both challenging and memorable'.

Potential donors can also lend their support by contacting kenneth.mathie@accord.org.uk.

Congratulations

WELL done to the island's primary schools' band which received a certificate of merit in the recent Mid Argyll Music Festival at Lochgilphead.

The Islay High School Band members were also delighted to receive a similar award in the 'big band' section of the festival.

Congratulations also to sister and brother cyclists Morwenna and Michael Hastings of Port Charlotte on their successes at Lochmore Meadows where they scooped a first and second placing in the 'hard race' section. No mean achievement in a competition which attracted more than 100 participants. Pedal on!

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

A view from the tower

by McCaig

The Met get it wrong again

IT HAS been a great achievement, something even Adolph Hitler could not do during the Second World War.

That is to ground every aircraft from flying through British airspace - and without a terrorist threat of dire retribution from anyone - except an over-excited Met Office.

Of course, they had colleagues throughout Europe who seemed as excited about a cloud of volcanic dust as our alleged experts were, causing millions of pounds in lost business, demands for compensation and lots of irate letters from bankers who only understand the bonus culture, all of which are brushed aside as 'an act of God'.

Why has it become so significant that dust from this Icelandic volcano could bring the aviation business to an almost instantaneous halt?

Come on, put your hand up, when have you heard of this happening before?

It's not as though this is the first volcanic eruption we have had for a couple of hundred years.

Mount Etna belloves fire, lava and volcanic dust regularly and no-one gets too hot under the collar about it. Indeed, an erupting volcano has become a tourist attraction, at least from a safe distance where a particularly urgent cinder can't melt your delicate footwear.

Have the Norse Gods found a way to cause a particularly nasty type of clinging dust to be directed against those who wouldn't help them in their banking crisis?

Or is it the case that the Met Office minions have got it wrong again? Especially following claims it flew a test plane and was distinctly perturbed by the type of volcanic ash encountered.

But it seems the plane it claimed to have used was in fact in a hangar being painted. Oops!

Meanwhile, the airlines were also up in the air sampling the dusty atmosphere and finding that their aircraft were able to return unscathed.

It seems that when Gordon Brown and his Cabinet colleagues were being got at from all angles, pressure was brought to bear to get some sort of normal service resumed and the Met Office caved in instantly.

But who stands the cost of all the unnecessary groundings?

It hasn't been a good year for the Met Office, where the boss is paid twice as much as the Prime Minister, as it failed totally to identify one of the harshest winters in the last 50 years and isn't doing much better with our summer!

Time to change the piece of seaweed on the boss's desk, don't you think?

A universal health service?

AS REGULAR readers will know I'm a great

campaigner for getting the best for those who live in rural areas and hope I have had some success.

But with the economic squeeze I'm going to have to resume my quest and remind certain big city GPs that everyone in Britain and Northern Ireland is supposed to have access to urgent medical attention, if required, every hour of every day no matter where they live.

I was greatly perturbed, and not a little annoyed, to hear a Dundee GP say on television that it was too expensive to provide NHS24 cover for the delightful village of Kinloch Rannoch as the money needed to be spent on their poorer suburbs of his city.

Shame on the NHS authorities in Perthshire for making what would appear to be an illegal decision.

Shame on the Health Minister Nicola Sturgeon for not stepping in to insist that there could be no picking and choosing where NHS24 can be made available.

If this practice were to become the norm every small, rural community would be under threat and a decimation of the population would ensue.

In the bad old days before the National Health Service came into being, rural doctors would travel miles on foot, bike or on horseback to treat someone who was ill, sometimes without any possibility of ever being paid.

The oath they took on qualifying meant something to them and they stood by it.

It doesn't seem to mean anything to some modern physicians, particularly those in cities which have 24-hour accident and emergency facilities at their disposal.

If you are accosted by a parliamentary candidate in the next week ask him/her whether they believe in a universal health service for everyone, 24-hours a day, seven days a week? If they hesitate, don't vote for them and shout their failure to endorse this fundamental human right from the rooftops.

Remember, while you may normally live somewhere there are doctors available 24/7, you could be on holiday in Kinloch Rannoch or some isolated part of Scotland where the undertaker's telephone number may be more useful than that of NHS24!

Mobile phones don't work everywhere!

I'VE become blasé about the universality of mobile phone access.

However, imagine my surprise when last week I turned on my radio, expecting to hear a question and answer session with Alex Salmond, to learn that it had had to be postponed as he had found himself in a none-too-isolated part of Scotland where there was no mobile phone

McCaig

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Only huge water pipes and the power house remain of the former British Aluminium smelter. 10_f18avril06



The new Kinlochleven High School has brought new confidence to the village. 10_f18avril03



The Ice Factor brings thousands of visitors to Kinlochleven each year. 10_f18avril04

My Village Kinlochleven

What makes Kinlochleven a special place to you, Avril? Kinlochleven is one of the safest places you can live, that's the main reason. Two years ago the police produced a report, which said the Highlands was the safest area in Scotland, with Kinlochleven coming out as one of the best. Any violence we have here is only centred round a very small minority, and that does not spill over into the rest of the village. There are families that have come here from Leeds and Manchester. Their kids can go to the shops at night, go to sports activities at night, go to the Girls Brigade at night all unaccompanied - they have never experienced that before. I often babysit until 2am and coming home then does not bother me at all.

Kinlochleven has a fascinating history, does it not? Where do I start? In the 18th century, it was a resting place for the drovers when they drove cattle down from the Highlands to sales in Falkirk and Carlisle. This part of Kinlochleven, the land between the bottom of the West Highland Way and the new school, was where they would rest overnight. The drovers would take the cattle up to Bridge End where the Black Pool is and pay a toll at the bridge before going up the Devil's Staircase and over the moor to Tyndrum. The place where Loch Leven is narrowest is called

KINLOCHLEVEN boasts many characters, none more so than Avril Watt. The redoubtable 74-year-old still enjoys hill walking in the high country round the village, famed round the world as the centre of aluminium production in Scotland for most of last century. The mother of five, grand-mother of ten and great grand-mother of three is passionately committed to Kinlochleven and proud to be living in a community with such a rich

Caolas na Coin in Gaelic, which means the crossing of the dogs. It got that name because the drovers would send their dogs home from Falkirk or from even further away and animals, not being stupid, would swim across the narrows heading home rather than come up to Kinlochleven. We had charcoal burners in the 1700s onwards who burned trees on the hill - there are no alders left there now. Ponies took the charcoal to a pier on the north side of Loch Leven from where it would be shipped to the iron smelter at Bonawe. Kinlochleven charcoal helped make the guns for

the battle of Waterloo. Later, in 1872, the last emigrant ship to leave Fort William was full of crofting people from the Mamores. We still have people living in Kinlochleven who lived on the hill and who were born on the hill. Then came the dam to power the aluminium smelter, which a lot of people think was built by Irish immigrants. That's partly true, but there were also professional people, lawyers, doctors and businessmen, who had fallen on hard times and had lost their jobs, mostly through alcohol. There were criminals working there too, who were on the run from the law - but

history, a community still striving to forge a new future for itself years after its metal industry closed. A voluntary worker for the Scottish SPCA and Lochaber Action for Mental Health, Avril is also a member of Kinlochleven Community Trust and an enthusiastic supporter of efforts to regenerate the village. Here, Avril takes time out of her busy schedule to tell *Oban Times* reporter Stephen Norris just what sets Kinlochleven apart from everywhere else.

They would generally only stay a week or two then move on to somewhere else. They finished building the dam in 1906 and at the same time they were building houses and the factory on the Argyllshire side. But because British Aluminium was desperate to get the ingots out they built a temporary factory half way up the river. There was a steam engine that took the men and the ingots backwards and forwards and a puggy carried the ingots from the train to the pier for shipment to rolling mills in Falkirk and Burntisland. A lot of the men who had worked on the dam started working in the

factory and met local women, got married and brought their families up here. It's a very mixed village. Before German prisoners of war built the top road, men would walk along a path at the lochside from Ballachulish and Glencoe to the pier at Kinlochleven to work. We had three MacBraynes buses which brought the men up in the morning to work at the smelter and took them back at night to Ballachulish and Glencoe. I just find the whole place so fascinating. Whenever I get the chance I go into the primary school to talk to the children about the history of Kinlochleven because I feel it belongs to them. It's part of who they are - even if they are new to the village.

What does Kinlochleven offer that other communities can't?

The people that live here are passionate about their community and want to do something for their community. The new school is a huge thing - people are desperate to get their kids in there now. The education at Kinlochleven offers great opportunities for children who want them. Also, being a smaller secondary school, teachers can pick up on children who have educational problems. They are not overlooked and they can go on to achieve good qualifications. School is such a big priority for people and for anyone who wants to work in a small community and bring up children, then Kinlochleven is the place to do it.

How would you describe the village to someone who has never been there?

Kinlochleven is a beautiful place to live. Most houses are built against the mountains, so you can go out your front door and straight up into the hills. It has a river running through it, a beautiful loch and is surrounded by mountains. You don't have to go to Norway or Finland or Switzerland - it's all here. **Were you born in Kinlochleven, Avril?** I was ten days old when I came here. My mother had a school here but she died when I was only nine and I was sent to boarding school. I went to college in Edinburgh and came home every holiday - I went nowhere else, ever. It was always safe and comfortable here - you could go to dances every week and never get any hassle.

I was a staff nurse in a baby room in Edinburgh and one week I came home for a holiday and never left. That was in 1957.

How much has Kinlochleven changed since you were a child, Avril?

There have been massive changes in the village. When I was wee there were only three cars here. Kinlochleven had three grocers shops, two butchers shops and a butchers van that came in. We had a furniture shop, a haberdashery and a tobacconists. Then in the 1980s there was more money around - women started to work and people started buying cars, therefore folk began to shop outside the village and we lost a lot of shops.

Do you have a favourite building or place in or around Kinlochleven?

That has to be Loch Eilde above the village - it's the atmosphere of the place. I can feel the presence of the people that walked on the land who were there long before me. The place makes me feel content. I can spend the whole day up there and never think about time, it just all flows over me. The best bit is when you come down absolutely soaking and frozen and put two bars of the fire on and have a big bowl of soup. That's what you call contentment. **What's your favourite time of year, Avril?** That's May, when things are just coming alive again and everything is starting to go green. It's like another year starting all over again.

Are there any famous people from Kinlochleven?

It depends on what you mean by famous. On the one hand you have Paul Wilson, who is bass guitar player with Snow Patrol, while on the other you have Professor Kenneth Grant, an expert on tropical diseases, who worked in many large hospitals in Scotland, England and abroad. People would refer



Avril Watt: proud of Kinlochleven and its history. 10_f18avril02

to him for information and assistance on treating those diseases. He is a little younger than me and was educated at Kinlochleven School.

What are the main challenges for Kinlochleven as it looks to the future?

Some young people here in Kinlochleven are sleeping on friends' floors or on their parents' couches - and I just think that is wrong.

"Kinlochleven is a beautiful place to live. Most houses are built against the mountains so you can go out your front door and straight up into the hills. It has a river running through it, a beautiful loch and is surrounded by mountains."

Avril Watt.

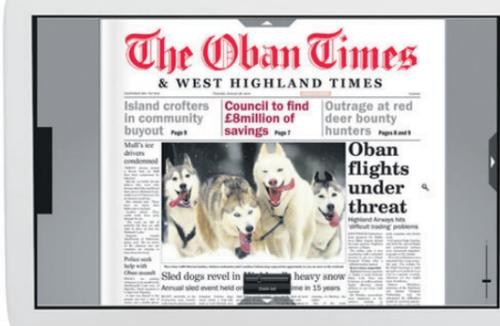


Ceann Loch Liobhann - Kinlochleven - nestles among the mountains at the head of the loch. 10_f18avril05



Caolas na Coin - the Dogs' Crossing - on Loch Leven. 10_f18avril01

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To find out more about the work of the Trust
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Glenbarr Farms go from strength to strength

IN THE 1960s Glenbarr Farms, on Kintyre's rugged west coast, converted from dairy to beef production under the guidance of Duncan Macalister's grandfather.

Since then the livestock unit has gone from strength to strength with Duncan, who took over from his father, successfully managing 150 beef cattle and 630 breeding ewes over 1,800 acres.

Duncan grew up on the farm before leaving the area for 10 years to study at the Scottish Agricultural College in Aberdeen, then working on farms across the UK to gain vital experience.

He returned to Kintyre to take over the running of the family farm from his father.

Today, Glenbarr Farms has the potential to increase output, however, Duncan is somewhat hesitant and has reservations over the stability of the current UK beef industry as a whole.

Duncan and his family operate their sheep and cattle enterprise as one unit across four defined farms in Kintyre.

The family stay at Glenacardoch with the neighbouring farms of Barmains, Charleston and part of Corputechan also within Duncan's Glenbarr Farms portfolio.

The beef cattle are predominantly Aberdeen Angus/ Limousin crosses, with home-bred heifers retained and introduced into a spring calving system.



Duncan Macalister and his family, wife Fiona, sons, Neil, Cameron and Robbie and daughter, Eilidh, have found success within their family farm in Kintyre

'I have the potential to expand, whether it is economical to do it is another matter.'

The business provides high quality, locally produced, Aberdeen Angus beef on contract to supermarket giant Marks and Spencer and has found considerable success nearer home through local retail outlet Glenbarr Stores.

The amount of meat sold at the local shop has amazed Duncan.

The meat for Glenbarr Stores is transferred to Wishaw because there is no abattoir

in mainland Argyll. It then goes to Law to be butchered and then comes back to Peter Sinclair at Glenbarr Stores,' he said.

'I have been amazed at how much meat he has sold.'

Glenbarr's sheep enterprise consists of 630 Blackface, Cheviot and Lleyn breeding ewes.

Freezing temperatures, sleet and snow, proved very challenging as lambing got

underway at Glenbarr.

'As the farm is quite exposed we need to make sure the sheep end up in a field that provides shelter.'

'Another lambing-time challenge is disease. The two go hand in hand.'

'A sheep's worst nightmare is another sheep.'

'If we end up keeping sheep inside due to bad weather, the risk of disease is significantly higher.'

Lambs off Glenbarr Farms are marketed through Lawrie and Symington of Lanark and are sold within both the dead and live weight sectors, depending on weight and specification.

Cropping at Glenbarr is predominantly grass, plus spring barley and silage.

The silage is normally restricted to one cut, although a second cut can occur when conditions dictate.

Duncan said: 'We have mainly one main cut of between 70 to 80 acres, if we need a second cut we do around an additional 20 acres - but it depends on the crop and the year. Last year we achieved 70 acres with no second cut.'

He added: 'We sometimes grow rape, but to achieve a decent volume it needs plenty of fertiliser. We have also grown turnips but you need a full growing season and we find rape is easier to produce.'

Duncan Macalister has difficult decisions regarding the future of his family enterprise. His accountants suggest he should expand but, while he is confident of his ability and his farms potential, Duncan is unsure whether the all-important UK beef sector will hold up.

'I can expand the livestock unit and can achieve an extra 30 per cent; our soil quality is right and I have the volume of land to carry it through, although it would require additional investment in drainage and reseeded.'

'I have the potential to expand, whether it is economical to do it is another matter.'

Ferguson fan featured in documentary

A LOCHGILPHEAD crofter and life-long fan of Ferguson tractors has been featured on television alongside his hero.

Donald A Macleod, who was originally from the Isle of Skye, had a collection of the old tractors at Castleton Farm near Lochgilphead. His collection was featured in a recent BBC Alba programme about Harry Ferguson, a story he had long wanted told.

Ferguson's revolutionary hydraulic system prevented tractors toppling if a plough got stuck with grave consequences. The system is still used on tractors today, yet little is known about the man himself.

Allan Campbell, who is also Gaelic columnist for The Oban Times, presented the programme 'Am Fergie Beag Glas' (The Wee Grey Fergie). He said: 'Donald Macleod collected them because he appreciated this tractor's history. Looking at Harry Ferguson's life and engineering, he saw something with a lasting effect and which improved the farmer's life.'

'In memory of Donald, I'm trying to answer two major questions that he had. What made people so fond of the Wee Grey Fergie but at the same time, how was so little known about Harry Ferguson himself?'

Donald's widow Cathie said members of the family enjoyed watching the programme. 'I thought Donald would have been very pleased with it,' she said. 'He always felt that Harry Ferguson didn't get the recognition that he deserved and this film goes a wee bit towards righting that.'

