

The Oban Times

& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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WIN

CalMac tickets to Mull

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WIN! The Chance to Meet Nick Nairn at Spirit of the West!

SEE PAGE 12

Three divers lose lives

THE SOUND of Mull claimed three lives in five days last week, prompting words of warning from the emergency services and diving experts.

Three of the incidents, all in the Sound of Mull, resulted in deaths, although the body of missing diver Michael Pye, aged 66, from Keswick, is yet to be found.

Last Wednesday 38-year-old Henry Downs, from York, died following a dive to the wreck of the freighter Ronda. Mr Downs, who was diving with a colleague, was airlifted to Lorn and Islands District Hospital but died soon after.

On Sunday a third man, James Hislop, aged 67, from Leeds, who was diving near Bloody Bay, died in hospital, despite being resuscitated at the scene by a doctor from a nearby boat.

Full story on page 4.

Anger over school sale

THERE is anger and disappointment that the former Rockfield Primary School in Oban has been put on the open market before the results of a feasibility study that include the building have been published.

Oban Youth and Community Association is a matter of weeks away from revealing its comprehensive study commissioned to look into options for replacing the current youth and community centre in Soroba Lane.

Full story on page 13.

Oban thinks big with 50ft sculpture on Pulpit Hill



An artist's image shows how a massive sculpture, like the Angel of the North, shown, could command Pulpit Hill.

Structure could rival world famous Angel of the North

A DRAMATIC sculpture to rival Gateshead's famous Angel of the North could soon command Pulpit Hill if tourism group Oban Forward gets the go-ahead.

The 50-foot high sculpture would be of a fisherman casting his net over Oban Bay.

It would be the second highest piece of public art in Britain beaten only by the 66-ft high Angel.

The sculpture – visible from land and sea from as far away as Mull and Ben Nevis – would cost around £1 million.

But its supporters believe it would have priceless benefits for tourism in Oban and Argyll.

'If we get this right it would attract tourists from around the world,' said Oban Forward member Callum MacLeod of Piazza Restaurant. 'It is the best idea to come out of the town for a long time. It is incredibly bold and exciting.'

Character

'The sculpture needs to be a bronze or metal structure that shouts out the character and culture of the area.'

Mr MacLeod is among a group of Oban businessmen and councillors who are members of a relaunched Oban Forward group determined to see Oban maximise its huge tourism potential.

They say the modern sculpture would complement the striking McCaig's Tower sitting on a nearby hill, with both overlooking the stunning Oban Bay.

Oban man Ranald MacColl has already drawn up provisional plans for a large Rubanesque man, akin to artist Peter Howieson's figures, casting a huge net interwoven with fish over the bay of Oban from Pulpit Hill.

Mr MacColl recently completed the GI Bride sculpture at Glasgow's Partick Underground Station.

Councillors Roddy McCuish and Neil Mackay are backing the project. 'Anything to improve and raise the

EXCLUSIVE by LOUISE GLEN-LEE

profile of Oban has to be good for the town, said Mr Mackay. 'We want Oban to be among the top tourist resorts in the country.'

'Oban Forward aims to tell people just exactly what we have to offer.'

Mr McCuish said: 'The group will obviously have to go through public channels to get the go-ahead for the sculpture. The project will need to go out to public consultation and then for tender.'

'Oban shouldn't rest on its laurels, and the Scottish government is encouraging applications for funding for public art.'

The councillors pointed to the controversy caused when McCaig's Tower was built in 1897 for the sum of £5,000 and yet it is now a world-famous feature of Oban's skyline.

Oban Forward member Paul Sloan of Cuan Mor Restaurant said: 'The matter will be discussed at today's (Thursday) Forward meeting. The sculpture really would have to be something of iconic dimensions to make it work.'

Already Oban Forward has started to market Oban as the Seafood Capital of Scotland and is examining ways of boosting the town's appearance.

A cruise ship ambassador is another idea. 'There are nine or 10 ships expected into Oban this summer,' said Mr Mackay.

'We want them to be welcomed and encouraged to stay in the town. There are also 200-300 crew on the ships who also want to come ashore and spend money in the town. It is done everywhere around the world where you go on a cruise – so it should be done in Oban.'

He added 'We need the help, support and ideas from everyone in the town; so many small and big businesses are relying on tourism.'

Swine flu emergency procedures are in place

AS TWO suspected swine flu cases hit the west coast, schools are 'preparing for the worst'.

Every school in Argyll and Bute is preparing swine flu emergency procedures to ensure children can still be educated if a pandemic strikes.

Schools have been given instructions, by the chief executive Sally Reid, on how to deal with children with swine flu symptoms. And planning is underway to make sure communities care for each other if the flu pandemic takes hold.

Guidelines have been issued to management to stop the spread of the airborne virus – such as having plenty of soap

in schools for hand washing and telling children and staff to bin tissues after a single use.

Five schools in England have already been closed with suspected and confirmed cases of the illness.

As *The Oban Times* went to press, two possible cases in the NHS Highland area have been identified, with a total of 21 cases throughout Scotland.

Rehearsed

A spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The council has well rehearsed plans in place for dealing with this kind of thing.'

'Schools have been issued with guidance, available on

the council's website, and all staff have been briefed through a message from our chief executive.'

'The council is working closely with colleagues in the NHS and other agencies and are following their expert advice and guidance.'

It is understood that the council is following government guidelines in preparing alternative means of educating children and caring for people in the community if the pandemic is confirmed.

A NHS Highland spokesman said: 'We have been advised by the Scottish government to prepare for the worst. Scotland

is in a better position than most with a supply of antiviral drugs to treat half the population.'

'Information leaflets are being issued to every home on the west coast over the next few days.'

'Health minister Nicola Sturgeon has stated that Scotland is well placed to deal with a pandemic should it happen.'

'People who have suspicious flu like symptoms should phone NHS 24 on 08454 24 24 24 rather than turning up at either the hospital or the doctor's surgery. If someone contacts their GP with suspicious symptoms then the doctor would make arrangements to visit the patient at home.'

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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Beachd Ailein

Tha iad mar cait a-meas mhionaichean! Facal a bhiodh bitheanta ri chluinntinn nam òige far an robh sannt air choreigin a' nochdadh sa choimhearsnachd, agus daoinne a' stri airson na cuibhriinn as motha.

Tha am facal air tighinn thugam tric bho chionn ghoirid is mi ag èisteachd ri sgeul an dèidh sgeòil mu Bhuill Pàrlamaid a' tarraing gu am muilnean fhèin às an sporan phoblach. Ach mar a tha iad uile a' sior inne dhuinn chan eil iad a' dèanamh dad ceàrr oir tha an t-airgead seo "ceadaichte" as na riaghailtean cosnaidh aca. Agus cò a dheasaich na riaghailtean sin? Bha Buill Pàrlamaid! Gun iocas air cuin a chaidh na riaghailtean sin a stèidheachadh nach eil e tàmailteach nach deach aig Pàrlamaid, a tha ga meas fhèin comasach air riaghladh le gliocas air a h-uile dad eile, air an siostam cheàrrail seo a sgioblachadh mun d' thug an nàire orra sin a dhèanamh.

Ged a tha riaghlathan an sud san seo air feadh an t-saoghail a tha mi-earbsach tha clùir air a bhith aig Pàrlamaid Bhreatainn. Nach bochd gu dearbh gun cailte an clùir sin air sgàth beagan Bhall a bhith a' gabhail cothrom air cosgaisean an ire gun cheannsal an luib an cuid dhreuchdan. Tha fhios gum bheil seo na dheagh eisimpleir air droch riaghailt nach gabh dìon a bh' air a dhealbhadh leis an fheadhainn a tha a' buannachadh às. Tha a' mhòr-shluagh tric air an cion earbsa a' nochdadh ann am fèin-mheasadh le buidhnean proifeiseanta. Canaidh na proifeiseantaich gum feum an t-eòlas teicnigeach a bhith aig an neach a tha gan sgrùdadh ma tha e gu bhith cothrom na bhreith orra, ach glè thrìc 's e beachd an t-sluaigh gur ann a' dìon an cuid fhèin a tha iad. Cha tig às a' phoit ach an toit a tha innte, agus ma tha Pàrlamaid dol a ghleidheadh creideas agus earbsa an t-sluaigh, agus an t-saoghail, tha làn am aig riaghailtean cosnaidh nam Ball a bhith fosgailte agus cothrom.

The venerable reputation of the 'mother of parliaments' has suffered recently in the light of scandals surrounding MPs' expenses, and the exposure of plans by a close adviser of the prime minister to defame opposition members.

Most people probably regard politics as a fickle business, but the exposure of employment conditions which permit MPs to claim extensive and apparently unregulated expenses has incensed potential voters across the UK. MPs who would govern the country are seen as self-seeking money-grabbers who do not subject themselves to independent evaluation. This image is probably profoundly unfair to some who carry out their duties with due diligence, but when mud flies it attaches to everybody in the House.

If our parliament is to retain the trust and respect of its electorate, and the world, it must immediately amend the conditions of employment of MPs to establish the clarity and honesty which taxpayers are entitled to demand of elected representatives fulfilling what must be one full-time job.

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

Hotels vie for award

TWO privately-owned island hotels are up against a luxury hotel group for the CIS Excellence Awards 2009 Hotel of the Year title later this month.

The Isle of Eriska Hotel, near Benderloch and owned by the Buchanan-Smith family, and Kinloch Lodge Hotel on Skye, owned by Claire and Godfrey MacDonald, will be battling it out with Cameron House Hotel, on Loch Lomondside, owned by De Vere Hotels and Leisure Ltd.

Also in the running for an award is A Taste of Arran, for the Food-Tourism Award.

Mull roads campaign steps up a gear

THE KEEP Mull Moving campaign for better roads has taken a step closer to preparing a strategic plan for transport infrastructure on the island.

Meeting
The group held an open meeting to find a way forward for the roads that are often described as among the worst in Europe. A small working party was formed to develop a strategy for the group's proposals.

Linda Cameron, chairwoman of Mull Community Council, said: 'The group wants to clarify with Argyll and Bute Council how most efficiently to spend the resources that they are putting into our roads. In the longer term we want to attract the whole of the investment we need for Mull's roads from a variety of funding sources.'

Request for Gaelic writing of cheques likely to be blanked by bank

ROYAL Bank of Scotland (RBS) bosses are being asked to rethink a decision to ban the use of Gaelic in the writing of cheques after a Stornoway man had his Gaelic cheque refused at a branch in the Western Isles.

But that request likely to be blanked for practical reasons. George Drummond's cheque was refused when it was presented at the RBS branch in Stornoway because it was written in Gaelic.

Bòrd na Gàidhlig chairman, Arthur Cormack, has now called on RBS chief executive Stephen Hester to sanction the use of Gaelic in the writing of cheques.

Concerned
Mr Cormack said he was concerned that the bank's decision could lead to the eventual eradication of Gaelic in the bank's operation.

RBS currently issues cheque books printed in Gaelic but has now stopped customers using written Gaelic when filling in the cheques.

Mr Cormack has pointed out to Mr Hester that the decision not to allow Gaelic on cheques 'sits somewhat uneasily with this'. He also details the commitments the Scottish and UK governments have given to Gaelic and suggested that as the bank is now largely owned by the public, he should re-address the issue.

Mr Cormack has asked RBS to reconsider its decision and has urged the bank to engage with Bord to see how the use of and support for Gaelic can be enhanced, rather than diminished.

A spokeswoman for RBS however said the use of English in writing cheques was necessary for practical reasons because the number of hands the cheque may pass through until it is paid. 'If Gaelic is used that would require having Gaelic readers at every place where the cheques may be presented. That is not practical.'

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Iona's Burns mission

CHILDREN from Iona are sending some *abcs* to the Homecoming Parade in Edinburgh. The banner parade will be the highlight of the annual festival this August. The funky letters will make up a banner of Burn's verse *A Man's a Man for A' That* in celebration of the 250th anniversary of his birth. The banner will be unveiled during the service.

Manchester-based artist Stephen Raw, pictured right, was on hand at Iona Primary to assist children in making the letters.



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Islay and Colonsay want Oban air link

By EUAN PATERSON

THE ISLANDS of Islay and Colonsay are seeking a triangular air link with Oban to make it easier to access mainland services.

Councillor Robin Currie, whose Kintyre and the Islands ward covers both islands, has approached Argyll and Bute Council and HITRANS, for approval of an Oban to Islay flight, which would incorporate Colonsay, an island already accessible from Oban by air.

Mr Currie's plan has received vocal support from the islands involved, not least Colonsay residents who have to spend at least

Connection would dramatically cut travelling time for islanders

two days travelling to and from Glasgow. However, the proposed route would not be covered by Argyll and Bute Council's public service order and would have to be a commercial flight run by Highland Airways, which has the contract for scheduled flights to and from Oban Airport.

Councillor Currie said: 'I have been pushing this proposal a lot harder in the past few days, since

speaking to the council and HITRANS and I would like to see a pilot scheme set up sooner rather than later. 'For the people of Colonsay especially, it would be great to be able to fly to Islay and then get a flight to Glasgow. That would be like night and day for these people who could get to Glasgow in two hours instead of spending two days away.

'I'm told that people from Colonsay are already getting to Islay any way they can, just to get a flight straight to Glasgow.'

Mr Currie also believes there is enough interest among Ileachs for a link to Oban. He added: 'There are so many services in Oban that we could utilise, such as the hospital, so I think a plane service to Oban would be popular from Islay.

'I can't understand why islanders have to look to the central belt for all their services. A short flight to



Isle of Skye Pipe Band with Long Tall Sally staff at the Skeabost Hotel.

Pipe band is happy to fill a tall order

ISLE OF Skye Pipe Band had a tall order last week - playing a gig for representatives from a firm selling designer clothes to the country's most statuesque women.

Long Tall Sally, which has 16 fashion stores across the UK, asked staff if a musical flavour of Scotland could be provided. Pipe major Peter MacDonald and the band were glad to oblige, and played a selection of tunes

for company personnel and their production team, who were on Skye doing a photoshoot for the next store catalogue. Dunvegan and the Quiraing featured among the locations for the photoshoot.

Gaelic film contest launched

DIGITAL Gaelic TV broadcasters MG ALBA have launched an innovative Gaelic online short film competition for a second year.

BBC ALBA presenter Fiona MacKenzie was joined by pupils of Castlebay High to launch FilmG 2009 during an evening of celebration at the school. Last year the pupils won best film in the young people's category but were unable to attend the FilmG award ceremony due to adverse weather conditions.

Alasdair Morrison, chairman of MG ALBA, said: 'The theme for FilmG 2009 is Gaisgeach, or Hero, and I am sure this year's competition will uncover future champions for Gaelic and more real gems for Gaelic media.'

The FilmG 2009 website has now gone live with full details of this year's competition and how to enter. Deadline for entries is November 20.

Western Isles Council is seeking to boost the benefits to the Hebrides of a two-year trial in which ferry fares are cut by up to 40 per cent by providing advertising materials to local businesses.

Under the Scottish government, road equivalent tariff (RET) pilot routes between Ullapool and Stornoway, Uig to Tarbert and Lochmaddy, Oban to Castlebay and Lochboisdale and Oban to Coll and Tiree have been made much cheaper.

When the trial ends the government will use the pilot scheme's results to formalise a fares system geared to ensuring people can travel to and from some of Scotland's remotest communities simply and affordably.

Local firms can download images with the logo 'experience the Hebridean paradise' from <http://www.cne-siar.gov.uk/travel/ret/pilotadd.asp> for use on their websites or to send to customers.

Views of the Calainis standing stones, and stunning landscapes of Harris, Uist and Barra feature in the package.

Convener of Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Alex MacDonald, said: 'RET offers an opportunity for a substantial boost to tourism and other local businesses. It is important that we all work together to promote this.'

Removal of hedgehogs and minks gathers pace

WORK will go on to rid the Uists of non-native hedgehogs following a successful recruitment drive. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) received almost 100 applicants for spring fieldworkers' posts. Twenty-three people are engaged in live-trapping around most of Benbecula and part of North Uist.

Trapped
To date, 86 hedgehogs have been trapped and will be released on the mainland. Hedgehogs, introduced to the islands in the 1970s, cause problems for native ground nesting wader birds by eating their eggs.

Globally-important dunlin, ringed plover, redshank, snipe, lapwing and oystercatcher have all suffered. Meanwhile, mink trappers have walked the equivalent of twice around the world in a bid to eradicate the pests from the Western Isles. Twelve Hebridean Mink Project (HMP) conservationists are on course to cover another 25,000 miles again this year. Mink, fur farm escapees, pose a threat to the area's biodiversity by eating nesting wader birds' eggs and preying on local wildlife. A total of 926 mink have been taken from an original population of around 2,000. HMP work will cost £350,000 a year.

Jura's wild goats damage key woodland

JURA'S wild goats are causing mayhem after taking up residence in an area of scientific interest. A billy, two nannies and some kids have been chomping on rare ferns and trees and residents on the island are at their wits end about how to stop the damage.

The matter was raised at an island community council meeting. Rae Mackenzie, island officer for Scottish Natural Heritage,

said: 'The goats are eating trees in a gully that has been identified as a remnant of ancient woodland. **Unique** 'There are number of lichens, bio-fides and mosses that thrive in cool, shady, damp places such as this glade and are unique to the island. 'There is a tiny remnant of the glade remaining on Jura and the lack of habitats like this one make

In the picture

Islay-bred peer Lord Robertson of Port Ellen has shown he has a keen eye with a camera after being one of eight winners of the annual parliamentary photograph competition out of more than 600 entries by 57 House of Commons and House of Lords members.

Some of the images, which are taken by the members while carrying out their duties at home and abroad, are on display in the House of Commons.

Walks are runaway success

NEARLY 500 people from as far afield as the USA, Holland and Germany took part in the seventh annual Walkislay on the Isle of Islay.

At the first Walkislay 160 people took part in six walks around the island but this year 477 joined in 14 different walks.

Organiser Ian Brooke was delighted with the turnout, and was just as happy with the strong core of islanders taking part as he was with the international recognition the event has received.

He said: 'The weather was great and everyone enjoyed the evening events as well. Visitors all commented on how friendly everyone was.'

Mr Brooke thanked RSPB and island gamekeepers for helping with the walks.

Advertising boost for Hebrides

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Public Meeting

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Removal of hedgehogs and minks gathers pace

WORK will go on to rid the Uists of non-native hedgehogs following a successful recruitment drive. Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) received almost 100 applicants for spring fieldworkers' posts. Twenty-three people are engaged in live-trapping around most of Benbecula and part of North Uist.

Trapped
To date, 86 hedgehogs have been trapped and will be released on the mainland. Hedgehogs, introduced to the islands in the 1970s, cause problems for native ground nesting wader birds by eating their eggs.

Globally-important dunlin, ringed plover, redshank, snipe, lapwing and oystercatcher have all suffered. Meanwhile, mink trappers have walked the equivalent of twice around the world in a bid to eradicate the pests from the Western Isles. Twelve Hebridean Mink Project (HMP) conservationists are on course to cover another 25,000 miles again this year. Mink, fur farm escapees, pose a threat to the area's biodiversity by eating nesting wader birds' eggs and preying on local wildlife. A total of 926 mink have been taken from an original population of around 2,000. HMP work will cost £350,000 a year.

Jura's wild goats damage key woodland

JURA'S wild goats are causing mayhem after taking up residence in an area of scientific interest. A billy, two nannies and some kids have been chomping on rare ferns and trees and residents on the island are at their wits end about how to stop the damage.

The matter was raised at an island community council meeting. Rae Mackenzie, island officer for Scottish Natural Heritage,

said: 'The goats are eating trees in a gully that has been identified as a remnant of ancient woodland. **Unique** 'There are number of lichens, bio-fides and mosses that thrive in cool, shady, damp places such as this glade and are unique to the island. 'There is a tiny remnant of the glade remaining on Jura and the lack of habitats like this one make

it an area of special scientific interest. The the goats living in the glade will prevent any regeneration or indeed the young trees coming through. 'If we become overly concerned about the remnant woodland then we would seek to fence it off.' An islander who did not want named said: 'My worry is that if things get too bad someone will go down there and just shoot them.'

Dunbeg drinks ban moves closer

A BAN on drinking alcohol in public in Dunbeg and Ganavan moved a step closer when Argyll and Bute Council agreed to consider the plan in detail.

The move was initiated by Strathclyde Police when they wrote to Oban councillors in February, expressing concern at vandalism and the spread of street drinking at a number of sites.

The proposed bye-law would cover areas near Dunstaffnage Castle, the marine laboratory, Argyll College Campus and Dunbeg Primary School.

But Councillor Robin Currie said the police already had sufficient powers to deal with street drinking and that the move sent the wrong message. He added: 'We are trying to say Argyll is a tourist place, a place to come to, but you can't enjoy a glass of whisky or wine on the beach. It's crazy - soon there will be nowhere left where people can actually enjoy themselves.'

Other councillors voted to take the proposal to the next stage, during which members of the public, Strathclyde Police and licensed traders will have their say.

Drug arrests

POLICE have arrested two suspected drug dealers following raids on two properties in Oban.

Last Tuesday, following the search of a property on Stevenson Street, a man was arrested after a quantity of a class A drug was found. Last Friday a woman was arrested after a large quantity of a class C drug was found at a property in Valery Place.

Reports have been sent to the procurator fiscal.

Gaelic choir is on agenda

THE FORMATION of a national Gaelic choir will be on the agenda of the next Association of Gaelic Choirs meeting on May 16.

The idea for a national choir, which would perform at national events, has been mooted by committee members and conductors of choirs across the country.

The association has been approached as the most appropriate organisation to take the idea forward.

Benderloch teenager locked up for 18th birthday party assault

AN OBAN teenager has been given four months' detention after admitting his part in an assault at an 18th birthday party.

Joshua Griffiths, aged 18, of Letterwalton Lodge, Benderloch, admitted assaulting the man at Angus Crescent, Oban, on February 1 this year by repeatedly punching him on the head

and body. Griffiths also admitted disorderly conduct and breach of the peace at an address in Colonsay Terrace, Oban, on January 30, 2009.

Defence agent Adam Crozier said: 'He has already spent five weeks in custody on this matter. The injuries suffered were particularly minor.'

Sentence was deferred for six months on co-accused Martin MacKinnon, aged 18, of Flat 5-6, Drimvargie Terrace, Oban who admitted assault.

A second co-accused, Daniel MacKinnon, aged 22, of Kenmore Lodge, Oban, was ordered to perform 150 hours of community service after also admitting assaulting the same victim.



Lee's long walk is worthwhile

A TODDLER from Oban has walked his way to more than £100 for a family fund day. Lee MacCuish, aged three years, completed a sponsored walk from Oban to Gallanach to raise funds for Soroba Family Centre. But the tiny tot was so tired with all the walking it took him two days to complete the course. Mum Julie MacCuish said: 'He must have walked

about five miles. Our friends, family and colleagues have been incredibly generous. Lee has been going to the family centre for a couple of years and we felt they do so much for the children it would be really good to give something back.' Lee's fundraising will go towards taking the children to Energie Fitness for a fun day next month. t19lee01

Three drug dealers face eviction

THREE drug dealing tenants are to be evicted from homes in Oban owned by Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

It brings to 12 the total number of eviction orders granted to the housing association after tenants were convicted for drug dealing offences.

Alastair MacGregor, chief

executive, said it was great news for tenants and reflected ACHA's 'zero tolerance' approach to serious anti-social behaviour.

He said: 'This is a victory for communities involved in tackling illegal and devastating activities. I am personally delighted at the success we have had and message this sends out.'

He said the association's policy was to always seek an eviction where a tenant had been found guilty in court for dealing drugs from their properties. The evictions are likely to take place within a month.

Mr MacGregor added: 'A small number of drug dealers can cause disproportionate grief for our communities.'

£18m goes to energy port

By CHRISTINE MCCARTNEY

ALMOST £18 million will be spent upgrading Campbeltown's piers, making it a national and international hub for the renewable energy industry.

Argyll and Bute Council unanimously agreed to expand the town's New Quay and improve road access at a cost of £12.7m, unlocking the potential for hundreds of construction, engineering and indirect jobs. The money is on top of a planned regeneration of Campbeltown centre and waterfront area.

Council leader Dick Walsh said the council needed to invest in the town's infrastructure to take advantage of opportunities for economic growth. He said: 'This project is significant locally and nationally.'

'This is a very exciting time for the Kintyre peninsula, which is rapidly becoming Scotland's powerhouse in terms of investment in the renewables sector.'

The recent deal with Welcon Towers to continue making wind turbines at Machrihanish, thereby saving the Vestas plant and bringing the promise of more

Campbeltown work is good news for Argyll

jobs, means the harbour will have to accommodate larger boats.

But the council's director of development services, George Harper, was quick to stress the proposals were not just for one company. He said: 'The infrastructure that we are putting in is to capitalise on the much bigger picture, not just Welcon, but to capture the vast potential for wind and wave power off the shore of Argyll and elsewhere.'

Competition He added there had been stiff competition to bring Welcon to Kintyre, but along with proposed giant wind farms off Argyll's coast, the region was well-placed to become the heart of a burgeoning industry.

Campbeltown councillor Rory Colville said: 'We are on the brink of something enormous which will change the whole economy of Argyll and Bute. This is going to create a new Campbeltown, a new Argyll and Bute and potentially a new Scotland.' Up to £5m could be spent

on repairing the deteriorating Campbeltown Old Quay, essential to the town's fishing industry, though not before 2011, while the New Quay takes priority.

Councillors also agreed that improvements to the pier at Tayinloan were urgent, to tackle the problems of silt and seaweed build-up which have disrupted the Gigha ferry service and left the island cut off for periods during the past two winters.

Meanwhile, long-awaited improvements to the Cuan slips on the Isle of Seil and the ferry service to Luving will be postponed as resources are diverted to Campbeltown. Councillors agreed to await the outcome of the Scottish Ferries Review before deciding how to proceed here.

More than £5m for Campbeltown and Tayinloan works is expected to come from Europe but the project will also require loans of £2 million and absorb much of the council's capital budget for piers and harbours for the next eight years.

Growing optimism for town allotments

ALLOTMENTS for Oban could soon be a reality, with negotiations in the final stages for a group of would-be plot holders to take over a piece of disused land.

The area would have room for 10 or 15 allotments plus a community garden and Adam Hughes, acting chair of Oban Allotment Association, said the owners were due to make a decision today (Thursday).

He said: 'We are waiting to get the final go ahead on the piece of land in Oban, which looks very promising.'

Support He stressed they were keen to have the support of those who lived next to the site under discussion, and were poised to deliver information to every home nearby about their plans.

The association will reach another milestone next week, with its first formal AGM on Wednesday, May 13, at 7pm in Glencruitten Church Hall undercroft.

Mr Hughes added that more than 50 people in the town had registered an interest in having an allotment and he was optimistic that their goal would be achieved soon. He added: 'The meeting will take things forward whether the land comes off or not.'

Woman accused of supplying drugs

A YOUNG woman appeared in private at Oban Sheriff Court last week charged with supplying drugs.

Ailsa McNaughton, aged 18, of Oban, is alleged to have been concerned in the supply of methadone in the Oban area in October 2008.

Ms McNaughton made no plea or declaration and was committed for further examination.

