The Oban Times
& WEST HIGHLAND TIMES

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LYME DISEASE ON THE INCREASE

SCOTLAND'S TOP EATING PLACES

News in brief

Scottish Land Court hears Coll dispute

A NUMBER of residents on the Isle of Coll may have to wait up to two months before hearing if they have to pay compensation for their properties encroaching on to croft land.

A Scottish Land Court panel, chaired by Lord McGhie, met this week in Soroba House Hotel, Oban, to hear evidence regarding the Arinagour land battle and then visited Coll on Wednesday. The dispute centres around a bungalow that it is claimed has been built entirely on common grazings land, five householders whose gardens are at least partially on the grazings and whether or not a guest house encroaches on to the grazings. The claims against the properties have been brought by crofter Colin Kennedy of Arinagour.

Local elections rob Oban community of councillors

UNUSUALLY Oban Community Council has lost three of its members as a result of the local government election.

Neil Mackay, Donald MacDonald and Roddy McCuish have all been elected to Argyll and Bute Council for either Oban South and the Isles or Oban North and Lorn.This means they are no longer eligible to sit on the community council as members.

Kenny MacIntyre, the current chairman of Oban Community Council said that by-elections would have to be held to fill the posts but he was going to suggest that they use it as an opportunity to reduce the number of community councillors.

The next community council meeting will be on May 29 at 7pm at the lecture theatre in Lorn and Islands District General Hospital.

Fisherman airlifted to Oban after head injury

A FISHERMAN was airlifted off the Northern Ireland registered *FV Bonafide* on Monday afternoon after being hit on the head and knocked out the previous day.

The 35-year-old from Northern Ireland had regained consciousness but had continued to feel ill while the boat was fishing 10 miles north west of Tiree.

The skipper sought medical advice via Clyde coastguard and it was decided to airlift the man to Lorn and Islands District General Hospital in Oban by Royal Navy helicopter 177 from Prestwick for a scan.

The man's details were not released but his injuries were not thought to be serious.

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Isle of Mull gains £1 million electricity boost by cable

SCOTTISH Hydro-Electric has completed a £1 million project to replace one of two subsea cables supplying electricity to the Isle of Mull.

The work marks the start of a £5 million investment programme to provide customers in the region with a more secure electricity supply.

The project involved replacing the 33,000 volt subsea cable between Kerrera and Mull.

The power company carried out the work after the existing cable, that was originally laid in 1966, became increasingly unreliable.

The installation took place at the beginning of May and the new cable 'went live' last Sunday following work on final connections and testing.

Landel C Johnston, group design manager for Scottish Hydro-Electric, said: 'This was a seamless project from start to finish. The ideal weather conditions, coupled with the help we received from the local authority and landowners, allowed us to achieve in six weeks something that could have taken significantly longer. Later this year we plan to further strengthen the network to Mull by installing a third cable from Gallanachbeg across Kerrera and onto the Isle of Mull near Brian Phort that will increase the island's electrical capacity by more than 30 per cent in one stroke.'

Owner fights hotel 'patch-up'

Argyll Hotel — an increasing eyesore

THE OWNER of the unsightly Argyll Hotel in Oban argued this week that it would be wrong for him to comply with a council enforcement notice to smarten up the front of the property.

The building has become an increasing eyesore on the shore front since it was closed and boarded up in 2001.

And there is growing concern that its appearance is detrimental to the town's crucial tourism trade.

On Tuesday, Thomas Rothschild, the developer who bought it over three and a half years ago, spoke in Oban on Tuesday at an appeal against an Argyll and Bute Council enforcement notice requiring him to paint the front of the hotel white.

Mr Rothschild gave Scottish Executive reporter, Jonathan Henderson, a detailed explanation why it would be inappropriate for him to paint the building.

Mr Rothschild's firm, Food Convertors Ltd, has been given permission to convert the Argyll into a pub, restaurant and eight flats. However, he remains in dispute with the council's planning department over his plans for buildings to the rear of the hotel.

The developer said it was his intention to completely restore and develop the C-listed hotel at a cost of up to £1.4 million, but he said it made no building sense for him work on the interior and front of the property without doing the rear first.

The main problem was the poor condition of the entire property's exterior stone.

'It would not be permitted today,' he told the appeal hearing. 'It is extremely porous and is now bleeding.

'In the building's present run-down state, the discolouration is showing us better than ever what needs to be done to restore it.

'If we painted over the problem, we would have to revisit it in three to five years' time.

'It is no good repairing a listed building if you have to go back to it five to ten years later. When you take on a listed building, you are restoring it for future generations. It should not be a patch-up job.'

Any temporary painting measure, he revealed, would require around £40,000 to be spent on scaffolding alone as well as disrupting traffic flow on Corran Esplanade.

Mr Rothschild said the whole wrangle with the council's planning department over his proposals for the Argyll had not been helped by its staffing crisis. 'I have had to deal with six or seven different planning officers over this, and have written numerous letters begging them to resolve this.'

He said he has had 80 tons of building materials sitting in an Oban yard for the project since being delivered 2004, and insisted he would be free to begin full work in July – if he could reach planning agreement with the council.

A council planning officer told Mr Henderson that serving a repairs notice on a property can be 'onerous' and could have compulsory purchase implications which the authority could not afford.

Mr Henderson has up to 12 weeks to give a decision on the appeal against the enforcement notice.

Mid Argyll boy bitten by adder

A KILMICHAEL Glen youngster spent three nights in hospital after being bitten by a snake in his garden.

Nine-year-old John Parsons was playing with his friend Rachel when the incident happened last Wednesday.

John was rushed by ambulance to Lochgilphead's Mid Argyll Hospital, where hospital staff knew how to treat the bite quickly as the youngster is reading about reptiles, and he recognised the snake that bit him as an adder.

John said: 'I was playing with Rachel next door when I bent down and felt something sharp.

'It was like I had knelt on a thorn or thistle, but when I looked down I saw a snake.

'Because I've got lots of books on reptiles and snakes, I knew it was an adder.

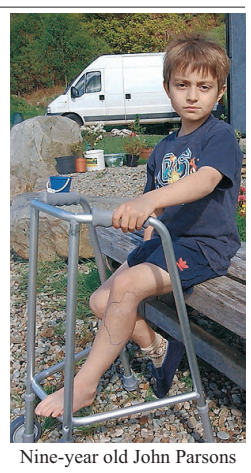
'I told Rachel to go and get her mum and she called an ambulance.'

John's dad Andy said: 'The hospital staff were fantastic.

'They said it was the first human adder bite case they've dealt with in 10 years. I'm very proud of the way John and his friend Rachel handled the bite. They didn't panic and remained calm.'

Andy added: 'Since this happened to John, I've been very surprised that so few people even know we have poisonous snakes in this country.'

Dr Mackie at Mid Argyll Community Hospital and Integrated Care Centre said his advice to anyone bitten by a snake would be to go to the accident and emergency department as soon as possible.



Nine-year old John Parsons didn't panic when bitten by an adder

Isle of Jura residents join island respite accommodation debate

Islanders demonstrate outside meeting at Craighouse

JURA residents have joined a debate over whether their new care centre should provide short-term respite accommodation for islanders.

Jura Progressive Care Centre at Craighouse is almost ready to be opened but the partners involved in setting up the centre are in disagreement over the centre's accommodation provision.

While NHS Highland, West Highland Housing Association and Argyll and Bute Council believe all six flats within the centre should be long-term lets, the Jura Care Centre Group, set up 12 years ago to campaign for such a centre, is adamant there is a need for one of the flats to be used for short-term care. At present, patients from Jura are recovering in hospitals in Glasgow or Islay.

The four partner organisations met on May 9, when it was decided to delay the decision for four weeks while the Jura group gathered evidence to support its claim.

But as the meeting was taking place, 40 residents from the island (population 200) gathered outside Small Isles Primary School to show their support for the short-term let option.

Joan Richardson, Jura Care Centre Group chairwoman, said: 'The feeling is running high over here.

'Around 40 people came to demonstrate but a further 10 phoned me to apologise for not being able to get to Craighouse in time. The group didn't organise the demonstration, it just happened. I have had lots of e-mails of support from the community.

'We are told we can transfer to Islay or stay in Glasgow after an operation but the islanders want to come back here and the respite flat would be ideal for people to recover post-operation, close to the surgery and their family. It can also be used to allow a carer go on holiday.'

Lesley McInnes, West Highland Housing Association chief executive said: 'The respite flat was included in the initial proposal but we are worried there is not the demand or it. The community is clear there is a demand. However, if a property is lying empty in an area we would be asked to justify that.'

Kinlochlaich Gardens
The West Highland's Largest Plant Selection
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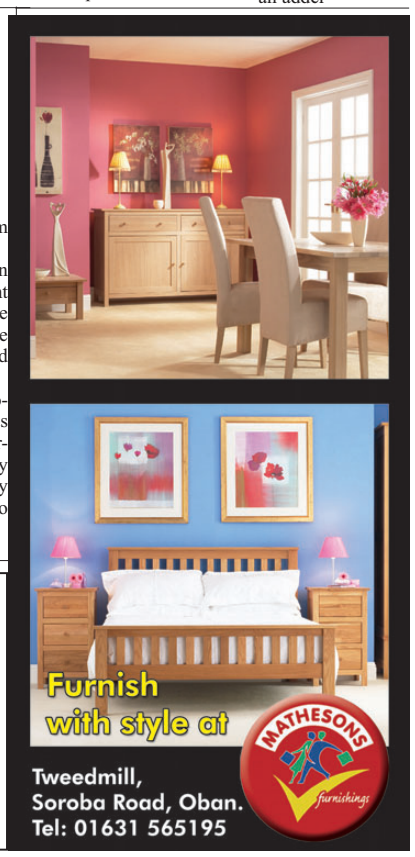


News in brief

University bid receives £5 million funding boost

THE DRIVE to create a University of the Highlands and Islands has been given a £5 million boost by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) over the next three years.

The UHI Millennium Institute has been asked to achieve certain aims before the Quality Assurance Agency will accept it as a fully fledged university.

The money granted by HIE will go towards strengthening management, technology, improving teaching methods, marketing, student support and a human resources strategy to support changes.

Principal of UHI Professor Bob Cormack welcomed the funding package that would help to develop the curriculum, improve networking and strengthen the management team.

'We recognise that we need to network more of our courses to achieve the efficiencies of a financially-sustainable institution and we must strengthen and increase the choice of courses throughout the partnership,' he said.

HIE chairman William Roe said: 'Together we have identified these vital components which must be addressed and I am delighted HIE's board has approved £4.985m over three years towards the cost.'

Ardfern's battle of the bands

BUDDING young musicians will soon have the chance to show off their talents in a fun X Factor style competition.

The first 'Ardfern Battle of the Bands', a unique music competition in Mid Argyll, will be held in Craignish Village Hall on Saturday, June 23.

There will be two competition categories, under 18s and over 18s, and each will have a cash prize of up to £200 for the winner.

Experts from the music industry will judge the competitions, and there will be audience participation in the final result.

It is anticipated that there will be a high number of entrants, and with a closing date of June 10, anyone interested in competing should enter their names as soon as possible.

CalMac bid for ferry tender goes in

CALMAC Ferries has lodged its formal bid to run the Clyde and Hebridean Ferry Services with the Scottish Executive.

The document would have run to seven volumes and more than 100,000 pages had it been submitted on paper but the company used the executive's electronic facility to submit the bid.

The bid, which was lodged the day before Friday's 3pm deadline, is the only one after V Ships decided against accepting the executive's invitation to tender earlier this year.

CalMac Ferries chairman Peter Timms said it was the culmination of six years' hard work in which time the company had been completely restructured.

The submission has now to be scrutinised by the executive in terms of the invitation to tender.

Tiny timebomb can wreak havoc with your health

Lyme Disease – spread by ticks – is on the increase in the Highlands

TICKS. They can be tiny, but when they grow fat on your blood they can wreak havoc with your health.

As carriers of Lyme Disease, their bites — which are often undetected at the time — can lead to all kinds of unpleasant, debilitating and chronic health problems.

And reported cases in recent years have shown a marked rise in Argyll and the Highlands. A total of 86 in both areas in 2006.

Separate figures for Highland show a rise from 33 in 2003 to 46 in 2004 and 55 in 2005, according to Duncan McCormick, specialist registrar in public health medicine for NHS Highland.

'That increase may be as a result of a growth in the population of deer – one of the main carriers, as well as sheep and dogs – or it could be the recent change to warmer and wetter weather or the fact that more people are enjoying the outdoors. No one really knows,' said Mr McCormick. One thing for sure – the Highlands are now a tick hotspot.

'The main thing is to remove ticks as soon as they have landed on your skin. Do not burst the tick or touch it with your fingers'
— David Shrewsbury, who has had Lyme Disease for four years

Early symptoms include fever, malaise or fatigue, headache, sore throat, muscle and joint aches, heart palpitations, meningitis, and facial paralysis.

Delayed or inadequate treatment may often lead to late-stage Lyme that is disabling and difficult to treat.

Late-stage symptoms can include fatigue, muscle and joint pain, rapid heartbeat, nausea/vomiting, adrenal disorders, kidney disorder, adrenal disorders, muscle twitching, Bell's palsy, encephalitis, vision problems, sensitivity to light and sound, balance disorders, panic attacks, memory loss, depression, hallucinations and psychosis.

Not pleasant, and unfortunately only 20 per cent of people infected with Lyme are aware of any tick bite, making early detection difficult in the absence of a rash.

Transmission can occur within a few hours and the rate of transmission by infected ticks may be much higher than previously assumed. Ticks are extremely adept at hooking their barbs into a passing animal or human. They literally smell you coming as they wait on the end of long grass.

Dozens can attach themselves simultaneously to a piece of passing flesh.

The trick is to spot them as soon as possible and remove them correctly and cleanly.

Two people who have now come to regard themselves as belated experts on their removal are retired physicist, David Shrewsbury, of Tighnabruiach, and mother-of-three Helen Maddox, from Slockavullin near Kilmartin.

David, now aged 76, has wrestled with Lyme symptoms for the best part of four years, and Helen saw her son, Felix, now five, struck at the age of just two.

Remove ticks by using a pair of fine tweezers and getting as close as possible to the skin.

'I was eight months pregnant at the time with my third, and learning that Felix had Lyme's provoked a horrendous reaction in me as a mother,' admitted Helen. 'It has affected me ever since, worrying if he still has it because it can lie dormant and undetected.

'Felix had a fever at first and later suffered paralysis down the side of his face.

'He was not his usual happy self, and was clinging, irritable and moody.

'He had obvious symptoms for two months and the antibiotics he was given seemed to work.'

Helen said she and husband, Chris, had been removing ticks from their children regularly, but she mistakenly used Vaseline on Felix. 'It will smother the tick and make it let go, but I know now that it can also make it regurgitate the bacterium carrying Lyme.

'I am really annoyed we used Vaseline. I wish I had known you shouldn't.

'People should also not use alcohol or attempt to burn off the ticks. They should get specialist tweezers from a vet.

'We are still removing ticks all the time from the children because we have deer coming into our garden. Now we are a lot more careful how we do it.'

David Shrewsbury told *The Oban Times*: 'I have done a lot of research on Lyme since contracting it.

'It is named after a medical person in Connecticut who in 1975 established the link between ticks and all the children in a community who were showing similar symptoms.'

David believes he actually contracted Lyme Disease from a tick bite after touching a penguin while on a trip in Antarctica.

But he reckons the probability of coming into contact with ticks in Argyll and the Highlands is very high. 'I picked 69 ticks off my wife, Eva's arm, the other day. She must have disturbed a little local site of them.

'The main thing is to remove them as soon as they have landed. If they have buried their head in the skin, they have to be extracted very carefully.

'Using a pair of fine-nosed tweezers, you get as close as possible to the patient's skin before pulling the tick straight out.

'Do not burst the tick or touch it with your fingers once it is out. It can start disgorging their stomach contents and that is what contains the bacterium which is surprisingly mobile. It can get through the skin pores.'

David has had almost four years of aches and pains, particularly in his hips and wrists, since contracting the disease.

He has fought it with antibiotics throughout that time, thanks to a very understanding GP. 'A lot of GPs will not prescribe them for longer than 30 days, but in my case it was necessary to keep using them,' he said.

'I stopped using them recently because the symptoms have eased, and to try and give my immune system a rest, but there is still bacterium in my blood.'

People concerned about being bitten by ticks can take some simple precautionary steps:

❒ If going into long grass or a wooded area, try and cover as much of your body as possible with clothing (lighter coloured clothing also makes it easier to spot ticks).

❒ Use mosquito or tick repellent, and check all parts of your body including your scalp.

❒ Consult your GP f you see a red spot around the location of the tick's bite. The spot will gradually grow bigger, often with a pale area in the middle. This symptom is called erythema migrans and can also appear at other places on the body where the tick has not bitten.

Some people get many red spots. Usually one to four weeks will pass between the bite and when erythema migrans appears.

Passenger says heroin is his

A MAN who was caught in possession of traces of heroin and cocaine while he was on bail, was placed on a year's probation when he appeared at Oban Sheriff Court.

John Scroggie, aged 37 of 49 Duntravie Road, Easterhouse, Glasgow, was a passenger in a car travelling on the A85 at Connel on May 20 last year, when police stopped the vehicle for a spot check around 9.15am.

Procurator Fiscal Justin Farrel said the car was stopped because of the speed it was travelling and the fact that police officers noticed Scroggie had ducked down below the dashboard when he saw them. When officers stopped the car, they detected an unusual smell and noticed some silver foil at the passenger footwell.

The driver and Scroggie were detained for a search and metal foil with a brown substance was found in the glove box. Scroggie admitted it was his heroin. A pipe with traces of cocaine on it was also found.

Defence agent Duncan Durbin told the court: 'This was nothing more than traces of the drugs, which Mr Scroggie admitted belonged to him. He hadn't used drugs for over 12 months but had a minor relapse because of problems with his wife at the time.

'He has been immersed in drug culture and is now clawing his way back out.'

Sheriff Joanna Johnstone noted Scroggie had a 'substantial background' of being involved in drugs, and told him: 'With your record in drugs involvement, had you had any substantial amount with you I would have considered imprisonment.'

More than 9,000 headstones have been laid flat for safety in the past 10 years

Another 3,500 are at risk in Argyll and Bute

AROUND 3,500 headstones in Argyll and Bute are at risk of falling over.

More than 9,000 have been laid flat for safety reasons in 130 cemeteries around the area in the last 10 years and of those, 4,687 have been re-erected by Argyll and Bute Council.

The process of laying the stones flat before they fall over has caused disquiet, as many people thought the headstones of their relatives and ancestors had been vandalised by pushing them over.

But the council says it is looking at a more sympathetic way of dealing with the headstones by only laying those ones flat that represent a 'significant level of risk to members of the public and council staff'.

And if a headstone is to be laid flat every attempt will be made to contact the next of kin. Where they are loose but are not a significant danger, they will remain upright.

Tape currently round any headstones will be removed and marked less intrusively. If a headstone is older than 10 years and the foundation is at fault, the council will look at re-erecting the headstone but this could take some time.

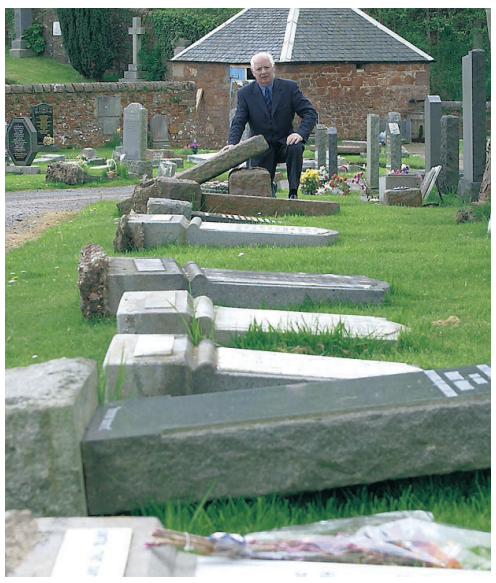
'Argyll and Bute Council has a responsibility to ensure that cemeteries are safe for staff and visitors to access them safely,' said Stewart Turner, head of roads and amenity services.

'Of the 3,417 headstones which are at risk, 484 are in Mid Argyll, 1,700 in Kintyre, 208 on Islay, 415 in Helensburgh and Lomond, 213 on Bute, 397 are in Cowal and 30 are in Oban, Lorn and the Isles,' he said.

A further £100,000 has been allocated this year to carry out the work of re-instating.

'Members of the public are advised that the re-erection of stones will be a long process and if they wish to make their own arrangements at their cost they can do so,' said Mr Turner.

Councillor Dick Walsh, the council's new leader, said: 'Whilst it is our responsibility as a council to ensure that our cemeteries are safe, we also recognise the distress caused in some cases.'



Alasdair Blair, director Dalriada Monumentals, at Kilkerran Cemetery, Campbeltown: 1,700 headstones are unsafe in Kintyre. t20cem01

Coastguards will take industrial action but stop short of striking in dispute over pay increase

MARITIME and Coastguard Agency employees have stopped short of taking strike action in their dispute over low pay.

The results of a ballot by the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) announced last week showed that there was overwhelming support for industrial action, short of strike action.

Strike action would have seen search and rescue services, particularly in the West Highlands and islands, severely hampered as the Maritime Coastguard Agency (MCA) acts as the first point of contact for those in trouble at sea and co-ordinates search and rescue services, like helicopters and lifeboats as well as coastal and cliff rescues carried out by auxiliary coastguards.

Emergency

The action voted for by the 700-odd MCA members of the PCS will see them withdrawing from non-essential 999 emergency duties.

This includes issuing fishing vessel certificates, the MCA information line, production of end of month returns and incident reports and processing seafarers' documents.

This adds to the action already proposed by the 170 marine surveyors and senior managers who are members of the Prospect union, who have decided on a ban on overtime and all out-of-hours coverage.

Members had previously rejected a pay increase of 2.5 per cent for 2006 and one per cent for some staff.

They are also angry that management has ignored the findings of pay comparison reports that have supported the unions' claims for parity with other 999 services.

Paul Smith, PCS negotiating officer, said: 'Management can avoid damaging industrial action by negotiating seriously and offering decent pay to those who deliver a vital emergency service.'

❒ THE Oban Times carried out a web poll last week that asked whether or not coastguard staff should be paid the same as emergency service staff. The result was 86 per cent said yes and 14 per cent said no.

Solicitors' Will Aid raises £1,200 in Argyll and Lochaber

A CHARITY that helps to raise funds through the making of wills has raised a total of £1,260 in Argyll and Lochaber.

Will Aid, not to be confused with Will Relief Scotland, raises funds for charities that work in Britain and abroad by asking people to make a will and, instead of paying for it, make a donation to Will Aid.

Many of those who created a will also pledged legacies to the Will Aid charities to ensure their work continues through the generations.

Solicitors in Oban, Dunoon and Fort William volunteered their services to this cause free of charge at the end of last year.

Blair and Bryden in Dunoon raised £730; MacArthur Stewart, Oban, raised £50; D M MacKinnon WS, Oban raised £135 and MacPhee and Partners, Fort William raised £345.

Nearly three quarters of a million pounds was raised country wide for the campaign that helps nine UK charities – ActionAid, British Red Cross, Christian Aid, Help the Aged, NSPCC, Save the Children UK, Sight Savers International, SCIAF (Scotland) and Trocaire (Northern Ireland).

The next Will Aid campaign is in November 2008.

The original concept of solicitors providing their time and those making wills donating the fee was set up by Oban solicitor Graeme Pagan. When Will Aid moved away from solely supporting overseas charities, Mr Pagan's original intention, he set up Will Relief Scotland, that supports five charities that work overseas: Blysthwood Care, EMMS International, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Scottish International Relief and Signpost International.

Ford forestry bid goes public for comments

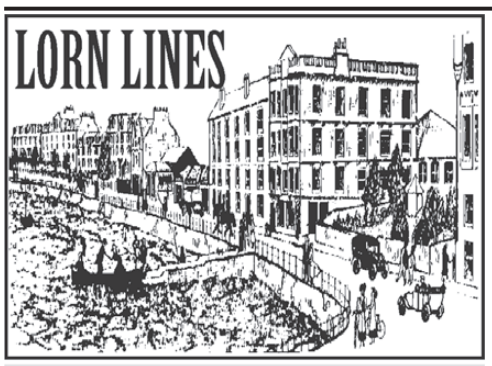
PEOPLE are being invited to comment on a bid by Ford Community Project to buy 2.5 hectares of land from Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS).

Under the FCS national forest land scheme communities can bid to buy or lease national forest land on the basis that it benefits the public.

The Mid Argyll community wishes to buy the land to build a community centre, with internet access and remote learning courses, sports area, a play park and youth club as well as a recycling centre on the land.

The application can be found at www.forestry.gov.uk/nfls.

People have the opportunity to comment on line until July 8 or write to Malcolm Wield, Forestry Commission Scotland, Highland Conservancy, 'Woodlands' Fodderty Way, Dingwall, Ross-shire, IV15 9XB.



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

MONTHLY lunches, prepared and served by the Oban corps of the Salvation Army in its main hall in Stevenson Street, are yet again a popular feature of Oban's summer season, attracting both locals and visitors.

For a modest admission charge, those attending enjoy tasty soup accompanied by a choice of sandwiches. The first one, on Friday May 4, raised £95.

Captain Connie MacCallum who heads the Oban corps, confirmed the next lunch will be held in the same venue on Friday May 25.

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NUMEROUS bookings from local charities look set to ensure Oban Charities Day on Saturday June 9 will yet again be an outstanding success.

The event is being organised, as always, by Oban and Lorn Lions Club, which invites everyone to join the annual parade from the Corran Halls which will, as usual, be led by Oban Pipe Band.

Groups wishing to enter floats should contact Bill on 562090.

Regular meetings of the Lions Club are once again to be centred on Oban's Soroba House Hotel from where the club started 21 years ago.

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ARGYLL Animal Aid's fund-raising season has started well with the presentation of a generous cheque from Oban Horticultural Society.

A bric-a-brac sale, held on Saturday May 5, added a further £160 to the organisation's funds.

Argyll Animal Aid will handle the catering at Duachy Gardens, Kilninver, when these are open to the public on Sunday May 20, receiving a percentage of the total takings.

Argyll Animal Aid cares for and finds new homes for abandoned pets of various sorts maintaining a cattery at Balvicar and maintaining close links with the kennels at Barcaldine.

John Lloyd of Argyll Animal Aid said: 'Keeping mouths fed, bodies warm and tails wagging is obviously an on-going task.'

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WHILE most of Britain experienced the country's hottest April for more than 100 years, the month in Oban, though pleasantly warm and relatively dry, produced conditions nearer to average.

The total rainfall for the month was 77mms against an average over the past 15 years of 106mms. The wettest day was April 14 when a fall of 29mms was recorded.

The month's warmest day, April 30, saw the thermometer hit 19°C, enough to send a few people paddling at Ganavan.

The lowest night temperature, 4°C, occurred on April 1 and the average day-time temperature in April was a very pleasant 14°C.

Altogether there were 18 rain-free days throughout the month.

The recordings were measured by an enthusiastic weather-watcher living in Dunollie Road using sophisticated equipment.

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'AN INCONVENIENT Truth', the climate change film by Al Gore, was due to be screened in Oban's Corran Halls on Wednesday May 16.

Al Gore was the US democratic candidate for president when George Bush was elected by a narrow majority.

Gore has gone on to assemble a startling series of facts about our changing climate.

Steven Watson of ALIenergy, which was showing the film, said: 'There's no doubt our weather in the Highlands is substantially different from even just a few years ago.

'This film shows the global impact of climate change and urges us all to make changes in the way we exploit our small planet.'

Gore's film has been acclaimed for its clarity and impact. Using evidence from around the world he shows how we must be more sustainable in our use of resources if mankind is to have any kind of future here on earth.

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THERE could have been no better advertisement for the healthy lifestyle.

One-hundred-and-seventy-seven runners, a record number, took part in the recent fun run organised by the Argyll Beats Cardiovascular Disease (ABCD) Trust, an organisation set up to combat heart problems.

Every runner was treated to a meal and gifted a T-shirt bearing an appropriate slogan as well as a treat-filled 'goodie bag' and a bottle of water.

For the children there were crisps or a piece of one of Jimmy Donn's famous dumplings.

ABCD treasurer Willie Melville said: 'Everything went really well.'

Sextant returned to its true home after 67 years

THE DAUGHTER of a Dutch World War II sailor has come to Oban to reclaim a sextant her father gave to a Benderloch man for safekeeping 67 years ago.

Tonny Klein and her husband Wim, from Ryswyk, Holland, met with members of Oban War and Peace Museum to collect the navigational device.

Tonny revealed to members she did not know the sextant existed until she visited the Oban museum as part of a tour of Scotland last year.

In a speech to members she said: 'Who says fairytales don't come true. I want to thank all the people who made this miracle happen.'

Tonny's father, first officer Janssen, was a crew member of the *SS Breda*, sunk by German bombers in the Lynn of Lorne in 1940 and the crew landed at Benderloch.

Peter MacLeod, who was seven at the time, remembers how his father, a lieutenant with the Benderloch platoon of the Home Guard, brought the ship's captain, first officer and chief engineer to the house.

His father was given the sextant to look after until first officer Janssen could return to collect it, and he ignored repeated orders to hand the sextant to the police and the Dutch authorities, threatening to throw it off Connel Bridge.

Tonny Klein receives the sextant from Peter MacLeod, left, as Robin Clark, a previous owner of it, looks on. t19sxt01

First officer Janssen never returned to collect the instrument but Mr MacLeod's father held onto it until it was given to Benderloch and North Connel Drama Club as a prop in the 1960s. The sextant stayed with the club until Oban surgeon Robin Clark, who was studying navigation, purchased it for £5. He eventually passed it on to his son Andrew, who gave the sextant to Mr MacLeod after reading an appeal for its return in *Lorn Life*.

Nurse's 'sex act on her patient'

Carer alleged to have pleasured disabled man

A SENIOR nurse faced being struck off this week over claims she had performed a sex act on a pensioner at the care home where she worked.

It was also alleged at a Nursery and Midwifery Council dsciplinary hearing that Jessie MacPhee, aged 42, of Oban, also encouraged another nurse at the Lynn of Lorne Care Home, a private care home in Benderloch, to have sex with the same patient.

Mrs MacPhee is accused of telling care assistant Lynda Bergen: 'Go on Lynda, why don't you relieve yourself.'

Shocked colleagues of Mrs MacPhee gave evidence this week agains the nurse who they claimed carried out a number of serious acts of professional misconduct at the £318-a-week home between 2003 and 2004.

Iain Scott told how he saw Mrs MacPhee perfrom the sex act on the 60-year-old disabled man in his bedroom.

Mr Scott, aged 51, of Oban, said he saw Mrs MacPhee and the patient in the summer of 2004 after she had gone to give him an enema in his room.

He said: 'There was no doubt in my mind what was going on. I froze. That doesn't come under any nursing or care that I know of.'

Mr Scott also claimed that Mrs MacPhee, a nurse for 22 years, would bring in adult DVDs to watch two or three times a week. On at least one occasion she only just managed to switch the film off before a patient walked in.

Mrs Bergin, who quit the home 17 months ago after working there for six years, said Mrs MacPhee also ordered pornographic films from a catalogue and would watch them at night in the residents' lounge.

She said: 'I had actually got a catalogue because I heard the company had a good range of foundation garments.

'I was shocked when I got it because I thought it was just clothes, but half of it was erotic material.'

Mrs Bergin also told the hearing that Mrs MacPhee would sleep for up to five hours during her shift, and once continued her nap despite a patient fighting for breath.

'I tried to wake Jessie and she just gave me the keys to the drug room and told me to set up a nebulizer. She stayed in bed.'

Mrs Bergin told how she was frightened of the nurse, who would 'blow up like a volcano' and left her 'walking on eggshells'.

Five witnesses gave evidence that Mrs MacPhee had also improperly stored and administered medicine and abused colleagues.

Mrs MacPhee denies all the charges but did not appear at the hearing and faces being struck off if the Nursing and Midwifery Council — due to make a decision in Edinburgh this week — finds her guilty of misconduct.

Sassoon medal goes up for sale

A COBWEB-covered chest at the remote Benbuie Lodge on Mull revealed a long lost treasure that once belonged to the war poet Siegfried Sassoon.

A Military Cross was found inside the box that had been given to the soldier for his bravery during World War I.