Cathie said Donald's passion for the tractors was lifelong: 'When he was a wee boy on Mull, one of the first Ferguson tractors came to the estate where his father was a manager, Tironan. Of course Donald was completely entranced in the machine and I suppose that was the beginning of it.'

When they came to Castleton, he built up quite a collection of tractors in various states of repair. 'He always hoped he would have time to work on them,' said Cathie.

'The whole thing started about two years ago. Allan Campbell called here and as usual anybody who came, if they showed the least bit of interest, they always got a conductor tour of

the tractors. 'I think the seeds of doing something were sown then. Sadly Donald became unwell and he wasn't able to do anything himself, and Allan kindly did.'



Donald Macleod on one of the Massey Ferguson's in his tractor collection.



Ferguson's hydraulic system revolutionised tractors, saving many lives.

Young Farmers growing in numbers

SINCE the reformation of Campbeltown Young Farmers Club in 2007 the local organisation has grown significantly and last year received a national award for club recruitment.

Ten years ago, a lack of members forced the Kintyre-based club to fold, however within the last four years there has been a growing interest in the organisation from out-with its traditional roots and today Campbeltown Young Farmers (CYF) can boast more than 45 members.

Not only do CYF members play their part in agricultural shows across Scotland, they are actively involved in their own community.

The group have assisted with community projects such as Campbeltown Community Organic Garden and raise funds for a variety of chari-



Campbeltown Young Farmers, pictured at recent coffee morning, reformed in 2007 and organises fundraising events in the community.

ties throughout the local area.

The young farmers will host a fundraising event bingo night in aid of the Kintyre Branch for Multiple Sclerosis in the White Hart Hotel on May 7.

Last year local efforts were rewarded when at the Scottish Association of Young Farmers

Club's annual general meeting Campbeltown received the 21st Anniversary Trophy for club recruitment, with Argyll taking the Association Flag for best district recruitment.

A new local recruitment drive for 2010 is currently underway and is already proving very successful. Everyone is

welcome to join Campbeltown Young Farmers, whether they have a direct farming connection or not.

If you are interested please email campbeltownyoungfarmers@hotmail.co.uk, contact 07768017126, or register your interest through the young farmer's Facebook page.



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Niche market works for Berardelli

REPORT by
STEPHEN NORRIS
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SPRING comes late to upland Lochaber – and this spring has come later than most.

At his Great Glen Cattle Ranch near Spean Bridge Paolo Berardelli looks across to the ski slopes of Aonach Mor, still covered with snow in late April, and looks forward to another farming year.

Spread out along 1,800 acres of upland pasture west of the A82, the farm, organic since 2005, is home to 100 Galloway cows with around 40 followers and 380 Blackface ewes, hardy stock specially chosen to produce meat for a niche market.

Paolo is all too aware the organic sector has taken something of a battering over the past two years, with pennywise consumers switching back to cheaper food alternatives - despite the urgings of celebrity chefs Jamie Oliver and Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall and their ilk.

Tough economic times may have hit organic sales in the big supermarkets, but Paolo says smaller outlets such as farm shops and farmers markets are bucking that trend.

Around 50 young bullocks at eight to ten months are sold from the farm each year to David Stoddart of Halls Farm near Penicuik, where they are fattened to 30 months. The organically produced beef, branded as 'Great Glen Galloway', then sells through the nearby Whitmuir Farm shop at Lamancha.

Some heifers are retained at the Great Glen Cattle Ranch to produce the next generation of beef animals, while the remainder are sold elsewhere for breeding.

'There's no doubt that Galloways are kinder on the ground and means we can be self sufficient with the feed we have

got,' says Paolo, 43, at his Achindaal steading. 'We cross some Galloway cows pure and some with the Shorthorn bull to give us a Blue Grey. They are an organic native breed and of a mature age when they are killed compared to the continental breeds. The Galloways are slow growing and are fed very much on a forage-based diet, which means you end up with a quality product with a lot of flavour.'

'The other big selling point is the way the Galloways fit in with our different environmental schemes. For example, under the Scottish Rural Development Programme the government pays us to improve and maintain habitats for black grouse, and The RSPB came on the farm to advise us on grazing practices.'

'Not only does that help the wildlife - we are selling the beef on the back of that as well. When they sell the meat in the shop people are told of its provenance and they are happy to pay the extra money.'

The Berardellis also run 730 ewes over 3,500 acres at Glenlachnamuidhe in Glencoe, using the same organic and environmental principles on grazing the land under the shadow of Bidean nam Bian, part of which is leased from the National Trust for Scotland. Most lambs from the Great Glen and Glenlachnamuidhe, which has been organic since 2000, are also sold on to David Stoddart for fattening.

'We have lime-rich soils in that part of Glencoe, where the burns wash all this extra lime down which sweetens the soil,' says Paolo, who earlier this year became the new chairman of Lochaber Agricultural Society.

'It's a Special Area of Conservation with a rich alpine pasture rarely found in the Highlands, and there has to be a



Paolo and son Fergus feed the Galloway cattle 10_f18paolo03



Winter still hangs on in the mountains above The Great Glen Cattle Ranch 10_f18paolo04

certain amount of grazing to allow the ground flora to flourish - otherwise it would be swamped by rank grasses.

'There are only ten or 20 such sites in Scotland and SNH actively encourage us to keep the sheep on there.'

With two girls, two boys and another baby on the way, Paolo and his wife Elspeth are doing their best to ensure farming on their patch of Lochaber will be in safe hands for generations to come.

Little wonder then, that Paolo feels young people are vital to agriculture's future. He's part of the 1,100-member Highland cooperative HBS Ring Ltd, which helps members large and small share machinery and labour costs to save money - vital in these times when rocketing fuel, fertiliser and feed costs are wiping out any gains from better returns

on livestock production. 'An increasing problem in recent years has been the reduction in livestock levels and we are getting pretty close to losing that critical mass you need for local markets to function and for neighbours to help each other out,' says Paolo.

'In this part of the world like most areas one of the biggest problems is getting younger people into the industry. What's life on the land without people? We live in a disadvantaged part of Scotland and there is no way we could farm without subsidies.'

'However, people have to realise that we are not just food producers

- we are the custodians of the land and the landscape as well.

'There will come a day when they will spend an awful lot of money restocking the hills, because certain numbers of sheep and cattle actually benefit the environment and, more importantly, keeps people living and working in the glens.'

'The trouble is, the powers that be understand the value of something only when it is gone.'

'It's not just the habitats that need to be preserved - it's the communities as well. More shepherds and crofters mean more people for fragile communities.'

Lochmaddy sale meets strong demand

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 117 store cattle and 18 Over 30 month cattle at Lochmaddy last Friday when a good show of grazing cattle met a strong demand.

Bullocks averaged 191.8p and sold to 244.4p per kg for a 270kg Limousin cross from Dunskeellar, Lochmaddy and £990 for a 500kg Limousin cross from Old Inn, Lochmaddy.

Heifers averaged 182.5p and sold to 222.2p per kg for 360kg Limousin cross from Dunskeellar and £890 for 500kg Limousin cross from 3 Hosta, Lochmaddy.

OTM cattle averaged 97.7p and sold to 120p per kg for a 750kg British Blue cross from Old Inn.

Bullocks : 251-300kg - Dunskeellar,

£660, 244.4p; 301-350kg - Dunskeellar, £760, 238.7p; 351-400kg - Hastain, Lochmaddy, £870, 223.1p; 401-450kg - 2 & 3 Clachan Sands, Lochmaddy, £905, 208.1p; 451-500kg - Old Inn, £900, 198p; 501-550kg - Old Inn, £850, 157.4p.

Heifers: 201-250kg - West Gerinish, Lochmaddy, £460, 204.4p;

251-300kg - Glebe, £490, 178.2p; 301-350kg - 7 Sol-las, Lochmaddy, £740, 211.4p;

351-400kg - Dunskeellar, £800, 210.8p; 401-450kg - Old Inn, £830, Glebe, 190.1p; 451-500kg - Old Inn, £850, 3 Hosta, 178p; 501-550kg - Glebe, £860, 157.8p.

UA Stirling sells 1,800 store cattle

UNITED Auctions sold 1,873 store cattle and 95 cast cows at Stirling last Wednesday.

Bullocks averaged 180.4p (+3.01p) and sold to 230.2p per kg for a 278kg Simmental cross from Bellevue and £1,000 for a 610kg Limousin cross from Hat-trick. Heifers averaged 179.77p (+4.17p) and sold to 242.1p per kg for a 190kg Simmental cross from Bellevue and £955 for a 632kg Charolais cross from The Ross.

Cast cows averaged 111.68p and sold to 149.6p Limousin cross from Castlesteads and £1,115 for a Charolais cross from Bogleys. Forward cattle averaged 146.02p and sold to 160.5p per kg for a Limousin cross from Incheoch and £1,055 for a Limousin cross from The Ross.

Bullocks: Up to 250kg South Hill of Dripps £540, Bellevue 226.1p; 251-300kgs Boreland £665, Bellevue 230.2p; 301-350kgs Castlehill £760, Boreland 227.7p; 351-400kgs Mid Shawton £835, Gartness 216.9p; 401-450kgs East Banknock £830, Muirside/Mid Wellwood 198.3p; 451-500kgs Gillmill £895, Dalchirra 189.8p; 501-550kgs Gillmill, £960, 184.3p; 551-600kgs Gillmill £985, Kirkblane 173.8p; 601-650kgs Hat-trick £1000, 163.9p; 651-700kgs Busses 950, 145p.

Heifers: Up to 250kg Bellevue £565, 242.1p; 251-300kg South Hill of Dripps £620, 213.18p; 301-350kgs Bargany £665, Mid Craigton 203.10p; 351-400kgs Davidston £830, 212.3p; 401-450kgs Mid Craigton £860, Mid Shawton 206.7p; 451-500kgs Cowan £890, 180.9p; 501-550kgs Muirland £870, Craigmart 165.3p; 551-600kgs Boreland £950, France 167.6p; 601-650kgs The Ross £955, Woodend 157.8p.

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Snizort stock dominate Portree sale

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 152 store cattle and 19 Over 30 Month cattle at Portree last Saturday.

Bullocks averaged 178.6p and sold to 211.4p per kg for a 350kg Limousin cross from 2 Kingsburgh, Snizort and £890 for a 545kg Limousin cross also from 2 Kingsburgh.

Heifers averaged 162.5p and sold to 192.4p per kg for a pen of 330kg Limousin crosses from 2 Kingsburgh, and £800 for a 505kg Charolais cross from Glenbrittle, Carbost.

Over 30 Month cows averaged 90.7p and sold to 117.1p per kg and £820 for a 700kg Shorthorn from Lyndale while two bulls sold to 104.3p per kg and £980 for a 940kg Limousin from Glencocon, Uig.

Bullocks up to 200kg 20 Borreraig, Dunvegan, £395, 200p; 201-250kg 1 Kilvaxter,

Kilmuir, £460, 209.1p; 251-300kg Distillery House, Carbost, £570, 190p; 301-350kg 2 Kingsburgh, £740, 1 & 2 Conon, Uig, 195.7p; 351-400kg South Cuidreach, Earlish, £760, 205.4p; 401-450kg Glenbrittle, Carbost, £800, 192.8p; 451-500kg Glenbrittle, £865, 2 Kingsburgh, 176.6p; 501-550kg 2 Kingsburgh, £840, 166.3p.

Heifers up to 200kg 20 Borreraig, Dunvegan, £330, 1 Kilvaxter, 184.4p; 201-250kg 3 Totescore, Portree, £425, 177.1p; 251-300kg Distillery Houses, £455, 162.5p; 301-350kg 2 Kingsburgh, £635, 12 Portalong, Carbost, 183.6p; 351-400kg South Cuidreach, £720, 180p; 401-450kg Corriebeinn Farms, Portree, £700, 170.7p; 451-500kg Glenbrittle, £715, 145.9p; 501-550kg Glenbrittle, 158.4p.

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Drivers warned of deer danger

WEST coast drivers have been warned to watch out for deer, as the time for young roe to venture out on their own approaches.

The Deer Commission for Scotland will be targeting hotspots, where high numbers of deer-vehicle collisions have occurred, with flashing warning signs during the next three weeks.

The A82, A87 and A835 have been identified as roads with a high incidence of accidents, particularly with red deer. Both roe deer and red deer may be tempted to graze on verges as trees and vegetation start to grow again after the harsh winter.

Deer officer Jamie Hammond said: 'At this time of the year, we'd caution motorists to slow down and watch for deer crossing in front of traffic. Be particularly alert if you're driving at dawn and dusk near to forested areas or farm land where deer can suddenly appear before you have time to brake.'

Across Scotland, around 10,000 vehicles hit deer each year, causing 70 serious injuries to drivers and passengers.

Oban woman remanded in custody

A TWENTY-five-year-old Oban woman appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court last week in connection with attempting to pervert the course of justice while on bail.

Sophie McColl, 2E Corran Brae, made no plea or declaration and was remanded in custody.

Lismore plan approved

PLANNING permission has been granted for a new one and half storey house on the Isle of Lismore.

The site, north east of Tirraggan Farm, will also get a new polytunnel and shed.

A caravan, which has been sited there for some time, can stay while the building work is carried out but planners have added a condition that it must be removed within 24 days of the house being completed.

New eco toilet for Kerrera

VISITORS to the Isle of Kerrera will soon be able to take advantage of a new composting toilet.

The Isle of Kerrera Development Trust has been granted planning permission to put up the 'Enviroloo' facility at the head of the path to Gylen Castle. The loo, contained in a wooden shed, will also have disabled access.

Council and Strathclyde Police join forces after elderly couple are tricked Bogus callers warning for Argyll and Bute

HOME owners in Argyll and Bute are being warned by both Argyll and Bute Council and Strathclyde Police to beware of bogus callers.

Bogus or rogue traders generally adopt a 'cold calling' technique, turning up on the doorstep offering to do repairs and improvements to a home without any intention of ever doing it.

They are only interested in taking as much money off their victims as they can.

A retired Argyll couple were lucky to be able to get their money back from a rogue trader who targeted them but that is not always possible.

The trader had originally quoted the couple £500 for the work in question but the sum increased to £2,100 once the job started

and additional damage was caused to the couple's property by the sub-standard work he carried out.

After failing to get a refund, the couple contacted Consumer Direct Scotland, which referred the complaint to Argyll and Bute Council.

Eventually the trader was tracked down and it was agreed he would refund £1,600 as an alternative to being prosecuted.

Traders should provide information like contact details and cancellation rights - which should be provided, by law, in a written note with a contract saying they have a right to cancel within seven days.

Inspector Julie McLeish at Oban police station said: 'Generally speaking bogus callers don't target people who are likely to challenge them - bogus callers are

bullies and they actively seek out and target the elderly or members of our community with memory impairments or other disadvantages that make them easier to manipulate.'

Anyone with any doubts over the validity of a door step caller working in their area should remain alert and not be pressured into allowing them into the home.

Under no circumstances should advance payment be made to buy tools or materials.

Councillor Daniel Kelly, chairman of the council's planning, protective services and licensing committee, said: 'Our advice would be not to deal with anyone who approaches you in this way.'

'Consumers should always get recommendations from friends and relatives if they

want any work carried out on their property, and at least three written quotes as well.'

'I would ask anyone who is cold called to try to record any relevant information such as vehicle registration, telephone numbers and physical descriptions. This sort of information may help our trading standards team when investigating any complaints.'



Students at work on the short course programme at Sabhal Mòr

Gaelic language centre hosts successful course

OVER 100 students from across Scotland recently travelled to Skye to enjoy a week of intensive language learning at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the national centre for Gaelic language and culture.

Students took part in Gaelic courses at every level, including a highly successful residential Úlpan course, held at the college for the first time. There are currently more than 1,000

students learning Gaelic through Úlpan across the country and demand for the course at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was high, with places being filled in record time.

Susanne MacDonald, manager of the short course programme, said it was 'particularly pleasing' to see the students progress with growing confidence in speaking Gaelic.

She said: 'The Úlpan course was a welcome

addition to our programme and we hope to be able to offer many more opportunities like these and make it easier for people to learn Gaelic.'

Dàibhidh Grann, Director of Deiseal, the company behind the Úlpan method of learning and tutor on the course, said: 'The students worked incredibly hard all week and I was impressed by the improvement in the naturalness and clarity

of their Gaelic. We hope to be able to offer further residential courses here at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig to satisfy the demand that there quite clearly is.'

Katie MacKenzie from Edinburgh attended the course. She said: 'Sabhal Mòr Ostaig was a fantastic location and Úlpan was fun, enjoyable and I can see results already. If only I could have stayed on and done another week.'