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Horticultural society president Ronnie MacKillop presents young Rhys, Kyla and Pebbles crèche worker Katie McGhee with one cheque and another to Caroline Henderson of ABCD. t19ehq01

Flower shows benefit local charities

FUNDS raised at Oban and Lom Horticultural Society's shows last year have been donated to two local charities. The Pebbles crèche and Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) each

received a cheque for £200 on Monday.

Society president Ronnie MacKillop said they had chosen to support local charities close to the hearts of members. Sandra Grieve,

treasurer, added she was delighted to see them support ABCD: 'My husband John has had the benefit of services they run.' The society spring show is on Saturday, May 16, from noon.

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Head teacher investigated over wife's driving lessons

A HEADMASTER who authorised his school to give work to his driving instructor wife is being investigated by a top education official.

Peter Bain, head teacher of Oban High, provoked an angry response from rival instructors last week when they discovered they had been excluded from tendering for a school contract.

Long-established driving instructors felt *Pass it On* owner Teresa Bain was given an unfair advantage over them to provide free lessons to sixth-year pupils.

This week a spokeswoman for Argyll and Bute Council said: 'The circumstances of this matter were drawn to the attention of the head of service for secondary education and he is looking into the situation.'

A number of Argyll and Bute

councillors have expressed concern about the situation.

One, who did not want to be named, said: 'Questions need to be asked about how decisions are being made in the school. It is unfair that driving instructors who have been in the town for years are being overlooked because the head master's wife is also a driving instructor.'

'It is against the principles and standards of holding a position in public life to appear to offer favour to one person over another, especially if it is a member of your family.'

It is understood that Mrs Bain is to be paid her costs for the pilot project giving lessons to pupils. Rivals feel she has been made to look like an approved provider for sixth-year pupils, their biggest client group.



Phil Higson is as at home in the air as he is on the sea.

Phil makes the drop to raise funds

TOBERMORY lifeboat coxswain Phil Higson has proved he is not just an able seaman but is also an abseiling seaman.

Phil abseiled off the Forth Rail Bridge recently, along with eight friends, to raise funds for Tobermory lifeboat station, which has been operational since 1990.

All eight made the 165-foot descent from the top of the iconic steel bridge and in the process raised £1,800.

Phil said: 'It's daunting climbing over the railings on to the steel girders but it's brilliant fun. It's great to be able to raise so much money for the Tobermory lifeboat. Thanks very much to my mates for taking part.'

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Barra bay warning

POTENTIALLY dangerous levels of algal toxins have been detected in a Barra bay.

Council environmental officials are warning residents that eating shellfish such as cockles or razor fish gathered from the shore at Traigh Mhor may pose a risk to human health.

A Western Isles Council spokesperson said: 'It is a sensible precaution to avoid eating shellfish from the beach until further notice.'

Anyone concerned can contact the social and community services of Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar on 01851 709396.

Eigg youngsters head for Holyrood

A GROUP of youngsters could be on their way to the Scottish Parliament after a performance of a play they had written caught the eye of a Highland MSP.

Highlands and Islands MSP Rob Gibson joined islanders on Eigg for a family festival last weekend. Now Mr Gibson wants to bring the Eigg youngsters to Edinburgh to perform their play.

Mr Gibson said: 'Eigg's wind, hydro and solar power system shows how communities large and small can shape their own carbon footprint. Among the many delights of the eco-friendly weekend was the children's play by EcoDrama. The off-the-wall eco-fable had kids and adults in the village hall in stitches and tears of laughter. I will be exploring ways to have a performance in the Scottish Parliament.'

Newsdesk
01631
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Spanish rider David Podeva on his Montesa machine at Lagnaha on Monday. f19six06

Thousands flock to Lochaber for Scottish Six Days Trial

HUNDREDS of motorcyclists and thousands of spectators have taken over Lochaber this week for the annual Scottish Six Days Trial event.

Despite heavy rain, spectators flocked to Loch Shiel, Inversanda and Duror on Monday and to Laggan Locks and Creag Lundie for sections overlooking Loch Clunie and a spectacular end to the day at Witches Burn on Tuesday. On Monday evening last year's winner Dougie Lampkin was leading the event with Kinlochleven's Gary MacDonald

in tenth place and other Lochaber riders Alister Morrice in 134th position and Andrew Stevenson from Achnacarry in 271st place. Today (Thursday) riders will be arriving at the Chairlift and Ba House sections from just after 8am and will arrive at Leanachen and Upper Leanachen by around 2.30pm where there are six sections in two groups forming the main attraction for the day.

Tomorrow sees riders tackle sections in Glenuig and Kingairloch. For more on the week's action see page 22.

Swine flu cases suspected in Highlands

THE SCOTTISH government this week confirmed that there are two cases of swine flu in the Highland area, but have refused to say where.

A spokeswoman for the government said that there were two 'possible' cases in the NHS Highland area but they had not tested positive as yet for the A(H1N1) virus.

On Tuesday this week it was confirmed that there were four confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in Scotland, including the first case of onward transmission from human to human in the UK.

Scottish health secretary Nicola Sturgeon also confirmed that there were also 19 'possible' cases of the virus under investigation.

A Scottish government spokeswoman said: 'Any special measures are a matter for the local health board but we

are not aware of any special measures at Belford Hospital. We are not in a pandemic situation.

'The standard guidance we give to people is follow good, hygienic practices like handwashing. These are the best practices which will help stop the spread of any infection.'

'There are two suspected cases in the Highlands.'

'These are not confirmed cases, they are not even probable cases. They are two possible cases.'

'That means the people are displaying symptoms but they are not testing positive.'

NHS Highland's mid-Highland community health partnership (CHP)

general manager Gill McVicar said: 'The Belford Hospital always steps up its contingency planning for the

larger events and we have included contingency planning for flu.'

Ms Sturgeon said that the clinical conditions of the confirmed cases are not giving cause for concern as they have experienced only mild symptoms.

She said: 'Since the first suspect cases emerged in Scotland, our focus has been on disrupting the spread of the virus. It is encouraging that we have not seen further cases of human to human transmission. However, we must remain vigilant as we continue to monitor this developing situation, although the threat to public health in Scotland remains low. Scotland, and the UK as a whole, is well prepared for a pandemic and I would urge people to remain calm and continue taking sensible hygiene precautions.'

Heavy rain delays search for man feared drowned in River Nevis

THE FATHER of a French student who is missing after falling into the River Nevis on Sunday has praised the work of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team in searching for his son.

Team leader Terry Confield said his team had done all they could to find the man with some members of his team endangering themselves in a desperate search to locate him on Sunday in atrocious weather conditions.

The team are this week waiting on river levels to drop in Glen Nevis to enable them to continue the search for the 27-year-old man who fell into the River

Nevis on Sunday. The man, who has not been named, is understood to be a French student who was living in London.

He has not been seen since falling into a gorge on the river near Steall Falls in Glen Nevis on Sunday afternoon.

As *The Oban Times* went to press on Tuesday, Lochaber Mountain Rescue team was waiting on water levels to drop as conditions are too dangerous for the search to resume after recent heavy rain and snow melt on Ben Nevis.

Terry Confield of Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team said: 'We had a major search

on Sunday, way beyond the call of duty. Some of the team were endangering themselves as well while in the gorge. The team did an excellent job in carrying out the search under atrocious conditions. We took the boy's father to the gorge on Monday. When he saw the gorge he saw what we did and he knows now what a good job we had done in searching for his son. He has also accepted that it will take some time to locate him.'

'We had someone up there to check up on the gorge on Tuesday but there is still a lot of water coming down. But it will take days of dry

weather before we can get near there. I can't see that it will be done this week.'

The man was understood to have slipped on rocks while with a group of three friends on Sunday afternoon after leaving the main path and going down into a gorge.

Mr Confield continued: 'He was playing on big blocks of rock which fill the gorge. They are as smooth as glass and this wasn't helped on Sunday because of the rain which made them extremely slippery. He slipped off the rock and dropped down into a sump and didn't come up again. The water just sucked him down.'

Sound of Mull claims lives of three divers

By EUAN PATERSON
THE SOUND of Mull claimed three lives in five days last week, prompting words of warning from the emergency services and diving experts.

The diving season only began at Easter but between Wednesday and Sunday last week Clyde Coastguard was alerted to four incidents within the Argyll area alone.

Three of the incidents, all in the Sound of Mull, resulted in deaths, although the body of missing diver Michael Pye, aged 66, from Keswick, is yet to be found.

Strathclyde Police Underwater Search Unit searched the area on Tuesday following a comprehensive two-day search involving Oban and Tobermory

lifeboats, the Royal Navy and police rescue helicopters and coastguard teams from Knock, Tobermory, Craignure and Ross of Mull.

The search for Mr Pye, who has been missing since 2pm last Friday, was stood down on Sunday evening. He was last seen by his group exploring the wreckage of Thesis from the chartered diving vessel Equinox.

Last Wednesday a 38-year-old Henry Downs, from York, died following a dive to the wreck of the freighter Ronda.

Mr Downs, who was diving with a colleague, was airlifted to Lorn and Islands District Hospital but died soon after.

And on Sunday a third man, James Hislop, aged 67, from Leeds, who was diving near



The Sound of Mull near Lochaline looks peaceful but can be treacherous for divers.

Bloody Bay, died in hospital, despite being resuscitated at the scene by a doctor from a nearby boat.

Mr Hislop, who was diving with a colleague, was transferred from Tobermory Lifeboat, by air, to Lorn and

Islands District Hospital and then Aberdeen Royal Infirmary for intensive care but was pronounced dead at 8pm.

In another incident on Sunday, the alarm was raised at 2.36pm when a 30-year-

old woman was separated in strong currents from her diving group near the Falls of Lora at Connel.

However, her group managed to find her 15 minutes after contacting the coastguard. Oban Lifeboat's

Dr Colin Wilson assessed another three members of the group who had experienced rapid ascents.

Oban Lifeboat coxswain Ronnie MacKillop said: 'We do tend to see more incidents at the beginning of the diving season but three deaths in one week is quite exceptional.'

'We ask people beginning the new diving season to make sure their equipment is serviced and that they know the conditions of the area they are diving in.'

'Divers in the Sound of Mull can experience strong tidal streams they may not have experienced before.'

'The vast majority of divers have had the winter off and we would encourage people to build up gently to the

more difficult dives, rather than start where they left off last season.'

In 2008 Clyde Coastguard was the third busiest in the UK for diving incidents.

Ken Bazeley, Marine Coastguard Agency (MCA) diving liaison officer, told *The Oban Times*: 'The Sound of Mull is a popular spot with divers.'

'We spend a lot of time giving out safety advice to diving organisations and it is sad when incidents become fatalities.'

'Diving is an extreme sport, which will have its risks but these should be minimised by sufficient training and through experience. The coastguard's advice is simple: plan the dive, dive the plan.'

Replace barriers, urges MP

WOODEN barriers alongside Argyll roads should be replaced immediately with ones made of a safer material, Alan Reid MP has said.

The Argyll and Bute MP wrote to Transport Scotland expressing his concerns about the safety of barriers.

He said: 'I welcome confirmation that the reassessment of all these wooden barriers, including the one at Appin Home Farm, is nearing completion.'

'The Scottish government should not have ignored the findings and recommendations of fatal accident inquiries which strongly condemned the wooden barriers.'

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No stopping the Showstoppers

IT WAS a case of the show must go on for Lochaber's Showstoppers on Friday night when some cast members didn't make it to the opening night on time.

Some cast members and some of the orchestra were delayed after the A82 was closed for nearly four hours on Friday afternoon after an accident near Torlundy.

The traffic delays meant the show had to be delayed while chorus members and the orchestra took their places.

However it was all right on the night for the production of *High Society*, Cole Porter's musical interpretation of the Philadelphia Story, performed at Fort William's Nevis Centre and directed by Christopher Josey, which ran from Thursday April 30 to May 2.

Female lead Sheena Coull said: 'There was a 10-minute delay in starting as some of the orchestra and some of the chorus were missing. Some came in for the second act but most got there on time.'

Sheena added that all the performances were well attended with more than 250 people in the theatre.

Next up for the Lochaber Showstoppers is a meeting tonight (Thursday) when they will choose a pantomime to perform in Fort William in December.

The group's annual general meeting will be held this year on August 17 with any new members invited to attend.



Some of the Lochaber Showstoppers cast members who performed *High Society* at the Nevis Centre last week. f19show04

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Slippery thief fined

AN OBAN filling station had a real slippery customer. Michael Archie MacPhee, aged 25, of 4 Burnside Court, Oban stole a jar of vaseline from the store in the town's Soroba Road on January 18 this year. At Oban Sheriff Court last week MacPhee pleaded guilty by letter and was fined £70.

Hotel worker brandished golf club

AN OBAN hotel worker found wandering the streets brandishing a golf club in the early hours of the morning was fined £160 Oban Sheriff Court last week. Arvin Olson Fagervold, aged 24, of 1b Knipoch Place, admitted disorderly conduct and breach of the peace at Knipoch Place on December 28 last year and brandishing a golf club in Miller Road, Oban on the same date. Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'He was stomping the streets to work off his frustration. This was very much out of character.'

Driver stole phones

A DELIVERY driver who stole two mobile phones from a haulage depot in Oban where he was employed has been fined £320. William Buick, aged 28, of 30 Rockfield Road, Tobermory admitted stealing the phones from the depot in Oban on October 21 and November 19 last year. Depute fiscal Carrie MacFarlane told Oban Sheriff Court: 'Following this incident he was sacked for misconduct.'

Buick told the court: 'I was going through a difficult patch and wasn't thinking straight. I'm sorry I did it.' Sheriff Brian Murphy said: 'I take into account that you are a first offender.'

Man started house fire

SENTENCE has been deferred on a homeless man who set fire to a sheltered housing unit in Alexandria. Alexander Barr, aged 47, whose address was given in court as Kerrera Lodge, Oban admitted setting fire to a newspaper and bed at Rosshead House, Alexandria on June 16 last year. Defence agent Duncan Durbin said: 'He has a lifetime history of alcohol dependency.' Sheriff Brian Murphy told Barr: 'I have to impress upon you the danger to life and limb that may have been caused by these actions.' Barr, who was remanded in custody, is due to appear back in court on May 19.

Soldier made hoax stabbing call from police cell

AN ARGYLL soldier used a mobile phone hidden in his underpants to falsely report a stabbing from a police cell in Oban. Ross Stephen MacLellan, aged 18, of Howe Barracks, Canterbury, has been ordered to perform 200 hours of community service after admitting stealing a mobile phone in George Street, Oban on February 11 this year and falsely reporting that a man

had been stabbed in Tweeddale Street, Oban on December 19 last year. MacLellan, a serving soldier with the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, also admitted a breach of the peace in Tweeddale Street the same day. Oban Sheriff Court heard last week that MacLellan has had problems in adjusting to civilian life after returning from active service in Afghanistan, described as a 'traumatic experience' for him. Depute fiscal Carrie MacFarlane said MacLellan was taken to Oban Police Office after being arrested for a breach of the peace in Tweeddale Street. Anonimus Mrs MacFarlane said: 'Policereceivedananonymous call stating that someone had been stabbed in Tweeddale Street. Police enquiries led

them to a mobile phone listed to the accused. The phone was then recovered from his underpants.' Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'Since returning from active service in Afghanistan he has sought solace in alcohol. When processed at the police station he managed to secrete a mobile phone on his person. He discovered that the alarm bell wasn't working in his cell and no water had been provided, so out of frustration he made this stupid call to try and 'wind the police up' in his words.' Sheriff Brian Murphy said: 'I give you credit for your army service and you may well have had a traumatic experience, but you must recognise that drink is not a cure.' MacLellan was also put on probation for 18 months.



You can email your Lorn news to lornlines@obantimes.co.uk

OBAN Youth Forum is hosting the town's first Blue Light Disco, an event run in conjunction with Strathclyde Police. Police officers will help steward the event, alongside youth workers, and everyone attending will be breathalysed on the door. The event, for high school pupils in S1-S4, takes place at Skipinnish Ceilidh House this Saturday. Meanwhile Oban is preparing to host the Argyll and Bute Youth Forum annual meeting on June 5. As part of the day, which will be used to elect youth forum office bearers and Argyll members of the Scottish Youth Parliament, there will be outdoor activities with Stramash. There will also be a report from Argyll representatives on the youth parliament.



Members of the community joined Kathleen Griffin of the Post Office in congratulating Dalmally sub postmistress Gill Chrystal on her award. (18post01)

Top awards for two Argyll post offices

THE SUB postmistress of Dalmally, Gill Chrystal, will be hoping for a happy birthday when she attends the final of the UK's best Post Office branch. Dalmally has already secured The People's Post Office Awards' Best Community Post Office in Scotland title but Gill will be hoping she wins the top prize at the ceremony on May 21 - her birthday. She will be joined at the London ceremony by Tarbert sub postmaster Duncan Henderson, who claimed the Heart of the Community title for Scotland. Gill said: 'I couldn't believe it when they told me I had won; I thought it was a wind up.' Gill won the community award by virtue of nominations from her own customers. 'It shows the customers appreciate what I do here. That is what it's all about, she added. 'In a small community situation like this you share people's happy times and their sad times.'

The current village post office only opened in 2004, the same year Gill took over as sub-postmistress from Brenda Bruce. However, in that short time it has become the villagers' unofficial meeting place. David Fellowes, chairman of Glenorchy and Innishail Community Council, said: 'The post office is highly efficient and very friendly. Gill's award is well deserved.'

Tarbert Post Office won the Heart of the Community Award for its involvement in charity work. It consistently supports Marie Curie Cancer research and other national and local charities. Sub postmaster Duncan Henderson said: 'We are very honoured to have got this award. It is nice to be appreciated by your customers.'

Mr Henderson and his wife Elizabeth have managed Tarbert Post Office for more than 30 years. The couple are hoping to retire later this year.

£100m plans to upgrade danger road are 'safe'

Budget cuts will not stop work on A82, assures Scottish government

PLANS to upgrade the A82 - one of Britain's most dangerous roads - will be unaffected by the public service cuts announced by chancellor Alistair Darling in the 2009 budget. That was the message from the Scottish government which has exclusively told *The Oban Times* that it will stick to its ambitious plans for improvements to the road costing between £100 and £250 million. Mr Darling announced plans to make £9 billion in 'efficiency savings' every year until 2014 and to find an additional £5bn in efficiency savings in 2010-11, on top of a total of £30bn in the current spending review period. Scottish finance minister John Swinney estimated that would mean £500m of cuts next year for Scotland, leading to fears that the recently announced plans for the A82 would be shelved. However, a spokesman for the Scottish government said it was committed to fully implementing its plans for improving the road. 'We have announced ambitious plans for the A82 as part of the strategic transport projects review (STPR) which sets out our priorities for transport investment,' said the spokesman. 'As part of this we have committed to fully implementing the A82 Route Action Plan - the first time any government has given such a commitment, and that commitment remains. 'The total estimated cost of full implementation is between £100-£250 million and this includes improvements between Tarbert and Inveraman. This investment, and the wider package of measures identified for the A82, will allow us to deliver vital improvements to a key route for Argyll and Bute and for Scotland. 'The spending cuts announced by the chancellor in his budget are for the period 2010-11. However, the STPR outlines our transport investment priorities from 2012 onwards.' The review, announced by Scottish transport minister, Stewart Stevenson in December last year promise between 2012 and 2022 to 'significantly improve the standard of the A82', reducing accident rates, accident severity and cutting journey times on the major trunk route into the west Highlands. The improvements are to include a 'general upgrade' of the route with measures such as road widening at selected locations between Tarbert and Inveraman and between Corran Ferry and Fort William. Climbing lanes and overtaking lay-bys are also to be added accompanied by road realignments, junction improvements, hard strips and safety cameras to create safer overtaking opportunities and more reliable and safer routes. Over the last few years campaign groups, the A82 Partnership and the Demand A82 Upgrade saw west Highland communities and political representatives united behind calls for an upgrade to the road which they described as the 'most dangerous in Britain'.

PARENTS and professionals who work with those with autism heard from an expert with firsthand experience at a conference organised by Autism Argyll at the Cairnbaan Hotel last week. Australian academic and author Wendy Lawson, who was herself diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder in the 1990s, talked about her own experience of Asperger's Syndrome and explored how those with the condition learn and react to different situations. Alison Leask, chairwoman of Autism Argyll, said the aim of the conference was to give an insight into the condition for those living and working with it. She said: 'It is about giving a different view point about living with autism and what it's like.' She added that holding events to raise awareness was just one of the organisation's many activities. It also has books and resources, available through Argyll and Bute libraries, and offers speakers.



Oban Sea Cadets Cameron MacCuish and Emma McCrae with the royal navy's commander Ian Pickles, lieutenant Clara Hewitt, lead seaman Alex Herriot and marine Shane Maddison. (19navy01)

REPRESENTATIVES of the royal navy have praised the quality of recruits from the Highlands and islands as they gave a presentation in Oban. The navy is touring the UK to inform the public of its role in the modern-day armed forces. The royal navy and royal marines are in Afghanistan and are expecting the delivery of a new attack submarine, HMS Astute, and a new Type 45 Destroyer, HMS Daring. Commander Ian Pickles said: 'I'm here to get public support for what we are doing. The UK is the sixth largest trading nation in the world, moving 95 per cent of its exports by sea. And contrary to popular belief the UK merchant shipping is increasing, so the role of the royal navy is as crucial as ever.' The presentation in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls was well attended and some of the audience expressed an interest in joining the navy. Oban Sea Cadets were also present. Commander Pickles added: 'We find that there is not necessarily a large quantity of recruits from this area but there is a high quality. In particular we have had some recruits from Islay and Jura who have been of a very high standard. We usually find that if one person joins from an area, there is a knock-on effect and others can follow.'

£60m up for grabs

COMMUNITIES in the West Highlands are being urged by Highlands and Islands MSP Jamie McGrigor to apply to the Scottish government's £60 million town centre regeneration fund.

Village road crossing plea rejected

RESIDENTS of a village cut in two by the A83 have been told they have not had enough accidents to justify a pedestrian crossing. Tarbert and Skipness Community Council wrote to trunk roads authority Transport Scotland to express their long-running concerns about safety for shoppers, school children and tourists who have to cross Tarbert's busy main road. Even though the road is used by heavy goods vehicles bringing supplies to Kintyre and a rise is predicted in timber lorries passing through the village in coming years, they were also told there is not enough traffic to make a controlled crossing necessary. Ken Aitken, of Transport Scotland, replied to the community council: 'A review of pedestrian crossing facilities on the A83 at Tarbert was carried out in 2003 and this concluded that the vehicle and pedestrian flows did not provide sufficient justification for providing signal controlled crossing in Tarbert village.' Mr Aitken added: 'In the last five-year period, there were two injury accidents in Tarbert, neither of which involved pedestrians.' Wilma Watts, secretary of the community council, said: 'It's pretty dire if people have got to get hurt before you can have a crossing.'



Youngsters from Oban High School's Stramash Youth Board at Ganavan beach with the 'X' to remind people to vote. (18vote01)

European elections reminder

SOME people might be missing out on the opportunity to vote in the coming European parliament elections in June without even knowing it. National Register to Vote Week is asking people to ensure they are registered to vote before May 19. 'We want to make sure that no-one misses out on their right to take part in these elections just because they aren't registered to vote,' said Nigel Stewart, local returning officer for Argyll and Bute. 'Some people think they are automatically registered once they pay council tax but that isn't the case.' If you want to know if you are registered or want an application form contact the Electoral Registration Office on 0800 980 0470 or visit www.dab-vjb.gov.uk. May 19 is also the deadline for applying for or cancelling or changing a postal vote.

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OUT NOW

The Oban Index has all the local numbers you need. Available from all good newsagents, local supermarkets and the Oban Times office.

Islay

Your correspondent is Susan Campbell: 01496 850215

A warm welcome to Islay

ISLAY'S popular visitors' welcome evenings are organised by Islay and Jura Tourism and Marketing Group.

The evenings are held weekly on Monday nights at 8pm through to the end of October and are hosted at various venues around the island. Admission is free.

Each week, different short informative talks and slide shows are presented, showing interesting Islay places and wildlife.

Visitors are also entertained with traditional music, song and dance.

The welcome evening schedule is: May 11 - Lagavulin Distillery; May 18 - Port Charlotte Field Centre.

Goldfish need new home

THE NEW art block at Islay High School will soon be under construction, and the school is looking to re-home four large goldfish which are in a pond outside the current art rooms.

Anyone with a pond who would like some goldfish should contact the school on 810239.

Tall Ships to visit Port Ellen?

PORT Ellen Harbour Association is leading an effort to attract the Tall Ships to Islay on their cruise from Greenock to Lerwick in 2011.

Cruise organisers are asking any ports that can offer a sheltered anchorage along the cruise route to act



Lochaber sea cadets enjoyed their visit to the Oban War and Peace Museum.

Sea Cadets enjoy visit to museum

JUNIOR Sea Cadets from TS *St Christopher* enjoyed a visit to some of Argyll's most historic places recently as part of their junior training syllabus.

First on the itinerary was a visit to the Lord Nelson memorial in Taynuilt, built by the foundrymen of the Bonawe ironworks.

One section of the cadets went on a tour of the Oban War and Peace museum, ably guided by the museum staff - all ex-servicemen.

Oban was a busy place during the war

and as well as the military artefacts which were on display, the cadets were also fascinated to see some of the cargo which had been salvaged from the SS *Breda*, which sank in the Sound of Mull in 1940 while bound for India.

Junior Cadet Callum Ivetic, one of the unit's newest members, said: 'I really liked seeing all the old shell cases and the uniform badges.'

'I never realised that there were so many different ones!'

Museum director Bill Leech said:

'We've been delighted to be able to pass on some of the history of the area, and it was great that the cadets were also able to meet John Boyd who had served with the Coastal Forces at HMS *St Christopher* in Fort William during part of the war.'

The Lochaber Unit currently has places for some cadets aged ten and eleven.

Interested young people should contact civilian instructor Candy McFarlane on 01967 402303.

as hosts. The chance for the public to visit one of these rare vessels must not be missed.

Half of the crews, from many countries, are young people aged between 16 and 24, and they will be working alongside the professional crew members.

Most ships will have sports teams anxious to test themselves against those on shore, and social events will give everyone the chance to meet the crews.

Killin

Your correspondent is Judy Forster: 01567 820298

Closure of Ben Lawers Visitor Centre

THE NATIONAL Trust for Scotland Ben Lawers Mountain Visitor Centre did not open as planned on April 1, although the trust will still

manage the National Nature Reserve for conservation and access.

The nature reserve will continue with the programme of guided walks and events.

The recession has been the cause of the cuts and in a bid to reduce operating costs, closure was inevitable. Visitor numbers have decreased and the net cost of operating the existing centre has contributed to the trust's operating deficit, while costs of maintaining the existing building were increasing. Other factors have added to the financial costs.

A review has proposed that the centre be replaced with an unmanned interpretive centre which would be available throughout the year.

As the project progresses, information will be available at the National Trust Office, Killin.

Library re-opens

THE NEWLY refurbished Killin Library was re-opened with a performance by musicians from the Blend Concert.

The refurbishment includes more computers and an automatic booking system.

Killin Heritage Society combined with the Killin News presented an electronic photo frame to the people of Killin to be held at the library to allow its archive of electronic photographs to be displayed to the public. The photographs have been scanned from those given or lent to the heritage society. It is hoped that anyone who has photographs will share some of these with the heritage society.