The medal is expected to fetch up to £25,000 in an auction at Christie's in London on June 6. Sassoon's Webley revolver, also found in the chest, has been given to the Imperial War Museum.

Robert Pulvertaft, 45, whose stepfather George was Sassoon's only son, said: 'Like most people, I thought it had been thrown into the Mersey. I found it while clearing out the attic of the family property on Mull.'

The poet's son spent much of his time between the lodge house on Mull and their estate in Warminster, Wiltshire.

Sassoon, whose haunting poems revealed the realities of the horrifying war, won the Military Cross in 1916 for his heroic rescue of British wounded and dying soldiers under heavy German fire.

Man avoids jail sentence over illegal gun

A GUN collector caught with an illegal revolver after a fire broke out at his home avoided a jail sentence on Monday.

The High Court in Glasgow heard that Geoffrey Hutton, 57, had failed to hand the gun into police after new legisation was introduced in the wake of the Dunblane tragedy.

His defence counsel, Paul McBride QC, argued successfully that the former territorial army firearms expert, who has cititations for saving lives, should not be sent to prison.

Instead, judge Lord Brailsford ordered Hutton, of Dunaven, Victoria Park, Minard, Argyll, to perform 200 hours unpaid work in the community.

Lord Brailsford said that in his view there were exceptional circumstances in this case which allowed him not to impose the normal minimum five-year jail sentence.

He told Hutton: 'Clearly you have committed an offence in circumstances which were naive and for a man of your position, frankly stupid.

'You now appreciate the stupidity of your actions. You should have organised the disposal of this gun.'

Lord Brailsford added: 'You are a man of exemplary character. You have throughout your life been engaged in the TA with guns and are aware of the risks with gun and have performed great public service.'

The court heard that Hutton had in excess of 60 weapons, all legally held, in his former home at 10 Grizedale, Cairnbaan, Lochgilphead.

But police found the one unlicenced weapon in his collection, a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver in a military style holster, in a cupboard following the fire.

Hutton officers: 'It's the one I shouldn't have.'

Former soldier Hutton, a civil engineer with the Forestry Commission, admitted possessing the prohibited weapon which was found on December 4, 2005, at his former home in Lochgilphead.

Mr McBride said: 'Mr Hutton has an otherwise impeccable record in dealing with firearms responsibly in the public interest.

'He accepts that this gun was not handed in. It was a gift from his wife and had sentimental value to him.

'He joined the TA as a young man, won medals from shooting at Bisley and was the only qualified range officer in the TA.

'When he moved to Scotland his home was assessed by firearms experts who said the security in his house was the best they had seen.'

Mr McBride added that Hutton has had to dispose of his collection of guns, will never to able to hold a licence again and is likely to lose his job.

Paul Kearney, prosecuting, told the court that after changes to firearms legislation in 1997 following the Dunblane tragedy holders of weapons like the Smith & Wesson were required to surrender them to police.

Mr Kearney told how fireman who were called to Hutton's house to put out a blaze in the kitchen contacted police when they found a rifle in his bedroom.

Former soldier Geoffrey Hutton was caught with unlicensed gun

Pair in court over alleged serious assault

TWO OBAN teenagers have appeared in private on petition at the town's sheriff court in relation to a serious assault.

A 16-year-old boy was remanded in custody pending full committal and an 18-year-old man was released on bail. The alleged incident took place in the early hours of Sunday, May 6, at Glengallan Drive, Oban, when a man was seriously assaulted to his severe injury.

Guild meets for the last time

THEIRS is a proud organisation with a history going back over 100 years.

But on Thursday, May 3, members of the Oban and District Co-operative Women's Guild met for the last time.

With three key office bearers, the president Maimie Nicolson, the secretary Eleanor Gray and the treasurer Chrys Kirkham all standing down and no-one in a position to take up the reins, it was the end of the road for an organisation which has drawn a steady and enthusiastic membership to the fortnightly meetings in Lynn Court.

Mrs Nicolson and Mrs Gray, both of whom have held office for seven consecutive years, arranged a succession of popular programmes for the guild while Mrs Kirkham saw to the finances.

To mark the end of the 2006/2007 session Mrs Nicolson had prepared a delicious buffet, thoroughly enjoyed by the 24 members present.

All three ladies were warmly thanked for all their hard work over the years and presented with farewell cards signed by every member as well as beautiful commemorative vases.

In turn the office bearers presented each member with a commemorative mug.

Mull Theatre is ready to play

MULL Theatre is bringing its spring tour to more Argyll venues than ever before.

Between May 19 and June 27 the play *Cyprus* will be appearing at more than a dozen venues throughout Argyll and the Highlands. For some, it will be the first time the company have appeared there.

The play was first staged on Mull in 2005 and then transferred to London's West End for five weeks.

Cyprus is a traditional country house thriller with a contemporary and political twist. Set on Mull, it concerns a retired civil servant, a man with a mysterious past and a bizarre present. Terrorism and intrigue, corruption and covert action all play havoc with his life.

Opening night is at Craignish Village Hall on Saturday, May 19.

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Inverlochy facing long battle before new 'Braxi' becomes reality

A LOCHABER hall committee realised at its annual meeting it has a battle on its hands if Inverlochy is to have a new 'Braxi'.

Inverlochy Hall committee was dismayed to find only a handful of villagers at the meeting where outgoing chairman Charles Stewart outlined the current state of affairs with the hall, known locally as the Braxi.

The committee struggled to find new members to help them in its campaign and asked for help to find ways to raise funds to keep the current building safe. Mr Stewart told the meeting that the Braxi, closed a few years ago as it is no longer fit for purpose, was deteriorating and has to be demolished as soon as possible. Only one part will be kept for use as storage.

'We are getting quotations for demolition but we need to do something with the hall before this winter to minimise costs or we will be in trouble,' he said.

'We need to move on with something and make it safe. It is just getting worse and worse.'

The committee hopes to buy the ground on which the Braxi stands for no more than the legal fees for the Crown - about £500.

It then hopes to obtain the surrounding car park and green stretch of land from Alcan and put in for a planning application for a new Braxi.

Mr Stewart added: 'We don't want to go and knock down the hall because as yet we don't own the ground.

'Until we actually own the ground we are not keen on that as we don't know what is going to happen. We need community spirit - more people need to be involved. It is quite disheartening when you get a few people.'

Secretary Brian Barbour, who was voted in as new chairman for the meeting, urged the community to be involved in the attempt to get a new hall.

He said: 'We need the involvement of the community for a new hall but it can only be a community hall if the community is going to use it.'

The committee was urged to look at recent new community halls in Lochaber, such as Duror.

Invergarry was another hall singled out as the community there obtained a new hall in a relatively short time after its old one collapsed.

The meeting was told Inverlochy hall committee has £9,936 in the bank.

The committee hopes to meet Inverlochy and Torlundy Community Council in the near future to ask for guidance and to hopefully make progress.

Waterfront awash with confusion

FRESH controversy engulfed the waterfront project this week with developers and Highland Council at loggerheads with disgruntled Lochaber businessmen.

The latest spat is the result of recently published plans that include a marina.

The developers had previously been criticised for omitting such a feature.

Shortly after the initial plans were unveiled project designers told *The Oban Times* that a marina was something they would like to be included in the future but it was not in the Highland Council brief and therefore was not included in current plans.

Last week new plans emerged showing a marina, a cruise ship berth and a second hotel.

A Highland Council spokesman said the revised plans were in response to public wishes.

Critics of the £80 million project accused the developers of causing confusion after being told by developers at a Chamber of Commerce meeting 'that these facilities would not be included in the development presently under negotiation with Highland Council'.

Leading critic of the development Stewart Maclean said in a press statement: 'At the meeting of the Chamber of Commerce there were calls on the preferred bidder to withdraw the plans as they are leading to confusion with members of the public.'

The Oban Times also understands that the idea of a 99-year lease is being considered in relation to the council-owned land being used in the development.

A Highland Council spokesman said this option, as opposed to an outright sale, was an attempt to allay fears expressed by the public over future control of the land.

In a press statement Mr MacLean said it was 'believed' Highland Council had 'once again and without consulting the newly-elected councillors decided to make a significant change to the basis of the contract between Highland Council and the preferred developer'.

Fort William Waterfront Limited (FWWL) refused to be drawn into the dispute simply stating: 'FWWL has been approved by the Highland Council as the preferred bidder for the development of Fort William's waterfront and FWWL are working diligently, in continued consultation with the council and the community in Fort William, to take the process and its proposals forward.'

Selection

It had been reported that the selection process for the preferred bidder was under investigation but a spokesman for Audit Scotland denied this.

He said: 'We have received a complaint from Stewart MacLean. We're still in the process of deciding whether to investigate or not but it would definitely be wrong to say we were investigating the issue.'

Chamber of Commerce members met with developers last week who gave an indepth presentation and then fielded questions for more than an hour and half.

Shortly after a statement was issued purporting a unified stance: 'The Chamber wishes to see this development flourish and we welcome the investors.'

After receiving two complaints the statement was withdrawn.

Another chamber meeting has been scheduled for Monday May 21 in an attempt to come together on the development.

Members of the Lochaber branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) celebrated the organisation's 90th anniversary recently by hoisting the SWRI flag up to 2,500ft thanks to the Nevis Range gondola.

Lochaber SWRI marks 90 years by flying flag on Anoach Mhor summit

LOCHABER members of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute (SWRI) were flying the flag on Nevis Range recently when the organisation celebrated its 90th anniversary.

To mark the milestone, the SWRI flag is being passed around various branches and it was Lochaber's turn last week when the flag was proudly flown at 2,500ft up Aonach Mhor.

The event wasn't a million miles away from a previous landmark occasion - 75 years - when members took the flag to the top of neighbouring Ben Nevis. In 1917 three institutes were opened in Fort William marking the start of a long and successful group which has provided entertainment and support for hundreds of members over the years.

Views

The group was welcomed to Nevis Range where they enjoyed a cable car ride and 'wonderful panoramic views'.

Arisaig representatives stopped in at Arisaig House Gardens on the way home to visit a copper beech tree planted 45 years ago to mark the 45th anniversary. The rest of the group, from Fort William and Kilmallie, enjoyed lunch in Glen Nevis with guest of honour Alison Argo, SWRI senior vice chairman.

During lunch restaurant goers enjoyed entertainment including songs from Mrs Argo and Cathie Stewart from Morar as well as the recounting of tales and happy memories from the many years spent in the SWRI.

The flag then continued its journey on to the next branch in Inverness.

Hill and islands inquiry welcomed

AN INQUIRY into hill and island areas in the Highlands hopes to find ways to help secure a prosperous and environmentally sustainable future for them.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh's independent inquiry into the future of Scotland's hill and island areas was launched this week, headed by economist Professor Gavin McCrone.

The inquiry will make recommendations that seek to respond not only to threats posed by changes in agricultural support as a result of present and anticipated reforms to the common agricultural policy, but also the opportunities for expansion in other parts of the economy, such as tourism and forestry.

The committee will report back to the society by June 2008 when its findings will be published.

Professor McCrone said: 'Major challenges and opportunities exist, especially to and for agriculture as the CAP is reformed, but also with proposed major expansion in forestry and the potential for recreation and tourism.'

National Farmers' Union Scotland (NFUS) head of rural policy Jonathon Hall said: 'All the political parties are beginning a new parliamentary session on the back of promises to support fragile, rural communities.

'NFUS will be working closely with this inquiry and hope it can provide some clear pointers to the executive and parliament.'

Skye and Port Appin are the top places to eat out

A SKYE restaurant and a Port Appin hotel have been included among the top six eating establishments in Scotland, according to quality assurance scheme EatScotland.

The Three Chimneys, near Dunvegan, and the Airds Hotel have been given the EatScotland Gold Award. The award has been devised to boost perceptions of Scottish cuisine worldwide.

Another two Argyll restaurants have received Individual Excellence Awards. Oban restaurant Coast won the Small Team Excellence Award and Kilcamb Lodge Hotel, Strontian, won Romantic Restaurant Excellence Award.

Airds Hotel head chef Paul Burns said: 'I am honoured to receive this prestigious award on behalf of The Airds Hotel, as it recognises the hard work we have put in as a team.

Michael Smith, head chef at The Three Chimneys, said: 'It is an honour to win this award, not only for me and the kitchen team, but for the restaurant's owner and Chef Patron Shirley Spear. A huge part of The Three Chimneys is the food and making the food fun for the customer.'

All the award-winning establishments received their prizes at a ceremony on Monday at the Point Hotel Conference Centre in Edinburgh.

Doors open on new Corpach Co-op

LOCAL children will perform the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially launch the £130,000 new look Scottish Co-op store in Corpach today (Thursday).

Pupils from Banavie Primary School will be presented with £200 for school funds by store manager Willie Gunn to mark the occasion.

'As a community retailer it is appropriate we involve the community in our special events and we are delighted our local school is playing a central role in the relaunch of our store,' said Mr Gunn.

Fort William shinty hero clashes the ash with Runrig

Members of Runrig with Gary Innes, centre, wearing a Taynuilt strip.

FORT William's Camanachd Cup winning captain and accordionist Gary Innes is to be immortalised on the cover of the new Runrig album.

One of the band's new songs, *Clash of the Ash*, was written about the world of shinty.

The photograph used on the album cover was a shot taken of Gary playing for Fort William by *The Oban Times* editorial director Stewart MacKenzie.

Runrig released its 13th studio album this month on the banks of Loch Ness to tie in with the band's Beat The Drum event being held in August at Borlum Farm. Gary said: 'I'm chuffed to bits. I knew nothing of it until I got a phone call from the band asking if it was okay to use it but, of course, I was delighted. It is fantastic, something you couldn't make up, just a real piece of luck.'

Gary, a lifelong Runrig fan, jammed with Runrig during the launch last week.

Stewart said: 'My original picture used on the album cover shows Gary Innes, Camanachd Cup winning captain with Fort William in 2005.

'Fort William play in yellow and black but the designers changed the CD cover colours to orange and black.

'The only shinty team to play in orange and black was Taynuilt, the team I played for in the latter stages of my career!'

'I'm chuffed to bits. It is fantastic, something you couldn't make up, just a real piece of luck.' - Gary Innes.

Oban nurse sends hospital beds to Malawi

A WHOLE, mainly children's, hospital in Malawi is to be equipped with beds thanks to a staff nurse at Oban's hospital.

Carole Gatward spent two years in Blantyre, Malawi, as a nurse to two orthopaedic surgeons from 2000-2002 and during that time was involved in the building of The Beit Trust CURE International Hospital teaching hospital that specialises in treating orthopaedic needs of children and adults.

At the time there was no money left for proper beds for the 66-bed hospital, so a local carpenter was asked to build wooden ones.

Now a staff nurse in Ward C at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Carole heard that Argyll and Bute Community Health Partnership of NHS Highland was having difficulty finding a home for beds being replaced in the hospital by electric beds and that they would have to go to a landfill site. She quickly put in a claim for them while her husband, Murdoch Gatward, asked the Scotland-Malawi Partnership at the Scottish Executive, where he works, if it could help. The result was that 70 beds, plus other replaced equipment from other departments including crutches and a multi-gym from the physiotherapy department, were on Friday loaded on to a container that the partnership is paying to send out to Blantyre. 'They are absolutely ecstatic,' said Carole, when asked the Malawian hospital's reaction. 'At the moment they have tatty wooden beds that don't move up and down.'

The beds and equipment had been stored in the empty Nelson ward at the hospital and with help from hospital porter staff, the estates manager and various friends and family members of Carole and Murdoch, they were wheeled down and loaded on to the container under the supervision of Brian Kelly of the partnership.

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Jail for man who broke into blind woman's Oban home

A MAN who broke into the home of an 86-year-old blind woman and hid from police in her bedroom, was jailed for a year at Oban Sheriff Court.

Peter Michie, aged 35, who had previously been living in homeless accommodation in the Oban area, admitted a string of offences starting on November 21 last year, when he stole two mobile phones and £5 from an address in Glenmore Road, Oban.

Drug addict Michie also admitted breaking into a flat in George Street on December 3 and stealing a digital camera worth £450, which was later recovered.

That same day, Michie stole another mobile phone and two tins containing a quantity of money from an address in Oban's Albert Lane.

Shortly later, still on December 3, Michie was caught on closed circuit television (CCTV) entering the common close of 6 Albany Terrace, George Street.

When police contacted the son of the elderly woman who lived there, he went to the address and found Michie crouching behind the bed in the ground-floor bedroom.

Michie began to brandish garden loppers at the man, and when police arrived at the house, a violent struggle ensued as Michie attempted to resist arrest.

When he was taken to Oban police office, Michie was searched and found to be in possession of cannabis.

Defence agent David Watt told the court that although Michie's record of house breaking and theft goes back a long number of years, his offending was related to a drug addiction. Mr Watt said Michie had taken it upon himself to find out about treatment he could receive in an effort to overcome his addiction.

Sentencing Michie, Sheriff Joanna Johnstone told him: 'These offences are very serious matters and it's right that you feel ashamed of them.

'I have to mark that with a custodial sentence, although I have taken into account you are working on your drug problem and you pled guilty at an early stage.'

MacDougall Collection exhibition curator Yasmin Haas with some of the exhibits on show at Ganavan Pavilion. t19mac01

Ganavan Pavilion to host MacDougall collection

PART of the vast collection of social artefacts collected by the last Miss Hope MacDougall of Ganavan has gone on display at Ganavan Pavilion.

The exhibition put on by the MacDougall Trust, which oversees the collection 4,000-odd objects, is an extension of one that toured Argyll last summer, The People and Places of Argyll.

It includes items from west Highland homes from the Victorian era and the turn of the century, including open fire kettles, ceramic hot water bottles, butter presses, yolks for carrying water, clothing, a cradle, spinning wheel and a turn-of-the-century vacuum cleaner.

The exhibition has been put together and displayed by Australian Yasmin Haas, who recently graduated from the University of Sydney and majored in museum curation.

She came to Scotland just a few weeks ago and has been spending that time learning about the collection and putting together the exhibits.

She is also hoping to organise some events throughout the summer at the pavilion to tie in with the exhibition.

The exhibition, which has been given the space at Ganavan Pavilion through the kindness of owner John MacGregor, will run until the end of August and will be open initially from Wednesday to Sunday. It is hoped that this can be extended to seven days but volunteers to steward the exhibition are desperately being sought. Anyone who can help, is asked to contact Yasmin or The MacDougall Collection on 570550.

Licensed trade host spring golf outing

OBAN and District Licensed Trade Association were lucky enough to enjoy some beautiful weather during their annual spring golf outing recently.

A total of 34 men and five ladies contested for the four trophies on offer at Oban's Glencruitten Golf Club on Tuesday, May 8.

Billy MacLean won the best net score overall (60) and lifted the Grants Standfast Trophy.

The best scratch was Allan McKie Jnr, returning a scratch 61 and retaining the MacTavish Trophy. Young Allan's father was president of the association before the present incumbent, Calum MacLachlainn from Tobermory.

Aulay Dunn prevailed in the battle of the licensees to win the MacCall Rosebowl with a net score of 63.

With a net 62, Diane Colewell took home The Ladies' trophy.

Allan McKie Jnr was the longest drive at the first, and the nearest pin prizes went to Bill Matthews (2nd), Ken MacCallum (5th), Peter Tait (9th) and John Gibb (13th).

Aulay Dunn, deputising for president Calum MacLachlainn, paid tribute to the excellence of the catering, which was provided by club steward Jim Feeney and his wife. Aulay also praised the condition of the course and the wonderful service provided by John Ramage and Archie MacDonald who manned the bar at the road.

Cups and prizes were presented by Carol MacDougall, secretary with MacArthur Stewart solicitors, who provide secretarial services for the association through their senior partner, Sandy Murray.

Oban and District Licensed Trade Association golfers with Grants Standfast Trophy winner Billy MacLean front right t20glf01

Community service for man who 'presented a knife'

A FORMER Oban butcher found guilty of assaulting another man by grabbing hold of him and presenting a knife at him has been ordered to carry out 180 hours community service.

Walter MacIntyre, aged 63, of 20 Glencruitten Drive, had denied assaulting the man, striking him on the neck with a knife to his severe injury, permanent disfigurement and to the danger of his life on December 30, 2005, at a party held at a farm near Oban.

However, the case went to trial and the jury returned a unanimous verdict that MacIntyre was guilty of assault, although the original charge was amended to state that he had grabbed Mr Cruickshanks and presented a knife at him. Sentence had been deferred on MacIntyre until May 8 for background reports to be carried out.

Drew MacKenzie QC, said on behalf of first offender MacIntyre: 'Any remorse he has is genuine and he is quite ashamed of his actions.'

Sheriff Joanna Johnstone told MacIntyre: 'The courts in this country take a very serious view of anything that involves a knife. If it were not for your good character and use to society, you would have gone to prison.'

Pounds lost leads to thousands gathered by slimmers in memory of Oban's Linda

A GROUP of dieters has managed to lose hundreds of pounds of weight while gaining thousands of pounds for a worthwhile charity.

When Oban woman Linda Campbell was undergoing treatment for cancer, her sister Carolyn Cameron decided to raise money to help the fight against the disease and started a sponsored diet. More family and friends joined up, losing a combined weight of 15 stones and raising almost £2,700. One of the participants, Neil Armour, organised a fun night in Glencruitten Golf Club to hand over the proceeds. An auction and raffle was held on the night, raising a further £1,100, giving a total of £3,803 that was presented to the local branch of Cancer Research UK to be allocated to Breast Cancer Care.

Sadly, Linda lost her fight to the illness just two weeks before the event. Linda's family would like to thank all who took part with a special thanks to Neil and the golf club, as well as the businesses and individuals who made donations.

News in brief

You're never too old to learn

OLDER people in Oban and the surrounding area are being invited to help set up a University of the Third Age.

U3A as it is known is a self-help co-operative of older people who get together to share educational, creative and leisure activities.

'No qualifications are required and none are given,' said Robina Hutton, a Scottish trustee of U3A.

'They are organised by local members, who draw up the knowledge, experience and skills of each other to form groups of interest to themselves,' she said.

For anyone interested there is a meeting on May 31 at the Diocesan Centre in Croft Road Oban.

Man fined for assaulting partner

A MAN who threw his partner against bedside drawers during an argument, has been fined £175 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Peter Caldwell, aged 43, of Timbertops, Barcaldine, pled guilty to assaulting his long-term girlfriend by seizing her by the hair and clothing and throwing her against bedside drawers to her injury on July 29 last year at Dunstaffnage Bungalow, Dunstaffnage Estate by Connel.

Sentence had been deferred on the self-employed marine engineer for six months for him to be of good behaviour when he first appeared at court in connection with the assault last November.

Sheriff Joanna Johnstone told Caldwell, who has not been in trouble since: 'The court takes a very serious view of assault in domestic circumstances. However, you have taken the opportunity to be of good behaviour and you accepted your guilt straight away.'

LOCAL NEWSDESK
01631 568000
email: editor@obantimes.co.uk

Ledaig Motors
Benderloch
Ledaig Motors, Benderloch
The workshop is once again fully operational.
Chris has been joined by local vehicle technician Damian Martin
For enquiries/appointments please
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All types and sizes of heavy duty timber sectional buildings manufactured on premises and installed throughout western highlands and islands. Popular sizes in stock now ready for delivery.

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At the Cinema

SPIDER-MAN 3
12A Certificate
139 Minutes
7.30 EVERY DAY including SUNDAY
1.30 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES
Based on the original Marvel Comics series, a fierce storm is brewing on the horizon in this new adventure: 'SPIDER-MAN 3'.

Peter Parker's famous Spicer-Man suit suddenly turns jet-black, at the same time greatly enhancing his already awesome powers. It also brings out a far darker and more vengeful side of his personality that he struggles to control.

Under the influence of the suit, Peter also becomes overconfident and starts neglecting the people who care about him most. Forced to make the choice between the seductive power of his new suit – and the compassionate hero that he used to be – Peter has to fight to overcome personal demons.

Then, two of his most-feared villains yet, Sandman and Venom, gather new unparalleled powers and a thirst for retribution.

BLADES OF GLORY
12A Certificate
93 Minutes
SCREEN TWO
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
6.15 EVERY DAY from FRIDAY including SUNDAY
1.15 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES
Welcome to the world of ice-skating at the Montreal Jeux du Monde winter sports.

Will Ferrell stars in BLADES OF GLORY as ice skating champion Chazz Michael Michaels, one half of the world's first all-male figure skating duo, with Jon Hedder as his partner Jimmy MacElroy.

Chazz Michael Michaels is a sex hungry party animal, whose winning podium brawl with fern-boy rival Jimmy Michaels, earns him a life ban – until someone discovers a rulebook loophole!

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER
15 Certificate
113 Minutes
SCREEN TWO
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
8.00 EVERY DAY from Friday including Sunday (No Matinees)

In 10th Century China, during a colourful festival at the Imperial Palace, dark secrets emerge about the mighty Emperor, his family and their subjects. The balance of power that exists between the King (Played by Chow Yun Fat) and the Queen (Played by Gong Li), proves to be one of continuous betrayal, deceit and passion, providing moviegoers with an unique and unforgettable screen experience not to be missed.

PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: AT WORLD'S END
12A Certificate
168 Minutes
SCREEN ONE
OBAN HIGHLAND THEATRE
7.30 EVERY DAY from THURSDAY 24th May – including SUNDAY
1.30 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES
The last adventure of the Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest, was the highest grossing film at the UK Box Office last year, taking a swashbuckling £52m. Johny Depp, Keira Knightley, Orlando Bloom, Bill Nighy and Geoffrey Rush can be guaranteed to make At World's End an even greater success.

Let's face it, everyone loves Captain Jack. No sooner was the lid shut on his adventures in Dead Man's Chest, than Jack Sparrow and his pals head to the high seas for what could be their final escapade.

HIGHLAND THEATRE 01631 562444
GEORGE STREET - OBAN
7.30 EVERY DAY - 1.30 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES
SPIDERMAN 3 12A, 139 mins
6.15 EVERY DAY - 1.15 SATURDAY and SUNDAY MATINEES
BLADES OF GLORY 12A, 93 mins
8.00 EVERY DAY from FRIDAY (No Matinees - Final Week)
Curse of the Golden Flower 15, 113 mins

Isle of Skye Accordion & Fiddle Festival
24th – 26th May 2007

Thursday 24th May 2007
7.30pm Isle of Skye Accordion & Fiddle Club Night at The Royal Hotel, Portree with Andrew Knight and West Telferton Caledonian Dance Band

Friday 25th May 2007
7.30pm Roya MacLean will be playing in The Well Plaid, Royal Hotel, Portree. The band will be joined by other musicians throughout the evening

Saturday 26th May 2007
3pm An afternoon of music with John Stuart & his Scottish Dance Band in the Well Plaid, Royal Hotel, Portree

8.30pm Ceilidh Dance in the Skye Gathering Hall with The Lomond Ceilidh Band

Also appearing throughout the weekend are Tom Cruickshank and the Cnoc Ciuil Ceilidh Band, Derek Hamilton, Stuart Reid, Richard Hughes and Jimmy MacDonald, plus other local and visiting artists

Contacts
Isle of Skye Accordion & Fiddle Festival Committee
Information from: Tel: 01478-612153 or 01478-611201
e-mail: info@skyemusic.co.uk
website: www.skyemusic.co.uk

HECTOR

A big scaredy-cat, but very sweet and friendly! Not keen on other cats, dogs, cars etc, but likes people.

Please contact Pat on 01852 300362
aaa.rescueteam@btconnect.com
www.smallpaws.co.uk

The Oban Times & West Highland Times
What's On Guide

Tuesday 15th May - Saturday 14 July
An Tobar Exhibitions - Mull Birds. Images of birds by Scottish artists

Friday 18th May - Saturday 30th June
An Tobar, Source, a new commission by Dalziel and Sculliion

Saturday 19th May onwards
Mull Theatre production 'Cyprus'. Tel: 01688 302828

Saturday 19th May
Singing Kettle – Wild West Show, Corran Halls, Oban, 2pm. Tel 01631 567333

Saturday 19th May
KDC on Tour, Taynuilt Village Hall, 7.30pm
Enquiries 01567 820424

Friday 1st June
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern, Skipinnish, 8 till late. Tel: 01852 500277 or 01852 200371

Tuesday 22nd May
An Tobar, In Concert Savourna Stevenson and Alyth McCormack

Thursday 24th May - Saturday 26th May
Isle of Skye Accordion and Fiddle Festival

Friday 25th May
An Tobar, The Tannahill Weavers

Saturday 26th May
Achnacloich Gardens, Connel, Open Day, 11.30 till 16.00. Refreshments, SWT Stalls

Tuesday 29th May
An Tobar, The Paul Toundrow Sextet

Friday 8th June
An Tobar, Aidan O'Rourke

Friday 8th June - Sunday10th June
Feill Chaluim Chille 2007, Iona, Mull and Oban

WHAT'S ON GUIDE
CONTACT 01631 568000

forthcoming events

Tuesday 3rd July - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th September - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 16th October - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

Tuesday 4th December - Oban Maternity User Group Meeting, Day Centre, Lorn and Islands Hospital

GET YOUR EVENT LISTED
CONTACT 01631 568000

Paddy O'Connor, former owner of *The Martha David,* with his family at the relaunch of the vessel renamed *The Glen Tarsan*.

Former fishing boat's new lease of life

A FISHING boat rescued from the chainsaw has been relaunched after being converted into a luxury cruise boat.

Plucked from the threat of decommissioning, the Peterborough registered trawler *Martha David,* originally called *Providence*, was bought by Grant and Andy Thoms of The Majestic Line, named after the *Para Handy* television series based on stories by Neil Munro. The pair have a love of the seas and were heartbroken at the scrapping of sturdy Scottish fishing boats after decommissioning.

This is the second boat they have bought and converted and the renamed *The Glen Tarsan* was launched last week at Holy Loch Marina, Dunoon. She will be sailing with room for 12 guests and four crew from Oban to Mull and Jura. Former owner of 24 years Paddy O'Connor, who was at the relaunch, said: 'It was heartbreaking to give up *The Martha David* after 24 years but there was no living to be had any more. It is lovely to see her given a new lease of life.'

The other vessel in The Majestic Line is *The Glen Massan*.

Right: Members of the Argyll Drama Festival winning team from Argyll Youth Theatre, from left: Shaun Reardon, Heather Irwin, Nicole O'Brien, Lisa McMonagle, Moira Beaton and Malcolm Clark. Fiona Ramage was not available for the photograph.

Oban's Argyll Youth Theatre takes top honours at drama festival

A YOUNG drama team from Oban picked up a first prize at the recent Argyll Drama Festival in Ardrishaig.

It is the first time a team from the Oban-based Argyll Youth Theatre has entered for many years but the judge was so impressed with its entry of The Bishop's Candlesticks by Norman McKinnell that it won first place.

Everyone involved received praise from the adjudicator, with special praise for Nicole O'Brien as the convict, Lisa McMonagle as the bishop and Moira Beaton and Heather Irwin for their close working relationship as Persome, the bishop's sister and Mairi, the young housemaid.

Argyll Youth Theatre is in the final stages of rehearsal for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical The Sound of Music to be staged at the Corran Halls on June 7-9.

New Oban, Mull and Lorn visitor guide

VISITSCOTLAND is encouraging tourism businesses with the launch of a new visitor guide for Oban, Mull and Lorn - the tourist's essential guide to where to go and what to see in the area this summer.

Illustrated throughout with stunning photography, including a breathtaking sunset over Oban on the cover, the new guide contains listings of visitor attractions, restaurants, crafts and shops.

It also includes useful maps, information about smaller towns and villages, advice on where to see the best landscapes, wildlife, gardens and distilleries and historical background on the area.

The free guide will be distributed through the Scottish network of tourist information centres and will hopefully encourage visitors from further afield.

VisitScotland area director Iain Close said the new guide was aimed at helping visitors make the most of their stay in the area.

'But it's also a great boost for the local businesses featured in the guide and for local residents looking for ideas for a day out with a difference,' he added.

Spotlight on Mull's shepherding MacGillivrays

THE STORY of a remote estate on the tip of Mull's Armeanach peninsula is the focus of a book signing at Waterstones in Oban tomorrow (Friday.)

Tea with Chrissie by Rosalind Jones, from Mull, explores the lives of the shepherding MacGillivrays and a famous fossil tree, both rooted at Burg.

Previously neglected, Burg was the envy of many during World War II when it was transformed into an experimental farm.

The book traces a traditional lifestyle that has now disappeared, as well as tales about *sithe* (fairies), spirits and ghosts.