New website gadgets will help or hinder tourism business in the west

NEW research into how the west coast's tourism businesses could use the latest online gadgets has provoking debate and concern.

VisitScotland carried out a pilot project linking accommodation providers to independent review websites. It found a third of people check comments on TripAdvisor and similar sites before making a booking and most want these reviews to be available on VisitScotland's official website.

But one Glencoe cottage owner is concerned the tourism agency could follow VisitEngland's example by basing its star grading system on the comments.

John Winkler, who owns a self catering cottage at Kentallen and is not a member of VisitScotland's grading scheme, said user-generated content can be unreliable.

'This will affect every tourism business on the west coast,' he said.

'The biggest problem is that small properties can load favourable reviews into the TripAdvisor comments, through using friends and family.'

'It is standard practice in small businesses.'

He added that negative feedback maybe unfair but it is hard to correct: 'When people have a moan they can be truly vicious but people who are happy tend not to put in comments.'

'With 1,000 bednights a week, one big hotel will not be able to make every guest totally happy.'

'It cannot be done.'

But Linda Battison, chair of Oban and Lorn Tourism Association (OLTA), said his fears were probably unfounded.

'I don't think they would make it compulsory,' she said.

'What they are saying is they have to be aware of the power of user generated feedback.'

The OLTA's own website allows businesses to link to TripAdvisor reviews, but it is optional, she added. 'For some folk with good reviews, it is a really useful tool.'

Morar

TEN MEMBERS of Morar SWRI met in Morar SWRI on April 8.

Last month's minutes were read and then it was on to the activity for the evening - a Beetle Drive.

An enjoyable evening was had and the outright winner was June Foxwell. A well-needed cup of tea was served by Morag Mackenzie and Linda McLean.

Competitions: Flowers in a teacup: 1 Pauline Elwell; 2 Linda McLean; 3 Morag Mackenzie;

4 Eileen MacPhie. Easter Card

1 June Foxwell; 2 Cathie Stewart; 3 Linda McLean.

Raffle - Anne Currie.

peruse in several fields.

Alison and Olive pointed out the advantages of seeing the 'wider picture', and the fun of getting to know people in other institutes and federations; they pointed out that some individual Institutes have a membership numerically the same as the whole of the Mull and Tiree Federation.

However, they encourage members to consider getting more involved in the wider picture of the SWRI.

Fionnphort THE APRIL meeting was a very enjoyable and informative talk by Alison Broomhead on Ecology, explaining how geological changes over millions of years affect the plants and animals present in the current environment, and some of the fascinating ecological consequences of being an island.

After refreshments provided by Marilyn Granger a short business meeting was conducted.

Salen ON MARCH 9 the Salen SWRI held their annual dinner at the MacDonald Arms Hotel, Tobermory.

On Wednesday, April 7, Margaret Black welcomed everyone to the April meeting when the speaker was Susan Campbell who talked about chinese medicine.

In 2007 Susan went on a trip to China, named Physiotherapy in China. This included acupuncture, massage and herbal medicine. She talked about the history of acupuncture, and how it has become popular in the western world since 1970.

Massage is performed through light clothing, along the meridian lines of acupuncture, and herbal medicine is used as a preventative medicine.

On the trip Susan visited several hospitals which use western medicine and Chinese medicine alongside one another.

Tobermory AT the April meeting of Tobermory Institute,

President Jane Russell welcomed 19 members and guests to Glen Iosal Common room which provided a warm and comfortable refuge from the inclement weather outside.

Ladies who had attended the upholstery school in Craignure, which had been arranged by Federation secretary, Olive Brown, were able to describe what they had achieved and once again sang the praises of Mrs Kath Runciman, who had run a very successful two-day school in 2009.

Finally, speaker for the evening, Mrs Brenda MacLeod of Lochaber Federation, introduced members to the delights of felting. She demonstrated all sorts of things she had made with felt, from earrings to handbags to hats to necklaces. She explained that there are many ways of making felt but they all boil down to getting loose fibres to tighten up and form a solid mat. One of the quickest ways is to put a woollen item into a very hot wash (oops!) Who hasn't made that mistake at some time? But, as she explained, there's a use for every mistake. Then wool rovings were handed out and members set to with a will and soon produced a small piece of multi-coloured felt.

On March 31, Tobermory ladies enjoyed a day school in felting taught by Mrs Brenda MacLeod in the art room at An Tobar. Various methods of felting were demonstrated and practised and everyone produced a number of sample pieces. There was a great deal of laughter, some sighs of frustration, a few spells of total, concentrated silence and a feeling that all were learning a new and fascinating skill which might well come in handy for the classwork class at the federation show in June. Altogether, the five hours of learning and practise passed in a flash and members look forward to developing new skills.

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AT the April meeting of Tobermory Institute,

25 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday April 18 1985



Marathon man Ralph's top time

OBAN MAN Ralph McLeary ran the race of his life in the London Marathon last week.

The 37-year-old completed the course in just two hours, 31 minutes and 36 seconds.

He beat some of Britain's club runners, achieving a position of 216th out of the 25,000 competitors.

This was Ralph's second London Marathon and only his fourth marathon ever.

Ralph knocked seven minutes off his 1989 time.

On Monday Morven, Ralph's wife, said: 'I recorded the marathon and I saw him clearly at about the 12-mile mark, looking really good.'

'He phoned me at 1.30pm on Sunday and by that time he'd run the race, got back to

his hotel and got changed.' Morven and daughters Karen, 15, and Theresa, 12, are delighted with his success.

Morven said: 'I'm really proud of him. He's already planning to compete next year.'

'I don't know what race he is planning on next but I'm sure he'll have something up his sleeve.'

Last Post for Bella

It was the end of an era for the Isle of Seil's Sub-Postmistress on Friday.

Bella Campbell - at the age of 87 - closed the Post Office for the last time.

After 31 years running Clachan Seil Post Office from the front room of her house Bella is retiring.

Bella took over the running of the post office in 1958

from her mother, who was a postmistress as long ago as 1917.

Bella worked full time until 1986, when she decided to go part time and close the post office on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

'I thought it was fine to have wee break', she says.

Bella's mother retired in 1958, receiving a Long Service Certificate signed by Postmaster General Ernest Marples in recognition of her 41 years' service.

Post Office spokesman, Douglas Craik said: 'People like Bella Campbell are the mainstay of our rural operation in Scotland. We would like to thank her for her long and loyal service and wish her every success in her retirement.'

The Post Office has sent Bella a retirement gift of a colour television and a

teamaker.

Bella's family and friends on the Isle of Seil will be making a presentation to her tomorrow at the Tigh an Truigh Inn.

Bella said: 'I expect a lot of my friends will still come to see me although the post office is closed.'

Despite the fact that she has never been further than the Ayrshire coast Bella is planning to travel in her retirement. 'I think I would like to visit friends in Canada now,' she said.

Bella says the secret to staying so youthful is plenty of exercise, keeping in touch with friends and a little gardening.

Bella said: 'I have always enjoyed my work. I have enjoyed meeting people and talking with them. The postmen too have always been so friendly.'

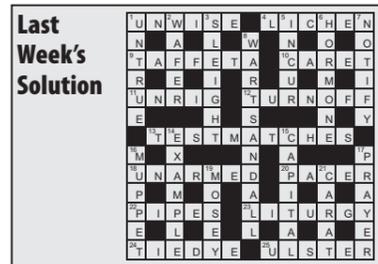
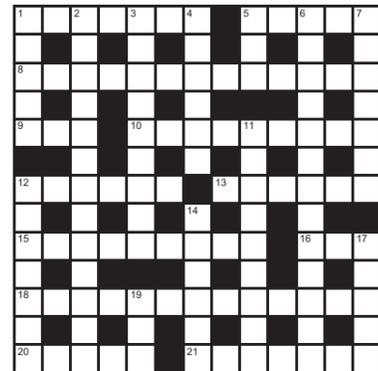
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE CROSSWORD

Across

- Resistance to (7)
- One of three in the ear (5)
- Sign of speech (8,5)
- Ashes holder (3)
- Positivity (9)
- Go over yet again (2-4)
- Autocrat (6)
- Gathered (9)
- A tangle of hair (3)
- One who works for the public (5,8)
- Acclamation (5)
- Empire (7)

Down

- Parting word (5)
- Higher height (8,5)
- Make usual (9)
- Speculation (6)
- Bag for fluid (3)
- Scoldings of a good natured manner (13)
- One without pay for their skills (7)
- Vehicle of one who looks after (6,3)
- Use again (7)
- Be there (6)
- Cantankerous (5)
- Allow the use of (3)



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Corpach couple celebrate 70th wedding anniversary

CORPACH couple Donald and Betty Locke passed another remarkable milestone when they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary earlier this month. The couple met in 1937 in Aberdeen, where Donald was a student and Betty was a professional dancer. They then moved to Betty's home city of London and married on April 3 1940. Donald and Betty moved to Argyll in 1980 with their son, Douglas, and his family. They later moved to North Ballachulish where they ran a successful confectionery business. Their family, including four grand-children and two great grand-children, came from all over the world to celebrate the happy occasion with Donald, aged 95, and Betty, aged 90, in the Corpach Hotel.



Donald and Betty Locke - 70 years happily married.

Bid to attract new members
Pub scheme to be relaunched

By RICHARD HADDOCK
LOCHABER Pubwatch is being relaunched in an attempt to raise its profile and attract new members. Since the scheme was introduced six years ago, licensed premises in Lochaber have seen a 47 per cent reduction in crime and Lochaber Pubwatch hopes the relaunch will see more licences signing up. Some pubs and restaurants in the area have not yet joined the initiative. Pubwatch aims to create a safe, friendly environment for both customers and staff. The best-known aspect of the scheme is the Pubwatch list, a register of people who are barred from Pubwatch premises. There are currently about 40 names on the list. The chairman of Lochaber Pubwatch, who can't be named for security reasons, told *The Oban Times* people whose names

appear on the register only have themselves to blame. He said: 'We don't put people on the Pubwatch list. They do it themselves with their behaviour. Lochaber Pubwatch is about more than just barring people from pubs. We are a very proactive organisation.' One of the biggest problems facing Pubwatch is drug use in their premises. Around 75 per cent of cases discussed by the Pubwatch committee are drug related. The relaunch will emphasise the importance of trying to eradicate the problem. Apart from maintaining the list, Pubwatch acts as a collective voice for licence holders in Lochaber to make it easier for people, such as the police, to communicate with licencees. Pubwatch also works closely with local organisations such as Highland Council, community councils and Northern Constabulary.

Nevis Hillwalkers head to Loch Cluanie

LOCHABER walking group Nevis Hillwalkers will be holding its next day walk on Saturday to Loch Cluanie to climb one of the hills there. The group will meet at the car park at the Woollen Mill (Ben Nevis Highland Centre) junction of Glen Nevis and A82 roads in Fort William at 8am, or for the Oban area members, the free car park opposite Tesco at 6.40am. The club offers a warm welcome to visitors and new members to join them on outings. The club's outings are distinct from those of other walking groups in the scale of the walks. Typically, these will include a Munro or Corbett, or a ridge walk, and are normally on alternate Saturdays and Sundays. Bad weather is not a deterrent, although the planned walk is sometimes modified, or an alternative proposed, to suit the conditions on the day. The next outing is a hike to Loch Lochy and Meall na Teanga on Sunday May 9.

Oban volunteer's life-changing South African adventure

A WOMAN making a difference to lives in Oban has had the chance to visit a project she inspired in South Africa. Irene Harrower, who runs an Oban bed and breakfast, was shocked and surprised to win last year's Argyll volunteer of the year award for her work with family charity Homestart. But she was even more gobsmacked to discover she had also won £1,000 in travel vouchers, which allowed her to take the trip of a lifetime to see the project in Johannesburg for herself. For 16 years, Irene has been supporting parents of young children in Oban and Lorn who appreciate a helping hand when they are struggling to cope. 'I can refer back to a time in my life when I was in need of support, with no family around me and having three little children. I would have loved to have something like Homestart,' she said.



Irene was thrilled to meet some of the children, parents and volunteers involved with Homestart South Africa.

Over the years I have met all kinds of families and I have learned such a lot from every one. I have really enjoyed it. 'You see a change in the families over the time; I can see the confidence in the mothers and the children growing up.' Aileen Binner, manager of Homestart Oban and Lorn, agreed volunteers like Irene make a real difference to families under pressure. She said: 'One mum said it was the difference between surviving and sinking. I like to think we make the difference between just surviving and enjoying your baby. 'If I had my wish, everybody who had a new baby would have a Homestart volunteer for six weeks.' Around ten years ago, a chance meeting between a bed and breakfast visitor and a Homestart family gave Irene the chance to share her enthusiasm about the project. The guest, Anne Hart, was the daughter of regular visitors

from South Africa and full of questions. Irene recalled: 'I spent quite a lot of time discussing it with her, as I do with anybody willing to stand still long enough for me to tell them.' Anne returned to the Johannesburg area inspired and after more correspondence and planning, opened the first Homestart branch in the country in 2001. The pair kept in touch on and off over the years. Knowing that Irene had helped to spread Homestart to South Africa, Aileen thought she would make an excellent ambassador for the charity when she was asked for nominations for the prestigious local volunteering award last year. She said she was not able to tell Irene she had put her forward until she had won. 'I had known she would be cross but I didn't realise how cross,' said Aileen. 'She kept saying but what about this person and that person. She wasn't even going to go to the ceremony. The only grounds that she would accept the award was that it would benefit Homestart.' When her name was read out for the Sargus Memorial Prize for travel, which each year goes to one of the individual category winners, Irene knew immediately where she was going to go. 'I thought why am I here and I just said I'm going to South Africa to see the project. I could see my husband's eyebrows going up. I thought I couldn't just go to Spain, I have to do something positive with this.'

In March, the couple spent three and half weeks in South Africa. Though they enjoyed going on safari and seeing the sights, the highlight for Irene was seeing in person the project she had heard so much about. 'The whole experience was absolutely wonderful, humbling and inspiring,' she said. 'They have very similar problems to families here, but far worse. There's poverty, crime, AIDS, extreme weather. But now there's a little tranquil place full of these wonderful volunteers.' Like Homestart Oban, the projects in Benoni and the Daveyton township support parents who are under pressure, by playing with children for a while, helping mums through post natal depression and visiting them at home. They also provide counselling to families who have been through horrific violence and help sort out legal documents and deal with officials. Irene said many of the inspiring Homestart volunteers she met were not aware of how the project had reached South Africa. 'I told my story and Anne told hers and there wasn't a dry eye in the house. All I had done in Oban was what as anybody would and what happened as a result of that is incredible. 'It's like me throwing a seed away and it gets the wind and goes out to South Africa and grows and grows.' She said Anne now plans to try and spread Homestart to other parts of South Africa and neighbouring countries, where the needs are just as great. 'I just feel part of me is left behind there,' added Irene. 'I feel such a connection there now and I would love to do something to help them. It is needed so much there.' This year's volunteering awards, celebrating those who give their time to the community for free, are open for nominations until May 14. There are also prizes for sports volunteers, voluntary organisations and young volunteers. Nomination forms and more details are available from Argyll Voluntary Action on dev.abvc@tiscali.co.uk or 01631 569545.



51 pupils of Kinlochleven High School taking part in a litter pick. 10_f18litter01

Kinlochleven pupils do their bit to clean up village

PUPILS from Kinlochleven High School have been doing their bit to keep the village beautiful. The school already has a Silver Eco Schools award and held its first litter pick last year. Organiser of the event, Kinlochleven High School teacher Anne Petty, said this year's was even more successful. The school already has a Silver Eco Schools award and held its first litter pick last year. Organiser of the event, Kinlochleven High School teacher Anne Petty, said this year's was even more successful.

Marathon cycle commemorates Antares fishing tragedy

MALLAIG is to be start point for a 212-mile charity cycle to commemorate one of the west coast's worst fishing tragedies. November 22 will mark the 20th anniversary of the sad loss of the Carradale fishing boat Antares, with all hands. As a mark of respect, well known Argyll golfer Bobby Willan, who is from the Kintyre village, will cycle 212 miles from Mallaig to the Antares memorial plaque on Carradale pier to raise money for the Royal Deep Sea Fisherman's Mission in memory of the four men lost. Mr Willan will leave Mallaig on Friday July 30 and cycle to Lochgilphead to rest overnight before completing his marathon effort the next day, travelling via Kilberry and Campbeltown, hopefully arriving at Carradale pier around 7pm. Mr Willan said: 'The accident is something that is never far from the thoughts

of all who live in Carradale, especially those who lost family members or friends. It just feels right to mark 20 years for those lost and raise funds for a worthwhile charity.' In the subsequent report into the 1990 tragedy, the chief inspector of marine accidents found that a submarine on exercise, HMS *Trenchant*, had snagged the Antares' fishing net and trawl lines and dragged the vessel under. He heavily criticised the Trenchant's command for not keeping a proper watch and for failing to report the accident. The report recommended changes to submarine operations in fishing areas to minimise the chances of a similar disaster happening again. Donations can be made by logging on to www.justgiving.com/BOBBY-WILLAN or by contacting Bobby or his wife Audrey in Campbeltown Bank of Scotland.