Photographs can be copied and returned. Of particular interest would be any photographs that show places, events and people taken up to 1980.

April report from the Provost of Lochaber

FOLLOWING on from last month, we did get more than 140 young people from all over Lochaber at Feis Lochabair.

Travelling down the A830 is now so much quicker and easier - more of that later.

Although we had to change venue because of the refurbishment of Lochaber High School, we had a very successful week followed by an excellent Friday afternoon ceilidh provided by the youngsters and supported by local councillors. And yes that egg was real and very heavy!

A royal visit by the Duke of Kent to officially open the Mountain Rescue Centre and Fire Station along with a trip to the re-opening of Arisaig station, by the Preservation Trust, were among pleasant invitations, as was the launch of Billy MacIsaac's Songs for Lochaber to raise more funds for the Hydrotherapy Pool.

The official opening, by the Transport Minister, of the new section of the Road to the Isles was certainly an auspicious occasion, brightened by the two young pipers and the song and music of pupils of Arisaig Primary School. I will leave all the details of the day to others but wish to congratulate everyone involved in the 75-year campaign to get double track status. I will be writing to my good friend Iain McCalman about his song.

On the same day a site visit to the new hostel reassured all three ward councillors that work was back on track, with all the engineering modifications having been done by the contractor at no extra expense to the council. A full update will be given in next

month's Westword, but I can assure you it will be the envy of five star hotels with the wonderful views over the Sound of Sleat to the islands.

The revamping of the tourist office in the High Street of Fort William has certainly been welcomed by the tourist industry, but the lack of such information points in the rural areas is still a source of disappointment. There is no prospect of this old structure being recreated in the near future because of a shortage of finance.

A beautiful West Highland day made the trip out, via Eigg, to the Rum Community Trust annual general meeting all the more enjoyable. It certainly is good to have Charlie King re-elected as chairman as we move towards full control of the area around Kinloch.

With most of the community councils being visited and a talk on Mallaig and district and the opportunities now being afforded to business because of the new road and the proposed harbour yachting development to Fort William Chamber of Commerce, I certainly haven't been bored during the Easter break.

In fact an open invitation is extended to any business interested in joining the chamber. Just contact Peter Hamling on peterhamling@live.co.uk.

I still don't have permission for the Model T to be taken to the top of Ben Nevis but will keep trying and thank you all for your support. Watch this space.

Allan Henderson, Councillor Ward 12, Caol and Mallaig.

Around the Rurals

Salen

THE APRIL meeting began with a short business meeting.

This was followed by a talk by Marie Gregg and Hazel Cowe who spoke about the need for re-cycling. They both made it a very informative session and it was interesting to hear about the history of re-cycling as none of the members realised it went back so far.

They spoke about the tons of re-cycled goods which are regenerated on Mull alone. Hazel handed out blue bags to those who didn't already have one. They also looked for new volunteers. The talk ended with questions and answers.

Competition: Apple and Sultana Loaf - I Eileen Slorach.

Fionnphort

THE APRIL meeting started with a report from Sue Reed and Anita Tunstall, who had attended a two-day course on French Polishing.

All the participants had a great time, although it was hard work and required lots of elbow grease.

Members were pleased to welcome federation committee members on a triennial visit. This was a first introduction for several most recent members. They heard about the role of the federation

in promoting interaction between the institutes of Mull and Tiree and with the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) HQ and around Scotland, and encouraged everyone to take part in the wide range of events and activities open to members. Business concluded, everyone enjoyed refreshments and conversation.

Dervaig

DERVAIG'S April meeting was an entirely 'in-house' affair - member Jeanette Cutlack talked about sugarcraft and demonstrated her skills, showing members how she makes beautiful lifelike sugar flowers and also more 'funky' flowers for cupcakes and other cakes of all shapes and sizes.

Jeanette is self-taught from videos, books and the internet but the decorations she produced using sugar paste and/or flower paste looked professional and attractive.

She assured everyone that it is easier than it looks but that it can be time-consuming and one must not get impatient waiting for bits to dry and that the biggest hazard is picking up hairs in the icing - shut your cats and dogs away before starting!

She showed members photographs of some of the cakes she has made and decorated. One of her recent

successes was a celebratory cake for Mull Historical and Archeological Society. Another was the cake she made to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Salen SWRI. Her enthusiasm was infectious and everyone was encouraged to think beyond the 'sprinkle of icing sugar' to finish off cakes!

Linda Paterson thanked Jeanette for sharing her obvious enjoyment of this skill, and Elizabeth Smith and Pixie Wathen served up an excellent 'cuppa' and cakes to finish a good afternoon.

Kilchrenan

THE SWRI held an open night, with a presentation by Philip Price and Lizzie Rose on behalf of the Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

The audience was shown slides of the dangerous situations these volunteers have to face, sometimes working alongside the RAF and the Royal Navy. Philip admitted that the scariest thing for him was travelling in a helicopter!

After a delicious supper, a raffle was held and including entrance, £308 was collected and presented to Oban Mountain Rescue Team.

Forty people attended, 15 of whom were from other groups.

Glenorchy

NINE members of Glenorchy SWRI attended the end of season dinner at Glenorchy Lodge.

Everyone took great delight choosing from the range of dishes on the menu.

The dinner was a jovial affair with lots of talk and laughter and president Sandra Boardman thanked everyone for making it a good season.

She presented Pat Melville with a beautiful bouquet of flowers for her work as secretary over the past years.

Valerie was presented with the Croggan Craft Cup for most points in monthly competitions - 21 points. Helen Gibson came a close second with 17 points and was presented with the Isobel MacIntyre Salver. June Taylor finished in third place with 16 points.

A free raffle was held with gifts donated by The Green Welly Stop. A good time was had by everyone.



Historical society visits graveyard

Appin Historical Society, led by local historian Iain Thornber, visited the graveyard at Annat, Appin, on April 18. It was noted with dismay that the old parish church, built in 1749, was in a poor state of repair with ivy and trees in danger of destroying the building completely. Mr Thornber explained how to interpret some of the old gravestones, some of which are being eroded by lichen.



Argyll Bird Club visits Islay for spring meeting

Argyll Bird Club held its recent spring meeting on Islay with 46 members meeting at the Islay Natural History Trust field centre in Port Charlotte for Islay-related talks. Two mornings of bird trips around the island saw 114 species recorded, including three rarities on Gruinart Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reserve: a long-billed dowitcher, lesser yellowlegs and green-winged teal. Corncrake were heard and summer migrants noted. The club meets twice a year on the mainland, holding a full day's lectures in spring and autumn.

LOCHAWA RESCUE BOAT FUND RAISING CAMPAIGN

The Oban Times is pleased to promote and support fundraising efforts in a bid to purchase a search and rescue boat to serve the local area.

Recent tragic events have highlighted once again just how dangerous the lochs and rivers of our beautiful part of Argyll can be. 'Loch Ness and Loch Lomond have rescue boats - but Loch Awe doesn't have one. Yet there have been more lives lost on Loch Awe in the past 10 years than Loch Lomond and Loch Ness put together.' - Donald MacGregor, Kerrera

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A WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Sixty days for Corpach wine thief

A CORPACH man threatened to assault supermarket staff if they tried to stop him stealing a bottle of wine.

John William MacLellan, aged 21, of 29 Clerk Drive, was jailed for 60 days after admitting stealing the wine, disorderly conduct, uttering threats and breach of the peace at Morrisons Superstore, Fort William, on April 11.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court staff refused to sell MacLellan alcohol because he was heavily intoxicated.

Ms Smith said: 'He wouldn't accept this and became aggressive and abusive. He was asked to leave and initially did, but returned a short time later with the bottle of wine and made threats to staff.'

'He was later found in a nearby underpass. He had broken the neck of the bottle off and was drinking it.'

Defence agent Hamish Melrose said: 'Drink was a major factor in this offence.'

Custody for offensive calls man

SENTENCE has been deferred on a man who made offensive telephone calls and spat on police officers after being arrested.

Ibrahim Ouadi, aged 27, of 7 Moss Road, Caol, admitted persistently making abusive telephone calls to a female between February 1 and 3, and on April 5 this year, from his home address.

Ouadi also admitted assault on Fort William High Street and disorderly conduct, breach of the peace and assaulting police officers by spitting on them at Fort William Police Station on April 18 this year.

Ouadi was remanded in custody and is due to appear in court again on May 30.

Country day at Balmacara

BALMACARA is hosting a Country Day this Saturday, May 9, a free event offering a fantastic family day out with a host of attractions.

Organised by Lochalsh Woodland Park Community Group, Forestry Commission Scotland and the National Trust for Scotland, the event will run from 11am to 4.30pm at Lochalsh Woodland Park.



Susan Carstairs and Kay Boulton of Lochaber Environmental Group at the launch of the Renew project. f19renew01

New scheme makes it easier to turn Lochaber homes 'green'

SMALL-SCALE green power schemes in Lochaber are set to receive a major boost under a new information exchange on renewable energy.

Around 35 delegates gathered in the council chambers, Fort William, last Thursday to see Lochaber Environmental Group (LEG) unveil its 'Renew' initiative, set up to enable local people to share knowledge on how best to tap into renewable sources of power.

Councillor Brian Murphy chaired the launch.

The group, based at An Drochaid in Claggan, has produced a leaflet explaining the Renew scheme, which will be widely distributed locally.

Under the slogan 'make your home a greener place', the leaflet is designed to put anyone

interested in installing environmentally friendly wind turbines, heat pumps, solar panels and other renewable systems in touch with those who already have.

LEG development officer Kay Boulton told *The Oban Times*: 'If, for example, someone wanted to put in a small hydro scheme and was coming up against problems, we can put them in touch with someone who has experience in installing such schemes, which will help them avoid some of the pitfalls.'

'This network of local people will then build up and will allow us to visit to case studies of renewable energy projects, which we will put on our website so other people can learn from those experiences.'

More information from Kay Boulton at LEG on 01397 700090.

Skye student switches to flour power!

Mill invention wins rave reviews

Exclusive

By STEPHEN NORRIS

AN ISLE of Skye design student has invented a novel way of boosting local food production and keeping fit at the same time - a pedal-powered flour mill.

Fergus Walker, aged 24, from Camuscross, Sleat, a final year product design student at Dundee University, unveiled his new contraption at the Centre for Stewardship in Falkland in Fife on Friday.

The machine is powered through a flexible drive shaft - a world first, according to Fergus, connecting the rear wheel of a mountain bike to the portable mill.

With the miller in the saddle, a gearing mechanism on the drive shaft turns one small millstone on top of another inside the perspex-sided hopper, into which the grain is fed. Strong, high-grade wholemeal flour from Fife-grown wheat drops out the bottom at the rate of 120 pounds an hour - enough for 100 big loaves.

Fergus, a strong believer in developing ways for communities to increase their use of local produce in environmentally friendly ways, has already received rave reviews for his mill, which is to go on display with other products by art and design school graduates at a university show on May 23 to June 6.

Cumbrian firm Bread



Flour power: Fergus Walker, rear left, lets a colleague do the hard work! f19fergus01

Matters has already ordered one, indicating Fergus's foot-powered device has some commercial potential among energy-conscious niche bakers.

Fergus told *The Oban Times* he hit on the idea after finding how hard it was to buy locally milled flour, and decided a pedal-powered community mill was the answer - but is not counting on making a fortune from his invention just yet.

'We'll just have to see how much interest I get at the degree show. I'm interested not just in designing for individuals, but for the wider community - that's the way forward,' said Fergus.

'I wanted the mill to be human powered so you could appreciate how much effort went in to turning grain into flour,' he added.

The project won a £1,000 start up grant from O2's 'It's Your Community' fund.

Anniversary boost for charity funds

A KINLOCHLEVEN couple celebrated 50 years of married life together by asking friends and family not to buy gifts but instead give money to the charity caring for a terminally ill man.

Anne and Willie Walker were looking forward to a low-key celebration in the family home at 10 Riverside Road, but when they heard a close friend of their son Derek was suffering from inoperable brain tumours, they decided to act.

Rather than receive the usual barrowload of presents, wellwishers were asked to send donations to Macmillan Nurses, who are caring for Kevin Park in a hospice.

Kevin, aged only 42, and Derek, both military policemen, became close friends during a year-long posting to Kosovo. Derek is godfather to Kevin's young son.

Shortly afterwards Kevin, from Knaresborough, Yorkshire, was diagnosed with terminal cancer

and has only a short time to live. 'It seemed madness to want presents at our age,' Anne told *The Oban Times* at her home. 'What do you need when you reach our age - very little.'

'Kevin is completely paralysed now, is in a wheelchair and has no speech. He has a wee boy aged three and his wife is expecting another baby in June. He's hoping to still be there, but the outlook is not good.'

'We decided it might be a good

idea to give money to the Macmillan nurses caring for him - they are in with him 24 hours a day. Before we knew it we had £800 just from family and friends, mostly in the Kinlochleven area.'

'Willie and I would like to thank everyone who gave so generously - a lot of them were pensioners and friends we used to work with years ago.'

Anne and Willie were married on April 1 1959 in St Mary's, Glencoe.

Walker safe

HILLWALKERS are being advised to leave details of their intended route with police or relatives and then advise them of their safe return after an unnecessary search in Lochaber.

Members of Lochaber, Glencoe and RAF Kinloss mountain rescue teams conducted a search on Monday after a male was reported missing in Glen Nevis. It later emerged that the man had returned safely but failed to notify anyone.

Butcher bought drink for 13-year-old

A BUTCHER has been fined £150 after admitting buying alcohol for a 13-year-old girl.

Malcolm Monkman, aged 19, of 30 Kilmallie Road, Fort William, admitted committing the offence at a store in Caol on March 14 this year.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Smith told Fort William Sheriff Court the offence had come to the attention of police after a heavily intoxicated 13-year-old girl was taken to Belford Hospital.

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said Monkman had been approached by the girl, a friend of someone he knew, who asked him to buy two bottles of vodka.

Mr Kennedy said: 'The mistake he made was agreeing to go along with it.'

'The girl took the alcohol to a house where there were adults present, and discreetly took it upstairs and consumed it there.'

Mallaig gets insight into work of SNH

RESIDENTS from Mallaig and the surrounding area are being invited along to Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) evening reception in The Marine Hotel tonight (Thursday), from 7-9pm.

Andrew Thin, SNH chairman, will host the event, along with local area manager Kristin Scott, which has been arranged to update local people of the work of SNH in western Lochaber and the Small Isles.

Mr Thin said: 'The evening will provide an opportunity for informal discussion about the work of SNH in the area, what we do and why, giving people the opportunity to raise issues relating to the natural environment which are of interest to them.'

'This is about making senior people in SNH more accessible to the public and is also a really useful way for us to keep in touch with public perceptions of the organisation.'

'We certainly hope many people will be able to come along and we look forward to meeting them on the night.'

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Scottish Field HAVE A FRESH LOOK



School presented with new projector
 Councillor Donald Cameron presents one of two projectors to Fort William Primary School bought with money from Highland Council's discretionary budget. Councillor Cameron attended the school's monthly excellence assembly where the hard work and achievements are celebrated. f19school01

Man admits threatening to kill member of public

AN UNEMPLOYED Polish national was jailed for 45 days at Fort William Sheriff Court this week after admitting threatening to kill a member of the public in Fort William High Street.

Marek Onisko, aged 30, of 15 Walmer Crescent, Glasgow, admitted disorderly conduct, acting aggressively and breach of the peace in Fort William High Street on November 22 last year. Onisko, who is unemployed, also admitted being drunk and incapable and possession of a knife, also in Fort William High Street, on October 30 last year.

Procurator Fiscal Alison Smith said: 'On October 30, police in High Street found him lying on the ground smelling strongly of alcohol at around 3.30pm. He was arrested and taken to the police

station where a knife with a two-inch blade was found after a search. 'On November 22 he approached a member of the public and threatened to kill him if police did not get to him first.'

'Police attended and found him sitting on a pavement under the influence of alcohol. Onisko had in fact phoned the police himself.'

Defence agent Stephen Kennedy said: 'He did not realise it was an offence to carry a small knife in the UK.'

On the November charges Mr Kennedy added that Onisko remembered someone bumping into him while he was dancing and there was a confrontation later on.

Sheriff David Hall sentenced Onisko to 45 days in prison.

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Fun Times ahead at Atlantis play park

Generous donations from a number of charities and businesses enables play park to re-open

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 Telephone: 01631 710404
 Mobile: 07979 432186
 d.fergusonwelders@tiscali.co.uk

THE PLAY park at Atlantis Leisure has been at the heart of the toddlers social scene for 15-years in Oban - so the little ones were devastated when it had to be closed for health and safety reasons.
 As reported in The Oban Times the play park had to be closed due to wear and tear on equipment and immediate maintenance was required.
 But with a good effort, co-ordinated by Atlantis Leisure Manger Nick Wesley, the play park has been re- opened with super sonic speed. The fitness expert claims that with the help of local people, business and funding bodies it is possible to set our sight on building a play park that tots can be truly proud of.

just over six weeks.
 'And as soon as it was reopened there were children playing in it.
 'Oban man Andy MacDowell decided to start a Grand Raffle which will kick off the fund raising for a new play park. We want to raise enough money to provide an up to date play park that will last another fifteen years.'



The official opening in 1994 by Colline Campbell and Dave Petrie.

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 Sunday 11am - 3pm

'The play park was quickly opened back up thanks to generous donations from a number of charities and businesses including Glensanda Quarries, Lions Club, Cash for Kids Charity, Diageo and customer donations. We managed to raise £3500 in a

Andy, a gardener, was so disappointed that the play park had to close that he decided to write to Oban and Lorn businesses asking them to donate prizes towards the rebuilding of the play park.

Andy said: 'When we were working on the millennium garden it would fair cheer us up when the kids were playing in the park.' Oban Millennium Garden is situated right next to the play park.

Kerrie's Tyre Service
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 in support of the play park at Atlantis

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'There wasn't an hour of the day that went by without some youngster or another having fun in the park.
 'I was really annoyed when it was temporarily closed so I decided to start a raffle. I thought it would pay for the repairs but as they have now been done I thought it would be good to put them to replacing some of the equipment that is a bit worn.
 The raffle will be a great kick start to funds for the play park.'

15-years ago the park was opened by 4-year old Colline Campbell and politician Davie Petrie (pictured in 1993 and earlier on this month).

Colline said: 'I think I was chosen to open the park because I was the only one able to use scissors.'

'I have a wee boy of my own now, Daniel, and we love going up to the play park. When it was closed we were at a real loss of what to do - because there is no other play park for children of that age.'

'What a good thing it is that Andy MacDowell is trying to raise money for the play park. I know that my wee Daniel would love to play on a rocking dinosaur or a new tyre swing.'

Raffle tickets can be purchased at Atlantis Leisure or at any of the businesses giving away a prize.

The draw will be held at Atlantis Leisure Centre on June 1 followed by a kids fun day on the June 13 when prizes will be given to winners.

There will be the third Play Park meeting on Tuesday at 7pm at Atlantis Leisure to move forward a new play park, all are welcome at the meeting.

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All grown up: Dave Petrie rejoins Colline and her son at the play park

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Remand lesson for e-bay fraudster

A FORMER Oban man who used an e-bay account to obtain goods by fraud has been ordered to perform 150 hours of community service.

Michael Antonio Neves, aged 22, of 6 Keymers Close, Eastbourne, had earlier admitted obtaining a computer game, a jacket, a watch, a mobile phone and pair of boots through the unauthorised use of an e-bay account registered to another person on January 5, 2008 at an address in Oban.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said: 'I am advised that the lady in question suffered no financial loss.'

'He has been on remand since April 6 and has been like a fish out of water. He has learned his lesson.'

Sheriff Brian Murphy said: 'This was a fraud carried out against someone who tried to help you when you were in difficulties, that makes it so much worse.'

Bricklayer struck man on head with glass

AN OBAN bricklayer who struck a man on the head with a glass in a hotel has been ordered to perform 200 hours of community service.

Kenneth Campbell Bain, aged 21, of 3 Hyskier Gardens, Oban admitted assaulting the man on February 15 at the Woodside Hotel, Oban.

CCTV

Procurator fiscal Carrie MacFarlane told Oban Sheriff Court last week: 'The whole incident was captured on the hotel CCTV system. The victim suffered three-centimetre and two-centimetre gashes to the head.'

Defence agent Duncan Durbin said: 'The bar was very busy and he had been drinking for most of the day with friends as an Old Firm game had taken place.'

'Mr Bain was provoked by inappropriate remarks made by the complainant.'

Sheriff Brian Murphy said: 'I take a very serious view of someone using a glass in a public house. You are very close to a custodial sentence.'

Whisky pair jailed

WHEN a shop in Campbeltown was broken into last Wednesday morning the majority of the haul was dummy shop display whisky bottles.

The following day at Campbeltown Sheriff Court, two men - Richard Wilson, aged 35, and George Paton, aged 37, both of flat 9, 26 Main Street, Campbeltown were - were each sentenced to eight months in prison for their parts in the break in.

Wilson admitted breaking into the shop premises owned by J and A Mitchell and stealing bottles of whisky and rum plus dummy bottles of spirits. Paton admitted resetting the property.

Procurator fiscal Alastair McSparran said: 'High value alcohol was taken, with a total value of £510. Goods worth only £35 were recovered.'

• Do you have a story? Call our reporters on 01631-568000

Council social work department has made good progress

IMPORTANT improvements have been made in the social work department of Argyll and Bute Council over the past 18 months.

A follow-up report to the October 2007 inspection published this week by the Social Work Inspection Agency (SWIA) says that the council department is continuing to improve and has seen good progress in

many areas. No fewer than 24 recommendations were made in the original report, while the evaluation of the core functions were either 'adequate' or 'weak' with only one area 'good'.

Care

Among the areas of progress highlighted by the follow-up report was the reduction in the number of children being placed in care

and their involvement in the development of services.

Performance in free personal care had seen Argyll and Bute jump from 26th in Scotland to 6th out of 32 authorities in 2007-08 for those over 65 years.

Suitable

Argyll and Bute is also meeting its target to ensure no older person is unduly delayed from being

discharged from hospital into suitable accommodation. Social work staff are more positive at all levels about perceived openness and input on how services can be shaped, said the report.

Councillor Donald McIntosh, Argyll and Bute's spokesman for social services, said he was pleased with the progress made. 'The SWIA inspectors

have recognised the hard work and dedication of all staff in improving the service and the results of that work to date,' he said.

'Indeed, they have found progress has been made on every recommendation in the original report. 'However, we will not be complacent and remain committed to seeking ways of improving the service.'

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Donnie MacDougall, Dalmally, Catherine Gillies, project officer for the Homecoming at Dunollie and Coll MacDougall, Oban. ©1998ag01

New MacDougall flag will be raised at Dunollie Castle

TO help mark the Homecoming 2009 celebrations at Dunollie Castle, the North America Society of the Clan MacDougall has presented the seat of the clan with a new flag.

The nine-foot-long flag is to be raised at Dunollie Castle at a special ceremony on Wednesday July 22, in the middle of the week-long Homecoming celebrations being staged at the castle.

On the flag is the clan motto: Buaidh no Bas (Victory or Death), as well as the clan crest of the MacDougalls, the lion rampant and two arms holding cross ficht.

The cross ficht mean that somewhere in the Clan MacDougall history a member of the clan fought in one of the Crusades.

It is believed that Duncan, son of Dugall the first, was one of those who fought as he was known to be a medieval knight.

The flag will be formally handed

over to Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, the 31st clan chief on July 22 by a member of the North America Society and after being raised at the castle will be flown there on high days and holidays.

Alastair MacDougall, head chef at Cuan Mor in Oban, will provide the food at a reception following the ceremony.

In the evening a formal dinner, following a reception by Argyll and Bute Council, is being held in the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, with Libby Shaw, a cousin of the MacDougalls, and her band playing and Donnie MacDougall of Seil performing as the official piper throughout the day.

A large contingent of MacDougalls from overseas are expected to arrive for the MacDougall Homecoming week, which includes The Hidden Jewel, a walking theatre performance at Dunollie.

Cycle path is on right road

By CHRISTINE McCARTNEY

THE DEVELOPMENT of a new long-distance cycle path, designed to draw sporty tourists to the west coast, is powering ahead, despite tricky negotiations with several landowners.

Eventually the completed sections will link up in a long-distance national cycle route, running from Campbeltown to Inverness, via Oban and Fort William.

Stretches from the Sealife Centre through Barcaldine to the Creagan roundabout and from Ganavan to Dunbeg are the latest to be resurfaced. Along with the path from Appin and Portnacraoish, due to be tarmaced within weeks, a total of ten miles between Oban to Ballachulish will be in place by this summer.

Katharine Taylor, national cycle network development manager for Sustrans Scotland, said once finished the route will be a great asset to those living along it and visitors to the area.

The next sections to be

Ten miles of Oban to Fort William route is completed

developed will depend on discussions with landowners. She said: 'There is lots of it still under negotiation. But we are hoping, as people see that it is beneficial in terms of attracting tourists and community links, they will understand that we don't want any gaps.'

After reports that quad and motorbike riders had been tempted onto the newly tarmaced surfaces, Ms Taylor confirmed motorised vehicles are not permitted on the new cycle paths. However, she added it was tricky to prevent them accessing the cycle path without also restricting legitimate users: 'It is extremely difficult to put up anything that will prevent motorcycles and not prevent wheelchairs, tandems, buggies and reclining cycles, which we don't want to do. The best way to deter motorised vehicles is to have lots of other

people on the paths - sort of community surveillance.'

Specially designed access gates, featuring an ancient Birlinn galley, are to be installed, along with signs, seating, sculptures and poetry written by children from Ballachullish Primary.

Argyll and Bute Council has made the path a priority in its local transport strategy. A spokeswoman said: 'We consider the Oban to Fort William Cycleway to be a very significant project in terms of tourism, recreation and the associated economic development. We've had a long-standing commitment to it and work closely with Sustrans and Highland Council to ensure its development.'

Transport Scotland will build another four miles of off-road cycle path from Ballachulish to Glencoe this summer at a cost of £500,000.

Hospice work could start next year

BUILDING work on a hospice for Oban could begin next year - if funding is in place.

The third AGM of the Oban Hospice board last week heard that work towards new end-of-life care facilities at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital were moving to a new phase.

Dr Mac Armstrong, chairman of trustees, said it was time for detailed discussions with architects and funders. He added: 'We will also be trying to make sure that all the money towards this comes together at the right time. Hopefully, we are in a position to be building in financial year 2010, but we can't finalise that yet.'

A project board has been set up, bringing together NHS Highland, hospice trustees, architects and others involved in providing integrated palliative care in the Nelson ward area of the hospital.

Dr Armstrong said: 'The architects were able to confirm that the space we are looking at, which is not in use in the hospital, would contain everything we are hoping for.'

Around 18 people would be accommodated in the new unit, which will offer different kinds of care, including two high-spec hospice rooms with space for relatives. The hospital's existing ward C would be transferred into the new unit.

He added: 'Hospice care is much more than end-of-life care. What we are talking about is an integrated unit. The plans are that we will have two state-of-the-art palliative care rooms, but it's not the only place that palliative care will be carried out.'

More than £230,000 has been raised by hospice supporters over the past decade and NHS Highland will contribute funds to upgrade the ward.