The signing will take place between 1 and 3.30pm.

MULL theatre TAIGH-CLUICHE MHUILE
MULL THEATRE PRODUCTION
" totally gripping – as exciting as an episode of *Spooks*" Time Out
cyprus
a political thriller by Peter Arnott

MAY
Sat 19, 7.30pm Craignish Village Hall
Mon 21, 8pm Tayinloan Village Hall
Tue 22, 8pm Campbeltown Grammar School
Wed 23, 8pm Ardrishaig Public Hall
Thu 24, 8pm Bunessan Hall
Fri 25/Sat 26/Mon 28, 8pm Aros Hall, Tobermory

JUNE
Mon 4, 7.30pm Strachur Memorial Hall
Tue 5, 7.30pm Rothesay Pavillion
Thu 7, 8pm Innellan Village Hall
Sat 9, 8pm Cove Burgh Hall

01688 302828
www.mulltheatre.com
HIE Argyll and the Islands · Argyll & Bute Council · Scottish Arts Council

Fèill Chaluim Chille 2007
8th - 10th June Iona, Mull and Oban
CAPERCAILLIE
KÍLA DÀIMH
SEAMUS BEGLEY AND JIM MURRAY
plus other top musicians

Live at Torosay Castle, Mull Saturday 9th June from 3-30 onwards
Local food and drink, children's entertainment plus showcase stage featuring local talent.

Late ferry departing Craignure for Oban after the event. (As this is a special charter standard Cal Mac tickets are not valid on this sailing).

There is no parking available onsite and very limited parking available in the Craignure area. Concert goers are advised not to take their car and make full use of the transport provided. Buses will run from Fionnphort and Tobermory before and after the event. Further details from almawildheart@hotmail.com

Concert and ferry tickets available from www.colmcille.net/shop.html
A limited number of tickets (cash sales only) will be available at the gate on the day.

No alcohol or glass bottles are allowed on site.
All bags are subject to search.

Other festival activities include:
Language, music and dance classes - boating events - storywalks round Iona - a Choral Celebration of Spiritual Music at Iona Abbey - Shinty/Hurling – exhibitions

For a full programme please go to www.colmcille.net

Further information available from
Mairi Macleod:
mairi@colmcille.net
07786134951
Aonghus Dwane:
aonghus@colmcille.net
00 353 1 4538870
Maolcholaim Scott:
maolcholaim@colmcille.net
(0) 28 90 238293

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culture ireland cultúr éireann · Argyll & Bute Council · HIE Argyll and the Islands · Highland 2007

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

KILMARTIN HOUSE MUSEUM
Aspects of Highland Culture
An evening talk with Murdo MacDonald
Wednesday 23 May
7.30 – 9pm
Kilmartin Church
For further information & diary of events contact 01546 510278
www.kilmartin.org

SKIPINNISH
Return visit and live at
Craignish Village Hall, Ardfern
with soloist Rachel Walker
Friday 1st June 2007 - 8pm till late
Licensed ceilidh with finger buffet
Tickets £12.50
Available from: Ishbel MacNicol 01852 500277
Judith Stannard 01852 200371
Book early to avoid disappointment
Proceeds to Craignish Parish Church

SEIL ISLAND COMMUNITY HALL CHARITY
Welcomes you on Sunday 27th May
To
AN CALA GARDENS OPEN DAY
1.30 – 4.30 (entry £2.50) plus at the HALL
afternoon teas 2-4pm (£2.50)
Car Boot Sale 1.30-4.30pm
Car boot pitches £5 - pay on the day.

Oban and Lorn Horticultural Society
Rhododendron Show
Glencruitten Road Church Centre
Saturday 19th May
Open to public from 12 noon
Teas, coffees and home baking available
Plants for sale
Proceeds in aid of charity

DRAMA IN CRAIGNISH VILLAGE HALL, ARDFERN
Sat. May 19th – Mull Theatre presents 'Cyprus' by Peter Arnott. Tickets - £7. Licensed Bar.
Fri. May 25th – Rapture Theatre Co. presents 'Broken Glass' by Arthur Miller – Tickets - £6
Both performances at 7.30pm.
Buy a ticket for each performance in advance for £12!
Ring 01852 500689 for tickets/details

North Connel & District Horticultural Society
Annual Plant Sale
Saturday 19th May
Victory Hall, Benderloch
Doors open 2pm
Come along for all your plant needs
Bedding Plants, Herbs, House Plants, Shrubs, Vegetable Plants, Perennials etc.
Cream Teas included in price
Adults £1.50 Child £1

Scottish Wildlife Trust
OPEN DAY
Achnacloich Gardens
A85 – East of Connel
Sat 26th May
11.30am –4pm
all welcome
lunches, teas, baking, plants, gifts, raffle, displays
Donations in kind welcome

GARDENS OPEN
This weekend
COLINTRAIVE GARDENS
Sat & Sun 19 & 20 May 1-5pm
KNOCK COTTAGE, LOCHGAIR
Sat & Sun 19 & 20 May 2-5pm
KILBRANDON, BALVICAR
Sat 19 May & Sun 20 May 1-5pm
And joint with
DUACHY-KILNINVER
Sunday 20 May 1-5pm
Scotland's Garden Scheme

SAHARA CHALLENGE
CAR BOOT SALE
In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support
CO-OP Car Park - Oban
10am - 3pm
Sunday 27th May
Carltable £5

Advertise in the Community Notice Board for just £12.45 (plus VAT)
This section is available to charitable organisations with a charity number.
All AGM's will be placed on the Public Notice Page
Please ask for details

Cancer Research UK
CEILIDH
Friday 25th May
7.30 – 11pm
Cathedral Hall Oban
Featuring various local artistes providing an enjoyable evening of music, song and dance
Tickets £3/children £1.50
Including tea etc
Tickets available at door.

ANNUAL TEA PARTY
Come and join in the fun at
BUMPS AND BABIES
Monday 21st May
11 to 1pm
Dunmar Court
Home baking, raffle, etc.
More info:
01631 570902

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

Islay

Weather

ISLAY residents have been enjoying the recent sunshine.

Outdoor work on farms is gathering pace with lambing and calving less stressful for both animals and stockmen in the lovely weather.

Gardening has been a pleasure, with soils easily worked and early growth coming on well. There's even been time to stand back and admire the handywork with the days getting longer.

Bluebells have now replaced daffodils on the roadsides and in the woods, primroses can be seen on sunny grassy banks.

The cuckoo can be heard in many places on the island.

Springwatch

THE BBC's popular *Springwatch* series will be broadcasting 12 live programmes from Islay on BBC2, starting the week beginning May 28.

Most of the filming will be done from the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) nature reserves on Islay, with wildlife presenter Simon King based on the island for the series.

It's an exceptional opportunity to have Islay's spectacular wildlife presented to millions of viewers. Featured species will include chough, corncrake, golden eagle and hare.

It is envisaged that many people, having been interested by the programmes, will be keen to see Islay's special natural heritage and island cultural life for themselves.

Following a joint initiative by RSPB Scotland, The Nàdair Trust and Argyll and Islands Enterprise a wildlife information/tourism officer will be employed for four months, beginning in late May while the BBC is filming.

The new officer will organise guided walks and talks and provide information and interpretation to help visitors get the most from their Islay experience.

Archaeology

INVITED by Islay Archaeology Group, archaeologists from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) will visit Islay as part of the Scotland's Rural Past initiative.

This five-year project was started last October and has been developed through the work of the Historic Rural Settlement Trust to encourage members of the public to take an interest in their area's past, to discover more about historic rural settlements and to enable local volunteers to learn and use new skills such as archaeological building surveying and recording. Once the site recordings are completed, they will become part of the national public archaeological record held at RCAHMS in Edinburgh.

Visit the website on www.rcahms.gov.uk

Composting workshop gets top marks

Julie Fairbrass from the Group for Recycling in Argyll and Bute recently visited Barcaldine Primary School to carry out a workshop on the benefits of composting. Pupils took part in quizzes and asked questions about the value of composting.

An exhibition, *Scotland's Rural Past*, will be held at Ionad Chaluim Chille Ìle (ICCI) from May 14 to 17, sponsored by Morrisons Bowmore Distillery. Admission is free during ICCI's normal opening hours.

Also, a talk, *Getting Involved with Scotland's Rural Past*, will be held at ICCI on Wednesday May 16 at 7pm. The talk is free and everyone is welcome.

One of several possible projects for the Islay visit may be locating and recording an illicit whisky still, dating from the 18th or 19th century, when such activities were common here. There will also be a site visit to Lurabus, near Port Ellen, on Thursday May 17, from 10am to 1pm, to which volunteers are welcome. To book, contact srp@rcahms.gov.uk.

Youngsters enjoy film-making

ISLAY youngsters are turning their hands to film-making this summer, covering issues that are close to their hearts.

The group of 10 or more teenagers are working with a film company called Strangeboat that was on the island making a film about healthy living centres at the end of last year for NHS Scotland.

The youngsters, through Islay and Jura Healthy Living Centre, were part of the film and when David Barras and Juliet Rees from Strangeboat released the youngsters were keen to try something themselves, they suggested they apply for a grant from First Light Films. With the help of Carol Muir at the healthy living centre, who has worked with young people on the island since 1996-97, a successful application was made.

The resulting £16,000 is being used to bring Strangeboat back to the island to work with the youngsters and provide the equipment to film two 10-minute films, one a documentary and the other a drama with a serious message.

The first is called 'Islay and its goodbye to care' which is looks at what it is like to be a young person living on the island today.

The second, 'Never been dissed', looks at the issue of boy/girl racers on Islay and will follow the story of a girl who prefers to date an older boy with a car than someone nearer her own age but is rescued by her male peers when he turns on her.

'Strangeboat is working with them from scripting, filming to producing and then showing the production on Islay,' said Carol.

She added that the healthy living centre, although very much in the background as it was the youngsters' project, was trying to raise the funds to buy equipment to allow the teenagers to continue with what they learn this summer.

The healthy living project has been involved with supporting teenagers on Islay as part of its early healthy planning project in diverting youngsters into constructive activities like alcohol-free dances.

David Barras, of Strangeboat, said: 'We went to Islay a couple of weeks ago and got them started. They have now to work out things like locations, what is going to be filmed where so that when we are there it will run smoothly on schedule. We will be there for a week, shooting on four out of five days, with one day to get everything ready when we turn up.'

The films will be edited as they are filmed and Strangeboat will distribute the end result at film festivals around the country.

'They are enthusiastic and have good ideas and I think they will produce something interesting,' added David.

Weather

THE WEATHER has changed a bit over the days past - from bright sunshine to a cloudy sky with spells of showers and a bit cold sometimes.

Winkle collecting

TEENAGE school pupils, boys in particular, used to go to the high spring ebbs to collect winkles.

It doesn't seem that winkles on the shore are so plentiful now.

The winkles were bagged and sent to markets which were open to receiving such consignments.

In some shore areas of the Western Isles, winkles were more plentiful than locally. Still, during three or four visits to the ebbs even locally, it was astonishing how much the youth of former years could collect of these 'good quality winkles'.

Mussels

MUSSELS were collected by fishermen for baiting small lines for fishing for haddock, which was plentiful in home waters, again years ago.

Path direction

HILLS on Harris are more or less charted for climbers, hill walkers or tourists interested in scaling the highest hills.

Path marking is noticeable, winding here and there, on these high Harris peaks.

A path from the base of the mountain to the top with directions can indeed be useful.

Prizewinners at the South West Ross Piping Society's annual competition show off their silverware.

High standard of play at piping society's 41st annual competition

SOUTH West Ross Piping Society held its 41st annual competition on Saturday April 28 in Plockton High School Hostel.

There was a good entry for all competitions, particularly the chanter and under-15 events, and the adjudicators commented on the high standard of playing throughout the day.

Top piper in the under-15 events was Alexander Levack, aged 14, of Strathpeffer, who won three of the four events.

The under-18 overall winner was Andrew Smith, 17, from Kyle and Struan Thorpe, a pupil at Plockton School of Excellence, was the overall winner in the 18 to 22 years section.

Portree youngster Bruce MacDonald received the youngest piper award and was also placed first in the under-15 Novice March.

Results

Practise Chanter, New Competitors: 1 James Roxburgh, Balmacara; 2 Stuart Nicolson, Portree; 3 Seumas Mehan, Sleat; 4 Hannah Dickson, Portree; 5 Fiann MacLeod, Sleat; 6 Alasdair Nixon, Dornie.

Practise Chanter, Previous Competitors: Brighde Chaimbeul, Sleat; 2 Scott MacLennan, Kyleakin; 3 Duncan Pincock, Auchtertyre; 4 Connal Fraser, Kintail; 5 Alexander MacLeod, Broadford; 6 Caitriona Stark, Lochcarron.

Novice March, under-15: 1 Bruce MacDonald, Portree; 2 Donald Nixon, Dornie; 3 Seamus Lane, Glenelg; 4 Fraser MacLeod, Glenelg; 5 Aeden MacRae, Dornie; 6 Donald Gillies, Broadford.

March under-15: 1 Alexander Levack, Strathpeffer; 2 Lea MacLeod, Dornie; 3 Rachel MacDonald, Inverness; 4 Andrew Hepburn, Fort William; 5 Kenneth Rankin, Badicaul; 6 Mattie Ross, Erbusaig.

Strathspey and Reel under-15: 1 Ewen Henderson, Strontian; 2 Alexander Levack, Strathpeffer; 3 Lea MacLeod, Dornie; 4 Ciaran Stark, Lochcarron; 5 Rachel MacDonald, Inverness; 6 Mattie Ross, Erbusaig.

Jig Under-15: 1 Alexander Levack, Strathpeffer; 2 Lea MacLeod, Dornie; 3 Robert Hudson, Glenelg; 4 Rachel MacDonald, Inverness; 5 Mattie Ross, Erbusaig; 6 Declan Gilmartin, Kyle.

Piobaireachd Under-15: 1 Alexander Levack, Strathpeffer; 2 Lea MacLeod, Dornie; 3 Rachel MacDonald, Inverness.

Gaelic Air Under-17: 1 Alexander Levack, Strathpeffer; 2 Alasdair Murray, Erbusaig; 3 Lea MacLeod, Dornie; 4 Murdo Cameron, Glenelg; 5 Carolyn McKee, Fort William; 6 Mattie Ross, Erbusaig.

March, Strathspey and Reel Under-18: 1 Andrew Smith, Kyle; 2 Christopher Ross, Erbusaig; 3 Alasdair Murray, Erbusaig; 4 Carolyn McKee, Fort William; 5 Finlay Stark, Lochcarron; 6 Tascal MacLean, Bernisdale. Best local - Andrew Smith.

Jig Under-18: 1 Andrew Smith, Kyle; 2 Alasdair Murray, Erbusaig; 3 Carolyn McKee, Fort William; 4 equal Murdo Cameron, Glenelg and Tascal MacLean, Bernisdale.

Piobaireachd Under-18, sponsored by Scots Guards: 1 Christopher Ross, Erbusaig; 2 Andrew Smith, Kyle; 3 Alasdair Murray, Erbusaig; 4 Finlay Stark, Lochcarron. Best local - Christopher Ross.

March, Strathspey and Reel, 18 to 22 years: 1 Karen MacLean, Inverinate; 2 Struan Thorpe, Plockton School of Excellence.

Jig 18 to 22 years: 1 Struan Thorpe, Plockton School of Excellence; 2 Karen MacLean, Inverinate.

Piobaireachd 18 to 22 years: 1 Struan Thorpe, Plockton School of Excellence; 2 Karen MacLean, Inverinate.

Overall Under-18: Andrew Smith.

Overall Under-18 local: Andrew Smith.

Overall 18 to 22 years, excluding Pioaireachd: Karen MacLean and Struan Thorpe.

Overall 18 to 22, including Piobaireachd, Struan Thorpe.

Youngest Competitor Piping Events: Bruce MacDonald.

Turnout and Bearing, boys: Murdo Cameron.

Dress and deportment, girls: Carolyn McKee.

The society thanks sponsors Pipe Dreams and Scots Guards, whose continued support is very much appreciated, and The College of Piping and McCallum Bagpipes for once again donating gift vouchers and prizes.

Ardrishaig piper hits all the right notes

PIPER Geordie Hunter of Ardrishaig has gained his first formal piping qualification.

Geordie gained his level two qualification at the Easter Piping and Drumming Camp for Cadets at Cameron Barracks, Inverness.

These qualifications are newly established within the Piping and Drumming Board and lead on to credits towards HNC and HND music certificates.

While at the camp the 187 pipers and drummers received expert tuition from leading British Army personnel.

Geordie is taught by Inveraray piper Stuart Liddell at school.

Geordie Hunter, right, receives his certificate from examiner Pipe Major Brian Elrick.

Scalpay

Your correspondent is D Morrison: 01859 540217

Remembering the past

THE FISHING industry on Scalpay always had strong links with the mainland.

Around 70 years ago I recall a fish salesman by the name of Alex Leslie, Kerrera, who had an agent on Scalpay. He kept Mr Leslie supplied with lobsters which would be supplied to luxury passenger vessels calling in to Oban.

Sale of work

A SALE of work in aid of school funds will take place in the community centre.

At the time of writing the date for the event was yet to be finalised.

Plockton's famous water front where the Plockton Hotel is up for sale.

Famous Plockton Hotel for sale

A WATERFRONT hotel in the village of Plockton, made famous in the BBC Scotland series *Hamish Macbeth*, is up for sale.

The Plockton Hotel is a two-storey building dating back to 1827 when it was a private house and supposedly a ship's chandlery before being turned into the village inn around 100 years ago.

With 15 bedrooms, a lounge bar, snug and a 38-cover restaurant, the hotel has been put on the market by owners for the last 16 years Tom and Dorothy Pearson.

The price is available on application to selling agents Christie and Co, Edinburgh.

Melfort Mermaid boosts benevolent fund

THE MELFORT Mermaid restaurant at Melfort Pier Harbour has raised £51.50 for former firefighters.

The newly opened restaurant, near Kilmelford, collected the cash for Fire Service National Benevolent Fund by selling pancakes during pancake week.

Helen McGinty, who runs the restaurant with her sister Caroline, is pictured presenting the cheque to fireman Dave Millward who gave Helen a certificate of thanks in return. Also pictured are restaurant staff.

Around the Rurals

Appin

MEMBERS of the Appin branch of the Scottish Women's Rural Institue (SWRI) gathered in Port Appin Village Hall on Thursday April 19 for their annual general meeting and theme night.

This year the theme was Hawaii and the hall was decorated with tropical scenes featuring palm trees and Hula-Hula girls. Each member was given a lei as they came in and several members, including the committee, were dressed in Hawaiian costumes, which created a great party atmosphere.

After the usual business everyone enjoyed refreshments and nibbles. They then got down to making something Hawaiian from magazines, trying some limbo dancing and being entertained by the committee.

This was followed by supper, which had a tropical theme, and was greatly enjoyed by everyone.

At the close of the evening Chrissie MacNeil, honorary president, presented the trophies for the most points achieved over the year to the following: Housewives - Brenda MacLeod; 2 Barbara Carmichael and Agnes Thomson. Handicrafts - 1 Brenda MacLeod; 2 Linda MacLeod.

Housewives test certificates were presented to Myra MacDougall, Moira Thomson, Brenda MacLeod, Alison MacCorquodale, Ellen MacCorquodale, Linda MacLeod, Liz MacNeil and Jessie MacKenzie.

Fancy dress prizes went to Christine Jackson, Margaret Ross and Helen Downie.

The competition for the dressed straw went to Linda MacLeod.

Finally Linda MacLeod presented our retiring president Alison MacCorquodale with a garden voucher and thanked her for her three years in the chair.

Alison then handed her badge of office over to the new president Margaret Ross.

Voted on to the committee for the 2007/08 session were: president Margaret Ross, Doreen Evans, Liz MacNeil, Debbie Dunlop, Helen Downie, Ellen MacCorquodale, Agnes Thomson, Ann Calvert and Jessie MacKenzie.

Kilbrandon

THE ANNUAL general meeting of Kilbrandon SWRI was held in Easdale School Hall on May 1.

President Janice Baxter welcomed an excellent turnout on a glorious spring evening.

Reflecting on another successful year, Janice reported on the enjoyable visit to the Oban War and Peace Museum on April 3. Members had been fascinated by the exhibits and photographs of old Oban, enhanced by reminiscences by Archie McGill of his experiences as a cinema projectionist.

Thanks were extended to everyone at the museum who had made the visit such a success.

The rest of the year had been varied and entertaining, starting in September with a taste of Tai Chi. In October members enjoyed a taste of products from Feochan Mhor Smokehouse. In November members had the chance to try their hand at iris folding and several were inspired to go on and produce their own greetings cards using this technique. The year ended with yet another delicious Christmas meal at the Tigh na Truish Hotel.

This year began with members escaping a dull winter night in January to share the photographs and memories of Lisa and Ronnie Robinson and their trips to places such as Nepal and Peru.

In February members were delighted to welcome John Roberts, who spoke about the work of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, ably assisted by his dog Ruby.

March saw members welcome more than 40 people to Kilbrandon Church to attend a presentation on low flying aircraft given by Squadron Leader John Gilbert of the Royal Air Force.

The branch's participation in the Federation Show at Campbeltown had been very successful with 37 entries, the award of five golds and the Baden Cup.

After the president's report and approval of the accounts for the year, members enjoyed an evening of games and supper served by the committee.

The president closed the meeting by wishng everyone a very good summer.

The Oban Times
& West Highland Times

MOST people who work on the land and/or have dogs are well aware about ticks and the health risks associated with them, but it would be fair to say that the vast majority of the population has been fairly ignorant about ticks other than deciding that they were unpleasant little creatures.

However, that has to change. Ticks are potential carriers of Lyme Disease which can have all kinds of nasty health implications, and recorded cases of the disease have increased fairly dramatically in recent years – possibly because more people are enjoying the countryside.

People worried about Lyme Disease should not turn away from outdoor pursuits. They can use insect repellants, minimise the amount of bare skin exposed, as well as checking themselves thoroughly and removing any ticks properly and cleanly with fine-nosed tweezers. If they think they have been bitten, there are also clear, tell-take signs of the infection which can be treated relatively quickly with antibiotics.

Glasgow Letter

Fun and brilliance

EXCELLENT piping and Norman MacLean as master of ceremonies ensured this year's final of The Piping Times Trophy was an outstanding success.

Lining up to 'do battle' were two of Scotland's top pipers, Angus McColl from Benderloch and Stewart Liddell from Inveraray.

The Piping Times Trophy, as I explained previously, is different from other competitions because the audience chooses the winner. Not an easy task, Norman assured everyone in his own humorous way. Indeed for all those who were pipers, probably most of the packed hall, he told them to forget most of what they had been taught when learning to play the bagpipes and instead just sit back and listen.

This was to be an evening of entertainment and not necessarily traditional correctness and both Angus and Stewart responded to the challenge in typical expert fashion, playing for about 45 minutes each.

As I am sure you will appreciate the audience had to make a difficult, if not impossible, decision.

Stewart Liddell was declared the winner but in what must have been a close result the real winner was the high quality of piping played to a relaxed audience, members of which totally appreciated they were privileged to be present.

What then was the highlight of the evening? It had to be when Stewart, playing second, finished his performance and was joined by Angus on stage. Together they played two selections of tunes showing that while it was fun for the audience it was also fun for them no matter who was to be chosen as winner.

Youngsters to the fore

THE ANNUAL Sunday School ceilidh at St Columba's Church was a great success despite a disappointing attendance.

Again, as in the event described above, much of this can be attributed to the smooth and informative introductions by the four young people who introduced the performers.

Yes, four of them and if we added up their ages we still wouldn't have reached Norman MacLean's age!

Jane, Mairi and Andrew MacRae, together with Heather Kindness, belied their young ages with a most competent performance. They also contributed to the musical entertainment with Andrew playing piano and Heather playing clarsach. They also sang, assisted by William Iain MacGregor. Later both Andrew and Heather played solo on their respective instruments, Mairi and Jane played the pipes and drums and William Iain sang solo. So that the adults didn't feel left out they invited singers Kirsteen Grant, George Ferguson and Gordon McKeeve to take to the stage. Piper Donald Campbell opened both halves of the proceedings and Alison MacInnes was accompanist. Thanks also went to the organisers for providing a scrumptious supper.

Piping Live

ALTHOUGH Piping Live will not take place in the city until August 6 to 12, the launch of the event will take place in Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Thursday May 24.

The line-up for this launch will be the National Youth Pipe Band of Scotland, 50 of the country's top pipers and drummers, aged under 18. They will be accompanied by Braebach whose piping, whistles, fiddle, guitar and percussion saw them short listed at last year's Traditional Music Awards.

Stirling Mod

STIRLING Mod 2007 will take place this weekend, opening with the junior chanter, piping and fiddle competitions in St Modan's High School on Friday evening.

Starting at 9am on Saturday, junior singing competitions will take place in the Albert Hall with the seniors at 2pm. Gaelic testing for the National Mod will be held between 11am and 2pm. The prize-winner's ceilidh dance will be held at 7.30pm in the Albert Halls with Charlie Kirkpatrick's Band.

Diary dates

Thursday, May 17: Glasgow Argyll Association, annual general meeting, St Columba's Church, 7.30pm. Gaelic Service, Partick Downvale Free Church, 7.30pm.
Friday, May 18: Glasgow Skye Association Youth Concert, Woodside Halls, 7.30pm. Stirling Mod — see above.
Saturday, May 19: Clanngaidhligh ceilidh, Bishopton Community Centre, 7.30pm. Highlander's Club, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm with Ian Muir's Band. Stirling Mod — see above.
Tuesday, May 22: Glasgow Lewis and Harris Association, annual general meeting, Partick Burgh Halls, 8pm.
Friday, May 25: Helensburgh and District Highlanders Association, annual general meeting, 7pm. Dance to follow at 8pm. Ian Muir's Band, Commodore Hotel, Helensburgh. Vatersay Boys, Renfrew Ferry. Ceol's Craic, Centre for the Contemporary Arts, Sauchiehall Street.

Pub scene

MUSIC on Friday and Sunday in the Park Bar will be provided by Deoch 'n Dorus with the Ballochmyle Band on Saturday while in the Islay Inn it will be Colin MacDonald/Martin Pottinger on Friday, Penny Dogs on Saturday and Don and Rory on Sunday.

Neil Murray. Tel: 0141 954 8105. Email: neilfmurray@yahoo.co.uk.

PRESS POLICY

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

It is the policy of The Oban Times Group to correct any errors in print. If you find an error of fact on our pages please write to The Editor, The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB giving your 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.

WRNS in Oban 1942

As promised in last week's edition, here is Janet Campbell of Barra's second photograph featuring Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) personnel at Raasay Lodge, Oban, in 1942. Included in this week's line-up are Aida Sutherland, back second right; Ann Munro, ironmonger's daughter from Oban, end of second row, right; Gillian Mort from Liverpool, second row, first left; Petty Officer Hill from down south, third row, left; Ann Maclean from Mull, front row, left and Jessie MacNeil from Barra, front row, second right. We would like readers to send in 'Flashback' photographs. Please send prints to The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB, or email editor@obantimes.co.uk. Prints or emails must be accompanied by a caption, name, address and telephone number. Anyone wishing their prints returned must supply a stamped addressed envelope. Each month a photo will win £10. ❒ The winner of our £10 prize for April was Mrs Jane D Carmichael of Ford, Lochgilphead, for her photograph of Lady Malcolm, wife of Sir Ian Malcolm of Portalloch, cutting a coronation cake on May 12 1937 in Victoria Hall Field, Kilmartin.

Leave West Highland Way alone

Sir,
Fort William councillors want to route the West Highland Way into the Parade area of the town and have asked a meagre 178 people out of a potential 14,000 walkers their opinion.

This is hardly a true representation.

The end at present is sensible and unbiased. Who is this change supposed to benefit? Certainly not the businesses the walkers will be passing by to reach the final post.

How many of these councillors have business interests in the vicinity of the Parade?

The start of the West Highland Way has been moved to the centre of Milngavie from its original start at the train station and now we have the end being moved.

Before we know it little bits here and there will be adjusted and we can re-name the route 'The West Highland Any Old Way'.

Nicola Lyden, Garbhein Road, Kinlochleven.

Ground work not council's responsibility

Sir,
I write in response to the correspondence in last week's *Oban Times* from Alastair MacGregor, chief executive of Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

From an Argyll and Bute Council perspective, it is important we give our views on this matter to readers.

I can understand why the land at Belach an Righ in Oban could be considered as public open space but the fact of the matter is that this area of ground was transferred to ACHA.

There were discussions last August between ACHA and Argyll and Bute Council to consider whether grounds maintenance works could be undertaken on a service level agreement basis. However, after consideration, ACHA decided it would be appropriate for this work to be subjected to competitive tender.

Accordingly, last November ACHA confirmed that no further grounds maintenance works were to be undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council.

There was no agreement in place for Argyll and Bute Council to continue maintaining any of ACHA's ground after this date.

Stewart Turner, Head of Roads and Amenity Services, Argyll and Bute Council.

Bilingual road signs

Sir,
I would like to respond to Mr MacKenzie's comments on my letter regarding bilingual road signs.

Far from being hostile towards the native language of my late father, I have the utmost respect for it and the culture. I embrace it in my own way and often use/misuse the language with my limited Gaelic.

My opposition to the imposition of bilingual road signs on the A828 remains and is a view shared by a considerable number of others, including native Gaelic speakers.

To extend my concerns, the following are Argyll and Bute Council recommendations made in 2003 but not observed:

'Signs should be designed with English legend over Gaelic'.

'In the event of a Gaelic name being substantially longer than its English equivalent, the Gaelic name can be omitted'.

Highland Council has clear policies on Gaelic road signs:

'Where English and Gaelic versions are virtually identical, the Gaelic only should be used to reduce the size of signs and general clutter of place names'.

Why then Duror Duror, Barran Barran and Musdal Musdale?

The North Connel sign is now 500 per cent larger than before. How can that be justified? The massive reflective panel is perceived to be a night driving hazard.

'Before implementing the policy consultation involving community councils will be undertaken'. No community councils were consulted, indeed searches conducted under the Freedom of Information Act failed to unearth evidence that Argyll and Bute Council had been consulted at any level prior to the programme being announced at Holyrood in 2003.

'Consultation to include spelling of place names'.

It took just .44 seconds for Google and I to conclude Benderloch has been incorrectly named Meadarloch. The most commonly used spelling is Meudarloch.

'Policy will only be introduced when existing signs require replacement through age or damage'.

Thousands of pounds worth of clear, concise serviceable signs have been needlessly removed and scrapped.

Ardchattan Community Council has a substantial file of correspondence going back years, many pleading for a number of local road safety issues to be addressed with urgency. To date few have been dealt with. The reason? Lack of funds in the trunk roads budget.

I am confident every single one could have been completed for a fraction of the almost £200,000 it took to put up the A828 signs. The A85 bilingualisation currently underway will siphon around £500,000 from the same trunk roads budget. If Bord na Gaidhlig had contributed a little from their multi-million pound budget, we would then perhaps not have to wait so long for serious trunk road defects to be attended to.

On the subject of Gaelic choirs and ceilidhs, or tartan clad tourist shows as Mr MacKenzie calls them, I would like to quote from a Gaelic website, a view which I share: 'Gaelic music and song has been and remains probably the most important vehicle for the transmission of the culture.'

Whilst Mr MacKenzie will undoubtedly gaze upon the new signs with pride, satisfaction and a comprehension sadly only shared by around 1.4 per cent of his countrymen, I will focus my attention and appreciation on some Puirt-a-beul from Julie Fowlis. Each to their own I guess.

Lewis Morrison, Benderloch, by Oban.

Holyrood farce

Sir,
'I don't believe it!' Holyrood held a 'raffle' on May 3 and threw out about 3½ per cent of the tickets before drawing the lucky winners.

The smallest charity or village function would not stand for that yet Scotland is expected to accept such behaviour.

There have been many words from experts printed and spoken on this topic but what now? One example was placing regional party members first on the ballot paper when in fact their outcome is dependent on constituency votes. That was not an election, it was a farce and an insult to our intelligence.

None of the winners will complain, however, I for one strongly object to being treated as a manipulated simpleton. How about the rest of you? We cannot be governed on this basis and are now a world-wide laughing stock.

G W Stewart, Clachan Seil, Argyll.

Callous driver

Sir,
Can I pass on a few thoughts to the selfish, callous driver whose car broke the body of a large domestic cat so badly it required to be humanely killed after an agonising experience?