"The whole experience was absolutely wonderful, humbling and inspiring."
Irene Harrower.



Helping out at Homestart South Africa's monthly jumble sale - Irene with the volunteer team.

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WIN TICKETS TO GARDENING SCOTLAND 2010

Oban High School news



Laurinburg exchange auction

AT the end of last term the Laurinburg Group organised and ran a very successful auction that raised the magnificent sum of £1,294.

The group would like to thank the many businesses in and around the Oban area which gave so willingly a number of items for auction, without their help and support the auction would not have been so successful.

Items included a Jolomo print, a canoe, a barking dog, a trip on the Nevis Range gondola and a holiday for two at an exclusive B&B in Mull.

In total 60 items were auctioned off to an eager crowd of bargain hunters.

The event was most enjoyable and those attending were treated to fine performance from Oban High School Pipe Band to launch the event, spectacular dancing from the senior girls, wonderful ceilidh music from Murray Willis and Euan MacDonald and a song from Jessica Bichard.

Auctioneer Mr MacPherson kept the audience highly entertained throughout the evening with his many comments and quips during the bidding process. During the interval a splendid buffet was served by parents.

All those attending agreed that they had had a great night, and for the group a very successful one.

The next big event the group is planning is a sponsored hill climb that its hope to complete with American guests in June along with members of Oban Rotary Club.

Wind power

THE geography and physics departments are involved with an exciting S1 project on wind farms.

This project is being supported by Skills Development Scotland, which is inputting careers management skills into class lessons.

The project started well with a guest appearance by Heather Reid OBE (aka Heather the Weather). Who gave a very enjoyable and informative presentation to the whole of S1 on the issues surrounding global warming.

She then spent the day working with Mrs Wilson's geography class, along with Terry Donavan from ALJenergy, and a number of careers officers from SDS.

Throughout the project pupils will have the chance to work with 'experts', these include an Oban planning officer and Jim Mather MSP.

This project is an important step in the development of interdisciplinary learning in the new curriculum for excellence which is due to start in August with the new S1.

Search is on for Isle of Mull's celebrity sea eagles

A NATIONWIDE appeal has been launched by Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) Scotland for sightings of two white-tailed eagles that featured in the first ever BBC flagship series Springwatch on the Isle of Mull in 2005.

The two young chicks, named Itchy and Scratchy

by pupils from Dervaig Primary School, captured the hearts of millions of viewers each night as live pictures from their nest were beamed into homes across the UK.

Now, the RSPB wants to try and track them down in time to feature in the next series of the popular BBC

television screens.

Wildlife cameraman Gordon Buchanan said: 'I filmed Itchy and Scratchy for Springwatch five years ago and would love to find out where they are now.'

The original film followed presenter Simon King and the eagle family as

they endured gales, rain and midges through a live week-long broadcast. At one point the chicks were almost blown off the nest, but ultimately, both fledged successfully.

Both birds were fitted with cherry-red wing tags before they fledged, Itchy with the letter 'I' and Scratchy with

the letter 'S'. These letters should be visible through binoculars, or even with the naked eye, to anyone hoping to catch a glimpse of the two TV celebrities.

Young white-tailed eagles, sometimes called sea eagles, wandered far and wide in their first five years and could be anywhere, although

the west coast of Scotland is most likely. RSPB Scotland encourages sightings of any wing-tagged sea eagles to be reported to any RSPB office. Sightings of Itchy and Scratchy should be reported to Dave Sexton on: 01680 300 387 or 07818 803 382 or email david.sexton@rspb.org.uk



Fort William Primary School staged its third annual April Action Day on Saturday to brighten up the school surroundings - and grandmother Valerie Struthers had no shortage of volunteers to help her with the painting. Pupils, their families and school staff joined forces to give the playground areas a spring clean and spent the day painting, gardening and tidying. School secretary Janet Hickman said: 'Everyone worked hard and had a very enjoyable day sharing the company of others and a well deserved picnic.' 10_F18Fpaint01

Kyleakin girl wins nationwide 'green' cover competition

Encouraging children to take the lead in tackling climate change

A KYLEAKIN Primary School pupil has won a UK-wide schools competition to design the front cover of a handbook on environmentally friendly initiatives.

'Think tank'

Megan MacRae's design adorns the new British Gas Generation Green manifesto, which was produced and compiled by pupils nationwide to encourage children to take the lead in tackling climate change.

The entry from Megan, aged eight, was chosen ahead of hundreds of others as the best design for the manifesto, which outlines policy ideas from a children's 'think tank' on recycling, renewables and re-educating people on

living more sustainably. Megan won her own copy of the manifesto book and Generation Green prizes for her school.

Kyleakin Primary School headteacher Alison MacLennan said: 'We have benefited greatly from the Generation Green programme.'

'The pupils enjoy carrying out green tasks like planting carrots and potatoes, and using water butts to recycle water.'

'Being such a small and remote school, we sometimes miss out on opportunities like this but Generation Green has allowed us to engage the children in green issues in a fun and informative way with high quality resources.'



Megan MacRae and the green manifesto - with her winning design on the front.

Hopes high as funding source reopens purse strings

'I hope we can now move forward and focus firmly on the future'

THE TOY Cupboard in Oban received good news this week as it emerged that one of its major sponsors is in a position to provide funding again.

Extremely generous

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland has reopened its grant-making scheme this month and has £2 million to distribute to Scottish charities.

The foundation announced the suspension of its grant-making activities indefinitely due to an ongoing dispute with Lloyds Banking Group last October.

This left the Toy Cupboard, in Oban, with a £3,500 gap in funding.

Toy Cupboard committee member Lyndsay Swinton said: 'This is superb news. Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland has been extremely generous to the Toy Cupboard in the past, providing a third of our total running costs each year.'

'We last received a cheque from the company in October 2009 and were told that it would be last payment we would receive.'

'We will definitely be applying for further grants, as our funds are generally low, even with all the extra

fundraising we've been doing to try and plug the gap.'

Mary Craig OBE, chief executive of Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland, said: 'Since we put our grant-making activities on hold last year, we have been only too aware of the difficulties this posed for charities in Scotland. However, with the restart of awards, I hope we can now move forward and focus firmly on the future.'

She added: 'The foundation's main award programme this year will target smaller and harder to fund grassroots charities.'

The 2010 awards programme is named 'The Henry Duncan Awards' in honour of Reverend Henry Duncan who founded the first trustee savings bank 200 years ago this year.

The first deadline for applications for Henry Duncan Awards is May 24. More information can be found at www.ltsbfoundationforScotland.org.uk

The Toy Cupboard will be celebrating its 20th birthday next month with a party in the Corran Halls on May 15.

Gaelic's best to boost Portree care home event

SOME of the biggest names in Gaelic music are to perform at a fundraising concert at The Venue at Portree High School.

The concert will take place on Friday 11 June, and is being organised by the Community Service Group to raise funds for the refurbishment and upgrading of Budhmor Care Home in Portree.

The event is being sponsored by the Skye cultural charity Urras an Eilein and has also received some financial backing from R J MacLeod.

Due to perform are acts such as Paul MacCallum, Billy Ross, Christine Primrose and the popular group Cherry on the Cream.

One of the event organisers, Murdo Beaton, said: 'This is one of the most star studded events to take place in Skye for many years and I am confident it will attract a sell-out audience.'

'It promises to be a truly memorable event.'

Fort William 'pound' shop shuts

THE POUND MANIA shop in Fort William has closed and the company has gone into administration.

The shop was open for business on Monday but closed mid-morning, with a sign being put up in the window apologising to customers.

No one from the company was available for comment.

Lochaber homes to gain more heat

MORE homes in the Fort William area are to be offered free or discounted loft and cavity wall insulation under the Home Insulation Scheme.

Homes energy assessors visited more than 5,000 homes earlier this year to offer householders a free energy audit, advice on energy efficiency and loft and cavity wall insulation at discounted rates or free of charge.

The expanded Scottish Government scheme will see assessors visit another 1,500 homes. Insulation measures offered will cut energy bills by an average of £61 a year, say organisers.

Householders in the Highlands can call 0800 512 012 to make an appointment for an energy assessor to undertake an energy assessment over the phone. Alternatively, they can visit www.homeinsulationscheme.co.uk to fill out a home energy check form online.

Kinlochleven ladies raise cash for Erskine Hospital

THE LADIES of St Paul's Episcopal Church, in Kinlochleven, held a coffee morning and home baking sale on Easter Monday.

Together the ladies raised £360 for Erskine Hospital.

Kyle firemen host dinner and entertainment

KYLE Fire Brigade organised their annual senior citizens dinner and social evening in the Kings Arms Hotel on April 16.

More than 80 guests enjoyed an excellent meal and afterwards they were entertained by John Duncan Mackerlich on accordion and the Lochalsh Junior Pipe Band with John 'Slippy' Finlayson as chairman.



Left: Lochgilphead High School student Adele Redman is given some tips on copperplate etching by tutor, Fraser MacIver. Adele, who is a sixth year pupil at the joint campus, took part in last Saturday's event because she wanted more help in preparing for her advanced higher art exam. 08_A18art01

Artmap workshops come to Argyll

WHETHER it was stone carving, painting or copper etching, there was something to suit all tastes at the recent Artmap Argyll workshops.

During March and April Artmap Argyll ran a series of taster workshops providing budding artists with an opportunity to work with professional and local artists.

Last weekend it was the turn of Lesley Burr, Derby Stewart-Amsden and Fraser MacIver. Art as a journey was the topic for Derby Stewart-Amsden, who ran a workshop at Oban High School last Saturday. Derby's goal for the session was free expression, with the emphasis on the creative process rather than on technique or expertise.

In Lochgilphead Community Centre, Crinan-based artist Fraser MacIver

delivered a basic course in copperplate etching. Students were taught intensively over two days.

Fraser explained the course would give artists 'a grounding in plate preparation, image transfer, hardground, drypoint and print proofing on the Wagon Press'.

And at Crarae Gardens, near Minard, budding painters were given an expert lesson in colour painting by Lochgilphead-based artist Lesley Burr. Lesley, an experienced tutor, focused on close ups of plants and flowers in spring bloom.

The Argyll-wide art network will hold its annual Open Studios Event on Friday August 13 until Monday August 16.

For more information on Artmap Argyll visit - www.artmapargyll.com.

Politicians back A82 road campaign

THE GROUP campaigning to upgrade the A82 road claims to have won across-the-board support from political parties.

The A82 Partnership said candidates standing in Ross, Skye and Lochaber and Argyll and Bute had responded positively to a questionnaire it sent.

Responsibility for the trunk road is a devolved issue but the Westminster candidates accepted they had a role in 'pursuing' improvements.

The group has described the road as one of Scotland's 'most dangerous'.



51 pupils from Oban High School who are taking part in a wind farm project supported by Skills Development Scotland

Talkback logo with text: Tell us your news via the website. WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK

Lynn of Lorne Care Home

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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

Argyll Voluntary Action

Would you like to make a difference? Argyll Voluntary Action has two posts available working from our Oban office.

Administration Officer (ref OBN/01)
To provide high quality administration support for the organisation, and support the placement of volunteers. This post requires commitment, excellent organisational skills and a flexible approach from a self-motivated person. This post is funded to 31st March 2011. 20 hours per week over 4 days. Pay rate is £8.85 per hour.

Office Assistant (Finance) (ref OBN/02)
This new post will support our finance functions, as well as a range of administrative tasks. This post is an opportunity for someone wishing to learn a range of key office functions in a friendly and supportive, if busy, environment. The post is funded until April 2011. 16 hours per week over 4 days. Pay is £6.25 per hour.

For both posts closing date for applications is 18th May. Interview date is 25th May 2010
For details and an application form telephone 01631 569545 or email adminoban.abvc@tiscali.co.uk quoting the job reference.

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We are currently recruiting for an IT Support Analyst, to be located within our Cairndow Office in Argyll:

IT Support Analyst - (Ref: ITS/CW/110)

(Salary depending on experience £18,000 - £22,000)

Ideally, the candidate will be technically skilled, an enthusiastic self starter with excellent team working interpersonal and communication skills. You will have a desire to learn more and want to progress your career in IT Support.

The role is to assist and ensure delivery of a user support service for approximately 200 users, also with responsibilities for the support of minor to medium developments or application use on configuration and implementation of systems specific to our company requirements. Other responsibilities will include control of our in-house IT helpdesk, where you will be the first point of contact for all the company users relating to any faults and queries that they may be having, providing all the IT team with administrative support.

Essential technical skills required for the position; Microsoft Office Suite, SQL server 2000/2003 with a good understanding of Windows platforms.

Desirable technical skills would be; knowledge of wireless technology, Microsoft Access, Microsoft Visio, Citrix and experience of business analysis.

This position offers the successful candidate an excellent working environment and an unrivalled future career development opportunity; further study and development package may also be made available.

A full, clean driving licence is also essential as travel will be required to other locations within the company.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period.

For an application form and job description, please contact:
HR Department,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd, Ardninglas Estate, Cairndow,
Argyll, PA26 8BH. Tel. No. 01499 600 435
Email: cairndowhr@lighthousecaledonia.com
Closing date for applications: 5pm Thursday 13 May 2010

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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

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
Telephone 01546 602445

The closing date for applications is: **6th May 2010**
Interviews will be held on **Friday 14th May 2010**

HALO Health And Lifecare Options

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For more information please contact Margaret mason on 01389 804666 / 01389804659 or Margaret.mason@halouk.co.uk

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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Successful candidate will be required to live in the area - relocation package may be offered. Driving licence essential. Covering letter and C.V. to Ali Arden - ali@obantimes.co.uk

STORVIK

Post: Part-time Book keeper

Date: 29th April 2010
Location: Lochgilphead

Storvik Ltd is a dynamic and growing supplier in the Aquaculture Industry who is currently seeking to recruit the services of a part-time book-keeper.

The position will involve general accountancy duties, and general book-keeping support. A sound knowledge of Sage is essential.

Hours: 7.5 hrs per week by arrangement.
Salary: negotiable according to experience.

For more information on this position, please contact:

Maggie Findlay Office Manager Storvik Ltd 01546603989 07477333234	Or apply in writing to: General Manager Storvik Ltd Unit 16 Kilmory Industrial Estate Lochgilphead PA31 8RR
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Closing Date: 19th May 2010

Southern Cross Healthcare

Kintyre Care Centre, Campbeltown.

Centre Manager

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You will have a Vocational Qualification with management experience or be a 1st Level Registered Nurse. People management and budgetary awareness is required. Relocation assistance may be available.

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You will have RGN or RMN qualification. Full training and professional support to maintain and develop your career will be given. Relocation assistance may be available.

For further information please contact the Home Manager on:
01586 553615
Closing date: 14th May 2010.
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Mull Community Nursing, Tobermory, Isle of Mull
Ref: 10ab/032

Whilst this is predominately a clerical position, there are aspects of direct patient/client contact as well as equipment management. You should have a flexible mental attitude as well as computer skills and a current driving licence. The hours are currently worked 9.00am -12 noon, Monday to Friday. Occasionally a full day is required to be worked, with time taken in lieu.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Margaret Fitzsimmons, on 01688 302329.

Mid Argyll Locality
Bank Administrative and Clerical Staff - Band 2
£13,653 - £16,753 pro rata
Hours as and when required
Mental Health Services, Argyll & Bute Hospital
Ref: 10ab/066

Bank Administrative and Clerical staff are required to cover various departments within Mental Health Administration Services. Good organisational skills and a typing speed of 50 - 60 words per minute, including audio typing are required. A qualification in, or experience of, minute taking and medical secretarial skills would be desirable.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Fiona Broderick, Administration Services Manager, on 01546 604908.

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
Closing date for receipt of applications: 13 May 2010.