David Whiteoak, the NHS's manager for Oban, Lorn and the Isles, said: 'We are in the early stages of planning this new development and we are working closely with Oban Hospice.'



Around 40 people took part in the sponsored walk along the old military road.

Legion walk follows old military route

WARM weather gave members of Inveraray and District Branch of the British Legion of Scotland a boost for their sponsored walk

last Saturday, May 2. About 40 walkers of all ages took part, walking on the combined operations memorial to Kenmore

village along the old military road. Jim Martin, branch secretary, said more than £400 was raised for branch funds.

Scottish Water slammed for treatment of Campbeltown

SCOTLAND'S consumer watchdog for the water industry has slammed Scottish Water for the way it has treated Campbeltown.

Waterwatch Scotland has found the water authority guilty of mismanaging wastewater treatment operations for the town and then 'systematically trying to rubbish the complaints of people affected when the sewage overflowed.'

Now Waterwatch Scotland is demanding a 'full and unequivocal apology' for the failure and the unacceptable number and duration of

sewage flooding and spills into Campbeltown Loch.

Properties have flooded, the pontoons have swamped with waste and the town has endured an appalling stench for years, yet the loch is classed as recreational water.

The failures go back to before the creation of Scottish Water, when West of Scotland Water decided to install an untried new system for Campbeltown in 2001, which failed to cope almost immediately.

Following the longest inquiry it has carried out,

Heather Brash, convener of Waterwatch Scotland said: 'This is a saga of poor planning compounded by the failure of anyone to take responsibility, which has meant huge amounts of money have been spent without providing the community with what it needs.'

'Local consumers have never been taken seriously by Scottish Water which tried to discredit the concerns of those who complained and sought to mislead the public.'

Campaigner Barbara Ellis,

who along with her husband Spencer and local farmer and community council member Mary Turner kept up the pressure on Scottish Water, said: 'We feel vindicated by this; it exonerates us all.'

Flawed Ms Brash said Waterwatch Scotland has 'little faith' in the multi-million pound solutions now being worked on in Campbeltown. 'Scottish Water has never acknowledged that the treatment works are fundamentally flawed,' she said.

Scottish Water said it

was 'disappointed' with the Waterwatch Scotland report.

'We believe it contains factual inaccuracies and expresses positions which are not justified by the facts,' said a spokesman for Scottish Water, who said the authority was making good progress on its work to improve the Campbeltown system, which remains one of its priorities.

He added: 'We are sorry that our customers in Campbeltown have suffered delays in some of the work we have carried out but, by its very nature, this has been

a protracted process and has involved various agencies.'

Scottish Water says that when it was formed in 2002 it inherited a Victorian combined sewer and surface water system in Campbeltown which was unable to cope but it has since made 'significant investment which has tackled some of the issues'.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid said: 'Scottish Water should accept the recommendations and apologise to the people of Campbeltown for its many mistakes.'

Witness was offered £1,000 bribe

A 20-YEAR old man offered a prosecution witness a £1,000 bribe to change his evidence, Campbeltown Sheriff Court heard last week.

Darroch Fulton of 3 Longriggs, Clachan, admitted approaching the witness on December 19 last year in a bar in Tarbert and offered him the cash; Fulton was due to stand trial, along with others, after an incident in a hotel in the village.

Procurator fiscal Alastair McSparran said: 'Fulton said he wanted to take the blame for the whole incident and wanted the witness to say it had just been Fulton behaving badly.'

'When the witness said no, Fulton then asked the man if he could destroy the CCTV video from the incident and ask the other prosecution witness if he would take money to alter his evidence.'

Sheriff Ruth Anderson QC called for reports on Fulton, saying she was considering a custodial sentence.

Sentence was deferred until May 27.

Oban hosts convention

MORE than 400 people of all ages will be descending on Oban this weekend for the Scottish Alcoholics Anonymous convention.

Based at the Corran Halls, members will be getting together on the Friday evening for an open meeting and a social event.

Two closed meetings, for members only, will take place on the Saturday and Sunday mornings and another open meeting followed by a dance with local band Blue Turned Grey on Saturday evening.

AA's sister fellowship Al-Anon will also be holding meetings at the Corran Halls over the weekend.

Witnesses sought to assaults

TWO MEN were assaulted after they left a function at Oban Rugby Club in the early hours of Sunday morning.

It is believed the men, aged 40 and 43, were set upon by two other men.

While Oban police are following a positive line, they are keen to speak to any witnesses to the incident and can be contacted on 01631 510500.

Thieves target Soroba property

OBAN Police are investigating two thefts and an attempted break-in which all occurred in one night in and around the Soroba area of Oban.

Between Wednesday and Thursday last week thieves took electronic equipment, including an i-Pod, from a works van in Cowan Place, off Glengallan Road.

Around the same time, in Soroba, a silver BMX was stolen from Scalpay Terrace and there was an attempted break-in at a house in Colonsay Terrace, also in Soroba.

Anyone with any information regarding these incidents should contact Oban Police Station.

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Your Stars with Patrick Arundell

ARIES Mar 21st - Apr 20th
This week your personal expression is freed from the Venus/Pluto clash and the chances are that your natural sex appeal will be boosted and you can enjoy some flirtatious moments. Yet one friend you're drawn to may not be the dreamboat that they seem. Financially, look to an old document or policy, they may be more valuable than you think. Call now for your financial forecast in full...

TAURUS Apr 21st - May 21st
Memories from your past or an old flame may have proved an evocative draw of late. At least the emotional intensity around these can lessen enough for you to be more reasoned. A new idea of yours may not however, receive the immediate blessing of your peers, but one rather more unusual person can grasp what you are saying in a trice. Call your special prediction line for more news...

GEMINI May 22nd - Jun 21st
A plan can stall due to incorrect information and crossed wires. Friends can urge you on, but if this is your project you have to run with it in your own way. Because of such confusing conditions it may be better to switch your attention to your social activities. There can be the odd glitch here too, but generally things are bubbly - especially for a group trip. Call me for more news and astral advice...

CANCER Jun 22nd - Jul 23rd
Some of the heavy scenes at work can now start to abate. However, that doesn't mean you won't still have to deal with the full on. Blessings is now more in your hands. Just be conscious of politics and have the courage to take a lead. The exciting side of this week is that a pal can invite you last minute to see a show or film and you can have a blast. Call me now for your in-depth forecast...

LEO Jul 24th - Aug 23rd
The objections of others can seem far less pronounced, and rather than being held back by tiresome constraints, you can follow your heart. This week can also see a lucky Lion enjoy international travel or you could find yourself journeying linked to work. Surprises abound professionally but a snap decision may be needed to capitalise on this. Call your special Leo prediction line for more advice...

VIRGO Aug 24th - Sep 23rd
Your ruling planet shifts a gear and asks you to think carefully about any public role you have, professionally or voluntarily. There can still be intensity to your love life, with anyone remotely mysterious intriguing you, but recent dramas can be less pronounced. If booking a holiday is on your mind, you may choose a more fascinating destination. Call me now for your love scope in full...

LIBRA Sep 24th - Oct 23rd
Relationships can be less turbulent than of late, if perhaps not perfect. May could turn out to be a very important month for all kinds of bonds but you will need to work at it, but romantically fortune is possible. In professional ties, the sticking point this week can be a contract. Someone may be playing fast and loose with the facts. So, stay sharp eyed. Call now for your love scope in full...

SCORPIO Oct 24th - Nov 23rd
Someone a bit different can capture your imagination. Uranus, the planet of surprises, is well received by your sign so despite your love of familiarity, a quirky outlook can often be like a breath of fresh air. And so it can be this week. However, in a close relationship, if you project any hope for perfection onto a partner, it may prove to be in vain. Call me now for more news and astral advice...

SAGITTARIUS Nov 23rd - Dec 21st
Whatever major indulgences tempt you, your willpower to avoid them may recently have reached rock bottom. Now such yearnings can come from a less emotional level. Yet the lines of communication become blurry. To keep relationships on an even keel ensure that what you say is clearly understood. You may also snaffle a new appliance for home. Call me for more advice...

CAPRICORN Dec 22nd - Jan 20th
A compromise can help heal a family rift, whether it is over a stropky teenager, a change of decorative focus or an old memento. Perhaps, without even knowing it, you have been slightly intimidating. You can find yourself playing host this week, but be sure that all your guests make some kind of contribution or you can end up feeling used. Call now for your financial forecast...

AQUARIUS Jan 21st - Feb 19th
Things can seem less embroiled in politics, and your naturally charming and quick witted ways are enhanced. Yet if you're set to meet someone for the first time this week, at the last minute this date could be cancelled or rearranged. Try to take this in your stride. Someone close, can however, be unexpectedly generous, which can see you smiling. Call your prediction line for more advice...

PISCES Feb 20th - Mar 20th
If you're looking to buy or sell a property, treble check all the information you prepare or read - there can be an oversight. Cash-wise, an upturn is possible. As much as there have been options there always seemed to be a catch, but this is less likely to be so. Yet spending money before you have it just won't be smart. A fitness campaign can be linked to cycling. Call me now for more...

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At the Cinema

Star Trek
CERT '12A'

J Abrams steps behind the producing and directing reins for this prequel to the original Star Trek. The film follows the story of the young crew's maiden voyage on board the most advanced starship ever created: the USS Enterprise. The action has been amped up and the new recruits must find a way to stop an evil being whose mission of vengeance threatens all of mankind and the fate of the galaxy rests in the hands of bitter rivals. One, James T. Kirk, is a delinquent, thrill-seeking Iowa farm boy. The other, Spock, was raised in a logic-based society that rejects all emotion.

X-MEN ORIGINS: WOLVERINE
CERT '12A'

Hugh Jackman reprises the role that made him a superstar as the fierce fighting machine who possesses amazing healing powers, retractable claws and a primal fury in this highly anticipated solo outing. Leading up to the events of X-MEN, the film tells the story of Wolverine's violent and romantic past, his complex relationship with Victor

Creed, and the ominous Weapon X program. Along the way, he encounters many mutants, both familiar and new, including surprise appearances by several legends of the X-Men universe whose appearances in the film series have long been anticipated.

Race To Witch Mountain
CERT 'PG'

For years, stories have circulated about a secret place in the middle of the Nevada desert, known for unexplained phenomena and strange sightings. It is called Witch Mountain, and when a Las Vegas cab driver finds two teens with supernatural powers in his cab, he suddenly finds himself in the middle of an adventure he can't explain. When they discover that the only chance to save the world lies in unravelling the secrets of the Mountain, the race begins, as the government, mobsters and even extraterrestrials try to stop them. Dwayne Johnson, The Rock stars in this entertaining high paced family action movie.

COFFEE MORNING
In aid of Beaton Pebble Appeal Building the Glasgow Centre for Cancer Research
More info at www.beatonpebbleappeal.org
Glencruitten Church Centre
Glencruitten Rd, Oban
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Admission by donation
Baking Stall

OBAN BACH CHOIR AND ORCHESTRA
Louise Child, soprano
Julie Martin-Carter, mezzo-soprano
Christopher Josey, tenor
Martin Shaw, bass
Conductor: Norman Nicholson
MENDELSSOHN'S 'ELIJAH'
St. John's Cathedral, Oban
Sat. May 16th 2009 at 7.30 pm
Seat with programme £6-00 (Concessions £5-00)

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Mendelssohn 'Elijah' comes to Oban

OBAN Bach Choir and Orchestra are preparing for their main concert of the season on Saturday, May 16, which is to be a performance of Mendelssohn's ever popular oratorio, 'Elijah', in this the 200th anniversary of the composer's birth.

Mendelssohn has links with both Oban and Bach, for he played an important part in the Bach Revival, most notably in 1829, when after two years of rehearsal, he conducted Bach's 'St Matthew Passion', 100 years after its first performance. The work had not been heard for over 90 years, and the historic revival was so well received, and oversubscribed, that two more performances were quickly arranged. By the time of the third performance Mendelssohn had set off for London on the start of several years of foreign travel, which would take in Oban, and, of course, Fingal's Cave.

Joining the society for the concert in St John's Cathedral will be a strong team of soloists, including two from Oban: the soprano Louise Child, and Bishop Martin Shaw in the title role.



Big Rory and his Dug

Plenty of youthful spirit at west festival

A SHEEPDOG which herds ducks and swooping birds of prey are just two of the activities to entertain children at the first Spirit of the West festival.

The Year of the Homecoming event, taking place at Inveraray Castle next weekend, May 16 and 17, will be a showcase for the heritage, culture, food and - of course, the whisky - of the west coast.

Nicky Murphy, event manager, said with a host of different activities, it would be a great family outing: 'Children are

more than welcome and it will be the perfect day out for all families.'

Other colourful characters wondering the festival will be Big Rory and his Dug, Hamish McHaggis and the award-winning Walking Theatre Company, who will be running special children's workshops.

On the programme for older guests are the Red Hot Chilli Pipers, whisky master classes and cooking demonstrations by top chefs.

There is no admission charge for children under eight and special family tickets are also

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The Oban Times & WEST HIGHLAND TIMES
What's On Guide
Various art courses available at Airdeny Chalets, contact Jennifer on 01866 822648
Thursday 7th May
Eddie Reader, Corran Halls, 7pm
Local Producers Market, Kintaline Farm, Benderloch 10am - 3pm
Saturday 16th May
Braevallich Nursery sale, Oban Livestock Centre, 10am - 5pm
Oban Bach Choir, 7.30pm, St John's Cathedral, Oban
Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th May
Spirit of the West, Inveraray Castle, 0871 2303380
Wednesday 10th June
Singing Kettle, Corran Halls, 01631 567333
WHAT'S ON GUIDE
CONTACT - 01631 568000

Notes and quotes

Spirit of the West

'Whisky, great food, drama, and song - the ingredients of any great weekend' some will say, and who could disagree? In order to sample all of the above, you are cordially invited to join the Duke of Argyll at the Campbell family home at Inveraray Castle for a grand weekend on May 16 and 17.

The Red Hot Chilli Pipers, fresh from their UK tour, which included fine gigs in Oban and Dunoon, get the action started at 11am on Saturday. The bag-rock specialists will get to any parts of you that the whisky master classes miss! More music throughout the weekend is provided by Robin Laing, Norma Munro, Tainuilt Gaelic Choir, and Clann and Drumma, who will create a storm of music with their tribal rhythms.

Nick Nairn hosts a food master class on the 17th and tickets are sure to be sought after as the TV chef creates fine cuisine on the spot. Amongst the other star chefs will be Shirley Spear of the Three Chimneys and Robert MacPherson from the Isle of Eriska Hotel.

And to the whisky...well! I have counted 16 distilleries that will be represented in the Dram room and the Whisky Theatre at the castle. Master classes, nosings and tastings will abound over the weekend with experts on hand to advise and inform - Ah! Book me a room - we are in heaven now!

More info at www.spiritofthewest.co.uk

Heb Celt festival

Now in its 14th year, the four day HebCelt festival which runs from July 15 - 18, in and around Stornoway goes from strength to strength. This year leading performers from the world of Celtic music will head for Lewis with the 2009 Year of the Homecoming as its centre theme.

This year the top names include, The Sharon Shannon Big Band, La Bottine Souriante, The Michael McGoldrick Band, The Blair Douglas Band, The Wilders, Karen Matheson, Fred Morrison, The Chair and Le Vent du Nord - all of whom will head west to the islands in mid July.

Tainuilt's own Queen of Gaelic song, Karen Matheson, said: 'I'm delighted to be performing at this year's event. I've performed there with Capercaille of course and I'm looking forward to returning. The mix of music, the setting and the excellent organisation always add up to a really enjoyable festival.'

Tickets can be secured online at www.hebcelfest.com or by telephone from May 5 on 01851 702333.

Runrig at Scone

News has broken of the support bands for Runrig's summer festival day at Scone Palace in August. Fans will be delighted that they will include The Peatbog Faeries and original Runrig band member Blair Douglas and his band. The Faeries website has also confirmed them for the Avalon stage at the Glastonbury Festival at the end of June - a little ahead of the official site! Meanwhile Scone will see Blair Douglas showcasing his recent album release 'Stay Strong' which has topped *The Oban Times* Highland charts earlier this year. The big day in the Palace ground is Saturday August 29.

Mystery man at Karan Casey gig

Colin Train debuted at the City Halls in Glasgow last week with his new album Days for the Driven in support of Irish singer Karan Casey. As I sat in the audience enjoying his cheeky style and lyrics supported by great guitar licks and trombone solos from his band, I couldn't help thinking Colin's face was familiar. Getting a word at halftime I mentioned this and he explained - 'I am one of the brass section with Skerryvore in my other life!' Mystery solved! Colin has a great individual style and his talents on the piano, keyboards and accordion, as well as his distinctive vocal style will serve him well.

Karan Casey herself entered the stage to entertain us with tunes from her new CD, Ships in the Forest and favourites from her earlier albums. She made best use of the Steinway grand piano provided in the recital rooms by organising for her producer to tickle the grand ivories. He is none other than Donald Shaw of Capercaille - a very good choice!

Gunna sounds great!

Campbell Brown and Johnny Scouler have released the first Gunna Sound Ceilidh Band CD, entitled Rollin' on the Sea.

We get real value for money from the boys as they treat us to 18 tracks ranging from jigs and Gaelic waltzes to the songs Speed of the Sound of Loneliness and The Galway Girl. Great support is provided by the boys in the band - Steven MacInnes on drums from Tobermory, Ross MacPherson on piano from Connel, Stuart Jackson on vocals from Lochaline and guitar maestro Finlay Wells from Oban. Angus MacPhail of Skipinnish fame sums it up best when he says 'they provide the listener with a combination of music, song and great craic that satisfies all the requirements of a proper west coast horo gheallaidh!' The band is in the Claredon Hotel, Oban on Friday, May 8.

Ceilidh Bandidos stir a storm in Benderloch

The 'Arts and Culture in Ardcattan' team put on a splendid family ceilidh in the Victory Hall on Saturday featuring travelling minstrels the Ceilidh Bandidos.

The evening was well attended and achieved that real 'family feel' as the gathering attracted dancers from five to 85 to take the floor. We were treated to an open mic session, much as a proper ceilidh should be, with many doing a 'turn.' Singing and dancing, clarsach playing and a great set on the Highland bagpipes followed and were MC'd expertly by the youngsters attending. The Bandidos were on great form and the Northumbrian pipes and two fiddles accompanied by the piano keyboard made a fine sound with the dances called by leader, Steve McNally. Look out for more culture over the summer! Plays, quizzes and ceilidhs are planned for the Victory Hall.

Robbie's Reel blend

Gary Innes and Ewan Robertson were showcased on Robbie Shepherds Reel Blend on Sunday with the new album Shouts featuring and meeting with complementary comments from the Scottish country dance and traditional music legend. The Boys are confirmed for the HebCelt festival and Gary gets a double outing with his accordion band - Box Club.

Boat Band highlights a big May at the Puffer.

The Legendary Boat Band will land at Easdale Islands Puffer Bar as part of the Scottish island tour on Friday May 15. While fans are delighted to welcome back the old favourites, The Puffer Bar 'mine hostess' Karen Cafferty tells me that they arrive as half of two special gigs they are putting on in May. Gig two on May 23 features Hannah O'Reilly and special guest Eddie Robinson. 'Hannah played the hall last year and was desperate to return to the island this year,' said Karen. She assures us there will be a late boat at 11pm on both nights and the music kicks off at 8.30pm.

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Master accordionist Tom Orr from Hyndford Bridge won the Lagavullin Distillery Trophy. t19festsat23



Andrew Scott from Oban pipped his brother Cameron at the post for the Highlands and Islands Music Festival trophy for under 14s chanter. t19festsat18



Sandy Cameron from Roybridge took home seven trophies and medals from the junior piping competitions including the Highlands and Islands Dance and Music Festival trophy. t19festsat38



Scott MacLean from Kilmartin won the trophy for the Hornpipe and Jig. t19festsat39



Jack Smedley from Cullen won the Master Fiddle Oban Distillery Trophy. t19festsat24



Gary Sutherland from Giffordtown was presented with the Iain Matheson Campbell Memorial Trophy by niece Laura Anne Snaeddon. t19festsat26



Campbeltown winner Jason Cordell won the Argyll Print trophy for under 12s chanter march. t19festsat14



Craig Sutherland from Crieff took the Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaich for his under 18 piobareachd. t19festsat45



Rebecca Tierney from Larkhall lifted the Oban Electrical Services trophy. t19festsat16

Sun shines, eventually, on music and dance festival

THE 26TH Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival started in the rain on Thursday and finished bathed in sunshine on Sunday afternoon.

A range of competitive and non-competitive classes in dance, fiddle, accordion, piping, woodwind, singing, piano and brass drew children and young adults from all over the country to Oban for the competition.

Commenting on the master series for

accordion and fiddle, chairman Iain MacPhail said: 'These are 12 of the most talented musicians in Scotland at the moment. It was very difficult to find a winner amongst them. But Tom Orr from Hyndford Bridge was named master accordionist while Jack Smedley from Cullen was named master fiddler. Champion of Champions was Jessica Bennett, aged 14, a pianist from Melrose.'

West coast people were well represented in all competitions. Alistair Dewar, chairman of the piping events, praised all the young people who turned out to take part.

Organisers were delighted with the general turn out of participants for events. They said: 'Our numbers are definitely up on last year and the event brings a great boost to local tourism over the bank holiday weekend.'



Above: Laura MacMillan from Inveraray won five trophies including the Alan MacInnes Trophy for highest aggregate points in four classes. t19festsat44



Rebecca Hill who took gold in clarsach, advanced players, 1st in Scots song and 2nd in classical singing. t19festsat22

More photos and results on page 12



Graeme MacKenzie from Inverness was presented with the Gordon McLaughlin Memorial Trophy by daughter Joanie Garvin. t19festsat25



Malcolm Clark from Oban took home the Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival trophy for a Scots song. t19festsat36



Iain Wilson from Strachur took the Lodge Earraghaidheal 1822 Trophy for the Argyll resident player with best aggregate points in classes 24 and 24a. t19festsat31



Amelia Inglis from Kilmilver won the Frances Grant Trophy for a song from the shows. t19festsat37



Right: Chelsea McNab from Oban won the woodwind class from primary elementary. t19festsat40

15 Years Ago

Those Were The Days

The Oban Times

Thursday May 5, 1994

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The would-be stars come out to shine

ALMOST 50 would-be stars arrived at Melfort Village Hall in the chill of last Sunday morning, in the hope of appearing on television.

BBC TV was in the village filming fairground scenes for the forthcoming Para Handy series starring Gregor Fisher and Rikki Fulton.

Two hours after arriving, the extras, mostly men, women and children from Oban Operatic Society were dressed in full 1930s costume – right down to short back and sides haircuts for the men and seamed stockings and wigs for the ladies.

Diver's trophy was a bombshell

A WORLD War Two shell found by a diver was detonated in a controlled explosion on Sunday at Tralee Bay.

The diver, who was staying at a caravan in Ledaig, had been diving on the popular Breda wreck when he found the 15-18 inches by six inches shell.

Elaine Lauder, of Kiels Crofts, Tralee, said visiting diver Mike Green had

appeared to refill his tanks at A & D Lauder and promptly pulled the shell out from among his gear. Her husband, Adrian, quickly told him to get it out of the way. Mrs Lauder told *The Oban Times*: 'We telephoned the coastguard who said get it as far away from anyone as you can and keep it wet.'

The best place they could come up with was the bog at the back of Lauder's croft, where it was carefully 'planted' in a puddle and marked with a flag.

The shell, thought to be stable but containing around 10 lbs of explosives, was taken to Tralee beach where it was blown up under controlled conditions.

No Brownie points for Railtrack

AN OBAN Brownie day out almost hit the buffers because of a savage hike in rail charges following privatisation. The treat, involving Brownies and Rainbows aged five to ten, drawn from the whole district, is due to take place on May 14, with the organisers planning a repeat of last year's venture which included rail travel between Oban and Taynuilt.

But organiser, Mrs Irene MacDougall, the district commissioner, was shocked

to learn that this year 'letting the train take the strain' will cost the group £245 – more than double the £120 they paid in 1993. Mrs MacDougall said: 'Last year was the first year that we used rail travel on our annual outing and the children loved it.'

'We expected travel costs to be a little dearer but we were flabbergasted by the size of the increase.'

Poles dominate conservation village

THE VILLAGE of Ellenabeich on the Isle of Seil has a veritable forest of poles springing up in its midst.

Just as the villagers of Easdale were getting used to the idea of 30 galvanised street-lights appearing, Hydro Electric has put up three wooden poles for cables at one end of the village.

Indeed, Ellenabeich is a hive of activity these days, with the harbour being rebuilt, a new slipway and new houses and in the pipeline everything from traffic calming measures – hence the street lighting, so people do not fall over the bumps – to a pedestrianised village square.

Across

- Get rid of Diane's lady (7)
- Conveyor of liquid (5)
- Does as it is supposed to (5)
- Defining edge against trip (7)
- Barcelid attraction (7,6)
- Place of the old and ancient (6)
- Open ones senses to (6)
- Cover (4,9) (4,9)
- Lasting time in prison? (7)
- Narrative composition (5)
- Heavy type of music (5)
- To cause to be thought (7)

Down

- Place for the blues? (5)
- Beat (7)
- Characterized by uniformity (13)
- Make unwell (6)
- Miracle making (13)
- Type of house in the Highlands (5)
- He cuts to cure (7)
- Crush over crazy obstruction (7)
- The mull of this is famously put to music (7)
- Check out the mule to the letter (6)
- Best position to be in (5)
- Vitality (5)

Last week's solution

E	N	A	E	L	D	N	I	T	I	S	E	N	G
L	S	W	I	E	R	V							
D	N	I	Z	W	V	Z	L	I	L	B			
V	O	L	L	R	V	O							
E	O	N	V	E	L	N	d	d	V	L			
V													
E	O	I	R	B	E	T	d	V	L	S			
S	I	E	H	O	E								
G	V	E	H	O	T	I	O	H	O	T			
D	R	L	O	N	I	O							
L	W	D	O	E	T	V	O	S	V	E			
L	W	E	D	S	V	H							
S	N	E	B	S	V	H							

Highlands and Islands Music and Dance Festival results

HIGHLAND Dancing Scottish Area Finals, winner - Dundee and Angus.

Scottish Choreography Challenge, Choreographed Set Theme, winner - Aileen Robertson, Ayr.

Choreographed Scottish Theme 12 years and under winner: Aileen Robertson, Ayr. 16 years and under: Overall winner: Lesley Bowman, Dundee. 17 years and over: Overall winner: Grant/Low School of Dance, Kirriemuir, Forfar.

Accordion and Fiddle Masters
 Accordion, Lagavullin Distillery Trophy: 1 Tom Orr, Hyndford Bridge; 2 Gary Sutherland, Giffordtown; 3 Craig Paton, Milnathort. Fiddle, Oban Distillery Trophy: 1 Jack Smedley, Cullen; 2 Graham MacKenzie, Inverness; 3 Maggie Adamson, Shetland.