Surely the driver must have heard the impact, yet never paused on their headlong dash to whatever engagement was so important.

Surley the driver noticed the reflective decorations on alternative lampposts and the white patches on the road surface? These indicate a 20 mile per hour speed limit.

Our extended family has lost a character and friend. But to the driver, it was just a bang not worth stopping for.

In fairness perhaps you realised it was just a cat and perhaps you don't stop for them, just as you don't slow down for speed limits. I hope you hold a different view in the case of an innocent child or an elderly pedestrian?

Bill Gray, Longsdale Road, Oban.

Iona book launch thanks

Sir,
Can I, through your columns, thank Gill Black and her colleagues on Iona for allowing me the use of the Iona village library to launch my book *The Guide to Mysterious Iona and Staffa*.

I would also like to thank the Iona residents and visitors who came along to the event and plied me with questions; their enthusiasm and interest was much appreciated.

Geoff Holder, Perth.

Highland elections

Sir,
I would like to say a very big thank you to everyone who voted for me - we nearly made it - and all those who supported me in the local government elections on May 3.

I would especially like to thank Mary Bruce and my small but valiant team of helpers for their enthusiasm, committment and good humour throughout.

Personally, and as chairman of the Association of Lochaber Community Councils and Fort William Community Council, I congratulate the seven successful candidates in ward 22 and ward 12 who are now the re-elected and newly elected Lochaber councillors.

Patricia Jordan.

Falklands anniversary

Sir,
In the spring of 1982 more than 27,000 British servicemen and women travelled 8,000 miles to the South Atlantic to recapture the Falkland Islands following invasion by Argentine forces.

The liberation of the remote British community was achieved in June 1982.

While the Falklands conflict was swiftly forgotten by thousands of people without a service connection, it claimed the lives of 255 servicemen, three islanders and 655 Argentines. Furthermore, the lives of many of those who returned with physical injury, emotional trauma or both were altered forever. So too were the lives of their families.

The Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association (SSAFA) Forces Help is committed to helping and supporting those who serve in our armed forces, those who used to serve and the families of both. As secretary of the Lorn division of SSAFA Forces Help, I can be contacted on 01866 822117.

All enquiries will be dealt with confidentially.

Chris Todhunter, Lieutenant Commander RN, retired, Taynuilt.

Your letters

THE EDITOR welcomes letters of approximately 200 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.

A View From The Tower

By McCAIG

Goodbye Tony

AFTER much speculation, Tony Blair has finally announced when he will step down as Leader of the Labour Party and Prime Minister.

The last few months have been a big yawn as the 'grand farewell' dragged on longer than that of any waning star of stage and screen, never mind an elderly crooner.

When historians come to analyse the performance of 20th century prime ministers they must award Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson five stars for his exit without farewell tour, while still well enough to enjoy his retirement and write his memoirs.

How will they handle that of Tony Blair, who never could accept he was born in Scotland and educated here before heading 'down south' to university and the English bar, albeit under the patronage of another Scot whom he was forced to appoint as Lord Chancellor?

Unfortunately, his potential successor Gordon Brown, a son of the manse and an Edinburgh University graduate, is following in his footsteps. He admits to supporting English national teams and ponderously promoting 'Britishness'. That whole scenario was lampooned mercilessly by Iain MacCormick, the former Scottish National Party (SNP) MP for Argyll, who used to do a John Bull impersonation, declaiming in withering tones: 'For God, the Queen and the Empire'.

But what will Tony Blair find in his footnote to the history of the 20th century. Most certainly, he is not worth more than that as he has never been his 'own man' but mostly the poodle of President George W Bush.

Yes, he did lead the Labour Party to three General Election victories, delivered devolution for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and got the power-sharing assembly at Stormont functioning again. But none of these will be remembered in 50 years' time but his involvement in an illegal war in Iraq will.

Chairing a number of hustings just prior to the recent Scottish Parliament elections, I was struck by the unanimity of audiences in making their anti-Blair feelings known to a forceful degree of bitterness and an ardent desire to punish him.

I agree with SNP leader Alex Salmond, the one word that will crucify Tony Blair's place in history is 'Iraq'.

New beginning or imminent disaster

THE DUST has not settled on this month's Scottish Parliament elections - I await the finding of a ballot box with soggy spoilt papers from Arran being washed up on some remote beach and Alan Wilson winning his contest with the Cunninghame North Returning Officer in the Court of Session.

However, this may take a week or three and meantime we are to have, it appears, a minority administration at Holyrood and coalitions in the town halls, not least in Argyll and Bute and Highland Council. Will they work?

I'm sorry Nicol Stephen has decided to skulk in his tent and dismiss offers of power-sharing from Jack McConnell and Alex Salmond. If 'a week is a long time in politics' three years on is a positive generation. All the signs are that a referendum on Scottish independence would be rejected. But he needn't have joined with the SNP as staying in coalition with Labour would have kept him and a number of his colleagues with portfolios.

Better to fight from within than languish on the back benches with no influence.

However, the designers of the parliamentary constitution don't seem to have envisaged a minority government and Mr Salmond is going to tread untried territory.

To stay in office he is going to have to tone down many of his election promises as there just isn't the money to meet them. And none of his potential Cabinet ministers will be willing to have their promises thwarted because of the constraints required by the other parties for their support of a budget. The alliance with the Greens is the best joke of this sorry mess.

It's interesting that both Argyll and Bute and Highland councils are coalitions of independents and members of the SNP. Uncharted territory again for the creator of budgets; those SNP members who are about to take charge of high-spending departments are going to find that there's no more money available for them than there was for their predecessors indeed, there may be even less.

There will still be arguments and counter-claims about the funding of free personal care and cash for road repairs.

A well-deserved award for Coast

FROM time to time, I'm criticised for writing only about abuses of power or poor service or chicanery in public life.

That's not true. I am delighted to be able to praise those who set out to achieve excellence and do so with panache and style.

Coast restaurant in Oban's George Street is just such a place and really earns the top national award it has received.

Nicola and Richard Fowler have collected an EatScotland Small Team Excellence Award in recognition of the high quality Scottish dining it provides.

It's always a pleasure to eat there and admire the professional skills of the couple who make dining a wonderful experience to brighten the darkest day.

McCaig

WHAT a privilege and an honour to be invited by *The Oban Times* to present a monthly Fergie column for the extensive and widespread readers of this family newspaper.

My mother Nina Currie was from Lochaline, Morvern. My father John MacDonald was from Moidart, Acharacle. For as long as I can remember, *The Oban Times* has been part of our family life.

After reading all the main news items my mother would spend much time reading the births, deaths and marriages section.

Dad's main pastime was looking at the advertisments - sales, wanted, entertainments.

I can actually remember this huge, big newspaper being read while sitting round the peat fire in the kitchen on a Friday night. One must remember that this was towards the end of the war, probably around 1946/47.

Rationing was still very much in force during this period and I can vividly recall *The Oban Times* being used for many domestic practices such as tablecloth, lighting, the fire, target practice and last but not least an essential item in the 'Tigh Beag' situated at the end of the croft.

Remember, most croft houses during that period had no water supply or toilets, hence 'Tigh Beag' (little house).

During my teenage years I started competing in track and field events on the Highland Games circuit.

My family, including myself, were so delighted to read 'F MacDonald, Acharacle' in the prizelists for maybe, the 100 yards race, pole vault or long jump.

That would have been my first brush with the media and publicity.

When demobbed from the army, music came into my life.

The Oban Times has covered my musical career for more than 40 years.

Indeed, between international clay target shooting, hotelier, musician, I must have had more coverage than anyone I can think of.

Hence, I do have a great affinity and personal affection for this newspaper.

My articles will be predominantly music related.

Highland Hit Parade

EVERY month a survey will be carried out in the Highlands and islands to determine who is top of the hit parade.

The top five will be based on CD sales from 10 top musical outlets in the Highlands and islands. Selling albums at gigs will not count.

I am looking at fans who buy the CD of their choice over the counter.

Through time, I hope to have the number one spot highlighted - big time - by the national media. I would like this hit parade to develop into a major stepping stone to national stardom for many of our young groups, bands and individual performances.

The Highland hit parade

1 Julie Fowlis ..... *Cuilidh*
2 Red Hot Chilli Pipers *Red Hot Chilli Pipers*
3 Kathleen MacInnes ..... *Summer Dawn*
4 Calum Kennedy ..... *Land of Hearts Desire*
5 Skipinnish ..... *The Sound of the Summer*

Lochyside Primary School pupils were shown some of the most bizarre animal related souvenirs people have tried to smuggle across borders. f20anim01

Animal workshop enthrals pupils

LOCHYSIDE Primary School pupils were taught a lesson with a difference recently after coming face to face with a 12ft anaconda in the school hall.

Luckily for them the giant snake was stuffed but this cruel practice in endangered species was the lesson for the day as the pupils were shown some unusual keepsakes holidaymakers have tried to bring home including elephant skin boots, tusks and stuffed animals such as crocodiles, lizards and turtles.

Kirsty Yule who runs the workshops said: 'We try to highlight the illegal animal trade in endangered species. The kids usually love animals anyway and the fact they can touch things makes it a bit different. They know they can make a difference because by the time they are older some these animals won't exist.'

The workshops are run by company Animates as part of Generation Science, an offshoot of the Edinburgh International Science Festival.

As well as seeing things made from animals skins, the children got to see real life endangered species such as frogs, insects and turtles.

Police files

A RED-COLOURED 'Tempo' field tank with a blue cap was stolen from the Loch Morar safety boat whilst moored in the loch at Morar sometime between May 7 and 10.

❐❐❐

A FORD Mondeo car was vandalised at Shaw Place, Fort William, at some time between 5pm on Wednesday May 9 and 1pm on Thursday May 10.

❐❐❐

DURING a break in at the Princes House Hotel in Glenfinnan between the hours of 1am and 7.50am on Friday May 11, a 1.5 litre bottle of Smirnoff vodka, a bottle of whisky and a bottle of Desoto Montelado sherry was stolen.

ANYONE with any knowledge of these incidents is asked to contact Fort William Police Station on 01397 702361 or the confidential line on 01397 702000. Members of the public may also report any crime/offence or anything suspicious by telephoning Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.

Police drive home road safety message

ROAD safety was the message being drilled home last weekend by the extra police patrolling Scotland's rural roads.

All of Scotland's eight constabularies were highlighting the dangers of excessive speeds to young people aged between 17 and 25 years, predominantly the most dangerous drivers on these roads.

Inspector Dougie Allan of Fort William police station said: 'Last weekend we also had the Six Days Trial so there was a higher number of officers on duty. The majority of road accidents we attend in the Lochaber area are on rural roads outwith the speed restriction areas and we welcome any moves to improve safety.'

The extra officers were especially targeting speeding, drink or drug driving, non-wearing of seatbelts and using hand-held mobile phones while driving.

Road Safety Officer Laura Fisher said: 'Our officers were paying close attention to young drivers who are often more at risk as a result of their limited driving experience or because they hold a belief that collisions will never happen to them.'

Police statistics show that many drivers relax within 10 miles of their home causing lapses in concentration and easily avoided accidents.

In 2005, almost 1,200 young drivers - more than three a day - were killed or seriously injured on UK roads. The figures also show that one in five drivers have an accident in their first year of post test driving and male drivers aged 17 to 20 are almost 10 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured than more experienced drivers.

Chief Constable John Vine, chairman of the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland, said: 'More than 30 young people have already died on our roads this year. The weekend was about raising awareness of these issues and to drive home the message we will be targeting this sort of behaviour. The consequences could be tragic. Don't risk it.'

Coalition takes council control

A COALITION of independent and Scottish National Party (SNP) councillors look set to take control of Highland Council after a week of fraught negotiations.

The final agreement between the Independents and SNP members means Independent Nairn councillor Sandy Park will be nominated as convener with the vice convener's post going to SNP councillor Jean Urquhart.

Other posts will be decided at council meetings throughout May and June.

The Independent group was in pole position from the moment 35 members were elected on Thursday May 3.

The possibility of a deal between the Independents and the 21-member Liberal Democrats (Lib Dems) was thrown away apparently by insensitive negotiation at the beginning of the week and the Lib Dems failed to make up the lost ground.

One Independent insider described the Lib Dem approach as 'arrogant' because they set out demands for chairmanships and other positions from the start.

Another Independent said: 'They started horse-trading but some of them were trading donkeys.'

Councillor Park said that they had found it fairly easy to reach accommodation with the SNP.

'We've had a long hard week and we looked at various options with other political parties. But the SNP came over as a young enthusiastic group and combined with our experience and enthusiasm we thought that was a good mix.

'We had a look at the other parties' manifestoes and the SNP manifesto was very similar to the aspirations that we had for the Highlands. All in all, we felt they were the best option.'

The Lib Dem group has issued a statement promising 'constructive' opposition but privately Lib Dem members are already laying bets as to how long the coalition will last.

One member claimed the coalition would not last six months.

Councillor Park countered that having the SNP in the coalition would strengthen its position in national negotiations, with a minority SNP government in the Scottish Executive.

He also said that he had no fears about the coalition holding together.

'It was very important to have the SNP on board considering what is happening in Edinburgh. In Jean Urquhart we have a strong, experienced councillor who will open doors in Edinburgh.

'We are an Independent group and we are of very strong independent minds, but this is a numbers game as well and we had to find a coalition to give us a working majority.

'I think it will work out as a strong partnership that will hold together. The other parties will hope this doesn't work well and we will be kept on our toes.'

The seven member Labour group appears to have been kept on the periphery of the negotiations.

SNP leader John Finnie said: 'It was our view, locally as well as nationally, that the largest group should have the first option of forming the administration.

'It would be inconceivable to say that at Holyrood and not apply it locally. We have been involved in discussions over a number of days and believe that jointly we can improve services in the Highlands.

Improve

'We now have a range of Highland MSPs and councillors that give us access to the Executive. We face financial restraints, but we are aiming to improve the economy of the Highlands, housing, schools and care of the elderly.'

Councillor Jean Urquhart said that they were in coalition for the long term.

She said: 'We have different ambitions for the Highlands and the people have shown they favour change by the way they voted. I'm convinced that the Independents talked to us because of our policies. I know how tight budgets are and I realise we won't make inroads this week or the week after. But we do have an opportunity to raise the stakes in terms of what we might achieve and make a difference at the end of this next four years.'

A number of hints have already been dropped that another of the SNP's more experienced members Bob Wynd could become Provost of Inverness.

There could also be changes to the six service committee structure agreed by the previous council.

There is also a strong possibility John Finnie could be the next convener of the Police Board.

Conservation charity's £50,000 grant boost

AWARD-WINNING conservation charity Trees for Life has received a £50,00 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards planning work for its innovative Dundreggan project in Glen Moriston.

This will enable Trees for Life to conduct detailed biological surveys and develop a management strategy for the 10,000 acre Dundreggan Estate, which the charity expects to buy in the near future.

Brigadier Charles Grant retires

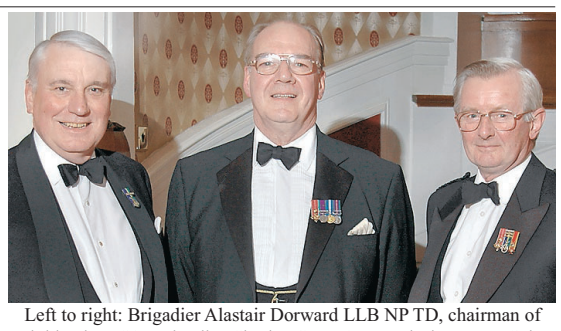
BRIGADIER Charles Grant OBE has retired after five years as chief executive of the Highland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association.

This has involved administering aspects of the Territorial Army, Army and Air Cadets in the Highland area including looking after more than 150 properties, recruit marketing for the TA and employer support for all reservists and supporting cadet and youth activities.

Brigadier Charles was commissioned into the Queen's Own Highlanders in 1968. He served in Edinburgh, the Persian Gulf, Northern Ireland and Germany before being promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and commanding the 3rd Battalion Ulster Defence Regiment from 1989 to 1991. Charles was promoted to Brigadier and commanded 51st Highland Brigade, with the headquarters in Perth, from 1996 to 1999. His last post in the Army was as the Director Land Warfare before he retired in 2002 to take up the Chief Executive's position with Highland RFCA. A passionate supporter of the Army Cadet Force, he will continue as president of the Army Cadet Forces Association (Scotland).

He is also Honorary Colonel of Aberdeen Universities Officer Training Corps.

As a trustee of Combat Stress and chairman of the Hollybush House Appeal he has helped more than £2 million for the refurbishment of Hollybush House in Ayrshire.



Left to right: Brigadier Alastair Dorward LLB NP TD, chairman of Highland RFCA, Brigadier Charles Grant OBE and Lieutenant Colonel Grenville Johnston OBE TD JP CA, president of Highland RFCA and Lord Lieutenant of Moray.

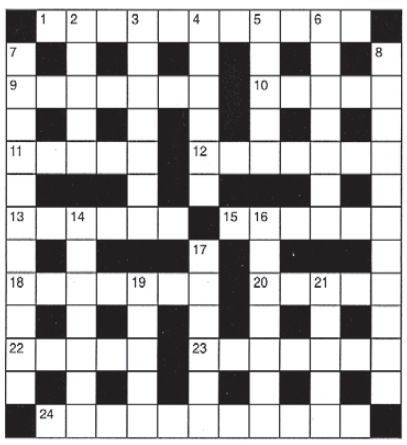
The Oban Times GENERAL KNOWLEDGE DOUBLE CROSSWORD No. 487

ACROSS

1. 1938-40 US. women's singles tennis champion (5,6)
9. Stream in Italy, in ancient times the boundary between Italy and Cisalpine Gaul (7)
10. Aquatic South American rodent bred in captivity for its soft grey underfur (5)
11. Woody, director of the film *Manhattan Murder Mystery* (5)
12. See 21 Down.
13. Capital of Colombia (6)
15. Very large rare New World vulture which has black plumage with white around the neck (6)
18. Queen of the Netherlands 1948-80 (7)
20. Alexandre, author of *The Count of Monte Cristo* (5)
22. Mr. Dahl, author of *The Witches* (5)
23. Son of Banquo in Shakespeare's *Macbeth* (7)
24. Actress who was Oscar-nominated for the 1995 film *Casino* (6,5)

QUICK CLUES ACROSS

1. Farming (11)
9. Go in again (7)
10. Idol (5)
11. Giant (5)
12. Termites' nest (3-4)
13. Coveted (6)
15. Instrumentalist (6)
18. Detestable (7)
20. Cleave (5)
22. Happen (5)
23. Inkling (7)
24. Probe (11)



DOWN

2. In law, the publication of defamatory matter in permanent form (5)
3. The — palm is a tall tree with edible fruits (7)
4. Capital of the Philippines (6)
5. 'A Day at the —', film starring the Marx Brothers (5)
6. British — was a motor manufacturing group formed in 1968 which was privatised during the 1980's (7)
7. 1875 operetta by Gilbert and Sullivan (5,2,4)
8. Fairy in Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (11)
14. Philistine giant in the Old Testament killed by David (7)
16. '— Road', first property on an English Monopoly board (3,4)
17. — Island lies between Greenland and the Hudson Bay (6)
19. The — buckthorn, *Frangula alnus*, is a Eurasian shrub with black berry-like fruits (5)
21, and 12 Across. Four-act opera by Puccini set in 18c France (5,7)

QUICK CLUES DOWN

2. Hail (5)
3. Acute (7)
4. Imaginary (6)
5. Wind (5)
6. Truth (7)
7. Fraternity (11)
8. Expressive (11)
14. Pope's home (7)
16. Durable (7)
17. Trivial (6)
19. Compel (5)
21. Boundary (5)

SOLUTIONS TO LAST WEEK

GENERAL KNOWLEDGE - Across: 1 Lawrence; 5 Ball; 9 Finn; 10 Viburnum; 11 Edson; 12 Farfrae; 13 Peter the Great; 18 Glen More; 19 Edam; 20 Seppuku; 21 Teach; 22 Susa; 23 Anderson.
Down: 2 Ariadne; 3 Ransome; 4 Cliff Thorburn; 6 Aintree; 7 Lambert; 8 Tuareg; 13 Pegasus; 14 Thespis; 15 Rampur; 16 Roe deer; 17 Ajaccio.
QUICK - Across: 1 Spurious; 5 Bard; 9 Loss; 10 Affinity; 11 Booty; 12 Satiate; 13 Defectiveness; 18 Alluring; 19 Ugly; 20 Proverb; 21 Civil; 22 Note; 23 Leathery.
Down: 2 Propose; 3 Rosette; 4 Unfashionable; 6 Animate; 7 Dryness; 8 Little; 13 Deadpan; 14 Fall out; 15 Corner; 16 Nourish; 17 Soldier.

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25 Years Ago — Those Were The Days

The Oban Times Thursday May 13 1982

More road signs damaged

A FURTHER 70 road signs between Oban and Tyndrum were vandalised last Thursday, the latest in a series of offences which began last year.

The cost of cleaning and replacing damaged signs is estimated between £7,000 and £8,000.

Councillor David Webster, who drove down to Glasgow on Friday morning, has described the damage as senseless vandalism.

He said: 'There are enough problems in tourism today without the adverse publicity created by wanton vandalism in the midst of our Highland scenery.

'I only wish the organisers of this ridiculous campaign could understand the harm they are causing and use democratic methods to achieve their objectives — whatever those objectives are! They only bring shame on the Highlands by resorting to vandalism.

'This type of activity makes my job more difficult in convincing my council colleagues to give extra grant aid An Comunn Gaidhealach in Oban.'

Schools move passed

PROPOSALS to upgrade and re-name Tobermory Secondary School were accepted without demur at a meeting of Lorn, Coll and Colonsay Schools council last week.

The consultative document on upgrading the school to sixth-year status can now go ahead to the next stage when it will be put before the education committee of Strathclyde Regional Council.

The document recommends introducing Higher courses at Tobermory when the proposed extension to the school is completed. The extension is in the capital building programme 1986/87. The Highers offered would be the same as the 'O' Grade subjects taught at the school, with the introduction of a business studies course and CSYS exams the following year.

The upgraded school would require an extra three full-time teachers.

At the moment, pupils going to sit Highers transfer from Tobermory Secondary to Oban High and are provided with hostel accommodation on the mainland. It is argued in the document that changing schools and leaving home after fourth year can upset the children's studies. It is proposed that there should no longer be the option of transferring to Oban if Tobermory gains sixth-year status.

Mr Terence Twatt, rector of Oban High, pointed out to the schools council meeting that a number of subjects were absent from the proposed curriculum for Tobermory that would be available in Oban, including classical studies, economics and economic history.

It is also recommended that Tobermory School should be renamed Tobermory High or Tobermory Academy.

Otter killed on road

A DOG otter was found killed on the Connel/ Taynuilt road at Kilmaronaig on May 11. It had been making it's way from Loch Etive into Kilmaronaig wood in bright sunshine and was struck on the head, presumably by a car.

Leasachadh Marine Harvest

Tha companaidh mòr leis a bheil an ìre mhath gnìomhachas an tuathanais èisg gu lèir sna h-eileanan air planaichean leasachaidh fhoillseachadh.

Bha eagal an toiseach gun robh Marine Harvest dol a dhùnadh an fhactaraidh ann an Steòrnabhagh an dèidh dhaibh Fjord Seafood a ghabhail a-nall.

Ach, a-nis tha iad air a leigeil fhaicinn gum bi iad a' cumail an fhactaraidh fosgailte agus bi na diofar phàirtean dhen chompanaidh a tha stèidhichte san sgìre - na tuathan aig muir agus na h-ionadan guillachd - air a thoirt còmhla mar aon bhuidheann.

Thuirt Ailean MacAnndrais, ceannard Fjord Seafood, gum biodh e ciallachadh gum faigheadh a' chompanaidh air seasamh air a casan fhèin sna h-eileanan.

'Tha sinn fìor thoilichte leis an seo seach gu bheil e ag aithneachadh, chan e a-mhàin gu bheil deagh làraich is stuth againn, ach cuideachd cho sgileil 's a tha ar luchd-obrach,' thuirt e.

A large company which forms nearly all of the fish-farming industry in the islands has unveiled development plans.

It had initially been feared that Marine Harvest were to close the factory in Stornoway after taking over Fjord Seafood.

However, they have now announced that they would be keeping the factory open and the various parts of the company in the islands — the sea farms and the processing units — would be brought together as one entity.

Alan Anderson, Fjord Seafood's managing director, said the move meant the company could stand on its own two feet in the islands.

'We are delighted with the outcome particularly as it recognises not only the quality of our location and products but also the skills of our workforce,' he said.

Foghlam ann an sgoil Ùige

Tha oidhirpean ga dhèanamh gus dèanamh cinnteach gun tèid foghlam tro mheadhan na Gàidhlig a chumail ann am Bun-sgoil Ùige ann an Leòdhas.

Thar nam beagan bhliadhnachan a dh'fhalbh tha pàrantan air a bhith cur an cuid cloinne chun Bheurla air sgàth 's nach eil tidsear Gàidhlig làn-ùine idir ann agus seach gu bheil na clasaichean sa Bheurla cho math.

Tha cuideachd teaghlaichean aig an robh clann san ionad Ghàidhlig air an sgire fhàgail, rud a tha air an t-suidheachadh a dhèanamh nas miosa.

Tha Comhairle nan Eilean Siar air a dhèanamh soilleir gu bheil iad airson Gàidhlig a chumail a' dol san sgoil agus tha iad air sanas a chur a-mach airson tidsear ùr.

Thuirt Seonaid NicLeòid, aon de phàrantan Ùige: 'B' e an nighean againn an tè mu dheireadh a bha air fhàgail san ionad Ghàidhlig agus bha ise air an t-siathamh clas agus cha robh e practaigeach cumail a' dol agus a dhèanamh na h-aonar.

'Tha sinne mar theaghlach a' faireachdainn gu math làidir mu dheidhinn na Gàidhlig. Tha e na phàirt de ar cultar agus ar dualchas agus bhiodh e na thàmailt mhòr mura biodh Gàidhlig ri fhaighinn ann an Ùig.'

Efforts are being made to ensure Gaelic-medium education provision is retained at Uig Primary School on Lewis.

Over recent years parents have been opting to put their children to the English due to the absence of a dedicated full-time Gaelic teacher and as the English classes are such high standard.

In addition, some families who had children in Gaelic moved away from the area, exacerbating the situation.

Western Isles Council have made it clear that they want Gaelic to continue at Uig and have advertised for a new teacher.

Janet MacLeod, one of the parents in the area, said: 'Our daughter was the only one and she was in primary six so it was no longer practical for her to continue and it was not desirable for her to do it on her own. We as a family feel very strongly about Gaelic. It is part of our culture and our heritage and it would be a crying shame if there was no Gaelic available in Uig.'

Suaicheantas nan eilean

Tha rannsachadh ga dhèanamh airson suaicheantas ùr a chruthachadh dha na h-Eileanan Siar a bheir dhan sgìre barrachd neart a thaobh mhargaidheachd

Thatar an-dràsta a' cruinneachadh grunn cheisteachain a chaidh a-mach gu companaidhean airson faighinn a-mach dè na h-amasan a bh' aca-san san phròiseict.

Thèid na toraidhean a chleachadh airson dearbhadh an t-slighe air adhart dhan iomairt, a thatar an dòchas a chur air bhog sna mìosan a tha romhainn.

Thuirt Daibhidh Kinnaird, a tha gu mòr an sàs san phròiseict, gum biodh na ceisteachain cudromach airson soirbheachas na h-iomairt san fharsaingeachd.

Research is currently being undertaken in a bid to develop a new brand name for the Western Isles which will give it an added marketing edge.

A number of questionnaires, which were sent out to companies to determine their views on the project, are in the process of being collated.

The results will be used to identify a way forward for the project, which it is hoped will be launched in the coming months.

David Kinnaird, who is heavily involved in the initiative, said the questionnaires would be important to the wider success of the project.

Ardfern man acquitted of careless driving

Road surface blamed for skid that led to accident

AN ARDFERN man has been acquitted of careless driving after successfully arguing that the condition and wet surface of the road involved were at fault.

Colin Davidson, a 72-year-old retired engineer, had pled not guilty at Oban Sheriff Court to careless driving on the A816, one mile south of Craobh Haven, and colliding with a car coming in the other direction on May 27 last year.

The court heard from the driver of the car struck, Archibald Clark, also Ardfern and his wife, Margaret, who had been injured in the accident.

Mr Clark, aged 63, a retired chartered accountant, said he had been driving his Saab 95 south when he came round a sharp right hand bend and saw a car coming towards him on his side of the road.

'It was on my side of the road and it was not in control,' he said. 'It was my perception that it was skidding because the road was wet.'

Mrs Clark, 64, said she only saw the car on their side of the road seconds before it hit them.

Davidson a retired engineer of Tigh-nan- Eilean, Ardfern, conducted his own defence.

He told the court that following the accident, standing on the road, it had been slippy underfoot and a temporary sign was later put up indicating a slippy road surface.

Since then, he said, there had been a number of accidents at that bend with cars going on to the wrong side of the carriageway and off the road and police statistics for 2006 showed there had been 13 accidents on that stretch of the road, with only one driver being prosecuted, which he assumed was him.

He had written to the council concerning the negative camber, condition of the road surface and then the type of surface following reading an article in *The Oban Times* about stone mastic asphalt (SMA) being banned in certain countries because it caused skidding.

He said he had received a reply from the council that indicated there was a section with SMA at Barravullin that included the bend where the accident happened.

He said he had driven around the bend hundreds of times and had not done anything differently this time but was shocked when he felt the front wheels of his vehicle lose their grip and he drifted across the road.

'I was driving in a careful manner as a careful driver of 55 years' experience would, with no previous traffic accidents for which I have been responsible,' he said.

Under cross examination from Procurator Fiscal Justin Farrell, Davidson agreed it was not clear whether or not the police statistics related specifically to that bend.

'I had no need to brake because I was already going at an appropriate speed. It happened in the same way that I happened to 12 others because the road surface is dangerous,' he added.

Finding Davidson not guilty, Sheriff Douglas Small said: 'I am left with a reasonable doubt as to how the accident occurred that arises from the evidence presented in relation to the road surface and the fact that it was wet at the time of the incident.'

Mod gold medallist Fiona MacKenzie and her daughter Katie, from Dingwall, were among those entertained visitors to the JoLoMo gallery dinner cruise to Colonsay t20jol01

JoLoMo cruise raises cash for carers

THE annual gallery cruise featuring the work of Argyll artist John Lowrie Morrison raised more than £2,850 for North Argyll Carers' Centre on Friday night when travellers and art enthusiasts took part in a cruise to Colonsay on the Caledonian MacBrayne (CalMac) vessel *MV Isle of Mull*.

The exhibition, Iona- Cradle of Christianity, was organised by Kranenburg Fine Art of Oban, opened by Brigadier John MacFarlane, Taynuilt and featured an auction of two of the artist's work which raised £2,450.

Travellers were entertained throughout the cruise by the Allestri string quartet and by the mother-and-daughter duo of Mod gold medallist Fiona MacKenzie and her daughter Katie on clarsach.

An excellent four-course dinner, which rivalled any five-star hotel fare, was provided by CalMac's on-board catering staff.

Cheviot lambs from Pennygown Farm, Isle of Mull go through the ring at Oban last Tuesday. Cheviot hoggs from the Isle of Tiree topped the sheep section of the sale, selling to £44. t19mrt01

Crofters' campaign is shortlisted for award

THE crofting community's campaign against the Crofting Reform Bill, introduced in the last parliamentary session, has been short-listed for the prestigious Third Force News (TFN) Campaign of the Year Award.

The crofters' campaign, led by their representative organisation the Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF), was in response to a Bill drafted by Scottish Executive civil servants with little crofting community participation or consultation.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said: 'The community was dismayed and at first reacted with fatalism – they felt that it was a stitch-up. But crofters got together at the many SCF meetings we held and their dismay began to turn to annoyance and to action.'

There followed a concerted campaign in the media and lobbying of MSPs which resulted in a Parliamentary Committee taking the unprecedented step of holding a series of evidence gathering sessions in the crofting areas. The resulting report of the Environment and Rural Development Committee was severely critical of the Scottish Executive's procedures and its attempts to force an unwelcome Bill upon a community. The Bill was then drastically cut and a Committee of Inquiry into crofting set up – the first in over 50 years.