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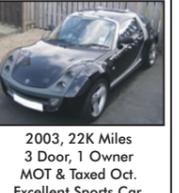
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54% of people travel 10 miles or less to buy a second-hand car

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Motoring Times
For the latest local deals on new and used cars In association with Quarry Road MOT Centre

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THE BOAT STORE

Anchors, chain, shackles, thimbles and rope available and made up to order, also 31' twinscrew motor cruiser.

The Boat Store
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FOUR WINNS 245 SUNDOWNER



Sports Cruiser/weekender. Launched 2006 Only 20 engine hrs from new. 5.7ltr Gxi Volvo Penta Duo Prop
Loads of extras, incl four wheel, Sbs trailer, telephone for full Spec sheet & photos.

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£32,450 or near offer

15' SPEED BOAT



15' Speed Boat with a 90HP Evinrude v4 outboard. very fast 40knots+. Refurbished last year and is ready to go.

Telephone: 01852 314136

£1300

AVON INFLATABLE DINGHY FOR SALE

Approx 8ft
Oars, pump etc
Very good condition.

Telephone: 07733 343504

£250 o.n.o.

ATLANTIC RIBS AND MARINE SERVICES

BOATS AND ENGINES FOR SALE AND WANTED
As new Tohatsu 25 hp engine with remotes

Orkney long liner
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Humber 4.8mt 50hp Rib, new trailer
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Humber 7.8 Commercial Volvo D3 160 Diesel (was Coded) seats 8

Engine servicing, hull and general fibreglass and epoxy repairs, electronics fitted,

Call Tim 07900654862, Ho 01546 830205

TIMES FORUM

We want to hear your views. Contact us at **WWW.OBANTIMES.CO.UK**

DRIVING FORCE



WITH the UK government's extended car scrappage scheme coming to an end last month there is arguably less incentive to part with your ageing, but perhaps reliable, set of wheels.

But those who have persevered with the 'niggly' problems associated with cars of a certain age will find that buying a new car can be great fun – as long as you do it right.

Firstly think about what's really important when buying a car: where to shop and how to pay for it.

Remember, a manufacturer that produced a poor model years ago may have the buy of the year this time round. If you don't already know the car you want, begin by drawing up a shortlist.

Pick out cars that offer a blend of talents to meet your needs. Keep an open mind, as your opinion may change after a few test drives.

Drive as many cars as possible from your shortlist before buying, and don't let the dealer fob you off with a ten-minute spin round the block. Ask to take the car away on your own, to try it on different roads and when loaded up with people or luggage. Some dealers offer 24 to 72-hour test drives to people who are serious about buying a car.

Don't forget running costs when buying a car. Diesel cars offer better fuel economy but they cost more to buy, as does the fuel, so you may need to cover thousands of miles before you save money. Factor in car depreciation, too – buying cheap new cars can be costly in the long run if second-hand demand is poor.

The rise in the sale of small cars may be due to increased fuel prices or downsizing, but owning a small car is extremely economical and can cut motoring costs including road tax if the model produces low emissions.

Fuel efficiency is also a major factor for used car sales. The price of fuel and changes to vehicle excise duty are taking their toll on used car buyers so fuel efficiency becomes an even more crucial factor for potential customers.

Although the used car market is showing some resilience, buyers will be looking to find the best package, as well as the best price.

Used car sales are rising as buyers take advantage of low prices, according to new research and auction results.

Some of the best prices can be had from compact MPVs such as the Citroen Picasso and Renault Scenic.

Large SUVs, performance cars, large MPV and even family cars are all looking like a great buy. If you've got the money there are savings to be made.



Some dealers offer 24 to 72-hour test drives to people who are serious about buying a car.

S. D. MacDOUGALL AUTOSERVICES

All cars fully serviced and MOT'd by ourselves

- 2004 Ford Focus 1.6 LX, 5 Door, Blue, 40,000 Miles.....£3995
- 2005 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 Life, 3 Door, Green, 61,000 Miles.....£3275
- 2003 Vauxhall Meriva 1.6 Life, 5 Door, Blue, 38,000 Miles.....£3275
- 2002 Vauxhall Zafira 1.6 Club, 7 Seater, Silver, 84,000 Miles.....£2650
- 2004 Suzuki Alto 1.1 GL, 5 Door, Red, 13,800 Miles.....£2575
- 2000 Ford Focus 1.8 Zetec, 5 Door, Green, 67,000 Miles.....£1975
- 2001 Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 SXI, 5 Door, Black, 88,000 Miles.....£1975

NEW STOCK ARRIVING WEEKLY

MOT's Car Repairs, Services and Car Sales

Unit 6 Lochavullin Estate, Oban PA34 4HB
Tel 01631 566502 Fax 01631 566470

VAT Registration Number 717 2772 26

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FREELANDER 2. NOW EVEN MORE APPEALING WITH FREEDOM FINANCE

Freelander 2 combines true versatility with the latest in Land Rover technology. New intelligent Stop/Start system is now standard on all manual Freelander 2 models, offering an improvement of up to 11.9% on combined cycle, reduced CO₂ emissions and lower BIK%. With outstanding on and off-road capability, along with new technologies designed to help improve fuel efficiency, Freelander 2 is a smart choice in every sense...and it's in our showroom now.

Why get a car when you can get a Land Rover? Call us today to book a test drive.

TYPICAL FREEDOM FINANCE EXAMPLE FREELANDER 2 TD4 S 10MY

41 Monthly Payments of	£269.00
On the Road Cash Price	£21,875.00
Customer Deposit	£5,195.81
Dealer Deposit Contribution	£1,071.00
GMFV (Optional Final Payment) (Includes £295 fee)	£7,292.00
Amount of Credit	£15,608.19
Total Amount Payable by Customer	£23,516.81
Mileage charge in excess of 35,000	12p per mile

Typical 6.9% APR

Morrison's Land Rover

Whins Of Milton, Stirling, Stirlingshire FK7 8EP
01786 814888
www.morrison's.landrover.co.uk



FREELANDER 2 Why get a car when you can get a Land Rover?

3 UNLIMITED MILEAGE WARRANTY OFFSET FOR THE FIRST 45,000 MILES Finance promotion applies to new vehicles first registered in the customer's name between 1st April 2010 and 30th June 2010. Further charges may be made subject to the condition of the vehicle, if the vehicle is returned at the end of the finance agreement. Finance subject to status. Guarantees/Indemnities may be required. Dealer Deposit contribution is available at participating dealers only and the amount may vary dependent on vehicle model and agreement terms. Terms and Condition apply. Details correct at time of going to press and are subject to change without notice. Land Rover Finance, PO BOX 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. Vehicle shown is a Freelander 2 TD4 S manual with optional metallic paint priced at £22,415.

RANGE OF FUEL ECONOMY FIGURES FOR THE FREELANDER 2 TD4 RANGE IN MPG (L/100KM): URBAN 26.4 (10.7) – 33.2 (8.5) EXTRA URBAN 42.8 (6.6) – 49.6 (5.7) COMBINED 35.8 (7.9) – 42.2 (6.7) CO₂ EMISSIONS: 214 – 179 G/KM.

Drive as many cars as possible from your shortlist before buying

FREE Prodrive Performance Pack & 18" Prodrive Alloy Wheels & Tyres worth more than £3500 when you buy a New Impreza 2.5 WRX or STi*

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Open: Monday to Thursday 9am - 6.30pm, Friday 9am - 6pm, Saturday 9am - 5pm, Sunday 12pm - 5pm

www.iangrievesubaru.co.uk

BSM Graeme Cowan Driving Instructor

Direct Dial 01463 792752 Mobile 07846 463506

10 hours for £189

bsm.co.uk

79 Castle Street Inverness Highland IV2 3EA

Dear Audrey and Louise

I was a wee bit hesitant in taking an advert with the Oban Times as I thought it may not make much of a difference to my business - however I have been overwhelmed by the response.

Your courteous and friendly service made the whole process very easy. I will certainly advertise again.

Yours sincerely
Graeme Cowan
BSM driving instructor for 23 years

The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES Advertising that works

E.M. COMMERCIALS LTD

58 MITSUBISHI L200 Raging Bull double cab, auto, full spec, leather, canopy, blue tooth, 20k £14,450

59 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick up, full spec, met silver, 40k £12,750

60 MITSUBISHI L200 Elegance double cab pick up auto full spec, leather, 40k £11,450

61 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab, met grey, leather, canopy, 27k £11,250

62 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick up full spec met silver 45k £11,250

63 MITSUBISHI L200 double cab pick up, CD player, black, 30k £8,450

64 MITSUBISHI L200 Club Cab pick up 4wd, cd, black, 40k £8,450

65 MITSUBISHI L200 Club cab pick up 4wd, load liner, cd, white, 40k £8,450

66 MITSUBISHI L200 club cab pick up 4wd cd, met grey, 30k £8,450

67 MITSUBISHI L200 Trojan double cab pick up, canopy, leather, full spec £9,450

68 MITSUBISHI L200 Trojan double cab pick up, leather, full spec, black, 50k £7,950

69 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior double cab pick up, canopy, leather, black, 30k £7,950

70 MITSUBISHI L200 double cab pick up, Truckman canopy, white, 50k £6,950

71 MITSUBISHI L200 4x4, double cab pick up, full spec, new Goodrich tyres, cd, black £4,750

72 NISSAN Navara SE double cab pick up, full spec, black, alloy, air con, cd, tow bar, black £9,950

73 NISSAN Navara SE double cab pick up, alloy pack, towbar, silver £9,950

74 NISSAN Navara SE double cab pick up, alloy pack, towbar, silver £9,250

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99 NISSAN Navara SE double cab pick up, alloy pack, towbar, silver £9,250

100 NISSAN Navara SE double cab pick up, alloy pack, towbar, silver £9,250

Many other vehicles in stock. All above vehicles plus VAT at 17.5%

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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 and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to 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: 10/00346/PP
Applicant: Seil Community Council
Proposal: Erection of play area
Site Address: Seil Island Community Hall Ellenbeich Isle of Seil Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar

● Ref No: 10/00369/LJB
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Cowley
Proposal: Erection of extension to dwellinghouse, erection of decking, installation of rooflights, stove flue and boiler flue
Site Address: 39 Toberonochy Isle of Luing Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4UE
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Cullpoul

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2008 REGULATION 20(1) ADVERT STATEMENT

Applications for planning permission listed below together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR and the location detailed below between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday and by logging to the Council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Written comments for the following list of applications may be made to Planning and Regulatory Services Lorn House Albany Street Oban PA34 4AR by the 20/05/2010

● Ref No: 10/00309/PP
Applicant: Caroline Askew and John Sinclair
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Garden Ground South East of Dunrobin Laurel Road Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 5EA
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00354/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs Richard MacQueen
Proposal: Erection of 2 semi detached dwellinghouses
Site Address: Land West of Aisling Chalain North Connel Oban Argyll and Bute PA37 1RD
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Ledaig

● Ref No: 10/00384/PPP
Applicant: Mr Donald Harper
Proposal: Site for the erection of 4 no. dwellinghouses and formation of new access
Site Address: Land West of The Anchorage Gallanach Road Oban Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Lorn Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00401/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs David Colthart
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Barrancalltunn Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 40B
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00415/PP
Applicant: Mr and Mrs S Orr
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse
Site Address: Land At Former Oban Rare Breeds Park Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 40B
Location of Plans: Oban Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00444/PP
Applicant: Ms Fiona Donn
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse and siting of oil storage tank
Site Address: Land East Of Clachandubh House Balvicar Isle of Seil Oban Argyll and Bute PA34 4RA
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Balvicar

● Ref No: 10/00455/PPP
Applicant: Mr M Fisher
Proposal: Site for the erection of a dwellinghouse
Site Address: No 2 The Steadings Bunness Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure

● Ref No: 10/00499/PP
Applicant: Mr Andy Knight
Proposal: Erection of dwellinghouse with associated shed
Site Address: Land West Of Kilmoyke Craignure Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA65 6AY
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Craignure

● Ref No: 10/00519/PP
Applicant: Don Construction
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house
Site Address: Plot 4 South West of Erray House Erray Road Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

● Ref No: 10/00525/PP
Applicant: Don Construction
Proposal: Erection of a dwelling house
Site Address: Plot 6 Land South East of Westwood Erray Road Tobermory Isle of Mull Argyll and Bute PA75 6PS
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 AS AMENDED BY THE PLANNING ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2006

REQUISITE NOTICE UNDER SECTION 35

Proposed development at Vacant Land between Ledamuss Place and Frederick Crescent, Port Ellen, Islay. NOTICE is hereby given that an application is being made to Argyll and Bute Council by Argyll Community Housing Association for planning permission to erect 10 dwellinghouses.

Any owner (being any person who, in respect of any part of the land, is the proprietor of the dominium utile or is the lessee under a lease thereof of which not less than 7 years remain unexpired) of the land to which the application relates, who wishes to make representations to the above-mentioned council about the application should make them in writing not later than 20.05.2010 to the council at Development and Infrastructure Services, 67/69 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX.

TREE PRESERVATION ORDER

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND NORTH OF PINE COTTAGE, TERNINE, KILCHRENAN, ARGYLL, TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 02/09

Take notice that the above Authority in terms of the powers conferred upon them by Section 161 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 has confirmed the above Tree Preservation Order which took effect on 18th March 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE, LAND AT BARCALDINE, BY OBAN, ARGYLL, TREE PRESERVATION ORDER NO. 23/09

Take notice that the above Authority in terms of the powers the above Tree Preservation Order which took effect on 13th January 2010, without modification.

A Certified Copy of the said Tree Preservation Order and map, as confirmed, have been deposited at Argyll and Bute Council's Development Services Office at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban, Argyll and may be inspected during normal working hours for a period of 28 days from the date of this advertisement.

Charles Reppeke, Head of Governance and Law

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 (AS AMENDED), RELATED 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
10/01161/FUL	Site 170m North East of Hazelwood Duror Appin	Erection of carport	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01351/FUL	Land 50m North East of Moy Farm Bonavie Fort William	Section 42 application for the erection of 12 holiday lodges and 1 reception lodge on land 50m north of Moy Farm without complying with condition 2 of consent 08/00373/FULLO	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01620/FUL	The White House Lochaline Morvern Oban	Extension to shop	Lochaber Area Planning & Building Standards Office (14 days)
10/01645/FUL	Land 10m NE of Community Clinic Croft Road Fort William	Erection of 2 semi detached 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

SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AGENCY WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("THE REGULATIONS")

SCHEDULE 1 APPENDED TO NOTICE OF REQUIREMENT TO ADVERTISE THE APPLICATION FOR A LICENCE IN PURSUANCE OF REGULATION 13

The form of advertisement and text to be included in the advertisement referred to in the attached Notice are as follows:

"WATER ENVIRONMENT AND WATER SERVICES (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003 WATER ENVIRONMENT (CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES) (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 ("the Regulations")

"Notice is hereby given, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the Regulations, that an application has been made to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) by Robert Dunn for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

1) Abstraction of 5184 m3 per day from Bun an Uillt at NGR NM 8036 6183 from 1 September 2010.

2) Impoundment of water within the Bun an Uillt at NGR NM 8036 6183 from 1 August 2010.

Any person affected or likely to be affected by, or having an interest in, the application may make representations about the application to SEPA in writing within 28 days beginning with the date of this advertisement, at the following address, quoting reference number CAR/L/1081559: The Registry Department, SEPA Dingwall office, Grassier House, Foddery Way, Dingwall, IV15 9XB

"A copy of the application may be inspected free of charge, at the above address, between 9.30 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. Monday to Friday (except local and national holidays) or by prior arrangement at SEPA's Fort William office, Carr's Corner Industrial Estate, Fort William, PH33 6TL

"Written representations received within 28 days of this advertisement will be taken into consideration in determining the application. Any such representations will be placed in a public register unless the person making them requests that they should not be. Where such a request is made there will be included in the register a statement indicating that representations have been made which have been the subject of such a request."

PROPOSED NON FAMILY TRANSFER BY EXECUTOR OF GRAZING SHARES

Robin James Scott Morton and Alistair James Rex Ferguson, Executors are applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the grazing shares in the Ruag common grazing pertaining to the croft at 1 Ruag, Tیره, Argyll, to Alistair MacInnes of Croft 1 Ruag, Tیره, Argyll.

If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Great Glen House, Leachkin Road, Inverness, IV3 8NW by 27 May 2010, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

crofters commission ughdarras nan croitearan

The following decrofting Direction has been granted:

Part Croft

7 Lower Scotstown, Ardnamurchan & Sunart Direction dated 21 April 2010 granted to Raymond Stephenson and Mrs Mavis Elsie Stephenson. Area ext to 0.215 ha.