Junior Solo Piping and Chanter Competition

Main sponsor John MacAlister (Oban) Ltd: Chanter March: Under 12 years, Argyll Print Trophy: 1 Jason Cordell, Campbelltown; 2 Sean MacLeod Sinclair, Bankfoot; 3 Kimberley Campbell, Loch Awe. Chanter: 12 years and under 14 years, HIMDF Trophy: 1 Andrew Scott, Oban; 2 Jamie MacGregor, Connel; 3 Cameron Scott, Oban. Most promising Class 21 and 21a, Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: Alistair MacLean, Oban. Novice March: under 13 years: 1 Rebecca Tierney, Larkhall; 2 Valerie Cronshaw, Balerno; 3 Rory MacKenzie, Bishopcleeve. The Anthony Campbell Memorial Trophy (Netherlorn Piping Society) awarded to the highest placed Argyll resident player in Class 22: Donnie McKerral, Campbelltown. Ground of a Piobaireachd, D Watt & Son Trophy: 1 Aaron Hossain, Dumfries; 2 Rebecca Tierney, Larkhall; 3 Bruce Cowie, Campbelltown. Piobaireachd under 15 years, Pipe Dreams Trophy: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge; 2 Bridghde Chaimbeul, Sleat; 3 Angus J McColl, Bederloch. March: Under 15 years: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge; 2 Iain Wilson, Strachur; 3 Connor Sinclair, Crieff. Strathspey and Reel: 1 Sandy Cameron, Roybridge; 2



Connor Sinclair from Crieff won junior piping jig competition. t19festsat30

Iain Wilson, Strachur; 3 Angus MacColl, Bederloch. HIMDF Trophy awarded to the player with best aggregate points in classes 24 and 24A: Sandy Cameron, Roybridge. Lodge Earraghaidheal 1822 Trophy awarded to Argyll resident player with best aggregate points in classes 24 and 24A: Iain Wilson, Strachur. Jig: Under 15 years: 1 Connor Sinclair, Crieff; 2 Brighde Chaimbeul, Sleat; 3 Cianan Sinclair, Salcoats. The Billy Kirkham Trophy awarded to the player with the highest aggregate in classes 23, 24, 24A and 24B: Sandy Cameron, Roybridge. Piobaireachd: 15 and under 18 years: Angus MacAlister Memorial Quaiach: 1 Craig Sutherland, Crieff; 2 Scott McLean, Kilmartin; 3 Ross Ferguson, Campbelltown. March: 15 and under 18 years: 1 Laura MacMillan, Inveraray; 2 Craig Sutherland, Crieff; 3 Alexander Scougall, Loanhead. Strathspey and Reel: 15 years and under 18 years: 1 Laura MacMillan, Inveraray; 2 Craig Sutherland, Crieff; 3 Scott MacLean, Kilmartin; 3 Laura MacMillan, Inveraray. The Allan MacInnes Trophy awarded to the player with the most aggregate points in Classes 25, 26, 26A and 26B: Laura MacMillan, Inveraray.

Senior piping
 OPEN Piobaireachd (P & A Grade) Royal Cooper Salver and Dugald MacColl Memorial Trophy: 1 Gavin Walker, Stirling; 2 Fiona Manson, Glasgow; 3 Finlay Johnston, Glasgow. Open Piobaireachd (B & C Grade):

Royal Bank of Scotland Trophy & Walter Drysdale Trophy: 1 Faye Henderson, Angus; 2 Keith Bowes, Renfrewshire; 3 Peter McCalister, Dunblane. March Strathspey & Reel (P & A Grade): Reid Family Trophy & Walter Drysdale Trophy: 1 James Murray, Cupar; 2 Finlay Johnston, Glasgow; 3 Gareth Rudolph, Glasgow. March, Strathspey & Reel (B & C Grade): Trophies: North West Securities, Riona T MacInnes; 1 Ashleigh Bell, Rosshire; 2 Pamela Whyte, Aberdeen; 3 Iain Marshall, Dumfries.

Singing
 Primary Choirs (Accompanied): Sinclair Family Trophy: 1 Taynuilt Primary School; 2 Lochnell Primary School; 3 Kilmartin Primary School. Junior Choirs 18 years and under: John Wallace Trophy: 1 Mid Argyll Youth Chorus, Vocal Solo: Girls P4 and P5: RT MacInnes Trophy: 1 Rachael MacGregor, Connel; 2 Emma Baird, Taynuilt Primary School; 3 Katherine Harris, Lochnell Primary School; Vocal Solo Boys Primary 4 & 5: Arthur Gillies Trophy: 1 Callum Shaw, St Columba's Primary School; 2 Tom Lines, Taynuilt Primary School; 3 Dominic Sapinski, St

Columba's Primary School. Vocal Solo: Girls P6 and P7: Frances Shand Kydd Trophy: 1 Caitlin Taylor, Taynuilt Primary School; 2 Adele Queen, Thornhill; 3 Adin Graham, Windygates. 12 and under 16 years: Gaelic Waltzes: Traditional Scottish: Iain McPhail Trophy: 1 Steven Todd, Dalkeith; 2 Adele Queen, Thornhill; 3 Erin McGinley, Thornhill. 12 and under 16 years: March Strathspey and Reel
 Pipe: Oban Accordion Club Trophy: 1 Steven Todd, Dalkeith; 2 Ruairidh Morrison, Kilmore; 3 Calum Muir, Carnwath.

Senior accordion: March Strathspey and Reel: Traditional Open: Button Key Accordion: Mr and Mrs H MacInnes Trophy: 1 John Weakes, Glasgow. March, Strathspey and Reel: Traditional Open: McIntee Family Trophy: 1 Andrew Gibb, Biggar; 2 Matthew MacLennan, Kiltarlity; 3 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride. Aggregate for 34b and 35b Jimmy

Shand Scotrail Trophy: Matthew MacLennan, Kiltarlity. March, Strathspey and Reel
 Open: Button Key Accordion: Mr and Mrs H MacInnes Trophy: 1 John Weakes, Glasgow. Gaelic Waltzes: Traditional Open: Iain McPhail Trophy: 1 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 2 Craig Paton, Milnathort; 3 Matthew MacLennan, Kiltarlity. Own Composition (Accordion or Fiddle): Open Angus & Ella MacFadyen Memorial Trophy: 1 Susan MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 2 Andrew Gibb, Biggar; 3 Robert Robertson, Oban. Traditional Scottish Group/Band: HIMDF Trophy: 1 Graham MacKenzie's Band; 2 Adam Gibb's Band; 3 Matthew MacLennan's Band.

Clarsach
 Beginners: Campbell Family Trophy: 1 Cara MacKinnon, Oban; 2= Lisa-Marie Parkinson, Oban; 2= Rebekah MacPherson, Oban.

Intermediate: Oban Gaelic Drama Trophy: 1 Katherine Jackson, Oban; 2 Kristina MacDonald, Sgoil Ghaidhlig Glaschu; 3 Catriona Clark, Castle Douglas. Advanced: Trophy: Russell Quaiach: 1 Rebecca Hill, Connel; 2 Catriona Kerr, Oban. Solo Singing with self accompaniment: Clarsach Society Trophy: 1 Eilidh Munro, Glasgow; 2 Rebecca Hill, Connel.

Duets: Barry Milner Trophy: 1 Catriona Kerr & Katherine MacQuish, Oban. Recital: Soroba House Trophy: 1 Eilidh Munro, Glasgow; 2 Isla Short, Biggar. Non traditional: HIMDF Trophy: 1 Eilidh Munro, Glasgow; 2 Isla Short, Biggar; 3 Catriona Kerr, Oban. Ensemble: HIMDF Trophy: 1 Na Caileagan Phine, Oban.

Fiddle
 Under 12 years: March: Traditional Scottish: Oban Strathspey and Reel Society Trophy: 1 Ruairidh Gollan, Tain; 2 Finlay Bennett, North Connel; 3 Breagha Charlton, Taynuilt. Frances Shand Kydd Trophy



Euphonium player Laura Broadfoot from Oban won the primary open competition for with a brass instrument. t19festsat41



Bridhge Campbell from Skye took two seconds and a third for piping in junior solo piping competitions. t19festsat34

for most promising competitor in Class 41: Olivia Barnes. 12 years and under 16 years: March, Strathspey & Reel: Oban Accordion & Fiddle Club Trophy: 1 George Davidson, Tarves; 2 Robbie MacKenzie, Inverness; 3 Robbie Greig, Edinburgh. 12 years & under 16 years: Slow Air (Traditional): 1

Robbie Greig, Edinburgh; 2 = Mairi Vinot, Lochgilphead; 2 = Robbie MacKenzie, Inverness; 3 George Davidson, Tarves.

March Strathspey and Reel : Traditional Scottish Open: Calum MacPhail Trophy: 1 Graham MacKenzie, Inverness; 2 Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride; 3 Tom Gold, Douglas. Slow Air: Traditional Scottish: Open : Christine MacKenzie Trophy: 1 Graham MacKenzie, Inverness; 2 Fiona Henderson, Kirriemuir; 3. Shona MacFadyen, West Kilbride.

Lady Fermoy Piano Competition

Pianoforte Solo (Pre-Grade 1): Caroline Boyle Trophy: 1 Mhairi Sloan, Perth; 2 Clare Faherty, Perth; 3 Sarah Carlin, Oban.

Grade 1: Sileas Sinclair Trophy: 1 Callum Mitchell, Perth; 2 John Sloan, Perth; 3 Paul Mathers, Fife. Grade 2: Neil Sinclair Trophy: 1 Liam Bonthronne, Perth; 2 Robert Cameron, Perth; 3 = Jamie MacGregor, Connel; 3 = Avril Black, Biggar. Duet Grade 1 or 2: 1 John & Mhairi Sloan, Perth; 2 David & Rebekah MacPherson, Oban. Solo Scottish music: Sileas Sinclair Trophy: 1 Lisa-Marie Parkinson, Oban; Solo Grade 3: Sileas Sinclair Trophy: 1 Ruth Faherty, Perth; 2 Emily Fulton, Perth; 3 Isla Short, Biggar. Grade 4: Trophy: Peter & Peggy Sinclair Memorial Plate: 1 Hayley Litzler, Perth; 2 = Gregor Brydon, Oban; 2 = Kristina MacDonald, Glasgow; 3 Rebecca Hill, Connel. Pianoforte Duet (Grade 3, 4 or 5): 1 Alison & Emily Fulton, Perth. Bach Solo: 1 Rachel Henry, Oban; 2 Jessica Bennett, Melrose. Classical Solo: 1 Jessica Bennett, Melrose; 2 Andrew Chapman, Oban. Ragtime and Blues: 1 Jessica Bennett, Melrose; 2 Rachel Henry, Oban. Romantic Period: 1 Rachel Henry, Oban; 2 Jessica Bennett, Melrose.

Modern: 1 Rachel Henry, Oban. Scottish Music: 1 Craig Paton, Milnathort.

The Lady Fermoy Trophy for the most meritorious performance overall in the piano competition

Visit Scotland Trophy for the competitor gaining the highest marks in Classes 93B, 97 and 101B.

Woodwind and brass
 Woodwind: Primary Elementary :Less than 1 year's experience: 1 Chelsea McNab, Oban; 2 Iona Young, Oban; 3 Bronwen Davies, Kilmore. Woodwind: Primary Open: 1 Caitlin Taylor, Taynuilt; 2 Olivia Tweedie, Belfast; 3 Rachel MacKenzie, Clachan Seil. Woodwind & Brass: Primary Ensemble: 1 Liqueurice Sticks, Taynuilt. Woodwind Duet: 1 Ruairidh Lister-Campbell & Sam Barrett, Kilmelford. Junior Woodwind (Sec. Year 1): 1 Amelia Inglis, Kilmiver; 2 Kirsty Campbell, Oban; 3 Briony Kincaid, Oban. Woodwind: Intermediate Secondary years 2 & 3: 1 Kirsty Thompson, Dalmally; 2 Calum Henry, Oban. Woodwind Senior: Secondary years 4, 5 & 6: 1 Chrissie Brunton, Fionnphort; 2 Jessica Bennett, Melrose; 3 Rebecca Edmonston, Glenrothes. Woodwind Ensemble: 1 The Treble Trio, Oban; 2 Furious Flautists, Oban. Secondary Woodwind Duet: 1 Amelia Inglis & Emily Scott, Kilmiver. Brass: Primary Elementary: Less than 1 year's experience: 1 James Kane, Taynuilt; 2 Kathryn Mathers, Leven. Brass: Primary Open: 1 Laura Broadfoot, Oban; 2 Amilia Chute, Campbelltown. Brass: Intermediate: Secondary years 2 & 3: 1 Sally Chute, Campbelltown. Brass: Secondary Brass: 1 Sally Chute Emily Scott, Kilmiver.



Alistair MacLean from Oban who won the Frances Shand Kydd trophy for the most promising newcomer. t19festsat11



Jamie McGregor from Connel took second place in the under 14s chanter competition. t19festsat20



Dancers from North Uist competing in the Highland dancing competitions. t19festsat01



Dunbeg Primary School sang in the Primary Choirs competition. t19festival01



Taynuilt School Choir who sang in the champions concert on Saturday night. t19festsat48



Vocal solo primary six and seven boys winners: bronze Jason Lyttle, silver James Kane and gold Ryan Kopel. t19festsat21

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

**The Local Committee for
The Royal National Mod, Oban**
9th – 17th October 2009
are hosting
A GET-IT-IN/DANCE
In Argyllshire Gathering Halls
Oban
Saturday 16th May: Comm 8pm
Sineag MacIntyre
Callum Alex MacMillan
Myra MacNab
John Murdo Morrison
Music: Neil Sinclair Sound
Bean a Tigh: Mairi Bremner
TICKETS AT DOOR £8.00

Balure Dun Open Day
Saturday 9th May, 10am-3pm
COME AND HEAR ABOUT THE LATEST
ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT THIS SITE.
Minibus leaves Achnamara Village Hall at
10am, 12noon and 2pm,
or walk to site from the Hall (approx 40 mins)
Last 5 minute walk is over quite rough ground,
please dress appropriately.
For further details contact 01546 510278 www.kilmartin.org

**St. Orans & Dunbeg Church
GRAND SUMMER FETE**
16th May
10am to 4pm
Achnacloch House – Connel
Stalls, food, entertainment, dog show,
vintage & classic cars, model displays

Oban & Lorn Horticultural Society
Rhododendron Show
Glencruitten Road Church Centre
Saturday 16th May, 2009
Open to public from 12 noon
Teas, Coffee and Home Baking
Plants for sale
Proceed in aid of Charity

North Connel & District Horticultural Society
1959 – 2009
PLANT SALE
Saturday 16th May
at 2p.m.
Victory Hall, Bederloch
All your plant needs are here.
RAFFLE
Adm. Adult £1.50 Child £1
includes Tea & Home Baking.
Golden Jubilee Year.

A CELEBRATION OF WHISKY, FOOD & WEST COAST CULTURE!

WIN! The Chance to Meet Nick Nairn at Spirit of the West!

The inaugural Spirit of the West festival is a celebration of Scotland's west coast culture and takes place in the stunning grounds of Inveraray Castle on Saturday 16th & Sunday 17th May 2009. The festival will showcase whisky, food, music, dance, drama, family entertainment and much more! Join in the celebration and be part of Homecoming Scotland 2009's Whisky Month.

Spirit of the West has teamed up with The Oban Times to offer two lucky readers the chance to meet Scotland's best known chef Nick Nairn who will demonstrate the art of cooking with whisky at the festival on Sunday 17th May. This amazing prize includes two weekend tickets to the festival, two front row seats at one of Nick Nairn's first class cookery demonstrations, a signed copy of his cook book "Fish 'n' Tips" and the chance to meet Nick backstage.

To enter, simply answer this question and send your answer, name and address to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by noon, Tuesday 12th May:

At what famous castle will Spirit of the West take place?

Name.....
 Address.....
 Postcode.....
 Tel No.....
 Answer.....

For more information on Spirit of the West and the festival programme please visit www.spiritofthewest.co.uk

The Food & Drink marquee is sponsored by Scotland Food & Drink with support from the Scottish Government. Entries must be aged 18 or over and winners will be contacted by telephone.

WWW.SPIRITOFTEWEST.CO.UK

Online boost for whisky sales

ARDBEG Distillery on Islay sold 3,000 bottles of its newest whisky in only 112 minutes thanks to an online pre-sale.

The Ardbeg Supernova – billed as the peatiest whisky ever produced in the distillery – went on general sale on Tuesday.

But the first 3,000 bottles were available online to the Ardbeg committee, a group of 47,000 Ardbeg fans across 12 countries, and sold out in record time.

Dr Bill Lumsden, head of distilling and whisky creation at Ardbeg, said: 'We expected a good reaction when we offered a limited amount for sale online but couldn't believe it when all 3,000 preview bottles sold out in 112 minutes.'

'The feedback has been extremely positive.'

Terminal will host exhibition

OBAN'S ferry terminal is to host a travelling exhibition later this month, marking the first ten years of the Scottish parliament.

The exhibition, entitled 'Moving Stories – 10 people, 10 experiences, 10 years of the Scottish Parliament', features the experiences of individuals who have campaigned to highlight issues. It includes a native Gaelic speaker who worked to get the parliament's support for the language, environmental groups and victims of knife crime.

The display will be launched at Caledonian MacBrayne ferry terminal on Friday, May 22 and will run until Wednesday, June 17.

Reprieve for Oban tax office

OBAN'S tax office at Mathieson House will not close this financial year, according to HM Customs and Revenue, but will in 2010-11.

Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid has welcomed the news and hopes that during the next year HMCR will decide not to close the office altogether.

Two other tax offices in Rothesay and Dunoon have also been given a stay of execution.

'These closures would mean the loss of valuable jobs in communities with fragile economies,' said Mr Reid.

HMCR has said it is to 'reconfigure' its organisation to get 'the right number of people in the right long term locations', creating multi-skilled cross-tax teams.

Duror man is keynote speaker for Scotland

DUROR'S Jim Hunter will be the keynote speaker at a three-day Homecoming event in Inverness, celebrating Scotland's global contribution.

Scotland's Global Impact – How one small nation changed the world will take place at Eden Court, Inverness, from October 22 – 24.

Tickets purchased before the early bird discount deadline of May 31 will cost £50.

Mr Hunter will speak on the subject of 'Highlands Today'.

Scotland's Global Impact is just part of a 12-day programme of cultural events in the area from October 19 – 31, offering arts, music, theatre, exhibitions and seminars.

Lib Dems leader backs Loch Awe rescue boat campaign



Alan Reid, Argyll and Bute MP, Tavish Scott, leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats, Stewart MacKenzie, editorial director The Oban Times, Alister Bennett, managing director Wyvex Media Ltd and George Lyon, Liberal Democrat candidate for the European parliament. ©19poster01

THE CAMPAIGN to raise funds for a rescue boat for Loch Awe has received the backing of politicians and fishing clubs from within and outside of Argyll.

Scottish Liberal Democrats leader Tavish Scott and Argyll and Bute MP Alan Reid joined the editorial director of *The Oban Times* Stewart MacKenzie and managing director of parent company Wyvex Media, Alister Bennett, at *The Oban Times* after speaking to police and coastguards during a visit to Oban.

Mr Reid has been championing the cause,

including speaking to the chief officer of Strathclyde Fire and Rescue Brian Sweeney, who has backed the calls for a rescue boat.

Mr Reid said: 'The fire service is best placed to operate it. It already has the responsibility for rescuing people from floods so it seems best that it has that responsibility.'

He said the more money that could be raised for a boat, the more pressure there would be on the Scottish government to act and put in place a freshwater loch rescue service.

Mr Scott also called on

the government to help. He said: 'Everyone wants to help but no-one has the responsibility.'

'The government must cut through all the regulations and help the Argyll community with not just a rescue boat, but with staff who can use it.'

The Pike Anglers Alliance for Scotland is also looking to give the fund a boost by holding an event on Lake of Monteith on November 11.

Donations can be made via *The Oban Times* to Loch Awe Rescue Boat Fund, The Oban Times, PO Box 1 Oban PA34 4HB.

A83 road upgrade will slow traffic for nine weeks

MORE than £2m is to be spent on upgrading the A83 trunk road between Inveraray and Lochgilphead.

Improvements to drainage, safety fencing, a new section of footpath and resurfacing for more than five kilometres will take place over nine weeks, starting on Monday, May 11.

During that time, two sets of temporary traffic lights, one with a convoy system, will slow travel on the road and drivers are advised to allow extra time for their journeys.

The work, which will be managed by Scotland TransServ, will begin just south of Lochgair and run to two kilometres south of Port Ann.

Work begins to increase Islay water capacity

ISLAY may see a flurry of new property developments over the next year after Scottish Water announced a project to increase the public water capacity in the south end of the island.

At present the public water supply to the south end of the island, including Islay's two largest villages, Port Ellen and Bowmore, is at capacity, meaning new builds are not possible.

However, work began this week on the £220,000 Torra Water Treatment Works link main project at Bridgend, to solve the problem.

Islay-based councillor Robin Currie said: 'It has been a big concern that development in the Port Ellen and Bowmore area has been held back, so if this project is going to increase the water supply capacity then it is very welcome.'

'The situation has been stifling development and a lot of people have contacted me about it.'

The project was scheduled to begin this week and will be completed in around two months.

£38,000 windfall for youth café

OBAN Youth Café is one of a number of charities in Scotland to benefit from a total £1 million payout by the Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland.

The project, which provides an alcohol and drug-free place for teenagers to meet and take part in activities and issue-based sessions, has received £38,000 for a year.

This is a big boost towards helping to pay for the salaries of the youth worker, co-ordinator and the running costs of the café.

A85 accident blackspot to be resurfaced

A ROAD crash blackspot at the notorious Muckairn bends on the A85, near Taynuilt, will be improved after Scotland TransServ agreed to resurface the road later this year.

Following meetings last week, the organisation, which is responsible for Argyll's trunk roads, plans to carry out an outlay scheme with improved skid resistance at the corners, which nearby residents have labelled 'a graveyard for cars'.

There is at least one road

crash per week at the two corners, one opposite the entrance to Muckairn House and the other at Dalnamac, at the bottom of Fearnoch Hill.

On Monday morning, a car left the road on the bend between Muckairn House and Eltham Cottages and the same evening another car left the road at the same spot.

A spokesman for TransServ Scotland said engineers were considering how to improve various aspects of the road, including the camber, and deciding on the

length of road that would be improved.

He added: 'The process involved in an outlay scheme is quite complicated so the improvements will not be made until later this year.'

Delighted

Lorne Nelson has lived at Kilmarnon House, adjacent to the road, all his life and is delighted at the prospect of road improvements.

It costs him around £250 every time his fencing is damaged by cars leaving the road.

Big drop in population

THE POPULATION of Argyll and Bute dropped more last year than in any other part of Scotland. The latest figures from the General Register Office for Scotland show a 0.9 per cent decrease, bringing Argyll and Bute's population to 90,500 people.

Dick Walsh, leader of Argyll and Bute Council, said the council had robust plans to encourage young and working people to come to and stay in the area.

He said: 'We are also

looking at accelerating investment in affordable housing across the area so as to ensure an increase in both employment opportunities and suitable accommodation in the years ahead.'

The council area has the second highest proportion of pensioners in Scotland – 18 per cent of men and 31 per cent of women. In the year up to June 2008, there were 772 births and 1108 deaths. Part of the decline also related to the numbers stationed at Faslane naval base.

Councillor tells community group building cannot lie empty forever

Anger as school goes up for sale

THERE is anger and disappointment that the former Rockfield Primary School in Oban has been put on the open market before the results of a feasibility study that include the building have been published.

Oban Youth and Community Association is a matter of weeks away from revealing its comprehensive study commissioned to look into options for replacing the youth and community centre in Soroba Lane.

After discussion with members of Rockfield Steering Group, set up last January after considerable public interest in using the former school as a cultural and arts centre, the association agreed to extend its study to include the old school as an option.

At the time members of

By MARIAN MILLER

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area Committee agreed only to hold off the sale of the building for six months.

Chairman of Oban Youth and Community Association David Preston told *The Oban Times* he had written to the council's estates department on March 20 saying the association hoped to 'firm up its position' by late spring.

'We were more than somewhat surprised at the fact that the council has put the property on the market without at least writing to us to see what stage the feasibility study was at,' he said, adding he had not even received an acknowledgment of his letter from the estates department.

'We are expecting to have a meeting within the next



The 'for sale' sign has gone up outside Rockfield Primary School in Oban town centre. ©19roeb01

two weeks to consider the results of the study.'

The youth and community centre, home to a pre-school nursery, holiday club and various youth activities, had to close in autumn last year because the building was beyond repair and the study included extensive consultation with the community in Oban on what was needed in the town centre.

Mr Preston said that whether or not the school

was considered to be the best or most feasible option, the council's actions meant removing it as an option altogether.

Alice Strange, who wrote to the council last October on behalf of the steering group asking for time for all options to be considered, said she was 'disappointed' although she recognised that it could take years to achieve something with the building.

She pointed out that the

council itself had contributed to the costs of the feasibility study.

'I understand why they put the sign up but I don't think it is the right thing without consultation. There were a lot of people who want something done...they should be listening to the 100 or so people who turned up at the public meeting and the hundreds who signed the petition,' said Ms Strange.

Councillor Duncan MacIntyre, chairman of

Oban, Lorn and the Isles Area committee, said: 'They were contracting a study on the possibility of using it as a community centre and we delayed putting it on the market for six months.'

'It will be up to the community people to make a bid for it. We don't want it to be lying empty forever.'

He said there had been a number of people, individuals and businesses, expressing interest in when it was to go on the market.



Young people from across Argyll and Bute successfully completed the xlerate with xl programme, run by the Prince's Trust. ©19awa01

Argyll teenagers excel with Prince's Trust programme

TEENAGERS from across Argyll and Bute met at the council chambers in Lochgilphead last week to be presented with their Prince's Trust certificates.

The ceremony recognised the youngsters' two years on the xlerate with xl programme while in S3 and S4 of high school.

The course is specifically aimed at young people who

due to a variety of reasons are finding it challenging to achieve in school. Many of them, after the positive experience of xl, will re-engage in education and others will go into work or to college. All agreed they have had a great experience and were now more confident about their future.

Before the ceremony itself the young people took part in a short workshop run by Soul

Success which touched on their plans for the future and the legacy they would leave behind for the new xlerate with xl groups starting in the new term.

Councillor Donnie MacMillan and Councillor Isobel Strong presented the certificates to the young people and wished them well for the future whichever route they decided to pursue.

Linda Tighe, the Prince's Trust manager in Argyll and Bute, thanked Argyll and Bute Council not only for hosting the event but for supporting the programme so enthusiastically throughout its area.

Linda said: 'It is on occasions like this we can be proud of every one of these young people and we can see how many of them have turned their lives around.'

Public's views sought on new marine plans

SCOTLAND'S first Marine Bill has been introduced to the Scottish parliament and is likely to be scrutinised by the rural affairs and environment committee.

As a result the committee

is looking for individuals and interested parties to comment on the Bill as well as holding evidence sessions in the coming months.

The Bill introduces a new marine planning framework

that will cover issues such as renewable energy from the sea, fishing, aquaculture, recreation and other uses.

It also covers licensing, planning partnerships, marine protected areas, marine

conservation orders and regulation of seal management.

The closing date for written submissions to the committee is June 11 and comments do not have to cover all aspects of the Bill.

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The Oban Times

& West Highland Times

Let us sculpt a new future

A BOLD move indeed. But Oban Forward's plan to erect a giant sculpture on Pulpit Hill may be just what the town needs to help regain its place as one of the UK's top tourist destinations.