The TFN Annual Charity Awards attracted a large number of very high quality applications in five categories and short-listed applicants will attend an awards ceremony in Glasgow on May 24. The SCF will attend the ceremony as the crofters' representative organisation.

Norman Leask concluded: 'I feel it is a great privilege to be able to represent crofters and thank the communities, the volunteers and the staff who made the campaign such a success – this was really community participation in action.'

Nature Times

AS MAY progresses, the number of species of wild plants in flower seems to increase exponentially, all vying to catch the attention of pollinating insects.

Colour is an important element of a flower's attractiveness, though our perception of this is not necessarily the same as that of an insect. Red for example is a vivid colour to most humans but for many insects it is not. Bees especially do not see red but they do see further into the ultra-violet end of the spectrum than we do; many flowers have markings which only show up (to a human eye) under ultra-violet light.

White flowers are plentiful this month, with woodland flowers such as wood anemone, wood sorrel, wild strawberry and wild garlic all blooming. Bird cherry is covered in white blossom and hawthorn and rowan are starting to open. Other white flowers to look for include daisy, pignut, cuckoo flower (ladies' smock) and its smaller relative wavy bittercress; and scurvy grass on the seashore. Yellows are common too – buttercups, marsh marigold and broom following primrose, celandine and gorse.

Blue and purple flowers tend to appear later than white and yellow. They are often flowers in which the nectar is hidden, which only insects with longer tongues such as butterflies, moths and some bees can reach. A prominent species in this colour group which is now well into flower is bluebell, or wild hyacinth; bugle and dog violet are two more such flowers to admire in woodland this month.

Another pink-purple flower to look out for is heath lousewort. As its name suggests it grows in heathy places, usually in quite wet or boggy conditions. It is quite a low-growing plant with small fern-like leaves that are deeply indented and toothed. The flowers tend to be quite congested on several purplish,sprawling stems. The flowers are well worth a closer look because of their ingenious construction, which ensures cross-pollination by bumblebees.

The flower has a broad, three-lobed lower lip which serves as a platform for bees to land on. Above this is a narrow, elongated 'hood' which encloses the stamens and anthers completely. The stigma projects as a white spot (see photo). When a bee lands, the stigma touches its back and picks up any pollen there. As the bee forces open the hood to get at the nectar at the base of the flower, pollen is released from the top of the hood and dusts the bees back – to be carried to the next flower.

The name lousewort reflects an old belief that the plant spread parasites to grazing stock, but the explanation is more likely to be that that it grows on waterlogged ground, where stock may be more prone to such infections. A curious feature of lousewort though is that it is partly parasitic itself, a so-called hemiparasite. Its roots attach with tiny suckers to the roots of grasses and other plants, enabling water and minerals to be removed.

Highland Darter

Market reports

DALMALLY - United Auctions

Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X £470, £418(2) Knockdhu £405 Goatfield
CharolaisX: £552(3) Balliemeanoch Farm £428 (2) Ardentraive.
LimousinX: £602(9) Tiraghoil £598 Brenchoille £568(2) Balliemeanoch £568 Shellfield £552 Balliemeanoch and Ellary (4) £542(7) Tiraghoil £535(3) Balliemeanoch £532 Tiraghoil £528 Keilator and Brenchoille (2) £522 Balliemeanoch and Ellary Estate (8) £518(3) Garraron and Melfort Farms £512(6) Tiraghoil £508 Shellfield £478 (7) Ellary Estate £468 Garraron and Melfor t Farms £465 (2) KnockDhu £458 Stronesker £440 Craig Farm £430 Shellfield £428 (2) Craig Farm.
ShorthornX: £568 Ellary Estate
SimmentalX: £572(5), £542(2) and £532 Tiraghoil £ 518 (2) Dunans £452 Lower Tervine £435 KnockDhu.
Heifers
Aberdeen Angus X £432(2) Craig Farm
Belgian BlueX: £432 Garraron and Melfort Farms
CharolaisX: £432(2) Balliemeanoch Farm
LimousinX: £488(6) Tiraghoil £472 Shellfield and Garraron and Melfort Farms £458(4) Balliemeanoch Farm £452(8) Ellary Estate £442(6) Tiraghoil £4 32 Brenchoille £422 Tiraghoil (6), Ellary Estate (7) and Garraron and Melfort Farms (5) £412 Brenchoille.
SimmentalX: £490 Stroneskar £402 Keilator .
Breeding cattle
Heifer with calf at foot £780 Stronmagachan
Prices per kilo
Bullocks
Aberdeen Angus X: 162p Goatfield.
CharolaisX: 186p and 171p Ardentraive 162p (3) Balliemeanoch Far m 159p Ardentraive.
LimousinX: 196p High Balantyre Farm 172p Tiraghoil 171p (2) Craig Farm 163p Balliemeanoch and Ellary Estate (8) 162p Balliemeanoch Farm (4) and Garraron and Melfort (3) 159p (7) Ellary Farm 158p (5) and 155p Keilator 155p (9) and 154p (9) Tiraghoil 154p(2) Balliemeanoch 153p Garraron and Melfort Farms (2) and Stroneskar 150p (2) KnockDhu 149p Dunans 147p Craig and Brenchoille (2) 146p Tiraghoil (4) and Garraron and Melfort.
ShorthornX: 158p Ellary Estate
SimmentalX: 172p Tiraghoil 155p KnockDhu and Tiraghoil (2) 152p (2) Dunans 151p (4) Tiraghoil 147p Dunans and Keilator 141p Lower Tervine
Heifers
Belgian BlueX: 153p Ardentraive 135p Garraron and Melfort Farms
CharolaisX: 153p(2) Ardentraive 139p(2) Balliemeanoch Farm.
LimousinX: 149p Dunans 146p(7) Ellary Estate 143p Balliemeanoch (4) and Tiraghoil(12) 141p Keilator and Garraron and Melfort Farms (8) 139p (6) Tiraghoil 138p(3) Shellfield 137p(8) Ellary Farms 135p Garraron and Melfort Farms (2) and Brenchoille 133p (4) Keilator Farm.
SimmentalX: 141p Keilator 135p Lower Tervine 133p Keilator Farm.

OBAN- Caledonian Marts (Stirling)

Bullocks
Limousin: Achnacreebeag £640; Ardachy £575
Belgian Blue: Achnacreebeag £595
Charolais: Shenavallie £560.
Heifers
Limousin: Achnacreebeag £540; Upper Largie £475;
Roan: South Ardnaclach £450;
Cross: Glencreran Estate £440.
Cows:
Blue Grey – Poltalloch £490;
Aberdeen Angus: Rhulois £440;
Cross: Poltalloch £420;
Belgian Blue: Ardachy £410.
Prices per kg:
Bullocks:
Limousin: Upper Largie 183p; Ardachy and Fidden 170p;
Roan: South Ardnaclash 177p
Charolais: Shenavallie.
Heifers:
Limousin: Achnacreebeag 168p; Fidden 164p;
Roan: South Ardnaclach 156;
ShorthornX: Shenavallie 155p.
Sheep
Texel: Seaview £38;
Cross: Birchfield £36.50
Blackface: Torosay £35.50;
Cheviot: Homestead and Rossal £35.50.
Ewes:
Texel: Achnaba £41; Birchfield £29
Blackface: Poltalloch £25;
Swale: Teanga £19.

High Blantyre Limousins sell to 196p per kilo at Dalmally

UNITED Auctions held their annual May sale of all classes cattle and sheep at Dalmally Auction Mart.

A good offering of grazing cattle sold at high levels and to a packed ringside of buyers.

Bullocks sold to £602 per head for a pen of nine Limousin yearlings from Tiraghoil, Mull and to a top of 196 pence per kilo for Limousin crosses from High Blantyre.

Heifers sold to a top price per head of £490 for Simmental crosses from Stroneskar and to a top price per kilo of 153 pence for Belgian Blue crosses and Charolais crosses, both lots from Ardentraive, Colintraive.

The overall average for the bullocks was 151.7 pence per kilo and the heifers averaged 137.4 pence per kilo.

Fidden Limousin to 196p per kilo at Oban

CALEDONIAN Marts (Stirling) Ltd sold 247 store cattle, suckled calves, Over 30 Month cattle and 589 store hoggets and feeding ewes at Oban.

Bullocks averaged 142.3p per kg and sold to 196p per kg for a 275kg Limousin from Fidden, Isle of Mull and to £660 for a 400kg Limousin from Ferlochan, Benderloch.

Heifers averaged 133.9p per kg and sold to 175p per kg for a 320k Limousin from Achnacreebeag, Connel and to £560 for a £320kg Limousin from the same home.

Over 30 Month cattle met a very firm trade.

Cows averaged 73.9p per kg to 96p per kg for a 375kg Blue Grey from Poltalloch, Kilmartin to £560 for a 610g Limousin from Ardachy.

All sheep classes proved cheaper to that of the last sale with hoggets selling to £44 per head for a pen of Cheviots from A McDonald, Mannal House, Isle of Tiree.

Woman is fined £300 following Oban pub fight

Ice throwing incident leads to melee and breach of the peace

A WOMAN who admitted breaching the peace and engaging in a stand-up fight has been fined £300 at Oban Sheriff Court.

Tracey Goldie, 8E Scalpay Terrace, Soroba, Oban, got involved in a melee with several others after she and friend had ice thrown on them as they were sitting at the bar in Oban on December 19 last year.

The court heard that an incident described as a gang fight broke out in the pub and Goldie was one of many involved.

Defence agent Edward Thornton said Goldie, aged 31, had been struck by a glass during the incident and had permanent scarring as a result.

HIE Argyll and the Islands Earra-Ghaidheal

BUSINESS NETWORKING!

Isle of Mull Hotel, Craignure
30th May 2007
5PM – 6.30PM

HIE Argyll and the Islands are running networking events throughout the area giving business people the opportunity to meet and network. These events are designed to help businesses of all sizes make vital contacts and discuss some of the everyday business challenges.

Contact HIE Argyll and the Islands to book your place
01546 605430
sam.ford@hient.co.uk

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West Highland Property Guide

The largest weekly property pages covering Argyll, West Highlands & Islands. Selling your property? Make sure your advertisement is here in The Oban Times – it works! (Seen by more than *40,000 readers each week)
*Source: JICREG Reader per copy average from ABC audit

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RICS

Roseacre, built in 1924 - a house with a realpedigree

ONE glance is more than enough to establish the impressive credentials of Roseacre. Situated in Croft Road, Oban, where it was built in 1924, this is a house with real pedigree. Submit a successful bid and you can look forward to enjoying afternoon tea on the timber-decking balcony while enjoying expansive views across the town and beyond to Oban Bay.

A traditionally constructed block-built property under a pitched tiled roof with harled exterior, the house was recently completely upgraded and modernised. Occupying a secluded, sunlit location which is only a short walk from the town centre with its various amenities, Roseacre is in walk-in condition.

Over three floors, deceptively spacious accommodation comprises the entrance porch, an entrance hallway, a sumptuous lounge, modern kitchen, large family room, four bedrooms, family bathroom, ground floor toilet, side porch/utility room and vast floored attic with light and power.

There is mains gas central heating and partial double glazing. Well-established gardens extending to approximately one acre are located to the side and rear.

The house sits on the outskirts of the town centre and only a short walk from the Atlantis Leisure Centre with its varied attractions. There is off-street parking and an enviable element of seclusion.

An expanding port with an attractive seafront and busy harbour, Oban supports a wide range of modern shopping and recreational facilities. It has excellent schools, a first-class hospital and churches of various denominations.

As you pass through the entrance porch at Roseacre with its wooden door and frosted insets you are welcomed by a patterned tiled stone floor. Offering access to all ground-floor accommodation, an L-shaped entrance hallway hosts a shelved storage cupboard with louvred doors. Underfoot is tanned flooring of stripped polished pine. In a resplendent lounge a double-glazed bay-style window captures panoramic views across the town and sea beyond. A wooden mantlepiece, with tiled hearth and surround, houses a decorative fireplace with traditional open grate. There is an opportunity to extend from the lounge across the veranda at the side of the property to allow access to the decking from the front.

Perfectly in tune with a house of such quality is the kitchen, a dual-aspect room with single glazed sash and casement windows overlooking the side porch and garden. It provides the setting for an extensive range of modern wood-effect floor and wall units with marble-effect roll-top work surfaces. There is an integral wine rack as well as tiling to all upstands. Ready to cope with the challenge of meal preparation are a Technic five-ring gas hob with double oven and grill below with Technic extractor fan and hood above and splashback behind, all finished in brushed steel complete with plumbing and space for a dishwasher. Integral is a pine-clad chimney breast with double cupboard below. A tiled stone floor offers just the right balance. A door provides access to a spacious under-stair storage cupboard and ground floor toilet.

From the ground floor, stairs descend to the lower floor where there is a versatile second lounge with French doors opening onto the extensive timber decking with its gorgeous views. This room would be well-suited either as a sun room, day room, or children's playroom. It also provides access to bedroom 4.

Bedroom 1, which doubles as a dining room, features a tiled open fireplace with marble-effect mantlepiece in addition to dual aspect sash and casement windows. All four bedrooms are thoughtfully styled offering a high degree of comfort with panelled ceilings and laminate flooring to be found in some.

The bathroom displays a magnificent three-piece Victorian-style suite in white with large free-standing bath which boasts a telephone-style shower attachment. The ceiling is wood panelled and there is generous tiling. A side porch/utility room is brick-built to dado height and plumbed for an automatic washing machine and tumble dryer.

An chic sun lounge/day room is unusually shaped with extensive brick-built raised banquette seating and soft furnishings. Again the ceiling is wood panelled and there is a built-in storage cupboard.

The selling agents, DM MacKinnon, Estates Agents, Oban, are inviting offers over £295,000 for this superlative property.

PROPERTY WANTED

PROPERTY WANTED

I am a professional person looking for an unfurnished property to rent on a long- term basis.

Must be within travelling distance of my work in Oban.

References available.

Please reply to Box No.78, The Oban Times, Crannog Lane, Oban, PH34 4HB
or telephone 07920 228688

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NORTH CONNEL, BY OBAN

For Sale: An attractive traditionally-constructed and extended **Detached Bungalow** in a sought-after residential area with lovely views of Loch Etive, Ben Cruachan and Ben Lora. The accommodation has full oil central heating and double glazing and provides an Entrance Porch, Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Conservatory, 3 Bedrooms (1 with En-Suite Bathroom), further Bathroom, large attic Store-room. Front garden with driveway and garage. Large mature private rear garden with Summerhouse, Greenhouse and other Outhouses. **Offers over £270,000.**

BALVICAR, SEIL, BY OBAN

For Sale: A deceptively spacious modern cottage-style **Terraced House** situated in a private cul-de-sac close to village amenities, the golf course and a sheltered yacht anchorage. The accommodation is arranged over 2 floors and comprises a Hall, Lounge, Dining Kitchen, Utility Room, 3 Bedrooms, 2 Bathrooms. Electric heating and double glazing. Small enclosed front and rear gardens. Lock-up Garage and parking. **Offers over £180,000.**

ACHNACREEBEAG, NORTH CONNEL

For Sale: A beautifully presented **Detached Villa** forming part of a small exclusive group of architect-designed homes in a secluded location close to Loch Etive. The sumptuously appointed accommodation provides an Entrance Hall with Cloakroom/Toilet, Lounge with fireplace, Dining Room, Office/Study, Garden Room (or 4th Bedroom), Kitchen, Utility Area, Master Bedroom Suite with En-Suite Bathroom, 2 Further Bedrooms (1 En-Suite), Further Bathroom, Attic Store, integral Double Garage. Oil-fired central heating and hardwood double glazing. Attractive south-facing mature half-acre garden with irrigated pond and ample parking. Right of access to Loch Etive nearby. **Offers over £400,000.**

INCHREE, ONICH

For Sale: A well appointed and attractively presented **Detached House** in a sought after lochside area commanding magnificent elevated views across the Corran Narrows and along Loch Linnhe. Generously proportioned accommodation with obvious B&B potential. Double glazing, oil fired central heating. Comprising Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, Bathroom, Shower Room, 4 Bedrooms. Garden ground of over ½ acre with Garage/Workshop. **Offers over £280,000.**

LOCH AWE-SIDE (KILCHRENAN)

For Sale: An exceptional Colt cedar ranch-style **Bunglow** beautifully situated by the shores of Loch Awe with superb loch and mountain views and its own shore-land with loch frontage and fishing rights. Accommodation: Veranda/Porch, Hall, open plan Family Room and Kitchen, Utility Room, Office/Study, Sitting/Dining Room, 3 En-Suite Bedrooms, Further Bedroom, Further Bathroom. Oil central heating, multi-fuel stove, double glazing. Garage, Carport, 2 Sheds, under-building Storage, Balcony. Delightful established garden and landscaped shore-land – about one acre in all. **Offers over £360,000.**

7 ETIVE PARK, NORTH CONNEL

For Sale: A well appointed modern **Detached House** forming part of an established small development on the north side of Connel Bridge with shared ownership of an amenity woodland extending to the shore of Loch Etive. Accommodation: Hall, Lounge with Dining Area, fitted Kitchen, Bathroom, 3 Bedrooms. Electric heating and double glazing. Attractive child-friendly level garden with Single Garage, Carport and 2 Garden Sheds. Full Planning Permission has been obtained for a substantial extension of the house. **Offers over £190,000.**

1 GEORGE STREET, OBAN, ARGYLL PA34 5RU
www.alexanderdawson.co.uk
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PROPERTY TO LET

FOR RENT / LEASE

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Factory = 154 Square metres
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Apply to :
James Hamilton
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Tel: 07990 974679.

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COMMERCIAL

RESTAURANT TO LET

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* *Large car park*
* *Potential for involvement in Farm Shop.*

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CRINAN HOUSE, CRINAN, ARGYLL

A stunning contemporary home in an elevated position with superb panoramic views across to the Corryvreckan, the Sound of Jura and beyond to the islands of Jura, Scarba and Mull. Finished to an extremely high specification with modern, designer fixtures and fittings the property is within commuting distance of Oban and Lochgilphead and only a short walk from Crinan village and the Crinan Canal. On multi-levels, the spacious and extremely well appointed accommodation comprises: Entrance hallway, large open plan sitting room, kitchen, snug/T.V room, four bedrooms (two en-suite), study, utility room and separate storage area, family bathroom and separate toilet. Individually controlled thermostatic under floor gas central heating system. High quality timber decking with glass panelled balconies. Gravel driveway with ample parking. Under decking storage area. Easily maintained gardens.
Offers over £575,000

BRUACH, LOWER SOROBA, OBAN

Substantial five bedroom detached property situated on the outskirts of Oban in an elevated position with a sunny outlook just a short walk from the town centre. The property is of timber frame construction under a pitched tiled roof and has been extremely well maintained both internally and externally. Over two floors the spacious and well laid out accommodation comprises: Entrance hall, sitting room, kitchen with dining area, upper lounge, four bedrooms (one en-suite), 5th bedroom/office and family bathroom. Fully double glazed. Oil fired central heating. Spacious double garage with self contained granny flat above comprising: Sitting room/bedroom, kitchen and shower room. Large, well established gardens on all sides. Parking. **Offers over £275,000**

CRIOCH, CUIL BAY, APPIN

A rare opportunity to acquire a three bedroom detached house situated in an enviable location with exceptional views over Cuil Bay and the surrounding countryside. The spacious and well laid out accommodation comprises: Entrance porch, open plan kitchen/family room, lounge, sun room, three bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room and utility room. Double glazing. L.P.G central heating. Easily maintained front garden with timber decking. Well established mature gardens to sides and rear. Garage with lean to wood store. **Offers over £275,000**

ISLE OF MULL

CNOC MOR, ARDTUN, ISLE OF MULL

Croft extending to approximately 5 hectares

This splendid four bedroom detached villa is situated within its own croft land on the Ross of Mull and commands spectacular open views to the front and rear and of Ben More and Loch Scridain from the rising croft land. The property has been attractively constructed in an L-shape and offers generous and very well appointed accommodation over two floors comprising: vestibule, reception hall, lounge, dining kitchen, dining room, rear porch, bedroom, bathroom and office. Galleried upper landing with three further bedrooms and a shower room. Fenced area of garden ground, driveway and parking up to the house and a timber-built garage/workshop. Also included is a former barn situated on the croft and enjoying good sea views. Whilst no planning permission has been sought, it appears eminently suitable for further development. **Offers over £320,000**

ISLE OF MULL

GOWANBRAE COTTAGE, BUNESSAN, ISLE OF MULL

Traditional stone built cottage which has been very sympathetically extended situated on the sea's edge, with beautiful coastal views to both front and side aspects. The accommodation comprises: Lounge/kitchen/dining room, second sitting room, two bedrooms (one en suite), bathroom. Extensive loft space, with part converted to create potential third bedroom. Night storage heating and wood-burning stove. Partial double glazing.
The property has significant letting potential and has generated a healthy gross income as a holiday letting business **Offers Over £185,000**

CRAIGLEE, ARDTUN, ISLE OF MULL

This delightful detached cottage is situated amid rolling countryside on the Ross of Mull less than two miles from the village of Bunessan. It has a sunny south facing aspect to the front and enjoys dramatic views of the Burg peninsula to the rear. Craiglee is currently used as a successful holiday letting cottage but it is equally suitable for use as a permanent home or second home. The accommodation is very well presented and nicely appointed and comprises: L-shaped hall, lounge/kitchen, two double bedrooms and an attractive bathroom. Fenced area of garden and ample parking.
Offers over £150,000

BETT'S FIELD, ARDNACROSS, ISLE OF MULL

A rare opportunity to acquire a rural building plot in a stunning location with the benefit of sea frontage and maturing native woodland.
The plots are located on the sheltered eastern coast of the popular and beautiful Inner Hebridean island of Mull approximately 7 miles south east of Tobermory. Detailed planning consent was granted on 6th February 2007 for two styles of one and a half storey vernacular dwellings which will comprise the following accommodation.
Type 1
Sitting room, large kitchen / dining room, utility room, study, 3 bedrooms (one en suite), and family bathroom
Type 2
Sitting room, Dining room, kitchen, utility, 4 bedrooms (one en suite) and two bathrooms.
Offers Over £120,000 per plot

ISLE OF LUING

38 CULLIPOOL, ISLE OF LUING, ARGYLL

This most desirable cottage is situated in a sheltered location at the end of an attractive terrace of white-painted cottages within the picturesque village of Cullipool on the easily accessible and beautiful Island of Luing. The cottage is stone built under a slate roof and has been well maintained and upgraded and greatly enhanced by the addition of a substantial, sympathetic, extension to the rear. The well presented accommodation comprises: sitting room, double bedroom, well-appointed kitchen/dining room and an attractive bathroom. Loft conversion, with bright accommodation enjoying sea views, offering a number of uses. Some double glazing and Velux windows. Solid fuel central heating. Well-planned colourful rear garden and dramatic cliff views.
Offers over £130,000

CLOSING DATES

12 noon, Friday 18th May:
Machair Cottage, Isle of Tiree
Crackaig Cottages, Isle of Jura
19a Tweeddale Street, Oban

Chartered Surveyors Land and Estate Agents
2 Gibraltar Street, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4AY
T: 00 44 (0) 1631 566 122
F: 00 44 (0) 1631 564 764
enquiries@dmkestates.co.uk
www.dmkestates.co.uk

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For Sale
Glenorchy
Oban

Period semi-detached villa situated in a quiet, sought after residential area of Oban with superb views over Oban Bay and only a short walk from the town centre.
Currently under renovation the property comprises of: 2 receptions, 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Driveway. Well established and easily maintained mature gardens. Please apply to **Box No 79**
The Oban times Ltd, P.O Box 1, Oban Argyll PA34 4HB

FORT WILLIAM - RARE OPPORTUNITY!

Delightful, newly restored property sitting on the banks of the Caledonian Canal, 3 miles from bustling town of Fort William. CANAL COTTAGE consists of 2 Self-catering flats each comprising of fully-fitted eat-in kitchen , lounge, double bedroom, large bathroom plus 2 Victorian-style fireplaces in each.

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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. 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: 07/00865/DET
Applicant: R Stevenson
Proposal: Alterations to dwellinghouse
Site Address: Cruachan View Back Road Connel Argyll
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Connel
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 07/00861/COU
Applicant: Mrs Vera M Fowler
Proposal: Barn conversion to dwelling including extension of building
Site Address: Rowanbank Kilchrenan Argyll And Bute PA35 1HD
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 07/00750/DET
Applicant: Jonathon Knight
Proposal: Renovation of ancilliary outbuilding, alterations to dwelling house and installation of gas/oil tank
Site Address: Schiehallion Albert Street Tobermory Isle Of Mull Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Tobermory Area Office
Development in Conservation Area 21 Days

Ref No: 07/00857/DET
Applicant: Mr Mrs K Kane
Proposal: Self contained dwelling unit 'tied' to Redhill
Site Address: Redhill Taynuilt Argyll And Bute PA35 1JQ
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 14 Days

Ref No: 07/00854/DET
Applicant: Lonan Properties Ltd
Proposal: Erection of dwelling house (Plot 7)
Site Address: Land South Of Achlonan Taynuilt Argyll And Bute
Location of Plans: Sub Post Office Taynuilt
Article 9 Vacant Land - 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

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1997 ARGYLL AND BUTE LOCAL PLAN FINALISED DRAFT – MAY 2007: MODIFICATIONS 3

Certified copies of the proposed Modifications 3 to the above named Local Plan will be available for inspection free of charge between 17 May and 28 June, at the locations listed below during normal opening hours.

The proposed Modifications 3 can also be viewed on the Council's web site www.argyll-bute.gov.uk For further information please contact the Development Policy Unit on 01546 604140.

Representations on the Proposed Modifications should be sent to Fergus Murray, Development Policy Manager, Argyll and Bute Council, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, PA31 8RT, or by using the link on the Council's web site to arrive before 5pm on the 28 June 2007. Representations should be made in writing, state the name and address of the Representee, the modification number to which they relate and the grounds on which they are made. Please note that representations are a matter of public record, and will be scanned and placed on the Council's web site.

Argyll and Bute Council Offices, Kilmory, Lochgilphead, Municipal Buildings, Oban Public Libraries, 77 Albany Street, Oban

OPERATIONAL SERVICES

THE ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL (QUEENS PARK PLACE AND STATION ROAD, OBAN) (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) ORDER 2007

Argyll and Bute Council propose to make an Order under Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, as amended, which will make it unlawful for any person to drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle, with the exception of emergency services vehicles, through the entire lengths of Queens Park Place and Station Road, Oban in order to permit the holding of Charities Day on or near those roads.

The Order, which shall be effective when indicated by signs, will come into operation between 0600 hours and 1800 hours on Saturday 9th June 2007.

Alternative Route: There is no alternative route.

Andrew R Law, Director of Operational Services, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead, Argyll

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL

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, FT 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 within the period listed below from the date of publication of this notice.

Applicant Name & Development Address Reference Number	Proposal Description	Location where application may be inspected & reason for Advertisement
Achnacarry Estate Land 50m East of and Land 100m East Of Telephone Exchange, Corpach, Fort William 07/00181/OUTLO & 07/00182/OUTLO	Erection of 2 houses	Corpach Post Office Potential Departure from Development Plan (Potential) (21 Days)
Abidin Yildiz Hot Potato Station Square, Fort William PH33 6DX 07/00200/FULLO	Installation of ventilation system	Lochaber Area Planning Office Section 34 of the Act (14 Days)

Area Planning and Building Standards Manager, Lochaber: Dafydd Jones, Highland Council, Fulton House, Gordon Square, Ft William, PH33 6XY. Tel: (01397) 707015, Fax: (01397) 707022. E-Mail planning.lochaber@highland.gov.uk

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

THE A830 FORT WILLIAM – MALLAIG TRUNK ROAD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC, TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF OVERTAKING AND TEMPORARY SPEED RESTRICTION) ORDER 2007

The Scottish Ministers give notice that they have made the above Order temporarily prohibiting traffic, temporarily prohibiting overtaking and temporarily restricting the speed of vehicles on that length of the A830 Fort William – Mallaig Trunk Road from the sawmill at Borrodale House in a generally south easterly direction for a distance of 8.1 km or thereby to the lay-by on the western carriageway by the Prince's Cairn.

The Order, which is required because of the construction of the A830 Fort William – Mallaig Trunk Road, will be in operation from 23 May 2007 until midnight on 19 November 2008, but will only have effect in relation to such part or parts of the length of road as are indicated by the appropriate traffic signs. The provisions relating to temporary prohibitions of traffic do not apply to vehicles being used in an emergency for fire brigade, ambulance, police or coastguard purposes or vehicles used for carrying out the works. There are no exemptions for those vehicles in respect of temporary prohibitions of overtaking and temporary speed restrictions unless otherwise provided by law.

A McLAUGHLIN
A member of the staff of the Scottish Ministers
Transport Scotland, Trunk Roads Infrastructure and Professional Services, Buchanan House, Glasgow G4 0HF
9 May 2007

TRANSPORT SCOTLAND

GOT A NOTICE TO PUBLICISE?
The Oban Times & West Highland Times
Be seen by over 40,000 readers
Tel: 01631 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk

Charles Kennedy MP

Serving Ross, Skye and Lochaber

Fort William Surgery
Friday, 18 May
Highland Council Service Point
Lochaber House - 11am - 12 noon
No appointment necessary
01349 862152

U3A Scotland

You are invited to a meeting about University of the Third Age
Thursday 31st May for 2 pm
Diocesan Centre, Croft Rd
OBAN
R.Hutton **01721 722455**

Sail Training Bursaries for Young People

The RHYC Sail Training Trust, with financial support from the Princess of Wales Memorial Trust exists to advance the education of young people through sail training opportunities. The young persons (generally up to the age of 25) must be from the West Coast of Scotland, and be disabled and/or disadvantaged by way of their social, economic or domestic circumstances. Support may include financial assistance to sail on a Tall Ship or Training Yacht, an RYA course or such other activity identified by the young person or sponsoring body.

RHYC Sail Training Trust, c/o Cuanra, Ganavan Road, Oban, Argyll, PA34 5TU

The Scottish Parliament Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

FERGUS EWING MSP

ADVICE SURGERIES FOR CONSTITUENTS IN MAY

Friday 18th May 2007

12:30pm Till 1:30pm
Community Centre,
Glenkingie Street
CAOL

2:30pm Till 3:30pm
Highland Council
Service Point
Lochaber House,
High Street
FORT WILLIAM

No Appointment necessary, home visits possible.
For Further Information Contact:
Constituency Office, Highland Railhouse
Station Square, Inverness IV1 1LE
Telephone: 01463 713004
Email: Fergus.ewing.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Scotland's Premier Landbased College

Contact us now for more information
Full Time • Part Time • NC • HNC
HND • SVQs • Short Courses

Horticulture • Landscaping • Greenkeeping
Agriculture • Engineering • Farriery
Countryside Management • Animal Care • Equine

OPEN DAYS
Sunday 20th May 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Wednesday 27th June 1.30pm - 4.30pm
Friday 24th August 1.30pm - 4.30pm

If you require further information please contact:
Enquiry Office, Oatridge College,
Ecclesmachan Broxburn,
West Lothian EH52 6NH
Tel: 01506 864800
Fax: 01506 853373
info@oatridge.ac.uk
www.oatridge.ac.uk

Oatridge College

COAST PROTECTION ACT 1949

APPLICATION FOR SINGLE MOORING AT LOCH SUNART

Notice is hereby given that Mr A Drayson has applied to the Scottish Ministers of the Scottish Executive, under section 34 of the Coast Protection Act 1949, as amended by the section 36 of the Merchant Shipping Act 1988, to carry out the placing of a single mooring at the above location in the position:

Description	Latitude	Longitude
mooring	56 40.899N	05 39.352W

Plans showing the position of the works may be inspected at Ardnamurchan Community Library, Sunart Centre, Strontian, Acharacle PH36 4JA.

Objections relating to safety of navigation, in respect of the application should be made to Ports and Harbours Branch, The Scottish Executive, Transport Division 4, Area 2G North, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ within 28 days of the date of the press notice quoting reference: 2SPC\2\5\295

Mr A Drayson
Mansefield House, Kinnettles, Forfar, Angus, DD8 1TQ

A.G.M

Oban Athletic Club
will be held in Atlantis Leisure
on Thursday 21st June 2007 at 7pm
All welcome
Election of Office Bearers

SEIL ISLAND GAMES

Will not be taking place this year, but we hope to be back refreshed, next year.

We would like to thank all our competitors and sponsors for their past support and hope this will continue in 2008.

Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES
Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES Oban Times PUBLIC NOTICES

RECRUITMENTS

Stirling Council

www.stirling.gov.uk/jobs

Environment Services
Catering & Cleaning

Cleaning Assistant* **£5.81 per hour**

Strathfillan Nursery **REF ENV373**
5 hours per week

Are you friendly, enthusiastic and want to be part of a team which provides a range of cleaning duties to our schools? Then we want you as part of our team.

Experience not essential. Training given to BICS Level 1. Flexible working hours and good conditions of service. This post is for 42 weeks per year.

***Stirling Council is committed to ensuring the safety of vulnerable people and our recruitment process is designed to support this. The successful applicant for this post will be subject to a Disclosure Scotland check.**

☎ **01786 442693 (Voicebank)** ✉ **envhr@stirling.gov.uk**

CVs are not accepted. Closing date 1 June 2007.

For an application pack: call or email (see details above, quoting ref).

Yacht Corryvreckan

Part time shore crew required

Friday 12 noon until 4pm
Saturday 12 noon until 3pm

Be part of the shore team to help turn around the famous yacht Corryvreckan between cruises.
Duties include meeting guests, laundry, shopping, phone messages and some boating. Fees negotiable.
Tel Chris Lindesay 07768 146073 or apply in writing to P.O. Box 9657 Oban PA34 4WJ

Argyll & Bute CHP

NHS Highland

Lorn & Islands District General Hospital, Oban

Cashier/Wages Officer – Grade A&C 4

37.5 hours per week
£14,602 - £17,714 (under review) **Ref: 07ab/061a**

An opportunity has arisen to recruit a Cashier/Wages Officer who works meticulously within deadlines to ensure that payroll information received is processed correctly. Previous payroll/cashier experience including cash collection and general wages is essential. You will require good communication skills and remain calm under pressure.

Informal enquiries to Bruce Emslie, Administration Officer – Tel: 01631 789002.

Application packs are available from HR Department, NHS Highland, Argyll & Bute CHP, Aros, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LB – Tel: 01546 606788 (24 hour answer phone) or by emailing recruitment.ab@nhs.net

Closing date for completed applications: Friday 25 May 2007.

Working with you to make Highland the healthy place to be.
www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk

THE BARN

Lerags, by Oban
40 seat Pub Restaurant
Requires the following full time staff
HEAD CHEF
and
COMMIS CHEF
Apply in writing to:
A. Leach, 1 Castle Road, Dunbeg, Oban PA37 1QH

North Ledaig Caravan Park

Connel By Oban

This 5* touring caravan park requires seasonal staff for the following duties:-

A person for visitor reception, telephone bookings, shop and cleaning.

A person for outside maintenance, grass cutting, gardening, caravan escort duties and cleaning (possibility of permanent employment subject to satisfactory probation period). Could also suit active retired couple or university students.

Telephone Peter Weir for further details and application forms 01631 710451

Scottish Field Calendars
SALES EXECUTIVE
Edinburgh

The Scottish Field Calendar is one of the most popular and prestigious Scottish calendars, well known and long established.

We are seeking a sales executive to sell personalised Scottish Field calendars to a range of companies, large and small, both existing clients and new business.

Experience is not essential but eagerness and a professional manner are vital. Sales will be via phone and face to face and full training will be given. The position is based in our friendly Edinburgh office.

Full clean driving licence essential.

Please send CV and current salary to Karen Wallace, Special Publications, Craigcrook Castle, Craigcrook Road, Edinburgh EH4 3PE or email: karen@wyvexmedia.co.uk

Celtic Sea®

Celtic Sea Ltd, one of Scotland's leading shellfish producer, is looking for a self motivated

Production Supervisor

The successful candidate should fit the following skills profile:

- Several years of experience in a food factory
- Hands on, multi skilled with good technical knowledge
- Committed to high standards of quality and customer service
- Team leader with good organisational skills
- Own initiative, flexible in both hours and activities

Applicants must enjoy the challenging environment of an expanding company. The production supervisor will report to the factory manager. We can offer an attractive package and an immediate start.

If you are a supervisor now or would like to become one then please send a handwritten letter of application with a full CV to: Mrs Lesley Simmonds, Celtic Sea Ltd, Loch Melfort, Arduaine, Argyll PA34 4XQ, Scotland

C & D Mactaggart

Solicitors
KINTYRE ESTATE AGENCY

PART TIME SECRETARY

We require a secretary, preferably experienced in audio typing for our Campbeltown office. This is a job sharing position to cover Wednesday afternoon, Thursday and Friday. Each person will require to cover the others holidays on a full time basis. Salary dependent on experience.

Applications in writing, with details of experience to Christian Kane, C & D Mactaggart, Castlehill, Campbeltown, PA28 6AR.

SCOTTISH FIELD
FISHupdate
Fish Farmer

STUDIO MANAGER

Edinburgh
£25K + benefits

Edinburgh magazine publishing house seeks an experienced **Studio Manager**. This hands-on position will require the management of a small team to ensure a smooth flow of traffic through the studio whilst also working on general production duties, artwork, layout and design.
A strong knowledge of print and production is paramount. Driving licence essential.

Apply with CV to karen@wyvexmedia.co.uk

West Coast Motors
bringing people together since 1923

PCV Drivers

Oban

Full time and part time vacancies exist within our Oban depot for PCV drivers.
Full training will be provided, subject to our terms and conditions
Applicants must have held a clean driving licence for 2 years to be considered.

Please apply in writing to:
The Depot Manager
West Coast Motors
Oban
Glengallan Road
Argyll PA34 4HH

Or complete our online application form:
www.westcoastmotors.co.uk

Brightside Leisure Development Ltd

operating as

Machrihanish Dunes Golf Club

wish to appoint 3 seasonal positions to assist with the construction of the golf course.

Golf Course experience is not essential, although a good attitude and work ethic, enthusiasm for the outdoors and ability to work unsupervised are.

Employment will be required until the end of October `07.

Reply in writing to: EuanGrant, Machrihanish Dunes GC, DE Machrihanish, Machrihanish, Argyll. PA28 6NU

SEIRBHEIS nam MEADHANAN GÀIDHLIG
Gaelic Media Service

Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig
(Gaelic Media Service)

Tha Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig (SnMG) a' sireadh dithis aig a bheil de mhisneach 's de chomasan a' dhearbhas SnMG mar phrìomh stiùiriche ann an saoghal nam meadhanan Gàidhlig anns an ùine ri teachd.

Ceann Phrògraman

'S e prìomh amas na h-obrach seo raon farsaing de dheagh phrògraman a dhealbhachadh agus a chomiseanadh airson seirbheis ùr didseatach. Tha sinn a' sireadh neach aig a bheil eòlas air a' ghnìomhachas riochdachaidh agus a tha dèonach agus comasach air coimhead air ciamar a thèid iarrtasan an luchd amhairc an sàsachadh ann an dòighean ùra.

Ceann Ghoireasan

'S e prìomh amas na h-obrach seo na goireasan riochdachaidh is rianachd a' stiùireadh gu làitheil. Tha sinn a' sireadh neach aig a bheil an dà chuid eòlas air na meadhanan agus rianachd ghoireasan taobh a-staigh crìochan is dleastanasan ionmhais.

Bithidh an dà obair a freagairt dhan Ard Oifigear agus bithidh dleastanas stiùireadh sgioba nan cois.

Ma tha ùidh agaibh ann an aon seach aon de na h-obraichean seo, cuiribh fios ann an dìomhaireachd gu Dòmhnall Caimbeul, Ard Oifigear, air 07894 751506 neo domhnall@gms.org.uk.

Ceann là: 1 Ògmhios 2007

Seirbheis nam Meadhanan Gàidhlig
(Gaelic Media Service)

Gaelic Media Service (GMS) has created two new posts for candidates who have the aptitude and attitude required to confirm GMS as a lead Gaelic media organisation in the years to come.

Head of Content

The key remit of this role will be to create and commission a menu of high quality programmes for a new digital service in Gaelic. The right individual will have programme-making experience and will be able and willing to look at new ways by which Gaelic television audience expectations can be met.

Head of Resources

The key remit of this role will the daily management of production and administration facilities. The right individual will have experience of a media environment and the ability to manage within budgetary constraints.

Both posts will report to the Chief Executive and will encompass line management responsibilities.

If you are interested in either post please contact Donald Campbell, Chief Executive, in confidence on 07894 751506 or at domhnall@gms.org.uk.

Closing date: 1 June 2007

REMEMBER
DEADLINE FOR ADVERTS
MONDAY 4PM
The Oban Times & West Highland Times
Tel: 01631 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk

Agent Opportunities - Sovereign Wills

Highlands, Inverness, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Borders

Due to expansion of our business in Scotland, we require professional people in all of the above areas to take Will instructions from our customers and to develop relationships with professional introducers. Self-employed package with genuine unlimited earnings. Extensive training provided.

Contact: Nick Plumb, Sovereign Will and Probate Services, 25 Lower Brook Street, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP4 1AQ
E-mail admin@sovwills.co.uk
Tel 01473 257211

SOVEREIGN WILL & PROBATE

McINTYRE & COMPANY
Solicitors & Estate Agents

BOOKKEEPER

To assist Cashroom in our busy legal practice. Bookkeeping experience necessary and the ability to work efficiently. Microsoft Word and Excel experience preferred.

Duties will involve daily processing of entries with data input on dedicated software, assisting in payrolls, credit control, preparation of spreadsheets and banking.

Good salary to suitable candidate, with opportunity of advancement.

Please apply in writing with full c.v. to:
Staff Partner, McIntyre & Co, Solicitors,
38 High Street, Fort William, PH33 6AT.

Tel. No. 01397 703231
Fax No. 01397 705070

Email: law@solicitors-scotland.com

TACT

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

TACT Oban - Support Organiser

Salary £18,500 per annum, 37.5 hour week

Responsible to Area Manager
Applicants are desired to hold a SVQ3 or equivalent qualification. Applicants should be able to work to deadlines and have good organisational skills, plus a sound knowledge of person centred planning and be a team player. Ideally, you will be able to lead and develop teams; you need to have a flexible approach to working and commitment to the development of TACT Scotland.

Support Workers

Full Time (37.5 hours per week): Part/Bank (hours negotiable)
Starting Salary £12,750

The successful applicants will assist service users, participate in activities and assist then to become included as members of their local communities.

TACT offers excellent training and development opportunities and guaranteed responsible skilled professional support to all employees.

For further information and an application pack, please contact:
Isla Coleman, TACT Oban, Dunollie Halls, Dunollie Road, Oban PA34 5PH
Telephone Number: 01631 571311

Closing date for applications: Friday 1st June 2007

Enhanced Disclosure Checks will be carried out on successful applicants. TACT is an equal opportunities employer.

To find out more about living and working in argyll & bute visit us @ **www.argyll-bute.gov.uk**

Argyll & Bute COUNCIL

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer
A 'no smoking' policy is operated

Mechanic

£276.65 per week **Mid-Argyll**

There are vacancies for a mechanic in Lochgilphead, Oban and Campbeltown. The position also attracts a bonus which is paid on all hours worked. You will be required to inspect, service and repair vehicles and plant in the workshop and on site ensuring that the work is completed to the required standards. You will also be required to drive vehicles when necessary, complete vehicle documentation and be available for callout on a standby rota throughout the year.

You must have a City & Guilds qualification in vehicle repair or equivalent. Experience including inspections, servicing and repair of light and heavy commercial vehicles is essential as is a driving license. **Ref: OSF00022.**

For a recruitment pack call 01546 604658.

Driver/Escort*

£6.21 per hour
20 hours per week **Lochgilphead**

To transport school children as required to and from educational establishments within the time bands advised by the department. You must possess a minimum of 3 Standard Grades (Level 1, 2 or 3) or equivalent qualifications/experience. A valid driving licence is required. **Ref: CSE66250/R.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 70 8546.

Mobile Cleaning Supervisor*^

£6.6089 per hour
10 hours per week **Lochgilphead**

Working under the direction of the Area Manager, you will take responsibility for a number of specified premises. Within each premise you will be responsible, through a Supervisor (where applicable) for ensuring the standard of cleanliness is achieved as per the contract specification. **Ref: OSF20987.**

For a recruitment pack call 01369 708563.

Closing date for all posts: Friday 1 June 2007.

*Applicants should note that this is an EXCEPTED POST, i.e. a post to which the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exclusions and Exceptions) (Scotland) Order 2003 applies.

Successful applicants will be subject to Disclosure Scotland vetting.

This post is subject to vetting under the POCSA 2003.

^This is a temporary post which may be filled on a secondment basis by an employee wishing to gain experience/career development and will be at the discretion of the employee's Director.

This position is exempt from the 'Sex Discrimination Act 1975' under section 7(2)(e).

The Council is currently undergoing a Job Evaluation process. Further details are available with the application pack for posts covered by the Job Evaluation exercise.

The Council welcomes applications from New Deal Applicants.

OBAN CALEDONIAN
THE OBAN CALEDONIAN HOTEL

The Oban Caledonian Hotel, part of Folio Hotels group currently have full and **part time vacancies available** in **Food and Beverage**.

If interested, please contact Marina Harris on 01631 563 133

Scottish Sea Farms

Marine Husbandry Personnel
Loch Spelve, Isle of Mull

Scottish Sea Farms have a vacancy for motivated and enthusiastic marine husbandry personnel. You should be able to demonstrate competence across a range of skills required to farm Atlantic Salmon of the highest quality. These will include stock appetite assessment, fish health monitoring, sea-lice monitoring, feeding system and boat maintenance, the promotion of occupational health and a keen attention to site security.

A job description and company background can be obtained by contacting Claire Scott on 01786 445521 and quoting the reference above. If you're still impressed, please send your CV and cover letter, setting out how your skills and talent will improve our operations, to claire.scott@scottishseafarms.com by **Monday 28th May 2007.**

ENNSTONE THISTLE

LGV Drivers (Concrete Bowser + Tipper Class I or 2)

Due to increased work load we have vacancies for LGV drivers in the Furnace area. You will be required to deliver asphalt, aggregate and ready-mix concrete.

- Experience in these fields would be desirable, but training will be given.
- These permanent positions are covered by the Working Time Regulations and include a generous remuneration package.
- Travelling expenses will be considered.

Please write or e-mail CV and covering letter to:
Rosemary Morrison rosemary.morrison@ennstonethistle.co.uk
Customer Services & Transport Manager
Ennstone Thistle Ltd, Dunbeg, By Oban PA37 1PX

STORVIK

Storvik is a leading global supplier of equipment to the aquaculture industry with offices in Norway, Chile and the UK, and due to our continued expansion we have a vacancy within in our service and support team based within our facility in Lochgilphead, Argyll.

This position requires the ability to work with your own initiative providing support and back up for all products within our range.

The person would preferably be of an electronic or aquaculture based back ground although neither is essential. This position requires a lot of flexibility, with travel both national and international. You must have a desire to meet client demands, maintain a good relationship with our customers on all levels, and have a desire to deliver a very high quality of workmanship. Good communication and basic IT skills are a must for this position and a full driving licence is essential.

Please apply in writing with a full CV to:-

STORVIK, Kilmory Industrial Estate, Lochgilphead, Argyll, PA31 8RR

If you require more details please email – info@storvik.co.uk

Only successful applicants will be contacted for an interview.

Closing date:- 15th June 2007

SCOTTISH SEA LIFE SANCTUARY
OBAN · ARGYLL

Our small friendly team is looking for seasonal workers for both full time and part time positions. We are looking for people who are happy to work in our catering, retail and front of house areas. There is also the possibility of working closer alongside the Animal Care Team during the summer months as a Talks Person who will be in the Displays area talking to the customers.

For all positions that are available no experience is required but it is desirable.

For more information please contact Claire Rowlands on 01631 720386

S IS FOR SMART MOVE

TEMPORARY RETAIL SALES ADVISOR

20 HOURS PER WEEK
CAMPBELTOWN
SALARY CIRCA £15,000 OTE (PRO RATA)

Join one of the largest energy companies in the UK as a Retail Sales Advisor and realise your true potential. As part of our retail team you will sell all the latest brands and technology on the high street.

If you have the drive and enthusiasm to succeed and a passion for delivering excellent customer service, we have the career for you.

In return, we can offer:

- Excellent earning potential
- Full training
- Generous annual leave entitlement
- Company pension scheme
- Share incentive scheme

To apply, please call our recruitment team on 01738 453775 to request an application form, quoting reference RE/07/13. Closing date for applications is Friday, 1st June 2007.

SWALEC · Southern Electric · Scottish Hydro Electric · Atlantic Electric and Gas · Scottish and Southern Energy

SCOTTISH AND SOUTHERN ENERGY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

ATAM SERVICES LTD
HIRE · SALES · REPAIR

Has the following vacancies

Experienced Fitter/Mechanic

required to maintain and repair our hire fleet in busy plant and tool hire shop. Excellent rate of pay for right person.

Counter Assistant/General Assistant

to serve customers, requires good telephone manner, flexible person required with an interest in tools and machinery with a willingness to learn new skills. At least 5 standard grade passes preferred.

To apply for either post please write in your own handwriting giving details of qualifications and any past experience to

Mrs F Cruickshanks
Atam Services Ltd
1 Mill Lane, Lochavullin Industrial Estate
Oban PA34 4HA
Please include a daytime contact number

LOCHGILPHEAD Medical Centre

A temporary vacancy has arisen at the above Practice for a **receptionist** to cover maternity leave. This is a part-time post (18.5 hours) and will last for 1 year. No previous experience is necessary but the applicant should have keyboard skills, be able to work under pressure and show a willingness and ability to learn new skills. Training will be provided. Salary will be £12,895 pro rata.

Please contact **Muriel Miller on 01546 462002** for a job description and application form.

The closing date for applications is **22nd June 2007.**

R&B NEISH CONTRACTS
LANDSCAPING SERVICES

LABOUR/ MACHINE OPERATOR

Duties to include; grass cutting and general garden maintenance, hard and soft landscaping labour and machine work. Experience with machinery and driving licence required.

07821582742
01866833292

CAMKEN CONTRACTORS

We currently have vacancies for experienced

MACHINE OPERATORS
LABOURERES AND FOREMEN

For further information
Telephone
01397 772225

Oban Times RECRUITMENT
Oban Times RECRUITMENT

Part-time Play Leader

required for
Stepping-Stones Nursery

Applicant must have an HNC or SVQ3 in Childcare and be willing to undergo an Enhanced Disclosure in line with current legislation.

Tel: 01631 566051 for Application Pack

Housekeeper Wanted

Self-catering property
Saturdays only from June.

Must be mature, reliable, thorough, trustworthy.

Previous experience preferred although not essential.

Good pay for right person.
Call 01436 670805

LOCHABER College UHI

Lochaber College UHI – Finance Administrator

- Excellent opportunity for a Finance Administrator within the Finance Department of Lochaber College
- Role includes maintenance of accurate company accounts and management of sales/purchase accounts, banking, salaries, VAT and petty cash
- Additional duties include project administration, purchase order management and production of management information as required
- Previous experience and working knowledge of Sage 50 is essential

Salary £14k – £17k, depending on experience
Permanent and Full Time position

Contact Lochaber College UHI for a full job description and application form.

Alternatively, call Alan Ashworth on 01397 874 240 for an informal chat regarding the position.

Closing date for applications is Friday 25th May
Lochaber College UHI, An Aird,
Fort William, PH33 6AN
T: **01397 874 000**, F: **01397 874 001**

TWEEDDALE MEDICAL PRACTICE

PRACTICE NURSES - BAND 5/6
PERMANENT POSTS

You will work as part of a team of nurses, health care assistants and General Practitioners.

The successful applicant will join an ambitious, education orientated primary care team who will soon be working out of a state of the art primary care health centre.

The nurse will be an integral part of developing the practice for the challenges of delivering enhanced and high quality services in a community setting.

Salary grading dependant upon qualifications & experience. Hours will be up to 35 per week. Full time, job share and child friendly hours will be considered. A job description and application form is available from the administration manager. Full training will be provided. Please enclose a current CV with application.

Address until 24th May -
Mrs Diane Falconer
Admin Manager
Tweeddale Medical Practice
Tweeddale Buildings
High Street
Fort William
PH33 6EU
Tel 01397 703136

Address from 25th May -
Mrs Diane Falconer
Admin Manager
Tweeddale Medical Practice
Fort William Health Centre
Camaghael
Fort William
PH33 7AQ
Tel 01397 703136

Closing date for applications – 1st June 2007

Stalker and Housekeeper

Enthusiastic couple required for the Home Beat on Letterewe Estate, Wester Ross.

Letterewe offers the opportunity to live and work on a traditional family run estate where we use deer ponies to extract deer.

Stalking is a combination of family and let weeks. The lodge is also let from time to time throughout the summer providing part-time employment as housekeeper to stalkers partner.

Successful applicants should have clean driving licences and experience with boats would be an advantage.

Good house and remuneration.

Applications in writing, with references to Barbara MacDonald, Letterewe, Loch Maree, Achnasheen, Ross-shire. IV22 2HH

Stewart Hotel Duror

Require the following staff

Chef
Breakfast Chef

Live in available
Pay negotiable dependent on experience
The above are full time permanent positions.

Please telephone
01631 740 268
or email info@stewarthotel.com

NORTH ARGYLL HOUSE
Bealach an Righ, Oban *Care Home for the Elderly*

Has a vacancy for a Part Time

Care Assistant

Experience not necessary
as full training given
£6.09 up to £6.65 per hour
Dependent on qualifications.
Generous holiday entitlement and pension

Please contact Manager
Morag Telfer 01631 562168
Closing date Monday 28 May

Oban Filling Station

Require staff for their **hot food takeaway** counter
Food hygiene certificate preferred but not essential.
Good rates of pay
7am till 3pm
Please telephone **01631 566453** for further details

Labourers and Plant Operators

180° and 360° required immediately, driving licence essential
Good rates of pay

Apply Mellex Plant **07887610080** or **01880 820242** (evenings)

LOOKING FOR NEW STAFF?

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

Be seen by over 40,000 readers

Tel: 01631 568000

SAY you SAW it in

The Oban Times & West Highland Times

Tel: 01631 568000

www.obantimes.co.uk

OSSIANS CARE HOME

North Connel

Has the following vacancies:

LAUNDRY ASSISTANT
DOMESTIC ASSISTANT

32.5 hours/week 5 days from 7
Pay rate £5.60/hr

For further information please contact Pat Young on 01631 710322

sorted by m@ndy

Are you interested in providing occasional cover to a variety of businesses in the Mid Argyll and Kintyre area?

If you are qualified and capable of working on your own initiative to deliver a high quality service please contact Mandy Crompton.

Hours negotiable.

Tel: 01546 870677

Email: info@sortedbymandy.co.uk
www.sortedbymandy.co.uk

MUNRO'S OF OBAN

Lochavullin Industrial Estate, Oban PA34 4PL

Require
Time Served Mechanic

In the first instance please write or e-mail to Calum or Neil at **munrosofoban@aol.com** to arrange an interview.

VOLVO BOOSTS UK RANGE WITH FOUR NEW MODELS

FlexiFuel versions of Volvo C30, S40, V50 and all new V70
Broadest bioethanol range in the UK

Volvo is launching four all-new, innovative models into the UK to reinforce the company's long-standing commitment to environmental care and its desire to extend customer choice.

FlexiFuel engines that run on E85 bioethanol fuel1 are now available to order in the C30 SportsCoupe, S40 saloon and V50 Sportswagon, with first customer deliveries in July. A FlexiFuel engine will also be introduced in the all new Volvo V70 estate, arriving in the UK before the end of the year.

As a renewable fuel, bioethanol is better for the environment than traditional fuels2, emitting up to 80% less fossil carbon dioxide emissions than petrol. Offering FlexiFuel in four separate models – more than any other manufacturer – puts Volvo at the forefront of eco-friendly driving in the UK.

"We're proud to be one of the first car companies in the UK to be offering FlexiFuel models," said Stuart Kerr, managing director, Volvo Car UK. "Bioethanol reduces man's dependency on fossil fuels and Volvo's FlexiFuel programme makes a vital contribution to the company's strategy of environmental sustainability."

The Volvo C30 SportsCoupe, S40 saloon and V50 Sportswagon FlexiFuel models are based on the 1.8-litre, four-cylinder normally aspirated petrol engine producing 125PS, with five-speed manual transmission. The V70 FlexiFuel will be powered with a 145PS four-cylinder petrol unit. The FlexiFuel range will start at just £17,795 for the C30 1.8F SE3.

Based on the current refuelling infrastructure4 and lack of Government incentives for E85 as an alternative fuel, Volvo recognises that demand in the UK for its FlexiFuel models is limited. Globally, Volvo Cars predicts sales of 7,000 FlexiFuel cars in 2007. Most are expected to be sold in Sweden, with the UK accounting for 50-100 units.

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V AUDI A3, 1.6 AUTO, WHITE	£3950

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WAIT NEARLY OVER AS SKODA'S NEW FABIA HITS SHOWROOMS

Stunning Fabia hatchback goes on sale on the 17th May
Prices start at £7,990 for the entry-level 1.2 petrol model

It's the day we've all been waiting for! Skoda's New Fabia will be on sale from the 17th May, with seven engines, three trim levels and lots of 'lovely stuff' to tempt British buyers.

Prices start at £7,990 for the 1.2-litre Fabia 1 model and range up to £13,015 for the 105bhp 1.9-litre TDI PD Fabia 3. Insurance groupings start at a lowly group 1 for the former and rise to group 4 for the latter.

Trim levels are simply named 1, 2 and 3; with even base models benefiting from generous amounts of standard kit. For example, the Fabia 1 gets dual front and side airbags, ABS, central locking, electric front windows and an immobiliser as standard.

Not only is the New Fabia great value for money and 'full of lovely stuff', but it's also doing its bit for the environment. The 1.4-litre TDI PD (80bhp) model produces just 120g/km of CO2 emissions. Elsewhere in the range, the 70bhp 1.4-litre TDI PD produces 127g/km and the 1.9-litre TDI PD 129g/km.

The Fabia has been a huge success since the launch of the first generation model in 2000. More than 1.5 million have been built in that time with over 130,000 finding happy homes with buyers here in the UK. This popularity looks set to continue with the new model.

The world premiere of the new Škoda Fabia took place at the Geneva Motor Show in March 2007. Estate versions of the new car are due to come to Britain in early 2008. Until then production of current estate will continue.

NEW CAR INDEX

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52 Plate, Recently serviced, mot'd Dec, full leather interior, power steering, electric windows, AC, good condition, alloy wheels and sunroof.

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1.7LS TDI, Navy blue 53 plate, turbo diesel, 39700 miles FSH, 6months Tax, MOT until November, vgc

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£4825 2

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1996, N reg, 7 seater, Taxed and MOT Feb, 2008, blue over silver, excellent runner and excellent condition for age, first to see will buy, still cheap rate tax

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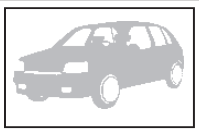
Telephone: (01369) 706568 or 07831 386601

£7950 o.n.o. 2

NISSAN ALMERA



1.5, Y reg, 5 door hatch-back, Blue, 40,000 miles,1 year MOT, taxed end of May, central locking, FSH

Telephone: 01397 704311

£2,950 o.n.o. 2

ROVER 214 SI

R Reg, Red with alloy wheels, excellent condition, Only 40,000 miles, Taxed + mot

Telephone: 01770 302394 (after 6pm) 07884 314219

£1200 o.n.o. 2

LANDROVER TD5 DEFENDER

2001, MOT and Tax, Mint Condition

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FORD GALAXY 1.9 TDI

£3200 o.v.n.o

R Reg (97), White, 71,000 genuine miles. Mot Mar '08, Tax end June '07. Manual gears. Genuine Ford seat covers fitted since new. 7 seater. Kenwood stereo. Excellent condition for year. Must be seen.

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1.5 diesel 1997 R Reg Tax June 2007 MOT January 2008 77,000 miles

£600 o.n.o.

Tel: 01546 602359

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87 E Reg, mot April 08, taxed Sept, service history, leather, electric windows, power steering, cd player, lovely original car. Never been owned by boy racer.

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£700

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T10BAN

DETAILS TELEPHONE: 01764 652737

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Tel: 01880 820230 or 07774 001508

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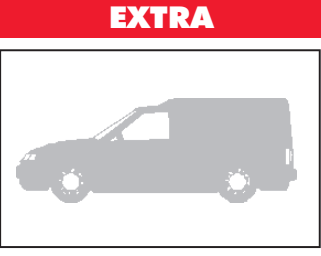
2.8TD, Automatic, R reg, MOT Aug, 06, Full Electrics, Good all round condition

£3,800 o.n.o. 2

Tel: 07772 837108 (Fort William)

RENAULT EXTRA



£900 o.n.o

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HONDA CBF600SA

£3000 o.v.n.o.

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1991 • 4 in 1

Forks • Extra hoe,

5 buckets • low hours,

Good condition

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£4950 o.n.o.

2001, 50,500 miles, 1 year MOT, 4 new tyres, Metallic green, Full leather heated seats, Cruise control, Climate control, PAS, ABS, Plus many extras

Tel: 01880 820707 / 07880 902178

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£1400 o.n.o. 2

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£9950 o.n.o.

2001, Navy Blue, 62,000 miles, tax July 2007, mot Jan2008, immaculate condition, 7 seats, t-bar, 18" alloys, cd changer, AC,CC.

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2000 model, MOTd and taxed, road wheels and tyres plus offroad wheels and tyres, can be set up for either, vgc, good fun bike

£1800 o.n.o.

Tel: 07796 752974 or 01631 564809

VAUXHALL CORSA MERIT

M reg, 3 dr hatchback, 1196 cc, body kit, alloy wheels, 126,000 miles, no mot, no tax.

£500

Tel: 01586 552205 (after 2pm) 2

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2 door 72,000, P reg electric windows/sun-roof, p/steering, central locking, 1 years mot, 4 moths tax, cd player, drives like new.

Telephone: 07881 914810

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RANGE ROVER for spare or repair, Classic 3.5 EFI, mot failure, good tyres/exhaust, good off road or parts, £200 ono. Telephone 01631 562239.

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ELECTRIC COOKER (Electra), in good working condition, buyer collects, £45. Telephone 01631 564107 (after 6pm).

ELECTROLUX WORK top fridge 18" (w) x 21" (h), £25. Telephone 01880 820860.

FRIDGE FREEZER, white, as new, £45. Telephone 01631 570062.

LEC FRIDGE under worktop height, excellent condition, £49 Telephone 01546 600309 (evening).

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TRICITY PRINCE electric cooker, 4 rings, grill and oven, cream/brown, vgc, £49.99. Telephone 01631 566008 after 6pm.

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COCKER PUPS for sale, off working parents, 6 black, 3 black and white, KC reg, £400. Telephone 01496 302218 Islay.

COLLIE PUPS for sale, Lismore. Telephone 01631 760204.

3 GLASS vivariums 1 x 2ft and 2 x 4ft, needing TLC, £35 for the lot. Telephone 01880 820237.

SPRINGER SPANIEL Pups KC Reg, excellent pedigree with many FTC, both parents working, can be seen at home. Telephone 01546 603650 or 07810 432586.²

SPRINGER SPANIEL pups, due to timewasters, ready now. Telephone 01866 844311.²

DOORS

WHITE INTERIOR doors, buyer removes, good condition, £10. Telephone 01631 571252.

EQUESTRIAN

2 HORSE trailer, Bahill, 17½ h, needs 4 tyres, tlc, offers. Telephone 01631 710482.

FIREARMS

ANSCHUTZ .22 RIMFIRE rifle with carry case and 3 gun cabinet, (FAC required), £150. Telephone 07899 903419.

BRONO 270 complete with scope, FAC only, £300 ono. Telephone 07919 004284.

FURNITURE

BLUE VELOUR 2 seater single metal action sofa bed, £45. Telephone 07836 651906.

CHEST OF drawers, pine, 5 drawer, vgc, £30. Telephone 01631 564027.

CHEST OF drawers, pine, 6 drawer, gvc, £40. Telephone 01631 564027.

DARK OAK tea trolley, 75 x 36cm extending to 80cm, 2 lower shelves, 1 drawer, £24. Telephone 01852 300294.

DOUBLE WARDROBE, G plan, dark wood, easily assembled, very good condition, £40 ono. Telephone 01631 564107 (after 6pm).

RED LEATHER sofa, Ikea Clippan, new, £250. Double bed frame with night stands, antique brass finish, new, £75. Telephone 07887 513286.