Conditions: 1. The land is used for a house site. 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: 4.86.21179

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.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ALZHEIMERS SCOTLAND, OBAN AND LORN BRANCH, WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY 17TH MAY 2010 AT 7.15 PM IN CARER'S CENTRE, ALBANY STREET, OBAN. ALL INTERESTED PARTIES WELCOME.

UNDER THE FATAL ACCIDENTS AND SUDDEN DEATHS INQUIRY (SCOTLAND) ACT 1976.

The Sheriff of North Strathclyde at Oban will hold an Inquiry beginning on the 1st day of June 2010 at 10am within the Sheriff Court House at Albany Street, Oban into the circumstances of the deaths of Stephen Carty, William Carty, Craig Currie and Thomas Douglas at Loch Awe, Argyll

Craig Harris
District Procurator Fiscal for the District of Oban

Oban Lifesaving Club AGM

In Atlantis Leisure
On Thursday
6th May at 7pm

Oban & Lorn Riding for the Disabled AGM

Carers Centre, Albany Street, Oban
Wednesday 19th May at 7pm
All welcome

ABCD
Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease

AGM 2010

The AGM will be held on Monday 10th May at 7.30pm at the Oban Hospital
All welcome!

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
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NOW ONLINE

Advertise your unwanted items in either The Oban Times, Campbeltown Courier or Argyllshire Advertiser and your ad will also appear online at www.westcoastclassifieds.co.uk.

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES
AFRICAN FIGURE HEAD from Central Africa, excellent condition, £35 Telephone 07766 966220.

AUDIO EQUIPMENT
AKAI MIDI HI-FI SYSTEM midi hi fi with tuner, 3xdisc CD, 2x tape deck, 2x 30 Watt speakers, remote and user manual, £20.00 Telephone 01631 720233.

BABY EQUIPMENT
BABY BUGGY, £10 Telephone 07856 819576.
BABY BUMBO SEAT blue, supports baby in an upright position, comes with detachable tray, only used a few times, as good as new, age 3 mths and over, £20 Telephone 07971 815248.

BICYCLES
BMX bicycles, £30 Telephone 07856 819576.
UNIVERSAL BIKE girls, purple, 16" wheels, suit 5/6/7yrs used but still GC, usual wear and tear from a fall, perfect working order, £10 Telephone 01631 564335.

BOOKS
MAGIC BOOK David Blaine, Mysterious Stranger, £3 Telephone 07769 502404.

BUILDING / DIY
BALLACHULISH SLATES Approx 2000 for sale, undressed and in pallets. Offers. Telephone 07767 852035.
EXTERNALHARDWOOD DOOR Georgia Dowelled External Door. 1981mm x 762mm x 44mm. Will accept double glaze panels. 9 window. Still in plastic, £49.99 Telephone 01546 603126.

CAR ACCESSORIES
LANDROVER DISCOVERY ROOF RACK Halfords galvanised roof rack "used" bolts on to roof gutters £49.99 ono, Tayinloan. Telephone 07528 389636.

CD'S, DVD'S AND VIDEOS
VIDEO COLLECTION 30 Agatha Christie Poirot videos, 48 different stories on 30 videos, £35 Telephone 07810 565968.

CLOTHES, SHOES AND ACCESSORIES
BALLERINA PUMPS ladies size 6 beautiful gold lace ballerina style pumps with matching clutch bag brand new ideal for wedding or special occasion £10 for both, Telephone 01546 606999.

LEATHER COAT gents three quarter, Milan black leather, never worn, size 44", £49.99 Telephone 07766 966220.
ONE PIECE SUIT weather proof, quilted, large, almost new, £25 Telephone 07766 966220.

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BIRTH

BUDGE - Norman, Karen, Christopher and Lewis are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Arran Norman on March 31, 2010. Thanking all midwives in Oban and Paisley.

GILLIES - David and Eilidh (nee Cameron) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Andrew Donald Preston on April 13, 2010. A little brother for Duncan. Special thanks to Belford Midwives and Raigmore Maternity Staff.

HAINING - Hugh and Heather Annie are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter Mary Anne on April 15, 2010, at Raigmore Hospital, Inverness.

MACLELLAN - VANCE - To Kenna and Scot a beautiful daughter, Abigail Louise, born on March 30, 2010 at Raigmore Hospital. First precious grand-daughter for Jean and Kenny, Ballachulish and Mallaig and Betty and Willie Vance, Fort William and first great grand-daughter for William Vance in Erskine.

MARRIAGES

ASHER - McKEE
Both families and Chantelle and Liam are delighted to announce the marriage of Peter Asher to Suzy McKee on April 26, 2010 at Gretna Green. Wonderful!!!

DEATHS

BLACK - Ann Christina (Anneen) nee MacLeod, died on Tیره on Friday April 23, 2010 aged 85. Anneen was a much loved wife and mother of Douglas and Dorothy. The funeral service was held on Monday April 26, at Kirkcubbin, Tیره.

BROWN - Christina Peacefully at Lynne of Lorne Nursing Home, Benderloch on April 23, 2010, Christina nee MacDonald, in her 91st year, formerly of Tigh-Gheta, Ardpatrick, By Tarbert and Kilnash Farm, Tarbert. Beloved wife of the late Neil Brown and sister-in-law of Betty and cherished aunt to all the family. A good neighbour and dear friend to many. Funeral service will be held at Tarbert Parish Church on Thursday April 29, 2010 at 1pm, thereafter to Carrick Cemetery. Flowers or donations, if desired, to Alzheimer Scotland-Action on Dementia

CRINGLES - After a short illness, on Tuesday April 20, 2010, aged 57 years, Janet, beloved wife of the Reverend George Cringles, dear mother of Ewen and Douglas and only daughter of Robina (Ruby) and the late John Mathie. A funeral will take place from St. Oran's Church, Connel on Friday April 30 at 1.00 pm. Thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. Flowers or Donations if desired for West of Scotland Pancreatic Unit, Glasgow Royal Infirmary.

GUNN - Peacefully on Monday, April 19, 2010, at the Western Infirmary Glasgow after a short illness Calum aged 85, much loved dad to Linda, Calum and Janice.

MANSON - Peacefully after a long illness in the care of Leonard Cheshire House, Inverness on April 23, 2010, Raymond Eddie Manson, aged 55 years, formerly of Mallaig, beloved husband of Marion, much loved dad of James, Heather, Louise and Matthew, also a dear brother of Heather and uncle of Aaron. Memorial Service on Friday, April 30, at 7pm in Hilton Parish Church, Inverness to be followed by Funeral Service on Saturday, May 1, at 12 noon in St Columba's Church of Scotland, Mallaig, thereafter to Beoraidh Cemetery (New Morar). All friends respectfully invited. Flowers welcome or donations, if desired, to Leonard Cheshire Disability / the Highland Hospice may be given at the services or forwarded to D. Chisholm & Sons, Huntly Street, Inverness IV3 5HP.

MACDONALD - Cathie, peacefully in her 86th year on April 22, 2010, at Mossparc Nursing Home, Cathie (nee Murray), beloved wife of the late Jimmy, dear mother of Carolyn and Alasdair, mother-in-law of Bill and much loved granny to Andrew, Callum, Anna and Gregor.

MACGREGOR - Alasdair, (formerly of Tobermory), son of the late Mary and Alex and beloved brother of the late Innes. Died in hospital in Montreal, Quebec, Canada on

Thursday April 22, 2010, aged 55. Much loved father of Christine. He will be missed very much by his friends and family.

WILLIAMSON - Peacefully after a short illness on April 27, 2010, in Glassary Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead, Christina Alice (Allie) Williamson, in her 82nd year, of 24 Highbank Park, Lochgilphead. Beloved wife of George, much loved Mother of Alexis, Sylvia, Gladys, George and Mavine. Much loved grandmother and great grandmother. Dear sister of Peggy, Bertie and the late Billy. At her own request, a private funeral service will be held at Cardross Crematorium.

Donations, if desired, to Glassary Ward, Mid Argyll Hospital, Lochgilphead.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

JOHNSTON - The family of the late Ruth Johnston would like to thank all relatives and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy and support extended to them following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Rev. Donald MacQuarrie for his comforting service and to the staff of Glenhorr Surgery especially Dr Joe Tangney and Nurses Catriona Forbes and Catherine Cameron whose care of Ruth was exceptional. Our thanks to the staff of Invernevis House, home carers Eileen and Janet, Mike McFall for the sensitive and dignified funeral arrangements and to John Cameron, church organist. Finally, thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside and donated so generously towards Parkinson's. The sum of £700 was raised.

MAIN - Elizabeth (Betty), Fiona, Andrew and their families would like to thank the staff at Abbeyfield House, Ballachulish, for their superb care of Betty. They also thank the doctors and staff of the Ballachulish Medical Centre for all their support. Finally, they are very grateful to Rev James Carmichael for conducting the funeral service.

MACKINNON - Alex and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for flowers, cards, phone calls and best wishes received by them after their sad loss. Special thanks to Oban Hospital Wards A and C, Raigmore Hospital Ward 2C, Bengullion and Acute Wards, Campbelltown Hospital, Dr Elder and nurses attached to Carradale Surgery, Macmillan nurse, Crossroads staff, Carradale home carers and ambulance staff for all the care and help given to Sandra. Thanks to Rev Vischer for his comforting service, Alasdair Blair and staff, Carradale Hotel and to all who paid their respects at church and graveside. The retiring collection in aid of Macmillan Nurse Kintyre Locality and Cancer and Palliative Care realized £1249.80.

RAE - Anne, Seonaidh and Catriona Rae wish to thank all friends, neighbours and relatives who gave help and support after the death of David. Special thanks to Catriona MacFarlane, Rev Liz Gibson, Maud and Elizabeth, Glen Orchy Hotel and Donald Wilson.

SHUTTLEWORTH - Andrea would like to thank all the friends, family and neighbours for all their kind words of support, their cards, flowers and calls expressing sympathy for my sad loss of George. Thanks to Chris Stephenson for his moving service and Hoey's for their dignified and personal funeral arrangements. Thanks to all those that travelled to Cardross from near and far for the funeral. £150 was collected for Marie Curie Nursing Services. Your support throughout a difficult time has been a source of encouragement - thank you.

MEMORIAMS

BANNATYNE - In loving memory of our dear daughter and sister, Caroline Norma MacGregor, who died April 30, 1968.
- John, Chrissie and Christine.
BROOKS - In loving memory of our dear dad, Billy, who died April 28, 2005.
If tears could build a stairway
And memories a lane
We'd climb right up to
Heaven dad and bring you
home again.
Loved and missed
everyday.
- Love Lucille, John, Billy and Graham.

CAMPBELL - In loving memory of a dear father and grandpa, Angus D Campbell, who left us on April 27, 1981.

Quietly remembered by us all.
- From the family in Mull, Oban and away.

DOWNIE - Alister, father and grandfather, passed away May 2, 1999. Loved and remembered everyday
Marianne, Bob, Kirstie, Euan and Caitlin.

DOWNIE - In memory of Alister, who died May 2, 1999
Very much loved and never forgotten
Margaret, Niall and family in Bracknell.

LESLIE - In everlasting memory of my beloved wife, Mary, who died on April 28, 2007.
God grant her Eternal Rest.
- Henry.

MACKECHNIE - In loving memory of our dear father John who died on April 29, 1972 at Kilmalieu, Ardgour. Also our dear mother Catherine MacCallum who died on March 6, 1953.
Lovingly remembered by their family

MACKINNON - Treasured memories of my dear granny, Dolina, who died May 4, 2006.
The happy days that once we shared
How sweet their memory still.
Love and miss you Granny.
- From the Boy xxx

MACKINNON - In loving memory of my dear husband, Neil, very dear father and granddad, who passed away on April 30, 1991.
Always in our thoughts.
- Jessie, David, Eileen, Lisa, Helen, John and baby James.

MACLELLAN - In loving memory of my dear parents, Donald MacLellan who died April 22, 1955 and Margaret Scott who died April 20, 1977.
Always remembered.
- Mary.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of Auntie Margaret (Manda), who passed away on April 28, 2006
Forever in our thoughts.
- From all the family x.

STEELE - In loving memory of our niece, Morven, who died April 20, 1984, aged 11.
Beautiful memories
Silently kept
Of one that we loved
And will never forget.
- Auntie Morag, Uncle Neil, Gregor and Euan, Killin.



Appin walk raises parish church funds

A number Appin folk put their best feet forward last Saturday to raise money for Appin Parish Church funds. The fund-raisers all took part in a sponsored walk from the primary school, along the old railway line, to the lay-by in front of Appin House and back to the village hall, where a checkered flag, donated by David Dunlop, marked the end of their trek. The Rev Roderick Campbell thanked everyone who took part. 07_t17walk01

Argyll Drama Festival



Emma Law of Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club gives her makeup a quick check before her performance in *The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimely*. 08_a18dram03

DRAMA clubs from North Argyll took to the stage in Mid Argyll last week as part of the 62nd Argyll Drama Festival. Two teams from Benderloch and North Connel competed as well as one team from Tobermory.

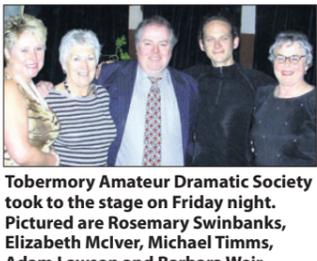
The three-day festival ran from Wednesday, April 21 until Friday April 23 in Ardrishaig Public Hall. Benderloch and North Connel Team A had their audience in stitches on Wednesday night as they opened the festival with their uproarious comedy, *The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimely*.

On Thursday night Benderloch and North Connel Team B performed their enthralling and well-acted drama, *Close to Croydon*, which earned them the The Maisie Reekie Trophy for the Best Set.

And on Friday night Tobermory Amateur Dramatic Society brought mirth, intrigue and surprises in their highly entertaining comedy/drama, *Bang! You're Dead!*.

Carradale Drama club, for the second year running, were placed first, lifting the Dunoon Town Council Trophy and also trophies for the Best Acting and Best Comedy.

Lochgilphead Drama Club also did well lifting the Oban Town Council Trophy and the MacKellar Trophy as well as the Oona Campbell Trophy for the best Dramatic Production. Shiskine Drama Club from Arran and Campbelltown's Accent Players also lifted prizes at this year's festival.



Tobermory Amateur Dramatic Society took to the stage on Friday night. Pictured are Rosemary Swinbanks, Elizabeth McIver, Michael Timms, Adam Lawson and Barbara Weir.



Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club take to the stage for their performance of *The Fat Lady Sings in Little Grimely*. 08_a18dram04



Festival prizewinners with adjudicator Lynda Henderson. Right: Ben Redfearn and Pauline Cameron of North Connel and Benderloch Drama Club get into character ahead of their performance of *Close to Croydon*. The team picked up The Maisie Reekie Trophy for the Best Set. 08_a18drama11

Right: Ben Redfearn and Pauline Cameron of North Connel and Benderloch Drama Club get into character ahead of their performance of *Close to Croydon*. The team picked up The Maisie Reekie Trophy for the Best Set. 08_a18drama11



Thought for the Week

The people's choice

X MARKS the spot. It's now just a matter of days until millions of people put their x's on election papers and choose a new government.

The people's choice was in the mind of the Old Testament leader Joshua when he said 'Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve'.

The ability to choose is, I believe, a God given human ability that is also a responsibility to be used in ways that reflect the love, justice and care of God.

Well the various political parties have made their pitches to us, debates have been aired, politicians faces have filled our TV screens, polls have been and are being taken.

'Choose me' is their message. 'We want to serve you and the nation.'

No one of us can choose the next government. Many of us do have the opportunity to help make that choice, to choose good folks to serve us and others.

Together, we can each play a part and by so doing show that we care about the government of our country and the decisions the various parties would like to make.

God looks for us to be people of thoughtful choice in life, who make Godly choices, including the choice of where to put our x.

God bless your choosing, and may God bless us with leaders of character who are also servants of justice, humility and love.



Ronnie Ford with one of his texture scape paintings at Kranenburg Art Gallery. 16_t18ford1

Vibrant art at Kranenburg

VISITORS to Kranenburg Art Gallery, Oban, will instantly see why an Argyll exhibitor is a founder member of the vibrant art movement.

The Stevenson Street gallery is filled with buoyant use of purple, red, green and orange using Ronnie Ford's unique texture scape technique.

Ronnie, from Dunoon, explained: 'My work has evolved from studying sculpture and optical art. The key energy of the environments is never flat. There is movement all around me and I want to express that in my work.'