For decades the town has slept in tourism terms while the rest of the world has moved on. 'The Gateway to the Isles' slogan and McCaig's Tower are, alone, no longer enough.

The proposed sculpture would be a national and international talking point and attract a huge number of visitors.

Undoubtedly, there will be naysayers attempting to poke holes in the plan and even angry reactions from those who decry change, but these are serious times economically and Argyll is already an unemployment blackspot with 30 people chasing every vacancy. We need a whole new vibrancy and vitality about Oban to protect and create jobs. The world is more competitive than ever and we must seize on ideas like this and the opportunities they afford.

Too often these days the word 'ambitious' brings with it connotations of impossibility or out-of-reach plans. In this case, with the right belief and support, it does not have to.

Glasgow Letter

Oidhche Challuinn excerpts

EVERY now and again it gives personal satisfaction to roll back the years and I am sure that was very much in the thoughts of the capacity crowd, with representation from most of Gaeldom, when they headed for the Oidhche Challuinn concert in aid of Bethesda Hospice in Partick Burgh Halls.

With talk of pandemics and economy cuts what could be better to lift the gloom than a night of good old fashioned humour in the company of the team from Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association. With the minimum of props in their room, the family of Peggy Darroch, Donald Smith and son John MacNeill were in fine form as they greeted their guests, the Rev Archie Fraser, Dr Donald A Smith, PC Marion Craig, salesman Donnie Finlayson and long lost cousin Senga from Govan, played by Mabel Weir. Special mention should be made of Mabel who deputised for Jean Gillon at extremely short notice. Between the excerpts the crowd were kept amused by Murdo Morrison and throughout the performance Margaret I MacLeod, Mary C MacLean, Calum Ross and Murdo John MacLeod ensured that the quality acting was matched with quality music.

It was great to have Oidhche Challuinn back in the city and it is a tradition well worth maintaining but if this is to happen, as Murdo Morrison stated, youngsters will need to be recruited.

As an extra bonus, £2,143 was raised for Bethesda.

Homecoming at St Columba's Church

ST COLUMBA'S Church in Glasgow has been of vital importance in the city for the past 239 years and in that time has played an inspirational part in the lives of many.

There can be few Gaels in and around the city who have not entered its doors and the present congregation wish to invite them, and non Gaels, to return and enjoy the hospitality and the culture of the church during the weekend of Friday May 15 to Saturday May 17. On the Friday evening John Carmichael, well known Gaelic broadcaster over many years, will compeer an evening of entertainment which will feature Anne Lorne Gillies,

Alasdair Gillies, Timothy Peacock, piper Donald Campbell, a Caledonian Fiddle Ensemble, Glasgow Gaelic School Junior Choir and the combined Glasgow Gaelic Choirs conducted by Kirsteen Grant together with pianists Alison MacInnes and Alan Kitchen. Tickets for the concert are available from the Gaelic Book Shop, Mansfield Street, telephone 0141 337 6211 or telephone 0141 812 5785 or 0141 762 3187.

On the Saturday there will be Doors Open from 10am to 4pm and from 10am to 1pm there will be a coffee morning which will allow much time for chat and, perhaps more importantly, the opportunity to sample the renowned baking of the St Columba's congregation. The Gaelic Service on Sunday will be at 10am, the English service at 11.30am and the Evening Fellowship at 6.30pm. All services will be conducted by the congregation minister the Rev Donald Michael MacInnes. Like many inner city buildings of its era, the St Columba's building requires considerable upkeep and all proceeds of this Homecoming weekend will be added to the Fabric Fund.

Diary dates

Thursday May 7: Glasgow Sutherland Association Annual General Meeting, Buff's Club, Dumbarton Road, 7.30pm. Perth Gaelic Society Annual General Meeting, St Matthew's Church Hall, Tay Road, 7.30pm. Chris Stout Theory, Tolbooth, Stirling, 8pm.

Friday May 8: Piping Times Trophy, College of Piping, 7.30pm. John Mulhearn v Gordon McCready.

Saturday May 9: Paisley and District Highlanders Association ceildh dance, Elderslie Village Hall, 7.30pm. Andi Neate and guest, City Halls Recital Room, 8pm.

Sunday May 10: Michael Marra, City Halls, Recital Room, 8pm.

Tuesday May 12: Clydebank and District Highlander's Association Annual General Meeting, Town Hall Courtroom, 7.30pm.

Thursday May 14: Chris Stout Theory, Old Fruitmarket, 8pm.

Pub scene

NORRIE MacIver will be playing in the Islay Inn on Saturday with Eriskay Lilt on Friday while in the Park Bar this weekend it will be the Burns Brothers with Martin Pottinger on Friday, the Burns Brothers on Saturday and Stuart Cameron and Martin Pottinger on Sunday. **Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilmurray@yahoo.co.uk.**



Sheep heading for Oban Mart - 1978

Caroline O'Brien of Oban submitted this week's flashback photograph which shows sheep being herded from Oban's ferry terminal along Combie Street to the mart in Lochside Street in June 1978. We would like readers to send in flashback photographs and photographs of The Oban Times being read in far flung places. 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
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www.obantimes.co.uk

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Fax: 01631 568001

Wind turbine objection

Sir,
Fort William Community Council (FWCC) members, on finding out about the planning application by North British Windpower Limited for four wind turbines on the hill North West of Annat Farm, Corpach, contacted the Highland Council planning service and obtained an extension to the response deadline to enable us to discuss the issue in full at a recent meeting.

At that meeting we took a unanimous decision to object to the planning application on the grounds that these turbines will create substantial visual impact for a large number of Fort William residents and insufficient community consultation took place with FWCC or Fort William residents during the initial planning consultation process.

FWCC required time to gauge the opinion of the people of Fort William on how they felt about the visual impact, and the business community required time to discuss any possible detrimental affect on the local scenery and measure possible impact on tourism and the economy of the area. Now that fuller

information is in the public domain, FWCC members are picking up more anxiety and growing concerns with regard to this application.

Further concern has been added due to the fact this is possibly a precursor for further planning applications for a larger number of these wind turbines.

Tricia Jordan, secretary, FWCC.

Only one job

Sir,
In *The Oban Times* of April 23, you quote Graham Irwin of North British Windpower Limited as saying that the location for the wind farm it is planning to build on the outskirts of Fort William has been chosen 'to minimise the visual impact'.

This totally contradicts his own company's statement in its planning application submitted in March to the Highland Council.

In that it admits that the visual impact on what the company describes as 'the north eastern fringes of Fort William' will be significant. They mean by 'north eastern fringes' the whole communities of Claggan, Inverlochy and the Kennedy Road/Plantation areas of town.

It could be said that those who live there had in the past had to look out on the

pulp mill and, although the turbines will be twice the height and revolve, their view will not be that much worse. The difference is, of course, that over its life the pulp mill employed thousands of locals. The wind farm will employ precisely one.

To employ this one person the developers will receive an annual subsidy from us all of £1.3 million and out of this they intend to pay as compensation to the local community a sum of £10,000. The loss to the local tourism industry will be a hundred times that.

David Govan, Corpach.

Monitoring needed

Sir,
Thank you for mentioning Sustainable Oban's April meeting in *The Oban Times* of April 30.

Dr Ben Wilson of the Scottish Association for Marine Science did indeed speak about 'the potential for tapping into the sea's energy using tidal and wave devices'.

However, he was quite emphatic that very little is known about the marine environment.

It will therefore be crucial to monitor these huge devices very closely, considering not only their output, reliability and cost, but animal safety as

well, in particular regarding collisions, entanglement, habitat changes, noise and pollutants. **Margaret Powell-Joss, secretary, www.Sustainable-oban.net.**

Kilmore search

Sir,
I am interested in old military sites and last year bought a booklet at Bletchley Park Museum about wireless intercept - 'Y' - sites.

It showed a Royal Navy 'Y' Station at Oban. I asked anyone with any knowledge of Oban about this but no-one had any idea where it might have been. Then I asked a friend down in England and he sent me a list of these sites with their locations. Unfortunately this was in the military Cassini grid system. I converted this to the modern OS Grid and it placed the site around Kilmore. I have walked around the area and spoken to a few people but there is no sign of anything and no-one has any knowledge of the site. It would be direction finding transmissions from U boats mainly, so it would be quite secret.

I wonder if anyone can remember the location of the site? **Martin Briscoe, 2 Peebles Place, Fort William, Inverness-shire, PH33 6UG.**

Islay Letter

Dancers' ceildh

THE FIRST weekend in May sees a large influx of Scottish country dance enthusiasts descending on the island and this has been the pattern for the past 27 years.

On Friday, members of the public joined the visiting dancers, who included dance tutor Anne Robertson, a former languages teacher at the local high school, at a celebratory ceildh in Bowmore. Everyone was welcomed by Margaret Aitchison, chairperson of the local branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, the dances were called by branch secretary Gina MacAuslan and providing the music was Kilmarnock accordionist David Ross and his band who have been an integral part of the annual event since its inception in 1982.

Piper James Carmichael opened the proceedings, Neil Oliver delighted with his fiddle selections and singing the jaunty chorus songs were Sheena Swanson and Andrew McCowan. Adding a Gallic flavour to the programme was French singer Colette Roy. The evening's undoubted highlight was the Highland dancing debut of the delightful Iona Scott, Isla McCalman and Elizabeth Aitchison, all pupils at the Ella Edgar dancing school.

On Saturday, the dancers polished up their skills and added to their repertoire and the event culminated with branch members and their guests having themselves a ball in the imaginatively decorated Bowmore Village Hall.

Gaelic worship

GAELIC psalms were sung lustily at a Gaelic act of worship in St John's Church of Scotland at Port Ellen on April 26.

I conducted the proceedings, Jean Campbell was at the organ, the prayers were led by Flora MacAllister and the Scripture readers were Sheena MacKellar and Morag MacDougall.

Coisir Ghaidhlig Ile, conducted by Iseabail Mactaggart, made a telling contribution to the service but, disappointingly, the Gaelic worshippers were thin on the ground.

Desert challenge

BOWMORE-BORN Barbara Woodrow, Deputy Director of Nursing and Patient Care at Colchester Hospital University NHS Trust, is taking part in a 300km cycle run through the Jordanian desert in October.

Money raised will be donated to 'Women for Women', a charity geared to the improvement of the health of women and babies world-wide. Barbara's itinerary will see her cycling through the Dead Sea valley and the ancient 'red rose' city of Petra.

Barbara, a daughter of Isabel and David Woodrow, Bowmore, is no stranger to these parts after spending 13 years as a senior nursing sister in Saudi Arabia.

She is now seeking sponsorship for her venture and requires to raise a minimum of £2,500 by the end of July. Anyone wishing to donate should send cheques, payable to 'The Institute Trust

Fund', to Barbara at her island home at 'Kilennan', High Street, Bowmore, Islay PA43 7JE. Names, addresses and postcodes should be entered on the back of the cheques to enable Gift Aid to be claimed. Donations can also be made by visiting www.justgiving.com/barbara-woodrow.

Kirk quiz

MEMBERS of the island's various congregations displayed their erudition at the QuizAid evening jointly organised by the linked parishes of Kildalton and Oa and Kilarrow in Ionad Chaluim Chille Ile.

Eight teams battled it out and the outright winners were 'Willie and the Women', while 'The Walkers' graciously and stoically accepted the wooden spoon. I shared the questionmaster duties with Iain Laurie from St John's Church in Port Ellen and the highly successful and enjoyable event raised almost £400 for Christian Aid.

Double celebration

EVERYONE was in party mood at the Bowmore Hotel when the popular 'mine hosts' Linda and Peter MacLellan celebrated their silver wedding.

The celebration also marked the quarter century since the MacLellans took over the ownership of the long-established island hostelry. Everyone warmly congratulates the hoteliers on both achievements.

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

A VIEW FROM THE TOWER

By McCaig

Exit strategy

IT HAS been a close-run thing which would come first: the departure of Gordon Brown as Prime Minister or the withdrawal of British troops from Iraq?

The latter has happened, and the former looks certain before the autumn, if not before. Of course, we should celebrate British troops are coming home from what seems now to be recognised as having been an illegal war, except for the dyed-in-the-wool followers of ex-President George W Bush and his poodles Messrs Blair and Brown. But we should also remember those who were killed needlessly fighting for a regime which didn't want them there and weren't particularly grateful for the removal of Saddam Hussein by invading forces.

While Iraq may on the surface have appeared to be a sophisticated society with European values, scratch it and all the inter-tribal animosities were there under the surface, just waiting for an excuse to start guerrilla warfare for the 'hell of it'.

While they kicked 'seven bells' out of each other the British, American and other nations' forces were being killed needlessly. The 'B' twins - Blair and Bush - regarded themselves as crusaders in the name of freedom, world peace and oil, the most important of these being the latter. The only reason western troops are leaving now is that President Bush is president no longer.

His successor, President Obama, didn't want to be there and couldn't afford it and Gordon Brown couldn't either. However, Prime Minister Brown has been involved up to his neck since Tony Blair committed British troops, first as Chancellor of the Exchequer and then as Prime Minister, without any obvious exit strategy. Hardly an achievement that should earn him even a footnote in history.

While Gordon Brown had to worry about paying for the Iraq War, he can hardly claim he was so distracted that he neglected his duties as the first Secretary to the Treasury.

He may be blown off course as was forecast in this column when the removers were pushing his goods and chattels from No 11 to No 10 Downing Street in an up market wheelbarrow. Up to that point he could claim to justify his nickname of 'prudence' but holding the reigns of power seems to have gone to his head. Between him and his successor Alastair Darling they have pursued this economic theory that the way out of recession is to 'spend, spend, spend'.

Resign or be booted out

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If that is the answer, why is it that it does not work at a

personal level? Now, I know that the world's biggest banks have done some extraordinary things in recent times but they have never told their customers that the solution to their inability to repay their borrowings is to borrow more money to keep cash circulating.

May that not be the origin of the toxic mortgage? When I asked an American friend who was an international banker why he and his colleagues handed out billions of dollars to those who wanted to buy a house but couldn't get a mortgage as they were not 'a good risk' in normal times, I got a convoluted explanation which boiled down to deal with the incipient recession by throwing money at it in the hope 'something would happen'. We know what happened to that practice, the current economic crisis, which Tavish Scott, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, told me last week could take a quarter of a century to sort out. Again, there was no 'exit strategy'.

While they kicked 'seven bells' out of each other the British, American and other nations' forces were being killed needlessly. The 'B' twins - Blair and Bush - regarded themselves as crusaders in the name of freedom, world peace and oil, the most important of these being the latter. The only reason western troops are leaving now is that President Bush is president no longer.

An election next month

THE EUROPEAN Parliament elections take place in a month's time but there doesn't seem to be any enthusiasm, even among those who normally get very het up and plaster any blank space in towns and cities with posters.

In rural areas, it's rocks and road signs where, despite rules about their removal, they are left to disintegrate horribly.

Whose fault is it that the European Parliament elections are so disregarded by the electorate? People grumble about the vast array of legislation issued from Brussels which we are expected to obey on pain of being submerged in a French wine lake every day for seven years. Actually that could be quite pleasant as long as the product of the grape is 'premier cru'.

However, to be serious, we shouldn't neglect our right to vote in next month's elections as the decisions taken by the European Parliament and its cousin, the European Commission, do affect our every day life. We may not approve of both bodies' abilities to do things for which we can see no good reason but do we really have any right to criticise them if we have nothing to oppose them? Scotland fares rather badly in the number of MEPs that we are allowed to have. As the European Union has expanded in the past decade, we have already lost our right to retain our number of MEPs. We lost one at the last election and another this time round. But still go out to vote.

Roads cash riddle

Sir,
In an recent edition, Stewart Turner, head of Argyll and Bute Council's roads, explained why there is no money to repair roads on Mull and elsewhere.

In the same edition, there was an article about a £24m underspend targeted by the council. How is it our council was so slow to realise the existence of this money? Is it going to be in time to get our share of the money so that we get roads at least as good as those in 'backward' countries like Croatia and Slovenia. **Jill Galbraith, Dervaig, Isle of Mull.**

Your letters

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

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

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

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

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

Portree has dearest trade

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 132 store cattle and 6 Over 30 Month cattle at Portree when all cattle met one of the dearest trades ever witnessed at the centre.

Bullocks averaged 216.3p and sold to 256.7p per kg for a 300kg Limousin from No. 1 Eyre, Snizort and £900 for a 440kg Limousin from No. 2 Kingsburgh, Snizort.

Heifers averaged 185p and sold to 230p per kg for a pair of 200kg Limousins from No. 1 Eyre, and £870 for a 525kg Limousin from No. 2 Kingsburgh.

Over 30 Month cattle averaged 115p and sold to 135.7p per kg for a 420kg Limousin bullock from No. 7 Coullindoune, Glenelg, and £735 for a 600kg Limousin cow from No. 7 North Duntulm, Kilmuir.

Stirling store cattle trade continues to rise

UNITED Auctions sold 1187 store cattle and 379 store hogs and ewes with lambs at foot at Stirling last Wednesday when trade for all classes of cattle continued to rise with bullocks up more than 6p per kilo and heifers 3p per kilo on the week.

Bullocks averaged 183.23p (+6.02p) and sold to 239.30p per kg and £1,120 for a 468kg Charolais cross from Luckenburn.

Heifers averaged 176.53p (+3.64p) and sold to 208.10p per kg for a 406kg Limousin cross from Carsloe and £935 for a 702kg Charolais cross from Lochelbank.

Forward cattle averaged 139.82p and sold to 172.10p for an Aberdeen Angus cross from Lochelbank and £965 for a Limousin cross from The Ross.

Cast cows averaged 117.25p and sold to 164.20p for a Charolais cross from Killowcraw and £1225 for a Limousin cross from Back O Muir.

Mule hogs from Wester Cameron sold to £67.50 with Texels from Meggermie to £65.50 and Blackface hogs from Croft to £59.90.

Texel cross gimmers with lambs at foot from West Yett sold to £136 with Mule ewes with twins from Strewiebank selling to £130.

Crofting foundation supports LFA decision

THE Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) has welcomed the decision of the European Commission to review and change the Less Favoured Areas classifications.



Neil Macleod

'Workable' SCF chairman Neil Macleod said that support to areas with natural handicaps is vital to the future delivery of public goods by crofters and other producers in Scotland's mountains and islands.

'It is vital that any reform is workable,' said Mr Macleod.

which cause problems for livestock, might not be properly covered. However, this exercise enables as many of these concerns as possible to be addressed before legislation is brought forward.'

The European Commission has released a statement on its intentions to engage with Member States in field testing the proposed new criteria for the delimitation of the Less Favoured Areas of Europe.

SCF Parliamentary spokesman Norman Leask added: 'SCF regrets the

Commission's decision to drop distance or peripherality as a criterion. However, this has been clearly flagged up for some time and we call on the Scottish Government to take immediate action to draw up proposals for the redefinition of islands as areas with 'specific handicaps' and of other parts of upland Scotland to be defined as 'mountain' to reflect production handicaps.

'SCF supports making LFA payments available to active producers only and will continue to call for the

same rule to be extended to Single Farm Payment.

'We also call on the Scottish Government to take this enforced reform of LFA delimitation to address the fundamental problem with the current scheme - that less handicapped producers receive the highest payments. Those who deliver on the objectives of sustainable land management, such as maintaining High Nature Value farmland through agricultural activity should be the ones who benefit from LFA support as the regulation intended.'

Vets warn of high worm threat

Rapidly rising temperature lead to high health risk

VETERINARIANS from the Scottish Agricultural College are warning sheep farmers that rapidly rising spring temperatures will lead to problems with worms.

Lambs Conditions are now just right for the rapid build up of Nematodirus, a parasite that threatens lambs from six weeks old.

Many of this year's lamb crop will be at risk from May onwards. A number of cases have already been

recorded in the south west, so flockmasters should be alert and ready to take action.

Sudden death The worms of Nematodirus battus are a particular problem for lambs as they start to eat more grass and can cause sudden death. Those that survive can suffer a watery scour and don't thrive, leaving them susceptible to coccidiosis and kidney damage leading to renal failure which can also increase losses.

The threat increases when a cold period in the spring is followed by a warm spell which encourages a mass hatch of eggs on pasture. This year spring temperatures have begun to rise earlier so it is anticipated that a simultaneous hatch of N battus larvae will occur from early May onwards.

Hill lambs Heavily stocked low ground permanent pastures are particularly at risk, as are pastures with a history of the disease. If the

Nematodirus hatch continues into June, hill lambs on improved pastures may also be affected especially if they are relatively heavily stocked.

The parasite can kill lambs before any eggs appear in faeces. SAC recommends that if unexplained lamb deaths occur in a flock the freshly dead carcasses should be submitted to the nearest SAC Disease Surveillance Centre which can either diagnose or rule out the condition.

Quality in demand

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 701 store cattle, a breeding bull and 38 Over 30 Month cattle at Dingwall last Wednesday when quality grazing cattle and breeding heifers met an improved trade whilst strong and fleshy cattle continued at recent keen rates.

Bullocks averaged 194.9p and sold to 250p per kg thrice for a pair of 272kg Charolais crosses and a 280kg Charolais cross from Invergordon Mains, Invergordon, and a 220kg Limousin from Drumbuie, Kyle of Lochalsh, and £1,070 for a pen of 548kg Limousin crosses from Invertromie, Kingussie.

Heifers averaged 190.2p and sold to 336.6p per kg and £1,700 for a 505kg British Blue cross from Auchorachan, Glenlivet.

Young bulls averaged 181.8p and sold to 231.9p per kg for a 345kg British Shorthorn from Glen Gloy Farms, Spean Bridge, and £930 for a 595kg Limousin from Woodside, Muir of Tarradale.

Breeding bulls sold to £2,000 for an 18 month old Simmental from 15 Achnairn, Shinness, Laig.

Prime trade for sheep and cattle back at Dingwall

DINGWALL and Highland Marts Ltd sold 91 prime cattle and 424 prime sheep at Dingwall.

Prime bullocks averaged 165p (-5.9p) and sold to 185p per kg for a 580kg Limousin from Udale, Poyntzfield, and £1,201.25 for a 775kg Limousin from Viewhill, Gollanfield.

Prime heifers averaged 166.1p (-5.1p) and sold to 182p per kg and £1,110.20 for a 610kg Limousin cross from Little Kildrummie, Nairn, to John M. Munro Ltd., Dingwall.

Old season lambs averaged 178.4p (-22.7p) and sold to 193.1p per kg for 43.5kg Texel crosses from Ardivot Farm, Lossiemouth, to John M. Munro Ltd, Dingwall, and £91 for 48kg Texel crosses from Torgorm, Conon Bridge, to Fraser Brothers Butchers, Dingwall.

Feeding sheep sold to £75 for a Texel cross from Wester Moy, Urray, Muir of Ord.

Spring lambs to £106 at Stirling

UNITED Auctions sold 2719 prime sheep including 95 lambs, 1965 hogs and 659 ewes and rams at Stirling last Thursday.

Spring lambs sold to £106 for Suffolks from Penston and to 222p per kilo or £91.50 for Texels from West Meikle Pinkerton.

Heifers sell to 226.7p per kilo at Perth

UNITED Auctions sold 641 store and breeding cattle at Perth last Friday.

Bullocks averaged 183.8p and sold to 215.1p per kg for a 251kg Limousin cross from East Buchanty and £990 for a 540kg British Blue cross from Keillour Park.

Heifers averaged 176.2p and sold to 226.7p per kg for a 300kg British Blue cross from Borlick Cottage and £900 for a 640kg Limousin cross from Keillour Park.

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 06 MITSUBISHI L200 Warrior, double cab pick-up, black, 30k..... £9,950
 07 MITSUBISHI L200, double cab pick-up, 4 work, truckman canopy, 30k..... £7,950
 06 MITSUBISHI Shogun Sport Commercial 5 dr, silver, 38k..... £7,950
 06 MITSUBISHI L200 DID double cab pick-up, silver, canopy..... £7,950
 06 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal, double cab pick-up, auto, leather, black..... £7,450
 06 MITSUBISHI L200 Animal, double cab, leather, seat nav, black, choice..... £9,950
 55 MITSUBISHI L200, single cab pick-up 4WD, Truckman canopy, 30k, choice..... £5,950
 55 MITSUBISHI L200 single cab pick-up 2WD, 17k..... £5,950
 55 MITSUBISHI L200 double cab pick-up, 50k, towbar, choice..... £4,650
 07 NISSAN Navara, double cab pick-up, met, grey, 30k, canopy, choice..... £9,950
 06 NISSAN Navara Outlaw, double cab, leather, seat nav, black, choice..... £9,650
 07 ISUZU Rodeo Denver Max, double cab pick-up, 3lt, auto, silver..... £9,750
 56 FORD Ranger Thunder, double cab, leather, black 20k..... £7,950
 56 FORD Ranger XL double cab, new shape, 3 ton tow, full spec, silver..... £7,950
 05 FORD Transit 260 SWB, semi high van, blue, 25k..... £4,950
 05 FORD Transit 350 Crew Cab Tipper from 35k miles, choice..... £6,950
 55 SANTANA Slation Wagon, 4x4, 5 seats, met, grey, very clean..... £5,950
 01 NISSAN Navara, King Cab, 4x4, red, canopy, very clean..... £2,950
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 02 JCB 2CX loading shovel, 4wd, 4ws, very tidy..... £7,950

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COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949 SINGLE MOORING - OBAN BAY

Notice is hereby given that Michael Coates has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Government, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, in respect of an existing mooring in Oban Bay:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
Mooring	56 25.02N	05 28.65W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at **Oban Library, Albany Street, Oban**

Objections relating to safety of navigation in respect of the application should be made in writing to:

Gordon Hastie, The Scottish Government, Ports and Harbours Branch, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of this notice quoting reference:

2SPC/2/51351

Mr Michael Coates
 Dungalton Country House
 Galanach Road
 Oban

Proposed Assignment of Grazing Share (S)

Catherine MacDonald, shareholder is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to assign the tenancy of the grazing share (s) in the Bunnacambe / Back of Keppoch common grazing pertaining to the croft at 2 Port Naluchaig to 1 Belach of 1 share. If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness IV2 3EQ by 4th June 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

Proposed Non Family Transfer by Executrix of Grazing Shares

Mrs Margaret Ann Laing, Executrix is applying to the Crofters Commission for consent to transfer the tenancy of the grazing shares in the Ariveigaig, Ardnarnurchan & Sunart common grazing pertaining to the croft at 196 Ariveigaig to Allan Cameron MacColl of Bealach Ban, Ariveigaig, PH36 4LE. If you have any objection to the proposal, you may submit representations in writing or some other permanent form to the Crofters Commission, Castle Wynd, Inverness, IV2 3EQ by 5th June 2009, specifying your interest in the application and your reasons for objecting. A copy of any representations made will be forwarded to the applicant.

"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 Awe Side Country Estate Limited for authorisation to carry out a controlled activity, namely:

1) Discharge of 60 m3 per day of sewage effluent to Loch Awe at NGR NN 0520 2098.

"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/1035938:

The Registry, SEPA, Graesser House, Fodderty 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 the SEPA office, 2 Smith Lane, Lochgilhead, telephone 01546 602876.

"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."