ROUND TABLE and four chairs, £30. Telephone 01631 730341.

SMALL PINE coloured wooden folding kitchen table, £25. Telephone 01631 563935.

THREE SEATER sofa and armchair, needs recovering, otherwise ok, £49.99 ono. Telephone 01397 772447 after 6pm.

TWO SEATER leather sofa, blue, £49.99. Telephone 07825 558818 after 6pm.

FOUR WOODEN chairs, new, £15. Telephone 01856 830639.

WOODEN ROUND table, 103cms diameter, in excellent condition, £45. Telephone 01586 830639.

FOR SALE
Very good condition furniture, garden equipment and sundries.
Buyer collects.
Telephone 07771 563877 or Telephone 01631 789020 or Telephone 01631 564348 or
Email: idgh2003@yahoo.co.uk
(can supply list)²

CONCRETE GARAGE

SINGLE CONCRETE section garage (walls only), 19' x 11'6" x 6'6" high, needs to be dismantled and removed, available free. Telephone 01583 441181 or 07867 928989 (Tayinloan).

GARDEN EQUIPMENT

CLEAR GLASS cloche approx 70cm high, antique, £25. Telephone 01546 600123.

COUNTAX SIT-ON mower, 42" cut, still in use, needs tlc, £250. Telephone 01631 740277.

LAWN MOWER, electric cylinder ATCO Windsor, 14" superior machine, top condition, cost £350 new, £49. Telephone 01631 564215.

RIDE ON tractor mower, Kawasaki engine, £400 ono. Telephone 01866 822373 after 6pm.

GREYHOUNDS

The Retired Greyhound Trust have beautiful dogs and bitches suitable for adoption. These dogs are fully vaccinated and spayed/neutered. If you feel you coul'd offer one of these ex-racers a home please contact Northern Division on 01470 511705 or 01463 235696. The RGT is a registered charity No 269668. A donation is required. Look forward to hearing from you.

HOME FURNISHINGS

DOUBLE BED candlewick cover, roses on white background, £20 ono. Telephone 01631 564784.

MAIL ORDER

SCOTTISH FIELD CALENDARS, featuring spectacular photography of some of our most scenic lochs, rivers, beaches and mountains. Always a popular gift for family and friends at home or abroad. Order on-line at www.scottishfield.co.uk/calendar 2007.

OBAN TIMES WEST HIGHLAND CALENDAR fabulous views of the West Highlands portrayed in this handy and conveniently sized calendar. Ideal for home offices or as a gift. Order on-line at www.obantimes.co.uk/calendar 2007.

It pays to advertise in The ObanTimes

MISCELLANEOUS

WOODEN LADDERS, 12 feet, £40. Telephone 01546 606085.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

SHAND MORINO 3 row accordion. Telephone 01546 870 221.

OFFICE EQUIPMENT

ELECTRIC TYPEWRITER, 'Sterling' vgc, £35 ono. Telephone 01631 566363.

FILING CABINET, nearly new, solid light oak, 2 drawers, bargain £49.99. Telephone 01631 710380.²

METAL FILING cabinet, 3 drawers, lockable, 40" x 18" x 24" including fool scap suspension files, £25. Telephone 01631 562312.

OIL TANK

TITAN 1225 HEATING oil tank, with oil watchman, £150, buyer uplifts, Campbeltown. Telephone 07899 903419.

PRAWN CREELS

140 SECOND HAND, bound prawn creels, £1,400 plus VAT ono. Telephone 07900 604728.²

PRINTERS AND STATIONERY

MULTIPURPOSE PAPER - For use on all copiers, laser and inkjet printers. Also available coloured paper and board sizes to order. Contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

WRITING PAPER & envelopes - Personalised and matching, an ideal present, contact Krisp Printing & Stationery, Burnbank, Campbeltown. Telephone 01586 554975.

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

EXERCISE TREADMILL, manual, £30. Telephone 01546 606085.

SWIMMING POOL

FAST SET 12ft diameter, as new with filter pump, £45 ono. Telephone 01631 770201.

TELEPHONES

BT FREE style 65 combined cordless telephone and digital answering machine with a BT free style additional cordless handset and charger. Still boxed, unwanted gift. £45 ono Telephone 07796 473265.

VK570 purple flip mobile phone, still boxed with accessories, good working order, £25.99 Telephone 07796 473265.

TICKETS

EIGHT TICKETS for 'The Saw Doctors', on 25th May in Campbeltown, only £15 per ticket, were, £20 each. Telephone 07789 883248.

TOYS AND GAMES

CHILDS BATTERY operated motorboke, age 5-11 years, £30. Telephone 07785 702848.

PS1 GAMES CONSOLE with 2 controllers, memory card, steering wheel and games, £45 ono. Telephone 07796 473265.

TRAILER

CAR BOX trailer, 5ft 6" x 4ft new tyres and bearings, lighting equipment, good condition. £170. Telephone 01631 566938.

SINGLE MOTOR cycle trailer, brand new, cost over £300 sell, £170. Telephone 01631 566938.

WALLPAPER

COLROLL LUXURY textured wallpaper, beige, washable, sunlight fast sealed in pack, 4 rolls, (cost £24), £4 Telephone 01631 720369.

WANTED

FIBREGLASS CANOE (not Kayak), suitable for 3 or 4 people. Telephone 01583 431787.

STAG MINSTREL single wardrobe, good condition only. Kintyre. Apply with details to box no. 4331.²

PERSONALS

HAPPY 18TH SCOTT

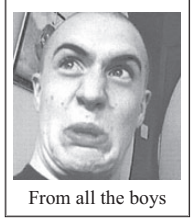
Love from Mum, Dad, Craig and Ross xxxx

PERSONALS

Frances and all at Richmond Fellowship Scotland, would like to thank everyone who has been involved with Richmond Fellowship Scotland over the past 5 years. We would like to thank all the staff, other agencies, and the community for all the support given and the dreams achieved. We wish everyone success in their new ventures and a fond farewell.

ALEX MACMILLAN would like to thank all those who joined him in Taynuilt Hotel to celebrate his 60th birthday, for all the wonderful gifts and cards. Thanks also to Taynuilt Hotel for their excellent buffet and Neil and Sheila Sinclair for providing superb music and entertainment.

HAPPY 21ST MACLEAN



From all the boys

Photographic Orders

You can now order photographs published in this newspaper

8x6 photograph: £3.75 + vat
10x8 photograph: £5.75 + vat

Order from the relevant offices by filling in the coupon below, quoting the code, shown alongside the picture

Name
Address

Picture Code	Date of Paper	8x6 No. of copies (£4.45 per photograph (inc. vat))	10x8 No. of copies (£6.76 per photograph (inc. vat))
TOTAL			

Payment can be made in cash or by cheque. (cheques to be made out to The Oban Times)
Please add £1.00 to your total order if you require delivery of your photographs to cover postage and packing

Please send/bring your order to:

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The Oban Times, Mamore House, Fort William, PH33 6BA, Tel: 01397 703003
Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Campbeltown, PA28 6AE, Tel: 01586 554646
Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead PA31 8NB, Tel: 01546 602345

TURN YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS INTO CASH!

UNDER £50 FREE!

To advertise here's what you do:-

IN PERSON - Fill in the booking form below. Call into one of our four West Highland sales offices with your advert and one of our sales team will take your details. - Your advert will appear in the next available issues of The Oban Times, Argyllshire Advertiser and Campbeltown Courier guaranteeing more than 40,000 readers.

BY POST - Fill in the booking form below and send it with your details to our Oban office.

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS - • Only 1 item per coupon • No cars or parts • No boats or parts • No livestock • No business ads or traders • All adverts will appear space permitting • All advertisements must be on a valid coupon • Coupon must be from the previous weeks newspaper

Name
Address
Postcode Tel

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:
OBAN : The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
FORT WILLIAM : The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA
CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE
LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

SELL YOUR ITEMS WORTH £50 OR MORE FOR AS LITTLE AS £12.93

You could have just what our 40,000 readers are looking for!

You can sell those items that you no longer need for just £12.93 for up to 16 words, £15.28 for up to 20 words £17.63 for up to 24 words or £19.98 for up to 28 words

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BY POST - Fill in the booking form below and send it with your booking fee and details to our Oban office.

BY PHONE - Call 01631 568000 and ask for "Private Classifieds".

PLEASE NOTE: DEADLINE MONDAY 4.00pm

TO ADVERTISERS - No trade advertisers in private sales - All boats, cars & trailers must appear in Drive Times (see coupon on motors page for details

Pay by cash, cheque, Postal Order, or Credit Card payable to "The Oban Times Ltd"

Card No. Expiry Date..... Signature.....
Name
Address
Postcode Tel

YOUR LOCAL WEST HIGHLAND OFFICES:
OBAN : The Oban Times, PO Box 1, Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB
FORT WILLIAM : The Oban Times, Mamore House, The Parade, Fort William PH33 6BA
CAMPBELTOWN : The Campbeltown Courier, Courier Centre, Main & Longrow South, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6AE
LOCHGILPHEAD : Argyllshire Advertiser, Argyll Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8NB

If you don't sell your Paid For Classified in the first week, we will insert your advert FREE in the next available issue

LOCAL services

Tel: 01631 568000
THE *place to be seen*

• CARAVANS

CARAVANS FOR SALE
Off-park Sales
Suitable for: House Builds - Staff Accommodation Temporary Accommodation - Holiday Hire etc.
TRANSPORT ARRANGED
Contact: ROBERT McCREADY, MCC CARAVANS
Glen Dochart Caravan Park, Luib, Crianlarich
Tel: 01567 820 637 Mob: 07831 853394
Wish to SELL? We also BUY!

STATIC CARAVANS FOR SALE FROM AS LITTLE AS £1,500
Multiple uses include: Extra Living Accommodation Self-build Accommodation - B & B Accommodation, Holiday Homes - Storage - Offices
NEW STATIC CARAVANS AVAILABLE
Transport can be arranged
Contact Keith at Drimsynie Estates on 07768 647180 or 01301 703457

Static Caravans For Sale
View online at: www.mccallumscaravans.co.uk
New and Used
Largest Choice Available
Transport to all West Coast Islands
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Tel: 01631 567439
Email: munrosofoban@aol.com

• COUNSELLING

Argyll and Bute WOMEN'S AID
Offers information and support and refuge (if needed) to women and children (if any) who have been or are being abused by their partner/ ex partner
Telephone:
08702 413548
This is a confidential service

• DOMESTIC REPAIRS

your Local service
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Spares and Repairs
for all makes of domestic and commercial appliances
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REGISTERED FIREARMS DEALER
Gun-storage and sale of ammunition
Ford by Lochgilphead
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Tel: 01546 810265

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New Ebay Profits
- Secrets Revealed
Learn what others only wish they knew
Ebay profits 2007
Is the only resource you need to make
Huge Profits on Ebay
Thousands and thousands of people like you use Ebay as a major source of income
Full report at
www.completeebayguide.me.uk

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Television Repair & installation
Car CD/Radio Supplied & fitted
Car Hands Free Kits Supplied & Fitted
SYNAPSE ELECTRONICS
Telephone:
01631 565055

• GARDENING

GENERAL garden tidy up - fencing, grass cutting, hedge cutting, house painting.
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Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

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KITCHENS
Kitchens made from Real Wood, no chipboard used Solid Oak, framed Shaker Kitchen on Real Wood, cabinets with Real Granite worktops. S/S Multifunction Oven & Hob, Sink, Tap & extra's. Boxed and guaranteed.
Cost £6000
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Full Vaccination Required
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FREE MOBIL PHONES, free connection. For best deals telephone your local dealer Q5 on 01866 833374

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SPINNAKER CAFE
BUFFETS
Now catering for buffets of any size
Competitive prices to suit individual requirements
All buffets can be delivered within Oban area
For a personal consultation with no obligation come and have a chat with Rosie or Tony
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Plant Hire and Civil Engineering Contractors
Free, no obligation quotes given.
No job too large or small
Wide range of Plant available for self-drive or with qualified operators
Very competitive rates
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Email: jamesbooth@aol.com

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ARGYLL PONDS & DRIVEWAYS
Specialists in designing and laying Monoblock Driveways
Specialists in creating Ponds and Water Features
All types of Hard Landscaping undertaken Patios, Walling, Paths
Also Decking styled to your requirments.
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Mobile 07747748131

Oban Times TRADE CLASSIFIED

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Need Curtains or Blinds?
We Measure, Design, Supply and Install
Many Samples to Choose From
Contact us on
Tel/Fax 01631 710713
Or e-mail info@stitchnine.co.uk

• PLUMBING & HEATING

We install and maintain plumbing systems
We install and maintain all types of central heating
We maintain all types of boilers
We install underfloor heating systems
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Plumbing & Heating Contractors
Unit 8 Tweedmill
Soroba Road
Oban Argyll
Tel: 01631 565635
Fax 01631 564724
Email Information @jmgillies.co.uk

• REMOVALS & STORAGE

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Removals and Storage
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Oban, Argyll
PA34 4HG
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Fax: (01631) 570627
e-mail: info@macqueenbros.com

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WS1600 Wireless Weather Station
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25 day History - WS1600 £99.95 (incls VAT & P+P)
Full catalogue of weather stations on request
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Tel: 01929 426400 Fax: 05600 760315
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Surgery and Care
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For sales of quality brands of garden machinery, mowers, ride-ons, strimmers etc.
Repairs & servicing all makes
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The Oban Times PREPAID ADVERTISING RATES

Private Classifieds Lineage Rates
Minimum charge £11.00 + VAT (up to 16 words) thereafter £2.00 per line
Box Number Fee £4.50 (+VAT)
Births, Engagements, Marriages, Deaths and Acknowledgments
Minimum charge £10.00 (+VAT) thereafter £2.00 per line (+VAT)
In Memoriam:
Minimum charge £5.95 (+VAT) thereafter £1.50 per line (+VAT)
Trade Classifieds:
See Trade Classified Page for Rates
Trade Display:
£8.40 per single column centimetre
Recruitment:
£14.85 per single column centimetre
Public Notices:
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£9.10 per single column centemeter
(all rates exclusive of VAT)
Personals:
£6.10 per single column centimetre
Payment: Pre-payment required for advertisements of less than £50 (excluding death notices)
Please make cheques and postal orders payable to **The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban, Argyll, PA34 4HB www.obantimes.couk**

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YOUR attention is drawn to the following terms and conditions which relate to the placing of advertisements in all publications owned by The Oban Times Limited.
Parties to this agreement are the Publisher, The Oban Times Limited on the one part and the Advertiser on the other part. The Publisher publishes newspapers, magazines, books and provides advertising space therein or provides for the delivery of advertising materials to the public within these publications.
1 Advertising copy shall be legal, decent, honest and truthful and comply with the British Code of Advertising Practice and all other codes.
2 The Publisher does not guarantee the insertion of any particular advertisement.
3 The Publisher reserves the right to cancel or alter the advertisement by giving reasonable notice.
4 An order for an advertisement shall be deemed to be made on acceptance of the advertisers' order by the Publisher whether placed by telephone, mail, fax or in person.
5 Cancellation of display advertising must be received by the Publisher before the publishing deadline, failing which, the publisher reserves the right to invoice the customer in full for the whole cost of the advertisement.
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7 The Publisher shall not be liable for any loss or damage occasioned by any total or partial failure (however caused) of publication or distribution of any newspaper or edition in which any advertisement is scheduled to appear. In the event of any error, misprint or omission in the printing of an advertisement or part of an advertisement, the Publisher will either re-insert the advertisement or relevant part of the advertisement, as the case may be, or make reasonable refund or adjustment to the cost. No re-insertion, refund or adjustment will be made where the error, misprint or omission does not materially detract from the advertisement.
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9 The Advertiser/Advertising Agency agrees to indemnify the Publisher in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the publication as the result of legal actions or threatened legal actions arising from the publication of the advertisement in any one or more of a series of advertisements published in accordance with copy instructions supplied to the publication in pursuance of the Advertiser/Advertising Agency order.
10 Adverts under the value of £75 must be paid on acceptance of order by the Publisher. All advertising on a credit basis must be agreed with the Publisher in advance.
11 Payment of any invoice raised by the Publisher will be due 15 days from the date of invoice or as otherwise directed on the invoice. In the event of non-payment the Publisher may charge late payment interest at a rate of 2% and this is chargeable on a daily basis from the due date until the bill is paid. In addition the Publisher may charge a late payment levy of £10 as an administration fee. In the event of late payment the Publisher reserves the right to disallow any discounts given and to raise an additional invoice for the discount which will be treated as though it has been raised with the original invoice.
12 A request to insert an advertisement assumes acceptance of our conditions.

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THE OBAN TIMES & West Highland Times

THE REGIONAL NEWSPAPER FOR THE WEST HIGHLANDS, ISLANDS AND ARGYLL

The Oban Times is the best-selling weekly newspaper in the Highlands and is distributed via 1742 newsagents every week

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Lochgilphead
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Fax (01546) 602661
Campbeltown
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Fax (01586) 553006

BIRTHS

IRVINE - Andrew and Stephanie are delighted to announce the arrival of their daughter Lilian Vaila, born April 12, 2007. Sincere thanks to Oban Maternity and Paisley Royal Alexandra Hospital for terrific care and support.

McCOLL - MURRAY - Steven and Morven are delighted to announce the safe arrival of Duncan Jay born May 4, 2007 first grandchild for Robin and the late Madeline McColl, Ardranach, Benderloch and first grandson for Andrew and Susan Murray, New Ollerton, Nottinghamshire. Thanks to all involved at Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley and a sincere and special thanks to all midwives at Oban Maternity.

McCOWAN - At Rotorua, New Zealand on May 7, 2007 to Campbell and Jodene, a son, Kit Andy, another grandchild for Andrew and Christeen McCowan, Islay and Houston and a wee cousin for Isla and Struan, Edinburgh.

MARRIAGES

CORMACK - ROBSON - At Alloway Parish Church and after at Brigadoon House on May 5, 2007, Claire Christine, youngest daughter of Isabel and George and granddaughter of the late Mr and Mrs Wm Ferguson, Dunmor, North Connel, to Kenneth Wm, only son of Bill and Lynne. A special day.

DEATHS

BUDGE - Ruaridh MacKenzie (Edinburgh/North Connel) Very suddenly on May 8, 2007, Ruaridh, loving husband of Angela (MacLean) beloved father of Jane, Iain, Donald and Douglas, grandpa of Amy and Daniel, brother of Judy, Jock and Robin and friend to many. Funeral service at Viewforth Church, Gilmore Place, Edinburgh at 2.30pm on Thursday, May 17, 2007 to which all are invited. Family flowers only.

CAMPBELL - Peacefully at Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on Sunday, May 13, 2007, aged 80, Mary Ann, sister of the late Calum, Mary and Roddy, formerly of Ardalanish, Isle of Mull.

JOHNSTON - Suddenly at home on May 9, 2007, in his 88th year, Sidney George Johnston beloved husband of the late Elizabeth. Sadly missed.

MACLEAN - Peacefully, at The Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban, on Sunday, May 13, 2007, in her 66th year, Peggy, beloved wife of Kenneth, 7 Laggan Road, Dunollie, Oban, dearly loved mother and mother-in-law of Suzanne and Merrick. Funeral service will take place from St Columba's Cathedral, Oban, on Friday, May 18, 2007 at 10am, thereafter to Pennyfuir Cemetery. All friends are respectfully invited. Retrial collection/donations will be taken for Macmillan Cancer Relief.

MACPHERSON - Peacefully at Perth Royal Infirmary on Tuesday, May 8, 2007, Mary MacPherson, aged 85 years, of Comrie, beloved wife of the late Archie, much loved mother of Sheila, Mary and the late Dot, dear mother-in-law of Peter and the late Tom. Loving granny Mac to Gary, Tom, Dawn, Ross and Tony and great-granny to Alasdair, Ashley, Daniel, Christopher, Matthew, Douglas and Ruben. Funeral service to which all friends are invited at Comrie Parish Church on Tuesday, May 15, 2007 at 1.30pm. Interment, thereafter in Comrie Cemetery at 2pm. Family flowers only please donations may be given at the church for the Guide Dogs for the Blind.

MAXWELL - Peacefully on Thursday May 10, 2007, at the Lorn and Islands District General Hospital, Oban. Sadie Campbell Wilson, aged 83 of Dunmar Court, Oban and formerly Carnassarie Mill, Kilmartin. Beloved wife of the late Kennedy Maxwell and dearly loved mother and grandmother. Funeral today (Thursday) 11.30am, Church of Scotland, Glencruitten Road, Oban thereafter to Kilmartin Cemetery.

PATIENCE - Suddenly but very peacefully at home on April 22, 2007, Joseph (Joe), beloved husband of May (nee Kennedy), dearly loved father of Corrie and Nicola and a loving papa to Louis.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

CAMERON - The family of the late Donald A Cameron would like to thank most sincerely the relatives, friends and neighbours for their support and comfort during the sad loss of our dear brother. Heartfelt thanks to the medical staff at Belford Hospital for their devoted care and attention during Donnie's final days and also thanks to Kathryn McColl of the Lochaber Cancer and Palliative Care Group for her promptness and efficiency. Sincere thanks to Rev Richard Corbett for a comforting and uplifting service and to the funeral directors, M McFall, for their most caring and efficient services. The sum of £624 was raised for the Belford Medical Ward and Lochaber Cancer and Palliative Group. A special thanks to those who were able to visit Donnie during his stay in the Belford. It meant a great deal to him and made his last days so much brighter.

FEENEY - Britta and her children wish to thank most sincerely all friends, neighbours and marvellous home carers who have helped and comforted them during this sad time. We especially wish to thank all the staff from the medical ward, Belford Hospital, for making my mother's final weeks as comfortable as possible. They also thank Dr Massie and the practice doctors and nurses for their unfailing attention. Thanks to Father Roddy Johnstone for his comfort and support and for the lovely funeral mass, to Mary, Iain and Mary Anne for the music and to Ewen the undertaker for his kind and efficient service.

FRASER - Neil, Cathy, Lorraine, Craig and Ryan would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their overwhelming support and expressions of sympathy following the death of Malcolm. Sincere thanks to Dr Barlas, all doctors and nursing staff at Belford Hospital and Belhaven Ward. Likewise to Dr Massie and the entire medical practice team at Tweeddale surgery and Homecare personnel for their devoted care. Grateful and sincere thanks to Mr MacQuarrie for a very special service, also Mabel Wallace and cousin Karen for their heartfelt tributes. Appreciation to Mike McFall, Ewen, John and Theresa for all funeral arrangements and finally to Joan and staff at Caol Community Centre. Thanks to the generosity of everyone attending funeral service, a collection of £550 was raised and in accordance with Malcolm's wishes this will be donated to several local good causes and Kidney Research. Neil, Cathy and family, 129 Blarmhor Road, Caol.

GARGAN - Scott, Elaine and families would like to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their kind expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards, and floral tributes received following their recent sad loss. Grateful thanks to doctors and nursing staff of Glenaray Ward for their kind care and attention to Davie. Special thanks to Rev Richard West for his comforting and uplifting service, to Donald MacDonald Funeral Directors for their compassionate and efficient services, and also to Kilmartin Hotel for fine purvey. Finally, thanks to all those who attended at church and graveside. Donations, to date, have raised £625, to be split between Marie Curie Cancer Care and Clydeside Action on Asbestos.

LESLIE - The family of the late Mary Leslie, would like to thank all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support, kind words, cards, telephone calls, visits and floral tributes received following Mary's recent passing. Sincere thanks to Dr Tyagi and Dr Spilg and their teams at the Southern General and Gartnavel General Hospitals who cared for Mary over the last year. Thanks also to Rev Richard Cameron and Rev Archie MacPhail for their comforting services, D and A Munn and Son and Desmond Maguire for the smooth running of the funeral and Soroba House Hotel.

MAY - The family of the late David May, formerly of Balvicar, would like to thank most sincerely all those who travelled so far to attend his funeral in Inverness on April 27, 2007 and also those who sent such kind expressions of sympathy. Sincere thanks also to those who sent donations to the Glenurquhart Centre. **A Memorial Service for David will be held in Kilbrandon Church at 2pm on Saturday, May 19, 2007 to which all friends are respectfully invited.**

PATIENCE - May, Corrie and Nicola would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and workmates for their kind expressions of sympathy, floral tributes, phone calls and many cards received following the sad loss of Joe. Sincere thanks to Dr Douglas, the ambulance and police services who were in attendance, for their compassion and professionalism. Thanks also to Mr Ramsay for his comforting service and Mike and Ewen for the efficient funeral arrangements. Thanks to Jackie Jemson and the Railway Club for the refreshments and finally thanks to all who paid their last respects at the church and graveside. The collection in aid of BHF was in excess of £500.

STEWART - Iain and Jenny would like to thank all relatives, friends, neighbours and former colleagues of Dad and father-in-law Iain, for their enormous support since Dad's death, for all the floral tributes, calls, letters and cards, and especially to the congregation on Friday, May 11, 2007, at Dad's service of remembrance in Dundee. Particular thanks to Lesley, Ian and Mark for making their long journeys, to Rev Maudeen MacDougall and to all Dad's friends at Meadowside St Paul's Church for a perfectly conducted service, to the Dundee Gaelic Choir for a beautiful rendition, and to J & J Gray's staff for their dignified professionalism. Dad would have been flattered and deeply moved by the occasion, and by all your kind words and thoughts.

IN MEMORIAMS

BLAIR - Treasured memories of my beloved mum, Cathie (née Cameron), born May 13, 1907, died April 29,1994 and my dad, Jim, died November 13, 1977.
If tears could build a stairway
And memories a lane
I'd walk right up to heaven
And bring you down again.
- Their loving daughter, Gladys.

BOYD - Alan, died May 15, 2002, aged 19 years.
As always missed
Today and everyday.
- Mum, John-Alex, Ewen and Neil.

BOYD - In loving memory of Alan, who died May 15, 2002.
We love and miss you every day.
- Dad, Julia and Aimee.

BRAIDWOOD - May 14, 2003. Loving memories of our deeply loved son, John-Daniel Braidwood. Missed every day.
Child of mine
You will always shine.
- Love Mum and Dad.

Remembering Jason-John, much loved eldest son died February 22, 2007.
We miss you every day.
- Love Mum and Dad.

BRAIDWOOD - Proud and precious memories of our brother, John-Daniel, who was taken from us on May 14, 2003, aged 21 years.
Four years have passed and even though the pain starts to fade the memory of what happened is always with us. Sleep well. Also remembering our older brother, Jason, who died on February 22, 2007, aged 34 years.
Our love to you both always.
- Dawn, Matt and Zoe.

CAMPBELL - In memory of Gregor who died May 19, 1996.
Quietly remembered.
- Henriette.

CAMPBELL - Loving memories of our dear dad and grandad, Alisdair, who died May 18, 1988.
May is the month
Of a memory so sad
Of a dad we love
And wish we still had.
- Lorne, Kathie and Alisdair and Christine.
Loved always.
- Kirsteen and Harry.

GILLIES - Remembering our dear friends, Ian and Maggie.
Sadly missed.
- Doris and Graham.

MACCOLL - In fond memory of my dear friend, Neilie, who died on May 13, 2003.
Treasured thoughts of one so dear
Often bring a silent tear
Memory is the only friend
That grief can call its own
Like ivy on the withered oak
When other things decay
My love for him
Will still be green
And never fade away.
- Inserted by Margaret.

MACCORMICK - In loving memory of our dear sister, Hersay, who passed away on May 18, 1986.
Always in our thoughts.
- Inserted by her sisters, brother and all the family.

MACDONALD - In loving memory of our dear mother, mother-in-law and grandmother, Morag MacDonald, died May 18, 2005, also our father, Alexander MacDonald, died October 31, 1965.
No longer in our lives to share
But in our thoughts
You are always there.
Sadly missed.
- By Anne, Angus and Alex (Gramsdale).

MACDONALD - Treasured memories of Marion, our dear mother, who died on May 18, 2005 and our father, Alexander, who died October 30, 1965.
Time may hide the heartache
Like the smile that hides the tears
But loving thoughts still hold you close
Despite the passing years.
Sadly missed.
- Lena, Mary Ann, Mary Bell and all the family in England.

MACINNES - In loving memory of our dear parents and grandparents, mother, Janet Tyson, died May 27, 1980 and father, Alexander MacInnes, who died October 9, 1975, also brothers Tommy Tyson, August 11, 1997 in his 68th year and Kenneth, March 21, 2003 in his 72nd year.
Loving memories keep you near
As time unfolds another year.
- Inserted by Molly, Jim and James.

MACINTYRE - In loving memory of Donald Archibald (D.A.), a dear husband, father and seanair, who passed on May 16, 2005.
We hold you close
Within our hearts
And there you will remain
To walk with us
Throughout our lives
Until we meet again.
- Lovingly remembered
Rachel and Jennifer.
No words will mend
The hurt we feel
Nor will our heartache ever heal
But dad, although there's so much pain
We love you till we meet again.
- Love Charles and Lianne.
God looked around his garden
And found an empty space
He then looked down from heaven
And saw your tired face
He put his arms around you
And laid you down to rest
God's garden must be beautiful
He only takes the best.
We love and miss you seanair.
Toni and Adam (the wee fella) xxx
Always in our thoughts
Forever in our hearts.
- Neil, Margaret and boys.

MACLEAN - In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather, Calum, who died May 19, 1984, also a dear mother-in-law and granny, Mary Bryce, who died February 11, 1977, also remembering loved ones gone before and since.
Precious memories keep you near
As time unfolds another year.
- Annag and family.

MACLENNAN - In loving memory of a dear mother, mother-in-law, grandmother and great-grandmother, Margaret (Mena), who died on May 17, 1989. Also remembering my twin sister, Margaret Ann (Annie), who died October 16, 2000.
No morning dawns no night returns
Without a thought of you
You always had a smile to share
Time to give, time to care
Never selfish, always kind
These are the memories you've left behind.
Sadly missed.
- Inserted by her loving daughter Morag, son-in-law Donald and all the family.

MACPHEE - Treasured memories of my dear mum, Annie, who passed away May 16, 1994.
Another year passes
But precious memories remain.
Love always.
- Anne and Michael.

MACPHEE - Cherished memories of my mum and our granny, Annie, who passed away May 16, 1994.
Though absent you are always near
Still loved, still missed, still very dear.
- Love Margaret, Kenneth and Cheryl.

MACPHEE - In loving memory of my dear sister, Annie, who passed away on May 16, 1994.
The days and years fade away
But loving memories forever stay.
- Inserted by Margaret.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of my husband, our father and grandfather, Donald John, who died May 21, 1989.
Also remembering my nephew and our cousin, Simon MacDonald, who died May 21, 1995.
Always in our thoughts.
- Inserted by his wife, Agnes, at Locheport, North Uist and son Simon and family, Dumbarton.

MACQUARRIE - In loving memory of my dear father, father-in-law, Donald John, who died at Ormsaig, Locheport, on May 21, 1989. Also remembering our cousin, Simon, who died on May 21, 1995.
Always remembered.
- Inserted by his loving daughter Ann and son-in-law Cameron, Erskine.

McAFFER - Fondest memories of a dear mother, sister and granny, Annie, who died May 15, 1990.
Always in our thoughts.
- Bella, Dugie and John.
Gentle Jesus up above
Please give granny all our love.
- Teen, Angela and Alexander.

MORRISON - Mary.
Three years have passed since that sad day
You closed your eyes and passed away
We never got to say goodbye
But you are still loved forever
By me and all the family.
- Your loving husband, Hector.

MORRISON - In loving memory of our darling mum and granny, Mary, who passed away May 17, 2004.
We wish we had the old days back
When we were all together
Miss your smile, your warmth, your cheery laugh
You're in our hearts forever.
Always loved and missed.
- James, Teeny, Marie, Ross and Jim.

MORRISON - Mary.
Three years have gone
Since that sad day
You closed your eyes
And slept away.
Loved and remembered everyday.
- Maggie, Gus and family.

MORRISON - In loving memory of Mary, mum, granny and great-granny, who died on May 17, 2004.
Remembering you is easy
We do it everyday
Missing you is the heartache
That never goes away.
- Christina, Banny, Laura, Martin and Sinead.

MORRISON - In loving memory of a dear mum and granny, Mary, who died on May 17, 2004.
Those special years cannot return
When we were all together
But in our hearts held close by love
You'll walk with us forever.
Always in our hearts.
- Lorraine, Paul, Jill and Kyle.