Ronnie explains that his time travelling and living in the USA, in the Far East and Scotland has encouraged him to challenge Western perspectives on art and to explore the Chinese idea of taking a journey through the landscape. The work he produces is bold, and yet they seem to open the viewer's eye to a sense of being in and belonging to the environment that is depicted.

Ronnie has a busy year ahead of him with exhibitions in Europe, the USA and the Far East.

Group hears from Palestine peace observer

A MEETING of Oban Concern for Palestine heard member Jan Sutch-Pickard, who recently returned home after her three months as a peace observer in Israel and Palestine, give her impressions about her time in the occupied country.

Suggestions for further work for the group is a boycott of Israeli goods. Graeme Pagan from the group said: 'Two members gave their experiences at a local supermarket. One had selected an item from

a container labelled Produce of Spain but found on looking at the individual item more closely at the checkout that its label said Produce of Israel.

'The other instance involved a grapefruit item, which did not give its origin, and, when asked, the supermarket was unable to say where the item was from. The group will be discussing the whole subject of the proposed boycott at future meetings.

The group has planned a series of activities for the summer

season. These are to include a stall for the sale of Palestinian goods on Saturday, June 12 at Oban Charities day.'

The next meeting of the group will be at Neaveton, Oban, on July 20 and among other things to be discussed then will be further public.

Anyone wishing to join the Oban Concern for Palestine Group or wanting further information should contact Graeme Pagan, Neaveton, Oban on 01631 563737 or neaveton@tiscali.co.uk.

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OT

Formartine forwards too hot for the Fort

'We were beaten by the better team on the day' - Fort manager Calum MacLean

Highland League
Fort William 1
Formartine United 4
FORMARTINE United put the brakes on Fort William's late-season revival with a display of fine attacking football at Claggan Park on Saturday - despite a wonder goal from in-form Sean Ellis.

Back to back away wins in their last two fixtures saw Fort coming into this game on a roll, but with key defenders Graeme Bamber and Andy Martin unavailable Formartine's streetwise forwards proved too hot to handle.

Formartine looked to be carrying the bigger menace up front from the start with Coull, Somers and MacKay a constant threat.

John Campbell had already been the busier keeper when he brilliantly tipped a Somers drive round the post on 23 minutes, and had to be equally alert to block a Kenny Coull shot from 12 yards shortly after.

Low shot
Richard Singer was guilty of a glaring miss as Formartine continued to dominate, but MacKay made no mistake on 37 minutes when he stole a yard on Iain Foggo to run through to give Campbell no chance with a low shot to the far corner.

Formartine were keen to add a second but instead Fort conjured up a magnificent equaliser out of the blue which would have graced any football arena.

There didn't appear to

FOOTBALL

be much on as Sean Ellis picked the ball up midway in the Formartine half, but the winger looked up and floated a delightful curling shot from 25 yards over keeper Gray's despairing hand into the top left hand corner.

The wonder strike galvanised Fort and Urquhart was inches away from connecting with a through ball just before half time.

Formartine recovered their composure after the break and MacKay's smart header on 50 minutes restored their lead before Singer made it three with a clever turn and finish from 16 yards.

Fort should have pulled a goal back when Urquhart cleverly set up Hewitt after

a brilliant run down the right, but the finish failed to match the build up and Hewitt ballooned his shot high over.

Chris MacLeod and Sean Ellis tested Gray as Fort looked to cut the deficit, but Formartine had the final say when Somers headed home a cute Coull cross for 4-1.

No complaints
Speaking to *The Oban Times* at the final whistle, Fort manager Calum MacLean had no complaints at the result.

'We were beaten by the better team on the day, simple as that,' he said. 'But we were short today and you need your best players when you play teams like that.'



Fort William Shinty Club receive their new strip from sponsors Letterfinlay Lodge Hotel. The hotel's owners Davie Matheson and Ian Smith are pictured with club official Ian Rodger.

Big names will appear at Scottish Six Days Trial

NEXT week's Scottish Six Days Trial will be one of the most high profile in its long history, with the world number five, Spaniard Albert Cabestany, among the title contenders.

The 99th running of the Lochaber event, which will run from Monday to Friday, has already attracted some big names that will be more familiar to the Highland crowd.

But Cabestany is making the long journey from Catalonia to be part of the occasion. Having finished second in the 2010 SPEA FIM Indoor Trial World Championship, Cabestany has hit upon a

rich vein of form. He will be joined by 275 riders of all abilities next week, all keen to test their mettle and nerve riding 100 miles and negotiating 30 tough sections each day for six consecutive days.

Cabestany, the only man to have beaten 2010 Indoor World Champion Toni Bou, only considered entering the Scottish Six Days when a friend of his ignited his interest and handed him a cluster of DVDs to watch at his leisure.

He said: 'One of the reasons I decided to enter is obviously because we have a World Championship event in Scotland.'

SIX DAYS TRIAL

'I know the sections will be very different, but getting used to the terrain before the World Trial in June will definitely help me. It will give me a feeling for the rocks and the grip.'

'I would like to say that I have entered just for fun, because this is a trial that is all about fun. You have to enjoy the sections and the mountains and everything. But people expect me to win or at least to challenge for the victory.'

The Scottish Six Days Trial is mainly focused on the Lochaber area, centred

in Fort William. Each day of the trial starts and finishes at the West End Car Park on the waterfront.

For trials riders the Scottish Six Days Trial has the same status as the Isle of Man TT has to road racers.

The trial is limited by daylight hours to around 270 competitors, but entries are regularly in excess of 400, such is the popularity of the event.

The trial has a reputation for being the toughest in the world and it is the most prestigious event a trials rider can win.



Jonathan Hewitt rises high but this header went wide. 10_f18fort1

Lochaber end with a win

RUGBY

Caledonia Division Two North West

Lochaber 16 Highland 5
LOCHABER Rugby Club finished its league season on a high with a win over archrivals Highland.

The club ends the season in seventh place, seven points above Craig Dunain.

Highland had the best of the early encounters. A long kick to touch and some impressive tackling in midfield by the Fijian centres earned them an attacking scrum right in front of Lochaber's posts. The backs switched from left to right and caught Lochaber's defence napping, creating an easy score for the winger in the corner.

Despite having most of the territorial advantage and ample possession for the rest of the first half, Lochaber couldn't break down the Highland defence and had

a single Kenny Turnbull penalty to show for their effort.

Lochaber kept up the pressure, as the second half got under way. From a scrum, Lochaber's scrum-half Ross Wallace dummied and touched down over the line for a try, which Turnbull converted.

Turnbull kept the scoreboard ticking over in Lochaber's favour until the final whistle as he slotted over two more penalty kicks.

Next Saturday sees Lochaber's annual seven-a-side tournament kick-off at midday at Banavie, followed by the traditional ceilidh in the evening. Lochaber is also scheduled to play in the semi-final of the Brin Cup Bowl competition on Friday night against Craig Dunain (TBA) and against London side Quintin on Sunday.

Ice at the Nevis Centre

GLADIATORS star Ice will be the special guest at this year's Scotland's Strongest Man event in Fort William on Saturday.

The television programme favourite - real name Caroline Pearce - will be at the Nevis Centre in Fort William to see competitors from all over Scotland taking part.

They will all be trying to take the title from local favourite Chris 'Goose' Innes.

Large entry for Jason MacIntyre Memorial Race

CYCLING

NOT EVEN grounded flights could stop cyclists reaching Lochaber for the third annual Jason MacIntyre Memorial Race.

This year's 10-mile trial was run as a Scottish championship for the first time and attracted the largest entry ever seen at a Scottish 10-mile trial.

The pull of the event was evident from the star-studded starting list and also when Shetland rider Christine MacLean, whose flight had been grounded because of safety concerns over the ash cloud, had to hop aboard a cargo ship to attend.

Starting from Linnhe Holiday Park, the west coast's only registered time-trial course was bathed in sunshine for the race last Saturday, which was won by Arthur Doyle in 20 minutes, 37 seconds.

Maggie Thompson of organisers Nevis Cycles said: 'I would like to thank everyone who helped on the day, especially those who had organised Scottish championships before, as their experience was invaluable.'

'Also, a big thanks to the local ladies who made home baking for the competitors.'

Narrow win for Portree

SHINTY

Sorley MacLean Match **Portree High 3 Plockton High 2**

PORTREE High narrowly defeated Plockton High in this year's Sorley MacLean Trophy, established in memory of Gaelic poet Sorley MacLean.

Mr MacLean was a former pupil of Portree High and renowned headmaster of Plockton High.

In a very close and keenly contested match - the 13th match in the series - in Portree, David Bauermeister scored early for the visitors before goals from Stewart Grant, Jordan Murchison and Chris MacLennan put the home team 3-1 ahead.

David Bauermeister added a second for Plockton but in spite of Plockton's pressure at the end of the match the trophy was retained by Portree High.

Commitment
Plockton High Rector Duncan Ferguson said:

'It has rightly been said that this annual match of our great Gaelic game is one of the great national inter-school sporting events, comparable in its passion and intensity to the university boat race. The great Gael, in whose memory this is held, would surely be proud of the commitment and talent on display.'



Lochaber High wins Wade Cup

Lochaber High School under-16 shinty team won the Wade Cup in convincing fashion on Friday. The boys beat Charleston in the final 10-3. 10_f18team01



Opening jack at bowling club

Patrizia Gillies throws the opening jack to start the new bowls season at Fort William Railway Bowling Club. Newcomers are welcome to come along to the fun night on Tuesday evenings, starting at 6.30pm.

Advertorial

Oban is the Sea Kayaking Capital of Europe! A bold claim but Stuart Wagstaff of Sea Kayak Oban and the National Kayak School is well qualified to make such a statement.

Born on the loch side in Campbeltown he has travelled the world teaching kayaking and climbing before returning to his native Argyll. It offered the perfect venue for a Canadian Style Sea Kayak business involving the UK's only on the water shop offering Coaching & Guiding and Sea Kayak Rental as well as the largest selection of sea kayaks in the UK. Stuart and his French wife Cathy sitting in the cosy book corner of the surprising log style shop interior, explained that on any given day they get visitors from all over the UK coming to try and buy the Sea Kayaks, Fishing Kayaks and colourful outdoor clothing & accessories.

They enthuse about the huge boom in Sea Kayaking in recent years and how Oban is the ideal centre for beginners and experts. Its close proximity to lots of sheltered water with varied wildlife and history provides great day & multi-day trips for those new to the sport and the awesome tideraces, overfalls and exposed trips to offshore islands attract experienced sea kayakers from all over the world. The quality and extent of the West Coast Sea Kayaking has been publicised by local author Simon Willis's "Scottish Sea Kayak Trail" which describes a route from the Island of Gigha to the Summer Isles near Ullapool dubbed the sea kayaker's West Highland Way.

The new guidebooks are available worldwide and have resulted in kayak rental bookings from as far a field as Austria, Australia, Israel and California.

Stuart explains that many of those that come into Sea Kayak Oban do come from the West Coast of Scotland and have lived close to the water for years. They have recently seen kayakers out on

the water and when walking past the bright orange building in Argyll Street, see the kayaks & pop in. The variety of kayaks including the super safe sit on tops enables anyone from 7 to 70yrs old to get out on the water under their own steam.

Stuart's & Cathy's businesses are only two of about a ten that revolve around the Sea Kayaking Tourism in the Oban area, which last year alone saw a two fold increase in turnover. It's not just all about the sea as many people are also enjoying the all summer dam releases that produce fun white water kayaking on the River Awe.

www.seakayakoban.com
www.nationalkayakschool.com
01631 565 310



Sea Kayak Oban
6-8 Argyll Street
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SHINTY

Fixtures

Saturday, May 1 2010

MacTavish Cup
Quarter Final
 Beaulie v Caberfeidh
 Graham Irving
 Skye v Fort William
 John MacPhee 12.30
 Newtonmore v Kingussie
 Duncan Kelly
 Kilmallie v Lochaber
 Charles Young
Glasgow Celtic Society Cup
Quarter Final
 GMA v Oban Camanachd
 David Mitchell
 Inveraray v Oban Celtic
 Ted McDonald
 Ballachulish v Bute
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Kyles v Glenorchy
 Colin MacDonald
Strathdearn Cup
1st Round
 Kinlochshiel v Kingussie
 John Sloggie
 Lewis v Skye
 John MacLeod 2.45pm at Portree
 Lochaber v Aberdeen Uni
 Innes Wood
Scottish Hydro Premier Division
 Glenurquhart v Lovat
 Graham Cameron
Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Inverness v Kinlochshiel
 Ron Kennedy
Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Lochside Rvs v Inveraray
 Robert Baxter Jnr
Marine Harvest North Division 2
 Fort William v Kilmallie
 John Angus Gillies
 Glengarry v Newtonmore
 Ronnie Campbell
 Lovat v Beaulie
 Russell Ross
Marine Harvest South Division 2
 Col Glen v Bute
 Duncan Kerr
 GMA v Kyles Athletic
 Jim Innes 12 noon
 Tayforth v Strachur
 Billy Nimmo
Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Ardnamurchan v Lochcarron
 Evan MacRae
 Lochbroom v Boleskine
 Robert Morrison
 Strathglass v Caberfeidh
 Donald MacRae

Late goal rescues point for Fort William

A LATE goal from James Clark earned Fort William a point at home on Saturday after Bute threatened to wreck the home side's Premier title ambitions.

Hector Whitelaw had put the visitors ahead from the penalty spot after 15 minutes but Bryan Simpson drew Fort William back level five minutes before half-time. Twelve minutes into the second-half Robert Walker put Bute back into the lead and with play swinging from end to end, Clark snatched a share of the points with a goal 15 minutes from full time.

Joint league leaders Newtonmore made the top spot their own with a 5-0 away win against Glasgow Mid Argyll. But the visitors should have won by many more as they became complacent in the latter stages when they scorned numerous scoring chances. Mid Argyll matched the early pace of the tie but went behind after 33 minutes when a well rehearsed free hit was neatly finished by Glen Mackintosh. Five minutes later, Danny MacRae turned the defence for number two and then the same player added his second of the match and Newtonmore's third to give them a comfortable interval lead.

Mid Argyll showed their potential in brief flashes with their quick forwardline causing problems but, with Mackintosh dominating midfield, the home side didn't get the ball forward often enough. Evan Menzies slotted home a rebound off the keeper for the visitors' fourth and David Cheyne hit the fifth, seven minutes from time.

At Inveraray, two goals just before half-time were enough to earn them the league points against Oban

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Premier Division

Fort William 2 Bute 2
GMA 0 Newtonmore 5
Kingussie 5 Glen/uhart 0
Inveraray 2 Oban Cam 1
Kyles 5 Lovat 1

Camanachd. Euan McMurdo netted the first, five minutes before the break, with Grant Griffen scoring Inveraray's second. Youngster Lorn Dickie pulled a goal back for Oban Camanachd, who had James MacMillan sent off with 20 minutes remaining.

Ronald Ross returned to Kingussie's frontline and took less than four minutes to get on the scoresheet against Glenurquhart at the Dell. The Glen dug deep and looked to be holding their own during the first period but Ross struck again with four minutes of the half remaining before Thomas Borthwick added another on the interval whistle.

Ryan Borthwick scored Kingussie's fourth with 20 minutes remaining and Ross completed his hat-trick with virtually the last hit of the ball for a final score of 5-0.

There was also early goals at Tighnabruich as Kyles were 5-1 victors over Lovat. Grant Irvine opened the scoring for Kyles after 10 minutes but Ewan Ferguson had Lovat level within another eight minutes. Irvine then restored the home side's lead with Thomas Whyte and Colin MacColl putting the game beyond Lovat before the interval. Whyte scored again on the hour to make the Premier points secure.

This weekend, with many clubs playing Celtic or MacTavish cup ties, there is only one Premier Division match when Glenurquhart will play Lovat at Drumnadrochit.



Kilmallie's Peter MacIntyre's races through on goal past Taynuilt's James MacLaren, left, and Gary Cameron.

Injury to Taynuilt player mars Camanachd Cup tie

Canal Park match abandoned after player collapses following head injury

SHINTY

Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup 1st Round

Kilmallie 5 Taynuilt 0
Lochcarron 1 Lochaber 6
Caberfeidh 1 Kinlochshiel 3
Inverness 1 Strathglass 4
Glenorchy 6 Oban Celtic 1
Skye 6 Ballachulish 1

KILMALLIE are through to the Camanachd Cup second round after a comprehensive win over Taynuilt - but their victory was overshadowed by a medical emergency on the touchline.