The Scottish Government

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A830 TRUNK ROAD (ARISAIG TO LOCH NAN UAMH) (40 AND 30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2009

The Scottish Ministers hereby give notice that they propose to make the above Order under section 84(1)(a) and 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 which will have the effect of imposing a 40 and 30mph speed limit on the following lengths of the A830 trunk road:

40mph Speed Limit

- That length of the A830 Fort William to Mallaig Trunk Road from a point 233m or thereby east of the centreline of the junction with the side road to the property known as Woodend in a generally westerly direction for a distance of 333 metres or thereby to a point 95m or thereby east of the eastern boundary of the property known as Achnahully.
- That length of the A830 Fort William to Mallaig Trunk Road from a point 132m or thereby west of the centreline of the junction with the side road known as Station Road in a generally north westerly direction for a distance of 304 metres or thereby to a point 166m or thereby west of the centreline of the junction with the B8008 side road.

30mph Speed Limit

- That length of the A830 Fort William to Mallaig Trunk Road from a point 95m or thereby east of the eastern boundary of the property known as Achnahully in a generally westerly direction for a distance of 546 metres or thereby to a point 132m or thereby west of the centreline of the junction with the side road known as Station Road.

By virtue of section 124(1)(d) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, this Order revokes the previous A830 Trunk Road (Arisaig to Kinsadell) (40/30mph Speed Limit) Order 2003. Full details of the proposal are contained in the Order which, together with a plan (T3078/900) showing the length of road involved and a statement of the Scottish Ministers' reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined free of charge from Thursday 7 May 2009 until Friday 5 June 2009 at the offices of Transport Scotland, 9th floor Reception, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF between the hours of 08:30 - 17:00 (Mon - Thu) and 08:30 - 16:30 (Fri); and at the offices of the Highland Council, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. The offices of the Highland Council, Area Manager's Office, Lochaber House, High Street, Fort William; The Post Office, Mallaig and the Post Office, Arisaig. Any person wishing to object to the proposed Order should send details of the grounds for objection in writing to Transport Scotland, Major Transport Infrastructure Projects, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF quoting reference AOW/H9/12/4.

A McLAUGHLIN
 A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
 Transport Scotland
 Major Transport Infrastructure Projects
 Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF
 29 April 2009

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Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

PLANNING

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION 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 the location given below, at 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

SCHEDULE - DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION OF PLANS

- Ref No: 09/00480/OUT
 Applicant: Mr J G Porter
 Proposal: Site for erection of dwelling houses (approx 0.76ha).
 Site Address: Land to the East Of Cairn Cottage Port Ellen Isle of Islay
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Port Ellen
 Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days
- Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, 67 Chalmers Street, Ardrishaig, PA30 8DX

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997, RELATED LEGISLATION 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 the location given below, at Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban and by logging on to the Council's Website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk and clicking on Online Planning Applications. Anyone wishing to make representations should do so in writing to the undersigned within 14 or 21 days of the appearance of this notice, whichever is applicable as indicated below. Please quote the reference number in any correspondence.

- Ref No: 09/00219/OUT
 Applicant: Brian Neish
 Proposal: Site for Erection of Four Self-Catering Lodges and Associated Parking (Renewal of 05/02606/OUT)
 Site Address: Barbeck Farm Bungalow Kilchrean Taynult Argyll and Bute PA35 1HF
 Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynult
 Section 34 Advert - 14 Days
- Area Team Leader Development Control, Planning Services, Lorn House, Albany Street, Oban

Any letter of representation the council receives about a planning application is considered a public document. Please therefore note that representations will be made available for public inspection and, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act, will be copied on request. They will also be published on the council's web site. The author of such a representation is solely responsible for its content and accuracy. Anonymous representations will be "shredded" and those marked confidential will be returned to the sender. Neither will be taken into account when the application is being considered. Details of representations we receive on planning applications can be viewed on the council's website at www.argyll-bute.gov.uk/publicaccess

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 18th - 22nd May 2009 - period 2
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THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL - COMHAIRLE NA GÀIDHEALTACHD
Notices Under the Town and Country Planning Acts

The applications for Planning Permission listed below, and Environmental Statements where appropriate, together with the plans and other documents submitted with them may be examined at the AREA PLANNING OFFICE, FULTON HOUSE, GORDON SQUARE, FORT WILLIAM PH33 6XY between the hours of 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and at the location where listed below during normal office hours.

Written comments (whether supporting or opposing the applications) may be made to the AREA PLANNING AND BUILDING STANDARDS MANAGER at the address below by the dates listed below.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Mr & Mrs L Young Plot 2 - Land 50M North East of Rosinish House & Plot 3 - Land South East of 3 Glen Ghorm, Ballachulish 09/00144/OUTLO & 09/00155/OUTLO	Erection of 2 houses - Plots 2 & 3	Ballachulish Post Office Potential Departure from Development Plan (21 Days)
Morag MacIntosh Plots 1-3 - North & North East of Marine House, Onich, Fort William, Highland PH33 6SE 09/00163-165/OUTLO	Erection of 3 houses (affordable) - plots 1-3	Ballachulish Post Office Potential Departure from Development Plan (21 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

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COUNCILLORS SURGERIES

Councillor Mary Jean Devon (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Devon on Tel: 01688 301215 or email - mary-jean.devon@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Gordon Chalmers (E.W. 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Constituents can contact Councillor Chalmers on Tel: 01688 302689 or email - gordon.chalmers@argyll-bute.gov.uk or gordon.chalmers@btinternet.com

Councillor Donald McIntosh (E.W 4 Oban South and the Isles)
 Councillor McIntosh's constituents can contact him on Tel: 07788 882200 or by email - donald.mcintosh@argyll-bute.gov.uk

Councillor Donald Macdonald (E.W.5 Oban North and Lorn)
 Councillor Macdonald's constituents can contact him on Tel: 01631 566367 or by email - donald.macdonald@argyll-bute.gov.uk

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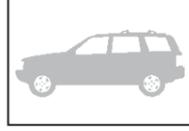
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£12,000 per annum for 3 day week

This is an 18 month post with the possibility of continuing subject to funding.

The successful candidate will be required to demonstrate a track record of building and increasing activity in an organisation, financial awareness and experience of generating resources, experience of funding applications, marketing and promotion.

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£6,000 per annum for 2 day week

This post is secure until December 2011 with the possibility of continuing subject to funding.

The successful candidate will be enthusiastic, committed, an excellent communicator and will be required to continue and develop the already established and successful Museum education programme. An understanding of local history research, museum education and school curriculum would be an advantage.

Further details for both posts can be obtained from Mairi Mooney, Curator/Manager on 01397 702169 or by email: mairi@westhighlandmuseum.org.uk

Applications should be in writing with c.v. by Friday 22nd May

Interviews will be held in week of 1st June 2009

Acknowledgement of LEADER assistance with both posts

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We are currently recruiting for a Quality Controller primarily based at Cairndow and Marine personnel in the Loch Fyne and Toward areas of our South Production Region:

QUALITY CONTROLLER - (Cairndow - Ref: CWQC01/09)

MARINE OPERATIVES - (Ref: SLFTMO2/09)
(Lower Loch Fyne - 1 F/T Post) & (Toward - 1 F/T & 1 Weekend Post)

YARDMAN - (Loch Fyne - Ref: SSTYM2/09)

All Candidates will be enthusiastic, self-motivated and be able to demonstrate previous experience in working in small, focused teams. Candidates for the position of Quality Controller will ideally have experience of QA/QC systems, an awareness of food hygiene, basic Health & Safety, be a good communicator and computer literate.

Previous aquaculture experience is desirable for the other posts but not essential as the company can offer further development opportunities through its in-house training scheme.

The role of Yardman requires candidates to hold current forklift truck certificates for all-terrain and masted vehicles.

In return, the Company offers a comprehensive pay and benefits package including entry into the Company pension scheme after the qualifying period. A full, clean driving licence is also essential for all posts.

To apply, please contact our HR Department on 01499 600 415 to obtain an application form.

Veronica Anderson, HR Officer,
Lighthouse Caledonia Ltd., Ardkinglas, Cairndow, Argyll, PA26 8BH

Closing date for applicants: 15 May 2009

Visit our website for further details at www.lighthousecaledonia.com

Animal Health Officer (Part Time)
£23,578 - £25,768 Oban, Lorn & the Isles Ref: CPL23209
Flexibility required due to travel and nature of the post.

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£14,216 - £15,074 Lochgilphead Ref: CPD21056
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☎ 01546 604395 for the above posts only

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30 hours per week, Campbeltown Grammar School

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12:30 hours per week, based at Tobermory/Salen Mull Ref: CSE66258
10 hours per week, Dervaig Mull Ref: CSE66254
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Local fishing knowledge and/or a degree in Marine Science or a related discipline would be advantageous.

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Closing date: 22 May 2009
Expected interview dates: 30 June, 1 July and 2 July 2009
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Please call Kim McAllister on 01631 559 830 for an application form and further information.

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For an application pack, please telephone 01631 565062 or email: Oban.sl@enable.org.uk, quoting post ref B/027. (We particularly welcome applications from disabled candidates and make our forms available in alternative formats.) To view and apply for all our vacancies, please visit: www.enable.org.uk Closing Date: 19 May 2009.

ENABLE Scotland is an equal opportunities employer. ENABLE Scotland, Charity No SC009024 and company limited by guarantee Reg No 278976 Scotland.

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Various positions have arisen to operate from our Oban Depot, including Van and up to LGV Class II Drivers. Please apply in writing enclosing a current C.V to Oban Express, Unit 7A Glengallan Road, Oban Argyll PA34 4HJ

Mid Argyll Swimming Pool LEISURE ATTENDANT

Mid Argyll Swimming Pool are seeking individuals to join their team as casual / part time / full time Leisure Attendants. Duties would include supervision of public, reception duties and cleaning. The work includes day, evening and weekend shifts.

Applicants are required to hold a current lifeguard qualification, training will be available.

All applications in writing including a CV to Morven Eastaugh or Alistair Letham at Mid Argyll Swimming Pool, Oban Road, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8NG

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Key Skills Required

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BICYCLE double bike carrier, hardly used, £20 Telephone 01631 562272.

GENTS BIKE Raleigh mountain bike, green, needs some attention, £20 Telephone 01631 710541.

LADIES MOUNTAIN BIKE purple and white ladies bike, good condition, £30 Telephone 01631 710541.

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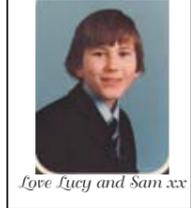
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PERSONAL NOTICES

Thank You to family, friends and members of the community who sponsored me for the London marathon. In particular "thank you" to Euan Paterson of the Oban Times, Dawn and Karen of Aqualou, Rosie and staff of Connel Shop, Oban Rotary and the Isle of Eriska. You all helped me raise £2400 for Coeliac UK. I appreciate the patience and courtesy of drivers on the Bonawe Road, in particular Ennstone Thistle. Doreen Henderson.

Happy 40th Birthday Daddy



Happy 21st Daniel



Love Dad, Mum, Jamie and Lewis xxxx

INALL Ishbel and Mark would like to thank Oban Maternity Unit, especially Fiona and Liz, and the speedy ambulance crew who helped so kindly in the arrival of Eliza Joyce on April 28th.

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BIRTHS

CAMPBELL - Colin and Fiona (née McGregor) are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their son, Alasdair Donald on April 24, 2009. First Grandchild for John and Margaret McGregor, Dalriach Road, Oban and fourth Grandchild for Donnie and Isobel Campbell, Achnacree Bay, North Connell. With thanks to Oban Maternity and staff at RAH, Paisley.

FORGRIVE - **MACDOUGALL** - Gemma and Finlay are delighted to announce the birth of their baby girl Eve, born on April 26, 2009. Thank you to all at Oban Maternity Unit.

MACCORQUODALE - Iain and Diane (née Kerr) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Rowan, born on April 29, 2009 at RAH Maternity Paisley. A very very very long awaited sister for Iain. First granddaughter for Mairdina and the late Archie MacCorquodale and also first for Sheila and John Kerr. Very special thanks goes to all the girls at Oban Maternity for their constant care throughout.

STEWART - **MACDONALD** - Blair and Claire are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their daughter Rowan Catherine, on April 24, 2009 at the RAH Paisley, first grandchild for Jean Stewart, Dunbeg. Many thanks to the RAH midwives and Oban Maternity Unit.

MARRIAGES

MACGILLIVRAY - **HARVEY**
At Manor House, Oban on Saturday, April 18, 2009 by Rev George Cringles, Grahame, son of Dougie and Catherine, to Alison, daughter of Bill and Irene. A wonderful day enjoyed by all.

GOLDEN WEDDING

DUNN - **MCIVER** - At Oban Old Parish Church on May 12, 1959, Iain to Mairia.

DEATHS

CRICHTON - John Irvine JP of Tioran, Glenmavis and Fas Coille, Craignure. Peacefully at home on May 4, 2009. John beloved husband of Sandra and dearly loved dad of Fiona and Alex. Funeral service at New Monkland Parish Church, Glenmavis on Friday, May 8 at 12.30pm to which all friends are respectfully invited.

DENCH - **JRM** (Reg) Peacefully at Crosshouse Hospital on Sunday, May 3, 2009, dearly loved husband of Sheena Glenday. A loving father and grandfather.

DUNNINGS - Peacefully in Medical Ward, Belford Hospital, Fort William surrounded by his family on May 2, 2009, Frank Dunning, 5 Cluncs, Achnacarry, Spean Bridge. Beloved husband of Flora, much loved father of Allan, Frances, Evelyn and Sheila. A dearly loved brother, granddad, great-grandpa, father-in-law and uncle. Funeral service will

be held in Kilmallie Parish Church, Corpach on Friday, May 8, at 2.30pm. All friends respectfully invited. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Belford Hospital.

JORDAN - Peacefully at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban on April 29, 2009, aged 86 years, Alexanderina (Ina) (née MacKenzie) 22 Dunmar Court, Oban, (formerly of Bonawe) dearly loved wife of the late George, a loving mum and mum-in-law to Charlie, Mary, Sandra, Malcolm, Betty, Iain, Rita, Susan and the late Tommy and Alex. Treasured Gran, Ge Ge and a much-loved aunt. Sadly missed.

MACLEAN - Peacefully at her own home, and with her family around her, on Saturday, May 2, 2009, Maisie Maclean in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Archie Maclean, loving mother of Ronald, Stewart, Fergus and Lewis and adored grandmother. The funeral service will take place on Friday, May 8, at 11am at the Duncairnburgh Mackintosh Church, Fort William. All friends are respectfully invited to attend. Family flowers only, please, donations, if desired, to Marie Curie.

MACPHERSON - On May 2, 2009 at Raigmore Hospital Inverness after a short illness, David MacPherson of Suisnish, Tong Road, Isle of Lewis. Beloved husband of Moira, and devoted father of Paula, Iain and Alan, and father-in-law of John. Formerly of Hazeldean Crescent and Bank of Scotland.

MACRAE - Peacefully at Dumaros Hospital, Isle of Mull on April 28, 2009, in his 86th year, John MacRae, Kilfinichen, Isle of Mull. Loving husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather. Sadly missed by all his family.

NICHOLSON - Francis Stewart (Frank) aged 86 years of Glassard Colonsay, beloved husband of the late Susan McAllister, died peacefully at home on Saturday, May 2, 2009. A very much loved father, father-in-law grandfather and great-grandfather. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

RITCHIE - Suddenly but peacefully on Luing on Sunday, May 3, 2009, aged 88, Captain the Reverend Malcolm Alexander Ritchie, formerly of Tayvallich, Easdale, Strathblane and Broughty Ferry. Much loved husband of the late Heather, caring father of John, David and Isabel, father-in-law, brother, uncle and friend. A faithful servant of his Lord and Saviour, he trusted in God's providence to the end. Ps.31 v14 - 15a. Funeral at Tayvallich Church on Monday, May 18, at 1.30pm, thereafter to Carsaig Cemetery. Family flowers only please. Retiring collection/donations if desired to Bamabas Fund/ Scripture Union.

IN MEMORIAM

DONN - In loving memory of our dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle, James (Jimmy), who died very suddenly on May 6, 2008. Not a day do we forget you In our hearts you are always there. Sadly missed.

- Inserted by Isabella, Douglas and the late Violet, Loanhead.

DONN - James (Jimmy), died May 6, 2008, a very special uncle to us all. Precious memories of time shared together Will live in our hearts with love forever.

- Sidney, Marylyn and family.

DONN - Treasured memories of uncle James, who was taken from us on May 6, 2008. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

- From Jane, Iain and all the family.

FRASER - In loving memory of Malcolm, a dear dad, father-in-law and granddad, who died May 5, 2007. No longer in our lives to share But in our hearts you are always there

- Neil, Cathy, Lorraine, Craig and Ryan.

JOHNSTON - In loving memory of George, who died May 3, 1989, a dear husband, dad and grandpa. Loved always.

- Bridget and the family x.

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of a devoted wife and mother, Marilyn, who passed away May 10, 1998. Loved and remembered every day.

- Billy, Morven, William and Andrea xxxx

MACINNES - Treasured memories of Donald (Dan), devoted husband, dad and grandpa, who passed away on May 11, 2008. Loved and remembered always, by the family.

MACLEOD - In loving memory of a darling mum, mother-in-law, gran and great-gran, Margaret (Rita) who died May 10, 2005. Always in our thoughts.

- Sandra, Denis and family.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of our dad, Alexander (Sandy), who

died at his home, Coire-Leis, Camaghael on May 11, 1974. If memories bring us closer We are never far apart God has you in his keeping We have you in our hearts We miss you dad.

- Loving daughter, Mary and family and son Alex and family.

MACRAE - In loving memory of Ian, who died May 10, 2003. A precious husband, dad and granpa Always in our thoughts.

- Daisy, Martin, Jean, Marie and families.

McLAREN - In loving memory of Duncan, who died May 9, 1997, dear father, father-in-law and grandpa. No matter how our lives have changed No matter what we do A special place within our hearts Is always kept for you Always remembered

- John, Angela, Kerry, Paul and Niall.

MARSHALL - In loving memory of Betty Marshall who died May 11, 2008. It's been a year my dearest since God took you away I never will forget my love The sadness of that day My first thought when I waken My last before I sleep Is of you my dearest And the memories I keep I thank you for those happy years That we shared together And for all our children Who loved to call you mother.

- Love Always Steve.

SANDS - Donald, May 8, 2002. Seven long years - the memories still clear, the love still strong.

- Pat.

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of a dear grandpa, who died on May 6, 2003. May comes with deep regret Bringing a day we will never forget Deep in our hearts you will always stay Loved and remembered every day.

- Your loving grandchildren, Caroline, Josephine, Denise, Christopher, great-grandchildren and Kevin. x

SINCLAIR - Achaleven Farm. Treasured memories of our dear grandparents, Donald, who died March 21, 1985, and Duncan, who died May 6, 2003. No word, no verse could ever say How much we miss you every day Precious are our memories Of a Shen and grandpa we will never forget.

- Your loving grand-daughter Marie, great-grandson Duncan, and Dugald xxx.

STEELE - Loving memories of our dad, Ian, who died May 9, 1984.

- Morag and Alan.

STEELE - In loving memory of our dear brother-in-law and uncle Ian, who died May 9, 1984. Years go by Memories stay As near and dear as yesterday.

- Morag, Neil, Gregor and Euan, Killin.

STOTT - Treasured memories of a dear mum and granny, Christina, who died May 6, 1987. Always in our thoughts Forever in our hearts.

- Daughter, Rosemary, son-in-law, Ewen and grandsons, Ewen and Ross, Tigh-na-Coille, Spean Bridge.

TAYLOR - Remembering always with love my darling husband, William, who passed away May 5, 1992. Sunshine passes Shadows fall But my love and memories Outlast them all. Love always.

- Violet.

TAYLOR - Cherished memories of a loving dad and grandpa, William, who passed away on May 5, 1992. Loving memories of a dad so dear Treasured still with a love sincere In our hearts he is living yet We loved him too dearly to forget.

- Shaun, Eilidh, Ryan and Zoe.

- Steven, Christina, Lauren and Danielle.

- Tony, Janice and William.

WATT - In loving memory of our mother, Mary Watt (Maimie), who died May 12, 1984 (25 years). Always in our thoughts, forever in our heart.

- Catherine and family, Tobermory, Arthur, Sheena and family, Alexandria.

WYLIE - Treasured memories of our only precious son and brother Robert Anthony, who was tragically taken from us on May 7, 1997 aged 18 years. If we could visit heaven on this sad day

Then maybe for a moment Our pain would go away We'd put our arms around you And whisper words so true That living life without you Robert Is very hard to do For you filled every room that you entered And lit up every heart that you touched Nothing is the same without you

- Your loving Mum and Dad. The midnight stars are shining On a grave not far away Where we laid our darling brother 12 years ago today It's there we always wander It's there we keep in touch With the one we loved so dearly And miss so very much We always remember the way you looked The way you talked and smiled And if we were to only have one wish It would be to have you again for a little while. Sorely missed always - Your big sisters, Diane and Lorna.

Treasured memories of my wee brother A thousand words won't bring you back I know because I've tried And neither will a million tears I know because I've cried But if I could have one lifetime wish One dream that could come true I'd pray to God with all my heart For yesterday, and you. For your life was a blessing And your memory is a treasure You are loved beyond any words And missed beyond any measure Always in our heart. - Maree and William. As time goes on without you And days turn into years I think of you each moment With many silent tears. Love you always Uncle Robert.

- Your darling niece Rebecca.

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 10 May 2009
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In 'Worship Link' available

Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
01631 567076
All welcome

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Sunday 10th May
Skipinich Ceilidh
House
10am
All Welcome
Telephone
07876 735 794
www.lorncf.org.uk

OBAN ELM
Pentecostal Church
Worship Meeting
Saturdays 6.00pm
Guide Hall
Soroba Road
Oban
01631 570485
Everybody Welcome

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) LOCHABER AND LORN
MEETING FOR WORSHIP held the Second Sunday of each month
11 a.m. - 12 noon
Port Appin Hall
Visitors welcome
For further information telephone 01631 730594 or 01631 330429

WE ARE CAMMILLAN. CANCER SUPPORT
Working towards a time when every person in Scotland has equal and ready access to the best information, treatment and care for cancer
West of Scotland Fundraising Office
1st Floor, Erskine House
North Avenue, Clydebank
Business Park, Clydebank G81 2DR
Tel 0808 100 6000
In memory of Dawn Joyce

Fighting Cancer on all fronts...
CRC Scotland spends more on research than any other organisation
Commitment of over £15 million each year
Cancer Research UK Scotland
Suite 1/1, Unit 4 Blair Court
Clydebank Business Park
Clydebank, G81 2LA

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Please give your financial support by donation, deed of covenant or legacy
Please send to Appeals Department, Highland Arts Effort, Royal Blind Asylum School, P.O. Box 500, Gillespie Crescent, Edinburgh, EH10 4HZ

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Sunday 10 May 2009
4th after Easter
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion..... 08.00
Sung Eucharist..... 10.15
Sunday School and Crèche

Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All Welcome
Norman MacCallum, Provost
01631 562323

Holy Spirit, Ardehannan
Holy Eucharist..... 12.15
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist..... 11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist..... 08.00
Evensong..... 20.00

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Campbell Street Church
Sunday 10 May 2009
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Tributes

Duncan Louis Stewart January 28 1990 – October 15 2008

DUNCAN Stewart died as a passenger in a road accident while working in a gap year job with the Argyll Fisheries Trust collecting and recording evidence about the fish populations of the rivers of Argyll and Bute.



Duncan Stewart

The eldest of four children of David Stewart of Achara and his wife, Kim, Duncan's life was deeply rooted in Argyll, at Fasnacloich, and in the rivers, loch and hills of Glen Creran.

His death at the age of 18 is an overwhelming loss to his family, friends and to all who knew him. Duncan had a special affinity with the natural world and a special talent for observing and recording nature. He knew an enormous amount about animals, birds, fish and water creatures, plants and insects and every detail about them provoked him to questions about nature's patterns.

Expertise
His diary of fish catches, with photographs, hand drawn pictures and detailed observations covered Loch Baile Mhic Chalein and the River Creran, Lake Owen in his mother's home territory of Wisconsin, and the brown trout and grayling on a stretch of the River Itchen belonging to Winchester College. At Winchester, which he attended from 2003-2008, he won the Natural History Prize: 'Duncan's enthusiasm, expertise, organisation and passion for the natural world have inspired a whole new generation of Wykehamist natural historians, and it is wonderful to have seen the society reborn under his leadership. Highlights of his time at the helm include the recent trip to India to see wild tigers, the recent lecture by Sir David Attenborough (our new honorary patron), a multitude of new trips into the Hampshire countryside and much more besides. He has been an outstanding secretary, and will be an outstanding naturalist in the future.'

Duncan was an outstanding student. He led the

royal marines section of the CCF and was head of his house for his last two terms. His contemporaries pay tribute equally to his achievements and leadership qualities and to his warmth and considerateness, and his headmaster has written: 'He was a boy held in universal respect and affection here. On a personal note, my wife and I thought he was quite the best boy we have known in our time here...'

Straight As at A level would have won him a place to read biological sciences at Oxford, just as his enquiring mind and qualities of principle, individuality and steadfastness would have guaranteed that he achieved something of lasting value in the marine sciences and the protection of the environment. If a shining career has been denied him, his distinction of mind and character has left an indelible mark. Thoughtful in every sense, modest, attractive and extremely talented, what he did with his tragically short life demands record and recognition. There will be a service of remembrance and thanksgiving for the life of Duncan Louis Stewart at midday on Friday May 22 at St John's Cathedral, Oban.

James Donn Junior (Jimmy): September 9 1926 – May 9 2008

SON of James and Jessie Donn, brother to the late Jane, Nan, Rita, the late William, Cathie and Isabella, uncle and late uncle.

Last year everyone was in shock and we all thought someone would do this, with the result no one did it and he was too special a local, friend, gent and relative to be forgotten. One year on he is still talked about daily. James (Jimmy) born in Oban, went to Rockfield Primary and Oban High. He lived at 4 Mossfield Avenue, where he lived till he passed away. Jimmy worked for Wrights as a trainee baker before joining the navy during the Second World War. On returning he was a baker with Kennedy and when it closed went to the alginate factory for a short



James Donn

time. He left there to look after his sick mum and uncle, and finally worked as a milkman with Oban Dairies until he retired. He was an active member of the coastguard for a number of years.

Jimmy was famed for his cloutie dumplings; they would appear at all types of functions, from sponsored walks, fun runs to ceilidhs. He would often make more than two a week.

Jimmy was in the Co-op Society for quite a number of years. He was a member of the Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease committee and helped to organise the Senior Citizens' Forum. He helped with the senior citizens' Christmas party and was involved in transporting people so they always arrived home safely. He went around the town with posters for various events.

Jimmy was always found in the Co-op every morning for a couple of hours and people thought he was a member of staff. He would gather trolleys from the car park and move the baskets from the tills and point out to customers the bargains. He was like an agony uncle listening to folk's problems and giving advice. He would give people lifts and they, like the family, thought of the world of him. He would help carry the ladies' shopping to the cars and was always joking that he had been paid and that he had his five fruits daily.

Last year Jimmy was supporting at the fun run for ABCD when he fell and dislocated his shoulder. He was transferred to Glasgow and the shock was too much for him and he passed away with a heart attack in the early hours leaving family and friends shocked. We all thought he would be around a lot longer. A special trophy will be presented at this year's fun run in his memory.