NICOLSON - In loving memory of our dear father and grandfather, Donald, who died May 22, 1980 also our dear brothers and uncles, Joseph who died April 30, 1987 and Alister, who was accidentally drowned September 16, 1965.
Time passes, memories stay.
- Sadly missed by all the family.

PATE - Treasured memories of our dear parents and grandparents, Jean (née Robertson), who died on June 6, 1987 and George Pate, who died on August 20, 1982.
Remembered always.
- Inserted by the family at Aberfeldy, Islay and Thailand.

STEWART - In fond and loving memory of our dear sister, Nan, who passed away May 18, 2006. Also other loved ones gone before.
Loved and remembered every day.
- Inserted by sisters, brother and all the family.

ECCLESIASTICAL NOTICES

DESTINY CHURCH
OBAN
Sunday May 20th
Oban High School
11 a.m.
Speaker Andy McCulloch
Without faith it's impossible to please God
Check out our new website
www.destinyoban.com
Telephone: 01631 564283

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANGLICAN COMMUNION
Thursday 17 May 2007 Ascension Day
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Sung Eucharist.....19.30
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....19:00
Sunday 20 May, 2007 Sunday After Ascension
St John's Cathedral, Oban
Holy Communion.....08:00
Choral Matins.....10:15
Sunday School and Creche
Parish Eucharist.....11:30
Loop System
Large Print Hymn Books
All welcome
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☎(01631) 562323
St James, Ardbrecknish, Cladich
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Gruline, Mull
Holy Eucharist.....11.00
St Columba, Bishop's House, Iona
Holy Eucharist 10.00
Evensong 20.00

ASSOCIATED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, OBAN
Campbell Street Church
Sunday 20 May 2007
11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
Phone-In *'Worship Link'* available
Wednesday 23 May
7.30 p.m.
Prayer and Bible Ministry
Rev. Archie McPhail MA, MTh
☎(01631) 567076
All welcome

LORN CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
Sunday 11a.m.
St Moluag's Centre
Croft Avenue
Oban
All welcome
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07876 735 794

Corran church celebrates 50 years

A SPECIAL Service of celebration is planned on June 20 to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland.

The church, now known as Corran Esplanade, has a series of events planned to take place throughout the week.

The church will be open to the public to view photographs, articles and memorabilia celebrating milestones in the history of the local Kirk.

The service will take place at 7.30pm on the Wednesday.

Specially invited guests, including previous ministers and members of the McCaig Board of Trustees, will join the congregation.

Inspiration and fun in Killin

THE 'WITNESS' event held at the McLaren Hall in Killin last month turned out to be a great success and provided a night of inspiration, music and fun for all the family.

Three excellent speakers provided personal testimony of how Christianity had changed their lives and a live band made up of mainly local musicians, created a tremendous atmosphere with songs of praise and worship.

The evening was attended by a lively audience who had the opportunity to participate in the music and later on, ask questions about things that affected their own lives.

A hot meal was enjoyed by everyone and there were requests for another similar event next year.

Event organiser Kate Allan said: 'This was a great evening and it was fantastic to see people of all ages getting involved and enjoying themselves.

'Based on the feedback we have received, there is a good chance that we will organise another exciting event next year.

'Once again, it goes to show that people in rural areas are keen to participate and be involved with their local church.

'As for next year, all I can say is watch this space!'

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Church NEWS

Please keep sending in the news about your church!
Church News, The Oban Times, PO Box 1
Oban, Argyll PA34 4HB or FAX: (01631) 568001

Thought for the week

Glory to God in the High Street

THIS Thursday is Ascension Day. Ascension means 'going up'. So a natural reaction is to look up!

And what do you see? In Oban, MacCaig's Tower; in Tobermory, the tower of the Parish Church; from Fort William, Ben Nevis.

In many places where *The Oban Times* is read, there's the majesty of mountains, the beautiful and changeable sky. Looking up, we glimpse the glory of God's creation – sometimes with human landmarks added.

Looking around instead, we're aware of the delights, demands and distractions of our daily lives.

The first chapter of the book of Acts tells the disciples' story of the last time they saw Jesus: he spoke words of encouragement and challenge, then 'was taken up into heaven' – no more explanation. But, the story goes on, two angels appeared, asking: 'Why are you standing there looking up at the sky?'

The rest of the story of the early church is about a growing community of folk who looked around them, not just at the sky, seeing God at work everywhere – in homes and market-places, on the road, in prisons and at sea.

George MacLeod, founder of the Iona Community, enjoyed pointing out that the stained-glass window text 'Glory to God in the Highest', by losing just one letter, could become 'Glory to God in the High St'. Looking up can lift our hearts, but God's light can shine in everyday places and ordinary folk – like me and you.

Jan Sutch Pickard, Bunessan

Little Molly Robinson from Appin enjoyed having her face painted at Appin Parish Church spring fete last Saturday afternoon.

Appin church fete fun

A GOOD crowd turned out to support the Appin Parish Church fete at the weekend, with teas and coffees served in the village hall as well as other attractions.

The proceeds from the fête will help to fund the refurbishment of the manse and support the annually nominated Guild projects for 2007/8.

The aim of the afternoon was to provide an opportunity for everyone to participate and have an enjoyable afternoon of activities and entertainment, indoors and outside.

Staff and volunteers of the new British Heart Foundation shop in Oban's George Street. t20hea04

Oban opens its heart to new charity shop

A NEW charity shop in Oban opened its doors for the first time last Thursday, in an effort to help raise money to beat the fight against heart disease.

British Heart Foundation (BHF) Regional Manager Jane Flannery joined new staff members and volunteers to officially open the new premises in George Street, and is hoping that residents and tourists to the area support the shop. The BHF is the nation's heart charity and raises essential funds for pioneering research that saves and improves the lives of thousands of men, women and children in Scotland.

The BHF provides funding for life saving cardiac care equipment for hospitals, GPs, emergency services, mountain rescue teams and other qualified groups in the community.

The care and support that an individual receives after a heart attack or surgery plays a major part in their recovery.

BHF Heart Nurses currently provide specialist care for heart patients in Argyll, Inverness, Dumfries and Glasgow, and aims to develop this further.

The Bell Lawrie Scottish Series 2007

Up to 200 yachts are expected to line up on this year's start line at the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series in Loch Fyne from 25th to 29th May.

The largest keelboat regatta in Scotland and the biggest annual regatta in the UK after Cowes Week, regularly attracts over 1200 crew from all over the world with fiercely competitive racing on three separate courses on this scenic loch.

Mirroring the on the water action, there is a strong social side to the event which starts each evening with the presentation of racing's daily prizes in the marquee on the quayside in Tarbert the base for the event.

Tarbert hoteliers estimate that on average they generate 15% of their annual turnover during the weekend of the Scottish Series. A study commissioned in 2005 by Argyll & Islands Enterprise estimated that visitors to the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series generated over £600,000 in expenditure to the local area.

Locals from Lorn, Skye and Lochaber as well Mid Argyll hope to bring home silverware this year including Steven Forteith of Oban who campaigns his father's First 31.7 Shadowfax in IRC 4 with Chris Owen aboard as tactician. Steven will be sailing with a strong local team and was just eclipsed last year from a class win so must be a strong favourite this time. The home club entry of Potter and Abernethy's Fingal in the Sonata class will have huge support from Tarbert Loch Fyne Sailing Club in this competitive one-design class as will Brian Robertson of Ardrishaig, a regular competitor at Tarbert, who again races his GK24 Pointer in CYCA Class 8 and is always a strong contender. Similarly Ken Grant of Glencoe Boat Club races his J109 Tigh Soluis II in IRC Class 2 whilst John MacKenzie of Skye brings his Westerly Typhoon Stoirm Mhoir south from Portree to compete in CYCA Class 6.

One of the younger members of Oban Sailing Club, Murray MacDonald is to race in his first Scottish Series aboard the Cork 1720 Water Tiger – one of fastest and most exciting classes. Former winners of the Cork 1720 Class and overall Scottish Series Champions Graeme Scott and his son Ruairidh have sold King Quick and this year race as crew. Graeme sails with David Lyons on Supertramp in IRC Class 1 whilst Ruairidh, who now works with North Sails, will be aboard the Ker 37 Jump Juice, an Irish entry, also in IRC 1. Ian McNair has strong local connections to Tarbert and will again be campaigning First by Farr in IRC Class 2.

This year, the locals will sail in the esteemed company of two Olympic hopefuls - Charlotte Dobson (aged 19) and Luke Patience (20) both of whom live in Rhu. Charlotte sponsored by Tiso, will race with the Tiso crew aboard the IRC Class 1 yacht, Tiso Thunderbird. Luke Patience, a member of the Olympic Development Squad hopes to win the Sportsboat class, after finishing 2nd overall to previous Scottish Series champion, Hamish Mackay at last year's event.

Although much of the action takes place on the water, there's still plenty happening in the village of Tarbert during the day. Aimed at families and visitors, Tarbert Enterprise Company has a fabulous programme, with something for all ages and interests. With live bands playing in the marquee each evening, children's circus workshops, stalls selling unique ranges of clothing, seafood and shellfish, local pipe bands, model boat racing and dinghy sailing in the harbour, Tarbert is set to come alive over the Bank Holiday weekend.

RYA Scotland is again bringing it's 'Sailing in the City' initiative to Tarbert, offering local and accessible sailing to youngsters from 8-14 yrs. Pre-bookable taster sailing sessions will take place in Tarbert harbour.

Bell Lawrie has committed to sponsoring the Scottish Series for a further two years until after the 2009 event with the event set to benefit from an investment package worth over £100,000.

Fraser Gardiner, Director of investment managers, Bell Lawrie said, 'We're delighted to continue to support the Scottish Series. It has proved itself a valuable platform for us over the years and is a great event to be connected with; we work hard with the Clyde Cruising Club and other sponsors to make it an event to remember.'

For more information and the latest entry list see www.clyde.org Bell Lawrie Scottish Series.

Jim McIlraith, commodore of Clyde Cruising Club, added; "The Scottish Series is a key event in the sailing calendar and we are delighted that Bell Lawrie has committed to sponsoring it for a further two years. Over the past eight years Bell Lawrie has cemented its position as sponsors, becoming synonymous with the event. The funding will not only help develop the event, but also benefit sailing across Scotland."

One of the younger members of Oban Sailing Club, Murray MacDonald is to race in his first Scottish Series aboard the Cork 1720 Water Tiger – one of fastest and most exciting classes……..

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Saturday's shinty fixtures

All start times 14.30 unless otherwise stated
Tulloch Homes
MacTavish Cup
Semi Finals
Strathglass v Fort William
Charles Young
At Craigard Park, Invergarry
Goal Judges
John Sloggie & Angus MacFadyen

Lochcarron v Kingussie
Duncan Kelly
At Balgate Park, Kiltarlity
Goal Judges
Russell Ross & Ken McColl

Glasgow Celtic Society Cup
Semi Finals
Bute v Glasgow Mid Argyll
Colin MacDonald
At the Winterton, Inveraray
Goal Judges
Duncan Kerr & Jim Innes

Inveraray v Oban Caman
George Hay
MacRae Park, Lochgilphead
Goal Judges
John Crawford & Robert Baxter

All cup games are played to a finish with extra time and penalties if required.

Marine Harvest
Premier League
Kilmallie v Newtonmore
Donald Fraser

Marine Harvest
North Division One
Beauly v Kinlochshiel
John MacPhee
Inverness v Aberdeen Uni
Callum Duff
Skye v Caberfeidh
Ronald Campbell

Marine Harvest
South Division One
Ballachulish v Kilmory
Astie Cameron
Glenorchy v Strachur
Ted McDonald
Tayforth v Kyles Athletic
David Mitchell

Marine Harvest
North Division Two
Caberfeidh v Kilmallie
Neil Ferguson
Fort William v Kingussie
Donald MacRae 12 noon
Lochaber v Skye
Ronald Kennedy
Newtonmore v Boleskine
Graham Cameron

Marine Harvest
South Division Two
Aberdour v Oban Celtic
George O'Rourke
Col Glen v Glenorchy
Peter Jackson
Strath Police v Edinburgh EL
Evan MacRae

Marine Harvest
North Division Three
Kinlochshiel v Beauly
John MacLeod
Ardna/chan v Glenurquhart
Dougie Cameron

Kilmallie's Ross Lavin holds off the challenge of Kingussie's James Hutchison Picture - E and E Emmett

MacMillan strike knocks-out Kilmory

A SECOND-half volley from Ian MacMillan proved to be enough for Oban Camanachd to book their place in the quarter-finals of the Macaulay Cup at the expense of a Kilmory side who failed to take their opportunities.

At MacRae Park, Kilmory started the game well forcing Oban back in the early stages but after 10 minutes Camanachd's goalkeeper Stobbart had to react quickly to divert a Duncan MacBrayne shot which looked to be sneaking in at his near post. Kilmory continued to give their experienced opponents a torrid time but Camanachd looked dangerous on the break with Aiden MacIntyre and the pacey MacMillan keeping the Kilmory defence on their toes.

On the half hour mark Kilmory created their best chance of the match when Steven Gilmour sent a tremendous drive towards the top corner but Stobbart pulled off a magnificent save to touch the ball round the post.

The game became bad tempered with Camanachd's Gareth Evans and Kilmory's Gilmour both booked after a tussle.

Referee Jackson waved away the home side's appeals for a penalty when Stobbart stretched out a foot to stop a MacGregor shot and as half time approached Camanachd were forced to replace Aiden MacIntyre after he attempted to charge down a Baxter clearance.

Kilmory manager Wood was concerned that his team had failed to turn pressure into goals. His concerns proved accurate when a shy was lofted towards the Kilmory area, Ian MacMillan fired an unstoppable volley past the stranded Baxter.

MacMillan nearly doubled their lead when he evaded two tackles and sent a looping shot goalwards until Baxter dived to his right to touch the ball over the bar for another Camanachd corner.

This was Kilmory's best performance of the season but Oban Camanachd go through to meet Kyles in the next round. This week Kilmory travel to Ballachulish for a clash at the top of the South Division One table while Oban Camanachd return to Lochgilphead for a Celtic Cup semi-final against Inveraray.

Late Thain goal breaks Kilmallie hearts at the Dell

Macaulay Cup 1st Round
Kingussie 2 Kilmallie 1

KINGUSSIE and Kilmallie lined up at a damp Dell for the second time in a week with the home side having to wait until the dying minutes before claiming victory.

Kilmallie showed three changes from the previous week with MacNiven, Carmichael and Martin Stewart missing. Euan Stoddart, Ian Robertson and Michael Rodger came into the side with Kingussie surprisingly electing to have Kevin Thain on the bench.

Keeper hurt

The game opened with the home side on the attack but despite some nervy defending Kilmallie's keeper Kevin Toye was largely untroubled.

Kingussie had to work hard to create any goal opportunities but when a loose ball found Ronald Ross the rocket shot he unleashed was well saved by Toye but the force of the effort winded the young keeper. Minutes later, with the keeper still recovering, a cleverly worked free hit reached Inglis and he blasted a shot which Toye was only able to deflect into the roof of the net.

Kilmallie raised their game and seven minutes later they gained the reward that their first half performance deserved. A long dropping ball evaded Garry Munro and Ian Robertson followed the ball in and volleyed it into the net.

The second half opened at a frantic pace with both sides trying to create chances but with defences on top.

Kingussie introduced Thain for Paul Gow on the hour mark and Kilmallie's Michael Rodger was booked as after being fouled by Dallas he retaliated.

With quarter of an hour to go, Rodger made a great tackle to deny Thain and as he protested the award of a corner, the goal judge attracted the attention of the referee who then proceeded to show the youngster the red card for foul language.

The last 15 minutes were almost continuous Kingussie pressure as the extra man at the back enabled them to dominate the middle of the park.

With both benches beginning to prepare for extra time Kingussie snatched the tie in the cruellest of circumstances for the visitors. In the last minute of normal time the visiting defence broke up another attack but failed to clear their lines effectively. The ball broke to Thain and the veteran striker made no mistake driving the ball low past Toye to break the visitors hearts.

This was a tense cup-tie full of commitment and no little skill. Kingussie manager Ian Ross will no doubt feel that his team misfired badly on the day. However, the young Kilmallie defence, with John Stewart outstanding against Ronald Ross, knocked them out of their stride and it took the loss of Rodger to change the tie in favour of the league leaders. Kilmallie still need to improve in front of goal but they are finally beginning to show that they are capable of competing against the top teams in the sport.

Park retain MacKay Cup

Saturday's final tie of the MacKay Cup competition, the flagship event of the School's Camanachd Association, proved a game worthy of the occasion.

Both teams settled quickly and in the 15th minute a powerful drive from Scott Goldie forced a superb save from the Banavie goalkeeper Sean Campbell.

After 33 minutes Park's Sean Morgan found space in the middle of the Banavie defence to send a looping drive over the head of Campbell for the opening goal.

Park added a second gioal in the 50th minute when Ally McKerracher's shot from 15 yards deceived the Banavie keeper.

Banavie were not beaten though and they pressurised the Park defence with Connor MacRae and Frank Innes narrowly missing the target, but the final whistle came with the Oban team victorious, Park retaining the MacKay Cup and recording their third victory in five successful finals.

Graham Bell, president of the School's Camanachd Association, introduced David Hamilton, secretary of the Macaulay Association, who presented the medals to both teams and the MacKay Cup to proud Park captain Sean Morgan.

President Bell then announced the winner of the Anne Cameron Memorial Quaich, presented to the player of the match and called on Mrs Irene Jagusinski, Anne's daughter, to present the quaich to Sean Morgan of Park School.

MacKay Cup winners 2007 - Park Primary School, Oban t20shi01

Beauly hit for six in Macaulay

Macaulay Cup 1st round
Newtonmore 6 Beauly 0

BEAULY's hopes of a Macaulay Cup shock at Newtonmore lasted less then four minutes after they lost two early goals.

Newtonmore's David Cheyne opened the scoring in under two minutes, with Glen Mackintosh doubling the advantage two minutes later.

Beauly, with keeper Steven Lymburn missing, produced several nice touches over the first 30 minutes but failed as an attacking force, Newtonmore keeper Michael Ritchie a virtual spectator over the 90 minutes.

After 35 minutes, Cheyne added a third goal when he was put through by a John MacKenzie pass, and the cup tie looked over.

Fraser Mackintosh added Newtonmore's fourth seven minutes into the second-half with Paul MacArthur finding the roof of the net from 30 yards for number five.

With Beauly over-worked defence run-ragged, only a combination of poor finishing and stubborn defending kept the score down until David Cheyne completed his hat-trick with three minutes remaining.

Results

MacPhee & Partners
Macaulay Cup
First Round
North
Fort William 5 Lochaber 1
Kingussie 2 Kilmallie 1
Newtonmore 6 Beauly 0
Strathglass 4 Lochcarron 0
South
GMA 1 Ballachulish 6
Glenorchy 2 Kyles Athletic 4
Inveraray 3 Bute 0
Kilmory 0 Oban Caman 1

Marine Harvest
North Division One
AberdeenU 4 Glenurquhart 6
Kinlochshiel 5 Inverness 0
Lovat 2 Skye Camanachd 0

Marine Harvest
South Division One
Strachur 2 Lochside Rovers 2

Marine Harvest
North Division Two
Caberfeidh 3 Newtonmore 3
Glengarry 5 Boleskine 6
Kilmallie 2 Lovat 0
Lochaber 0 Kingussie 5
Skye 0 Fort William 6

Marine Harvest
South Division Two
Aberdour 3 Glenorchy 6
Edinburgh EL 1 Inveraray 6
Kyles Athletic 6 Col Glen 3
Oban Celtic P Strath Police P

Marine Harvest
North Division Three
Beauly 4 Lochbroom 2
Glenurquhart1Kinlochshiel 3
Kincraig P Strathglass P
Lochcarron7 Ardnamurchan0

Spot The SHINTY BALL Competition

WIN £1500

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.

This week's nearest the ball winners, who each receive £25 are: Kay Riddell, 1b Ballechroisk, Killin and Anne Gibb, Calgary, Soroba Road, Oban

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.

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Address_____

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Send to **'Spot the Shinty Ball' Competition, The Oban Times, P.O. Box 1, Oban PA34 4HB**

Oban ladies are toast of Scotland

OBAN Lorne Rugby Football Club's ladies team has been named Scottish Women's Rugby Union (SWRU) Team of the Year.

Not only were the Oban ladies a hit with the sport's executive, they were nominated by another team - a rare occurence in a nomination process where teams are supposed to put themelves forward.

Oban Lorne captain Dee Bradbury had heard rumours of the award but was not at the SWRU AGM where the announcement was made because of the team's participation in the Mull Sevens.

However, Dee was delighted to have the story confirmed by *The Oban Times*. Dee said: 'The feeling is complete elation. It is recognition for the effort the girls have put in and support from the club and support from the women's rugby development officer Lindsay Booth.

'Some of the girls come from Kilmartin, Ardfern and Bonawe so to get to Edinburgh for games every week involves a fair bit of co-ordination.'

Oban Lorne play in the SWRU Development League and finished third in their first league campaign.

Beth Dickens, SWRU Domestic Fixtures Co-ordinator, said: 'This year one of the Edinburgh teams nominated Oban Lorne because of their sportsmanship, their friendly nature and enthusiasm. The Oban team come to all the development meetings and haven't missed a fixture despite having to travel three hours to the matches.

'The other teams have also noticed a huge skills improvement since the start of the season and it is considered a good result to get anything against Oban now.'

Beth said that in her five years on the SWRU executive she has never heard of one team nominating another.

Oban Lorne will be hoping to receive the Team of the Year Plate in the post before they leave for the Amsterdam Heineken Sevens, an international event attended by 92 teams from 20 countries.

Mull's Phil Tieman crosses the line to score against Greenock.

Mull beat expectations at home sevens

INTERNATIONAL stars were among the players taking the field at Garmonty for this year's sun-kissed Mull Sevens.

But it was the home side that really got the crowd going with a march to the semi-finals of the competition.

The Muilleachs beat the much-fancied Selkirk in their group to advance to the latter stages where they lost out to Helensburgh. The other semi-final provided a top class spectacle with Rodents, featuriong Scotland stars Ally Hogg and Rob Dewey, against Stirling County. The latter would go on to win the tourtnament.

There was consolation for Mull when Angus MacColl was named player of the tournment.

In all, there were 16 men's teams including local teams Mull, Mid Argyll, Oban Lorne, Lochaber and Bute.

There were also eight women's teams and it was Kircaldy who overcame Powerhouse (a Melbourne and Mull combination) in the final.

Oban Lorne's Dee Bradbury was player of the tournament.

The celebrations from all teams carried on well into the night, consolidating Mull's reputation as the world's most sociable sevens.

Earlier in the day a tag rugby round-robin tournament was played with Salen A and B teams finishing joint winners.

The tag rugby initiative on the island has been driven forward by Isle of Mull Rugby Club with support from primary school head teachers, Active Schools co-ordinator Babs Whyte and SRU regional manager Kenny Murray.

Saints golf

OBAN Saints Football Club are holding a golf competition at Glencruitten Golf Club, Oban, on Sunday 27th May.

Former Saints captain Pele MacCallum is hoping to retain the title this year, but he knows that competition will be tough. The competition is open to sponsors, present and former players and friends of Oban Saints Football Club. For details contact competition organiser John MacEachan on 07808 175907.

Islay meeting

AN EXTRAORDINARY General Meeting of the Islay Boys Football Club committee will be held on Wednesday, May 23 at 7pm in the Lochside Hotel, Bowmore.

Chairman James MacTaggart explained: 'The Club is in fine heart. This meeting has been called because there are changes needed to the committee's current office-bearers, as one of our number is preparing to leave the island.'

James said anyone is welcome at the meeting.

Golf spring meeting

ARGYLL and Bute Golf Union's Spring Meeting will take place on Sunday May 27 at Cowal Golf Club.

A first prize of £175 is on offer. Entries are to be made to area secretary Richard Biggart by the end of today (Thursday).

H2O bike race

ORGANISERS of an Oban cycling challenge this Saturday (May 19) are looking for people to take part.

Entrants for the sponsored event in aid of H2O can enrol up to half an hour before the 1pm start.

Entrants can phone the entry hotline on 01631 562520 or turn up at the sailing club on Gallanach Road in Oban before 12.30pm.

Tides

Tide tables for Oban during the week from
Thursday, May 17, 2007
are listed below with differences
for major ports listed beneath.
All times are GMT (add one hour BST)

Date	am						pm	
Thur	05.44	4.0	11.57	0.5	17.53	4.0	**.**	*.*
Fri	00.29	0.5	06.26	3.9	12.41	0.6	18.35	3.9
Sat	01.17	0.6	07.09	3.9	13.24	0.7	19.18	3.8
Sun	02.06	0.9	07.53	3.5	14.10	0.8	20.02	3.6
Mon	02.57	1.1	08.40	3.2	14.58	1.0	20.49	3.4
Tues	03.52	1.4	09.33	2.9	15.50	1.2	21.42	3.2
Wed	04.55	1.6	10.50	2.8	16.45	1.4	22.46	3.0

Tidal Constants: (Add or deduct from High Water at Oban)

Ardrishaig	-5.35	Lochboisdale	+0.30
Campbeltown	-5.30	Mallaig	+0.25
Crinan	-0.47	Portree	+0.55
Islay Port Ellen	2.00	Tobermory	+0.16
		Dover	+5.30

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Taynuilt shinty sixes returns

THE South of Scotland primary aged six-a-side shinty tournament will be played at Taynuilt on Sunday starting at 11am.

The Camanachd Association say if anyone wishes to come along and support the kids they would be very welcome.

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01631 568000

Five-star display from Saints

Jimmy Marshall Trophy
Quarter Final
OBAN SAINTS 5
PORT GLASGOW OBU 2

PORT Glasgow OBU were the visitors to Glencruitten last Saturday in the quarter final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy, but unfortunately for the men from the tail o' the bank they found a rejuvenated Saints team in excellent form after last weekend's two league defeats.

The home side got off to the perfect start with a goal in the first minute when Bertie Gemmell played Darin Bryars through the middle and the wee striker lobbed the advancing keeper to give his team the perfect start.

Saints doubled their advantage when Ross Graham played Allan MacKay through before steering a great right foot shot past the helpess Steve Fulton to double the advantage.

Inexplicably the home team took their foot off the pedal after this goal much to the annoyance of the management team. They started to play long balls instead of the crisp short passing game that had brought them dividends early on. Players were doing far too much on the ball and not running into space and it was no surprise when OBU pulled a goal back.

Poor defensive play and slack marking allowed Kevin Hutchieson a clear shot at goal and he made not mistake from 18 yards to make the score 2-1.

Saints huffed and puffed their way through the remainder of the first half, but in saying that they still created several good chances, the first of which involved Myles MacAulay and Dante Lopez in the 34th minute and the same pair were involved in another chance, but Dante was just too slow to react in front of goals.

Just on the half time whistle the home side created another opportunity when Keith Millar set up Allan MacKay, but his shot sailed over the bar.

Manager Iain Jackson had a few strong words to say to his players at the interval about some of the sloppy play that had crept into their game after they had taken a two goal lead and with his words ringing in their ears they took the field for the second half.

Saints killed the game off as a contest with two goals in as many minutes at the start of the second period.

The first came from a long kick-out from David Dunlop that reached Ross Maitland and the wee man raced past his marker before despatching a right foot shot past keeper Steve Fulton at his near post.

Two minutes later they took a 4-1 lead when Dante Lopez flicked the ball on for Ross Maitland and the Saints winger sent a perfect cross into the box for Darin Bryars to net his second goal of the game.

The home side made three substitutions right after the fourth goal - with Donald Campbell, Willie Gemmell and Sean Ford coming on for Bertie Gemmell, Allan MacKay and Dante Lopez.

Darin Bryars

However, the visitors threw themselves a lifeline when they were awarded a penalty after Marc MacCallum tripped Jim Russell in the box. Alex Gray was entrusted with the spot kick and he blasted the ball high into the net past David Dunlop.

This goal was the wake up call Saints needed and they again turned the screw with some good moves culminating with Donald Campbell firing over the bar and the keeper touching another effort over for a corner.

The home side netted their fifth goal when Ross Maitland raced past his marker on the right before a pin-point cross found Keith Millar and the Saints midfielder thundered a great acrobatic volley into the net.

Saints had the ball in the visitor's net in the dying minutes of the game when Willie Gemmell fired a great cross to the far post for Joe Lopez who thundered the ball home, but referee John Scott, who handled the game well, correctly ruled that Joe was offside.

There was no further scoring with Saints running out comfortable winners in a match they controlled for most of the 90 minutes.

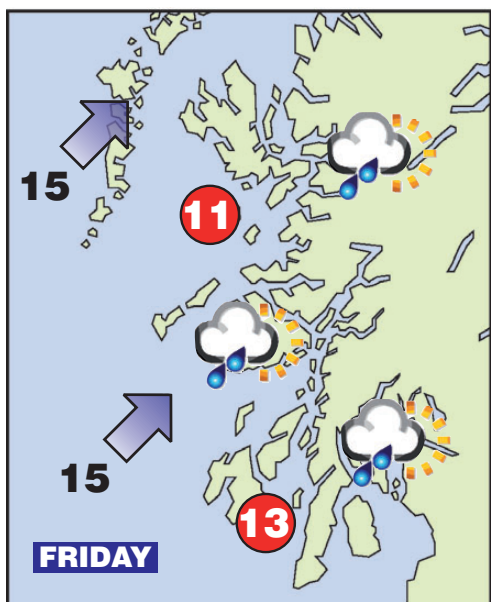
Manager Iain Jackson was happy with the result and performance, especially in the second half. He said: 'We got off to a great start, but got a bit sloppy after our second goal. I needed to get a few points across to the players at the interval and credit to them they took it on board and we played some great stuff in the second half.'

Saints have two games this weekend. On Friday evening they travel to McKenna Park, Govan, to take on Kings Park Rangers in the semi final of the Jimmy Marshall Trophy, kick-off 7 pm and on Sunday they get down to the important task of picking up vital-league points when they play Gartcosh United at Glencruitten, kick-off 2.30pm with referee Duncan Yuill in charge.

Saints are sponsored by Keyline Building Materials, AMP Electrical Services and Aulay's Bar. More information on the club website www.obansaintsafc.co.uk

Primary League cup

Two Lochgilphead teams joined the Oban and District Primary League teams for a cup competition last Sunday. Both Lochgilphead teams reached the semi-final stages with Colts (above) defeating Keyline 2-1 in the senior trophy final. In the junior trophy Stoddarts (below) beat Benderloch, who were playing in their first final.



the weather

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Thursday May 17
Will see sunny or bright spells with scattered showers.
Winds moderate west or south-westerly.
Temperatures 4ºC to 16ºC
Friday May 18
Will be cloudy or overcast with rain or showers at times.
Winds moderate south-westerly.
Temperatures 4ºC to 13ºC.
Weekend Outlook
Cloudy or overcast with further rain or showers.
Winds moderate westerly.
Temperatures 4ºC to 13ºC.

Ferry Crossings/Sea States
Oban to Barra/South Uist - Slight to moderate
Oban to Coll/Tiree -As above
Kennacraig to Islay - As above

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Susan runs best time despite injuries

Benderloch runner is fastest Briton

SUSAN Partridge from Benderloch was the fastest Briton at Glasgow's women-only 10k on Sunday.

Her time of 34 minutes 15 seconds was also her own personal best for that race.

The former Oban High School pupil, running for City of Glasgow, finished in seventh place overall in a field of 11,920 competitors, despite not being at full fitness.

Kenyan Vivien Cheruiyot won the race in a time of 32.08.

Susan has struggled with an Achilles tendon injury this season and has been dropped from all direct lottery funding.

Susan's father, Alan, said: 'She was really pleased as she didn't expect to run as well. She had an injury over Christmas and the New Year so her training is not up at the high mileage yet.'

Susan, now based in Leeds, runs for Leeds City and is looking to run a late-season marathon such as Dublin.

Scottish Peaks Race to set sail

THE STARTING gun for the Scottish Islands Peaks Race is fired this Friday, May 18 and sees runners and sailors compete in a gruelling challenge over the following few days from Oban to Troon.

Curly Mills, with his wife Barbara has organised the event for the past 25 years.

This year up to 50 boats or more are expected to compete and battle their way out of Oban Bay at the start of the race.

And this year one of the faster boats is 37ft wide! This is a 28 ft cat being sailed by Ross Hobson, a former winner who will be on the rack (when they are folded out).

Ross will be facing stiff competition this year.