Taynuilt player Gary Cameron had suffered a head knock in the first half and was substituted at half time after complaining of double vision.

His condition suddenly deteriorated with 15 minutes of the match to go and he lost consciousness.

Two nurses in the crowd attended the player until medical help arrived.

Gary was taken to the Belford Hospital and was discharged on Monday.

Following the distressing incident both teams agreed no further play should take place. Urgent phone calls to the Camanachd Association office in Inverness established that as more than 60 minutes of the game had been played before it was abandoned, the result should stand.

On the park, Taynuilt held their own for 15 minutes but Kilmallie took the lead when Fraser Massie beat Servant after the keeper had saved his first effort. With John Stewart and Liam

MacDonald impressive up front, Kilmallie upped the tempo and Massie scored a second after Servant failed to clear. Ross Lavin added the pick of Kilmallie's goals right on half time with a tremendous 30 yard drive to make it 3-0. John Stewart deservedly got on the scoresheet on 52 minutes before Martin Stewart completed the scoring with 18 minutes left. Kilmallie will now meet Skye at Portree on Saturday, May 22 in the next round. Glenorchy and Oban Celtic met at the Mart Park in what many feared would be a repeat of their much publicised 'bad tempered clash' last week, but thanks to the discipline of the players and the sensible and experienced approach taken by referee Charles Young this was not to be the case. Glenorchy boosted by

blocks and scoring a superb goal through Smith after excellent link up play with McNulty.

Smith then scored his second four minutes later from a free hit the result of the only ugly clash of the day.

Glenorchy were playing some excellent passing shinty and Livingstone added a well taken sixth on hour.

Oban Celtic enjoyed their best spell and were rewarded with a well taken consolation goal from Damien MacIntyre after MacKay had unsettled the Glen defence.

This result didn't quite do Celtic justice as they can be happy with many performances. Fifteen year old Daniel Madej deserved special mention but the more experienced Glenorchy were far more clinical up front and ultimately its goals that win matches.

Ballachulish got off to a bad start at Portree when an own goal gave Skye the lead in under two minutes. Sorley MacDonald went on to score a hat-trick as the home side netted six times.

Andrew Young scoring an 80th minute consolation.

SHINTY

Two derby ties come out of Camanachd Cup hat

FOLLOWING the completion of the first round of the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup last weekend the draw for the second round at the Bught Park, Inverness on Monday by shinty's national coach, Drew McNeil and Ross County Football Club manager, Derek Adams, who will lead his team out in the final of the Scottish Cup at Hampden this Saturday.

The draw for the second round includes six qualifiers from the first round and 10 teams from the Scottish Hydro Premier Division.

The full draw is as follows:

Kyles Athletic v Bute
Strathglass v Kingussie
Inveraray v Lochaber
Glenurquhart v Lovat
Skye v Kilmallie
Newtonmore v Glenorchy
Ft William v Kinlochshiel
Oban Camanachd v GMA

Ross County's Derek Adams said: 'I am delighted to be involved in the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup draw.

'The excitement and anticipation involved in cup competitions is the same across all sports including shinty.

'I hope the teams involved in the Camanachd Cup experience the highs Ross County have this year.'

In his former position as coach of Fort William Shinty Club, Drew McNeil has won the Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup for the past three years, so knows what it takes to win at the highest level.

Speaking of past victories, Drew McNeil said: 'In shinty, as in football, lifting the cup is what all players, coaches and supporters dream about and I have been lucky enough to do this as both a player and a coach.

The draw threw up a number of interesting ties especially the local derbies between Kyles and Bute and Glenurquhart and Lovat, and I am looking forward to another exciting Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup round on Saturday, May 22.'

This year's Scottish Hydro Camanachd Cup Final will take place at Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday, September 18.

Spot the SHINTY BALL Competition



Spot the SHINTY BALL

Competition

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Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon Tuesday.

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Large turnout at Oban Primary competition

Over 200 youngsters take part in split league challenge

MORE than 200 footballers of primary age took part in the Oban Express Primary Football split league challenge on Sunday.

Both the junior and the senior teams contested their separate split league challenges at the high school all-weather pitch in front of a large crowd of spectators, who enjoyed the football on show.

In the top section of the junior league, for ages up to primary three, Lochgilphead opened their account with a Tyler Robertson goal to secure a win over Thistle. They went on to beat Sharks and Benderloch to set up a decider against the Saints under 8s.

Equalised
The under 8s would have to win the match after drawing with Thistle when Oran Bryce deservedly equalised Lennon Campbell's earlier opener, however the Jags' Cameron Hill nearly won the game with a vicious free kick that came crashing back off the post.

FOOTBALL

In the decider the young Saints looked to have opened the scoring with a Jude Bain strike but the referee ruled that the ball had not crossed the goal line and waved play on. Lochgilphead held on for the draw they needed to win them the section and the cup, which is just reward for the commitment of travelling to Oban on a weekly basis.

In the lower section of the juniors, there was some entertaining football on show with some really close encounters. The much-improved Galaxy posted early intentions with Ellis Hunter netting a hat trick against K-Oz and Struan MacDonald finding the net in their win against Ben Lora.

AC Argyll also looked strong in the section with wins over K-Oz and Ben Lora but a draw with Pumas dented their ambitions.

The Pumas went on to win their games against K-Oz and Ben Lora and it was the

Pumas who emerged as the winners when they defeated Galaxy 2-0 in what would be a deciding match, with their captain James Beaton collecting their first piece of silverware in the league and all the players receiving medals for their efforts.

Familiar

The seniors top section took on an all too familiar look with both the Cobras and the Warriors from Lochgilphead winning all their matches to set up an enthralling last game encounter to decide the outcome of the section but it was the Oban side who ran out victorious with a 3-1 victory to secure the section and win yet another tournament in their all-conquering season, with captain on the day Alistair MacLean lifting aloft the trophy.

The lower section of the senior split league was a tight affair and started with Keegan McPhee scoring the only goal of the game for



Lochgilphead Under 8s, winners in the top section of the junior split league challenge.

Stoddy Boys against Tralee.

The Boys went on to defeat Spartans by the same score line but came unstuck against Appin. The Appin side showed vast improvement and managed a draw against tournament favourites Stoddarts when David Malcolm equalised

Lomond MacPherson's opener but further draws with Tralee and Spartans would deny them ultimate victory despite being undefeated on the day.

Emerging

Stoddarts were emerging as the side to beat with a win over Stoddy Boys but

they had goalkeeper Jack Strachan to thank for a last minute penalty save in their narrow win over Tralee

to set up a decider against Spartans in the final match of the day. The match and the section was won with Stoddarts' Ally Cameron settling the outcome with

a magnificent back post header to present Stoddarts with their first trophy.

The league takes a break for the May bank holiday next Sunday but resumes with the spring programme on the May 9, with both junior and senior sections in action back at the high school pitch.

Youth football

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Under 13s completed a fantastic season on Saturday when they defeated Westerton United 8-0 on the 3g community pitch.

Scoring for Saints were Fraser MacFarlane (5), Douglas Tyrell-Bunge (2) and Ally MacLean.

This result meant that the team had gone through the whole league programme undefeated. They scored an incredible 101 goals and lost only 7.

The Under 15s were also at home on Saturday and they turned in an impressive performance defeating Renton Youth 2-1. Netting for Saints were Robert Johnston and Martin MacPherson.

This Saturday the Under 15s are away to Dumbarton Rock in the preliminary round of the League Cup.

Markie Dans are just champion

POOL

MARKIE Dans 'A' team won the Oban Pool League last Thursday night with the Lancaster finishing in second place. The Oban Filling Station Cup Final will be played in Markie Dans on Thursday April 29. The presentation tournament dates will be announced later.

	P	Pts
Markie Dans 'A'	22	38
Lancaster	22	34
Lochnell	22	32
Claredon 'A'	22	32
Kelvin Dale	22	26
Cellar Bar	22	24
Markie Dans 'B'	22	20
Gluepot	22	18
Claredon 'B'	22	10

Ladies football

FOOTBALL

OBAN Saints Ladies made the long journey to Dumfries on Sunday, but unfortunately found themselves on the wrong end of a 7-0 scoreline.

This Sunday they take on Aberdeen City in the first round of the Scottish Cup. The match will be played on the 3g community pitch with a 1pm kick-off.

Oban Sailing Club

SAILING

Race 9: 1 Shadowfax, First 31.7, Billy Forteith 2 Nimrod, Dehler 34, Colin Crawford
Race 10: 1 Girl Karina, Westerly GK24, Owen Hoey
2 Hot Toddy, Sadler 25 Alison Chadwick
3 Michael the Minitonn, SK 700 modified, David Crisp
Race 11: 1 Pay Back, Laser Radial, Steven Forteith 2 Zzzip, Laser Eric Chapman
3 Krabby Patty, Laser Tim Bleazard
Race 12: 1 Wavelength, Laser 4.7, James Chapman. 2 unspponsored 1, Topper, Tierney Carter. 3 unspponsored 2, Topper, Jamie Sinclair

Oban Bowling Club

BOWLS

THE first club competition was held on Sunday April 25. Although it was a bit damp, everyone enjoyed the afternoon. The Calendonia Cup was the prize and the worthy winners were Lyn Laverty and Maureen Goldie.

On Saturday three ladies teams travelled to Ardrishaig to play the first game in the West Argyll League. Only one team won so Ardrishaig were the winners of this round.

John Weir wins Western Isles Challenge Cup

GOLF

JOHN Weir won Tobermory Golf Club's Western Isles Challenge Cup, played last Saturday, with a score of 38.

Second was Graham Davidson (35 points) and third, Margaret Ingram (30 points).

The Marie Curie Stableford played on April 18 was won by Angus Cowe on 37 points, second Ian McNaughton on 35 points and third Donald Brown, 34 points.

The Ladies April Stableford was won by Margaret Ingram (29 points) and second Olive Brown 24 points.

The Captain versus Vice Captain matchplay trophy played on Sunday April 11 was won by the vice captain's team.

The winter four ball competitions were won by father and son team Donald Brown senior and junior and the winter medal final won by Donald Brown Senior.

Oban Cricket Club off the mark

CRICKET

OBAN began its 2010 cricket season with a friendly fixture at home against Gargunock on Sunday.

On a day of sunshine and showers, Oban proved too strong for the visitors from Stirlingshire and emerged victorious by the convincing margin of 113 runs.

The star of the show for Oban was, once again, 17-year-old Allan Laycock who top scored with 84 in Oban's total of 228 and then contributed in the field with two run-outs and a wicket as Gargunock could only manage 115 in reply.

Oban's innings had some fine contributions throughout the batting order and highlighted the increasing strength in depth of the side.

Superb

Besides Laycock's superb innings, there were also fine efforts of 41 from Isaac Forster, 37 from Mal Mackenzie and a solid 22 on debut from Taj Koyes.

A total of 229 to win always looked difficult for Gargunock as weather conditions worsened and

this proved to be the case as they soon fell way behind the required run rate.

Neill Belshaw and Jack Whiteley were the leading wicket takers as the innings eventually closed on 115.

Oban's next game sees them begin the defence of the Argyll League title with a game against Mid Argyll at Taynuilt on May 8.

Scores - Oban 228 (A Laycock 84, I Forster 41, M Mackenzie 37); Gargunock 115 (N Belshaw 3-11).

Make a run for it from Inveraray Jail

RUNNING

NEXT SUNDAY, May 9, will see keen runners flee from prison as the Inveraray Jail Break race returns to Argyll for a second year.

The race kicks off at 11am from Inveraray Jail and continues up 250 metres to the top of Dun-na-Cuaiche. Runners will complete the circular route down at the finishing line in the grounds of Inveraray Castle.

The event is part of this year's Inveraray Bluebell Festival, an exciting month-long programme of cultural events.

Participants each receive a free Inveraray Jail T-shirt and there are trophies, medals and prizes for category winners.

To take part in the race, contact event organisers Fiona or Garret Corner on 01499 302 160.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, April 29, 2010 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm						
Thur	05.51	4.0	12.21	0.6	18.12	4.0	Ardrishaig	-5.35
Fri	00.37	0.5	06.27	3.9	18.48	3.9	Campbeltown	-5.30
Sat	01.19	0.7	07.02	3.7	19.25	3.8	Crinan	-0.47
Sun	01.59	1.0	07.37	3.5	20.02	3.6	Islay Port Ellen	2.00
Mon	02.41	1.2	08.13	3.2	20.43	3.4	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Tues	03.26	1.5	08.53	3.0	21.30	3.0	Mallaig	+0.25
Wed	04.18	1.7	09.41	2.8	22.30	3.0	Portree	+0.55
							Tobermory	+0.16
							Dover	+5.30

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the weather

Thursday

Cloudy. Winds moderate Westerly.
Temperatures 6°C to 1°C

Friday

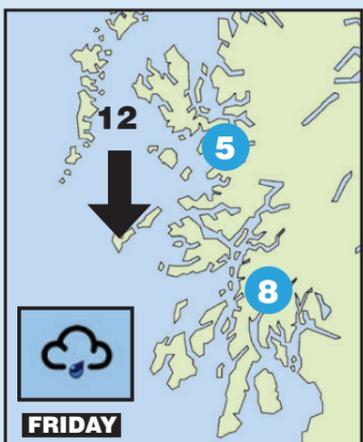
Light Rain. Winds moderate Northerly.
Temperatures 3°C to 11°C.

Weekend Outlook

Sunny Intervals. Winds moderate Northerly.
Temperatures 4°C to 8°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above



Athletic prove to be Thorn in the flesh

Jimmy Marshall Trophy Quarter Final

OBAN SAINTS 2 THORN ATHLETIC 3

THORN Athletic were the visitors to Glencluittan for this Jimmy Marshall Trophy quarter final and the large crowd of spectators were entertained to an excellent game of football, a great advert for the Scottish Amateur League.

Thorn took the lead in the 18th minute after Sean Ford had been penalised for a hand ball. Paul Young stepped up and curled a great shot round the Saints wall and although keeper Graham Douglas got a hand to the ball he couldn't prevent it from hitting the back of the net.

Six minutes later the home side had a similar chance when they were awarded a free kick, but this time Willie Gemmell was unlucky to see his free kick hit the post, with the keeper beaten.

The Oban side got back on level terms in the 28th minute when Craig MacEwan was put through the middle before calmly rounding the keeper and sliding the ball into the net to make the score 1-1.

Saints lost the services of skipper Dante Lopez, with an ankle injury just before half time, his place in the centre of defence being taken by Alex Craik.

Right on the half time whistle the home side took the lead with a well taken goal. Sean Ford and Allan MacKay combined to set up Craig MacEwan and the young striker wasted no time in thumping the ball into the back of the net to make the score 2-1.

FOOTBALL

Oban Saints 2 Thorn Athletic 3

The second half was the same as the first with lots of good football being played by both teams, who were quite prepared to get the ball down and pass it about on a good flat pitch at Glencluittan.



Craig MacEwan

Saints had a great chance to go 3-1 in front when they were awarded a penalty after Allan MacKay was felled in the box leaving referee Robert Doolan no option but to point to the spot. It seemed to take a long time before Allan MacKay eventually stepped up to take the kick, but the Thorn keeper made a good save from the striker's shot to deny the Oban side taking a two goal advantage.

The visitors drew level in the 78th minute after Asen had given the ball away in midfield. Saints keeper Graham Douglas will be disappointed that he failed to hold a high cross, the ball falling kindly for Kevin McGoldrick who wasted no time in netting from close range.

The final ten minutes of the game saw the teams going at it hammer and tongs as they both tried to get a winner in the 90 minutes to make sure the game didn't go to the dreaded penalty shoot out.

Craig MacEwan had a great chance for his hat-trick when he was set up by Allan MacKay, but he blasted his shot over the bar and with the game almost at an end Thorn scored what proved to be the winner.

Saints keeper Graham Douglas came for a high cross but he collided with a couple of his own defenders, the ball spun loose and fell kindly for Thorn striker Craig McGlone who thumped the ball home from close range to make the final score 3-2. This was only the fourth defeat of the season for Saints, and the first at home.

Manager Iain Jackson was fairly philosophical after the match. He said: 'It was a good game, one of the best seen at Glencluittan for a while. Both teams played some excellent football and showed plenty of passion. Obviously we're disappointed at not going through to the semi finals, but the lads played well enough, although we lost poor goals.'

'I think if we had scored the penalty we would have gone on and won the game.'

Saints will now have to pick themselves up and concentrate on winning the last two league games which would give them the premier division title. They have no game this Saturday.