May he rest in peace. He is missed every day by us all.

WIN CALEDONIAN MACBRAYNE TRAVEL TICKETS
SEE MULL FOR FREE WITH THE OBAN TIMES

Visit the Isle of Mull courtesy of The Oban Times. Readers have the opportunity to win one of 10 pairs of foot passenger tickets for scheduled sailings by Caledonian MacBrayne between Oban and Craignure during the month of May.

To enter this competition, answer this simple question:
To which island port does the daily ferry from Oban to the Isle of Mull sail to?

Normal Oban Times competition rules apply and ticket winners must comply with the travel rules and arrangements as set out by ferry company Caledonian MacBrayne.

Tick to confirm you are aged 18 years and over

The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

Entries to be in by
Monday 11th May at noon.

Caledonian MacBrayne
Hebridean & Clyde Ferries

Shinty fixtures

Shinty

Camanachd Cup 2nd Round
 Beaulieu v Inveraray
 Charles Young
 Bute v Lochcarron
 Colin MacDonald
 Fort William v Kilmallie
 Ron Kennedy 3pm
 Glenurquhart v Kinlochshiel
 John MacPhee 2.45pm
 Kingussie v Caberfeidh
 David Mitchell
 Kyles v Newtonmore
 Ted McDonald
 Lovat v Glenorchy
 Graham Cameron
 Oban Caman v Lochaber
 Duncan Kerr

Aberdein Considine Sutherland Cup 2nd Round
 Aberdour v Fort William
 Laurie Skuodas
 Caberfeidh v Glenorchy
 Jock Matheson
 GMA v Kinlochshiel
 Derek Cameron
 Glenurquhart v Inveraray
 Neil Ferguson 12.30 pm
 Kingussie v Glengarry
 Graham Irving
 Kyles v Kinlochshiel
 Robert Baxter Jnr 12 noon
 Lovat v Bute
 Roddie MacLennan 12 noon
 Strathglass v Newtonmore
 John Angus Gillies

Marine Harvest North Division 1
 Skye v Strathglass
 Donald MacRae

Marine Harvest South Division 1
 Oban Celtic v Lochside Rvrs
 Ronnie Campbell
 Tayforth v GMA
 George O'Rourke
 Marine Harvest

South Division 2
 Ballachulish v Strachur
 Innes Wood
 Col Glen v Taynuilt
 Jim Innes

Marine Harvest North Division 3
 Beaulieu v Boleskine
 John Sloggie 12 noon
 Lochaber v Inverness
 Billy Wotherspoon
 Lochcarron v Ardnamurchan
 Russell Ross

Kilmory in semi-final

Shinty

KILMORY go through to the semi-finals of the Balliemore Cup after a shock result away to five-times winners Caberfeidh.

Lee Nicol gave Cabers' a 1-0 half-time lead but the tide turned after Kirk Taylor was sent off five minutes into the second-half. Calum McKinven drew Kilmory level 20 minutes from time with Steven Gilmour earning Kilmory a place in the next round from the penalty spot four minutes from time.

League boost for Oban Camanachd

MacMillan, MacCuish and MacIntyre on target as premier points stay at Mossfield

Shinty

Premier Division
 Oban Camanachd 3
 Kyles Athletic 1

OBAN Camanachd climbed back to second top slot on the Premier table after a deserved 3-1 win over Kyles Athletic at Mossfield on Saturday.

First-half goals from Scott MacMillan and Andrew MacCuish, plus an early second-half strike from Aiden MacIntyre earned the home side a victory in a match that threatened to run away from them in the early stages after Duncan Kerr had put the visitors ahead after only six minutes.

An end-of-week decision to move the start time an hour earlier caught out many spectators to Mossfield but Kyles started quickly, and with the stiff breeze at their backs they attacked from the first whistle. Kerr opened the scoring in the sixth minute when the home side failed to fully clear the ball and former Strachur player struck from the left. Kyles then pinned Oban Camanachd back in their own half for long periods as the home side were unable to hold up the ball when it did come over the centreline.

Gradually Camanachd came to grips with the pace

of the game and, after 29 minutes, a neat passage of quick passing shinty was finished off in style by Scott MacMillan who levelled the scores.

Six minutes later the industrious Fraser MacDonald struck the post for Kyles but when the ball broke down field there seemed little danger to the Kyles defence until Andrew MacCuish opted for route one and fired a low swirling shot passed Kenny MacDonald from 20 yards.

One minute later Oban Camanachd almost sealed the tie with a crucial third goal when the ball broke to Craig MacMillan in the D, but MacDonald saved well at the expense of a corner.

Within a minute of the start of the second-half Oban found the two-goal cushion they were seeking when Aiden MacIntyre fired an

angled drive home. Kyles re-shuffled their line-up in an attempt to regain their early superiority but a steady Oban Camanachd defence, in which MacInnes and Munro were outstanding, kept a tight rein on the pacy Kyles forwardline which became increasingly frustrated at being closed-down so quickly.

Scott MacMillan produced a great save from Kenny MacDonald after 77 minutes but most of the late action was at the other end as Kyles probed for an opportunity to get back into the match but found their nearest in a Duncan Kerr effort which spun off the base of keeper Gavin Stobbart's left-hand post in the final minute.

Camanachd will take heart from this good league result ahead of their Camanachd Cup tie this Saturday against Lochaber while Kyles may feel they should have taken more from a game that they controlled in the opening quarter. Kyles are also in Camanachd Cup action this Saturday when Newtonmore travel to Tighnabruich for what could be the tie of the round.



Duncan Kerr of Kyles opened the scoring at Mossfield Picture - John MacTavish

Balliemore Cup ties decided in two, two-minute spells

Shinty

Balliemore Cup
 Kinlochshiel 2 Kilmallie 1
 GMA 1 Strathglass 2
 Lochcarron 2 Skye 1

TWO goals within two minutes were behind the success of both Kinlochshiel and Strathglass in last Saturday's Balliemore Cup ties.

Two goals within two minutes of the second-half took Kinlochshiel through against Kilmallie at Balmacara.

Liam MacDonald had given Kilmallie the lead five minutes into the second-half but Gordie MacDonald took Kinlochshiel into the next round of the Balliemore Cup with an equaliser in the 72nd minute and a winner in the 74th minute.

Kinlochshiel, cup winners in 2004, will now meet Kilmory in the semi-final.

Glasgow Mid Argyll took an early lead against Strathglass in Glasgow with Ryan Stewart scoring after

14 minutes but Strathglass fought back and goals, two minutes apart, from Lee Bain and Mark MacLaughlin secured a semi-final place for the visitors.

In an outstanding first-round tie, Lochcarron needed extra-time to overcome near neighbours Skye at Battery Park. John Martin Phillips and Sorely MacDonald had cancelled out each other in the scoring stakes over 90 minutes but a late, late goal from Ian MacKenzie sent a jubilant Lochcarron into the next round and Skye home empty-handed.

Bamber goal keeps Fort top as focus changes to Camanachd Cup ties

Next round draw to follow Saturday's matches

WITH both teams showing very changed line-ups due to key player injuries and unavailability, Fort William and Glenurquhart met at An Aird and were separated by a single goal after 90 minutes.

Fort William move two points clear at the top of shinty's Premier division thanks to a goal from Chris Bamber after 24 minutes when he evaded a challenge and fired home from 20 yards.

Lochaber also climbed into mid-table after a single goal gave them victory at Spean Bridge over Glenorchy who now find themselves the only team in the division still to record their first victory.

This week the focus of attention moves away from the league as teams meet in the second round of this season's Camanachd Cup.

Top tie this Saturday could be the meeting of two camanachd Cup giants of yesteryear when Newtonmore travel to Tighnabruich

to meet a Kyles team that has a proud cup history.

There is a local derby at Fort William where the home side will meet near neighbours Kilmallie, while Lochaber travel to Mossfield Stadium, Oban to play a young Oban Camanachd side that has put together a string of good results this season.

Inveraray travel to Braeview Park, Beaulieu where the home side will aim to improve on a disappointing start to their league campaign.

Kingussie are at home to Caberfeidh while Lochcarron make the long journey to Bute. Glenurquhart could prove too strong for Kinlochshiel at Drumnadrochit while newly promoted Glenorchy will not relish the trip to play Lovat, the side they replaced in the premier division.

The draw for the next round of the sport's Blue Riband cup competition will take place after one of this Saturday's ties.

Lochside go four points clear

Shinty

Marine Harvest
 South Division One
 Tayforth 2
 Lochside Rovers 5

LOCHSIDE ROVERS went four points clear at the top of the South Division One table after a 5-2 victory over Tayforth at Perth.

The David's - Lafferty, Devine and Stevens were all on the scoresheet for Lochside while Johnny Will scored twice as Lochside maintained their 100 per cent record in the league this season and also claimed the league's highest goal difference with a record of plus-10.

This Saturday, Lochside and Oban Celtic meet in a local derby match at Ganavan which will only be Oban Celtic's second league tie of the season.

Leagues

Shinty

Premier Division	
Fort William	6 4 1 1 12 7 9
Oban Camanachd	5 3 1 1 10 7 7
Kyles Athletic	6 3 1 2 15 14 7
Kingussie	5 2 2 1 15 10 6
Newtonmore	4 1 3 0 9 4 5
Lochaber	5 2 1 2 7 10 5
Glenurquhart	7 2 1 4 9 15 5
Bute	3 1 1 1 4 5 3
Inveraray	6 1 1 4 7 12 3
Glenorchy	5 0 2 3 5 9 2
North Division 1	
Kilmallie	4 3 0 1 14 11 6
Skye	4 2 1 1 12 7 5
Strathglass	3 2 0 1 12 4 4
Lovat	4 1 2 1 6 4 4
Kinlochshiel	2 1 1 0 4 2 3
Beaulieu	4 1 1 2 4 8 3
Inverness	5 1 1 3 2 14 3
Caberfeidh	3 1 0 2 5 8 2
Lochcarron	1 0 0 1 0 1 0
South Division 1	
Lochside Rovers	4 4 0 0 15 5 8
Inveraray	3 2 0 1 9 9 4
GMA	2 1 0 1 5 3 2
Oban Celtic	1 1 0 0 2 1 2
Ballachulish	3 1 0 2 8 8 2
Kilmory	4 1 0 3 5 11 2
Tayforth	3 0 0 3 6 13 2
North Division 2	
Glenurquhart	7 6 1 0 24 7 13
Fort William	6 5 0 1 27 8 10
Lovat	8 5 0 3 24 12 10
Kingussie	7 4 0 3 16 14 8
Glengarry	7 2 2 3 14 12 6
Kilmallie	5 3 0 2 7 14 6
Newtonmore	6 2 0 4 10 14 4
Skye	6 1 1 4 12 20 3
Caberfeidh	4 0 0 4 5 19 0
Kinlochshiel	4 0 0 4 5 24 0
South Division 2	
Strachur	7 4 1 2 13 6 9
Kyles Athletic	5 4 0 1 11 4 8
Taynuilt	3 3 0 0 13 6 6
Col Glen	5 2 1 2 10 10 5
Aberdour	4 2 0 2 16 7 4
Glenorchy	3 1 1 1 5 3 3
GMA	4 1 1 2 5 16 3
Bute	5 1 0 4 7 12 2
Ballachulish	4 0 0 4 1 18 0
North Division 3	
Aberdeen Uni	8 7 0 1 26 4 14
Lochaber	7 5 0 2 27 9 10
Lochbroom	6 4 1 1 16 5 9
Boleskine	8 4 1 3 18 13 9
Beaulieu	6 3 0 3 12 7 6
Strathglass	6 3 0 3 17 17 6
Inverness	5 2 0 3 11 10 4
Lochcarron	5 2 0 3 5 17 4
Ardnamurchan	6 1 0 5 4 25 2
Kinraig	7 0 0 7 7 36 0

Results

Balliemore Cup 1st Round
 Lochcarron 2 Skye 1 AXT

Balliemore Cup 1/4 Final
 Caberfeidh 1 Kilmory 2; GMA 1 Strathglass 2; Kinlochshiel 2 Kilmallie 1

Strathdearn Cup 1st Round Lewis 1 Fort William 20

Premier Division Bute P Newtonmore P; Ft William 1 Glenurquhart 0; Lochaber 1 Glenorchy 0; Oban Camanachd 3 Kyles 1

Marine Harvest North Division 1 Inverness 0 Lovat 0;

Marine Harvest South Division 1 Tayforth 2 Lochside Rov 5

Marine Harvest North Division 2 Glenurquhart 2 Kingussie 1; Glengarry 2 Skye 2; Kilmallie 2 Lovat 0; Newtonmore 3 Kinlochshiel 2

Marine Harvest South Division 2 Aberdour 7 Ballachulish 0; Col Glen P Taynuilt P; GMA P Bute P; Strachur 3 Kyles Athletic 1;

Marine Harvest North Division 3 Beaulieu 7 Strathglass 1; Aberdeen 4 Ardnamurchan 0; Boleskine 6 Kinraig 2; Lochaber 9 Lochcarron 0; Lochbroom 4 Inverness 0

Spot the

SHINTY BALL

Competition



WIN £600

LAST WEEK'S SHINTY BALL WAS HERE...

All you have to do

We have removed the shinty ball from the photograph opposite. Now look carefully at the position of the players and use your skill and judgement to place a cross at the exact point where you think the centre of the ball was. You may have a maximum of 20 attempts on this coupon at a cost of £1.

If you wish to have more attempts, you must enter on separate coupons.

The game starts with a jackpot of £500 and will increase by £50 per week until it is won outright. To win the jackpot, the centre of your cross must be in the exact centre of the ball. If the crosses overlap the entry will be void. Prizes will be shared between those submitting correct entries.

If no correct entry is received, two 'near miss' prizes of £25 will be awarded. When the jackpot is won, no other prizes will be awarded that week.

Easy to enter

Cut out your completed coupon and put your entry plus £1 per 20 attempts into a sealed envelope and post it to reach 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB by 12noon on Tuesday.

You may hand it into The Oban Times Head Office, Lochavullin, Oban by the same time. Otherwise all entries must be posted.

Competition Rules

No responsibility will be accepted for entries which are delayed, mislaid or lost, and proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. The Company's decision is final on all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. The final decision rests with the Company.

In the event of more than one correct entry, the jackpot will be shared equally between all winning entries. Any decision regarding the awarding of a prize is entirely at the discretion of the Company.

The Company reserves the right to declare the competition null and void at any time, subject to its discretion and to make full refund of the price of the coupon to any person who has entered the competition at that time. Employees of The Oban Times Limited, their immediate relatives and any person otherwise connected with the competition are ineligible to enter.



I enclose £1 (note) for 20 crosses (tick box) The maximum number of attempts on this coupon is 20, but you may enter on separate coupons as many times as you wish. No photocopies allowed. You agree to abide by the rules.

How to enter: Mark your crosses using a ballpoint pen. Twenty crosses may be put on this coupon for £1.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel No. _____

Send to 'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are:
 Mrs I Wilson, Adnahan Gardens, Spean Bridge and Mr D Morrison, 26 Loch Street, Isle of Lewis

At the sharp end of sport

Medal-winning teenager has no coach

A TEENAGER from Kilberry is successfully competing in the world of fencing, despite having no regular coaching.

William Minshall, who attends Tarbert Academy, has recently competed in the Scottish Fencing Championships for Under 17's (cadets) and Under 20's (juniors) with great success, finishing runner-up and claiming silver medals in both finals of the Foil discipline.

But what makes William's success even more remarkable is that the 14-year-old only took up the sport a year-and-a-half ago. He does not have any regular coaching or any access to being taught in the area.

William started off going to Oban once a week for a couple of months to learn the

Fencing

basics but when that finished he was on his own.

While at competitions he has relied on fencing instructors to pass on some coaching.

William's mum, Amanda said: 'We were at a competition recently and one



William Minshall

coach said, 'when you tell William something he listens and puts it into practice'.

He has already moved into senior level and at two open events this season finished in the top 16 fencers out of more than 70 adults.

Over the winter the Foundation for Scottish Fencing held a series of competitions for all ages with the finals at Dollar Academy at the end of April and William finished third overall in the Under 16 Foil.

Disciplines

There are three disciplines in fencing, Foil, Epee and Sabre. William chose to fence Foil where the target area is the upper body, but not head or arms.

William is now focusing on gaining a place on the Scottish Fencing Team to compete at the UK School Games which is held each year for students under-18 years of age in a large variety of sports.

Anyone in the area who would be interested in helping William with some coaching or just to fence against him can get in touch by telephoning 01880 820 833.



Coaches Ryan Jenkins and Terry McLernon with pupils from Rockfield and Appin primary schools. (19tab601)

Commonwealth medallist in town

A COMMONWEALTH Games gold medallist and his coach were in Oban last week to put table tennis players through their paces.

Welshman Ryan Jenkins, who was Commonwealth champion in 2004 and a nine-time Welsh national champion, amazed primary school pupils of Rockfield, Park and Appin with his skills when he helped to coach the youngsters.

Ryan was accompanying Terry McLernon, who came to Oban last year to help start clubs within the schools. This year Terry checked on their progress but also visited the new Oban Table Tennis Club for adults last Tuesday night. Terry, a director of Table

Table tennis

Tennis Scotland, founded Drumchapel Table Tennis Club in 1989 and now has a membership 400 youngsters and 80 adults. Ryan stars in Terry's Drumchapel team, which won the British Table Tennis League this season and will play in a European Champions League next season.

Terry said: 'I came to Oban last year and started to develop the primary school players. What a difference a year makes. The children are all better players than they were a year ago and Oban has started its own adult club with 15 players. Sweden is a similar size to Scotland

and they have been world champions because they have a structure in place for children, right up to adult age. That is what we are trying to do.

'We know football, shinty and rugby are the big sports in Oban but table tennis is played between October and April and we want to give the kids another sport.'

The coaching session was organised by Argyll and Bute Active Schools co-ordinator Dale Kupris, who said Terry was coming back to Oban to run a coaching course for adults. Funding for this course has come from the NHS Highland

Health Improvement Fund.

Rockfield Primary School head teacher Jack Deganan said: 'When people like Terry and Ryan come to run the coaching session they command immediate respect from the children and the pupils were so excited ahead of them arriving.'

'Table tennis has really taken off at the school. We started with one table, which was a cast off from Atlantis Leisure, last year and now we have five.'

Today Ryan and a fellow player will attempt to break the world record for the most shots in a rally in one minute at the Royal Albert Hall, London. The record is 175 in one minute.

Young Craig meets 'Gers heroes

Football

A YOUNG Rangers fan from Lochgilphead was stunned to be on the pitch at Ibrox in front of a 50,000-strong crowd on Sunday.

Craig Young, aged nine, was chosen from among members of Rangers' Young Supporters Club to meet his footballing heroes, as a mascot for their match against Hearts.

Kathleen Young said her son was a huge fan of the team and could barely sleep for nights before the big day. Craig, who recently joined Lochgilphead Soccer Centre Panthers, said the highlight was meeting the team and being in the dug-out.



Craig Young with Rangers goalkeeper Neil Alexander.

Oban victory

Bowling

OBAN Bowling Club's men and women got off to a perfect start in the West Argyll League with comfortable victories over Ardishaig.

Club members Donna Forbes and Flo Smith won the Caledonia Cup at the weekend.

Tides

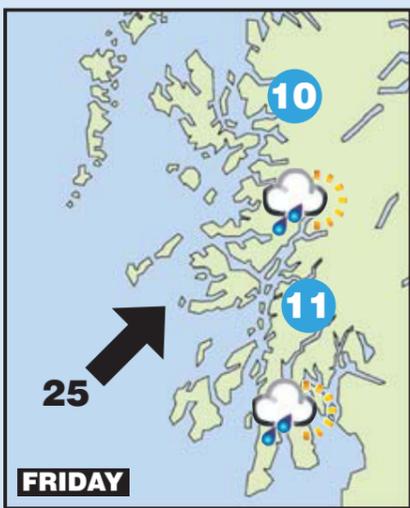
Tide tables for Oban during the week from Thursday, May 7, 2009 are listed below with differences for major ports listed beneath. All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am	pm
Thur 04.19	3.6 10.51 1.0 16.43 3.6 22.52 0.8	
Fri 04.53	3.7 11.25 0.9 17.16 3.8 23.33 0.8	
Sat 05.27	3.7 11.57 0.9 17.49 3.8 *** **	
Sun 00.11	0.9 05.59 3.7 12.31 1.0 18.21 3.9	
Mon 00.48	1.0 06.32 3.6 13.06 1.1 18.55 3.8	
Tues 01.24	1.2 07.07 3.5 13.42 1.2 19.31 3.7	
Wed 02.02	1.4 07.41 3.4 14.20 1.3 20.08 3.5	

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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the weather

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Thursday

Will be cloudy with rain or drizzle at times and a few brief sunny spells. Winds moderate to fresh south-westerly. Temperatures 5°C to 12°C

Friday

Again cloudy with spells of moderate rain and some brief sunny spells. Winds moderate to fresh south-westerly. Temperatures 5°C to 12°C.

Weekend Outlook

A mixture of sunny spells and scattered showers on both days after clearing rain on Saturday morning. Winds fresh to strong south-westerly. Temperatures 5°C to 13°C.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States

Oban to Barra/South Uist - Rough
Oban to Coll/Tiree - As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Referee's costly blunder

Umbro Scottish Amateur Football League Premier Division KILPATRICK 2 OBAN SAINTS 2

A REFEREEING blunder right at the end of this match probably cost Saints all three points in what was a fine advert for amateur football on the 3g pitch at the West of Scotland Science Centre.

The visitors created the early chances, with Donald Campbell, Myles McAuley and Allan MacKay going close.

But the deadlock was broken in the 29th minute against the run of play when the Saints defence failed to clear a corner properly and the ball fell to Craig Dunn, lurking at the back post, who sent a looping header into the net to make the score 1-0.

Saints drew level on 35 minutes with a well taken goal when Myles McAuley and Willie Gemmell combined on the right before a great cross into the box found an unmarked Craig MacEwan, who despatched a

Football

great header past the helpless Jim Chalmers.

With half-time approaching Myles McAuley had a great opportunity as he was clean through with only the keeper to beat, but Jim Chalmers made a great save touching McAuley's effort round the post for a corner.

The pace of the game never let up in the second half and, following a flurry of chances at both ends, the Oban side took the lead in the 77th minute when Wille Gemmell sent over a cross to the far post.

The ball was headed back across the goalmouth by Allan MacKay to Darin Bryars who laid it into the path of Donald Campbell and the Saints midfielder blasted a right foot shot high into the net.

However, with three minutes remaining on the clock the referee made a howler. He stopped the game to show the Kilpatrick manager, standing at the

side of the pitch, a red card and instead of restarting the game with a free kick to Saints he restarted the game by allowing the Kilpatrick goalkeeper the kick the ball upfield.

Keith Millar headed the ball clear but it fell to Scott Craig who wasn't closed



Donald Campbell

down quickly enough and he thumped an unstoppable shot past the helpless Graham Douglas and into the net to make the score 2-2.

The Oban side were livid

at the referee's decision, but there was nothing they could do about it and in the end had to be satisfied with a share of the points.

Manager Iain Jackson was putting a brave face on things, although disappointed at not picking up all three points.

He said: 'It was an excellent game against a good Kilpatrick side, but the referee's blunder right at the end of the match probably cost us the three points.'

'At least he had the good grace to apologise to us after his mistake and we have accepted that.'

Saints are at home this Saturday when they take on Postal United. The match will take place at Oban High School with a 3pm kick-off. Referee Douglas McInnes in charge.

Saints travel to Millburn Park, home of Vale of Leven Juniors, on Monday, May 11 to take on Inverclyde in the semi-final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy.

The game kicks-off at 7.15pm.

Saints are champs

Football

OBAN Saints Under 14s have won the Dumbarton Development League title.

The youngsters, who won 13 of their 16 games, are also in the quarter finals of the league cup.

Weekend results: League Cup semi final - Under 13s 1 (Stewart Alexander), Clydebank BC 3. League Cup quarter final - Kilpatrick v Under 14s postponed. Under 16s 2 (Angus MacCallum and Ruairidh Black), Barrhead Yellow 2. Erskine v Under 17s postponed. Sunday - Under 13s 10 (Ally MacKerracher (2), David Beaton (3), Rory Bruce (2), Alan Buchanan (2) and Ben Watkins), Goldenhill 0.

Saturday's fixtures: Under 13s v Partick Thistle Youth. League Cup quarter final Kilpatrick v Under 14s; Barrhead Red v Under 16s and Under 17s v Glenbrae.



Canoeists get safety message

Members of the popular Oban Canoe Club recently worked with instructors and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI) to make sure they are safe on the sea. The RNLI's Willie Melville and Ronnie MacKillop spoke to the canoeists about flares and safety procedures and admitted they had learnt from the club members as well. Training took place on the River Awe and in Oban Bay, by Oban Sailing Club. Club member Colin McWilliams said: 'There are experienced paddlers in the club but also a few new members who will have gained a lot from the day.'



The young Mull rugby players pictured after their run.

Mull rugby runners boost French fund

Rugby

JUNIOR members of Mull Rugby Club, ran 64-and-a-half miles from Fionnphort to Tobermory, via Dervaig, to raise money for a two-week coaching trip to France.

Mull players will make up 13 of the 22 players from Argyll and Bute travelling to Perpignan, France, with Glasgow Thistle for the intensive training.

The teenagers ran the distance in a relay, passing a rugby ball between them, in a time of eight hours and 16 minutes.

They managed a total of 35 sub seven-minute miles during the ultra marathon.

The Mull representatives selected by Glasgow Thistle are: Sean and David Black, Finlay and Patrick Carmichael, Tony Haunschmit, Eoghan MacLauchlin, Scott MacColl, Angus MacCallum, Sean MacPhail, Douglas Swinbanks, Craig and Stuart Tomison and Ciaran Whyte.

BE A WARRIOR FOR A DAY AND GIVE RUGBY A TRY
SUNDAY May 10th 2009

GLASGOW WARRIORS

Glasgow Warriors are coming to town on Sunday 10th May to Oban Lorne RFC from 12-3pm. The Glasgow Warriors are one of only two professional rugby teams in Scotland and are based at Firhill in Glasgow. They play in the Magners Celtic League, the Heineken Cup and have many Scottish International players in their squad. They will be sending players to visit the club and will take part in coaching sessions and games giving the youth and mini players a taste of what it is like to be a professional rugby player in a fun environment. This is your chance to train, play and interact with some of the most talented young players in Scotland today. The event is open to all Argyll and Bute mini and youth players, both boys and girls, from Primary 4 upwards. Beginners are especially welcome and it is free (there will be a raffle) and will include a healthy snack lunch. The event will include coaching skills sessions on running, passing, kicking/catching and contact and there will also be some fun mixed age group non contact games with the Warriors leading the teams. Changing facilities will be available at the club and all players are asked to be at the club and ready to start (have outdoor kit and boots on) for 12 noon. They will be split into groups of P4-P7, S1/S2, Girls and S3+ for the four coaching themes and then mixed together for the games at the end. This will be followed by a question and answer session in the clubhouse and a chance to get autographs and the raffle will be drawn. Please get in touch with your local club if you wish to attend.
glasgowwarriors.org obanlorne.co.uk

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